

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

# WESTERN RECORDER

March 26, 1996  
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## FOR THE RECORD

**Healthy churches**  
Church health is more important than church growth, according to mega-church pastor Rick Warren. See page 2.

**Acteens named**  
For the third year in a row, First Baptist Church of Murray has produced a national Acteens Advisory Panelist. Girls selected for the national panel and the Kentucky panel recently were announced. See page 3.

**Editorial**  
Don't sweep abortion bills under the rug. See page 5.

**Political pastors**  
More Southern Baptist pastors are taking an active role in political issues, a new survey finds. See page 6.

**Financial Forum**  
Plan ahead for debt-free family vacations. See page 9.

## Russians post urgent needs for partnership

By Melanie Childers  
Staff Writer

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions office is deluged with urgent needs from Russian Baptists this spring, but Kentuckians' assistance may be ebbing a little, according to partnership missions director Calvin Wilkins.

As the five-year Kentucky-Russia partnership agreement reaches the half-way marker, Wilkins is encouraging Kentucky Baptists to keep up with the rising tide of crucial needs pouring in from Russian pastors.

"Some of our team leaders are finding it difficult now to enlist the numbers they had anticipated" for specific projects, Wilkins said.

For example, one church at first drew 44 interested people but ended with only three or four making a commitment to the project—not enough to complete a team.

Wilkins noted some Kentuckians may be overwhelmed by the immense needs in Russia.

"And I know to splash this list before churches may cause some folks to say 'There's no way,'" he added. "But if we take it a bite at a time, ... it all adds up."

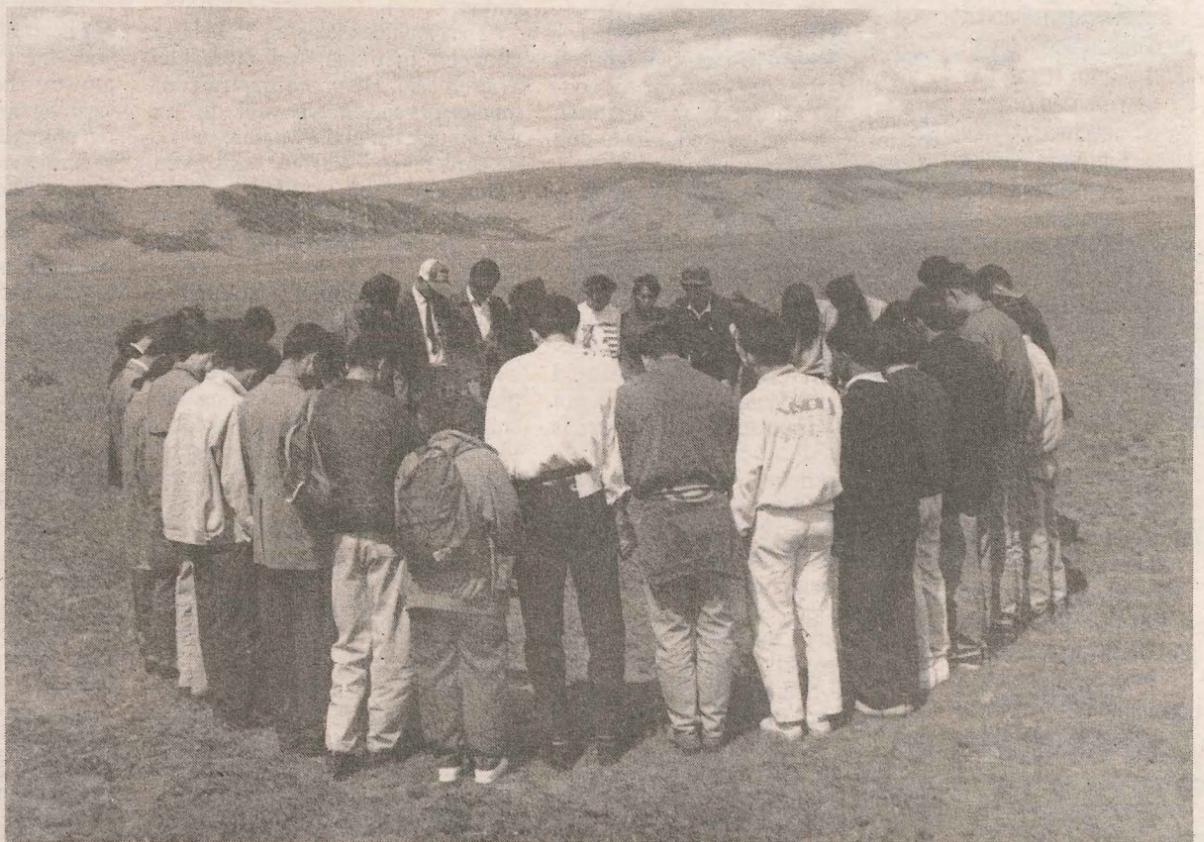
Other would-be volunteers may be apprehensive about the uncertain political situation in Russia.

"My outlook is, the door is still open, the opportunities are there, the need is just as great as it ever was, and right now there's still a green light," Wilkins said.

"Kentucky has faced hard times before," he added. "But we're not facing anything compared to what the Russians are facing."

And the need has never been more urgent for Russian Baptists, Wilkins said. See Partnership needs ..., page 8

■ Needs listed on pages 8 & 9



**TO ALL PEOPLES** A group of Christians prays before entering a town in Mongolia to spread the gospel. In such far-flung places as Mongolia—where there were no known native Christians only a few years ago—local Christians have become the primary church planters and disciplers, according to experts working with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Southern Baptist workers and their overseas partners started 367 churches and baptized 6,548 new Christian believers last year in what they call "the last frontier," the world's least-evangelized areas. (BP photo by Charles Ledford)

## Beware of teens dabbling in the occult, expert warns

By Joyce Sweeney Martin  
Staff Writer

STANFORD—Interest in the occult is one of the fastest-growing phenomena in the United States, and teenagers especially are vulnerable, experts in the occult say.

But teens don't understand that when they dabble they are "playing with Satan," according to Kentucky occult expert Charles Rice.

Rice, dean at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, led a workshop on the occult during Kentucky Baptist Convention-sponsored conferences on cults in early March. Stanford Baptist Church and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College hosted the meetings.

The "occult" is an umbrella term which includes divination, astrology, palmistry, crystal gazing, Ouija board and Tarot cards, magic (not sleight-of-hand tricks), witchcraft, communicating with the dead and Satanism.

Rice said curiosity and peer pressure may entice youth to be drawn into the "soft stuff" such as books, the Ouija board, Dungeons and Dragons games and music and videos which promote the occult. But often, youth soon find themselves into "a power which they can't control," he said.

Rice illustrated that power by showing a clip from a Geraldo Rivera television show in which Rivera documented the rise of Satanism

among teenagers. Rivera cited several specific cases to show heavy metal music's connection to Satanism and to show Satanic rituals such as grave robbing.

While Satanism is the darkest side of the occult, it is the hardest to classify, Rice said.

Satanists can be divided into two groups: those who do not believe in a literal Satan but are opposed to Christianity and see Satan as a symbol of that opposition; and those who believe Satan exists and worship him as a powerful god.

"If Satanists could be characterized in one term, it would be 'self-serving,'" Rice said. "One's own needs, desires, beliefs and goals are" See Beware of dabbling ..., page 9

## Americans need to regain integrity, Stephen Carter says

By David Anderson  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Stephen Carter is looking for a presidential candidate who will give the same speech to the business-oriented U.S. Chamber of Commerce and labor advocate AFL-CIO.

That, says the Yale University law professor and intellectual provocateur, would be a sign of integrity.

Integrity is what's missing from the current political scene, as well as from much of America's public and private lives, according to Carter, whose best-selling book on religion and public policy, "The Culture of Disbelief," drew praise in religious

and political circles.

In short, Carter says, "American politics is a mess."

To prove his point, Carter has written a new book, "Integrity," arguing that the classic virtue of his title is "the crucial element of good citizenship."

"It's more important for me to know whether someone has integrity than it is to know whether I agree or disagree with him on a variety of issues," he said in an interview.

Integrity for Carter is more than just being honest. It is also a willingness to make sacrifices for the sake of right.

The new book covers much of the same ground that Carter, a law professor at Yale, explored in his past

books challenging liberal principles and questioning conservative pieties.

Carter broke onto the national scene in 1991 with his book "Reflections of an Affirmative Action Baby," a controversial and critical look at programs for African-Americans aimed at ending discrimination. While candidly saying in the book that he got into law school "because I am black," he argued that affirmative action programs have "done nothing at all for the true victims of racism"—the poor and working-class blacks.

Carter followed that in 1993 with "The Culture of Disbelief," a best-selling but equally controversial book in which he argued American culture—especially the media and legal

establishments—trivializes and scorns religious beliefs and acts to keep those beliefs out of the public arena.

The book won plaudits from President Clinton and a host of other luminaries and made Carter a star of the "religion and politics" circuit.

"Integrity," timed in part to coincide with the current presidential campaign, offers more of the same but with heightened, although not exclusive, attention to the political world. In addition to politics, his targets include the education system, the news media, the law and lawyers, the state of marriage and the way sports operate in American life.

See Americans need to ..., page 6

# BAPTISTS

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **James Heflin**, professor of preaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, has been named general secretary of the European Baptist Convention. The convention is an association of about 60 English-speaking churches in major cities across Europe.

■ **James Ralph Scales**, retired president of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., died March 12. He was 76. Scales was president of the university from 1967 to 1983, a period which saw Wake Forest grow from a small Baptist school to a university with a national academic reputation.

