


PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING
WESTERN RECORDER

April 16, 1996
Vol. 170, No. 16

FOR THE RECORD

Garland resigns

Diana Garland, former dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has resigned from the seminary faculty.
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Love for missions

Dee Gilliland carries a love for missions with her as she retires from Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and prepares to move to South Dakota.
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Editorial

Is this family split really necessary? *See page 5.*

Student missions

More than 300 Kentucky Baptist students participated in spring break ministry projects, and 81 were commissioned last weekend to be "summer servants." *See page 7.*



RELIEF Baptist pastor Ladislav Ruzicka and his wife, Melany, hand out food parcels in front of Karlovac Baptist Church in the former Yugoslavia. Many who received parcels tramped through snow to get to the church. Ruzicka has directed one of the four major Baptist food distribution efforts during the region's civil war. That work, coupled with active evangelistic programs by the four churches he serves as pastor, has helped his churches grow. Recently a Karlovac newspaper survey said he was one of the city's best-known and most-admired people, the first time a Protestant pastor has been so named. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

Hindman teen's death leads others to new life

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

HINDMAN—Sorrow mixed with joy as an accident took the life of Knott County Central High School's cheerleading captain April 3. Her testimony in death brought hope for new life to more than three dozen of her classmates.

Merri Kathryn Prater was a member of First Baptist Church of Hindman. She died six days after her car ran off a rain-slickened county road and smashed into a telephone pole. The accident occurred after she had taken dinner to two friends and was delivering a school report to her boyfriend.

That friend, John Sparkman, was the first person who committed his life to Jesus who committed his life to Jesus as a result of Prater's witness. He did so at the University of Kentucky Medical Center the day before Prater died. She had been taken to the Lexington hospital soon after the accident.

Crowds of 25 to 60 students filled the hospital corridors throughout the six-day vigil before her death. The group overflowed the chapel during twice-daily prayer services conducted that week by Mike Caudill, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hindman.

Sparkman often stood next to the pastor during the services and finally told him, "I've got to receive Jesus into my life."

The pastor said that touched off a wave of students coming to him to talk about their spiritual relationships. The night of Prater's death, nearly 50 students refused to leave First Baptist Church until Caudill returned from Lexington to lead a prayer service that lasted until midnight.

Two students professed faith in
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It's a new name: Campbellsville University

By Mark Wingfield
Interim Editor

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville College became Campbellsville University this week, school officials announced in an April 14 news conference.

In addition, school officials announced creation of a new master of arts degree in music education, naming of the Student Activities Center in honor of Lawrence and Sharon Hall of Elizabethtown and plans to begin construction of a university president's home.

The university also is "nearing completion of negotiations" to obtain

the Carver School of Church Social Work from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, said Roger Davis, a trustee from Horse Cave.

Davis, who also chaired a trustee-staff committee that studied the name change issue, noted the school has been known by three names previously. The school was founded as Russell Creek Academy in 1924, then became Campbellville Junior College in 1924, then Campbellsville College in 1957.

"The board of trustees believes Campbellsville College has reached a level of maturity its founders never dreamed about when the college was

founded at the turn of this century," said John Chowning, chairman of the trustee board and pastor of Saloma Baptist Church in Campbellsville.

The name change was needed "to more accurately reflect Campbellsville College's academic excellence, its statewide and regional outreach and impact and its Christian mission," Chowning said.

"Campbellsville is emerging as one of the state's and region's foremost private institutions," he continued. "It has grown and matured to become what many within the Kentucky Baptist Convention often refer to as Kentucky Baptists' success story."
 See Baptist college has ..., page 9

Kentuckians among 10 Baptist missionaries fleeing Liberia

By Marty Croll
SBC Foreign Mission Board

MONROVIA, Liberia (BP)—Ten Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries who had been holed up in a compound on the outskirts of Monrovia joined a high-speed U.S. Embassy convoy to a secured airfield April 11 and have fled the country.

The group of missionaries included Kentuckians James and Jane Park of Paducah.

They spent the night safely at the airfield before evacuating by U.S. military helicopter through Freetown, Sierra Leone, and then to Dakar, Senegal.

Missionaries loaded their own cars with luggage, food and water, but they had to abandon their vehicles in-

side the missionary compound and ride in bullet-proof vehicles provided by the United Nations. They sped away just as armed troops broke into their compound.

Those vehicles dodged sniper fire, "sometimes going 90 miles per hour," a U.S. Embassy official said.

The missionaries had remained on their compound during intense street battles that broke out April 6 between groups fighting for control of a coalition government. Armed men tried to break into the compound at least once.

Mission leaders at the office for West, dispatched an urgent message April 11 to the United States, asking Southern Baptists for "earnest prayer" for the missionaries and the people of Liberia.

In a phone call to Abidjan, mission administrator Bradley Brown of Marietta, Ga., said he and his wife, Carolyn, of East Point, Ga., were "more than ready to go." The Browns are longtime missionaries to Liberia and have stayed through some of the most frightening times there, but they said they could make no impact under these conditions.

Activity by splinter groups of armed hooligans has grown more intense in the streets around the missionaries' concrete-walled compound. After relative calm between opposing factions April 10, chaos evolved into dangerous anarchy. Food, water and medicine were scarce. The embassy official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said even she might be forced to evacuate. Awaiting airlift with the mission-

aries were more than 130 other people.

The six-year civil war in Liberia has forced missionaries to move into the capital city, more stable in recent years than outlying areas. In Monrovia, missionaries have worked to meet human needs and fought to keep a seminary going. Until recent weeks, the seminary had been meeting for some time in a rented building, after successive groups of peacekeeping troops commandeered the Baptist seminary compound.

Besides the Parkses and the Browns, other missionaries leaving Liberia were Rachel DuBard of Carrollton, Miss.; Felix Jr. and Dene Greer, both of Jackson, Miss.; John McPherson of Knoxville, Tenn.; and Edward and Fran Laughridge of Rock Hill, S.C.

Moving? See page 4 (0416)

Garland resigns from seminary faculty

By Mark Wingfield
Interim Editor



Garland

LOUISVILLE—Diana Garland, former dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work, has resigned from the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Garland was fired as Carver School dean last spring after she told a group of students that seminary President Al Mohler's hiring policies were endangering the Carver School's accreditation. However, she remained on the seminary faculty.

She is the last full-time faculty member in the Carver School to resign. With her resignation, Southern Seminary is headed for the final year of the Carver School's existence with no dean and no full-time faculty members in place.

Garland's resignation is effective July 31, but she announced her departure April 15 to give remaining students fair notice, she said.

About 25 social work students will lack one year or more of study to complete their degrees after the cur-

rent semester. Mohler has declared his intention to keep the Carver School open and accredited for one more year, to allow those students to graduate.

However, securing a dean and faculty members is one critical component of keeping accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education.

In a letter to Carver School students announcing her resignation, Garland said she does not believe the school can operate with quality any longer.

"Given faculty and administrative losses and the institutional constraints we are currently experiencing, Carver School cannot continue to offer quality graduate social work education an additional year, regardless of my efforts or students' perseverance and competency," she wrote. "I recognize that others may disagree with me, but I must make decisions based on my best judgment.

"At this point, I fear my continued presence on the faculty may be used to engender false hope that the school can continue to offer quality social

work education an additional year and thus hinder the transfer of remaining students to social work degree programs in other institutions," she added. "I hope my leaving will help our remaining students to continue in preparation for professional church leadership in places where their calling will be seen as central to the ministry of the church."

Garland said she has no firm plans for the future but is exploring several options. Her husband, David, continues to teach New Testament on the seminary's theology school faculty.

Garland's resignation announcement came on the day seminary trustees were gathering on campus for their spring meeting and on the day seminary officials are required to submit to accrediting agencies the first of several reports on progress made toward maintaining accreditation.

Mohler issued a two-sentence statement acknowledging receipt of Garland's resignation. "I sincerely wish for Dr. Garland success and fulfillment in future endeavors in ministry," he said.

Disaster relief leader sees room for growth

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—The national coordinator of Southern Baptists' disaster relief response says he will encourage even broader involvement by volunteers in the year ahead.

Mickey Caison, associate director of the adults in missions department of the Brotherhood Commission, said the scope of the disaster ministry, now in its 27th year, can be expanded by encouraging more local churches and associations to get involved.

"In the last year and a half, there have been more than 400 disasters 'numbered' by the American Red Cross, but we have only been involved in a fraction of these," Caison

said. "So there are a number of disasters at the local level where churches and states could and would become a part of ministering without even involving the actual movement of a feeding or child care unit. Teams can be working in a church kitchen, for example."

Such in-state responses would remain under the guidance of the state Brotherhood director. The role of the Brotherhood Commission would be to encourage and enable states.

