



WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

Female pastors
Mark Coppenger, new president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, told students in a recent chapel message that women pastors are "an affront to home and family."
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Summer missionaries
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Kentuckians recount flight from Liberia

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

KANSAS CITY—Kentucky missionaries James and Jane Park believe their lives were exchanged for the vehicles they abandoned as they fled war-torn Liberia in early April.

As the Parks and eight other Southern Baptist missionaries fled through the back gate of their missionary compound in Monrovia April 11, rebel forces entered through the front gate.

The missionaries—each carrying only one suitcase—were hustled into armored vehicles provided by the U.S. Embassy. They left behind 11 vehicles they had intended to drive out of the country, but which they now believe paid the price for their safe passage.

While the escalation of fighting in Liberia's six-year-old war was not a surprise to the Parks and other Southern Baptist missionaries in Monrovia, the manner in which they evacuated the country was, the Parks said in an



Jane Park



James Park

interview from their son's home in Kansas City.

The Parks, Paducah natives, have been evacuated twice before in the 24 years they have served in Liberia, but never with so little time to spare and under such dangerous circumstances, Mrs. Park said.

In the space of a weekend, the battlefield of Liberia's civil war switched from the interior to the streets of Monrovia, putting all foreigners in grave danger.

The drama began to unfold Easter weekend.

Good Friday started as an ordinary day, Mrs. Park said. Her husband had gone to preach in a church on the edge

of the city. She spent the day practicing to accompany her church's Easter cantata.

When Park returned about 3 p.m. to their home on the mission compound, the couple decided to go to a restaurant in another part of Monrovia to eat. But once on the streets, they learned that the six-man interim governmental council composed of rival warlords had tried to arrest rebel leader Roosevelt Johnson on murder charges.

"We went to a restaurant closer to our home instead," Mrs. Park said. But by the time they made their way back to the compound, "crowds and crowds" of people were gathering on the streets.

Sensing the increasing danger, the Parks and other missionaries did not leave the mission compound Friday evening and all day Saturday.

By 3 p.m. Saturday, the sounds of gunfire filled the streets outside the 4-acre mission compound.

"All day long, when we looked

□ See Kentucky missionaries ..., page 12

What makes a 'triumphant' marriage?

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

The key to a successful marriage is learning love's secrets and developing the necessary skills to implement them, according to Christian marriage counselor Clark Warren.

Warren is the author of "The Triumphant Marriage," recently published by Focus on the Family.

Warren, a psychologist and marriage counselor in Pasadena, Calif., interviewed 100 happy couples who have what he calls "triumphant marriages" to discover the secret ingredients that set their marriages apart. The couples were recommended by Warren's friends and colleagues as having "the healthiest marriages they know."

Secrets of Successful Couples

Among his findings:

■ 75 percent of all divorces occur in marriages in which at least one partner is emotionally unhealthy.

■ More marriages break up because the partners don't know how to handle their anger toward one another than for any other reason.

■ Couples who make it over the longhaul "spiritually process life together."

Using the combined wisdom gleaned from the 100 couples along with his 30 years of clinical work, Warren distills 10 "proven love secrets" which he says can take a marriage "from wherever it is and move it closer and closer to the highest level."
□ See Author studies ..., page 7



TWO FROM GALILEE Joseph (Gregory Church) and Mary (Kathleen Bryant) show the Baby Jesus (James Scroggins) to interested children during one of four premier performances of "Two from Galilee" at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary last week. An estimated 5,000 people attended performances of the musical drama, which was produced by the seminary's church music drama theater. The performances were recorded by the drama's publisher to be used in demonstrations to churches and other groups of how the play should be done. People from 46 Louisville-area churches joined seminary students in the 122-member cast and chorus. (Southern Seminary photo)

Ambitions of parents may be dangerous for children

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—Americans are outraged when they hear about parents in Thailand selling their daughters as prostitutes, but "our American hands are not so clean when it comes to dealing with kids," said Craig Loscalzo, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

"What about the father who forces the child to be who he is not, not for the good of the child, but because he must live his life through the child?" Loscalzo asked during a recent conference on "Children and the Church" held in Birmingham, Ala.

Loscalzo referenced the recent death of Jessica Dubroff, the 7-year-old pilot who died when her Cessna crashed during an attempt to become the youngest pilot ever to fly cross-country.

"Whose dream are they living out? Who's looking for meaning in life?" he asked. "We want our children to have all of those things we never had, and we forget that what they really need as children is to be children—laughing, playing, doing all those things that children do."

"We (as adults) are locked into our routines," Loscalzo said. "I've never seen a child pull out a day timer."

Rather than trying to conform children to their own image, parents should learn something from their children, he added. "It's through a child's innocence that we should look at the world. God help us when we do not give them time for innocence, for inquisitiveness, for spontaneity."

Another Kentuckian, Diana Garland, spoke about the fear and violence that stalk American children today. Garland, professor of social work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was an organizer of the conference, held at Woman's Missionary Union headquarters.

"Our society's focus on collecting stuff is killing our souls and making us scared of our neighbors and our neighbor's children," she said.

Garland said children in her generation had fears, but the things they were afraid of were "over there"—a big war, a bomb.

"The difference (today) is that fear is inside the wall. What's frightening about the violence in our society is that it's inside us," she said. "Most violence in our society is not random. Most violence happens within the home."

"I am more concerned about the effects of the fear of violence

□ See Parental ambition ..., page 7

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Meetings stay closed.** Meetings of the implementation task force, the group coordinating the restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention's agencies, will remain private upon the advice of legal counsel, Chairman Bob Reccord said April 24. "While the implementation task force believes it can best serve Southern Baptists by not conducting its meetings publicly, it will certainly continue to communicate its activities, progresses and decisions through Baptist Press," he said.

■ **Teachers needed.** The Samoa Baptist Academy, operated in American Samoa largely with Mission Service Corps volunteers, has released a list of personnel needs for the 1996-97 year. Teachers are needed for all elementary grades. Other needs include a principal, physical education teacher, English as a second language teacher, librarian, bookkeeper and nurse. For information, call Doris Conner at (800) HMB-VOLS.

■ **Campers to celebrate.** Campers on Mission plans to mark its 25th anniversary with a June 18-21 celebration in Greenwood, Miss. For information, call James or Mattie Ray at (601) 837-3346.

■ **New unit formed.** The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has created a new public relations unit to highlight the contributions of African-Americans and to recruit more non-Anglo missionaries. FMB staffer Wendy Norvelle has been named associate vice president of public relations to head this effort.

■ **FMB online.** The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board now has a home page on the World Wide Web. The address is <http://www.imb.org>.

■ **Publisher named.** Kenneth Stephens has been named director and publisher of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Broadman & Holman publishing division. Stephens, 45, has been vice president for key account sales with Nelson/Word Publishing Group.

■ **Baldrige to Fellowship.** Gary Baldrige, former associate director of Cooperative Services International with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, has been named associate missions coordinator with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. He succeeds Harlan Spurgeon, who is retiring.

■ **Powell to be nominated.** Jerry Johnson, a Colorado pastor recently elected chairman of trustees at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has announced his intention to nominate Fred Powell for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Powell, president of Communicators Ministries of Richmond, Mo., previously was associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Moore, Okla., and of First Baptist Church of Atlanta.

■ **Arkansas Baptists clean up.** Baptists in Arkansas helped with clean-up and disaster relief after an April 21 killer tornado smashed homes and businesses in two western counties. A total of 44 volunteers manned chainsaws to clean up storm debris or served meals from a disaster-relief unit operated by the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

■ **Samford gets \$10 million.** Samford University will rename its pharmacy school the McWhorter School of Pharmacy, honoring a \$10 million gift from an alumnus. The gift, given by Clayton McWhorter of Nashville, honors his brother, Fred, a Chattanooga, Tenn., pharmacist and a 1951 graduate of Samford. Clayton McWhorter is chairman of the board of Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corp.

■ **Gardner-Webb gets \$1 million.** Gardner-Webb University has received its largest-ever foundation gift—\$1 million from the Dover Foundation of Shelby, N.C. The gift, part of a \$20 million fund-raising effort, will help renovate Hamrick Hall, the oldest building on the campus in Boiling Springs, N.C., to house the Baptist university's business school.

Coppenger: Women pastors dangerous

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (ABP)—Women pastors are contrary to God's intent in creation and an "affront to home and family," President Mark Coppenger said in a recent chapel service at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In remarks at an April 11 chapel service, Coppenger called women's ascent into pastoral roles "one of the raging, raging heresies and confusions of the day."

Coppenger said he doesn't know why God created women to be submissive to men but the Bible teaches that concept in passages that include 1 Timothy 2:11-15. He read that passage, calling it "tough, tough, tough" and "kind of a gut-check passage."

That passage requires women to "learn in quietness and full submission," observes that Eve led Adam into original sin and says righteous women "will be saved through child-bearing."

"What in the world was that?" Coppenger laughed. "I mean, is this a new way to be saved? Have a baby, go to heaven?"

"I tell you what this is," he continued. "This is God's inerrant word."

The Bible affirms the "equality and value" of men and women but distinguishes "identity of role" between the sexes, he said.

"Now I do know some places where women are not allowed to speak in business meetings and do not serve on the committees of the church, or the major committees. I don't think that's what (the passage) teaches. It's talking about the pastor-teacher role and for some puzzling

reason, it's not supposed to be."

Coppenger said women in the pulpit are "an affront to the creation order."

"Now folks, I don't know why exactly, but that's no sweat to God that I don't know why," Coppenger said. "I don't know a lot of things, but Paul cites creation" in his prohibition of women pastors, Coppenger added.

The fact that First Timothy ties Paul's admonition to creation invalidates arguments that the passage was culturally conditioned and no longer relevant, Coppenger contended. That argument is "hermeneutically, utterly irresponsible," he said.

Paul's reference to childbearing teaches that women in the pulpit are "an affront to home and family," Coppenger said.

"The reason I think he says the childbearing stuff, the motherhood ... he is saying that this ascent of woman as pastor is a threat to the order of the home and Paul is concerned that there not be a wedge formed in the church that goes into the home and breaks up the home ...," Coppenger said.

Coppenger identified two types of Christians most susceptible to accepting women as pastors, contrasting them to "word-based Christians" who accept the Bible's prohibition.

One is "experience-based Christians," like charismatics who, he said, emphasize their religious experience over the teaching of Scripture.

The other is "culture-based religion," he said, which seems to think, "Let's just open the paper and see how we're supposed to be this century."

Andy Stanley's church not Southern Baptist

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Andy Stanley, son of former Southern Baptist Convention President Charles Stanley, said the church he is helping start in north Atlanta will not be Southern Baptist, for now.

The new church, North Point Community Church, has yet to accept members, purchase land or meet weekly. About 1,600 people attend Sunday evening worship services held twice a month. Worshipers currently meet in a conference center in the neighboring county to where leaders hope to build a permanent facility.

Stanley said the decision was a difficult one, but is based on the church's vision and mission. The decision is not a criticism of the Southern Baptist Convention, he said, adding that two-thirds of the church's leaders come from Southern Baptist backgrounds.

"I'm very grateful for the convention, and we will support financially Southern Baptist causes," he said.

Stanley, 38, was on staff at First Baptist Church of Atlanta for 10 years. A graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, Stanley preached three years at First Baptist's northern campus. He left the church in August 1995, disagreeing with his father's continued leadership at the church while his mother sought a divorce from his father. Charles and Anna

Stanley have since reconciled.

The younger Stanley said First Baptist Atlanta was criticized because members don't use Southern Baptist literature, don't send students to Southern Baptist seminaries and "don't support the Cooperative Program that much."