## Warren calls for focus on church health

By Mark Wyatt  
California Southern Baptist

GLORIETA, N.M. (ABP)—Church health will replace church growth as the next hot issue for congregations, California mega-church pastor Rick Warren told a gathering of Baptist communicators.

"The issue of the 21st century is going to be church health," said Warren, senior pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Orange County, Calif.

Warren said while healthy churches will inevitably grow, many churches and their leaders have confused growth with health. "Bigger is not better," Warren declared. "Better is better."

Warren delivered the keynote address at the Baptist Public Relations Association's 1996 workshop at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Since beginning in 1980 with seven members, Saddleback Valley Community Church has grown to an average weekly worship attendance of 12,000, making it the fastest-growing Southern Baptist church in history.

Warren told communicators that church health results when the five purposes of the church—worship, ministry, evangelism, fellowship and discipleship—are kept in balance. And when that happens, he said, growth occurs.

"When the church of Jesus Christ is balanced, it is healthy, and when it is healthy, it grows," he explained. "If

a church is healthy, growth is automatic. Balance makes a healthy church."

That includes keeping "a balance between methods and message," Warren said. He urged Baptist communicators and churches alike to "use technology but don't worship it."

However, Warren observed, "That's not the problem in most churches. Most are 10 years behind. They're just discovering fax machines."

Warren described a number of ways Saddleback uses technology in its ministries today, such as providing silent pagers to summon parents of pre-schoolers without disrupting worship services and issuing bar-coded identification cards to make sure children are returned to their proper guardians.

But he warned against using technology without a purpose. And he said most people make two mistakes concerning technology which can be fatal to industry, to denominations and to individuals.

"One or the other, or fear it—'We either worship it or fear it—root of both errors about technology is confusing the message with the method," he continued.

"Some people worship technology, but technology's never going to save anybody," Warren declared. "That's why (at Saddleback) we're not going on TV and radio." Besides, he added, he just wants to be a pastor—not a fund-raiser or a celebrity.

Many Baptist churches, however,

fear or resent technology, Warren said.

"Many of our churches, really in our heart of hearts, believe the 1950s was the 'golden age of church growth' and they're going to do everything they can to preserve it," Warren observed. But he said such a view is "dishonest" because its proponents try to create a biblical basis for a personal bias.

"It is a human habit of nature that we erect theological walls to protect human preferences," he stated. "I admire the Amish because they're honest about it. They believe the ideal culture was the mid-1800s and they don't make any bones about it."

In contrast, he suggested, some Baptists "say we've still got to do the programs of the '60s because it's the New Testament way."

"No method was meant to last forever. No method has lasted forever. Methods are not sacred; the message is," he declared. Consequently, Warren stressed, while the gospel message must never change, methods of sharing it have to change with every generation.

As an example, Warren cited church music, which he predicted "is going to be the fault line in churches in the next 10 years." Music "divides generations," Warren said, and pervades people's lives.

"You have to specialize. You tell me the music you're using and I'll tell you who you're reaching and who you're never going to reach," he said.

## Virginia convention broadens policy on designated gifts

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP)—The Baptist General Association of Virginia will let churches channel contributions to tax-exempt Christian organizations not in the state association's budget, including a breakaway conservative group that complains the state convention is too liberal.

The Virginia Baptist executive committee approved the new policy

unanimously March 12.

The change was made after several Virginia Baptists asked the treasurer's office to forward money to other organizations, including Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, a group dissatisfied with what they call the liberal direction of the state convention.

The previous policy allowed trea-

surer Nathaniel Kellum to forward funds only to organizations listed in the state budget.

Rather than endorsing a list of approved recipients, the new policy allows Kellum to forward money to any organization which "has been granted 501(c)3 status by the Internal Revenue Service along with a tax exempt number," and has "a stated

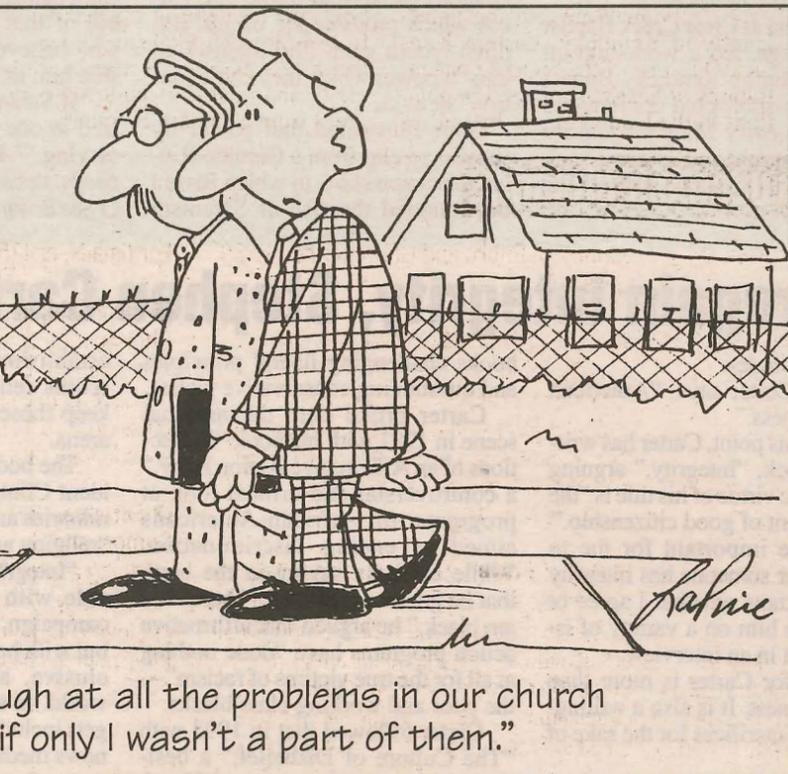
## Court dismisses Killinger's suit against Samford

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)—A federal judge has thrown out a lawsuit filed against Samford University by a professor who claimed religious discrimination by the Baptist school in Birmingham, Ala.

Professor John Killinger filed a suit in federal court in 1994 claiming he was barred from teaching in Samford's Beeson Divinity School because his moderate theology clashed with the conservative views of the school's dean. Killinger charged religious discrimination under Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Acts.

He also alleged that Samford officials violated terms of the will of Ralph Beeson, a philanthropist who left \$23 million to the university to establish a non-sectarian, evangelical Protestant divinity school.

U.S. District Judge William Acker ruled against Killinger's claim in February, noting that religious organizations are exempt from Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. Other aspects of Killinger's suit were "dismissed without prejudice," leaving open the possibility that Killinger could make his claim on other grounds.



## Carver alumni question school's quality

LOUISVILLE—It would be better for the Carver School of Church Social Work to die now rather than survive another year with lowered standards, according to the school's alumni association.

"Even as the school is being phased out, it is imperative that the highest standards of theological and social work education be maintained in order to equip the current students to be effective ministers of the gospel," the Carver School Alumni and Friends Association said in a letter to Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "If these standards cannot be fully maintained, it is preferable that the school be immediately discontinued at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary."

The letter, signed by alumni association co-chairs Angela Dennison and Steve Williams, was dated March 20, the one-year anniversary

of the day the Carver School crisis began. On that date last year, Mohler fired Diana Garland as dean of the Carver School because she told a group of students Mohler's hiring policies were endangering accreditation.

Since that time, seminary trustees have voted to close the Carver School at Southern and possibly transfer its mission to another Baptist institution.

Mohler has expressed confidence that the seminary will be able to meet accreditation standards of the Council on Social Work Education through the 1996-97 academic year, which would allow almost all Carver School students to graduate before the school is closed or transferred.

He has pledged to work diligently toward hiring a new dean for the school and securing additional faculty for the next academic year.

# KENTUCKY

## WMU names state and national Acteens panelists

By Melanie Childers  
Staff Writer

MURRAY—For the third year in a row, an Acteen from First Baptist Church in Murray has been selected as one of six National Acteens Advisory Panelists.

Kellie Williams, 18, joins a growing succession of Acteens from her church to receive national and state honors. Since 1991, the church has produced three national panelists, three national Top Teens and six Kentucky Acteens panelists, according to Associate Pastor Terry Garvin.



Williams

Acteens is the missions organization sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union for girls in grades seven through 12.

"For a long time, Kentucky didn't have representatives on the national Acteens panel," said Julie Keith, Kentucky Baptist Acteens consultant.

In fact, since 1977, Williams is only the eighth Kentuckian to receive the honor bestowed on at least six girls each year. But she is the fourth in the last three years, and the third from her church in three years.

National WMU staff in Birmingham, Ala., selected the six panelists—from more than 100 appli-

cants—based on scholastic achievement, school and church activities and accomplishments in StudiAct, the individual achievement plan for Acteens.

Williams, an active member of First Baptist in Murray since making a profession of faith in Christ at age 10, sings in the youth choir, participates in youth group activities and leads vacation Bible school each summer, in addition to her Acteens involvement.

She has joined others in her church in numerous mission trips, and she looks forward to serving on an Acteens Activator team that will minister during this year's summer Olympic games in Atlanta.

At school, she plays soccer, maintains membership in the Beta Club and the Future Business Leaders of America and serves on the yearbook staff. She also helped lead in her school's "See You at the Pole" prayer event last year.

As a national panelist, Williams will serve as a page at both the national WMU annual meeting and the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans in June.

Garvin credited the strong Acteens program at First Baptist and the time commitment of its advisers for

the many Acteens receiving honors in recent years.

"Over the years they have taken the girls to national meetings and done mission trips with them," he noted.

The missions spirit of First Baptist Church has made a strong impact on Williams.

"I've learned how important it is to be involved in missions," she said. "Not just to go far away to share Jesus, but to share with friends at school—let people know I'm a Christian."