Caison said the response by volunteers in emergency situations, providing child care, feeding, temporary repair, mud-out and clean-up was "very

good" during 1995. More than 10,000 volunteers were involved.

"The overall number of disasters seems to be increasing, while the size of the disasters, aside from the major events like Hurricane Andrew and the Northridge (Calif.) earthquake, are not as large," he said. "There are just more and more of them."

Also during 1995, Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers from 22 state conventions responded to 84 disasters, prepared 719,992 meals, cared for 1,870 children at day-care units, repaired 726 homes and churches and cleared 1,027 areas around homes of litter and debris.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **19,000 expected at SBC.** An estimated 19,000 messengers will attend the June 11-13 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans, according to Registration Secretary Lee Porter. That's about half the number of registered messengers the last time the SBC met in New Orleans, in 1990. That year was considered by many to be the final year of open struggle between conservatives and moderates within the convention.

■ **SBC rooms available.** Previously unavailable rooms in some New Orleans hotels have become available for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 11-13. Jack Wilkerson, convention manager and vice president for business and finance for the SBC Executive Committee, said call about the newly available rooms should be directed to the New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 345-1187.

■ **Robert Denny dies.** Robert Denny, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance from 1968-80, who

played a significant role in defending religious freedom during the communist totalitarianism of Eastern Europe, died on Good Friday, April 5, in Orlando, Fla. Denny, 81, had suffered for the past two years from Alzheimer's disease.

■ **John Allen Moore dies.** John Allen Moore, an architect of post-World War II Southern Baptist mission work in Europe, died April 15. He was 83. During his 40-year career, he helped establish seminaries in Yugoslavia and Switzerland and started the European Baptist Press Service. In 1938 he was appointed as the first Southern Baptist missionary to Yugoslavia.

■ **President to dance.** Now that Baylor University has lifted its ban on dancing on campus, President Robert Sloan and his wife, Sue, will have the first dance. The Sloans will take the floor at an outdoor dance scheduled for April 18 in the center of the campus. Sloan said the dance will be a wholesome affair, with no alcohol allowed and a special dress code enforced.

797 refugees resettled last year by Baptists

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Southern Baptists helped resettle 797 refugees in 1995, a 30 percent increase from the previous year, according to the Home Mission Board's office of immigration and refugee ministries.

Office director Bill Fulkerson said an increase in the number of refugees worldwide influenced the jump in the number who were assigned to Southern Baptists by a national resettlement agency.

Fulkerson predicted, however, the number will shrink in 1996 because of a reduction in refugees allowed into America. "The annual quota, as set by the government, is getting smaller and smaller," he said.

The actual number of refugees coming to America has grown but stayed below the annual limit, Fulkerson said. Meanwhile, the cap decreased from 120,000 in 1993 to 90,000 this year, he said, predicting this could be the year the number of refugees seeking to enter America hits the government cap.

"If they keep decreasing the cap, it'll have an impact in our work on new church starting," he added. Last year, 12 percent of Southern Baptists' 494 ethnic church starts were among refugee people groups, he said.

Southern Baptists have been promoting and coordinating the sponsorship of refugees since 1962, Fulkerson said. "One of the misconceptions people have is that just anyone can come into the United States and settle down, but refugees must have a sponsor."

- Sponsors must assure that:
 - The refugee will learn English.
 - The refugee can get a job within six months.
 - The sponsor will help the refugee with adjustments to U.S. life.

"Most refugees are on their way to self-sufficiency in six months," Fulkerson said.

Southern Baptists have been receptive to assisting refugees with resettlement, Fulkerson said. "But even in this regard, our ethnic churches are more receptive than our Anglo churches. I think it's because our Anglo churches haven't been challenged."

Churches often rediscover their sense of purpose through refugee resettlement, he added. "It also makes the churches more aware of what's happening in the world. I think it increases their sense of mission and how to respond to people's needs."

More information about refugee resettlement is available from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's direct missions department.



Gilliland enters retirement still in love with missions

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—When Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director Dee Gilliland retires and moves from Kentucky to the Black Hills of South Dakota in mid-May, the move "won't be easy," she said.

From her first day in Kentucky over a decade ago, she "fell in love with the state and its people," Gilliland said. And she found the Kentucky Baptist women with whom she has worked to be "very mission minded."

Kentucky has been one of many "homes" for Gilliland, who was born in New York and spent her childhood years with her family "zigzagging" across the northern tier of states before landing in South Dakota.

Gilliland came to Kentucky in September 1984 from the national staff of Woman's Missionary Union in Birmingham, Ala., but most of her WMU career had been spent in South Dakota, working in the Northern Plains Baptist Convention. There, she had served as the first president of the Northern Plains Woman's Missionary Union in 1967, and then, for almost seven years, was executive director of Northern Plains WMU.

"I have always loved missions," she said.

In fact, she became a Southern Baptist as a result of the work of Home Mission Board efforts in South Dakota. Gilliland and a friend had prayed that "a really good gospel church" would come to their town after becoming concerned about the doctrinal direction of their church.

The prayers of the two women were answered when Southern Baptist home missionaries came to Edgemont, S.D., to begin a new mission, Gilliland said. Through that little mission, the 20-some-year-old Gilliland (who had become a Christian several years before) "heard the salvation message preached from the pulpit for the first time." From that point on, she and her husband, Ray, have been active in Southern Baptist churches.

Gilliland began college when she was in her 40s. After completing a bachelor's degree and a master's degree, she taught high school English for three years. Then she embarked on her professional WMU career, which eventually led her to Kentucky.

As she retires, Gilliland leaves a strong missions legacy, according to Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union President Peggy Hicks.

"She has helped people across our state to get a real vision of missions," Hicks said.

Not only has Gilliland helped Kentucky women see and respond to the

needs of the world, but she has helped college students get that vision through her work with Baptist student ministries on Kentucky campuses, Hicks said. Her influence has spread beyond Kentucky through conferences she has led across the nation.

Among Gilliland's most significant contributions to Kentucky WMU have been the development of strong associational WMU leadership teams across the state, the continued development of the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions and the WMU scholarship funds, the beginning of the Heritage Fund to develop and sustain the work of Kentucky WMU, the legal incorporation of Kentucky WMU, the investment of Kentucky WMU funds and the use of volunteers to assist WMU office staff, Hicks said.

"She has led us to increased support for all areas of missions," from state to home to foreign missions, Hicks said.

One of Gilliland's greatest gifts to Kentucky has been her love of people, according to Baptist Women Consultant Carol Noffsinger. "Dee is one of the most personable, people-oriented women I have ever known. She never met a stranger and is interested in the life story of every person she meets."

In retirement, Gilliland hopes to



Gilliland

pursue her love for performing dramatic monologues and perhaps write a book. With the move back to South Dakota, she and her husband also will be able to enjoy more time with their two sons and their families who live in South Dakota and Iowa.

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union will honor Gilliland at a reception during the April 19-20 annual WMU meeting at First Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Waldens to assist with Kentucky-Russia partnership

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Baptists Bob and Nancy Walden will move to Russia next month to serve as the third field coordinating team for the Kentucky-Russia missions partnership.

The Waldens join Larry and Joy Lindsey in the Moscow area, where they will concentrate on administrative tasks while assisting with arrangements for volunteer teams.

"The Waldens are really going to complement the work Larry and Joy are already doing," said Calvin Wilkins, Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions director.

"Bob is good at working with figures and accounts," he added, noting

administrative and bookkeeping requirements for the partnership have increased significantly. "We feel like it will free Larry up to do more of the footwork in planning projects."

In addition, the Waldens and the Lindseys look forward to nurturing a friendship begun when they met during the Waldens' mission trip to Russia last year.

"It was really neat to see how God was starting a budding friendship" between the two families even then, Mrs. Walden noted.

Bob Walden, 63, took early retirement from General Electric, where he worked in the international department. He studied finance in business college and holds a bachelor of science degree in management from the University of Louisville.

Nancy Walden, 58, worked for a number of years as a nurse's aid in a nursing home and also in the hospital setting. She also devoted much time to raising the couple's two daughters.

Bob and Nancy Walden both were raised in the church and professed faith in Jesus Christ at young ages. For the past 18 years, they have served as active members at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville—he as a deacon, and both as children's Sunday school teachers. They also helped direct the children's Bible drill program for many years.

"We had really been praying about what to do in retirement," Walden said. "We wanted to do more than one hour in Sunday school."

Since 1993, the Waldens served on a disaster relief team and helped

with a Billy Graham crusade.

But their church's construction/evangelism project in Russia last July turned out to make the most lasting impact. They immediately were moved by the people of Russia and the urgent needs they saw.