"I felt like we would sort of fall into that same category," he said.

He added the local association had expressed a preference that mission congregations give 5 percent of offering receipts to the association and 10 percent to the Cooperative Program, the convention's funding channel for denominational agencies and missions work.

"When I really understood what it meant to be a good, card-carrying Southern Baptist, I just don't think that fits the personality of our church right now," he said. Stanley said he wants the church to send a higher percentage of dollars to world missions and less to such domestic efforts as state Baptist colleges.

Unchurched people's attitudes toward Baptists and less than full support for Southern Baptist programs were other factors in the decision, Stanley said.

"For a lot of unchurched and unbelievers, the term Baptist is an obstacle. Whether it should be or not is a whole other discussion, but the fact is, it just is right now," he said.

SBC statements on moral or legis-

Coppenger used an effeminate voice in a mocking imitation of this trend: "Well, I just have my gay lover and we're just having a bonding and an affirmation."

"There are churches and denominations that embrace that kind of easy-breezy, whichever-way-the-wind-blows approach," Coppenger said. "And, by George, there are women pastors all over the place."

"Now I'm not saying that everybody who toys with this idea is utterly apostate," Coppenger said, "but I'm saying that they are playing with a very dangerous approach to understanding Scripture and the church."

Coppenger's comments drew sustained applause from students attending the chapel service but angered both male and female students who favor women in ministry. While most on campus knew where Coppenger stood on the issue, some students were "shocked and surprised at the way he went about explaining his views," said one student who asked not to be identified.

In his chapel speech, Coppenger denied his views were anti-women.

"Well, am I the enemy of women?" Coppenger asked. "No more than the person who is standing before the bridge that is out up the road saying: 'Stop! Stop! Stop! There's a chasm there.'"

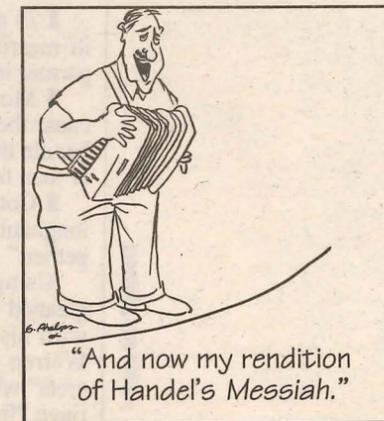
"And I submit to you that the person who in the name of affirmation and friendliness and sensitivity is encouraging the woman to be the pastor is the one who is up the road from the chasm saying, 'Come on honey, come on. Hit the accelerator.'"

lative issues also would impact the church's evangelistic efforts, Stanley said. "My values are definitely in alignment with those decisions. It's just going on record with those decisions kind of skews people's thinking," he said. "It's not really an issue in presenting the gospel."

The church likely would not use the Sunday School Board's Bible study materials, Stanley said, which he said target a medium-size church.

The combination of these issues led the church steering committee to vote unanimously not to affiliate with a denomination. "What was going to happen is, we were going to be a bad Southern Baptist church."

Stanley added he wants to keep a door open to later affiliation with Southern Baptists.



Kentucky Crusaders score with pass to Sports Reach

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LA GRANGE—Most church members think of missionaries carrying Bibles instead of basketballs.

But when 27 teenagers in metropolitan New York accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior during college basketball's Final Four weekend, hoops formed the attraction that opened their ears to the gospel.

"That was an exciting event," said Robby Speer, executive director of Sports Reach, a Southern Baptist ministry that uses sports to spread the gospel at home and abroad.

Speer and other Kentuckians worked with George Russ, evangelism associate with the Baptist Convention of New York, to plan the Final Four outreach. Among those participating: former Georgetown College basketball star Jeff Arrington, Transylvania University head coach Don Lane, Transylvania assistant coach Craig Nelson and Oldham County High School coach Gary Forrest.

"We are just now learning the incredible importance of athletics in American life and the example of men and women athletes living for Christ," Russ said. "This weekend was a wonderful example of what can happen when athletics and Christian commitment are combined."

Sports Reach got its start in Kentucky in 1988 as the Kentucky Crusaders basketball ministry, but now has expanded into a national sports ministry.

The two Final Four clinics represented the start of upcoming mission trips that will employ Sports Reach teams in basketball, softball, baseball, volleyball and aerobics. Besides this

country, teams soon will visit China, Brazil and Mongolia.

Sports Reach's special summer events include:

■ Basketball and aerobics clinics the week of June 2 in New Orleans, just prior to the annual Southern Baptist Convention.

■ An all-sports clinic in the inner city of Baltimore in early July.

■ Basketball camps and softball mission trips in eight different cities from late May through July.

While the common language of sports opens the door, Speer said team members share testimonies during or after games, and sometimes hold evening Bible studies.

They also witness as one-on-one opportunities become available.

Many participants are college students and young adults, but one men's softball player is 43. There also are many opportunities for non-athletes who want to provide support services on trips, according to Speer.

Nor are the opportunities limited to men. Lexington resident Sarah Hillyer has been directing women's activities through Sports Reach for three years.

Under her leadership, the ministry expanded from women's basketball to softball and volleyball. Speer's wife, Jan, coordinates aerobics clinics.

"I think the difference between us and other sports ministries is the emphasis on the lay person," said Speer, former minister of activities and outreach at DeHaven Memorial Baptist Church in La Grange. "It's exciting for me as I watch men and women grow and become more committed to the whole thing."

Speer has witnessed growth of his own as he has moved Sports Reach

into a national ministry born out of Kentucky Crusaders. After discussions with various groups, the Crusaders decided to join their efforts with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission.

So on Jan. 1, the Crusaders changed their name and became an official arm of the National Fellowship of Baptists in Sports.

Herschel Wells, Brotherhood director of national fellowships—there are 19 in such fields as medical, dental, education and missions—said he expects Sports Reach to become a dynamic force in sports ministry: "There are so many things going on with sporting events, it's like the pio-

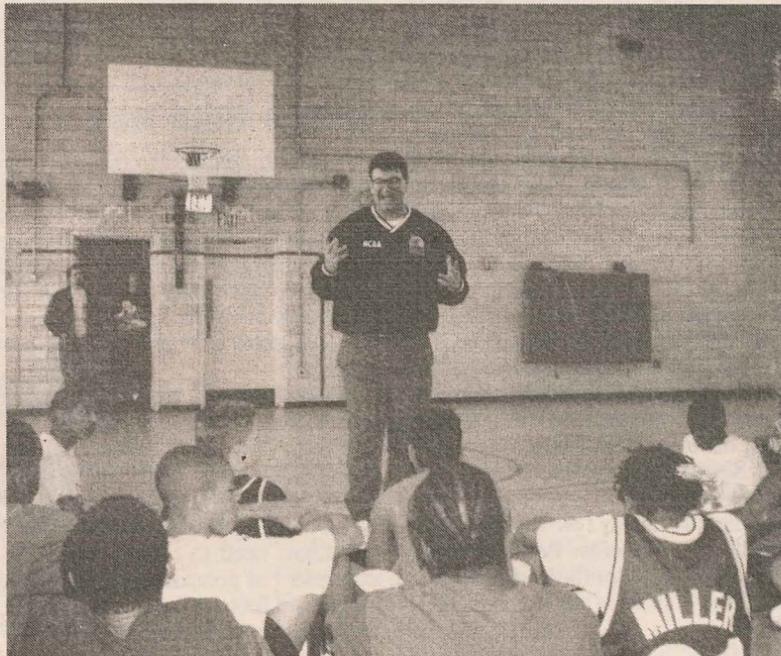
neer days of the Old West."

Though the Brotherhood funds some travel and office expenses, the ministry is primarily supported by donations.

But a shoestring budget doesn't hold Speer back. He is considering adding a bowling team to the lineup and making golf a more active part of the ministry.

"We don't look for new sports, but when God raises up people who are interested in something, we'll go for it," he said.

■ For more information on Sports Reach, call Speer in Louisville at (502) 222-9932 or Sarah Hillyer in Lexington at (606) 273-4523.



SPORTS TALK Robby Speer talks about the love of God during a sports clinic in Queens, N.Y., during the Final Four. Speer and other Kentuckians conducted several sports ministry events in the New York City area through Sports Reach.

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Morris Chapman**, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, will be the keynote speaker at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's May 17 commencement program. The event begins at 10 a.m. in Alumni Chapel.

■ **Dean Whitaker** of Hazard has been elected president of the May 1996 graduating class of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Julie Wiegand of Florence was elected vice president for the Carver School of Church Social Work.

■ **Georgetown College** has created a site on the World Wide Web to provide information on admissions, financial aid, academic departments, faculty, development, alumni information, sports and more. The web site address is www.gtc.georgetown.ky.us.

■ **Georgetown College's** education department has been recertified by the Education Professional Standards Board, which allows graduates of the department to continue to be certified to teach in Kentucky.

Students need faith that thinks and does, professor says

By Mark Wingfield
Interim Editor

HARRODSBURG—Balanced Christians develop "a faith that will think and a faith that will do," a Cumberland College professor said during the spring meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship April 26.

The meeting, held at Harrodsburg Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, focused on education, with presentations from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's three liberal arts colleges. A keynote address also was given by Gary Parker, coordinator for Baptist principles with the national Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Baptists have had a love-hate relationship with education in the past, said Garland Young, a professor at Cumberland College. Yet the idea of a liberal arts curriculum was born in the church, he noted.

Over time, the secular academy has redefined what a liberal arts education ought to include, he said, declaring "it's time to reassert our ownership of the liberal arts."

A Christian liberal arts college helps students find balance between a faith that thinks and a faith that does, Young declared.

His sentiments were echoed by

Bill Crouch, president of Georgetown College, who cited two reasons Kentucky needs Christian higher education.

The first is that students need a Christian environment for higher education because of the critical years of their lives spent in college, he said.

The second is to develop leadership for the churches, Crouch said. "It is the deliberate intention of your Kentucky Baptist colleges to prepare for you both lay and professional church leaders."

Christian higher education is in the "root business," Crouch said, citing the desire to help students plant themselves firmly in the traditions of both faith and learning.

This is Great Commission business, added Ken Winters, president of Campbellsville University. "We seek to take a student ... and stretch and grow that student in faith," he explained.

Parker, of the Fellowship's Atlanta staff, also noted that faith and learning must not dwell on opposite extremes. "If either one becomes predominant, the predominant one destroys the other."

Education can become "arrogant," thus reducing the Christian life to that which can be explained, he said. "We

end up in a closed system in which God cannot work" and in which the mystery of God is written off.

On the other hand, faith that emphasizes experience alone also is too extreme, Parker said. "Life is too complex for that. Faith is too complex for that. And God is too complex for that."

During the April 26-27 meeting, Kentucky Fellowship supporters heard an update on efforts to create a joint venture between the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship, Lexington Theological Seminary and Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Va.

Kentucky Fellowship moderator Greg Brooks, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort, reported that negotiations are continuing on this project and the concept is "very much moving along."

Lynda Hoskinds, a member of Latonia Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky, gave testimony about her experiences as a Baptist student at the Lexington seminary, which is a Disciples of Christ school.

Also during the spring meeting, the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship:

■ Voted to proceed with plans to help build a Baptist camp in Puerto Rico, pending confirmation of the invitation from the Baptist Association

of Puerto Rico.

■ Heard a financial report indicating that the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship had receipts of \$33,770 in the past year, with the bulk coming from member churches. The majority of that money was spent on salaries and expenses related to two part-time staff members. About \$2,800 has been designated for theological education, about \$1,100 was used for mission and church support and about \$900 was given to the Baptist Joint Committee.