Each year, Kentucky WMU appoints its own state Acteens Advisory Panel, a group similar to the national advisory panel. Another Acteen from First Baptist Church in Murray, Kelley Travis, was named to the six-member Kentucky panel this year.

The other five members of the state panel are Jennifer Atherton of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah, Christina Gibbs of Alton Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg, Megan Holbrook of First Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, Andrea Sanders of Guthrie Baptist Church in Guthrie and Crystal Rose of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Gilbertsville.

State panelists gathered for a retreat early this year to get acquainted with each other and begin preparations for the State Acteen Confer-



ence, Keith explained. During this event, panelists have leadership responsibilities in the worship sessions and also conduct seminars. The panelists also serve as pages during the Kentucky WMU annual meeting.

In addition to their tangible leadership roles, Keith said, the state panelists become role models for other girls, especially during the state Acteens conference.

"And we hope they'll be our future WMU leaders," Keith added.

**ACTEEN HONORS** Six Acteens from across Kentucky fulfill statewide responsibilities on the 1995-1996 Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panel (from left front): Andrea Sanders of Guthrie, Crystal Rose of Benton, Megan Holbrook of Mount Vernon, Christina Gibbs of Lawrenceburg, Kelley Travis of Murray and Jennifer Atherton of Paducah.

## Murphy takes partnership role; High will lead deaf ministry

Ken Murphy and Mary High have been hired to fill part-time positions with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board staff.

Both appointments were approved by the Executive Board's administrative committee March 21.

Murphy, pastor of Finchville Baptist Church in Finchville, will work part-time as associate director of partnership missions. He also will continue to serve the Finchville church as pastor.

Murphy will assist partnership missions director Calvin Wilkins in all the KBC's partnerships, but with particular emphasis on Russia. He will carry specific responsibilities for conducting orientation sessions for

partnership volunteers.

Murphy has served the Finchville church since 1994. Previously, he was pastor of Glasgow Baptist Church in Glasgow; Heritage Baptist Church in Dothan, Ala.; Iuka Baptist Church in Iuka, Miss.; and Bagdad Baptist Church in Bagdad.

He has been highly active in KBC life, serving on a number of committees and boards. He holds the bachelor of arts degree from Samford University and both the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.



Murphy

High will serve as a consultant for deaf work across the state. She will help churches develop deaf-culture ministries and will encourage the development of new churches and ministries for the deaf.

In presenting High's nomination to the administrative committee, Larry Martin, director of the KBC's missions and evangelism division, noted that ministries with deaf individuals are growing significantly in Kentucky. Eastern Kentucky has one of the highest concentrations of hearing-impaired populations in the United States, he said.

High is a freelance interpreter for the deaf and also coordinator of the deaf program at Boyce Bible School. She has served in a number of capacities related to deaf ministry through the years, including being a minister to the deaf and blind at Ancient City Baptist Church in St. Augustine, Fla.; a chaplain at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind; and a missionary with the deaf and blind for the Florida Baptist Convention.

In addition to advance training in interpretation for the deaf, High holds the bachelor of science degree from Mars Hill College, as well as the master of divinity, master of theology and doctor of philosophy degrees from Southern Seminary.

### BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Recorder honored.** The Western Recorder received two honors in the Baptist Public Relations Association's 1996 awards competition. Former editor Marv Knox won first place in the editorial writing category for his column titled "We Need a New Seminary." Knox and Mark Wingfield, Western Recorder interim editor, together won first place in the news writing series category for ongoing coverage of the Carver School crisis at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **Exchange begun.** Clear Creek Baptist Bible College in Pineville and Lincoln Memorial University of Harrogate, Tenn., have approved a course-exchange agreement that will allow full-time students

from either institution to take courses at the other institution.

■ **Concert cancelled.** The Michael Sweet concert scheduled for Campbellsville College March 30 has been canceled due to low ticket sales.

■ **Carlin honored.** Buckley Carlin, director of Glen Dale Baptist Children's Home, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ohio Association of Child and Youth Care Professionals.

■ **Christian rockers coming.** A national concert tour featuring four Christian rock groups will play in Wilmore April 20. The "Salt Box Tour" will take Petra, Whiteheart,

Johnny Q. Public and Grammartrain to 30 cities.

■ **4HIM & Point of Grace unite.** The award-winning contemporary Christian ensembles 4HIM and Point of Grace will combine forces on a national tour this fall that will come to Louisville Oct. 10. The tour also will play in Cincinnati Oct. 1 and Nashville Nov. 14.

■ **Day of Prayer.** Two statewide rallies are planned on the National Day of Prayer, May 2. A time of prayer and massive bridgework are scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. on Louisville's downtown Belvedere. A candlelight vigil is slated for the Capitol steps in Frankfort at 8 p.m. that evening.

For details, call (502) 228-3338.

■ **Boxes shipped.** Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville shipped 3,162 pairs of new shoes to Bosnian children March 11 in the second phase of its "Boxes of Blessings" ministry. The shipment is scheduled to arrive in Bosnia April 15.

■ **European tour planned.** The Cumberland College Chamber Choir is planning a tour through Germany and Austria May 22-29. Friends of the college are invited to join the touring party. For information, call Joe Tarry at (606) 539-4332.

## WESTERN RECORDER

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

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## BAPTIST FORUM

### Both Marks missed

I would like to respond to Mark Wingfield's editorial (March 19, page 5) regarding Mark Coppenger's message about the "badness" of lost people. Both Marks may have missed the mark.

Your editorial stated, "All people are made in the image of God." I don't believe the Bible supports such a statement. Adam and Eve were made in the image of God, but that is where it stopped. Genesis 5:3 tells us Seth was made in the image of Adam. When the Bible speaks about man being in the image of God, it speaks about one of two issues: (a) Adam, the creation of the species or (b) the person who has been born again, re-created in the image of God.

I believe God calls for isolation of the lost, until they accept their lost condition and his remedy. The church is becoming more worldly with each decade. We accept people as they are, overlooking their faults and sins. Surely, the "badness" of mankind must be told along with the redemptive good news of Jesus Christ.

Mark the seminary president is calling for black and white, while Mark the editor is urging us toward the gray. It is imperative to take a firm stand and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. God said, "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). The word lost means to be without Christ and without salvation. Any way you slice it, that is bad, really bad.

I read no hate language in Coppenger's article.

*John N. Routh  
Upton*

### On words & actions

Mark Coppenger preached that all

### After a bad week

Last week wasn't the best week I've ever had. I have always presumed that everyone has days or weeks like it, but knowing that is little consolation to one who is having a rough time.

Now that the worst of it is over, even though there will be fallout to deal with, I can testify that life moves on; that the sun really does come out tomorrow. It always has for me, sooner or later.

Ironic that as I was looking through a file I keep for possible articles, I found "Thoughts to Get You Through Almost Any Crisis," a piece a friend had given me sometime back. Maybe someone else out there needs to get their mind off their problems.

"1. Indecision is the key to flexibility.

"2. You cannot tell which way the train went by looking at the track.

non-Christians are bad and illustrated his point by crushing and discarding a plastic cup with a hole as useless (March 19, page 2).

A diabolical problem in Coppenger's beliefs is the sin of objectifying the other. His "I/it" attitude in other contexts has fueled pogroms, the Nazi holocaust, genocide, racism and gay-bashing. Just because it comes from a minister's sermon doesn't mean it isn't full of hate and opposed to what God is trying to accomplish in Jesus' coming—the reconciling of all people to a relationship of safety and trust to God, self, others and the world. Hitler crushed plastic cups too.

Jesus' parable in Matthew 21 is telling. "A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, 'My boy, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not go,' but afterward thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, 'Certainly, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?"

Coppenger needs to hear Jesus' message that some people's actions don't match their words. Some Jews and Muslims would never recite my statement of faith, yet they embody the love of Jesus. Some Christians I know testify to a born-again experience, yet preach hate and prejudice. I will let God be the judge. I do not think I have to believe my Jewish neighbor will burn in hell for me to be a follower of Jesus.

*Dale McAbee  
Louisville*

### God can use you

How did a 33-year-old housewife/church pianist/mother of two end up spending a week last summer working as a housepainter in Hopkinsville in 100-plus degree heat?

God surely moves in mysterious ways! When our church's youth minister begged for the sixth week in a row for a female chaperone for the youth mission trip, I knew God was pushing me in that direction. My husband agreed, we arranged child care for our two boys, and I was set to go.

"3. There is absolutely no substitute for a genuine lack of preparation.

"4. Happiness is merely the remission of pain.

"5. Nostalgia isn't what it used to be.

"6. The facts, although interesting, are irrelevant.

"7. Someone who thinks logically is a nice contrast to the real world.

"8. Things are more like they are today than they ever have been before.

"9. Everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler.

"10. Friends may come and go, but enemies accumulate.

"11. I have seen the truth and it makes no sense.

"12. All things being equal, fat people use more soap.

"13. If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

"14. One-seventh of your life is

I announced to our youth minister, "OK, I can go with you. What are we going to do?" expecting to hear "Vacation Bible school" or "backyard Bible clubs." I did not expect to hear "construction."

The week was hard—scraping and painting, hot weather, early wake-up calls (5 a.m.), and sleeping on a gym floor. But there were many rewards: a closer relationship with our church youth, praise and worship times that were joyful and exciting, new skills and knowledge (although, to my husband's disappointment, I didn't come home ready to paint our house), renewed appreciation for our Baptist youth, and, most importantly, the realization that God can stretch and use me in ways I never imagined.

Physically, I don't think I've ever worked so hard. Spiritually, I came home encouraged and uplifted. I encourage you to take a look at Kentucky Changers. If God could use me there, he can surely use anybody.