"It's just something we couldn't explain," Walden said. "We left our hearts over there."

Like other field coordinators, the Waldens will serve as International Service Corp volunteers appointed through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The KBC, FMB and Highview Baptist Church all are undergirding the position.

Now studying at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., until April 18, the Waldens plan to leave May 2 for Moscow.



Waldens

April 10 arson destroys Cash Creek Church's facilities

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

HENDERSON—An arsonist set fire to Cash Creek Baptist Church in Henderson County during the early morning hours of April 10, completely destroying the church's facilities.

Miners in the area spotted the fire around 1:30 a.m. and alerted rescue workers and the church's pastor, Chris Platt, who lives in the parsonage across from the church.

"I came out of the door (of the parsonage) and the whole back side of the church was completely engulfed," Platt said. "Before long, it crept over into the sanctuary, and you could see all of the windows turn orange."

The miners and volunteer fire-

fighters worked diligently to quash the fire, but were unable to prevent the massive destruction.

"We were able to save some old records in a fire-proof cabinet, but other than that, pretty much everything is gone," Platt said.

The fire apparently was started in the upper section of the building's educational wing after the arsonists entered through a window in the basement, Platt explained. The church is located in an isolated, rural area, making it an easy target, he said.

"It was arson," confirmed Suzanne Cravens in the office of Henderson County Judge Executive Sandy Watkins. "There were two other fires the same night in the same general area."

Since last fall, 23 suspicious fires

have been recorded in the county, Cravens added. Mostly, the arsonists have ignited barns and abandoned buildings.

"It's almost like a death has occurred," Platt said, noting members have experienced the full gamut of emotions—from shock to anger—as they grieve the loss of their building. "I really feel for the older members."

Cash Creek Baptist Church, which averages 75 in weekly worship attendance, was organized in 1864. The sanctuary was built in 1941, and the educational wing was added in the 1980s.

And the church will recover from this loss and continue its mission, he added determinedly. "We plan just to go forward," Platt said. "We're not

folding up or anything."

Deacons and trustees met at the parsonage the same day the church burned to determine a plan of action. A church member has donated the use of a nearby building, which will serve as temporary quarters. They will wait for insurance adjusters to provide official assessment of the extent of the damage, but they plan to rebuild, Platt said.

About a dozen local churches already have called with offers to supply material needs that would enable the church to function during the interim.

Although construction assistance may be needed later, Platt said, the main thing the church needs now is prayer.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

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BAPTIST FORUM

Empty tolerance

I'm OK, you're OK; all religions lead to salvation. That would seem to be the central thinking of a recent letter writer to Western Recorder in regard to Mark Coppenger. He writes, "Some Jews and Muslims would never recite my statement of faith, yet

they embody the love of Jesus."

How can they embody what they reject? They may well be loving and kind enough, but it is not the love of Christ.

My salvation comes not from how loving I am—this is a work—but rather from the shed blood of Jesus Christ. If this man's neighbors who are unbelievers are saved anyway, then Jesus was stupid to have shed his blood on the cross. It saddens me that professing Christians in the name of tolerance empty the cross from its redemptive power.

Chuck Estridge
Williamstown

The thief on the bus

In a recent Sunday morning service, when a sister we shall here call "Anita" stood up to give her testimony, everyone knew to listen closely.

Anita is only a year old in Christ and has come out of the most degrading life possible for a woman. Though still so young in Christ, she teaches the Bible each week to 60 or more people who gather to hear her in two homes here in Guatemala City. Almost every week, people are saved in those homes.

"The Lord is always with us, and his work is marvelous," she began. "On Tuesday, I was to be at work by 9 a.m. I needed to make four visits before leaving for work, leaving a birthday present in one of the homes. After making my visits, I went to catch my bus. I walked by a man who cursed me as I passed him. I turned around to see him and saw that he had a huge bulge sticking out of his face around one of his eyes. So I walked back to him and asked if there were anything I could do to help him."

"Yes, you can give me bus fare so I can go to the hospital," the man replied. He explained that he had just been attacked by four men.

"I told him I would take him to the hospital, since it is close to where I work," Anita continued. "I gave him the money for both our fares. But when the bus came up, he said, 'They won't let me get on the bus.' I told him, 'Yes, they will. Get on with me.'"

"The bus stopped, and when we climbed on board, the bus driver looked at us and said, 'Get in; I won't charge you anything.'"

"We sat down together, and I began to tell him about the Lord. Everybody on the bus looked at me like I was crazy. After a while, the man said, 'But I am a thief!'"

"I told him, 'You are the kind of people the Lord loves the most.' Then I told him how the Bible says, 'Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as white as snow.'"

"He began to cry, and everybody was watching us. After a little while, I asked him if he wanted to receive Christ as his Savior. He said yes, so I told him, 'If you want to receive Christ as your Savior, stand up and raise your hand.'"

"He stood right up and raised his

■ The Western Recorder encourages readers to participate in Baptist Forum by writing letters to the editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, must not make a personal attack on anyone and should relate to topics of interest to Kentucky Baptists. Send letters to Baptist Forum, Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253. Or e-mail us your letter via CompuServe (102667,1300) or the Internet (wesrec@ntr.net).

hand. The bus driver stopped the bus right then, and the bus driver and everybody else on the bus stood up with me and the man.

"The bus driver told everybody on the bus, 'Thank God, there are real Christians like this lady.'"

Anita's face was shining like the face of an angel when she concluded. "Thank God, he is willing to use any of us," she said. "I lived a terrible life before, but that woman I used to be is now dead."

She sat down. With that, a silence came upon the church. We knew we had heard a testimony such as few are ever privileged to hear.

For my part, I shall never remove from my memory the image of that grotesque-looking thief standing up in the bus, with his hand raised high, saying, "I receive Christ as my Savior."

Nor will I ever forget Anita, who rejoiced that the sinful woman many had known before was now dead and the love of Jesus is now her glory.

Ted Lindwall
Southern Baptist missionary
to Guatemala

MISSIONARY REPORT

The keyboard of memory

Recently I have begun the occasional mind exercise of "remembering" back as far as I can into my childhood and work forward. The exercise works best when I am driving alone and for some distance.

As a result, I have become fascinated with the ability of a mind both to record and "hold" that record. So far, I can go no further back than a picture in my mind of walking in our flooded basement with my father during the 1937 flood, wearing some little red boots I was given for Christmas. I was almost 5 then. Other earlier impressions, such as jumping up and down in a baby bed are, I think, the result of stories I remember hearing about me when I was younger. That, as I understand it, is a different kind of memory.

From that earliest memory, I work forward. To do so, it is as though I am touching computer keys, each with a picture of places: our house, our neighborhood, Second Street School, grandmom and granddad's house and grocery, Frankfort High School, First Baptist Church, Georgetown College,

Israel, etc. Each of these "picture-keys" displays an assortment of events and people and the related interactions of life. Those interactions generate feelings within those memories—some happy and some painful. I suspect that we more often remember the painful than the pleasant, that the painful makes a longer-lasting impression on one's mind.

What are memories for, anyway? What did the Creator have in mind when this capacity was given? Does our memory become a reservoir from which we draw experiences which help us shape our future actions or decisions? Surely it is more

than a deep pool from which we drink an occasional cup of nostalgia. Easter provided me a cup of memories: of pretty baskets laden with jelly beans hidden for us to find upon awakening Easter morn; of a new spring shirt or short pants to wear; of the drive across the river with our family of five, parking in the post office lot and walking past Good Shepherd Church to First Baptist.

But I drank from a deeper cup of

memories this Easter as I worshipped, at times oblivious to what was going on externally.

Without intentionally touching a particular key on my "memory keyboard," my mind went directly to those late high school, early college and Marine Corps years, years of rebellion and the inevitable price of loneliness and low self-esteem. This cup was filled with memories of the wrong things I did and the pain I caused others, especially my parents.

And in those moments of reliving a disappointing segment of my past, I experienced one of the values of memory: to revisit the past, and weep again for what we may regret, and then to move forward—chin up, chest out—determined with God's help to live our lives in the renewed awareness of what grace really means.

Easter has come and gone, but our "memory computer" remains, awaiting the mental touch to recall some of our life's experiences.

Revisiting some memories on Easter Sunday 1996, I was given again the gift of understanding the matchless and marvelous grace of a loving Lord.

Christ is risen indeed!

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



FAMILY FORUM

How to argue gracefully

By Diana Garland

Marriages live and die—or at least turn into misery—by how well spouses learn to air their grievances with one another.

Do you "speak the truth" about your hurts and anger with your partner in ways that edify your marriage? (See Ephesians 4:25,29.)