■ Elected new officers, including Moderator Jo Garnett of Danville, Moderator-elect Bob DeFoor of Harrodsburg, Secretary Lowell Abney of Louisville, Treasurer Jerry Dooley of Louisville and Immediate Past Moderator Greg Brooks of Frankfort.

■ Nominated two laypeople for positions on the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's coordinating council: John Barnett of Bagdad and Suzy Thurman of Lexington.

■ Elected six new members to the 24-member coordinating council of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship: Colleen Burroughs of Louisville, Vicki Hollon of Louisville, Mona Huff of Pleasureville, Marian Webb of Crestwood, Nancy Cooper of Hazard and Terri Springer of Fort Thomas.

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MARK WINGFIELD
Interim Editor

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

C.R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

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

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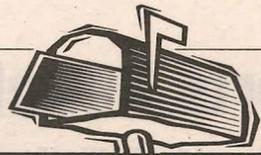
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BAPTIST FORUM

Bus was hijacked

Recently a trustee at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary compared the present direction of the seminary to a bus that is going "somewhere in specific" (April 24, page 6). I take offense to his comments that before the current change, those on this bus were going "nowhere in particular" or "anywhere in general."

I was a student at Southern for 11 years, earning three degrees. I was also raised in a church where Southern graduates and students served as ministers. To say we were going "nowhere in particular" or "anywhere in general" is an insult.

Southern did an excellent job in equipping me, as well as countless other graduates, to serve in the local church. At Southern, I was taught by capable faculty who handled the word of God with utmost integrity. Roy Honeycutt provided exceptional leadership of the seminary during a time of less than perfect conditions in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The current seminary leadership would have many believe they have reinvented theological education. They have not. The reason many have left Southern is not because a so-called "direction" has been provided. Southern has always provided a direction for its students. Perhaps those who have left Southern did so because they felt their bus was hijacked.

*J. Dwayne Howell
Campbellsville*

On the road again

In the April 23 edition of the Western Recorder, a report was given on the Southern Seminary trustee meet-

When nothing comes forth

Writing a column, when one thinks about it, is nothing more than stringing a bunch of words together which, when strung, should have some meaning and purpose.

But what does a writer with a deadline do when the words won't "string"; when you punch the "write" button and nothing comes out?

One alternative is to use some other writer's "stuff," giving credit, of course. I've done that. I suspect many a preacher has arisen early on Sunday morning sweating "great drops," not knowing what to preach. I've had that experience too. One of my "unfavorite" and occasional dreams has me undressed, unshaven, and uncertain what to preach, with the congregation waiting.

In recent months I have felt that more and more of our pastors are running almost "on empty," with only a few fumes left. Some haven't had a break in a long time, and the breaks they do get are too brief to make a sig-

ing April 15-16. Woody Cumbie shared about enrollment figures. He did so by telling "the parable of the bus."

I suppose I was on the bus going "nowhere in particular" or "anywhere in general" since I graduated while Roy Honeycutt was still president. If what Cumbie is saying is true, there are ministers serving in every corner of the nation who went through seminary going "nowhere in particular." It would also mean that there are missionaries all over the world who got their training by going "anywhere in general."

It takes a lot of gall to tell people who have been called of God that they had no direction or vision during their education process. How far back does this initial "bus" take us? Must I remind you that Al Mohler is a Southern graduate as well?

*Timothy B. Galyon
Ashland*

Seek a third way

I want to respond to the article titled "Summit Rallies Religious Left for Action, Soul-Searching" (April 23, page 9). The assumption of the article seems to be that committed Christians have only two options for participation in the "public square," the Religious Left or the Religious Right.

Tom Sine, in his recent book "Cease Fire," challenges this assumption and shows how a biblical critique of American church life and American political life can offer a third way.

According to Sine, evangelical Christians need to reassess their endorsement of polarizing political ideologies, to forsake the Enlightenment secularism which dominates American society, and to renew their commitment to biblical priorities and ways of doing church. He offers examples of how Christian groups both within our country and in other countries are attempting to do this. While one may not agree with all of his anal-

ysis or his prescription, one cannot but yearn for an open hearing of his call to radical discipleship.

I appreciate the Western Recorder's coverage of Sine's lecture in Nashville March 11-12. I believe this perspective would help us as Baptists recover a vital part of our heritage.

*Joe M. Thomas
Owensboro*

Who's the enemy?

It has been said that the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship is being defined by others, not by members of the organization. This is essentially true.

The leadership of CBF has been stung by the indefensible unChristian behavior of some individuals in the Southern Baptist Convention who are sympathetic with the so-called Religious Right. CBF leadership has reacted by bending over backward to avoid any public statement that could be construed as support for any program of the Religious Right.

Contemporary society seems willing to accept unrestricted abortion, pervasive sex and violence on TV and the movies, misguided sex education in the public schools and a general disregard for family values.

These attitudes are identified and challenged by the Religious Right. Many of the self-described moderates have often been more united in their efforts to attack the Religious Right than in their own efforts to address the critical social problems of our time.

As Christians, we believe Christ has the ultimate answers for the world's problems. It is not yet clear as to which of his followers is more effective in helping his Kingdom to prevail in the lives of all our people.

We all need to do a better job of identifying the real enemies of society and concentrating our efforts on attacking them instead of fighting each other.

*John Barnett
Bagdad*

gregation assigns this responsibility, that minister-family is the more likely to be appreciated and nurtured. Ministers, like other human beings, need to be shown love. When one is loved, love is usually reciprocated, not out of duty, but out of genuine affection.

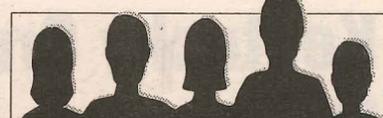
I am grateful that our church is providing an extended study-leave to our pastor-family and took an offering to help make the journey and time away more pleasant. I have no doubt they will return refreshed and re-energized.

Understandably, ministers are reluctant to ask such things for themselves. It often falls to an especially sensitive member of the congregation who is willing to pursue it with responsible individuals.

In my opinion, in today's highly stressful ministry, one of the most generous and helpful contributions a congregation can give its minister is time away for physical, mental and spiritual re-energizing.

Such a provision could help make the church-minister "honeymoon" last a lot longer.

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



FAMILY FORUM

Let children just be children

By Jewell Nelson

Q. What do you think of a child piloting an airplane? (This question came before the tragic death of Jessica Dubroff.)

A. My question is: Why can't we let children be children? Every child deserves a time to play, imagine, enjoy, love and to make sense of her world as it applies to her age and growing needs.

Today's society pushes children to take on responsibilities beyond their maturity. It exposes them to grown-up TV, movies, language, abuse and violence before they have time to assimilate being a child.

Preschoolers are pushed into academics before they have learned to listen and follow directions. Or before eye-hand coordination has developed. Educators and psychologists teach that many 4- and 5-year-olds' eyes and small finger muscles are in developing stages inconsistent with each other. The child who cannot accomplish the tasks as assigned may be termed "slow" or a "behavioral" problem. Each child develops at his or her own pace, and to push beyond readiness can create rebellious behavior and feelings of failure.

Some parents schedule children from dawn until dusk. Even toddlers are in early academics, aerobics, instrumental music, modeling, and the list goes on. Today's child needs a day planner: practice the piano, go to school, do homework, soccer practice, ballet, church, choir.

Dr. Dixie Crase believes: "Children deserve time to initiate their own plans and ideas. If rushed through these years, they may continue to rely on adult supervision and fail to develop a healthy sense of autonomy and self-governing."

Parental competition is the common denominator of "super kid" parenting styles, according to Dr. David Elkind. Case in point may be Jessica's parents.

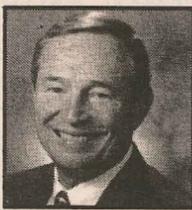
Children who are hurried into activities that are not age-appropriate often burn out, rebel, develop illnesses (even ulcers). Many are entering therapy.

The therapy popular now for hurried children is called play. Play therapy teaches hurried children to do fun things they missed in childhood. Go figure!

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

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

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

nificant difference.

Statistics about ministers' health ought to be telling our congregations something. No, pastors are not the only stressed vocation, but aside from close-up political figures, what other profession must work with such close scrutiny and personal criticism? The occasional "superman" comes along and "leaps tall buildings"—for awhile. But sooner or later "superman" either moderates lifestyle or burns out; the family, too, perhaps.

Granted, God did not promise that a calling to ministry would be in the most comfortable of circumstances. New Testament "servant" ministry will result in personal discomfort and inconvenience, stress, and sometimes humiliation. It goes with the job.

This is all the more reason why congregations should make special efforts to evaluate and strengthen the well-being of their minister-family. When there is someone, be it committee or deacon body, to whom the con-

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Why do children ask so many tough questions of parents?

HESAIID



Mark Wingfield

We've got a bumper crop of questions at our house this spring. Three-year-olds spit out questions faster than the grass grows in May.

Some of these questions are just plain silly, but others are profound and even theological. Of course, mom and dad take different approaches to answering these often unanswerable questions.

Here's a sample of recent conversations at our house:

Luke: Why did God make girls in the world?

Dad: Good question. Ask your mother.

Mom: Because girls are special, just like boys. (I wanted to say superior, but I didn't want to cause any long-term inferiority complexes.)

Garrett: Why does the world spin around?

Dad: Because God made it that way.

Garrett: But why?

Mom: Because.

Garrett: But why?

Dad: Because.

Garrett: But why?

Mom: Because, because, because. Just because!

Luke: How old is God?

Dad: God has always been, so we can't talk about how old God is.

Luke: But how old is God?

Mom: God doesn't have an age.

Luke: When is God's birthday?

Mom: God doesn't have a birthday.

Luke: Why?

SHESAIID



Alison Wingfield

Mom: Because God has always been here.

Luke: How old is Jesus?

Mom: Well ...

Luke: Was Jesus a baby when he was born?

Dad: Jesus was born as a baby when he came to live on earth, but he was alive before that.

Luke: (blank stare)

Mom: It's something you'll understand when you're older.

Luke: How old?

Dad: Hey, Luke, look outside at the squirrel on the tree. Hurry, look now! (Never discount the effectiveness of the theological distraction technique.)

Garrett: Why is Daddy losing his hair?

Mom: Because he's getting old.

Garrett: Will I lose my hair when I grow up?

Mom: Maybe not.

Dad (muttering under my breath): Huh! Just look at your Granddaddy Lacy's head! (Try explaining genetics to a 3-year-old.)

Luke: Why don't cinnamon rolls roll?

Mom: Good question. Ask your dad.

Dad: Because they're to eat.

Luke: Do they roll down to my tummy?

Dad: I guess so.

Garrett: Does everybody in the world love Jesus?

Mom: It's sad, but no, they don't.

Garrett: Why?

Dad: Because they don't know what's best.

Garrett: I love Jesus.

Mom: That's really good. I hope you always will.

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

Mother's Day isn't a happy time for all

Because this Sunday is Mother's Day, hundreds of women across our state will stay away from church.

This is a group of women you don't hear much about, but who may be among the most faithful attenders of your church any other week of the year. They are silent sufferers. They are women for whom all the hoopla of Mother's Day is simply too painful to face, especially at church.

Who are the members of this unusual group?

A large segment is women who desperately want to become mothers but who haven't been able either to get pregnant or carry a pregnancy. These are women who are struggling with their husbands to understand the trauma of infertility or the pain of miscarriage.

