



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

WMU members admonished to 'stand in the gap'

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

MURRAY—They came to pay homage to their retiring executive director, receive exhortation from their national leader and minister to the poor through a canned-food drive.

But nearly 1,100 women and girls (and a few men) also came to Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's annual meeting at First Baptist Church of Murray to learn more about "A Place for You" in missions.

"God wants you to stand in the gap," said Marsha Smith, missionary to Israel.

"You are lifting missionaries at home and in faraway places before the Lord. Maybe you can go as a volunteer; you may need to go on as a full-time missionary," she added. "Whatever it is, God has a place for you."

Ironically, one of the strongest tributes to women in missions came from a man—Bill Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Marshall compared WMU members to the Old Testament character Queen Esther, who helped saved Is-

rael from destruction.

"In the opinion of many, WMU is responsible for keeping the issue of missions burning before the Southern Baptist Convention," Marshall said. "You deserve that affirmation. Don't forget it."

Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of the national WMU organization, picked up on that theme in her keynote speech.

She recalled how Baptist women began praying in 1867 that the Foreign Mission Board would send out single women. Five years later, that happened, she said.

"I've heard missionaries say, 'When WMU quits praying for me, I'm coming home,'" O'Brien remarked.

Tracing the development of the new Women on Mission program, she said it was a response to fading interest in traditional missions activities. The national office even hired a public relations firm to help with re-

designing WMU's primary program for adult women, she said.

During one discussion, a public relations representative trying to understand WMU asked, "So you want to get more women in church?"

"No, we want to get more women out of church," O'Brien replied, her

recollection sparking laughter. "How hard it is to get salt out of the salt shaker."

One change with the new Women on Mission organization is the adoption of an

annual social issue for women nationwide to address, O'Brien explained. Last year's project was hunger; this year's is AIDS ministry. The next three years will focus on child advocacy, cultural diversity and violence.

Mutual support of missions was a key theme in Kay Trisler's first report to the convention as new executive director of Kentucky WMU. Mentioning her backward, overweight condition as a youngster, she remem-

bered fondly the Girls in Action leaders who inspired her to develop her spiritual gifts.

"I don't know why the Lord chose me for leadership," she said. "But what matters is what God wants to do through you and me as he works in Kentucky."

Among the past year's advancements she cited:

■ Awarding the first three grants for missions projects from the WMU Heritage Fund, which has passed the \$50,000 mark in endowments.

■ Collecting more than \$15,000 for the AIDS project and 8,000 items for AIDS victims. The latter is more than 20 percent of the current national total of 37,500 items.

■ Training more than 400 associational leaders last summer and sending six women to Russia for two weeks of leadership training.

■ Sponsoring five Acteen Activator teams and a sixth to go to Russia.

■ Promoting special mission offerings totaling nearly \$4.9 million in gifts.

Progress in Women on Mission was spotlighted by a series of testimonies, including Suzanne Boyd of Pike
□ See WMU honors ..., page 3

Help not wanted
A Home Mission Board official in Puerto Rico has rebuffed the efforts of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship to help build a camp that has been an unfinished dream for 30 years. See page 2.

Kentuckians named
Several Kentuckians have been nominated to serve on Southern Baptist Convention boards of trustees, and other Kentuckians have been appointed to SBC committees. See page 2.

Editorial
Methodist action should cause Baptists to reaffirm the true meaning of baptism. See page 5.

Where was God?
A Baptist woman has written a book about the Oklahoma City federal building bombing that asks "Where was God?" See page 7.

Financial Forum
Is it possible for a family to live on a single income? See page 9.



Baptists asked to feed a North Korean city

LONDON (BP)—North Korean officials have asked Southern Baptists to help feed a flood-ravaged city for the next six months.

"We were asked to help from now until October in the rescue of a city. We would supply one meal a day to about 50,000 people," said Bill Cashion, a member of a team sent to North Korea in April by Cooperative Services International.

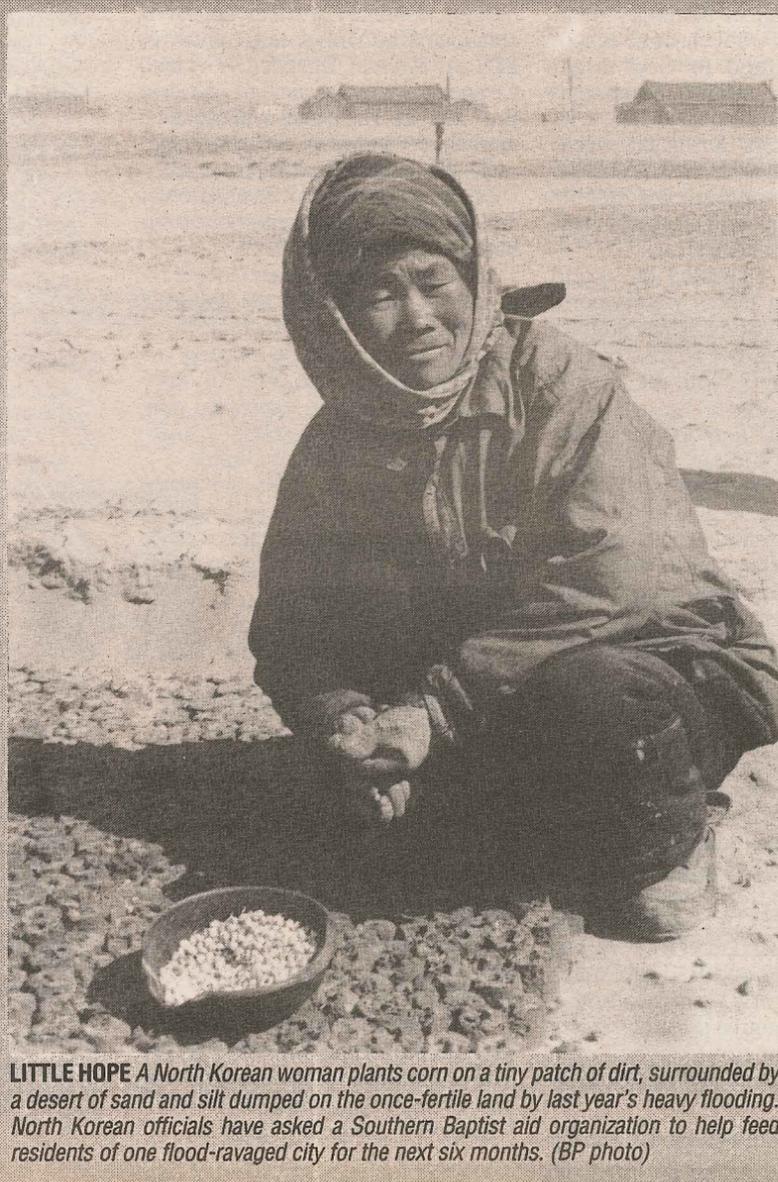
CSI is a Southern Baptist overseas relief and development organization. The six-member team included representatives from CSI, Woman's Missionary Union and the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

North Korean officials appealed to the team to provide food to one of any number of cities or villages in the nation's disaster area. Food shortages in flood-stricken areas have affected up to 5 million North Koreans.

"This is one of the highest priorities for Southern Baptist relief work," Cashion said. "From what we saw, literally thousands of people will starve this winter without our help. God has given us a wonderful opportunity to help others in the name of Christ."

The critical situation in North Korea has prompted the government there to open doors that have been firmly locked against the outside for many years.

"I was impressed with the openness of the government officials with us," said Genevieve Bradley, a WMU representative on the team. "We were warmly received. They
□ See Baptists asked ..., page 8



LITTLE HOPE A North Korean woman plants corn on a tiny patch of dirt, surrounded by a desert of sand and silt dumped on the once-fertile land by last year's heavy flooding. North Korean officials have asked a Southern Baptist aid organization to help feed residents of one flood-ravaged city for the next six months. (BP photo)

Church fixes theater for Easter drama

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

PIKEVILLE—This spring, when the marquee lit up on the old Weddington Theater in downtown Pikeville for the first time in many years, it wasn't to announce the latest Hollywood movie; it was to advertise an Easter production put on by First Baptist Church.

The theater came back to life as the church staged "Two Thieves and a Savior" March 29-April 7. The original drama, which required a 120-member choir, cast and technical crew, was written by First Baptist Church staff member Rebecca Martin and co-directed by Martin and Yvonne Harrison Clark.

The old 470-seat theater was chosen because "we wanted a place where non-church people would feel comfortable," Martin said.

But since the theater had not been used in many years, it was "in bad shape," Martin said. Crew members cleaned the interior and enlarged the stage. They spruced up the exterior, thanks to a \$500 "facade improvement" grant from downtown merchants.

More than 4,600 people from nine states and one foreign country attended the 10 scheduled performances. With 600 people still on a waiting list, two additional performances were scheduled for mid-April.

More than 100 spiritual decisions were registered, including 20 professions of faith in Jesus Christ, Martin reported.

Moving? See page 4 (0430)

Puerto Rican leader doesn't want Kentuckians' help

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (ABP)—A Southern Baptist official has accused the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of promoting lesbianism and not believing the Bible—charges a Fellowship leader calls “out and out lies.”