It takes courage, strength and spiritual discipline to break through our tendency to respond destructively when we feel angry and hurt. We can become "givers of grace" (Ephesians 4:29) in our anger by disciplining ourselves to act in graceful ways, especially in the small issues of marriage. That way, when the big issues arise, we have the skills and grace to handle them.

First, learn to calm yourself and become non-defensive when conflict arises. That is easier said than done.

Take some time—a few seconds to take deep breaths and pray for God's calm and grace or several minutes for a walk by yourself. During this brief timeout, do not allow yourself to rehearse all the reasons you are right and your partner is wrong. Do not allow yourself to think of ways to "get back" at your partner. Instead, relax into God's presence and ask God to help you see what you have done that needs to be changed, and what you can do that will truly help your marriage. Think about the characteristics of your partner you love and admire, and remember that conflict does not cancel those out.

You can control your own thoughts, with God's help. Prepare yourself to listen to your partner without defending yourself, so that you will really understand your partner's feelings, even if you don't share them. Prepare yourself to listen to what your spouse wants from you.

Second, think about what you want from your spouse. Think about ways you can say it so that your partner knows specifically what you want him or her to do or not to do. This is not a time to evaluate your partner's character.

Anger warns us that something is amiss in our relationship. Ignoring it only sends it underground, to eat away at our love for one another. The only way to "put anger away" is by tackling the hurts and disappointments from which it arises.

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

HE SAID/SHE SAID

An unspoken rule of families: Mothers don't get sick leave

SHESAI



Alison Wingfield

I have discovered yet another truth that none of the childrearing books tell you about. Mothers aren't supposed to get sick. It isn't allowed.

Sure, we might be allowed a cold now and then, and allergies take their toll on everyone within a hundred-mile radius of the Ohio River Valley. But mothers are expected to forge on regardless.

If you are a stay-at-home mom, there is no such thing as sick leave.

And if you are a mom who works outside the home, there's certainly no rest at home. Like it or not, the children still have to be fed, clothed and taken care of, regardless of how you feel.

Of course, women seem to handle life's annoying viruses and temporary illnesses better than men anyway.

Mark does not get sick very often. Thank goodness. When he does, you would think no one else ever had a worse case of the (fill in the blank). When he is sick, it is like having three little boys to take care of at our house.

Maybe illnesses do bring out a little of the child in all of us. I remember how my mother always took such good care of me when I was sick. She would make sure I was drinking enough liquids, and fix me whatever was appropriate (usually dry toast). If I needed to stay in bed, she wheeled the TV to my room. And she often got me a book to cheer me up.

Mothers might not be allowed to get sick, but they sure can make you feel better when you are sick.

HESAI



Mark Wingfield

Maybe you've seen those little plaques sold in some country-decor stores. They say, "If Mama Ain't Happy, Ain't Nobody Happy."

You won't find a truer statement posted anywhere else in a Cracker Barrel Restaurant.

The fact is, I should have seen the illness that hit Alison last weekend coming several days in advance. I should have been like Bert in the movie "Mary Poppins," who could feel by the

change in the wind that something strange was about to happen.

We could have had a contest to see who among our four family members was the most cantankerous late last week. And it would have been a tight competition.

But Alison managed to pull the ultimate trump card: she actually demonstrated a justification for being out of sorts by coming down with a virus. It's hard to argue with a person with a 103-degree fever.

It's a good thing she's not as demanding as I am when sick. I can take care of things around the house while she's out of commission, but I'm no altruistic Florence Nightingale. My main objective with a virus in the house has been to keep my distance and wash my hands constantly. If cleanliness really is next to godliness, I'm on my way to sainthood.

Of course, there's good reason for my germ paranoia. It's the sickness corollary to Murphy's Law: If someone's going to get sick, it almost always happens at the most inconvenient time imaginable—when you're facing work or family commitments that just can't be broken or when holidays, birthdays or anniversaries are at hand.

This virus hit us on two counts. So happy birthday, Alison. But please don't blow out the candles on the cake this year!

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

Is this family split really necessary?

Kentucky Baptists are sad because a member of the family has left. Sure, they've promised to write and keep in touch, but everyone knows deep down how time has a way of blunting the best of intentions.

Some members of the family aren't just sad, they're mad. Mad because they woke up one morning to find an unexpected good-bye note without any chance to offer persuasion to stay. Mad because the family memories—memories of babies born, illnesses healed and loved ones passing—now have been given a sour taste. Mad because past investments of time, money and love have been taken away without any attempt to offer a return or even a thank-you.

Other members of the family are confused. Confused because they just don't understand why this separation had to occur. Yes, they read the note and comprehended the words, but the logic doesn't seem real. "What's the real issue?" they ask. "What is it that's not being said?"

Still other members of the family aren't all that surprised. They've felt the growing distance in the relationship over the years, even though everyone still showed up for the family reunions and other perfunctory appearances. Despite outward appearances, they sensed a separation was coming.

The family in this story, of course, is the Kentucky Baptist Convention. And the departing member is Baptist Healthcare System, which has unilaterally broken its formal ties with the KBC, the mother who gave it birth and nurtured it to health.

Last week's Recorder carried the announcement of the Baptist Healthcare System trustee board decision to become accountable only to itself. The reason given was the threat of KBC agencies being commandeered in the same way agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention have been captured by ultra-conservatives.

Many questions and emotions have been expressed across the state since then, but perhaps the most common question relates to the why of the matter: "Was this action really necessary?"

The agency's trustees obviously think it was necessary, since they reportedly voted unanimously to make the break. But many other Baptists—of both conservative and moderate identities—fail to see the same threat.

Baptist Healthcare System has enjoyed the most lenient covenant agreement with the KBC of any Baptist agency or institution. The KBC has placed hardly any restrictions on the hospital system, and the president of the system has been allowed to work with the nominating committee in recommending new trustees. Practically speaking, it would have been exceptionally difficult for any agenda other than that of the system's own board to overtake the board.

Everyone admits that not one threatening incident has occurred between the KBC and Baptist Healthcare System. And remember that Paige Patterson, an architect of the SBC turnaround, has labeled Kentucky a "weak" state for its failure to be influenced by the new direction of the SBC.

Some have tried to portray Baptist Healthcare System's decision as part of a larger trend in the nation. Yes, some other Baptist hospitals have broken ties with their state Baptist conventions, but the largest

and most respected Baptist hospitals have not.

Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis—by far the largest and best-known Baptist hospital in the United States—still has its entire board of directors appointed not by one state Baptist convention but by three. And Georgia Baptist Healthcare System, a large and growing enterprise, remains completely under the control of the Georgia Baptist Convention. The convention's executive secretary even serves as treasurer of the hospital board.

So Kentucky Baptists are justified in questioning whether the loss of their own hospital system really was necessary. Time may tell, but right now it's hard for most Kentucky Baptists to understand.

In the aftermath of the hospital board's decision, two other pertinent questions are being raised across the state.

EDITORIAL

The first question regards what assets of Baptist Healthcare System the KBC owns. Tommy Smith, president of the five-hospital system, said last week he sees no obligation to repay anything to the KBC. The assets belong entirely to Baptist Healthcare System, he said.

That may be correct from a legal perspective, but is it correct from a moral and ethical perspective? Shouldn't a multi-billion dollar corporation be expected to pay a return to the visionaries who provided the seed money for the business to get established?

The covenant agreement between the KBC and Baptist Healthcare System stipulates that should the hospital corporation be dissolved, 50 percent of its remaining assets are to return to the KBC.

The board's latest action may not be a dissolution, but it clearly is a departure from the founding vision and the good-faith agreements made between the KBC and previous trustees of Baptist Healthcare System.

The second question regards whether Baptist Healthcare System can continue to use the word "Baptist" in its name. Smith said in last week's Recorder: "I don't know that anyone has the name Baptist trademarked. Legitimately, we can use it."

Again, that may be correct from a legal standpoint, but is it correct from a moral and ethical standpoint?

After all, why would a hospital system that deliberately breaks its ties with Baptists even want to continue being known as a Baptist hospital system? There's only one logical reason: marketing.

Should Baptist Healthcare System be allowed to continue using the Baptist name just to draw upon the goodwill of people they have shunned? If being a Kentucky Baptist holds the danger the hospital system's trustees have indicated, what reason is there to cling to the name?

Hopefully, these questions and more will be addressed by the trustee committee appointed to interact with the KBC in the future. And the KBC Executive Board no doubt will discuss the issue at length.

In the meantime, if you have an opinion on the matter, let your voice be heard.

If you're sad, mad, glad or confused, send your comments to Tommy Smith, president, Baptist Healthcare System, 407 Kresge Way, Louisville, Ky. 40207.