Few of life's heartaches are as overlooked by the church as infertility and miscarriage. Even the most caring church members somehow are struck deaf and dumb when placed in conversation with a wife and husband struggling through these issues. Often, it seems compassionate help is nowhere to be found.

Another segment of the stay-at-home population on Mother's Day is women and men whose own moth-

ers are either dying or recently have died. It's hard to sit through a sermon on the virtues of motherhood while still struggling to understand the loss of your own mother.

Yet another group likely to steer clear of Mother's Day celebrations is adult women who, for whatever reason, have decided not to have children. Intentionally or not, the church still fosters a mindset that couples without children—and women who haven't married and produced children—are somehow suspect.

Does this mean Mother's Day observances should be expelled from all churches? Absolutely not. The church remains an outstanding place to honor the importance of motherhood and to call women to be godly mothers.

What it does mean is that churches and Christians shouldn't mindlessly paint Mother's Day with a single broad brush. Seek ways to reach out to those who grieve, those who are questioning God and those who may feel ostracized because their families don't match the statistical norm.

—Mark Wingfield

EDITORIAL



On homosexuality

The debate concerning homosexuality still goes on and on and on ad infinitum. A recent letter writer contends "science has not found conclusive evidence that homosexuality is genetic." Neither, I would point out, has science or anyone else proven conclusively that it is not genetic, or why it occurs.

This same writer goes on to list eight scriptural references; one of these goes all the way back to Genesis, proving that homosexuality is a human condition that has been, is and will be here forever, like it or not. One may agree that all of these Scriptures are God-inspired and therefore infallible.

Someone else (being me) could contend that those references are the products of the writer's culture, upbringing and own rather bigoted opinions. The author of five of the given references is Paul, who showed his own prejudices most glaringly in Ti-

tus 1:12-13, concerning the Cretans and in 1 Corinthians 14:34-35, concerning women.

I would pose this question to those passing judgment on homosexuals: If it is indeed such a dark, mortal sin, then why did Jesus himself never even mention it, let alone condemn it in his teachings?

To the aforementioned writer and those of their ilk, I would give not the words of Paul, a man, but of Christ himself: Matthew 7:1-5.

Jon Berger
Dry Ridge

Corporate values

I just returned from a week's stay in Kansas City. One of the highlights of the visit was taking the self-guided tour at the Hallmark Visitors Center.

The heartwarming story of how the Hall family started a business was impressive. Even more impressive was the Hall brothers' commitment to their employees and the community.

We live at a time when corporate and individual greed has never been higher. What matters most in our "survival of the fittest" society is the bottom line. Corporations merge, downsize and sometimes even move to another city where they can get a better deal. The top priority is excessive profits, not people.

Hardly anyone—preachers, politi-

cians, pundits—addresses America's most serious problem, greed.

During the '30s depression, there were no layoffs at Hall Brothers. Employees enjoyed pension, life insurance, medical aid and vacation pay benefits. It is rare today, but corporate family values are still alive and well at Hallmark.

On a wall in the "social opportunity" section of the Hallmark exhibit are the following words written by Donald Hall, son of Hallmark founder Joyce Hall: "I believe we must think in terms of a higher standard: doing those things that go beyond what is expected and using our corporate resources to benefit society. We have the opportunity to apply our corporate and personal talents to make a significant difference in our communities. What we are talking about is 'social opportunity'—the opportunity to bring the skills of business and business people to bear on public problems."

Nothing exemplifies the Kansas City spirit more than Hallmark. It is a spirit of caring that needs to spread throughout our land. Reciprocal employer-employee affection and respect enhances production, strengthens families and solves problems.

Kudos to Hallmark and Kansas City for setting such a good example.

Paul Whiteley Sr.
Louisville

Looking our best

In the past it was easy. Dressing for church meant three-piece suits for guys and dresses, hats and gloves for women. Today it's not so simple. While women wear slacks—even jeans—comfortably to one church, other congregations might consider the same clothing sinful. And heaven forbid if men don't dress as well for church as they do for the office.

But does church attire really make much difference? One pastor said that

clothing is one of the major reasons people don't attend church. "In the minds of most people, dress is a big deal. There's always the myth that we need to look good for God. People say, 'I don't have nice clothes, so I can't go to church.'"

But the standards have been relaxing. Though older folks love donning their Sunday best, baby boomers and busters prefer casual dress. This trend is successfully marketed by some churches.

"We're a family, not a business," another pastor says. "Therefore we

wear to church meetings whatever we would normally wear to a large family gathering. In our society, we seldom dress in suits and ties for these occasions."

I thought of a certain young person in our church who got saved approximately a year ago. When the invitation time began, he made his way down the aisle—complete with shorts, a tie, sandals and a tear in his eye. I loved it because I knew that God saw the tears in his eyes, and that is what was most important.

Roy McNeil, youth minister
Harlan Baptist Church
Harlan

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

Perspectives on a minister's forced termination & healing

Editor's note: The two articles below were written by a Kentucky Baptist pastor and his wife who recently attended a three-day retreat for ministers who have been forced to leave their positions. The retreat, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's minister/church support division, is one of many ministries funded by Cooperative Program contributions. The names of this couple have been withheld to keep from inflicting additional pain on them and on the church they once served. For more information about help for ministers who have been terminated involuntarily, contact Guy Futral at (502) 245-4101.

■ **The pastor's view.** The tragic event of a staff member's involuntary termination often happens with political twists and turns unique to the situation.

While a church "calls" a staff member, oftentimes a small group assumes a role that is neither biblical, ethical or legal and "fires" the staff member. Their actions are often covert and the church may not know anything until the "resignation" becomes public.

The church may become compliant by silence and inaction toward the small group or may try to address the matter. However, once the die is cast to remove a staff member, it's a no-win situation. The staff member who is ruthlessly dismissed and the family suffer almost unbearable pain and humiliation. The question arises, "Where do I turn?"

Recently my wife and I were pulled into fellowship with others who have had similar tragedies imposed upon them. Under the compassionate leadership of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's minister/church support division, we received loving and caring affirmation, sharing and discussion that shed some powerful rays of spiritual light into this very dark side of the ministry.

Our unexpected and somewhat brutal blow had knocked the spiritual breath out of us, but these three days became a spiritual resuscitation as we move through this "valley of the shadow."

Staff member, if you have been prematurely forced out of your ministry position, please contact the minister/church support division for a compassionate reminder of what God's people are to be like.

KBC, thank you for providing this wonderful ministry to "God's wounded."

■ **The pastor's wife's view.** From the perspective of a wife of a terminated minister, there is no greater tragedy than to have the family's lives shredded in a heartbeat by "spiritual leaders."

Self-worth is punctured. The place of worship and sense of belonging are gone. The intense range of emotions—humiliation, anger, hurt, bewilderment, sadness and fear—are overwhelming.

Questions arise: How can we go on in the face of such devastating rejection? How could those who "loved" us be so cruel? How much time have they spent praying for us? Where is the integrity and character Christians should demonstrate? How can we help our children deal with the disillusionment and disappointment in Christian leaders? Why has the staff, whom we've stood by and affirmed, chosen to ignore and abandon us? How can those involved smile and say they love us and are praying for us, without any feelings of remorse for the pain they've inflicted? Will we ever get to the place where we can forgive them even though they have offered no apologies? Will another church be able to lay aside this cloud of doubt placed over us and desire our ministry? Will we be able to trust again? How will we survive financially? Where is God in all of this?

While caught in the throes of depression, endless tears and sadness, I found compassionate love and affirmation at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's involuntary termination conference.

Thank you, KBC, for providing a healing time in which to share with others who understand this bitter pill.

Is ministry really worth the sacrifice?

By Clark Cothorn

I trudged to the mailbox after a draining counseling session.

I hoped to find a letter from the search committee of a big church. Or a large care package with giant homemade cookies and cherry notes from grateful church members. Or a check made out to me with an attached note: "Dear Pastor, consider this \$1,000 a small token of our love for you ..."

No such luck.

The mailbox contained two medical bills from my wife's surgery, a phone bill and the quarterly car insurance premium. Seeing the medical bills made my head throb. The church treasurer recently had bounced a check to the insurance company; we weren't sure if my wife's surgery was covered. The pile felt heavy as I dumped it on the kitchen counter.

In 17 years of marriage and ministry, my wife, Joy, and I have had our share of "bad mail days." Each one raises the "I wonder" questions about God's provision for us.

■ **I wonder if God will provide for my needs.**

When stress piles up as high as my stack of bills, I start wondering if we'll ever dig out. Our needs seem immediate, our wants seem unreachable. It's easy to think, Why don't I get out of this mess and get a real job?

But those words sound similar to those spoken by Satan to Jesus in the desert: "Use those natural abilities to turn stones into bread. Why not cash in on your special abilities?"

Similar thoughts tempted me when I was a church planter, with our third child on the way. Two weeks before my wife's due date, we gave God a tenth of our meager income (not too cheerfully, I recall). We drove home from church wondering what our child-to-be would wear to the church's grand-opening service. We had given most of our baby clothes to an expectant mother in our former church.

The next day a UPS truck pulled up in front of our house and dropped off a huge box.

"What is it?" we muttered, tearing it open. The return address was from South Carolina. We didn't know anyone in South Carolina.

Inside the box, atop a stack of beautifully wrapped packages, we found a note, rubberbanded to a dozen snapshots: "We asked your mission board for a missionary family to help. They gave us your name and address. Here are the pictures from the baby shower we held for you. We hope you have as much fun opening them as we had wrapping them." Six smiling strangers had signed the card.

Joy and I sat on the floor amid wrapping paper and ribbons, blubbering like babies as we opened box after box of new baby clothes and items.

That year, we developed a relationship with the UPS driver. Box after box arrived with unexpected gifts for babies, birthdays and Christmas.

One day the UPS man asked, "Where does all this stuff come from?"

We answered with a question of our own: "Do you believe God provides?"

Now, when the bills pile up and the "I wonder" questions form, we rehearse the many miraculous provision stories from the past, which we've listed. The list includes the sacks of groceries that mysteriously appeared in the back seat of our car and the church's help in paying a hospital bill for our daughter's broken arm.

These markers on the ministry highway remind us that God has never left us stranded.

■ **I wonder if I'm worth more.**

One Christmas, we visited my wife's brother and his family. He's a pastor, too; we enjoy each other's company. After a relaxing visit, we drove home—a four-hour drive. For the first two hours, I mentally compared myself with my brother-in-law.

His family lives in a nice parsonage; mine rents a small Cape Cod. He preaches to 200 each week; I preach to 90. He can afford a family sedan and a van; we're a one-car family (and in good weather months I pedal a 10-speed to run errands).

I began to feel worthless and wondered if I would be worth more elsewhere, in a larger ministry.

God often breaks into my life immediately after such downward spirals. One time a church member phoned me to meet him at the hospital. He had crashed a borrowed car into the back of a flatbed trailer. When I arrived, his 4-year-old daughter, Becky, lay on the emergency room table.

"I looked down to answer Becky's question," he said, holding a cloth to his bloody forehead, "and when I looked up everything had exploded."

His daughter was thrown out of the seatbelt over the top of the airbag and was wedged between the windshield and the airbag. He told me how he yanked her free and carried her to the car behind them, begging total strangers to drive them to the hospital.

In such moments, when all I can do is nod and listen, the "I wonder if I'm worth more" question fades quickly. I hurt with the little girl whose jaw is broken. I wince with the father who cries because he knows it's his fault; he didn't see the truck's blinker. I hug him and his wife when they learn their daughter has no brain damage.

Suddenly, I feel a renewed sense of worth because of what Christ has called me to do. My presence is important to this family. I have been used by God to accomplish his purposes. There is no monetary value to that.