*Elza Reeves  
Louisville*

### Glad for Stanleys

I was delighted to hear of the reconciliation of Charles and Anna Stanley. The fact that Stanley and his wife had marital difficulties reminds us that the devil is still around. He will do anything to destroy a ministry and a family, and none of us are exempt.

Stanley and First Baptist Church of Atlanta have accomplished missions in a way most of us only dream and talk about. He has been a great asset to Southern Baptists' and the Lord's work.

I pastored a church in Ohio for 12 years. Many people had no idea what or who Southern Baptists were. Some even believed we were snake handlers from the South. Many times I could say we were Southern Baptists like Charles Stanley. Most people had heard him preach on television, and it gave us a very positive point of identity.

I thank God for Stanley and rejoice that his ministry can continue.

*David B. Morris  
Somerset*

spent on Monday.

"15. By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.

"16. The more you run over a dead cat, the flatter it gets.

"17. There is always one more imbecile than you counted on.

"18. This is as bad as it can get, but don't bet on it.

"19. Never wrestle with a pig: you both get all dirty, and the pig likes it.

"20. The trouble with life is, you're halfway through it before you realize it's a 'do it yourself' thing.

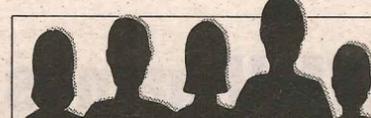
"21. Someone will always be there when they need you.

"22. If something needs to be said, there will always be someone there to say it.

"23. Tour guides on the road less traveled aren't cheap."

Sometimes, when we're having a "no good, horrible, very bad day," the best thing to do is try to find something to laugh about!

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



## FAMILY FORUM

### Ageism: A sin of prejudice

By John Lepper

Ageism is to age what racism is to skin color. "The Encyclopedia of Aging" defines ageism as "a process of systematic stereotyping and discrimination against people because they are old."

Ageism is a form of prejudice which provides a convenient way of coping with anxiety about aging. The root meaning of the word prejudice is to pre-judge. Age bias allows younger people to see older people as different from themselves. It allows people to believe the myths about this group without looking at the truth.

Ageism can take subtle or overt forms. In its more overt form, ageism can take the shape of discrimination or outright disdain. We are guilty of ageism when we act in a patronizing or condescending way toward older people.

A subtle form of ageism is reflected in avoidance of contact. By creating distance between the generations, younger (or middle-aged) people are able to avoid dealing with the reality of their own aging.

Age prejudice also can serve a highly personal function by protecting people from those things they fear, namely the fear of aging, illness and death.

It must be stated that ageism can flow both ways. Ageism also can apply to prejudice older people have toward those younger than themselves. The vigor and attractiveness of youth (or middle age) may stir strong feelings in older people.

Christian ethics based on biblical principles calls us to refrain from all forms of prejudice. God loves all people, no matter their age. All human beings are children of God, created in God's image. We do not lose this infinite worth just because we reach a certain age.

Older people fulfill a vital role in our churches. We need to take care not to write them off. Let us value them for their infinite worth as God's senior saints. They have much to teach us; they have much to contribute to the vitality of the church.

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

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

### ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

## HE SAID/SHE SAID

### March Madness makes heads spin for the sports-challenged

#### HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

March in Kentucky is one of those times when I feel like an alien descended to earth from some far-off planet. As March Madness surrounds me, I plod along unfazed in the midst of the storm.

All of us have our idiosyncrasies, those little traits that separate us from the rest of our gender, generation or genealogy. Mine is that I'm an otherwise normal male Kentuckian who doesn't give a flip about

basketball.

Now before you send the state police to lock me up for mental evaluation or hire Rick Pitino to indoctrinate me, let me assure you that I've played my share of basketball as a teenager. Our family even put up a backboard and basket over the driveway.

Somehow, it just didn't stick.

Of course, this makes for an awkward life at times. What do you talk about around the water cooler at the office? How can you join in the conversation before and after (and sometimes during) Sunday school? How do you keep from being disowned by your extended family?

The ultimate question is, of course: Is there life in Kentucky beyond basketball? Of course there is. We've always got April, May, June, July, August, September and October.

As you're rooting for the Wildcats this week (and, yes, even a dimwit like me hopes they win), remember this one bit of advice: There's a big difference between watching someone else play a game and playing in the game yourself.

Then take that lesson into an arena we all can understand: Are you a spectator at worship, or a participant? Do you just root for missions, or do you make yourself a missionary?

I may not see you in the stands, but I'll look for you on the court.

#### SHE SAID



Alison Wingfield

Even though I don't live and breathe basketball, I do take a greater interest in it than my significant other.

Of all sports, basketball is my favorite to watch. I grew up rooting for the University of New Mexico Lobos in an arena known as the Pit. For those of you who don't keep up with anything west of the Mississippi, the Lobos are in that obscure conference known as the Western Athletic Conference.

There is something so exciting about attending a game "live." Our seats were usually up high, and we couldn't see the action nearly as well as we could have if we stayed at home and watched it on TV. But being there is a totally different thing. When you are cheering for a team in a sometimes deafening roar, adrenaline kicks in and you feel like you're the one who has accomplished something when your team wins.

(In case you are wondering, the Lobos made it to the second round of the NCAA this year—for the first time in 22 years.)

One of the reasons I still enjoy watching basketball and (sometimes) football games is because my dad sat by my side and taught me the rules of the game. It is much more interesting and enjoyable when you know what is going on and why the referee is blowing the whistle (or questioning why the referee is blowing the whistle).

Maybe if we would take more time to look at God's guidelines for life, we would be more involved in the action and enjoy the time we have to be part of the game of life.

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

## Don't sweep abortion bills under the rug

This week will demonstrate whether the leadership of the Kentucky General Assembly will continue to capitulate to the slippery slope arguments of the most strident abortion advocates.

As the state legislature approaches the end of its session, two reasonable abortion bills remain undelivered. Each of the bills has been passed by one chamber, only to be stalled in the other chamber.

Senate Bill 171 would require regulation of abortion facilities on issues of health and public safety. It was approved by the Senate March 19 but as of March 25 had not moved in the House.

Opponents of this measure have labeled it an underhanded effort by anti-abortion forces that eventually would lead to outlawing abortions entirely. Further, such regulations would make it more difficult for abortion clinics to operate and thereby make abortion less accessible, they contend.

It is ironic that those who campaign to keep abortion "safe and legal" have come out swinging against a bill that would keep abortion safe and legal. Makes one wonder what the real agenda is.

Abortion-rights advocates who are truly concerned about women's health should favor any effort to make abortion clinics safer. Otherwise, all this talk about the threat of back-alley abortions if abortion were restricted rings hollow.

House Bill 362 would require a woman seeking an abortion to do so with "informed consent" after a 24-hour waiting period. That means the woman would have to be educated about the developmental status of her unborn child and that she would have to be told about alternatives to abortion.

What's so horrible about that? This measure is more "pro-choice" than anything the pro-abortion lobby ever has put forward. Shouldn't every woman

have the right to fully understand the choice she has under current law?

Clearly, some women who intend to have abortions of convenience—which the vast majority of abortions in the United States are—would reconsider if presented with all the facts. That would not translate into any loss of choice, but it would register a loss of income to those who profit from abortions.

Most states have laws that mandate a three-day recision period for people who make major purchases. That means the buyer has the right to cancel the sale within three days if he or she determines the purchase was a wrong decision.

With abortion, there is no reconsideration the day after. Doesn't it make sense, then, to require a period of informed consent before the procedure is done? Aren't women's bodies and children's lives more important than houses, refrigerators and cars?

What has stalled these two bills in the General Assembly this year—and other similar bills in the past—is not a concern for choice or for health. Rather, they have been stalled by legislative leaders who don't have the moral courage to bring bills up for a vote.

Bottling bills up in committee is a cowardly way to serve the commonwealth. Legislators are elected to vote on legislation, not to sweep it under the rug.

The abortion debate has created extremists on both sides who promote all-or-nothing agendas. None of these extremist groups represent the opinion of most Kentuckians or most Americans.

Both House Bill 362 and Senate Bill 171 are sensible, middle-of-the-road measures that ought to be put up for a vote. If you think so, call your legislator today at (800) 372-7181.

—Mark Wingfield

## EDITORIAL

### Let your light shine

Many of you know about and have seen the lighted cross that stands on the hill in front of Alton Baptist Church near Lawrenceburg. It is there as a simple—and yet profound—reminder of the Light of the World, Jesus Christ. Hardly a week passes that someone doesn't either call or write to tell us what it meant to them during a stressful time.

Well, for the second time in a little over a week, vandals have ripped the lights off the cross.

The first time they did it, they left the lights and wiring harness lying on the ground. It took two of our deacons only an hour or so to put them back on the cross, and it was soon shining again.

The last time was different. They took the lights and wiring with them, or threw them over the hill, or something.

Of course, the fix will still be simple. We'll just buy more wiring and bulbs and get it shining again. This may take a few days, though. So, if you're one of those who's blessed by the lighted cross as you drive by, be patient, give us a little time, it will soon be shining again.

There's no reason to think that whoever did this is reading this, but if you are, here's a thought or two:

People, maybe people like you, have been trying to stamp out the light of Christianity for nearly 2,000 years. None of them succeeded, and neither will you.

And the Bible still says, "If we will confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness."

And then, for me and the rest of God's children who have the privilege of letting our little light shine for our Lord, this: It is easy, oh, so easy, for us to rip off our own lights. No one else can do it, but we sure can do it to ourselves. Usually by mean attitudes and actions. And the world we influence stays as dark as the hill in front of our church is without its lighted cross.

And then this: If our light is off, that verse I quoted above will work for us too. That's the only way to get the light back on.