— Mark Wingfield

Annuity Board Requires Important Decisions

URGENT

Present investment funds will be closed and new funds opened January 1, 1997. Each retirement plan participant must make a decision as to which new fund or funds to choose. This is a major opportunity for greater financial security in retirement.

The decision-making process can be made easier by using a new educational tool, *LifePoints*. Meetings are scheduled throughout Kentucky to help plan participants select a new investment strategy. An Annuity Board representative will be there to demonstrate the use of *LifePoints* and answer questions.

An informed decision could make a dramatic difference in your future account size. Make plans now to attend one of these important meetings.

► The dates and locations are listed. For specific information about the meeting in your area, call your state annuity representative, **Don Spencer**, at (502) 245-4101. You can also call the Annuity Board's toll-free number, 1-800-262-0511.

Hopkinsville
April 29

Winchester
September 16

Owensboro
April 30

Somerset
September 17

Columbia
May 13

Florence
October 1

Prestonsburg
May 14

Pineville
October 7

Williamstown
May 16

Hazard
October 8

Danville
May 20

Louisville
October 10

Morehead
May 28

Mayfield
October 14

Princeton
August 12

Bowling Green
October 15

Elizabethtown
August 19

Henderson
October 24

Louisville
August 20

Ashland
October 28

Lexington
August 20

Maysville
October 29

Frankfort
August 20



ANNUITY BOARD
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

STUDENTS

300 Baptist students take spring break for ministry

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

Spring break ministry took more than 300 Kentucky Baptist Student Union members to Boston, South Dakota, Louisiana and Florida this year.

■ **Boston.** BSU teams from Eastern Kentucky State University and Cumberland College traveled east to Boston as part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention-Greater Boston Baptist Association missions partnership.

Eastern students worked with Southern Baptist home missionaries David and Betsy Draper in downtown Boston. Draper is pastor of Beacon Hill Fellowship and Mrs. Draper is associational student ministries director and campus minister at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The Kentuckians worked with senior citizens who live near the Beacon Hill church and with the Baptist international ministry at MIT. "We tried to build relationships which the Beacon Hill church could follow up on," said Eastern's campus minister, Rick Trexler.

The students also performed a personal ministry to the Drapers, packing up their books after water pipes burst in their home. The Drapers and their two preschool children had to move to other quarters while their home was being repaired.

Three other Eastern students

worked with a group from Richmond's Red House Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

Cumberland students got a taste of the variety of experiences which make up missions during their week in Boston, according to campus minister Wyndee Holbrook. They worked with Thom Thornton, campus minister at Boston's Northeastern University, and with New Colony Baptist Church in Billerica.

The 20 students packaged 37,000 pounds of groceries for the Boston Food Bank to distribute to the hungry, worked the phone banks for Project Bread's Walk for Hunger, led worship at New Colony Church and had "eye-opening, real-world" experiences witnessing on the campus of the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, Holbrook said.

At first, the Kentuckians wondered what packaging groceries had to do with missions, Holbrook said. But when the food bank director commented on the "wonderful attitude of the students and how they were different from others working at the bank, and I was able to tell her why," the students began to understand how they were "bearing testimony," Holbrook said.

But the "defining moment" of the week came on the University of Massachusetts campus, she said. While most Massachusetts students were "nice, polite and friendly," most were

not interested in the Christian message, Holbrook said.

"You people stand up for what you believe. That's cool," one local student said. But when pressed further, he said, "If you want to stand up and make fools of yourselves, that's OK, but I think this whole Christianity thing" is worthless.

"Our students saw a different world from the isolated one in which we live," Holbrook said.

■ **South Dakota.** Meanwhile, Western Kentucky's BSU sent 42 students and chaperones to South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation, two miles from the Nebraska line. Working through the Lakota Baptist Church, students conducted backyard Bible clubs, a modified sports camp and crafts classes. They also painted and cleaned up church property, according to Western's BSU missions coordinator, Alice Jenkins.

Poverty and hopelessness were rampant, Jenkins said. Through drama, conversation and "lots of hugs," the Kentuckians tried to share the "joy and hope we have in Christ," she said.

■ **Louisiana.** BSUs at Berea College formed a 11-member construction team in Louisiana, where they worked at a Baptist camp. They also led worship in local churches which resulted in 11 commitments, according to interim campus minister David Preston.

■ **Florida.** BSUs on seven Ken-

tucky campuses sent students to two popular Florida resort areas for BeachReach '96. At Panama City, more than 200 students from Somerset Community College, Campbellsville College, Morehead State University, the University of Kentucky, Murray State University and Paducah Community College joined almost 200 other BSUs from across the nation in an effort to minister to thousands of their peers.

Keith Inman, Baptist campus minister at Murray State, coordinated BeachReach at Panama City. In addition to contacts made through beach games and street teams trained to share their Christian faith, this year BSUs offered free taxi service, free pancake breakfasts and a coffee house as means "to have positive contacts with spring breakers," he said.

Through these efforts in Panama City, 36 students committed their lives to Jesus Christ, Inman reported.

Bad weather forced Georgetown College students to alter their Clearwater BeachReach plans, according to campus minister intern James Lyles. While in previous years the beach had been packed with students, this year the beach was relatively vacant. In addition to working with the few students who did come to Clearwater, the 35 Georgetown students ministered to the homeless who live on the beach.

"Our students saw a different world from the isolated one in which we live."

*Wyndee Holbrook,
campus minister at
Cumberland College*

State student ministry commissions 81 'summer servants'

By Mark Wingfield
Interim Editor

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Eighty-one Kentucky college students were commissioned as "summer servants" April 13 in a ceremony at Campbellsville Baptist Church in Campbellsville.

The student missionaries from Kentucky's Baptist Student Unions will serve across Kentucky and around the world for 10-week terms this summer. In addition to the usual

assignments, this year's roster includes a team headed for the summer Olympics in Atlanta and another headed for Russia.

Perhaps an equal number of students also will serve as summer missionaries under appointment of other groups, such as the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. Although the Campbellsville commissioning service focused on those students supported directly by Kentucky BSUs, the other student missionaries also were recognized.

The term "summer servants" was coined by Doc Birdwhistle, Baptist campus minister at Georgetown College. And it is a most fitting description, suggested Ralph Hopkins, associate director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's student department.

Kentucky continues to rank first among state Baptist conventions for student involvement in missions, said Don Blaylock, state student director. Traditionally, Kentucky ranks second only to Texas in number of student summer missionaries supported directly by the state BSU organization.

In addition to Cooperative Program money allocated by the KBC student department, BSUs across the state will raise \$109,000 to support the summer missions program this year, Hopkins said.

The student missionaries received encouragement from Emmanuel McCall, pastor of Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in Atlanta and former director of black church extension with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. McCall delivered the commissioning message from the Old Testament book of Esther.

Just as Mordecai told Queen Es-

ther she had "come to the kingdom for such a time as this"—to save the Jewish people from destruction—so the student missionaries have been appointed for God's specific purposes, he said.

But missionaries aren't the only ones God wants to use, McCall said. "Everybody whom God saves, he saves to serve," he declared. "There is not anybody God can't get some glory out of. ... Whoever we are, however we are, God brings us to the kingdom for such a time as this."

Since he lives in Atlanta, McCall made specific reference to the students who will be ministering during the Olympic games. The athletes coming to Atlanta are people of influence in their home countries and communities, he asserted.

Therefore, passing the torch of the Christian gospel to them could begin a process of multiplication, he said. "What if they go back home with that flame burning in their hearts?"

McCall drew upon his own walk with God to say, "You never know what God is up to next."

That's the way God wants it, he said, because God "wants us to move with him one step at a time by faith."

"Everybody whom God saves, he saves to serve. ... Whoever we are, however we are, God brings us to the kingdom for such a time as this."

Emmanuel McCall

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- Through Kentucky partnerships with Russia and Boston.
- Various Kentucky churches and associations.
- Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

PEOPLE

Hindman teen's death leads friends to find new life



Merri Kathryn Prater

Continued from page 1

Christ at the conclusion of that service, and at least six more did so the next morning after the high school asked Caudill to address a hastily-called memorial service in the gymnasium.

Caudill led two more students to faith in Christ during visitation at the funeral home on Good Friday. About 2,000 area residents came to the funeral home, and about 800 to the funeral at First Baptist Church the next day.

At the funeral, a standing-room-only crowd filled the aisles, with the overflow watching the service on a closed-circuit hook-up.

On Easter Sunday, the day after Prater was buried on a hill across from the church, 24 people professed faith in Jesus Christ at First Baptist Church, and six others rededicated their lives.

Other decisions for Christ reportedly were made at other churches in the area the same Sunday as an outgrowth of Prater's witness.