■ **I wonder if I'm really helping anyone.**

Blood rushed to my temples as I answered the phone. My eyes cleared enough to see the clock: 2:30 a.m. I put on my best pastoral voice and tried to sound wide awake, as if I were waiting for the phone to ring. It was the wife of the man who, just weeks earlier, had stood on my doorstep and threatened to kill her.

Great, I thought, they're at it again.

I tried to listen. The wife, who struggled emotionally, babbled on about a house that was about to blow up and an apocalyptic dream. Then she told me the sheriff's deputy had just showed up.

"Could I speak with him?" I asked.

I explained to him what I thought she needed.

"Can you convince her," the deputy asked, "to go to the hospital on her own?"

I handed the phone to Joy. After five unsuccessful minutes, my wife shrugged and handed back the phone. The peace officer finally called an ambulance and then coaxed the woman into it.

At 5:30 a.m., I got a call from her husband. He wanted to say thanks and let me know he had checked her in at the stress center and that she was taking her medication. I told him I was glad he called (though I really wished he would have waited until noon).

This word of thanks was from the same man who, weeks earlier, had given me a dozen reasons why he planned to attend another church. The next week he asked me to steer him and his wife through their latest crisis. In a matter of days, he went from disgruntled church member to desperate disciple. My wife calls people like these our "high-maintenance" friends.

It doesn't take many episodes like this to make me wonder if I really am doing anyone any good. Chronic problems make me feel incompetent. I want to see progress. I think, Face it: Some people will never get better. I've sat in my study, like Elijah in the cave, and asked God to move me to another church.

Once, about the time I was ready to update my resume, I received a letter from a high-maintenance friend. He wrote that he had been sober for 44 months and was working on his college degree. He admitted that his problems were caused by his attempts at managing his affairs and that before, he had not surrendered to God. He went on: "I've become a 'wounded healer' for others in need of God's grace." He thanked me profusely for the times I agonized over his problem. "I'm praying for you and your family," he wrote.

Such letters are like cold water splashed on a wound; they sting but refresh. I feel the sting when I recall my disgust with him. But I feel rejuvenated knowing how much I cared for him. I thought the Lord could do great things with him if he submitted to his authority. I really wanted God's best for him.

If Jesus had used my measuring methods, he might have given up on most of his hardheaded disciples and high-maintenance followers. After such letters I quit wondering if I'm doing anyone any good. I realize I can't do anyone any good. But Christ living within me can.

Clark Cothorn is a Southern Baptist pastor who has been a Home Mission Board church starter in Arizona and currently is pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Adrian, Mich.

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

Author studies 'triumphant' marriages

Continued from page 1
 el of satisfaction"—a level he calls "triumphant."

In fact, Warren promises that if a couple will work at the 10 secrets, their marriage "can become 10 percent better this next year, and every year thereafter."

Warren's 10 secrets are:

■ **Dream a dream.** A well-formed, regularly-updated vision for the marriage should be based on "a deep sensitivity" to each partner's needs as well as to their joint needs. Such a focused dream will help a couple take conscious responsibility for the course their life together will take.

■ **Get tough.** Marriage partners should actively work to keep their commitment to each other current, Warren says. He suggests repeating marriage vows at least two to three times a week for the first 10 years of marriage and at least once a week for the rest of marriage in order to maintain "a steady focus on the promises that form the steel framework of the marriage."

■ **Maximize the trust factor.** "The absence of truth is as corrosive to a marriage as cancer is to the cells of our bodies," Warren maintains.

Therefore, "talk the truth, behave the truth, and be the truth."

■ **Get healthy.** Warren believes couples often expect marriage to be a cure for their individual emotional problems such as low self-esteem and the inability to handle anger. However, each individual must take responsibility for his or her own emotional health, he says.

■ **Work on chemistry.** When a marriage involves "two people who experience strong chemistry, the relationship has fuel in its tank," Warren says. And if they are willing to work hard at it, the chemistry can be substantially improved, he says.

■ **Learn to talk.** Citing surveys to back him up, Warren says a marriage is "about as healthy as the level of communication that transpires within it."

■ **Work it through.** Mismanaged conflict can destroy a marriage, while "well-managed conflict is like a stairway that can lead you to higher and higher levels of marital greatness," Warren says.

■ **Negotiate a mutually satisfying**

sexual relationship. While lack of a good sexual relationship will seldom sink a marriage, Warren says he has never seen a "triumphant" marriage in which the sexual relationship was disappointing. The goal of sex, he says, is "to build intimacy with your spouse."

■ **Get connected.**

Warren says he has seldom seen a triumphant marriage in which children played no role. Children, he says, "represent both biologically and emotionally the fusion of our beings" which contributes "so significantly to the sacredness of marriage."

■ **Pursue spirituality.** Couples who can be spiritual together—"who worship, study, sing, pray, cry, laugh, and talk together—have a great chance of making something special.

Moving from the material into the spiritual realm "takes a marriage from the superficial to the profound ... from two distinct individuals who merge into 'one flesh,'" he says.

Marriages tuned into the spiritual "tend to hold together and become richer over time," he says.

Secrets of Successful Couples

Emotional cripplers of marriage

Marital satisfaction is seriously compromised when one or both partners have unresolved emotional issues, says Christian psychologist Neil Clark Warren, founder of Associated Psychological Services in Pasadena, Calif.

Warren, author of the new book "The Triumphant Marriage," lists five emotional cripplers of marriage:

■ **Emotional emptiness.** Internal emptiness leads to escapes such as alcohol, drugs, gambling and pornography which "often cause long-term physical or emotional damage to individuals and relationships." Complications from such addictive behaviors "usually sink a marriage."

■ **Low self-esteem.** "We tend to love others to about the same degree that we love ourselves. Therefore, when one marital partner doesn't feel positively about himself, the marriage suffers."

■ **Fear of emotions.** A spouse "who is the victim of an inadequately structured self-conception may well fear his or her own feelings." Consequently, he or she may repress emotions, resulting in frustration for the spouse.

■ **Character disorders.** "It is profoundly difficult to build a stable relationship with a person whose character is defective. He or she lies, cheats, cuts corners in every way, and shows disregard for the feelings of others."

■ **Anger mismanagement.** "More marriages break up because two people don't know how to handle their anger toward one another than because of any other reason."

Qualities of emotionally healthy people

Seventy-five percent of all divorces occur in marriages in which at least one partner is emotionally unhealthy, according to Neil Clark Warren, a Christian psychologist and founder of Associated Psychological Services in Pasadena, Calif.

So what constitutes emotional health in a marriage? In his new book, "The Triumphant Marriage," Warren offers seven consistent qualities of emotionally healthy

people:

■ **They aren't desperate to impress others.** "Healthy people don't buy into the idea that their worth as persons depends on what others think of them."

■ **They don't need to be perfect.** "Healthy people recognize how difficult life is and how often they fall short of their own ideals. And they recognize the same for other people."

■ **They are not hesitant about**

using professional psychological resources in a time of need.

"Healthy people are so secure and confident about their worth that they are totally nondefensive in their pursuit of help."

■ **They don't judge your worth on the basis of external factors.** "What they know is that you were created worthy of enormous respect, and that's the basis on which they relate to you."

■ **They overcome major**

problems with even greater solutions. "Healthy people turn tragedy into triumph time after time."

■ **They emphasize the spiritual dimension.** "Their spiritual understanding allows them to experience inner peace, even in the face of trials."

■ **They reinforce the health of others.** "They are free from the need to promote themselves, so they are able to focus on others."

Parental ambition, violence threaten kids, speakers say

Continued from page 1

on our children than the violence itself," Garland said. "We were afraid of what we didn't know. Children today are afraid of what they do know."

Television is a strong contributor to this problem of violence, warned Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

"We have less control over TV than any other form of media ... and except for working and sleeping, the average American spends more time watching TV than anything else," Land noted. "TV has become the substitute mom, dad and baby-sitter."

This could be termed electronic child abuse, he said.

"We can save our children's future

by stopping the endless flood of violence into our children's bedrooms and our family rooms," Land said. "Children can't protect themselves. We must do it."

Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund, said the religious community has neglected its duty to advocate for child welfare.

"The religious community has to be the moral locomotive, not the moral caboose, especially when it comes to our children," Edelman said. She called on the church to "stand up and keep our children safe."

"We have to stop separating our Sunday life from our professional and civic life," she said. "They all have to be put together."

Texas CLC drafts plan for Baptists to get families off welfare

DALLAS (BP)—The Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission endorsed a comprehensive proposal to enhance family life in Texas April 19.

Pledging to "boldly go where no state convention has gone before" in the area of family life, the Texas CLC approved a broad-based family ministry proposal that could help 5,000 families get off welfare and provide parenting mentors to 29,000 at-risk families for one month when their children are born.

Implementing the plan would re-

quire about \$200,000 in its first year, with the amount increasing each of the next four years. The proposal will be submitted to the Baptist General Convention of Texas administrative committee for consideration in planning the 1997 budget.

Key aspects of the proposed plan include:

■ **Encouraging each Texas Baptist church to adopt one family on welfare and help them become self-sufficient.**

■ **Providing infant care information and the offer of mentoring par-**

ents for one month to at least half of the at-risk parents in Texas by the year 2000.

■ **Creating a group of up to 100 certified family ministry trainers, who would receive extensive instruction in helping churches develop programs in marriage enrichment, premarital preparation, parenting education, family strengths and spirituality, interpersonal family relations, crisis intervention and support groups.**

■ **Enlisting and equipping a 1,000-member "Family Ministry Corps," in which members would commit at**

least 320 hours or 40 weeks a year to work in family enrichment programs at churches throughout Texas.

■ **Launching family training centers, which would coordinate research and maintain libraries of up-to-date information on family life, as well as provide training for church staff and others.**

■ **Providing premarital counseling for every couple married in a Texas Baptist church.**

■ **Using a media campaign on family life that would include a toll-free phone number to call for help.**

HOME



Tammie Baggett
Madisonville CC
California



Don Breeden
Murray State
Atlanta



Janet Brown
WKU
Missouri



Phillip Brunner
UL
Atlanta



Tracey Capps
Madisonville CC
Arkansas



Liz Crossfield
WKU
Arkansas



Aaron Dowdell
WKU
Massachusetts



Robbie Fletcher
Georgetown
Louisiana



Gary Godbey
Georgetown
Alabama



Jennifer Hale
EKU
Tennessee



Sabrina Haney
Lexington CC
Florida



Sharla Hanson
Cumberland
Alabama



Tiffany Harris
EKU
South Carolina



Johnny Hill
Cumberland
Alabama



Ammia Johnson
WKU
Louisiana



Jennifer Loveday
Cumberland
Atlanta



Angela Marshall
Murray State
Louisiana



Cynthia Mathis
Morehead State
Maryland



Deidra McIntosh
UK
Maryland



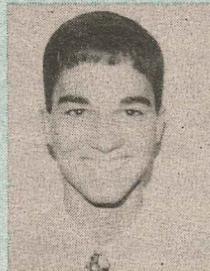
Wendy Mitchell
Cumberland
Colorado



Melissa Moxley
UL
Alabama



Candy Neighbors
EKU
New York



Bill Noe
UK
Florida



Alex Parrish
Campbellsville
Alabama



Joseph Plunk
UK
Louisiana



Donna Reed
Georgetown
Georgia



Michael Richard
Campbellsville
Atlanta



Christa Rollins
NKU
Kansas



Julie Runyon
EKU
Arizona



Julie Shahroudi
Georgetown
Atlanta



Ashley Snook
KSU
Arkansas



Stephanie Sutphin
Alice Lloyd
Florida



Mitch Theis
Alice Lloyd
Florida



Lucy Tuttle
Cumberland
Florida



Lee Ann Wheeldon
Somerset
Louisiana



Carol York
Cumberland
Atlanta



Chad Acklin
Georgetown
Son Celebration



Todd Boling
Campbellsville
SonBurst



Steve Hammonds
Murray State
Russell Co. Assn.