Tyre Denney, Pastor  
Alton Baptist Church  
Lawrenceburg

### Rear-view mirrors

Years ago, I was pulled over by a state trooper. He told me he had been following me for the last few miles. Then he looked me directly in the eyes and asked, "Don't you ever look in your rear-view mirror?"

My answer to him shot out of my mouth without thinking. "Not often. I've already been there."

Thankfully, he had a great sense of humor or I might still be in jail somewhere. But it is a fairly obvious truth that we humans spend far too much time looking in the rear view mirrors of our lives.

Now, I'm not talking about driving habits. I'm speaking of the issues upon which we allow ourselves to dwell. We should turn all our attention to the future. It is there where we will touch lives and bring about change. It is there where we will discover and grow and become.

Ever notice the difference in sizes between rear-view mirrors and windshields?

Robert Long, Pastor  
Walnut Street Baptist Church  
Louisville

## MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

## NATIONAL NOTES

■ **An Arkansas law** that prohibits public financing of abortions except to save the life of the mother may not be totally invalidated, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled March 18. Two lower federal courts had invalidated the amendment, asserting that states that receive Medicaid funding must fund abortions in cases of rape and incest as well as to save the life of the mother. The Supreme Court said states have the right to restrict state funding of abortions outside those paid for by Medicaid. And while the court said Arkansas must provide Medicaid recipients with abortions in cases of rape and incest, it noted that federal guideline could change. Therefore, completely invalidating the Arkansas law would go too far.

■ **The U.S. Supreme Court** has agreed to review a case challenging whether a judge may impose a 15-foot buffer zone to keep anti-abortion protestors away from facilities where abortions are performed. In the case accepted March 18, the court could set new guidelines for anti-abortion demonstrations across the nation.

■ **U.S. Roman Catholic bishops** have announced plans to mount a campaign against assisted suicide comparable to their fight against abortion. Cardinal Bernard Law of Boston said the National Conference of Catholic Bishops believes a recent court ruling favoring assisted suicide is "a harbinger of terrible consequences."

## Houston church accused of improper politicking

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A church-state watchdog group has asked the Internal Revenue Service to investigate Houston's Second Baptist Church—an influential, 22,000-member Southern Baptist congregation—for allegedly engaging in partisan political activities in violation of the federal tax code.

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said March 19 that Second Baptist sponsored a "political operation" designed to bolster the influence of conservative Christians over the Texas presidential convention delegate selection process.

However, Judy Craig, who directed the project for Second Baptist, said Lynn "mischaracterized" her church's Nehemiah Project, named for the Old Testament figure who rebuilt Jerusalem in the 5th century B.C.

The Nehemiah Project, Craig said, was nothing more than "an effective way to teach good citizenship" in connection with the March 12 Texas presidential primary and the precinct-level delegate selection conventions also held that day.

"Its purpose was to encourage voting and to encourage participation in the party precinct conventions," Craig said. "Nothing else."

At a Washington news conference, Lynn said Second Baptist distributed material that directed church members to vote at their Republican Party precinct conventions for specific slates of delegates identified as religious conservatives.

One flyer distributed by the church said the object of the Nehemiah Project was to "elect pro-life, pro-family delegates." It advised church members to "prepare a list of pro-life, pro-family neighbors to be nominated as delegates at your precinct convention."

Lynn said such comments proved that "the stated purpose of the Nehemiah Project is to influence the outcome of elections, and the process by which this effort is to be achieved is deserving of the strictest Internal Revenue Service scrutiny."

But Craig said the church had nothing to do with a second flyer cited by Lynn. In a telephone interview, she said a Second Baptist member, acting on his own, handed out the flyer that gave detailed instructions about how church members could identify "the right slate" to vote for at precinct conventions.

"We were very careful about keeping this non-partisan," Craig said. "We did not discuss specific political

issues and we did not even tell people whether to participate in the political process as Republicans or Democrats."

Ed Young, Second Baptist's senior pastor and a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, was not available for comment.

Americans United, an independent organization based in Washington, sent a letter to the IRS on March 19 in which it formally requested a review of Second Baptist's actions. A spokesman for the IRS said the agency does not comment on tax cases.

Federal tax law precludes churches and other non-profit institutions from supporting or opposing any individual running for any public office. Howard E. Abrams, a tax code specialist and professor at Emory University Law School in Atlanta, said a church attempt to influence the election of presidential convention delegates would likely contradict a strict reading of the law.

However, he also noted that the IRS is generally reluctant to take on such cases. "The agency has made it clear it does not want to interfere in cases involving the practice of religion," Abrams said.

Americans United was instrumental in getting the IRS to revoke the tax

exemption of a church in Vestal, N.Y., that ran newspaper ads during the 1992 presidential campaign that opposed then-candidate Bill Clinton. The congregation, the Church at Pierce Creek, is currently appealing the IRS ruling.

The American Center for Law and Justice, founded by conservative Christian broadcaster Pat Robertson, is handling the appeal for the Church at Pierce Creek. Jay Sekulow, the center's chief counsel, said his organization would also handle the Second Baptist case, should the IRS decide to follow up on the complaint.

Sekulow also had harsh words for Americans United, which he said "is only interested in pushing its own agenda, which is anti-conservative Christian."

"I'm waiting for the day when Barry Lynn tells a black African Methodist church in the South to be quiet about social and political issues," Sekulow said.

At his news conference, Lynn denied that Americans United—known for its attacks on the Christian right—was playing politics itself by going after conservative churches. He said his group seeks to halt partisan activities by all churches, liberal as well as conservative.

## Study shows SBC ministers more politically active

WASHINGTON (BP)—Southern Baptist ministers have become increasingly active in political and public policy activism since 1980, according to a recently published survey conducted by Furman University professor James Guth.

From 1980 to 1992, the number of ministers who said they would like to be "more personally involved in social and political action" nearly doubled, from 25 to 48 percent.

The percentage of Southern Baptist ministers who reported some campaign activity, in addition to voting, in the presidential election increased from 37 percent in 1988 to 59 percent in 1992.

As an aspect of this trend, the survey found Southern Baptist ministers

have become more willing to endorse political candidates. In 1992, 81 percent of Southern Baptist ministers surveyed said they had publicly endorsed a political candidate at least once, even though only 12 percent said they had done so from the pulpit. In 1980, only 53 percent said they had made a public endorsement, while only 4 percent said they had done so from the pulpit.

The survey results are reported in the March/April issue of *Books and Culture*, published by *Christianity Today*. The article and results are based on surveys of Southern Baptist ministers conducted by Guth during the last four presidential elections.

In the article, Guth and Wheaton

College political science professor Lyman Kellstedt said the results illustrate a dramatic shift by conservative evangelical clergy in the last three decades.

"Quite clearly, Southern Baptist pastors have become something of a political force," they wrote. "While all conservative Protestant clergy have probably not changed as dramatically, the Southern Baptist case suggests the political relevance of ministers. At least some of the contemporary strength of the conservative Christian movement—especially in the South—reflects the activity of evangelical clergy. And there is evidence that this heightened activity of evangelical clergy is having an impact on those sitting

in the pews."

Part of the motivation for such increased activity by SBC ministers is greater concern about such issues as abortion, homosexual rights, prayer in school and the family, Guth and Kellstedt wrote. Ministers concerned about such issues are more likely to encourage and to be involved in political activism, they wrote.

The surveys demonstrate a clear realignment by SBC clergy from being predominantly Democratic to solidly Republican. In 1980, 33 percent said they were Republican or leaned Republican. Four years later, 66 percent described themselves as Republicans. That affiliation increased to 72 percent by 1992.

## Americans need to regain integrity, Stephen Carter says

*Continued from page 1*

Grade inflation at colleges and universities, cheating in professional football, the "emotional pornography" practiced by the media during the O.J. Simpson trial—all are signs of a land barren of and hungry for integrity, in Carter's view.

"I wrote this book because of my children and the difficulty of trying to raise children with good social values in a nation that talks about values, and believes in values, but often can't live up to its own aspirations," Carter said in Washington during a 10-city promotional tour.

Americans, he said, long for integrity among their leaders even as they hope to find it in themselves.

"One of the reasons we're so enamored of it (integrity) and one of the reasons we celebrate people who have

a lot of it—the Mother Teresas of the world, the Martin Luther Kings—is that we recognize, or want to believe, that there is a person of integrity in each of us struggling to get out," Carter said.

"Each of us wants to believe that he or she has the capacity to sacrifice deeply for what we think is right."

However, integrity is not an easy virtue to cultivate, he said.

Carter defines integrity as first discerning what is right and what is wrong and knowing that "some beliefs, some acts, are morally better than others."

A person of integrity must then be willing to act on those beliefs "even at personal cost" and, finally, be willing to say "openly that you are acting on your understanding of right from wrong."

For the baby-boom generation—of which Carter, 42, is a member—developing those traits, especially the ability of discernment in a culture that values relativism, is especially hard, he said.

"There is a lot of moral anxiety among baby boomers," he said. "I think that a lot of the baby boomers have a sense of moral rudderlessness that we're striving to overcome."

Carter said that "moral rudderlessness" stems from the fact that baby boomers, who came of age during the Vietnam era, "as a generation, (have) never fought a war for something they believed in. We're not accustomed to the idea of sacrifice," he said. Couple that with a "relentlessly materialistic vision of life" that has evolved over the past two decades, and "you're left with a spiritual void," he said.

Carter believes spiritual searching among baby boomers will create a demand for "a political life of greater integrity."

In the final analysis, he said, a life of integrity is akin to the religious life.

"It seems to me that (integrity) is what the religiously lived life is. It's a life in which you try to judge the right thing to do by God's will. And the hard thing about the religious life is then trying to carry out that understanding ... (and) do it even when it is difficult.