“The CBF promotes the ministry of women to the point of justifying lesbianism as an alternative lifestyle,” Eliu Camacho-Vazquez, executive director of the Caribbean office of the Home Mission Board, wrote in an April 11 letter to Tomas Morales, moderator of the Baptist Association of Puerto Rico.

Camacho's letter, translated from Spanish, also accuses the Fellowship of holding that the Bible “contains errors” and warns that any Puerto Rican church that associates with the Fellowship will forfeit financial assistance from the HMB, which most of those 32 congregations depend on.

The letter contains “out and out lies about who we are,” Carolyn Hale told fellow members of the Fellowship's Coordinating Council April 19.

Hale, an ordained minister from Georgetown, was part of a delegation from the Fellowship's Kentucky chapter that visited Puerto Rico last year, preached in three Southern Baptist churches there and offered to help the association build a camp.

Camacho, responding to a request from Morales for information on the Fellowship, called the moderate Baptist organization “a dissident group of the SBC.” To demonstrate the differences between the SBC and CBF, Camacho cited materials distributed by the SBC Executive Committee.

“Unfortunately, Eliu Camacho doesn't know the Fellowship, hasn't been to our meetings, and hasn't read our mission statement,” said Fellowship moderator Pat Anderson of Lakeland, Fla.

“We have legitimate documents and legitimate forums that you can go to to find out who we are,” said Anderson. The materials cited by the Executive Committee, some of which “are pulled out of ancient history,” are not a fair representation of the Fellowship, he said.

“I wonder why someone would engage in such scurrilous and errone-

ous attacks, and why the Southern Baptist Convention would sanction such attacks,” Anderson added.

Larry Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board, distanced the agency from Camacho's charges. “Dr. Camacho's letter is not an official statement of the Home Mission Board, nor does it represent an official position of the board,” Lewis said in a statement. “It is simply a personal letter attempting to address a problem in the Caribbean.”

The HMB voted April 17 to close its Caribbean office and eliminate Camacho's position. But HMB leaders insist the decision was unrelated to the dispute with the Fellowship. Missionaries will remain in Puerto Rico but report directly to the HMB's Atlanta office.

The dispute with the Fellowship began last year, when a handful of leaders from the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship were invited by Puerto Rican Baptists to visit the island. “We did not wave the Fellowship flag,” said Hale, communications coordinator for the Kentucky Fellowship. “We very intentionally decided not to do that.”

Three female ministers from the Kentucky group—including Hale—preached in the three Southern Baptist churches that have women pastors. They planned to meet with other female Baptist leaders on the island but canceled the meeting, Hale said, when Camacho insisted on attending.

Camacho said the visiting Kentuckians ignored the HMB's influence. “They did not have the courtesy to come by this office,” he said. Camacho blamed the Kentucky leaders for disrupting the churches by promoting the Fellowship's cause and the ministry of women.

Female pastors are not uncommon in Puerto Rico. About 40 percent of American Baptist churches are led by women, while three of the 32 congregations in the SBC-related association have women pastors.

The Kentucky group offered to help the Puerto Rican association build a camp in Moca. Land for the project was donated to the association more than 30 years ago but no funds have been available to build the camp. The Kentucky Fellowship offered to build the camp, and the association last year accepted.

Kentuckians nominated for SBC posts

NASHVILLE—Ten Kentuckians have been nominated to serve as trustees of Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions. The nominations, made by the SBC committee on nominations, must be approved by messengers to the SBC annual meeting in New Orleans in June.

■ **SBC Executive Committee:** Preston Bailey, high school teacher and member of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, replacing David Gray of Radcliff; Steven Douglas Boyd, pastor of Simpsonville Baptist Church in Simpsonville, replacing Jewel Pruitt of Glasgow, who resigned.

■ **Foreign Mission Board:** Roy Faulkner, director of missions for Laurel River Baptist Association in London, nominated for a second term.

■ **Home Mission Board:** Mark Bond, pastor of First Baptist Church in LaCenter, nominated for a second term.

■ **Annuity Board select funds trust/blended funds trust:** Bob Owsley, banker and member of Cecilia Baptist Church in Cecilia.

■ **Southern Seminary:** Chun Ro, retired professor and member of Olivet Baptist Church in Paducah, replacing Wayne Gaunce of Glasgow; Byron Boyer of Louisville and Melvin Elam of Louisville, nominated for second terms.

■ **New Orleans Seminary:** James K. Pierce, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, nominated for a second term.

■ **Midwestern Seminary:** Jean Crady of Owensboro, nominated for a second term.

Midwestern installs president

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Mark Coppenger was installed as the third president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in an April 22 ceremony held under a revival tent on the seminary lawn.

“Let us resolve that Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary demonstrate to the world what one school wholly committed to God might mean,” Coppenger said in his inaugural address.

Other speakers during the weekend of festivities included Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., and theologian Carl F.H. Henry.

Coppenger suggested the world has yet to see a school wholly committed to God. “Some shine brightly at their founding, but almost all fade fast in compromise with the world,” he asserted.

Even schools founded for God's service in time slip into worldliness, he said. “How does it happen? Faculty are often eager to gain the acclaim of lost and backslidden academics in other institutions. Disoriented by years of academic deference to skeptics, they stumble through their careers, yearning for crumbs from some

backslider's table. Trustees taken more with the honor of it all than with the theological integrity of the school let things drift into apostasy. Administrators corrupt themselves in the pursuit of dollars and peace.”

On the heels of inauguration ceremonies, seminary trustees approved creation of the Midwestern Center for Biblical Revival, intended to extend Coppenger's advocacy of “prairie fire” revival. The center will organize workshops, seminars and conferences on the theme of biblical revival.

Trustees also approved creation of a new academic extension center based in Chicago.

Academic Dean Lamar Cooper reported to trustees on the school's standing with the Association of Theological Schools, its primary accrediting agency. The ATS Commission on Accrediting expressed concerns in 1994 over the school's “institutional governance and climate.”

Cooper said ATS has removed two of the four notations against Midwestern and reacted favorably to steps the administration is taking to address the other two areas.

Based on Baptist Press reports

Henry appoints 4 Kentuckians

ORLANDO, Fla.—Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry has appointed four Kentuckians to served on convention committees at the SBC annual meeting in June.

■ **Committee on committees:** Gary Frizzell, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland, and Mike Watts, pastor of Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville. Henry named Anthony Jordan, executive director-elect of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, as the committee chairman.

■ **Resolutions committee:** No

Kentuckians were named to this committee. Henry named Nancy Victory, a layperson from Shreveport, La., as committee chairwoman.

■ **Credentials committee:** Ronny Sivells, pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Princeton. The committee will be chaired by Allan Blume, pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church in Boone, N.C.

■ **Tellers committee:** Howard Lovell, a layperson from Central City. The committee will be chaired by Jimmy Epting, president of North Greenville College in Tigerville, S.C.

Fellowship having hard time finding someone to replace Cecil Sherman

ATLANTA (ABP)—After seven months, a committee seeking a new coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is still looking, the committee's chair reported April 19.

The Fellowship's current coordinator, Cecil Sherman, retires this summer.

Search committee Chairwoman Carolyn Weatherford Crumpler told the Fellowship's Coordinating Council in January that the group planned to bring a nominee at an April 17-19 meeting in Atlanta.

She was so confident the search would be completed by now, she said, she planned an overseas trip immediately after the April meeting. After setbacks in the search, she canceled the trip, she added.

“We're still looking for a coordinator,” Crumpler told the 84-member council.

In January Crumpler told the council that the 12-member search committee had not offered the nomination to anyone, contradicting widespread rumors that Houston pastor Daniel Vestal had turned the committee down.

While not naming Vestal, Crumpler acknowledged the corridor talk in January turned out to be prophetic. Two weeks after the January meeting, the search committee went back to Vestal with an offer and he declined, she said.

Vestal, pastor of Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston, confirmed April 23 he met with the search committee, terming it a “wonderful experience.”

“I am committed to the CBF both as an organization and as a movement,” Vestal said. “I believe God's hand is on it and that the

Fellowship will help shape the Baptist vision and witness for the future, but I do not believe it is God's will for me to be the coordinator.”

Additionally, Crumpler told the council, the search committee has “interviewed some folks but by mutual agreement” did not pursue further discussions.

Later, she told a reporter the search committee had focused on a short list of four candidates. After the top choice turned the committee down, they interviewed two others, she said, and a fourth declined to be interviewed.

Associated Baptist Press has confirmed the two candidates interviewed by the search committee were John Tyler, a telecommunications executive from St. Louis and current member of the Coordinating Council, and Hardy Clemons, pastor of First Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C., and a past moderator of the Fellowship.

Randall Lolley, a retired seminary president and pastor of First Baptist Church in Greensboro, N.C., rounded out the committee's short list of candidates but declined to be interviewed, ABP has learned.

Crumpler said input received by the committee has revealed vastly varying expectations regarding the age, background and gender of the new coordinator.