"I've been in ministry since 1976, and I've never seen anything like it," said Pastor Caudill, who baptized Prater in 1989. "We've experienced tremendous hurt and sorrow, but everything we've recorded is amazing."

Prater's parents, Ella Mae and

Willie Prater, are proud that their daughter's witness has created such an impact on the community.

"Her father and I rejoice," said Mrs. Prater, an English teacher at Knott County High. "It hurts that she isn't here to be part of this in the physical sense, but I know she is rejoicing from heaven's doors."

A member of the National Honor Society, Prater was in the top 10 students in her class, was a student council officer, and had participated in mock-trial competitions.

She also led the cheerleading squad that made it to the quarterfinals of last month's state competition. To honor her memory, the entire team presented their ribbons to her mother.

The outpouring of love, compassion and Christian sympathy in the community, school and church is one reason the family has been able to cope with the tragedy, Mrs. Prater explained.

In addition to her parents, Merri Prater is survived by a 24-year-old sister, Tammy Potter, and a 13-year-old brother, Christopher, a member of First Baptist's youth group.

"God's hand has truly been upon us all in ways we cannot explain," Mrs. Prater said. "We just sit and watch. The closeness and love has

been one of the most beautiful things I've ever seen.

"We've known since this whole series of events began that there was no one else upon whom we could depend or turn to. Who else could suffice but God?"

"At times when our faith would waver a friend would call or stop by," she continued. "God would allow someone to say something that would reaffirm his presence. It's something that words can't explain."

The peace, joy and feelings of warmth that overcame the family also were evidence of God's presence, she said.

Jeff McIntyre, youth pastor at First Baptist Church of Hindman, said the decisions for Christ made by Prater's friends are not the result of the church playing to emotions.

"Death has become very real to them," McIntyre said. "A lot of them came to me and said it forced them to think about the fact that life can end

in an instant."

He foresees long-lasting results for the kingdom of God.

"I think there is a good possibility that some of these kids will be future missionaries and pastors," McIntyre said. "A lot of them were thinking about going to college and getting a degree so they could get a good-paying job. Now they're thinking about making their lives count for eternity."

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PEOPLE

Baptist college has new name: Campbellsville University

Continued from page 1
ry of the decade."

Campbellsville President Ken Winters declared the move to university status "the single most significant mark I can leave on this institution's history."

The phenomenal growth in student enrollment and advances in academic standing experienced at Campbellsville in the last eight years are just a precursor to what is yet to come, Win-

ters said. "Buckle your seat belts and hold on."

No further information has been made public about negotiations between Campbellsville and Southern Seminary regarding the Carver School of Church Social Work. Seminary trustees have voted to end the seminary's support of the social-work school, successor of a women's training school founded by Woman's Missionary Union around the turn of the

century.

Earlier, seminary officials attempted to transfer the Carver School to Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. Those negotiations fell through due to a disagreement over exactly what assets would be transferred from Southern to Samford.

The Council on Social Work Education, which accredits the master of social work degree, has said the Carver School's accreditation would

not automatically transfer to Samford, Campbellsville or any other school obtaining the remnants of Southern Seminary's social-work program.

Campbellsville University is one of three four-year liberal arts schools affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The other two are Georgetown College in Georgetown and Cumberland College in Williamsburg.

Recent milestones

- Named one of the five most-successful organizations in Central Kentucky by the national business program "Success Stories."
- Registered enrollment growth of 106 percent over last eight years.
- Accreditation upgraded to Level II by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, allowing the granting of master's degrees.
- Percentage of faculty holding terminal degrees has grown from 42 percent to nearly 70 percent.
- Academic departments in education and music have earned specific accreditation in their fields.
- Two faculty members this year were named Kentucky college and university teachers of the year in their respective fields.
- Named by U.S. News and World Report as among the top 66 liberal arts colleges in the South.

Polly Dillard, former KBC staffer, dies

LOUISVILLE—Polly Hargis Dillard, former staff member with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the first woman to teach Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, died April 11 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. She was 79.

Dillard, a Somerset native, became assistant professor of elementary education at Southern Seminary in 1954, a post she held until 1958. She later served as visiting professor of religious education at the seminary and was preschool consultant with the KBC from 1977 through 1981.

Before teaching at Southern Seminary, Dillard was superintendent of Sunday school work for preschoolers with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Dillard was preceded in death by her husband, Badgett Dillard, who was executive vice president of Southern Seminary for many years, until his death in 1986.

She is survived by a son, Stephen Dillard; a daughter, Aynn Dillard; and a grandson.

A funeral service was held April 15 at Highland Baptist Church in Louisville, with burial in Cave Hill Cemetery.

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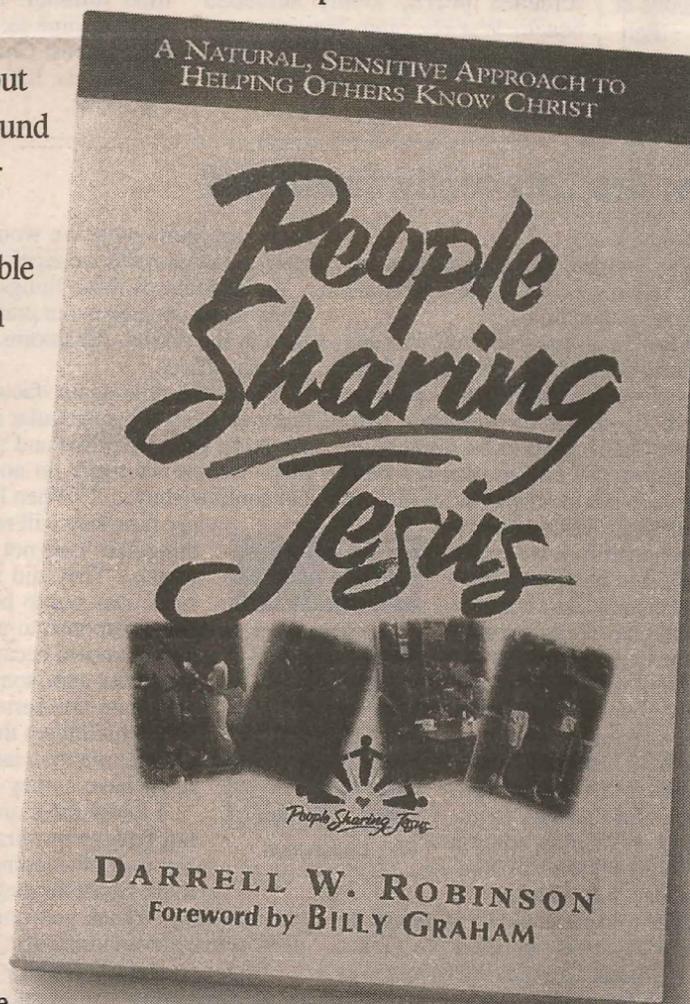
People Sharing Jesus is a breakthrough process by Darrell W. Robinson, head of evangelism for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1989.

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People Sharing Jesus is available at your local Christian bookstore in book form, abridged audio tapes, audio seminar, dramatized video, leader's guide, and special New Testament edition. It's everything you and your church need to build confidence, knowledge, and inspiration for sharing Christ. Just as your Father intended.



Available now at your local Baptist Book Store or any Christian bookstore.



"Darrell Robinson, whose pastor's heart is clear and resounding, has expressed most helpfully in this book the basic features of a spontaneous witness for our living Lord. I recommend *People Sharing Jesus* to all who are experiencing God, and have an inner desire to bear witness to others."

— Henry T. Blackaby, Author, *Experiencing God*

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

- Travel safety for partnership coordinators in Russia.
- A Kentucky Baptist church to be the "sister church" for Kronstadt Baptist Church near St. Petersburg.
- Funds for Metropolitan Baptist Church in Cambridge, Mass., to use for meals for the homeless in their area.
- Church planter Raja Kandanda as he begins work with Asian Indians in the Boston area.
- Rush and Eve Key, music evangelists who work in Utah/Idaho.
- John McClung, director of missions in the Utah and Gideon Baptist Associations in Utah.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

- CARROLLTON—Jordan Church called **Earl Pinkston** as pastor.
- FISHERVILLE—Green Hills Church called **Steve Waddle** as pastor. Waddle previously was pastor at First Church in Albany. He will begin his new ministry May 12.
- LA GRANGE—**Wes Roy** resigned as minister of education/ad-

ministration at DeHaven Memorial Church effective May 1.

- LOUISVILLE—The combined handbell choirs of Lyndon Church and Highland Church will present "Chiming Forth Resounding Praise: A Service of Worship through the Ministry of Handbells" Sunday, April 21 at 6 p.m. at Lyndon and Sunday,

April 28 at 6 p.m. at Highland.