"The discernment part (of integrity) is very hard for us," he said. "We don't like to face things that are painful. We don't like to face the possibility that at times things we cherish are wrong, or that things that bother us, (things) that we'd rather not do, are the right thing to do."

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music/senior adults. Send resumé to: Music Committee, Hartford Baptist Church, 415 Liberty St., Hartford, KY 42347.

**SEEKING:** Minister of youth: Part time during school year, full time summer. Housing furnished. Send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 802 N. Adams St., Sturgis, KY 42459, or call (502) 333-2691.

**NEEDED:** Meadow Hill Baptist Church needs a music director. If interested, please call (502) 964-4517.

**FOR SALE:** Church pews. Oak veneer, solid wood under veneer. Twelve 13'4", nine 15'. Asking \$2,000 for all or make offer. Call (502) 756-2608.

**NEEDED:** Part-time youth director. Alton Baptist, Lawrenceburg. Send resumé: Joe Warren, 201 Whitney, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342.

**SEEKING:** A Louisville church is seeking a full-time custodian to clean its building. Salary plus housing (if needed). Mail resumé with references to Personnel Committee, 4574 South Third St., Louisville, KY 40214.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for a suburban Louisville church. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Beechwood Baptist Church, 201 Biltmore Rd., Louisville, KY 40207.

**NEEDED:** Church nursery worker. For more information, call the church office, (502) 366-8055.

**NEEDED:** Church custodian. For more information, call the church office, (502) 366-8055.

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

**SEEKING:** The First General Baptist Church of Owensboro is in search of a bivocational youth minister. The focus is upon coordination of ministry to junior and senior high. For information or a job description, call (502) 683-8383. Send resumé to: Search Committee, c/o First General Baptist Church, 620 Maple Ave., Owensboro, KY 42301.

**NEEDED:** Baptist Home East is looking for a volunteer to play the piano for chapel services on Tuesdays and Fridays—approx. 2 hours per week. Call Gaila Lee, activities director, at (502) 426-5531, or you may stop in at 3001 N Hurstbourne Parkway, Louisville, KY 40241.

**SEEKING:** Pastor's secretary. Word processing experience required; executive secretary experience preferred. Send resumé to: Attn.: Business Administrator, Immanuel Baptist Church, 3100 Tates Creek Rd., Lexington, KY 40502.

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

**SEEKING:** Seminary graduate for full-time music/senior adults or music/education. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 106 West Oak, West Frankfort, IL 62896.

**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.

**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.

**POSITION:** Director of missions. The West Virginia Tri-County Baptist Association, located in the eastern panhandle of the state, is accepting resúmes 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.

## Grahams to receive Gold Medal

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Evangelist Billy Graham and his wife, Ruth, are scheduled to receive the Congressional Gold Medal on May 2, the National Day of Prayer.

The joint meeting of Congress will be held at 2 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda to honor the Grahams, said Jack Cox, press secretary for Rep. Charles Taylor, R-N.C.

President Bill Clinton signed a bill in February authorizing the award, after it was passed by both houses of Congress. Taylor introduced the bill to the House of Representatives.

Larry Ross, spokesman for Billy Graham, said the evangelist and his wife were "overwhelmed" by the honor, which is one of the nation's most distinguished recognitions.

"We feel we don't deserve it," Graham said, upon first learning of the honor. "There are so many religious leaders that deserve it far more. We are deeply grateful for all the congressmen and senators who have had a part in it and to President Clinton for participating in it."



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# MISSIONS

## Urgent needs in Russia

Here is a sampling of some urgent needs in Russia to which Kentucky Baptists have not yet responded:

■ **Baptists in Sosnovi Bor**, north of St. Petersburg, may be forced to tear down the walls of their partially constructed church building and start over again if they cannot soon satisfy government demands, reported Lee and Sarah Bivins, field coordinators in St. Petersburg. All exterior walls are up and members were ready to set roof trusses last October, partnership director Calvin Wilkins said, but progress stalled due to weather and lack of sufficient funds.

If the roof is not in place soon, the government has said it will force the church to tear down the walls and begin construction from the foundation again. A Kentucky construction-evangelism team slated to work at this site May 8-21 must have more volunteer participants in order for the project to go as scheduled, Wilkins noted.

■ **The 35 members** of Shatura Baptist Church, about 65 miles from Moscow, worshiped in a house until it burned at the hands of an arsonist last year. Since then the group has met in members' homes and apartments. But now they have an opportunity to purchase a 30-year-old brick building which would make an ideal church facility. The cost of the building is about \$15,500.

No other organized churches exist in Shatura, a city of 45,000, although a small

group of Seventh-day Adventists and another group of Jehovah Witnesses do meet regularly.

■ **"Yesterday a young man** in his early 30s visited our office asking if we could help him in any way," Larry and Joy Lindsey, partnership coordinators in Moscow, wrote in a recent message to Kentuckians. "His name is Pavel Mochalkin and he lives in Western Siberia in the city of Tarko-Salye. He works as a missionary for four churches in that area and has no financial support. He was asking us for financial support and also help in purchasing some needed equipment and teaching materials."

In addition to financial support, the Baptist missionary indicated needs for musical instruments, video equipment, a copier, computer, microphones and other items.

■ **Moskovsky Baptist Church**, which was denied a building permit last year, may now be in a good position to purchase a part of a building soon where members can meet on a permanent basis. However, the cost is prohibitive without assistance.

Larry Lindsey talked with Pastor Mikhail in early March. "He said that his church is fasting and praying every Friday about this matter and asked that we ask Kentucky churches to join them in this prayer concern."

■ **Only four Kentuckians** have volunteered to serve on each of two construction/evangelism projects scheduled Aug. 14-27 in

the Bryansk region. Dyatkovo Baptist Church and Transfiguration Baptist Church both are in dire need of building funds and volunteers to erect structures that meet government specifications.

■ **Vhazniki Baptist Church** and its pastor, a Russian home missionary, have requested \$3,000 to get the roof on their building. "We have never given this church money, although they have asked many times," Lindsey noted.

■ **Zariesk Baptist Church** has requested \$6,000 to purchase a house to use as a meeting place.

■ **Kurchatov Baptist Church** in the Jursk Region has requested \$2,000 to complete work on its church building. Kentucky Baptists previously assisted this church by contributing funds for the roof.

■ **Twelve volunteers** are needed for a construction/evangelism project in Oryol Aug. 21-Sept. 3.

■ **Six volunteers** are needed for an evangelism project in the St. Petersburg Region Oct. 9-22.

*For additional partnership opportunities, see the advertisement on page 9 of this week's Recorder. To respond to one of these needs, call the partnership missions office at (502) 245-4101.*

## Partnership needs still increasing

*Continued from page 1*  
said, especially for financial and construction assistance.

"Economy is a big factor, and these people are racing against time, not knowing what the political situation will do to them," he said.

Larry and Joy Lindsey, partnership field coordinators in Moscow, emphasized the importance of Kentucky churches that contribute to the partnership through financial donations, saying these are crucial to enable construction teams to accomplish their work.

"We stress the fact that these Russian churches do not have money to do these projects and are depending on Kentucky churches to provide the necessary financial resources to purchase supplies and materials to do the work," they noted.

"This is a crucial point in the time of our agreement," Wilkins said of Kentucky's partnership with Russia. "We're into our third full year, with two more yet to go."

The momentum has been growing, Wilkins noted. In 1995 alone, Kentucky Baptists contributed \$475,000 to assist Baptists in Russia, and 464 Kentucky Baptists actually participated in projects there.

"That was phenomenal," Wilkins said. "But in light of the needs, it's still far behind what could be done."

### Western Recorder advertising works Call (502) 244-6473

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### Have I told you about the kids lately?

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# ISSUES



## FINANCIAL FORUM

### Plan ahead for debt-free vacations

By Doug Strader

Summer vacation time is one of the best family times of the entire year. Planning for a vacation is almost as much fun as the vacation. But for most families, good financial planning is a must if the vacation is to be a happy time.

Good planning begins with the family deciding months, and sometimes years ahead about vacations. If you have children, as they grow older they can have input into the family vacation plans. Every family needs a time to recreate. It is helpful to the body, mind and soul. Vacation is definitely a part of your family recreation.

Saving for vacation is an important part of vacation planning. Your family budget should have a line item for the family vacation. Many families use plastic money to finance their vacations. Unless you have saved enough money to cover the cost, it is not wise to use credit cards to finance your vacation. The debt incurred can put stress on the family as you struggle to repay the debt. If you do not have the money for the vacation, cut back your plans in order to spend less money.

What are some ways to spend less on your vacation?

- Make vacation plans according to the amount of money available, without debt.

- Make every effort to find a comfortable motel/hotel that is reasonably priced. You can save money if you are willing to invest the time.

- Sometimes it is better to rent a condo or kitchenette type room so some of your meals can be eaten in the room rather than in a restaurant.

- Plan a vacation by taking day trips during the week and then plan to spend the weekend away from home.

- Go camping.

- Write the Chamber of Commerce in the city where you plan to spend your vacation and get information about places of interest and tourist attractions.

- Stop at welcome centers along the Interstate highways and ask for any free materials. Many states have coupon books with discounts for motels, restaurants and tourist attractions.

Plan early, stay within your budget and have a great time!

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

## Beware of dabbling in the occult, Rice warns

Continued from page 1

Christian parents should "quit saying their kids aren't at risk," Rice said. "Denial is Satan's greatest tool of deceit."

At a time when teens already are questioning values—including their parents' religious faith, teens are very much at risk, he said.

"Teens see things in black and white with no gray," Rice said. Thus,

when parents tell their children they cannot listen to hard-rock music or watch MTV, teens counter with questions about the un-Christian lyrics of their parents' country music, he said.