Crumpler's report raised doubts about whether the search committee will complete its task prior to the Fellowship's general assembly in late June. Committee members “certainly are hopeful” they will be able to present a candidate by then, she said.

KENTUCKY

'Our place depends on your place,' missionary says

WMU board

Kentucky WMU's 196-97 executive board

■ **President:** Peggy Hicks, Louisville.

■ **Vice president:** Sara Billups, Catlettsburg.

■ **Recording secretary:** Joyce Thompson, Waverly.

■ **Executive director-treasurer:** Kay Trisler, Louisville.

■ **Central region:** Susan Bryant, Shelbyville; Mary Lou Crutcher, Louisville; Jeannie Smith, Elizabethtown.

■ **North central region:** Joni Breeding, Winchester; Dianna Rowe, Florence; Freida Tackett, Cynthiana.

■ **Northeastern region:** Wanda McComis, Ashland; Dorothy Crace, Ashland; Bonnie Tackett, Lowmansville.

■ **South central region:** Goldie McCann, Somerset; Gayle Horn, Harrodsburg; Joyce Graham, Campbellsville.

■ **Southeastern region:** Louise Lewis, London; Gilberta Hurst, London; Jody Baker, Viper.

■ **Southern region:** Sheila Brown, Guthrie; Shirley Eastridge, Sonora; Joyce Bottoms, Fountain Run.

■ **Southwestern region:** Laverne Sublette, Fulton; Jo Pelham, Hopkinsville; Bettie Wright, Barlow.

■ **Western region:** Mary Chamberlin, Owensboro; Betty Wallace, Sturgis; Pat Key, Central City.

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

MURRAY—Missionaries came from around the world to the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting to share miraculous testimonies and thank Kentuckians for their support.

"Our place in South Africa depends on your place in Kentucky," said Dale Beighle, on furlough until July. "It wouldn't be possible for more than 4,000 missionaries to minister around the world without your financial support and prayers."

He listed such daily activities as buying groceries, gasoline and books made possible by missions giving. Then he touched on spiritual breakthroughs supported by WMU—Bible studies, MasterLife courses and telling a witch doctor that Jesus is the

way to eternal life.

Saying the state's annual Christmas gift to missionaries from Kentucky enables their children to attend a missionary kids' retreat, Ann Beighle tearfully added, "Thank you for making a contribution to our family."

When they return to Wales in July, Bill and Lucy Curl will be planting the first Baptist church in the local Baptist union in nearly 60 years.

They also have baptized a number of converts in areas where churches hadn't experienced a baptism since 1945.

Bill Curl told of preaching in 55 churches their first two years in Wales. Many were designed to hold 500-600 people during the early 1900s, but now attract 10 to 20.

One of their outreaches has been holding concerts at a local community center, which have drawn three

times as many people as attend church.

Bill and Ruth Thomas, on furlough until their retirement next February, opened the testimonies with the story of their 11 years at Immanuel Baptist Church in Paris, France.

The only evangelical, English-speaking church in that nation's capital is an inter-denominational, interracial congregation that includes members from 20 nationalities, Bill Thomas said. "In Paris we saw God perform miracles and display his power among the people."

Not all testimonies were of rousing successes, however. Marsha Smith reviewed her experiences in Israel, where she and her husband, David, find the process of witnessing to Muslims a long-term proposition.

"I would like to tell you David and I have made headway with (a particular) family and others in the village," she said. "But we have done what we know how to do and planted a seed. Now we're waiting for God to be faithful."



WMU honors Gilliland & Women on Missions

Continued from page 1

County's Immanuel Baptist Church.

She described how her church's group had dwindled to five, but they used the new Women on Mission materials to initiate a survey and see what they could do.

From that developed a weight control meeting, exercise classes and support groups, gradually growing to 14 groups with 75 participants, she said.

Kristy Bailey of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Somerset said her church has built its "Sisters Unlimited" into an active group of 45.

She said they participate in such missions as taking meals to new mothers for a week after they come home from the hospital, operating a clothing center and a mother's sup-

port group.

"If you want to reach out and touch someone, you need to be involved in Women on Mission," Bailey said. "We believe with God nothing shall be impossible."

The first afternoon of this year's annual meeting concluded with a two-hour reception honoring Dee Gilliland, who recently retired as executive director of Kentucky WMU. The women also paid tribute to Carol Noffsinger, who is leaving the state WMU office to join a Louisville ministry.

In other business:

■ Women in attendance approved a technical name change. The new organizational name is Woman's Missionary Union Inc., deleting the phrase "Auxiliary to Kentucky Bap-

tist Convention." A motion to add the words "Kentucky Baptist" to the name failed to receive a required two-thirds majority vote.

■ Awards were given to 16 associations and 26 churches earning "Distinguished WMU Status" for 1994-95. It was the final time for this state recognition.

■ Peggy Hicks of Louisville was elected to a four-year term as president of Kentucky WMU. Hicks earlier had been appointed to serve the unexpired term of Kay Trisler, who resigned as president when she was named executive director. Hicks previously served as president of Kentucky WMU in 1985-89. Other officers are Sara Billups of Catlettsburg, vice president, and Joyce Thompson of Waverly, recording secretary.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Tracy Thornton**, a student Georgetown College, has been elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Student Union organization. John Mark Whittaker, a student at Murray State University, was elected vice president.

■ **Shelby Baptist Association** has received a \$1,000 grant from the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship for migrant ministry work. Shelby Association works with Henry County and Sulfur Fork associations in a coalition for migrant ministry.

■ **William McElrath** of Raleigh, N.C., will bring the commencement address at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College May 3 at 7 p.m. The service will be held at Binghamtown Baptist Church in Middlesboro. McElrath is a former missionary to Indonesia.

■ **Nikky Finney**, a creative writing professor at the University of Kentucky, will deliver the commencement address at Georgetown College May 11 at 10 a.m.

Pat Cole named to Western Recorder staff

LOUISVILLE—Pat Cole, director of news and information at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary since 1987, will join the Western Recorder staff June 4 as partnership editions editor and special projects coordinator.

Cole, 37, will manage the editing and production of four monthly newspapers the Western Recorder produces in partnership with other state Baptist conventions. The Recorder currently has publishing partnerships with the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Witness, the New England Baptist, the Hawaii Baptist and the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist.

In addition, he will coordinate a variety of special projects on the Recorder's behalf, with particular emphasis on serving the churches, agencies and institutions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Cole partially will assume responsibilities held by Melanie Childers, who has announced plans to leave the Western Recorder staff in August. Childers has served as partnership editions editor and staff writer.

Childers joined the Recorder staff in 1992 as a part-time staff writer, a role that developed into a full-time position. She is leaving the Recorder to accept an appointment in the chaplain residency program at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, N.C.

"This is a bittersweet transition for us," said Recorder Interim Editor Mark Wingfield. "Melanie has done an outstanding job and has helped us pioneer the work in partnership publishing. She has made an invaluable contribution to the Recorder and four other Baptist newspapers by her effective ministry."

"At the same time, Pat Cole brings a wealth of experience and skills that should allow us to build upon the good foundation Melanie has laid," he said. "Pat also will help us bring together a number of special projects that will strengthen the Recorder's ministry."

The partnership publishing effort was the brainchild of Wingfield and Marv Knox, former Western Recorder editor.

"We see this as a mission partnership," Wingfield explained. "The Western Recorder is blessed with resources not readily available in smaller state Baptist conventions. Yet the Baptists in those smaller conventions need a connection to the larger Baptist world perhaps more than residents of the Bible Belt. By sharing our resources through the publishing partnerships, everyone is strengthened."

Cole has won numerous awards for news writing, feature writing and publication management. Before moving to Southern Seminary's staff in 1987, he was a general assignment reporter for the Elizabethton Star in his hometown of Elizabethton, Tenn.

He holds the bachelor of science degree in mass communications from East Tennessee State University, the master of divinity degree in denominational ministry from Southern Seminary and is a candidate for the master of arts degree in marketing from Webster University.



Cole

Nowells appointed by HMB

ALPHARETTA, Ga.—Kentuckians Debbie and Harold Nowell have been appointed missionaries to Alabama by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Mrs. Nowell, who previously directed GA and Acteen camps for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, will serve as associational director of church and community ministries in Montgomery, Ala.

She is a graduate of Murray State University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Both she and her husband previously served as Southern Baptist missionaries in Taiwan. He most recently has been pastor of Plum Creek Baptist Church in Vevey, Ind., but also has served Kentucky churches.



Debbie Nowell



Harold Nowell

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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

KBC too liberal

I believe Kentucky Baptist Healthcare System has sensed a subtle leaning of the Kentucky Baptist Convention toward a liberal offshoot of the Southern Baptist Convention, namely the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship.

When we heard the snide remarks about the SBC by the Western Recorder and the favorable remarks regarding the Fellowship, it doesn't take a lawyer to see the trend.

Now, if the Baptist Fellowship can claim the name Baptist, should not Baptist Healthcare System be granted the same privilege? Think about it.