Jim Jasper
EKU
Son Celebration



Clarissa Morrison
WKU
SonBurst



Jessica Strim
EKU
SonShare

KENTUCKY

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | |
| Paige Alcott WKU SonBurst | Laurie Barr WKU Son Celebration | Deidra Benson NKU Enterprise Assn. | Angie Blackburn Morehead State Louisville | Betsy Blair NKU Son Bound |
| | | | | |
| David Buckner Morehead State SonShare | Brian Clifford Campbellsville Son Praise | Amy Darbyshire UL Son Praise | Jackie Davis UK Owensboro | Nate Degroff NKU SonShare |
| | | | | |
| Keli Handley UK SonShare | Tony Harmon NKU Owensboro | Jill Highfil Murray State Son Bound | Michael Houchens Georgetown Son Celebration | Rick Huff NKU Son Bound |
| | | | | |
| Virtie Johnson Morehead State Owensboro | Tracy Kramer Cumberland SonBurst | Adam Lucas NKU SonBurst | Crystal Meyer UL SonShare | Abigail Millsap Murray State Son Praise |
| | | | | |
| Tom Richter Murray State Son Praise | Brennen Searcy Campbellsville Son Celebration | Jennifer Shoemaker Campbellsville Owensboro | Jared Smith Georgetown Son Bound | Kaci Stewart NKU Son Celebration |
| | | | | |
| Jessica Strimple EKU SonShare | Cager Thompson UK Son Praise | Chris Tilsley Campbellsville Russell Co. Assn. | Felicia York EKU Son Celebration | Kristie Young WKU Son Bound |

FOREIGN

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| Carlee Ballard Cumberland Russia | Shelley Burdine Georgetown Russia |
| | |
| Brian Combs UK Russia | Paula Howard UK Russia |
| | |
| Todd Hughes Cumberland Niger Republic | Michelle Jacobs UK Russia |
| | |
| Matthew Norton Cumberland Russia | Valerie Owens Campbellsville Russia |
| | |
| Danita Roberts Georgetown Philippines | Carl Willoughby Campbellsville Russia |

Madalyn Murray O'Hair and two others missing

AUSTIN, Texas—America's leading atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, has vanished.

The New York Times reported April 21 that O'Hair and two other principals with American Atheists Inc. have not been seen nor heard from since Sept. 28, 1995.

Nevertheless, the organization's office in Austin, Texas, continues to operate and send out literature, the Times reported.

Missing are O'Hair, famous for her successful effort to remove state-sanctioned prayer from public schools in 1963; one of her sons, Jon Garth Murray; and her adopted granddaughter, Robin Murray-O'Hair.

"Until 4:35 p.m. on Sept. 28, I knew precisely where they were," the Times quoted office manager Orin Tyson as saying. However, Tyson declined to tell the Times where the three were when he last spoke with them or to speculate about what could have happened.

"This much is known," the Times article reported. "There is no evidence of foul play; no missing-persons report has been filed; the lawn of the west Austin home the three missing people shared is neatly cut; and, on March 27, someone with a savings account at a NatWest Bank in Broomont, N.J. bought a cashier's check to pay \$5,500 in overdue property taxes on the home."

The Times cites two "widely discussed" theories about the disappearances. One is that the trio fled the United States with a large sum of cash stashed in overseas bank accounts. The other is that O'Hair, a 77-year-old diabetic, has been taken out of public view to die, in keeping with her desire to prevent any Christians from praying over her corpse.

The Times article quotes David R. Travis, a former employee of American Atheists Inc., who says he once saw a statement from the New Zealand Guardian Trust Corp. indicating the three had access to about \$900,000 there. "And I don't believe that was the only account," Travis said.

Court won't review abortion law

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court refused April 29 to review lower court rulings that struck down parts of South Dakota's abortion law as unconstitutional.

Although three justices urged that the court hear the appeal from South Dakota, the votes of four of the court's nine members are needed to grant review.

At issue in the South Dakota case was the question of whether a state can ban abortions for unmarried girls under 18 who are dependent on one or both parents, unless a parent is notified. Other than South Dakota, all states with abortion laws requiring parental notification or parental consent before minors can undergo an abortion have a so-called "judicial bypass."

Such a bypass lets the minor get a judge's permission for the abortion rather than telling a parent. South Dakota's law did not provide for such a bypass.

The 1993 South Dakota law, challenged by Planned Parenthood and a Sioux Falls, S.D., abortion clinic, was struck down before it was ever enforced.

Graham tells Clinton veto was wrong

WASHINGTON (BP)—Evangelist Billy Graham has joined the list of religious leaders declaring opposition to President Clinton's veto of the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act.

Graham told Cal Thomas on the syndicated columnist's weekly television show of his disagreement with Clinton. According to the May 2 issue of the Washington Times, Thomas asked the evangelist what he thought of the legislation, which Clinton vetoed April 10.

"I think the president was wrong in vetoing it," Graham said. "I had the opportunity of telling him that in person."

The show was scheduled to be aired May 5.

Graham did not say when he voiced his disapproval to the president. A White House spokesman said the Grahams were honored with a tea May 1 at the White House but did not reveal if the veto was discussed at that time.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Resumes are being accepted for the position of Director/Teacher for the Shively Baptist Church Kindergarten. Individual should have Kentucky certification in early childhood education. Interested individuals should send resume to the attention of Pam Orr, pastor's secretary, Shively Baptist Church, 1599 Sadie Lane, Louisville, KY 40216, or call Pam Orr in the church office at (502) 367-9155 for more information. Deadline for accepting resumes is May 31, 1996.

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.

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 resume with cover letter addressing requirements ASAP to Joe Swain, chairman, Personnel Committee, 9124 Scott St., Springfield, VA 22153. Strictly confidential.

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/wk, \$100/wk. Contact Rev. Cindy Weber, (502) 585-3787, or send resume.

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

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 resume to: Pastor, Third Avenue Baptist Church, 1726 South Third St., Louisville, KY 40208.

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Thank you for your gifts to the 1996 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Although this year's Easter celebration has passed, the spirit of Easter continues. It is never too late to make a sacrificial gift to home missions and to share Christ's love with those around us.

Pray for the work of home missions. Become aware of what home missions is doing in the lives of people around you because . . . people count.

MUSIC

Steve Green's musical letter encourages the church

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

NASHVILLE—If Steve Green wrote the body of Christ a letter, the text would come from the lyrics from his latest album, called "The Letter."

"It covers the gamut, from issues of children and the responsibility of parents to nurture and train them, to marriage, revival and personal consecration," the contemporary Christian singer said recently during a break from his three-month concert tour, which comes to Paducah May 18.

"It also covers suffering for the cause of Christ and the fact that the gospel is not bound by governments—that God is doing a work all over the world, as he pleases. So I would encourage them to look toward heaven."

"The Letter," Green's 19th album in 13 years, has remained in the nation's top 10 since its release earlier this year. It already has spawned a No.

1 single, "Love One Another," and will soon release a second, "I Will Call on You."

Fans who attend upcoming concerts in Paducah and Indianapolis can expect to hear seven or eight album tunes among the 16 to 20 he performs during an evening.

The audience also will eavesdrop on a live conversation with Marijean, his wife of nearly 18 years, over a speaker phone. That is one of the homespun touches that characterize Green's productions, which include such features as:

- Backing by a children's choir for one song and a 15-20 member ensemble for three others. The local groups are assembled by the sponsoring church or organization.

- An invitation to young children to join him on stage for a few songs.

- Videotaping candid shots of the kids and projecting them later during another song.

It sounds like fun, but what Green does is not primarily entertainment, he said. Although audiences laugh and enjoy the evening, he addresses spiritual issues and helps people take time to think about what God is saying.

Like a good Baptist, Green shares his personal experience with Jesus



Christ and gives an invitation for anyone who wants to become a Christian to meet him during intermission. Although he prays with one or two people to receive Christ at most shows, Green sees a major part of his ministry as preparing the way for God's work in the world.

"It seems what God is doing through us is planting seeds of revival," he said. "He's using the events to deposit things in people's hearts, words from the Lord and truths, that may take root later."

Green has been traveling for more than two decades, the first nine years

as a member of the groups Truth, the Gaither Vocal Band and White Heart.

During their first 10 years together, he and Marijean took Summer, who turns 15 this month, and 10-year-old Josiah on the road while home schooling them.

Now that Marijean and the children are staying at home in Nashville, Green's least favorite part of his job is hitting the road. Yet he never tires of the audience interaction.

"I still find fulfillment and joy in what God called me to do; otherwise I couldn't do it for so long," he explained. "I look forward to each event. I get tired of traveling, but I never get weary of concerts."

Part of the value of concerts is drawing together diverse parts of the body of Christ, he said. That is why he avoids scheduling many on church nights, so members of various congregations can come together—and invite neighbors and friends.

Raised in Argentina as the son of missionaries, Green also draws inspiration from Hebrews 10:24 to form a message of exhortation.

"I believe God has called me to encourage the body of Christ to carry on with the Lord," he said, "to remember when they have left their first love and return to it."

Steve Green concerts

■ **Paducah:** Saturday, May 18, at First Baptist Church, 2890 Broadway; 7:30 p.m.; advance tickets only available for \$8 at First Baptist, Olive Branch Christian Book Store and Christian Supply. Information: (502) 442-2728.

■ **Indianapolis:** Saturday, June 8, at Indiana Convention Center, 2:30 p.m.; advance tickets only available for \$7 for adults, \$3 for children under 12. Part of Wesleyan World Missions Conference. Write to Susan LeBaron, P.O. Box 50434, Indianapolis, Ind. 46250. Include self-addressed, stamped envelope, and make checks payable to Wesleyan World Missions.

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PEOPLE

Kentucky missionaries spared while fleeing Liberia

As the Parks turned to close the back gate, they saw one of the generals of a rebel faction break in the front gate of the compound and demand the keys to their cars.

Continued from page 1

through the window in the gate of the concrete wall which surrounds the compound, we could see armed men in cars with doors off moving up and down our street," Mrs. Park said.

On Sunday, the missionaries and Liberians seeking refuge remained inside the compound.

Every day thereafter, the situation got worse, Mrs. Park said. "We could hear more gunfire, see smoke rising from more fires that had been set and hear more mortars."

By Wednesday, the missionaries knew they had to make a decision about whether to evacuate. "Some were ready to leave, some were not," Mrs. Parks said.

Because the mission compound is located on an incline at the top of a hill, they knew a helicopter could not land to pick them up.

At 9 p.m. Wednesday night, a group of armed men arrived in a van at the missionary compound. Backed by a large crowd, they tried to break through an iron gate and move past a guard. They failed when another group arrived, dispersed the crowd and took the armed men with them.

Thursday morning, the missionaries met again to reassess the situation. They learned that officials at the

American Embassy planned to get them out that afternoon or the next morning. They were told to expect evacuation to come Friday morning.

But a few minutes later, embassy officials called to say embassy vehicles were "four miles out and on the way," Mrs. Park said. The missionaries were told to get in their vehicles, form a convoy and wait at the foot of the hill inside the gates of the compound for immediate evacuation.

"We waited for an hour, and they didn't come," she recalled.