Hurstbourne Church called **Jeff Hicks**, associate director in the KBC Sunday school department, as minister of education and administration, effective May 1.

Hazelwood Center grief support team will sponsor a "Good Grief" conference at Hazelwood Center, 1800 Bluegrass Ave., April 25, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information, call **Mary Ann Menting** or **Larry Keaton** at (502) 361-2301.

Ron Winkler resigned as pastor at

Baxter Avenue Church.

■ MAYFIELD—Pryorsburg Church called **Wayne Malone** as pastor.

■ MILTON—Milton Church called **Brad Hilton** as part-time minister of youth and children.

■ PORT ROYAL—Port Royal Church called **Ray Coates** as pastor in January. He was ordained to the gospel ministry at Whites Run Church in Carrollton March 31. Coates is a graduate of Asbury College and a student at Southern Seminary.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Two part-time Christian preschool leaders to teach Wednesday nights and Sunday nights, as well as other occasions for child care; number of hours may vary. For more information, call: Susan Bowles at Walnut Street Baptist Church, (502) 589-5290.

NEEDED: Youth minister. Growing church in northern Kentucky with strong youth program desires to hire full time youth minister. Please send resumé and references to: Fort Mitchell Baptist Church, 2323 Dixie Highway, Fort Mitchell, KY 41017. Salary commensurate with experience.

FOR RENT: Sanibel Island, Florida: 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo available for vacation rental. Large pool, tennis courts, bikes, canoe, kayak, screened porch, lovely secluded beach. Weekly rates May through mid-December: \$575. Call Pat Owen, (502) 895-8752 (home) or (502) 897-5079 (office).

SEEKING: Secretarial position: Administrative and computer skills needed. Shively Baptist Church. If interested, call: Pam Orr (502) 367-9155.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Auburndale Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Auburndale Baptist Church, 5590 Bruce Ave., Louisville, KY 40214.

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

SEEKING: 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.

SEEKING: Church secretary. Secretarial and bookkeeping experience required; computer literacy preferred; good organizational skills required. Pleasant working environment. Send resumé to: Pastor, Third Avenue Baptist Church, 1726 South Third St., Louisville, KY 40208.

SEEKING: Seven-year-old Southern Baptist church with diverse membership seeking visionary leader with excellent pulpit and pastoral skills to serve as pastor. Seminary training preferred. Northside Baptist is a mission of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. The church is housed in beautiful, new spacious facilities located in a rapidly growing area of Hardin County, Kentucky. Interested persons should send a resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Northside Baptist Church, 1800 Pear Orchard Rd., Elizabethtown, KY 42701. Resumés must be postmarked no later than May 31, 1996.

SEEKING: Qualified applicants for houseparents at residential care program. Christian couples to work in boys' cottage. Must be 21 years, high school diploma or GED. Health and life insurance, retirement and an apartment provided for days off. Interested parties contact: Tim Tharp, Baptist Children's Home, P.O. Box 579, Carmi, IL 62821. (618) 382-4164.

OPENINGS: Two 1st trumpets, 1st and 2nd horns, tuba and violist for the 1996 Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Orchestra, June 23-30. Must be in grades 9-12, active in Kentucky Baptist church. For more details/to schedule an audition, call Church Music Department, (502) 245-4101.

INVITATIONS: Baby announcements, social stationery, calligraphy custom-designed keepsakes, event planning. Call Doris (502) 895-7220 (Louisville).

Donations: Are they really important?

(13th in a series)

Normally when we talk about donations, we think of money. While we need money, there are other ways to make a donation.

In an article last year, I shared with you that one of the first lessons I learned was that God can bless us and meet our needs in many different ways. We normally never turn down a gift. Though we occasionally have to be a little creative to find a way to use an item that has been given to us, there are not too many times that we cannot find a suitable use for an item.

I believe that sometimes we make it difficult for God to bless us. Often we have preconceived ideas about the blessing we want. I have been reminded time after time that God knows our needs long before we are aware of them. I could not count the number of times someone has given us something that appeared to have little or no value, only to find out later that we were going to have a need for that very item.

On August 1, 1995, this column was entitled "A Truckload of Seashells." That story was just one of many that could be told about God's blessings. In my column July 25, 1995, entitled "In God's Time," I told of a book Dr. Barkley Moore was going to write about God's timing. God will choose the time and method of meeting our needs. We must be careful not to turn down a seemingly unimportant gift.

There is nearly nothing that I can think of that has not been provided in recent years; donations of cars, trucks, tractors, farm equipment, livestock, computers, books, new and used clothing, food, musical instruments, buses, paper for our print shop, furniture, cleaning supplies, paint, even a fire truck, and much, much more. I honest-

ly do not know what we would do without the many donated items we receive nearly daily.

In addition to these things, there have been many items donated to our craft shop, items to be used in the dorms, classrooms, clinic, print shop and our offices.

Time and time again, faculty and staff have made requests for a particular item. They will often come into my office and say something like this, "I know we really do not have the money, but could we buy.....?" When I get a big smile on

my face they will respond with something like "I did not think it would hurt to ask." They did not know that my smile was not to be taken as a "no," but a response to an unknown blessing; unknown because just a few days or weeks ago, someone gave us the very item this person was requesting. When I tell them that not only can we provide the item asked for, but we already have it, they smile a little too.

I know there are people who may not believe in miracles. Some would say it is all a coincidence. They can think whatever they want. However, I choose to say "Thank you Lord, for meeting this need before I even knew of it."

There is no way I can tell you how much money we save every year because of donated items. It would amount to tens of thousands of dollars. New and used items that may have little value to another may be of great value to Oneida.

We are grateful to God for his wisdom and provision. Part of our heritage is the kindness and thoughtfulness of many wonderful people who think of Oneida when they have something to give away.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Bringing change through prayer

Church growth leaders describe many Southern Baptist churches as declining or on a plateau. 1989 alumnus Bill Helton provides leadership to help the East LaFollette (Tenn.) church experience positive changes.

Organized in 1946 with 60 members, the church grew to over 200 by 1959. Typical SBC programs and two building programs marked those early years. Then came a 20-year period when "the majority of the members were content to continue a maintenance type of ministry. Church training ceased, and mission programs were reduced to mere shells of what they should have been."

In the '80s a young couples' class started and grew to an average attendance of 45. "When the ministry to couples reached a plateau, there was no more new structure for growth. By the '90s the couples' class had only 20 attending, and they were now middle age.

Membership declined from a high of 396 to 260 in 1992 when Helton came as pastor, after graduating from Southwestern Seminary. "Eighty-five percent of the budget was used to just keep the church in operation."

"The answer to the problem of a

people without vision can be found in prayer," Helton stated. Sessions "to discuss what God had been saying to us during our prayer time," developed enough interest for a beginning. Later in the year a dozen people participated in a four-hour MasterLife prayer session. A few weeks later a solemn assembly involved 75 people. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the day was given to worship, and no meal was served. "The attitude of the church began to change after spending a Saturday with God."

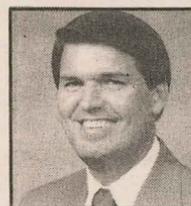
Members began regular prayer meetings with elderly and confined members. People began to see the need for additional ministry.

An intercessory ministry now circulates an updated list of prayer requests to 50 people each week. The deacons are now considering building an "Upper Room" in the loft of the church where individuals can go for prayer.

"Faithfully presenting opportunities for changing our prayer ministry is slowly bringing about some promising changes," Helton said. "These changes have only happened by the power of God's spirit working in the lives of his people."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Ministry to war victims aids church growth in Croatia

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

ZAGREB, Croatia (BP)—During four years of bloody war in the former Yugoslavia, Southern Baptists have quietly sent almost \$3 million worth of food, cooking supplies and other help to victims on all sides.

Those four years of love in action are now boosting church planting across Croatia.

People throughout the region have come to see Baptists as a people who care, people with a message that just might be worth hearing.

Soon after the war broke out, Croatian Baptists set up aid organizations to channel food and aid from Southern Baptists and other Christian and humanitarian organizations.

As they handed out food parcels, they also distributed thousands of Bibles, tracts and other Christian literature. And they have preached on television and radio.

This past winter, Baptists helped keep hundreds of thousands of refugees alive with ongoing food distribution. For example, Baptists shipped more than two dozen truckloads of food into the Tuzla area of Bosnia within weeks after the road between Zagreb and Tuzla was reopened.

In February, women trekked through snow to Karlovac Baptist Church to pick up parcels of food,

cooking oil and other basic supplies to help get them through the winter.