Troy Fields Jr.
Brooksville

A good name

Having been Baptist by birth, and then Baptist by choice since age 6, all the while growing up in a Baptist preacher/missionary family, I have been deeply instilled with some Baptist beliefs. Some of my very earliest church memories have to do with the fierce independence of individual believers, who band together in churches—not in order to get an identity, but because of their identity. In other words, I am not a Baptist just because I belong to a Baptist church. I am a Baptist. I belong to a church where I experience fellowship.

It is unfortunate that the denomination has been torn by dissension. I took great pride in believing that Southern Seminary was by character protected from that dissension. That

Women on Mission

Alice is a member of a Sunday school class in our church which has a missionary focus.

Those of us husbands whose classes are out before theirs must sometimes wait until worship time before they let out. By their attendance and enthusiasm, we note they have a strong loyalty to the class.

Over the course of the years they have personalized missions through mission projects. For several years, they helped support a single mother while getting vocational training. When she remarried recently, the class arranged the wedding and provided all that goes with it. When Alice told me about the wedding, I could not help but weep—partly because of the story and partly because I realized "us guys" hadn't done that kind of thing in our class.

So often it seems the women take the lead in ministry to the hurting; not the lead in talking about it, but the lead in getting it done.

As I addressed the annual meeting of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union at First Baptist Church of Murray, I knew I was in the bottle with

was blind and naive. It is sad for me but a matter of great comfort that various institutions have recognized that their mission and ministry are more important than their political affiliation. I say good for Baptist Healthcare System for recognizing that Baptist is a good word, and good marketing, and that stands for dedication, quality and health giving. Affiliation is not what makes that Baptist.

Chuck Leach
Louisville

Liked his idea

I used a visual aid of a paper cup with a hole in the bottom as Mr. Copping had done (March 19, page 2) for a Parents Alone Club meeting at church.

I also used the last part of his article saying the paper cup could not do what it was intended to do and that lost men cannot do what they are made to do, and that is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Paula Littrell
Lexington

Right decision

Concerning the recent article on the split of Baptist Healthcare System from the Kentucky Baptist Convention, it seems only reasonable this would occur, and I support it.

Is it any surprise the Healthcare System trustees and managers are distrustful of the present Southern Baptist Convention hierarchy? After watching all the disgraceful, deceitful and ugly political power plays that have taken place in the last 16 years with the convention, I would expect nothing less from a responsible group of leaders who want to maintain integrity and pride in their excellent institution.

One need look no further than our

once premiere Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville to see what narrow-minded, politically motivated, opportunist leadership can do. They have made no secret of their intentions to completely control every institution within the denomination and to manipulate them in the same manner in which they have their other conquests. Where is your sense of outrage concerning this?

Many honorable and longtime supportive Southern Baptists have been used and pushed aside by the present leadership within the convention and now they act shocked that anyone would dare reject them.

As for the name Baptist being used in the present system, I think it is the height of arrogance for the KBC to think they represent all Baptists. They may speak for conservative Southern Baptists but certainly not for all.

Once again, I want to express my support of the trustees of the Healthcare System and their recent decision. It shows much courage and foresight on their part. Considering the past history within the convention, expect more of the same because the trust and good will synonymous with the old convention is gone. In its wake are the ruins of a once honorable and grace-based denomination. This is the legacy of the "take-over."

Tim Hall
Henderson

Editor's note: The Southern Baptist Convention does not and never has had any control over Baptist Healthcare System. Baptist Healthcare System has been an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, an autonomous entity that also is not controlled by the Southern Baptist Convention. The Kentucky Baptist Convention has no control over Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, since the seminary is an institution of the Southern Baptist Convention.

home. When I came in later that evening, I found, among other things, that the group had shared a printed prayer by Thomas Merton and I was moved to close my first of two messages to WMU with it:

"My Lord God,

"I have no idea where I'm going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you, and I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and will never leave me to face my perils alone."

Is this a prayer only for women seeking to find their way? Or is it not really a prayer we all feel at this point in our journey together as children of God? As Baptists?

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

ON MISSION TOGETHER



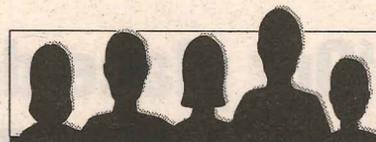
William W. Marshall

the real "glue" that has kept missions alive in our Kentucky Baptist churches for years. And I lament that they have experienced, of late, more flack than they deserve and from some folks who don't even have a WMU organization in their churches!

The fact is that for most Southern Baptists, WMU has a historical credibility built with years of trustworthiness. And they have done it the old-fashioned way—they have "earned it."

As the new paradigms of global missions become more obvious, I believe Woman's Missionary Union will make the changes essential to fulfilling their sense of God's call to them as mission leaders and supporters. New mission-sending and support vehicles are emerging and will likely become part of an expanding network of Southern Baptist global missions efforts. Southern Baptist leadership would be wise to "nurture" their relationship with this old partner, remembering that this, from the beginning, has been a partnership—never an over-under relationship.

Two nights before I left for the Murray meeting, Alice's Sunday School class had a meeting in our



FAMILY FORUM

Seniors: Create your well-being

By John Lepper

"Nobody knows the trouble I've seen."

Those familiar words from the spiritual could be said of many senior adults. By the time a person reaches old age, they have seen trouble 'a plenty.

Elderly people experience inevitable losses as well as numerous other stressful life events. It's no wonder depression is one of the most common complaints of older people.

Everyone experiences normal times of feeling blue or down in the dumps. While age is not an indicator of coping ability, many older people have learned from their life experiences. They have learned to help themselves move through these low times by the way they think, the way they process feelings and by things they do.

The way we think about ourselves can affect our mood and our sense of well-being. A person whose ideal self closely matches the actual self is more likely to have a high sense of well-being. Young adults typically have a self concept far above the actual. Many older adults have come to terms with their ideals, either reaching their goals in life or modifying their aspirations to more closely match their accomplishments.

Positive self-talk also can help elevate our mood. This is no easy task, because we tend to distort reality in a negative way when we are in a down mood.

The way we process feelings also affects our sense of well-being. The ability to maintain some emotional control in stressful situations seems to make a positive difference. Also, the ability to lower our emotional reactivity provides us with a buffer, raising our sense of well-being.

People who have a strong faith have an advantage in coping during difficult times. These people do not isolate themselves and fall into self pity. Instead, their faith in God is matched with their relationship to God's people. Their Sunday school class or other small group becomes a network of support, providing "floatation" in what could be a sea of despair. We really can create our own well-being.

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

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

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Gravity pulls toward 'slow' time rather than 'fast' time

HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

For the first 23 years of my life, I was always early for any appointment, class or meeting. Then I married Alison. Then we had children. Now I'm lucky to arrive just in the nick of time. And I've been transformed from a morning person into a night person.

This all proves that marriage can be an educational experience. Alison taught me how to hit the snooze button on the alarm clock. She also taught me how to justify staying up to watch a late movie on TV.

Sometimes I think I've slipped into a state of utter slothfulness. Alison would argue to the contrary, claiming she's helped me stop and smell the roses along the way.

It's true that opposites attract in marriages. While Alison and I are alike in many ways, we came from different planets as far as timeliness is concerned. Her planet runs on "slow" time; my planet runs on "fast" time.

But after nearly 11 years of marriage, I can testify that gravity pulls on the side of "slow" time.

That's not all bad, though. Many of us running on "fast" time need to slow down a little bit now and then. It helps us remember that God has all the time in the world, and that God's time is not our time.

SHESAI



Alison Wingfield

Time management is not one of my strengths. It's not that I'm habitually late for everything—I just cut it close when it comes to being somewhere on time.

One of my problems is that I always try to do "one more thing" before we go somewhere. And that one more thing always takes more time to do than I thought it would.

Children's concept of time is probably the healthiest of all. They live in the moment, not worrying about what is ahead or behind them.

But changing venues can be difficult.

Like many parents before me, I've learned the usefulness of "five-minute warnings." By warning them that a change is coming, it helps (most of the time) transition them to the car, or inside the house or whatever needs to be accomplished. Unfortunately, they have no concept of five minutes.

And then there is Mark. I agree that it is important to redeem the time. We just can't seem to agree on what is redeeming.

To me, sitting down with a book and relaxing is just as beneficial as completing one more task on the to-do list. To him, if you don't get anything "done" it is a waste of time.

But thank goodness I have converted him on the morning vs. night perspective. Waking up to someone who is cheerful and ready-to-go at the crack of dawn is enough to make any night owl want to throw away the alarm clock.

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

Does it matter when you're baptized?

As the nation becomes more diverse in its religious practices, Baptists are increasingly faced with hard questions about how we practice baptism.

Sometimes, we are accused of being too exclusive, too demanding, too out of step with the universal church. As a result, some lay leaders in local Baptist churches are asking questions like, "Is our baptism practice all that important anyway?"

The answer is yes. How Baptists practice baptism and what we believe it symbolizes are extremely important. As the name implies, the very identity of what a Baptist is relates to the practice of baptism.

Our English forebears were labeled "anabaptists" as a put-down for their practice of believer's baptism by immersion. They endured scorn, ridicule and separation because they believed it was important to practice baptism in a biblical way—a way the Catholic and Anglican churches had forsaken.