Then another call came by two-way radio telling them to abandon their cars, give all the keys to missionaries Ed and Fran Laughridge, who had decided to stay in Monrovia, and move quickly to the back gate.

Three embassy vehicles—including two bullet proof vans—pulled up and the missionaries quickly boarded.

As the Parks turned to close the back gate, they saw one of the generals of a rebel faction break in the front gate of the compound and demand the keys to their cars.

That incident, combined with information gleaned after the fact, leads the Parks and other missionaries to believe officials with the U.S. Embassy brokered a deal to rescue the missionaries by giving up their highly-

prized vehicles to rebel forces.

That assumption can neither be confirmed nor denied by anyone else yet, due to the nature of the situation.

Once inside the embassy vehicles, a high-speed drive carried the missionaries through the war-torn streets of Monrovia, past people taking potshots at each other while standing atop vehicles. And along the way, the convoy picked up other Americans.

At first the group planned to spend the night at the Sudan Interior Missions Compound four miles from their mission compound. But when they arrived there, they learned that across the street at another mission, four people had been killed and several women raped.

So the convoy picked up workers from the compound and moved on to the free zone maintained by a West African peacekeeping force.

By this point, the convoy numbered more than 120 people.

The missionaries spent a long, hot, rainy night with no food or water and

limited shelter. By that time, the Laughridges had decided to evacuate also and had come to the free zone.

Friday afternoon, about 30 hours after they had left the mission compound, three helicopters arrived to take them on the two-hour flight to Sierra Leone. From there, the missionaries were airlifted to Senegal. A few days later, they made their way to the States.

In spite of the fact that Liberians are "a beautiful, good, peace-loving people," and are "not fighters," Mrs. Park believes she will not see peace there in her lifetime.

Her husband agrees. "Too many people are hungry for power," he explained.

Although the Paducah natives have not ruled out a Foreign Mission Board request to return to Liberia to do relief work, they both say they are tired and drained.

"My heart is in Liberia," Park said. "But I'm 62 years old. I'm not sure I can go through war again."

Associate Pastor for Adults

Dynamic, innovative, outreach-oriented minister sought to revitalize our Christian education program, including Sunday School and Discipleship Training. The successful candidate will be a man or woman who has an MCE (or equivalent) and proven experience with a growing Sunday School. A "second hat" might include singles, evangelism, visitation or family life. Thalia Lynn Church of Virginia Beach, Va., is a strong, moderate church of 1,600 resident members and has virtually unlimited growth potential. Our current staff includes three associate ministers in music, youth and children. Send your résumé to: Dr. Mark J. Olson, pastor, Thalia Lynn Baptist Church, 4392 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462.

Helping children grow spiritually

Over the past four years our ministry has grown more than any of us on the staff of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children ever dreamed it would. We have sought to meet needs and God has provided us with the direction and led us to the resources to be able to help more children and families than at any other time in our history.

As we have grown we have continued to emphasize quality in our total ministry. Achieving accreditation, centralizing our intake services, and developing a more efficient management system have all been geared toward helping us maintain quality.

We recently made another important move that will help us also maintain high quality in the areas of spiritual growth and development of our staff and children. Last year we had a record number of our children make spiritual decisions (92) and we wanted to make sure that we continued to emphasize quality in our spiritual development programs.

To do this, we recently moved Dr. Mike Dixon, who had been the director of our Spring Meadows campus, into a new position we are

calling "director of religious life." In his new role, Mike is helping us more fully coordinate the spiritual life programs of our various facilities to ensure that all of the children in our care have high quality spiritual growth opportunities whether they are at one of our large campuses like Glen Dale or in a small shelter or foster home.

We're excited about Mike's position because he and the chaplaincy staff he is developing will also be ministering in new ways to our child care and administrative staffs, foster parents, and counselors. This is important to us because we believe that the spiritual health of our children is directly related to the spiritual health of

those who work with them. Please pray for Mike and the rest of KBHC's staff when you pray for our children every day. Pray especially for the spiritual growth of our staff and for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of everyone to whom we minister.

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

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FINANCIAL FORUM

Needed: Integrity in church finances

By Don Spencer

At some point, most churches must deal with sticky questions regarding the handling of church finances.

A fatal mistake of many church leaders is to assume that they and those around them are above any temptations to mishandle church funds. How often has someone in the church said, "It could never happen here. All those precautions are just not worth the effort."

The only way to protect oneself and others is not to provide the opportunity in the first place. Given this reality, we have little choice but to take steps to ensure financial integrity in the church.

Richard Bergstrom, in the book "Mastering Church Finances," offers several "tough questions" a church should ask to evaluate its financial savvy:

■ Do you count and record offerings immediately after received?

■ Are offerings always stored in a secure or well-supervised area?

■ Do you count cash and check twice for accuracy?

■ Do you place offerings in lockbags after counting?

■ Do you place the lockbags in a safe or night depository until the bank opens?

■ Do you strictly limit who has access to the safe?

■ Do you change the safe combination when someone is no longer authorized to use it?

■ Do you make sure the same person is not involved in more than one of the financial procedures of the church (collecting, counting, recording, authorizing expenditures, writing checks, auditing)?

■ Are all individuals authorized to write checks against church funds held responsible through an accounting/auditing system?

■ Do you provide the bank with annual updates of people authorized to sign checks against any account?

■ Do you issue annual receipts for giving? This is just another check on determining that what comes in has, in fact, been accounted for.

Painful experiences in too many churches have taught that unless these questions all can be answered with a firm yes, your church might have a significant hole in its financial structure through which hundreds or thousands of dollars could be lost.

Don Spencer is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention annuity department

Ensembles take top honors at Dove Awards

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Vocal ensembles, rather than individual artists, walked away with many of the big awards at this year's Dove Awards.

The modern-rock group dc Talk was named artist of the year, and group member Toby McKeehan won song of the year for "Jesus Freak," with co-writer Mark Heimermann. The male trio also won rock recorded song of the year for "Jesus Freak."

Other big winners included Point

of Grace, a female pop quartet, which was honored as group of the year. The 2-year-old group also won pop/contemporary recorded song of the year for "The Great Divide" and pop/contemporary album of the year for "The Whole Truth."

The group Anointed, a pop and rhythm and blues ensemble, won three Doves. "The Call," their debut record, was named contemporary gospel album of the year. Their song

"It's In God's Hands Now" was awarded urban recorded song of the year, and their song "The Call" won contemporary gospel recorded song of the year.

Jars of Clay, a modern-rock quartet, won new artist of the year and an additional award for best short form video of the year for their song "Flood."

Kentuckian Larnelle Harris won inspirational album of the year for "Unbelievable Love."

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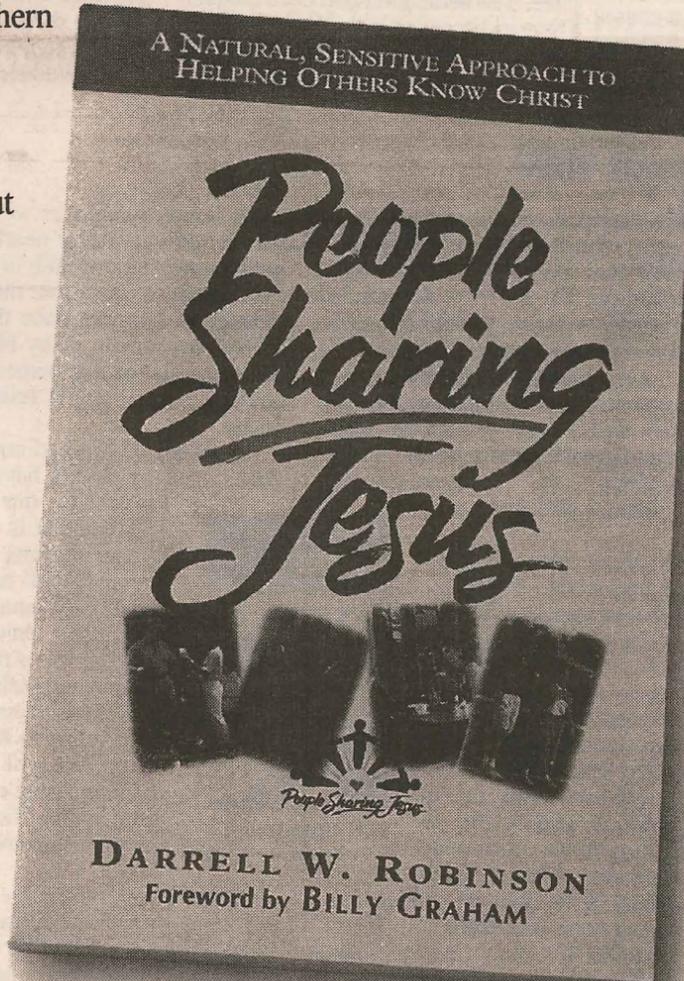
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People Sharing Jesus is a breakthrough process by Darrell W. Robinson, head of evangelism for the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention since 1989. *People Sharing Jesus* isn't about gimmicks or manipulation. It's about sharing the joy and faith you've found in Christ. Without guilt, anxiety, or awkwardness.

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 Kentucky partnership coordinators in Russia.
- Russians preparing to be pastors.
- Jim Harding, Executive Director/Treasurer of the Utah/Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.
- Tom Vance, director of missions and Brotherhood director of the Utah/Idaho Southern Baptist Convention.
- Boston-area churches as they prepare for the coming of Kentucky ministry teams later this year.
- David and Betsy Draper and the members of Boston's Beacon Hill Baptist Fellowship as they seek God's will in purchasing a church building.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BEDFORD**—Jamie Ward recently resigned as youth minister at Bedford Church.

■ **BRANDENBURG**—First Church called Gary McAbee as pastor. McAbee has been pastor at First Church in Sonora.

■ **BURNSIDE**—Neeleys Creek Church will celebrate its centennial anniversary May 18, beginning at 10 a.m. and continuing through the afternoon.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Harrods Creek Church will ordain Bill Lee to the gospel ministry May 19.

■ **FORDSVILLE**—Providence Church called Jeff Stewart as pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Community Church will hold a groundbreaking service for its first building May 12 at 2 p.m.

■ **LA GRANGE**—Bob Brubaker resigned as interim pastor at Eighteen Mile Church May 5.

First Baptist of Henderson dedicates education expansion

By Mark Wingfield
Interim Editor

HENDERSON—When First Baptist Church of Henderson dedicated a \$1.7 million renovation and addition to its education facilities April 28, the building was not the primary focus.

Instead the spotlight shone on people—the people whose dreams had become reality in the project, the people who made it happen and the people who will be reached.

Jack Collier, the 77-year-old chairman of the building committee, received a prolonged standing ovation from the congregation as he mounted the platform to introduce his committee. The dedication had been delayed in part because Collier had been hospitalized with serious heart trouble.

With tears in his eyes, Collier

thanked God for allowing him to live long enough to see this day in the life of his church. This was the first new building the church has erected in 47 years.

In an interview during the dedication reception, Collier said the secret to this church's health is that people love one another.

This Christian love is evidenced on Wednesday nights, when after prayer meeting ends, "two-thirds of the members are still there visiting with each other," Collier said.

The church's Wednesday night program is just one of many ministries expanded by the updated and expanded facilities. The construction provided a new fellowship hall that for the first time in years is large enough to allow adults to participate in the Wednesday night dinner.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Carlisle Avenue Church will celebrate its 85th anniversary June 9.

Foster Avenue Church called Frank Kuriger as interim pastor in January.

Cloverleaf Church will present Carroll Roberson of Ripley, Miss., in a gospel concert May 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Highview Church called Kevin Ezell as pastor. He currently is pastor at First Church in Marion, Ill. He will begin his new ministry June 1.