Many refugees are trying to start life over with few possessions in houses which are little more than empty shells. "Those people will need longer-term help than those who stayed in their homes," says Ivan Vacek, coordinator for Duhovna Stvarnost (Spiritual Reality), one of the two main Baptist humanitarian relief agencies in Croatia.

Unfortunately, the amount of aid coming into Croatia is decreasing, Vacek says, although many will need help for months or years to come.

But Baptists say their four years of labor under fire have helped create a new day in evangelism and church planting.

"We are quite enthusiastic. Our churches are growing and we have some great new projects on the way," says Branko Lovrec, president of the Croatian Baptist Union, which now claims 33 churches and about 2,800 members.

Lovrec points to growth points across the country. Twenty-five people have been meeting for Bible studies in Split, a major coastal city, and are looking for a building in which to start a church. In Karlovac, a key city between Zagreb and the coastal city of Rijeka, two churches have doubled their membership in recent years, and one new work in nearby Plaski has

grown to more than 70 members since it started late last year.

Zagreb Baptist Church in the capital city is expanding its sanctuary to better accommodate overflow crowds at two Sunday morning services. A Baptist church in Petrinja, Croatia, reopened in December and 20 people attend.

Croatian Baptists also are starting churches in Bosnia—in Tuzla, for example, the city where U.S. troops have established a presence.

In Sarajevo, Bosnia's capital, Teufik Cerovic, a former Muslim, has restarted a Baptist church which closed during the war. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board contributed about \$150,000 toward the purchase of this building. It opened in January 1992, just three months before the war broke out in Bosnia.

To help with evangelistic efforts, Southern Baptists have sent five new missionaries to join Nela Williams, a veteran foreign missionary who has served many years in Zagreb. She has been active in Bible translating and earlier taught in the Baptist seminary that wound up on the Serbian side of the border after Yugoslavia broke apart. In recent years she has focused on equipping Croatian Baptists to teach in their churches and has worked with Zagreb Baptist Church as a teacher.

The Foreign Mission Board also



provided \$14,000 to Croatian Baptists to help them produce their news/evangelism magazine, which is widely distributed. Devotional materials published by Croatian Baptists will be sent into Serbia and Macedonia.

Southern Baptists in Indiana also will help Croatian Baptists between this spring and the fall of 1998 through a partnership agreement. Indiana Baptists expect to send dozens of teams into the region for church construction, discipleship training, leader training, children's work, sports camps and other projects.

AFTERMATH Falling snow cannot soften the bleak destruction marking this area in Croatia where heavy artillery shelling took place during the war. This scene is just a few miles from Karlovac Baptist Church, which ministers to war victims and distributes food provided by Southern Baptists. Such ministry has boosted church growth in the war-torn country. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

Croatian pastor wins spiritual victories in warring country

By Mike Creswell
SBC Foreign Mission Board

KARLOVAC, Croatia (BP)—List Ladislav Ruzicka among the winners in Yugoslavia's war.

Despite attacks which rained hundreds of artillery shells around his apartment, Ruzicka has nurtured four growing Baptist congregations in Karlovac and outlying areas. Two have doubled their memberships, and one in Plaski has grown to 70 members since it started late in 1995.

Croatian Baptist leaders say Ruzicka's ministry has established a Baptist toehold in a vast area of Croatia and Bosnia where evangelical Christianity is unknown.

The pastor has used a variety of skills to make an impact on his city during periods of intense fighting.

The infamous Krajina area of Croatia begins less than a mile from Ruzicka's front door. This is the part of Croatia held by Serbian forces until they were uprooted in heavy fighting last fall—where 80 percent of the houses have been destroyed.

During the fighting, Ruzicka visited more than 400 homes in the area. Often people told him he was the first minister of any kind to visit them. He conducted 35 funerals for Serbian families and others who are Roman Catholic or Orthodox. Families told Ruzicka their priests had fled when fighting broke out.

But Ruzicka, his wife, Melany, and their young daughter stayed through it all.

During a bombardment in May 1992, Ruzicka urged Croatian soldiers to leave their hastily made bun-

kers outside and take shelter inside the church building. They did—and seconds later an artillery shell blew the bunker to pieces. "You saved my life!" exclaimed one grateful soldier.

Ruzicka also has directed one of the largest food distribution efforts by Croatian Baptists, providing food to 70 people a day. Although peace has returned to Karlovac, the city's economy is in tatters and thousands are living on aid from abroad.

In mid-February dozens of women lined up in front of the bomb-scarred Karlovac Baptist Church building to receive boxes of basic food items. Some hauled their packets away on sleds through deep snow. In Plaski, about 40 miles away, nearly 2,500 people are fed each month. Ruzicka also directs this program.

Much of the food he has distributed was provided by Southern Baptists, who have sent almost \$3 million worth of food and supplies into the region. As a result, Ruzicka has become one of the best-known people in the city of 60,000 people.

A newspaper survey in February named him among the 20 most respected people in Karlovac—the first time a Protestant has ever made the list. Ruzicka has a thick sheaf of commendations, awards and letters of thanks from the city police, hospitals and assorted government offices.

One admirer is Kaja Mihalic, a 74-year-old grandmother, who lives alone and works as a street sweeper to supplement her meager pension. Her face breaks into a warm smile when Ruzicka and his wife drop by with a box of food. "Do you have enough firewood?" he asks her.



Ruzicka also has preached on daily radio broadcasts and led his members to pass out enough gospel tracts for every person in the city.

Ruzicka is clearly a people person, happiest when he is talking to people. As he passes out food parcels or delivers them to homes, he calls people by name and often pats a shoulder.

As peace returns to the region, Ruzicka is gearing up for even more ministry. His members have signed a contract on a large building in downtown Karlovac, though they do not

yet have all the needed funds.

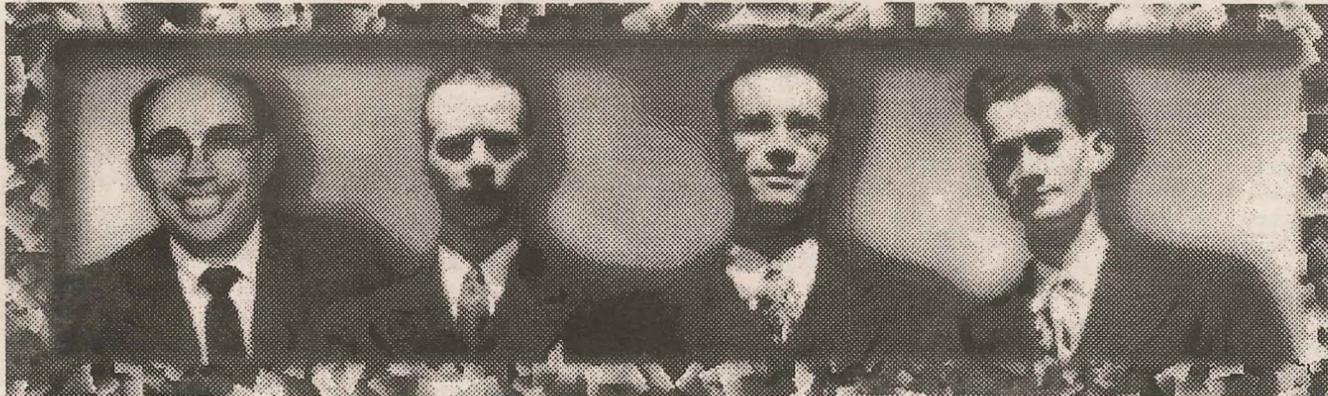
"We cannot (adequately) stress the importance of the Karlovac church as a missionary center," wrote Branko Lovrec, president of the Croatian Baptist Union. Lovrec said Roman Catholic priests have pressured local authorities to keep Baptists out of central Karlovac.

But Ruzicka dismisses the opposition with a wave of his hand, confident the same Lord who protected him during the war will now help him grow a thriving church.

PASTORAL MINISTRY Nikolina Mraovic (left) and her mother, Ruzicka, unpack a box of food brought to them by Baptist pastor Ladislav Ruzicka and his wife, Melany. Southern Baptists have provided such assistance to thousands of families whose lives have been shattered by the war in the former Yugoslavia. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

**CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE
COMMEMORATION OF 50 YEARS
APRIL 1946 - APRIL 1996**

**Clear Creek celebrates the anniversary of the
first graduating class of the Mountain
Preacher's School April 26, 1996.**



Lewis Searcy, John Stringer, Calvin Fuson and John Smith graduated from Clear Creek Mountain Preachers' School in 1946. Clear Creek will celebrate the 50th anniversary on April 26, 1996, at 10:00 AM in the Chapel with a commemorative graduation ceremony.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. D. M. Aldridge
Faculty member - 1946 - 1950
President - 1954 - 1982



CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

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