Most importantly, they wanted to raise up baptism as a true New Testament symbol of the believer's turning from sin toward God in repentance. And they wanted to avoid the pitfall of giving the unrepentant a false sense of eternal security simply because they had been baptized as infants.

A recent news report illustrates the importance of this distinction in contemporary society. The United Methodist Church—which in many doctrines isn't all that far from Baptists—decided April 22 to return to the practice of counting infants as full church members once they are baptized.

Methodism's founder, John Wesley, taught that infant baptism cleansed a person of original sin, and that once baptized, a child was a full member of the church. Later, public professions of faith in Jesus Christ became the standard for full church membership.

Under the new policy, infants will once again be

considered full members when they are baptized, and then will be called professing members after they become old enough to state their faith, generally at age 12, the Methodist age of confirmation.

Several other Christian groups also practice infant baptism, under a variety of understandings.

So what does all this have to do with Baptists?

It demonstrates why it is essential for Baptists to understand that a baptism here and a baptism there aren't necessarily the same thing.

If there is anything distinctive about Baptists, it is our insistence that baptism is for believers only. The baptism of an infant does no more good for the child than a dip in the family bathtub. And it actually could do more damage than a bath because it creates a false sense of security that the child has somehow been absolved of sin.

The New Testament teaches—and Baptists historically have affirmed—that baptism is a symbolic act that carries no saving power in itself. However, it is an important act, because through baptism the believer gives public testimony of identifying with Jesus, even as Jesus commanded.

Search the New Testament and you'll find not one place where the church is instructed to baptize infants. Nor will you find any examples of infants being baptized.

At times Baptists have engaged in petty debates with others over the mode of baptism, comparing whether one must be immersed or just sprinkled. While the New Testament clearly demonstrates immersion as the method of baptism, that is a small issue compared to the meaning of baptism.

Despite the swirling waters of religious challenge around us, Baptists must cling to the biblical admonition that baptism is for believers only and never for infants. If we stand for anything less, we cease to be Baptist.

— Mark Wingfield

Seeking a third way in politics

The most important mission of Christian leaders during the election year 1996 is to frame and model a third way for expressing citizenship.

Our churches and society are being pulled apart by the Religious Right and secular left.

Both baptize their political agendas as the moral agenda, issue apocalyptic warnings and demonize their opponents. Both create an ethos in which Christians are forced to join one side or the other. Both disallow middle ground and disdain common-sense solutions in favor of ideological purity.

The result is that some Christians drop out, hunkering down in trivial pursuits or looking upward where "the things of earth grow strangely dim." Others buy into a Manichean world view where only good and evil exist, an uncomplicated world of crusades and conquest.

Neither option represents an au-

thentic Christian ethic.

We need a third way which transcends the political ideologies of the Religious Right and secular left, as well as calls Christians to responsible engagement in a world of ambiguity,

complexity and compromise.

Theologically, the third way begins with the conviction that the lordship of Christ extends to the entire created order and evaluates public policy issues with biblical principles.

This new way underscores that human sinfulness corrupts all government policies and programs, meaning justice is always imperfect and solutions are never final.

Culturally, the third way in citizenship critiques both government and commercial culture.

Regrettably, the Religious Right blames commercial culture for all social problems and ignores destructive governmental policies. The third way

voices criticism and praise for government and commercial culture.

Conversely, the secular left blames commercial culture for all social problems and ignores destructive governmental policies. The third way voices criticism and praise for government and commercial culture.

Strategically, the third way prioritizes the congregation at four points.

First, the congregation keeps a "critical distance" from enmeshment in secular politics. Second, the congregation recognizes that keeping the community as an intact and healthy outpost for the kingdom of God is more important than secular electoral and legislative victories. Third, the community of faith fosters an attitude of respect. Christians can respectfully disagree on political matters without banishing opponents from the faith. Fourth, the church's best contribution in 1996 is to insist on civility from politicians.

Robert Parham
Baptist Center for Ethics, Nashville

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Vatican blasts Clinton.** The Vatican stepped into the politically charged debate over late-term abortions April 19, saying President Clinton's veto of the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act was "shameful" and a "brutal act of aggression against human life."

■ **Women target of bias.** An Islamic watchdog group has reported an "alarming" pattern of anti-Muslim incidents—many involving women—in the year since initial speculation blamed Muslim militants for the Oklahoma City federal building bombing. Almost 300 incidents of anti-Muslim bias, harassment, violence and threats of violence were noted in the report released April 19 by the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

■ **Prayer Day organizers think big.** Organizers of the National Day of Prayer say they expect an estimated 12,000 observances on May 2, including prayer ceremonies at city halls, state capitols and local parks. Prayers will be offered for the country, its governmental leaders and for racial and denominational reconciliation.

■ **Woman to head ABS.** A former Presbyterian missionary has become the first woman to head the board of the New York-based American Bible Society. Sally Shoemaker Robinson, executive director of Episcopal Social Ministries in Maryland, has been appointed to the post of the non-profit Bible publisher.

■ **Bill seeks to add creationism.** A bill being prepared for introduction in the Ohio House of Representatives could make public schools forums for debating the merits and demerits of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. The bill would require public schools that teach evolution to present evidence both for and against the theory, which many in society consider scientific fact.

■ **Adventists affirm marriage.** The Seventh-day Adventist Church, responding to secular initiatives to recognize same-sex marriages, issued a statement April 23 reaffirming its "strong and continued belief" in traditional Christian marriage. "Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus Christ to be both monogamous and heterosexual, a lifelong union of loving companionship between a man and a woman," the statement said.

■ **Lutherans blast Clinton.** A.L. Barry, president of the 2.6 million-member Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, has criticized President Clinton for vetoing the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act. Barry noted it is unusual for his denomination to attempt to influence public policy. However, he wrote Clinton to say: "Your veto of this bill sends a message that our society regards human life as of little value. We view this as a severe violation of the government's responsibility from God to protect and defend human life."

■ **Arkansas gambling fight on.** Up to seven gambling initiatives are to be placed on the ballot in Arkansas in November, so anti-gambling forces have responded with an initiative of their own: a constitutional amendment that would ban all gambling in the state. "We determined the best defense is a good offense," said Larry Page, leader of an anti-gambling coalition. "We decided to take them head-on."

■ **Coalition offers reward.** The Christian Coalition is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for a rash of arsons targeted at black churches in the South. The FBI currently is investigating a series of 23 arsons at black churches in eight Southern states since January 1995.

Methodists still debating homosexuality

DENVER (RNS)—Still divided over homosexuality but unified in seeking stronger ties with other religious bodies, the United Methodist Church's General Conference drew to a close April 26 after a series of decisions that could reshape the nation's second-largest Protestant denomination.

The subject of the role of homosexuality in the church dominated much of the most visible aspects of the 10-day policy-making meeting in Denver.

But the nearly 1,000 delegates also acted on a host of other topics, ranging from the doctrine of baptism and the ordained ministry to the future structure of the 8.6 million-member denomination.

Homosexuality has been a fiercely contested issue at every quadrennial meeting of the church since 1972, when delegates adopted a resolution asserting that homosexuality is "incompatible with Christian teaching."

This year was no different, nor was the outcome. But the dynamics of the debate may be shifting.

Although delegates solidly rejected—by a 577-378 vote—any softening of the "incompatibility clause" in the church's Book of Discipline, for the first time, a significant group of

those groups—the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church—also act favorably over the next several years, the merger could create the most racially integrated denomination in the nation.

On internal church matters, the delegates also put an end to a 30-year debate over the ordained ministry by adopting a proposal establishing two separate offices of ordained ministry—a deacon, who pledges to serve God and the church through "word and service," and an elder, who serves through "service, word, sacrament and orders."

Most local congregations will still be led by ordained elders (pastors) who are the only people authorized to administer the sacraments.

Delegates also adopted a statement updating the church's view on baptism and declaring all who have been baptized—including infants and people with mental retardation—to be full members of the church.

"The sacrament (of baptism) is primarily a gift of divine grace," the statement says. "Neither parents nor infants are the chief actors; baptism is an act of God in and through the church."

The statement created enough of a stir among the delegates and 3,000 visitors at the meeting that the full Council of Bishops felt compelled to issue a response, reaffirming the church's traditional view.

While the homosexuality issue revealed the fissures in the denomination, other actions—especially on ecumenical issues—demonstrated a remarkable unity.

By a strong 661-228 vote, the delegates adopted a proposal that the church enter into a "covenant communion" with eight other Protestant denominations in the Consultation on Church Union.

The unity proposal, which stops short of full merger, allows for the exchange of ministers among affiliated denominations and reception of Holy Communion in one another's churches.

Delegates also approved plans to seek a merger with the three largest black Methodist denominations. If

those groups—the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church—also act favorably over the next several years, the merger could create the most racially integrated denomination in the nation.

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First Lady: 'Take your faith into the world'

DENVER (RNS)—In a speech laced with references to Jesus, John Wesley and her recent book, "It Takes A Village," Hillary Rodham Clinton told United Methodists April 24 to take their faith out into the world but warned that the world "is complex ... and maybe hostile."