Nina Maples resigned as minister to children at Hurstbourne Church. She will continue to minister as part

of the Hurstbourne Counseling Center.

David Phillips will resign as minister to youth at Broadway Church, effective Aug. 11., in order to move to Richmond, Va.

■ **OLATON**—Olaton Church called Raymond McDonald as pastor. He previously was pastor at Brooklyn Church in Greenville.

■ **PADUCAH**—Twelfth Street Church called C.J. Turner as interim minister of youth. Denzel Dukes is interim pastor.

■ **PELLVILLE**—Pellville Church dedicated its new educational building, organ and hymnals April 21.

The Henderson church has started a variety of new adult and children's classes, such as one called Single Plurals, aimed at married couples who want to remain with friends in the singles division, and another called For Women Only, which targets women whose husbands don't attend.

Amid this growth, First Baptist Church has maintained its commitment to missions as well. The congregation gives 15 percent of undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program.

Patterson said missions giving and involvement is part of the growth recipe at First Baptist.

"It helps us be a part of something bigger than we are," he explained. "When you give of yourself to minister beyond yourselves ... you get a vision of something far greater."

The class of 1996

Another school year is quickly coming to an end. While many schools will be ending their school years later than usual, we are going to be out right on time; May 14. We have only missed one day of school this year because of bad weather. That was the only day we have missed in the past 18 years. Our students did not think it was fair that other schools were closing so often when we did not. Now that we are getting out nearly one month earlier than the other schools, our students think it is pretty "cool." I must say that after a long, hard winter, I also think it is "cool."

We end this school year with many success stories and some disappointing failures. When a student comes to us, we have so many expectations and hopes. We know we will not be successful with every student, but it is never easy to accept what appears to be failure. Many times the seeds that have been planted here will not show evidence of growth until some time in the future, though we would rather be able to see the fruits of our efforts now.

On the other hand, we have a lot to rejoice over. Many in the class of 1996 are leaving Oneida with a solid academic and spiritual foundation. Many in this class came to Oneida with failing grades. We have labored and loved them along the way, and can now see the tremendous progress they have made. Often when the progress comes over a period of years, it is not easy to see how far a student has come until we look at where he was when he came to us. It is a real blessing to compare his grades before he came to Oneida with the grades he is making now.

Even in spiritual things, we do not always see the dramatic change until months or years later. We had our student Work Program awards this

week. Many references were made to the 1995 spring revival, when nearly 40 young people made professions of faith in the Lord. Comments were made several times this week about a "real change of attitude since the spring revival in 1995." One of our many blessings is seeing the dramatic change that comes into the lives of our students when they let Jesus be their guide and friend.

On April 27 we had our Junior-Senior Banquet. Since we do not have a prom, we have a banquet for our juniors and seniors. This banquet is one of the highlights for our seniors, as they realize their days at Oneida have nearly come to an end. For the junior class, it is a reminder that their senior year is just over the horizon. It is a time of fellowship, reflection and reality.

Next weekend the senior class will be traveling to King's Island for a day of fun. We will be leaving very early in the morning and returning late Saturday night. They will take many pictures and capture the excitement of the day.

We are grateful for the opportunity we have had to work with these students while they have been at Oneida. Some of these seniors came to Oneida this year. Others have been here for two, three or maybe seven years. When they came to us we did not know the kind of soil they represented. We have discovered while they have been here that some were not receptive to the saving grace of Jesus. Some represented stony soil, and still others have allowed too many of this world's pleasures to influence them. But some of the seed has fallen on good soil and will bear great results.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Commendation from our peers

The 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation evaluation team from the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges has submitted a 16-page report of their on-site visit and the review of our self-study. The document noted "the excellent spirit in which the college received and responded to the team" and offered commendation for "an excellent self-study."

Some of the academic commendations were: efforts to broaden the scope of ministry preparation; sufficient faculty, instructional and facility resources to achieve its mission; efforts to keep a well-credentialed faculty; a well-administered library, which is housed in an adequate facility; for being sensitive to the needs of its constituents by recently adding a bivocational program.

The evaluation team commended Clear Creek for fiscal and administrative management. We met or exceeded all seven factors for financial stability. The team affirmed: the high degree of professionalism and dedication in the administrative staff, the professional and competent practices in the business office; a fine campus with more than 700 acres, three administrative classroom buildings, 123

housing units and several support structures, all debt free; students costs kept low; the financial aid program that depends neither on federally funded Stafford student loans nor on federally funded college work/study grants.

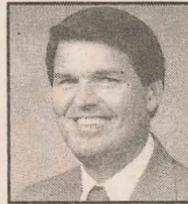
Student services received high marks in these areas: the professionally staffed counseling center and the service it renders both to campus residents and the surrounding community; for going beyond minimum standards in its provision of services; high-quality food service.

The evaluation team appreciated our succinct and focused mission statement; healthy board and alumni relationships; efforts to upgrade the recruitment process; and the work done on the college strategic plan.

Clear Creek was commended for efforts to achieve academic excellence as evidenced by having sought and obtained accreditation status with the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges and by presently investigating initial membership in regional accreditation.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

CHURCHES

Schaller says denominations need a 'new Reformation'

COLUMBIA, S.C. (ABP)—Nothing short of a "new Reformation" will halt the declining influence of religious denominations, consultant and author Lyle Schaller said at a March 24-26 summit meeting for religious leaders.

There is hope for the future of denominations, Schaller affirmed at the meeting in Columbia, S.C., noting that efforts already are underway to create "new wineskins" to enable churches to carry the gospel into a new era.

"Ideologically, I believe in denominations as a legitimate order of creation, a good part of a larger design. I think they have value," said Schaller, a consultant who over a 36-year career has studied more than 5,000 congregations from 60 religious traditions.

Many of his younger friends, however, do not share his optimism, he said, due to an increasing lack of trust in institutions in today's society.

Schaller said choices faced by denominational leaders today are like those major-league baseball teams faced in the 1960s when owners were forced to relinquish some of their control in order to attract younger talent who no longer trusted the institution of baseball.

"What denominations face is essentially the same question: Do you build your base on members who were taught that you trust institutions and hope that they don't die, or do you go recruit the members of the new generation?"

"What denominations said was, 'Let's hope the older generation lives forever and build for those who were taught to trust institutions,'" Schaller said.

A better option for denominational leaders is to "change the system," he said. He praised the South Carolina Baptist Convention and the Episcopal Diocese of Texas for setting out two models that call for denominations to be service-oriented rather than program-oriented and more attentive to the needs of churches and associational groupings.

Not many religious bureaucracies have awakened to the need to change, Schaller said.

"When do revolutions sell?" he asked. "The answer is, not until there is a widely-perceived crisis. And many in the denomination are still in denial," he said. "There is still an awful lot of people who are convinced there's a lot of wear still in those old wineskins. They say, 'Let's just repatch them.'"

Warren: Jesus was seeker-sensitive

By Charles Willis
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Targeting groups and individuals for the gospel message is not a new marketing twist for today's Christian messengers but a skill demonstrated by Jesus, according to California pastor Rick Warren.

"Targeting your community is understanding who you are trying to reach, not to exclude but to be effective," Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Mission Viejo, Calif., told nearly 1,600 church staff and lay leaders during a one-day seminar on "How to Build a Purpose-Driven Church."

The seminar, held at Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, was sponsored jointly by Saddleback Church and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Warren, author of a new book on "purpose-driven" churches, said Jesus knew about the woman at the well, and because he knew her, he knew how to talk with her. During his ministry on earth, Jesus dealt with each person out of specific knowledge about that person, Warren said.

Likewise, reaching out to people today who have not heard the gospel requires knowing who they are and how to talk with them, he said. Defining one's ministry target in the 1990s includes knowing how many people live in the area; what types of people they are by age, marital status, income, education and occupation; learning about their values, needs, interests and fears; and determining what they already know about the gospel.

"Seekers are different all over America," Warren observed. "What is seeker-sensitive in one place may be seeker-repulsive in another."

He recommended attempting to reach first "the persons you are most likely to reach."

"The more you focus on your target, the easier it is to reach them," he said. "You have to focus. You can't reach everyone."

He compared failure to have a target to a hunter who stands in a field and shoots in random directions, hoping to hit some game, and to a photographer who snaps photographs without ever focusing, hoping to get a

usable image.

To determine the best target group, he said, the answers to two questions provide insight:

■ What kind of people already attend our church? "Everybody is looking for somebody like themselves," Warren observed. "Teenagers are looking for other teenagers, parents with babies are looking for others with babies. If they find them, they'll be back. If they don't, it's unlikely they'll return."

■ What kind of person am I as a leader? "Who do I naturally feel comfortable around? If God called you to ministry, there are people that only you can reach."

Warren said people reach other people to whom they can relate.

"You attract what you are, not what you want. When the church matches the community and the pastor, explosive growth will take place. A good man in the wrong place will have limited results. If you don't match, move."

If a church doesn't match the community in which it is located, Warren sees three options:

- Build on existing strengths.
- Reinvent the congregation by intentionally changing.
- Create a new congregation by

starting new services or sponsoring a new congregation.

Warren challenged church leaders to "think like an unbeliever."

"Imagine being told, 'I have the greatest news in the world, but before I tell you, you have to come to my building, wear my kind of clothes, understand my way of talking and sing my songs.' That's a statement for failure," he said. "We do it every week. It is selfish."

Most unchurched people are not atheists, Warren said. "They are just turned off and too busy. They say, 'I like Jesus. I just don't like church.'"

Warren also confessed he had underestimated the power of music in evangelism.

"It is the No. 1 communicator of values in our society," he said. "It bypasses the intellect and goes straight to the heart."

"You have to choose the style of music you are going to use and stick with it," he continued. "Make sure the music matches the target. Music tells who you are going to reach and who you are never going to reach."

He urged worship planners to preview all music to determine if the message is doctrinally sound and if it matches the mood of the worship service.

"You attract what you are, not what you want. When the church matches the community and the pastor, explosive growth will take place."

Rick Warren



Hybels: Don't innovate for sake of innovation

NASHVILLE (BP)—The goals of innovation and drama in worship should be larger than just the desire to be creative, Bill Hybels told more than 300 local church drama leaders April 19.

Hybels, senior pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in suburban Chicago, said the interdenominational congregation's 20-year history of innovative worship services was born out of needs for effectiveness, attentiveness and inspiration. He spoke at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church drama conference.

"We have never sought to be an innovative church for the sake of innovation," he said. "If you are not careful, you can start a kind of com-

petition in the kingdom (of God) as to who is 'out there' the furthest."

Willow Creek, he said, innovates for effectiveness in a desire "to turn unreligious people into fully devoted followers."

"We asked (ourselves) how best we can make the gospel come alive for them."

As an example of Jesus' ability to create drama, Hybels cited Jesus' actions in Luke 5 where the disciples, after catching no fish, lowered their nets at his instruction and found them full to overflowing.

Using innovation to enhance attentiveness on the part of the congregation counters boredom, "the great enemy of some congregations," Hybels said. When people are exposed to a

different kind of communication, "they leave autopilot, leaning forward in their seats to know."

However, he cautioned about the ways in which churches "stretch people's comfort ranges," suggesting adding a different kind of service is better than taking away a tradition that is meaningful to some people. Leaving the established service in place allows people who do not favor change to have what they want, while giving innovators the creative opportunity they desire, he said.

"Change management in a local church is one of the most challenging endeavors you can put your hand to," he observed. "If your church has a low tolerance for change, just don't do it."

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