"What's so different about Country Music Television than MTV?" he asked.

To counteract, "early help and intervention is essential," Rice said. "Get involved in your teens' lives"

by being pro-active rather than reactive, he suggested.

Engage in serious discussions about good and evil, Rice said. For example, analyze music and movies by asking questions such as: What's the message? Does it honor God or Satan or self-centeredness? How are people treated? Does it promote a lifestyle you really want for yourself?

"Turn off the television and buy a kitchen table," he said.

### How to find help

Both the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board offer assistance for understanding cults and the occult. For information about literature and other resources, call Bill Jagers, director of the KBC's evangelism office, at (502) 245-4101 or the HMB's customer service center at (800) 634-2462.



## Support a Russian Baptist Church Construction Project in 1996

Church	Information	Amount of Need
Dmitrov BC, Moscow Region	60 members, 60km from Moscow	\$20,000
Podolsk BC, Moscow Region	160 members, not far from Moscow	20,000
Shatura BC, Moscow Region	35 members, 65 miles from Moscow	15,000
Chaukovsky BC	80 members, 1300km from Moscow	20,000
Zheleznogorsk BC, Kursk Region	75 members, 500km from Moscow	20,000
Oryol BC, Bryansk Region	80 members, 350 km from Moscow	20,000
Central Baptist of 1st Bryansk	300 members, 600km from Moscow	25,000
Transfiguration BC, Bryansk Region	200 members, 600km from Moscow	25,000
2nd Baptist of Nizhny Novgorod	80 members, 400km from Moscow	25,000
Revival BC of Penza	70 members, 400km from Moscow	25,000
Morshansk BC, Tambov Region	140 members, 450km from Moscow	20,000
Tikhvin BC, St. Petersburg Region	100 members	25,000
Kolpino BC, St. Petersburg Region	160 members	25,000
Sosnovi Bor BC, St. Petersburg Region	100 members 100 miles N. of St. Pete	25,000
Verkhne-Russky BC, Stavropol Area	120 members 1000km from Moscow	20,000
Yaroslavl BC	40 members, 180km from Moscow	15,000
Udomlya BC, Tver Region	40 members, 180km from Moscow	25,000
2nd BC, Moscow	150 members	15,000
Dzerzhinsky BC, Moscow Region	40 member, 50km from Moscow	10,000
Dyatovo BC, Bryansk Region	150 members, 600km from Moscow	25,000
Chyelyabinsk BC	230 members, 2500km from Moscow	30,000
Prokhladny BC	400 members, 1700km from Moscow	20,000
Gorodushce BC, Volgograd Region	20 members	15,000
Adler BC, Krasnodar Area	120, members, 1500km from Moscow	15,000
Balkovo BC, Saratov Area	100 members, 150km from Moscow	25,000
Volgorychensk BC, Kostroma Region	70 members, 350km from Moscow	15,000
Vhazniki BC	need materials to roof the Bldg.	3,000
Zariesk BC	need to purchase house for worship	6,000
Kurchatov BC, Kursk Region	need to complete Building	2,000
Byezyetsa BC, Bryansk Region	largest church in Bryansk	10,000



Partnership Missions Department  
 Kentucky Baptist Convention  
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 Louisville, KY 40253-0433  
 (502) 245-4101

# PEOPLE

## PRAYER PARTNERS

Pray for these specific needs related to Kentucky Baptist partnerships with Russia, Boston and Utah-Idaho:

- A training center needed to prepare Russian home missionaries to reach their people with the gospel.
- A medical team from Highview Baptist Church in Louisville that will be in Moscow March 20-April 2.
- Sponsors needed for a Vietnamese work in Boston.
- Kentucky pastors going to Boston this spring to plan for the partnership.
- Lavoid Robertson as he coordinates the Kentucky/Utah-Idaho partnership and serves as pastor of First Baptist Church in Kearns, Utah.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **FRANKFORT**—Tim Frank resigned as minister of education and outreach at Crestwood Church, effective April 30, to become associate pastor in administration and education at Steven's Street Church in Cookeville, Tenn.

Immanuel Church called Brian Varble as youth and education pastor. He previously was minister of youth and children's education at South Venice Church in Venice, Fla. He began his new ministry Feb. 18.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Gary Landis resigned as pastor of Cane Valley Church.

■ **HARDIN**—Olive Missionary Church held dedication services for its new debt-free activities building Feb. 25.

■ **LONDON**—First Church will present Hosanna passion play performances March 31 10:40 a.m., April 1 and April 4 at 7 p.m. Free ticket are available. Call (606) 864-4194 for information.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Eighteenth Street Church will present "Hosanna," an Easter cantata, 10:45 a.m. March 31.

Michael Baker resigned as pastor at Victory Memorial Church. Baker is the new chief of police in the west Buechel area. He is a former Jefferson County police officer and a graduate of Southern Seminary.

The sanctuary choir and churches-tra at St. Matthews Church will

present a musical drama Embrace the Cross March 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Deer Park Church called Phil Barks as minister of youth. Barks began his new ministry March 18. He is a student at Southern Seminary.

■ **McKINNEY**—McKinney Church called Major Nolan as pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will present Emmanuel Has Come, a musical pageant on the life of Christ April 4-6 at 8 p.m.

■ **SCIENCE HILL**—Northside Church called Lewis Colyer as minister of music. He will begin his new ministry April 7.

■ **VINE GROVE**—Valley View Church will present "The Door," a musical drama depicting the events of Jesus' last week beginning with the Triumphal Entry, March 29, 31 and April 4 at 7:30 p.m. Call (502) 877-2150 between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays for tickets.

■ **WADDY**—The Moody Bible Institute band will present a concert at Graefenburg Church March 28 at 7 p.m. The 60-member band, under the direction of David Gauger, is completing a tour of the Southeast. For information call (502) 829-5324.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Harold Hubbard, business department head at Cumberland College, has been named a Sam Walton Free Enterprise Fellow for the Students in Free Enterprise.

## Oak Grove woman has taught Sunday school for 80 years

By Joyce Sweeney Martin  
Staff Writer

OAK GROVE—Alice DeVries holds a record few people can come close to: She's taught Sunday school for most of the last 80 years.

Although she can't remember much about her first Sunday school teaching experience—"it's just too long ago"—the 96-year-old can talk at length about her current assignment. For almost 20 years, she has taught the "ladies 45 and up" class at Oak Grove Baptist Church.

DeVries "inherited" the class from her daughter when she moved from her native Illinois to Kentucky in 1979. "My daughter thought I had more experience," she said. After all, by that time the elder DeVries had been teaching Sunday school for more than half a century.

DeVries and the ladies' class have been a perfect match, Oak Grove Pastor Ron Wells said. And she is an inspiration to the entire church too, he said. She "encourages us all by her faith and her knowledge of the Bible and her willingness to keep on keeping on."

"I just love my class," DeVries said. Her task as teacher is easy, she explained, because class members know the Bible so well. "We have such good discussions."

She loves the Bible too. She has read the Bible through so many times that class members often tell her she "knows it by heart."

And she loves preparing to teach. In order to "have in mind what the lesson is about," she begins her study on Monday morning, she said. She continues to study until time to teach the next Sunday.

How many more years will she continue to teach?

"I keep telling my class when they find someone else to teach, I will step down," she said. "But they won't let me go."

■ Got a news tip for Mountains to the Mississippi? Call Ann Tatum at (502) 244-6470 or send a note to Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

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## Some things never change: Part II

(Tenth in a series)

A second aspect of our school that has not changed over the years is our students' involvement in extracurricular activities.

Many young people have discovered talents they never knew they had. Some of our very best athletes have never gone out for a particular sport before. Often a young person was not involved because he could not get to practice back home. Many of today's youth are being raised by single parents who are not always available to take their children to an after school practice. Since our students live here on the campus, that is never a problem. Others did not try out for athletics because so many were competing for so few positions, they did not feel they had a chance. Still others simply did not know they were good runners, ball players, swimmers and so on.

But this does not apply to sports only. We have had the same success with young people who had never been involved in band, drama, academic team, art, choir, Beta Club, school newspaper, yearbook and other activities. Some of our most outstanding students have been encouraged by faculty, staff or other students to reach for a star they had never seen before. We never cut students from extracurricular activities because of lack of ability. If they come to practice, do their best and follow the rules, they will be on the team.

A third area is academics. From our earliest days, we have produced outstanding students. In the early years, some had such high grades they went to college with just three years of high school. Others tested so high when they entered college that they were accepted as second year students their first year.

One of the most exciting aspects of our min-

istry is seeing young people excel in academics. In the class of 1995, over one-half of those students were making low or failing grades when they came to Oneida. Yet during their senior year, over one-half were on the "B", "A" or straight "A" honor roll.

Additionally, over half the class received advanced diplomas. This means they had to meet all of the state requirements for a standard diploma and have an extra credit in science, social studies and fine arts, and two extra credits in a

foreign language. We also provide advanced placement classes for students who are gifted or have extra determination to excel. All of our graduates must have one year of Bible.

For students who are weak academically, we provide a Special Help program. A teacher or teacher's aid is provided for our weakest students. Normally one or two students are taught by one teacher. In addition to the individualized instruction, each student is able to progress at his own speed. Many students who appear to be weak academically only need a lit-

tle extra time to complete assignments. They are just as bright as other students, but cannot progress at the same speed. Given a little extra time and instruction, they can do very well.

Still other students do have learning difficulties, and have many obstacles to overcome. Most of these students are not college bound, but can and will be very productive citizens. A child who is constantly told he is stupid, dumb, worthless, ignorant or retarded will have many mountains to climb. At Oneida we are helping them climb those mountains. It takes special people with great patience to work with these students.