The First Lady's 31-minute speech to the nearly 1,000 delegates and 3,000 visitors attending the denomination's 10-day General Conference was interrupted by applause a dozen times. She received standing ovations at both the beginning and end of her talk.

"One of the reasons I'm a Methodist is because I believe disagreements are a part of life," Mrs. Clinton said in an oblique reference to a host of disputes such as homosexuality and the role of the church in the world that have divided the denomination for two decades.

Mrs. Clinton listed a number of issues the delegates had been dealing with, including access to health care, smoking, marriage and the needs of children, saying their agenda resembled that of the president.

In a speech that moved back and forth between personal salvation and the need for social action in the world, Mrs. Clinton called on all Americans to exhibit the virtues of humility, forbearance and patience.

"We should act on the outside of church the way we try to act on the inside," she said.

Immediately after her speech, the meeting was scheduled to turn to what has emerged as the most volatile issue confronting the denomination—homosexuality.

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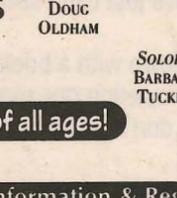
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Book asks 'Where was God?' in Oklahoma City blast

By Art Toalston
Baptist Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—
"Where Was God at 9:02 a.m.?"

The question involves April 19, 1995, when more than 160 people were killed in the terrorist bombing of Oklahoma City's Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

The question also is the title of a book in which Oklahoma City's Robin Jones recounts the ministry of Christians in the community and across the country to the suffering, grief, trauma and rage among victims, relatives and friends and countless others forever affected by the blast.

Jones weathered the Oklahoma City tragedy from her post as general manager of Christian radio stations KQCV, a news-and-information AM, and KNTL, a contemporary Christian FM. She was personally involved in numerous efforts by the station to nurture spiritual healing. Much of the counsel in the secular media, she said in the days after the bombing, "makes you cringe if you're a Christian."

"What we have to offer," said Jones, a member of Oklahoma City's Metropolitan Baptist Church, "has another whole dimension."

In her book, Jones tells of one

man, for example, who stayed with the trapped victims in the building despite the threat of a second bomb. "We may die in the next few minutes," he said to those around him. "Who here knows Jesus Christ as Savior?"

Jones' book gives plenty of other examples of Christian hope, as its subtitle indicates: "Miraculous Stories of Faith and Love from Oklahoma City."

She writes: "On the morning of the bombing, the mayor's annual prayer breakfast, with 1,200 people attending, had taken place. Moments after the blast, Mayor Ron Norick's office called Dr. Robert Allen at Wesley United Methodist Church. 'We're going to need chaplains. Can you put together a program?'"

"Working with both the police department and FBI chaplains at the bomb site, Dr. Allen became part of the team to network churches for ministry to friends and families of all the victims."

Another example: "Hundreds of people were made homeless by the blast. Residents of the 400 units of the Regency Towers apartment complex, across the street from the Murrah building, were evacuated with only the clothes on their backs. Feed the

Children, an international relief organization located six miles from the devastation (headed by Southern Baptist evangelist Larry Jones), took care of them with the help of churches in the area."

The church network coordinated the services of 600 chaplains for immediate and long-range support.

Jones writes of "on-the-spot ministry" by such people as Steve Hanchett, pastor of Berry Road Baptist Church in Norman, Okla.

"The following Tuesday night, our team was in front of the building," Hanchett is quoted as recounting. "Rescuers had been working diligently to recover one of the Marines. The 56 members of the rescue team gathered in the street. One of them approached me. 'Chaplain, will you pray for us?'"

"He led me over to the tired, dusty crew, then said, 'Wait a minute, will you?' He got his radio and asked them to shut down the cranes. He asked the workers up on the rubble pile to pause. 'Now you can pray.'"

"In the midst of heartache and suffering, there was no hesitation in praying together in a public place," Hanchett said.

Writes Jones: "God's squad was prepared. The informal relationships

built through the prayer breakfast shifted into an efficient response network to handle the needs of the rescue operation.

All author proceeds from "Where Was God at 9:02 A.M.?", released last fall by Thomas Nelson Publishers, will go to several Oklahoma City post-bombing funds through the Burbridge Foundation.

The book "confronts some basic theological questions which any thinking person will face in times of great tragedy," reviewer Thomas Marberry wrote in the journal Contact. "Where was God? Why did he allow this to happen? These are difficult questions, and there are no easy answers to them. Those who ask such questions should not be regarded as lacking in faith.

"The fact is God was there," Marberry continued. "He was there when the rescue workers pulled the bodies of 18 small children out of the wreckage. He was there with those who suffered in the hospitals. He was there when families were informed of the deaths of their loved ones."

Marberry quoted Jones' words at the end of the book: "Where was God at 9:02 a.m.? Many Oklahomans answer that question by saying, 'He walked among us.'"

"Where was God at 9:02 a.m.? Many Oklahomans answer that question by saying, 'He walked among us.'"

A reviewer commenting on Robin Jones' book

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Response up in Muslim areas

NICOSIA, Cyprus (BP)—Increasing response to the gospel in the Middle East and North Africa is leaving Southern Baptist workers there thrilled but, in some cases, struggling with new problems.

Responses are still counted each year by twos and threes in some places and a few dozen in others, numbers that would hardly be considered a great revival most places in the world. But in this overwhelmingly Muslim region, the increased response has Southern Baptist workers optimistic that revival may be on the way.

The increased response has surfaced a new problem: "We are now seeing people coming to Christ, and they are under persecution. We don't know how to deal with this," said one worker from a sensitive Middle Eastern country who cannot be identified.

Muslims who become Christians often are rejected by their family, a particularly painful punishment for family-oriented Middle Easterners. They also face jail terms, other punishments or even death at the hands of Muslim governments.

Baptists asked to feed North Korean city

Continued from page 1

said they were impressed with our team's sincerity. They said a lot of groups have come to see and promised to help, but gave only an initial donation. Now they need ongoing help."

While gripping scenes of suffering and hardship met team members in each area they surveyed, the vast destruction of farmland in the north overwhelmed them.

"I had anticipated seeing the after-effects of flood damage—lost homes, crops and the twisted wreckage of buildings and bridges. But I don't think any of us were prepared for what we saw in the far north," one team member said.

Last August's flooding dumped tons of sand and silt onto more than 320,000 acres in the north. What once was one of the most fertile regions in

the nation has turned into a desert-like wasteland.

"A layer of sand, 4 to 6 inches deep, covered every bit of land we could see," Cashion said. "In some spots, we saw sand dunes 6 to 8 feet tall. We drove and drove and drove through this area and it never got any better. As far as the eye could see, there was nothing but sand. This was once the food basket for the nation, but nothing can be grown there now. It will take years to recover."

The farming communities of the region now have no work—and almost no food.

"We were told that the people in this area are down to one or one-half of a meal a day," Cashion said. "That means they get less than four ounces of rice a day and are left to find something green to eat with it. People are pulling weeds to eat."

As they toured the remains of one farming community, team members watched a woman carefully plant corn

on a small plot of dirt.

"She was alone, working down on her knees in a patch of dirt surrounded by this huge sea of sand," Cashion said. "She must have carried the topsoil in and spread it out onto the sand. I recall thinking, 'If she can get these seeds to become seedlings, where is she going to eventually plant them?'"

Southern Baptists already have sent several shipping containers of food, plus tons of wheat flour and corn to North Korea, with much more on the way. In January, CSI announced it would spend \$500,000 in Southern Baptist hunger relief funds to send food aid into the isolated communist country.

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: Youth minister for Jeff St. Baptist Community at Liberty, 800 E Liberty, Louisville, KY 40204. A small, progressive, socially active, culturally diverse congregation in the housing projects. 15 hrs/\$100/wk. Contact Rev. Cindy Weber, (502) 585-3787, or send resumé.

SEEKING: Fern Creek Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., is seeking a full-time minister of music and education. Please send resumé by May 8, 1996, to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, P.O. Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291.

SEEKING: Front desk attendant—evening and night shifts. Seminary or college student preferred. Allows plenty of time to study. Contact: Ginger Niner at Parr's Rest in Louisville. Phone: (502) 451-5440.

SEEKING: Nursing assistant. Flexible shifts. Diploma or GED; certified preferred. Contact: Gayle Mink, nurse manager at Parr's Rest in Louisville. Phone: (502) 451-5440.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music—immediate employment to lead comprehensive church music program consisting of adult, youth and graded children's choirs. FBC Springfield—1,800-member, northern Virginia-region church—seeks a balanced mixture of traditional anthem/praise worship music. Four requirements: Personal relationship with Christ; at least four years uninterrupted experience as full-time minister of music in SBC-affiliated church; either currently serving or no more than six months since last employed as full-time minister of music; degree from four-year, fully accredited

college/university (seminary training, music degree/sacred music emphasis highly desired). Generous compensation and benefits package. Send resumé with cover letter addressing requirements ASAP to Joe Swain, chairman, Personnel Committee, 9124 Scott St., Springfield, VA 22153. Strictly confidential.

SEEKING: Baptist Homes East is looking for dependable dietary aids. We are currently offering part-time positions with flexible hours. No experience needed for night person—we will train. Come join a superior rated nursing facility that takes pride in its employees as well as its residents. Apply at 3001 N. Hurstbourne Pkwy., Louisville, KY 40241, or call Richard Farmer at (502) 426-5531. Equal opportunity employer.

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

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: 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.

Looking for a Challenging Mission?

Spring Meadows Children's Home is accepting applications for live-in Christian couples (teaching-parents), and singles.

Teaching-parents will receive on-going training, active participation in treatment planning, on-going consultation and, more importantly, the opportunity to make a difference in a young person's life. We offer a competitive salary plus benefits. Please send resumé to Mike Armbrust, 10901 Shelbyville Rd., Louisville, KY 40243.

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PEOPLE



FINANCIAL FORUM

Can a family still live on a single income?

To answer that question, consider these questions about lifestyle: How much do we need? How much is enough? When will we be content with what we have? What is a proper lifestyle or standard of living for our family? Does the fact that we are Christian have any bearing on our lifestyle? What part do our friends and neighbors have in helping us determine our lifestyle?

In Luke 12:15, Jesus warns against covetousness by declaring that one's life does not consist in the abundance of his or her possessions. Each family must decide how they are to live their lives in relation to God's expectations.

God is the giver of all things. We do not "own" anything; we are stewards of all we possess. These gifts we have from God are to be used in service to God and our fellow man, not simply to benefit ourselves.

How much is enough? That is not an easy question to answer. Some have said having enough is when one has whatever it takes to meet the necessities of life. When one has more than the basic necessities of life, there is a surplus. In determining how much is enough, one should be cautious about such things as credit, status seeking and "toys." Some people have enormous credit in order to buy things and "toys," because that is a status symbol. In today's world, adults have as many toys as children.

One way to help determine how much is enough is by asking the following questions about things you think you need: "What will this do for my life?" "Will this enrich my life?" "Will this help me move toward my Christian goals?"

How can I learn to be content? In 1 Timothy 6:6-8, Paul gives simple directions to the Christian for contentment. Life in Paul's day was much more simple than today, but his guidelines are relevant for today. Paul called on Timothy to be content if he had food to eat and clothes to wear.

Can a middle-class family live on one income? The answer is yes—if your family is willing to make some adjustments. Determine your priorities, set some goals, be willing to sacrifice, and learn to be content.

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

The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana is seeking a recently retired couple to accept a two-year commitment as full-time Mission Service Corps. The volunteers serve as statewide church music and childhood education coordinators. Housing, travel expenses, and a small stipend provided. For more information, contact Gary Bearce, Church Development Director, at (317)241-9317.



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"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*

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

- Funds and construction teams for Vyborg Baptist Church in Russia. Fort Thomas Baptist Church will work there later this year.
- Kolpino Baptist Church in Russia and a construction team from Russellville First Baptist Church.
- Tixvin Baptist Church in Russia and a construction team from Crittenden Baptist Church.
- Thom Thorton and Lori Seay, who are to be married soon and will continue their ministries with youth and university students in the Boston area.
- Jim Meyers, director of missions for Silver Lakes and Whispering Pines Baptist associations in Idaho.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **ALLEN**—First Church will honor Pastor **French Harmon** with a reception May 5 at 8 p.m. for completing the doctor of ministry degree from Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, N.C.

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Oakland Church called **Tom Stokes** of Jeremiah as pastor. He previously was interim pastor at Lothair Church of Hazard. He will begin his new ministry May 5. Also, **Cara Catlett** resigned as youth minister April 28 and music director **Marcus Brown** was ordained to the gospel ministry April 28.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Liberty Church called **Bill Carroll** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Abbottsburg Church in Abbottsburg, N.C.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Ballardsville Church called **Victor Angulo** as

youth director March 3.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Lyndon Church ordained **Selena Wisman** to the gospel ministry April 21.

Cloverleaf Church will dedicate its newly expanded facilities May 19 at 10:45 a.m. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Anna Laura Page, a composer and performer of sacred music, will present a piano concert at Eighteenth Street Church May 12 at 10:45 a.m.

■ **LOVELACEVILLE**—Lovellaceville Church celebrated its 155th anniversary March 13, while the Sunday school celebrated its 105th anniversary April 5. **Kevin Denton** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT OLIVET**—Mount Olivet Church will present the Southern gospel quartet "The Journeymen" in concert May 5 at 11 a.m. A potluck fellowship dinner will follow the service. A free-will offering will be received.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Lewis Lane Church called **Chip Pendleton** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Buena Vista Church in Buena Vista, Va. He will begin his new ministry June 2.

■ **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—New Victory Church called **Steve Lewis** as pastor. He previously was camp youth director at Mountain View Baptist Camp in Monticello. He began his new ministry April 14.

■ **SMITHS GROVE**—Smiths Grove Church called **Jeff Smith** as pastor.

Let's Not Let Children Go Hungry Any Longer!



Help The Children
P.O. Box 1511
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\$20 will feed a family for one month

HELP THE CHILDREN

Thank God for volunteers!

(15th in a series)

This is the last in a series of 15 articles about Oneida. I purposely saved this article for the end. Only God knows the number of volunteers who have served at Oneida in the past 97 years. I simply do not know how we would have managed without them.

They come from all walks of life. Some have modest incomes, but hearts willing to meet any need. Others are rather affluent, but do not consider it beneath their dignity to paint, clean, dig a ditch, help in the garden or hog pen. We have been blessed with plumbers, carpenters, welders, painters, seamstresses, electricians, block layers, roofers, mechanics, farmers and many, many others.

We recently dedicated an entire Mountaineer to volunteers currently serving on our faculty and staff. They serve in the craft shop, office, classroom, maintenance and library.

Already this spring we have had volunteers from Illinois and Hazel Creek Baptist Church. Each group worked a week helping to package the Barkley Moore Offering materials, doing electrical work, helping in maintenance and the craft house. There are approximately 300 volunteers scheduled to work this spring and summer. We simply could not get along without them.

The highest award Oneida gives at graduation is the William A. Evans Award. It is given in memory of a volunteer who traveled from Cincinnati to Oneida each summer. He was a middle school principal who came during the 1930s and '40s with some of his students and others who were willing to serve. The road from Cincinnati to Oneida during that time was not what it is today. While it only takes three or four hours today,

it took two or three days back then. Mr. Evans never received a penny for his time or expenses. He passed away in his early 50s. The William A. Evans Award was first given in 1944 in memory of his devotion to God and this ministry. Our faculty and staff met all day earlier this month, in part to determine which senior would receive this highest award.

There is no way to determine the money volunteers have saved our school over the years. There are countless projects that would never have been completed if it had not been for the willing hearts and hands of these saints. They work in the hot sun or the coldest day. Rain or shine, they hammer away. I know for a fact that many have put personal needs second to the needs of Oneida. On more than a few occasions the word has been put out that "Oneida needs help," and here they come; by the dozens in campers, cars and trucks. Often they choose to supply their own tools and materials. Then when they leave, they often give us a check to cover their expenses while here. Only a heart full of the love of Jesus compels people to do these things.

While most have come from Kentucky—groups like Baptist Builders, Campers on Mission, Sunday School classes and church groups—others have come from virtually every state in the southeast. This summer alone, nearly 100 are scheduled to come from Alabama. You cannot walk across this campus without seeing the many projects they have completed.

I hope these articles have helped you to understand a little more about Oneida and her ministry.

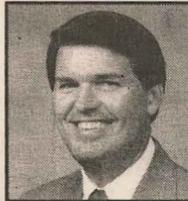
W.F. "Bud" Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Learn to make a difference, not just a living, layman says

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Corporate downsizing teaches the valuable but difficult lesson that "Christians should go to work not only to make a living, but to make a difference," according to the former president of General Motors.

"It's not your position, but how you impact society that's most important," said Lloyd Reuss, a Presbyterian layman and trustee of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.

Reuss, who served 36 years in GM administration until 1992 when as president he was forced to take early retirement, spoke at the Presbyterian seminary's campus April 17 on the topic "Pastoral Care as Business Downsizes."

In recent years the brunt of business downsizing has shifted from lower level positions to managers, Reuss said. Layoffs affecting managers create significant needs for them, including spiritual needs.

"It is my strong belief that churches must respond to this in a different way than they have in the past," Reuss said, noting a more proactive role is needed. "The church can help supply faith and meaning in the midst of change" and help people who have been laid off find new ways to contribute to society.

But individuals also must take initiative to re-evaluate their priorities and Christian commitment in the face of traumatic changes, Reuss added.

After he was asked to take early retirement, Reuss said he realized what many people consumed with their career never realize: "Christians should go to work not only to make a living, but to make a difference."

The initial shock and sadness Reuss and his wife experienced gradually gave way to new discoveries and a plan for the future, he said.

"You have to believe God does have a plan for us, ... but it's really up to us to find what our talents are and make the best use of them," he said.