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

THIS IS  
ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Thanks for the Campbell's labels

Three years ago we were in desperate need of a school van. We heard the Methodists at Red Bird had 10 vans, received in exchange for Campbell's labels. "Surely the Baptists could help us get one van," I thought.

At the end of the year about 300,000 labels of the nearly 1 million required had come in. We decided to try for another year, but still fell short. The Lord sent us a nearly new van from Aflex Baptist in Pike County. The "like-new" vehicle had only 15,000 miles and a new set of tires.

We decided to continue receiving labels to secure equipment and supplies for the Irene Peterson Child Development Center. Last week we mailed almost 400,000 labels and expect to receive 65 items.

The major pieces of equipment will strengthen the center program: refrigerator, range, copier, phonograph player, cassette player, zoom camera, computer workstation, cordless phone and puppet theater.

The children will be blessed to use the electronic educational toys, giant floor puzzles, learning games, tee-ball kit, Rodeo wagon, Little Tykes picnic table, books, videos, mini-wheelbarrow and tools, gym hockey goal-net, mini keyboard, shape matcher computer. It will be

a little easier for the teachers to get down on the children's level when we receive the teacher-size bean bag.

So many people deserve our thanks. Labels have come from several states and innumerable people. For two years my secretary, Shelby Castlen, oversaw many details of the project. For a year Helen Hamilton, First Baptist Church,

Pineville, assisted by Vicky Washam, has coordinated volunteers to cut, count and package labels for shipment. Many people on campus and in the community have cut labels.

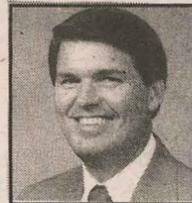
CDC Director Rebecca Whittaker said, "The children, teachers and I are excited to receive these supplies. With our limited funds, there is no way we could have obtained this equipment. Thanks to everyone who helped."

The CDC is subsidized by the college so that students may send their children for lower cost than the public. A recent budget cut also meant some programming needs would not be available.

We have decided to continue the Campbell's label project. Let us know if you or a church group need an informational brochure.

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

CLEAR CREEK  
CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

# CHURCHES

## Blacks and whites unite in unlikely church home

By Bruce Nolan  
Religion News Service

NEW ORLEANS (RNS)—It has been 30 years since that memorably dreadful day when Doris Viverito watched in shamed silence as the white deacons evicted a black woman who'd come to worship at Central Baptist Church.

She was in her 20s then and Central Baptist, all-white and Southern Baptist, stood at the peak of material security, self-confidence and racial solidarity.

The memory lies close to the surface, too ironic to bury away given the extraordinary changes of the last year.

After Sunday services these days, worshipers still chat on the same church steps. But the faces are very different.

The white people are the remnants of Central, a declining church brought to the threshold of death by ethnic and racial changes in its neighborhood. The black worshipers are former members of a vibrant young Southern Baptist congregation until recently wandering in search of a home.

A year ago they gulped and embraced, merging their leadership, their music and styles of worship in an experiment in racial harmony that appears to be unique in the 15.6-million-member Southern Baptist Convention.

Now Central has a new name, First United Baptist Church. And two co-pastors, black and white.

Viverito claps and sings with the

same exuberance as some of the black members of the church. And Minnie Witherspoon, despite an early wariness, at the age of 69 finds her new home as congenial as the old all-black congregation she once belonged to.

Celebrating its one-year anniversary recently, First United is a congregation formed by the chance meeting of need and opportunity, groping tentatively toward a deep racial reconciliation.

"Is it working?" asks Viverito. "I think it is. I know it's working in my heart."

The roots of the story go back to the mid-'60s, as white families began to leave Central's neighborhood, gradually opening the way for black and Hispanic families.

By the early 1990s, worship services that once attracted 200 or 250 dwindled to 30—all older white members who couldn't or wouldn't leave. Central was about to wink out.

At the same time, Marshall Truehill, an energetic young black minister with a seminary doctorate, was leading a ministry called Faith in Action from one borrowed church to another.

Central was one of those churches. And in the early 1990s Central and Faith in Action began thinking about linking up. In a critical strategic move, the communities decided simply to live and worship together before confronting a formal merger.

"There wasn't hostility at first," said Wheeler, the white Sunday school supervisor and a member of

Central for nearly 50 years. "But we didn't know them, and they didn't know us. It was a learning process. We had to change some preconceived ideas about them, and they had to change some ideas and hold that white people are pretty good, too."

For a year and a half, the two congregations got to know each other and each other's styles of worship. Truehill alternated preaching duty with Walter Brown, a white faculty member at nearby New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary serving as Central's temporary pastor. Both congregations began to adjust.

Services shortened up to a little more than an hour, instead of the luxuriant two-hour services black members had known, Truehill said.

"And I've never been a classic black preacher, not a whooper," he said. "That's been easier on the white members."

At the same time, black members kept much of their joyous gospel music, to the delight of many Central members. "It's much better," said Viverito. "It has more feeling. You can move and clap your hands."

For weeks they met, and weeks turned to months. Witherspoon, who feared she would lose too much joining a white congregation, began to feel more at ease.

"They're more caring than I thought they'd be," she said.

"I think what we have now is a sweet, gentle relationship between the peoples in our church," said Wheeler. "There's a real freedom, a lack of hes-

itancy about just embracing one another. It's wonderful. I feel as close to Marshall as I have to any pastor in my life."

After a year and a half of coexistence "the groups were so congenial, so blended with one another, that the logistics of the merger came a whole lot easier," Truehill explained.

Today First United is jointly led by Truehill and Rod Kirby, a white former oilfield salesman Brown suggested as a permanent replacement before going off to a year's sabbatical at Regents College in Vancouver.

The church's decline has halted, even begun to reverse slowly. A typical service now includes 80 or 90 members, sometimes up to 120, Kirby said. More than half are black.

For all the good feeling at First United, Truehill and Kirby both say, First United's members have only begun to probe the dividing power of race in their lives.

There's still a reluctance among black and white members to face each other to begin the risky, painful conversations that might lead to deep understanding between two mutually wary cultures.

Still, both men seem astonished at what has happened at First United over the last two-and-a-half years.

And both believe that the young, tentative effort at interracial trust signals a belief in a gospel that seems more authentic, riskier, but ultimately more rewarding than the separate worship that characterizes the landscape of faith in America.

**"I think what we have now is a sweet, gentle relationship between the peoples in our church. There's a real freedom, a lack of hesitancy about just embracing one another."**

## Black churches finding successful niche in suburbs

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Migration by African-Americans from the inner city has created "a new phenomenon" in America—"the black suburban church"—according to a California Baptist pastor.

"Blacks are moving out of the inner city by the thousands and they are carrying their churches with them," said E.W. McCall, senior pastor of St. Stephen Missionary Baptist Church in La Puente, Calif. McCall spoke at the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's 29th annual national seminar in Washington.

The relocation of African-Americans to more affluent neighborhoods is proof that the status of blacks in America is improving, said McCall, an African-American pastor of a Southern Baptist church.

"Contrary to the public rhetoric ... blacks in America are living better than they have ever lived in the history of this country," McCall said. "Somebody ought to say that, and I guess I am just one of those people who doesn't mind telling it like it is."

"We're doing better now," he continued. "We have people in our church that are making more money than they ever dreamed of. They're driving cars they can't even spell. They're living in homes they used to work in."

Ministry for black churches is much different in the suburbs, however, McCall said. Rather than "doing business just like they did it in the inner city," he said, suburban black

congregations need a "transformation" that begins with "taking a survey of the terrain."

The suburbs are different from the inner city "because of the kinds and qualities of the people we find in our communities," McCall said. "When church is done well," he said, "it is the place where mixed marriages show up. It's a mixture of all the people in the community."

McCall said the black suburban church is characterized by "a blended theology" which "takes the best of the Anglo-Saxon world and blends it with the best of the African-American or black world."

He said his church, which has 4,400 members, uses a "holistic ministry" that emphasizes both social-ministry programs that help the poor and each person's need to accept Christ.

"We have a biblical demand placed upon us by our Lord that we do what is right, that we help those who are in need," McCall said. "We cannot turn our back on the realities of our world today. Regardless of how people have gotten there, they are God's creation."

"I didn't say they are all God's children," he added, noting he reserves that designation for those who have professed faith in Jesus Christ.

"One of the ways we get to helping people accept Jesus is giving them a piece of bread and talking to them about the word of God. We do that at our church very successfully," he



said. "Our Christianity must be about helping people to see who Jesus is," McCall said.

Many blacks living in suburbs still depend on social services that are located primarily in the inner city. Because of that, and because many of those programs are being cut back in government downsizing, suburban churches like McCall's must fill that void, he said.

McCall said some government programs for the poor should be eliminated. "There are some things that must die so people can live," he said.

His church sponsors programs including a 12-step drug rehabilitation

program, tutoring, prison ministry, midnight basketball and ministries to the homeless both to meet a "social need" and to introduce people to faith in Christ, McCall said.

McCall said blacks must take the responsibility for transforming their own churches and not look to government or the Southern Baptist Convention to do it for them.

He added that African-American suburban churches now have the leadership and financial resources they need to transform their churches. "If we in the black church in suburbia remain underlings, we must not blame anyone else; we must blame ourselves," McCall said.

**PASTORAL CARE** Pastor Emmanuel McCall (no relation to E.W. McCall) gets coaching from a Girl Scout in the use of a 3-D viewer at one of the weekly meetings of the Scout troop. Girls Scouts is one of 53 ministries of Christian Fellowship Church, a new African-American church in suburban Atlanta that has grown rapidly. (HMB photo by Mark Sandlin)



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