"Crises really are good" in that they help redefine life, he said. "You find out what's really important."

Since he and his wife both were under 60 and in great health, Reuss said, he considered three options: go ahead and "really" retire, find another position or spend more time helping others.

After a year, Reuss found his focal point in several industrial and educational ventures in the Detroit area. For example, he was instrumental in developing an engineering program at a non-profit organization working to fight poverty, racism and injustice in the inner city.

Commencement on May 3

The senior class invites Kentucky Baptists to attend Clear Creek's 50th commencement, Friday, May 3, 7 p.m., Binghamtown Baptist Church, Middlesboro.

Our commencement speaker represents our historic emphasis on missions and the local church. William McElrath experienced God's calling while a member of First Baptist, Murray. He attended RA camp at Clear Creek Springs, and remembers Kelly Hall under construction. He and Betty served more than three decades as SBC missionaries to Indonesia.

It was in 1946, in the second floor chapel of Kelly Hall, that Clear Creek Mountain Preachers Bible School awarded certificates to the first four graduates of a three-year program. We remembered that occasion on April 26 with a special chapel featuring President Emeritus D.M. Aldridge. He came to the school in the fall of 1946 to teach.

This year also marks the 50th anniversary that we have been part of the Kentucky Baptist family of Cooperative Program-supported ministries. We'll celebrate that event at the November convention in Bowling Green.

Fifty years ago, Dr. L.C. Kelly wrote about the purpose which

guided our beginnings: "to call God's men and women back to the Christian of the New Testament Christ by acquainting them with the Christ of Christianity; to induce them to let God's word become the authority in their lives; and to help them learn how to rightly divide and coordinate the word of truth."

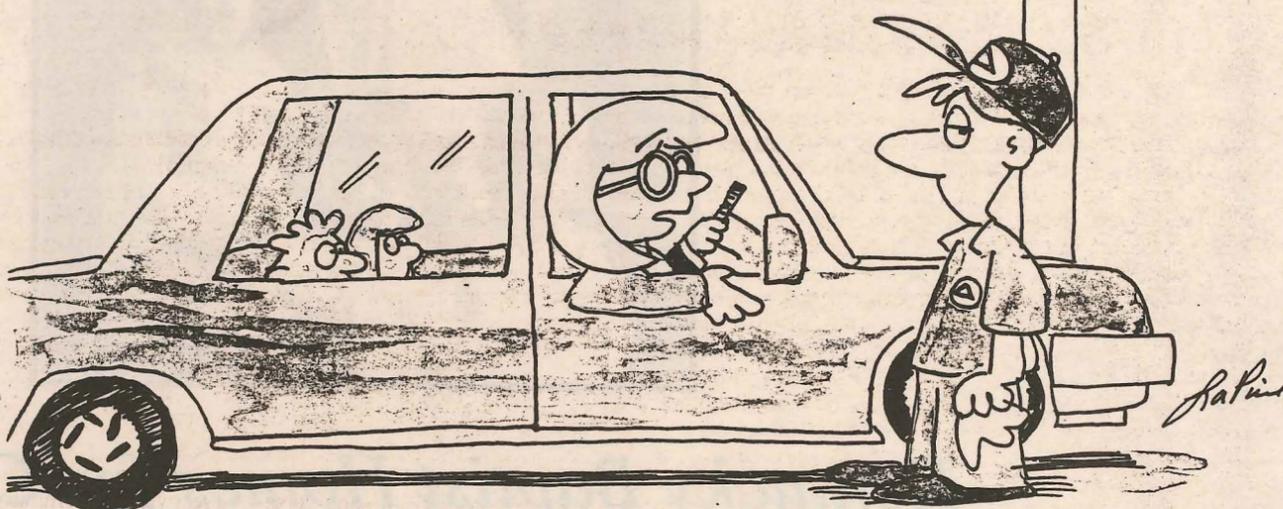
We're still fulfilling that purpose. On May 3, 21 graduates receive a BA in ministry; three will receive an associate degree. These students meet Dr. Kelly's expectations: "We want students who love the Lord and people enough to become workers 'approved unto God, workmen that need not to be ashamed, rightfully dividing the Word of truth.'"

Throughout the spring semester seniors have spoken in chapel services. Most of them already have ministry positions—some will attend seminary. As I recently heard one of them speak, my eyes moistened with a mixture of loss and thanksgiving.

Come celebrate with us on May 3. If you come, or if you can't, be sure and pray for these graduates as they follow the Lord's will.

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

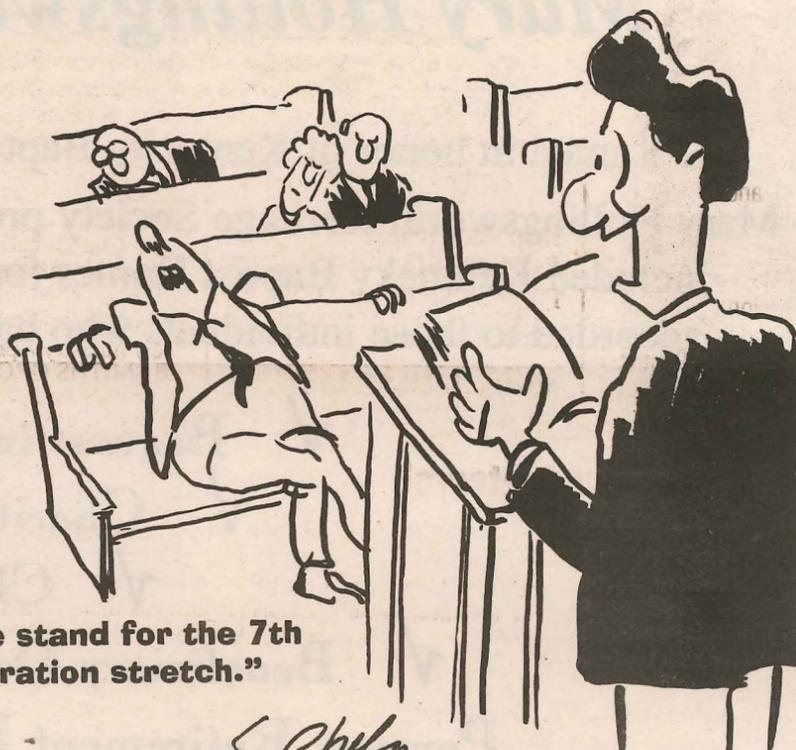
Signs of the times



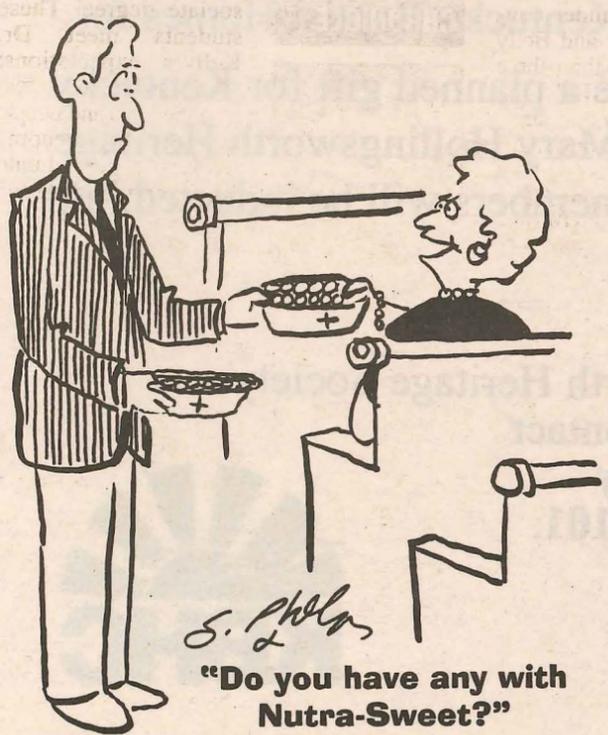
"We are lost. We are looking for the church with a seeker-sensitive service."



"OK, guys, the only fair way to do it this morning is ... heads it's the hymnal, tails it's choruses."



"Please stand for the 7th illustration stretch."



"Do you have any with Nutra-Sweet?"



"We've just given new meaning to the term non-profit organization."



Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
announces the establishment of the
Mary Hollingsworth Heritage Society

Named in honor of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's first superintendent, the Mary Hollingsworth Heritage Society provides recognition for those individuals who have included Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in their estate plans. Membership is accorded to those individuals who have at least one of these planned gifts in place:

- ✓ Bequest in Will or Living Trust
- ✓ Charitable Gift Annuity
- ✓ Charitable Trust
- ✓ Beneficiary Designation of Life Insurance,
Pension, Retirement Fund, or Commercial Annuity

Charter membership is available to everyone notifying Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children prior to Aug. 31, 1996, that their estate plans include a planned gift for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. The first formal meeting of the Mary Hollingsworth Heritage Society is planned for the fall of 1996 at which time charter members will be inducted into the Society.

For more information about the Mary Hollingsworth Heritage Society
or its charter membership, please contact
Dick Carlton or Brenda Gray
at 1-800-456-1386 or (502) 245-2101.

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