

PRactical Resources for Christian Living

WESTERN RECORDER

May 14, 1996
Vol. 170, No. 20

FOR THE RECORD

Three named
Lowell Ashby, Randy Jones and Tony Hough have been named to new positions with the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board. See page 3.

Recorder staff
Mark Wingfield has been confirmed as editor of the Western Recorder, and David Winfrey has been named the paper's news director. See page 3.

Editorial
Understanding the Kentucky Cooperative Program proposal requires facing up to major shifts in the way individuals and churches handle money. See page 5.

CP proposal
The Kentucky Baptist Convention will be asked to reduce slightly the percentage of Cooperative Program gifts its forwards to the Southern Baptist Convention. See page 6.

Camps proposal
The Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board has approved a plan to create a new board to oversee the work of Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek Baptist assemblies. See page 7.

Helen Cummins serves inner city with joy

By Kathy Witt
State Correspondent

COVINGTON—Helen Cummins does not consider her work as an inner-city missionary anything extraordinary.

But to the thousands of children and adults she touches in the course of her work, Cummins' work is exactly that. Thus, she was among five women this year named Outstanding Women of Northern Kentucky.

Missionary, counselor, initiator, public speaker—she is all of these as well as a friend.

Cummins directs the Sunday school program at South Side Baptist Church in Covington. She directs a weekly ministry to City Heights housing project that includes 40 to 50 children. She supervises Girls in Action for girls in grades one through six and its offshoot, Victory Club, a program for adults.

In every program she develops, in every ministry she coordinates, in every person she reaches out to with an offer of food, friendship, clothing or hope, Cummins brings a strong realization about who is ultimately responsible.

"God did this," she states simply. "If what I do helps someone else, it'll be worth it."

Since 1973, the missionary has been a familiar sight in the neighborhood, walking the streets of Covington to invite

□ See Cummins named ..., page 13

Grahams receive Congressional Medal

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Surrounded by statues of historic American leaders, Billy Graham, 77, and his wife, Ruth, 75, were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal May 2 in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda.

The Grahams were the guests of honor at a ceremony attended by more than 600 people—a veritable who's who of the nation's evangelical and political leaders.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich praised Graham for preaching to an estimated 1 million people in person and 2 billion on television during his half century in the ministry.

"That is a lifetime of outreach unparalleled in human history," said Gingrich.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole continued the accolades, noting Graham's efforts to remove ropes dividing whites and blacks at crusades in the segregated South in the 1950s and his work to help victims of religious persecution behind the Iron Curtain in the 1980s.

"I know I speak for millions around the world in saying that no one will ever preach the word of God better than you, and no one will ever preach it with a better partner at his side than Ruth," Dole said.

The Congressional Gold Medal award, the highest honor Congress can bestow on a citizen, was first given to George Washington in 1776.

President Bill Clinton signed a bill in February authorizing the award, after the measure was passed by both houses of Congress. The president's signature marked the 114th time Congress has enacted legislation to present the medal.

The award honors individuals for



MEDAL OF HONOR President Bill Clinton presents Billy Graham with a framed copy of the congressional order enacted to award Graham the Congressional Gold Medal. (White House photo)

exemplary contributions to society.

"Ruth and Billy Graham have made outstanding and lasting contributions to morality, racial equality, family, philanthropy, and religion," the resolution stated.

The Grahams, who have been married 53 years, have written 24 books, including six by Ruth Graham.

Graham used his time at the podium to preach the gospel. In his often sobering 20-minute remarks, Graham described the discouraging aspects of the end of the 20th century.

"Terms like 'ethnic cleansing,' 'random violence' and 'suicide bombing' have become part of our daily vocabulary," Graham said. "Would the first recipients of this award even recognize the society they

sacrificed to bring into being? I fear not. We have confused liberty with license—and we are paying the awful price. We are a society poised on the brink of self-destruction."

Graham said the three greatest problems facing humanity are emptiness, guilt and the fear of death.

Graham said Americans need to deal with "a crisis of the spirit" by repenting and turning to God.

"If ever we needed God's help, it is now," he said. "If ever we needed spiritual renewal, it is now. And it can begin today in each one of our lives, as we repent before God and yield ourselves to him and his word."

As Graham ended his address, the crowd of dignitaries rose to its feet for a long standing ovation.

Churches in conflict urged to 'stop thinking like reptiles'

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

SAN ANTONIO (ABP)—Churches in conflict better stop thinking like reptiles if they hope to survive, church mediator Peter Steinke told participants in a Baptist Center for Ethics conference May 6-7.

Most people who encounter stress or fear instinctively rely upon the "reptile" portion of their brains, said Steinke, a Lutheran director of minister/church relations and author of "How Your Church Family Works."

"The reptile brain ... doesn't think," Steinke explained. "It controls our automatic functions. It's there for survival. The more we're anxious, the more we use it."

And although it comprises a small percentage of the brain, it controls

important responses to anger or fear. Those responses might work well to save the life of a lizard but do little to promote healing and reconciliation in a church, he stressed.

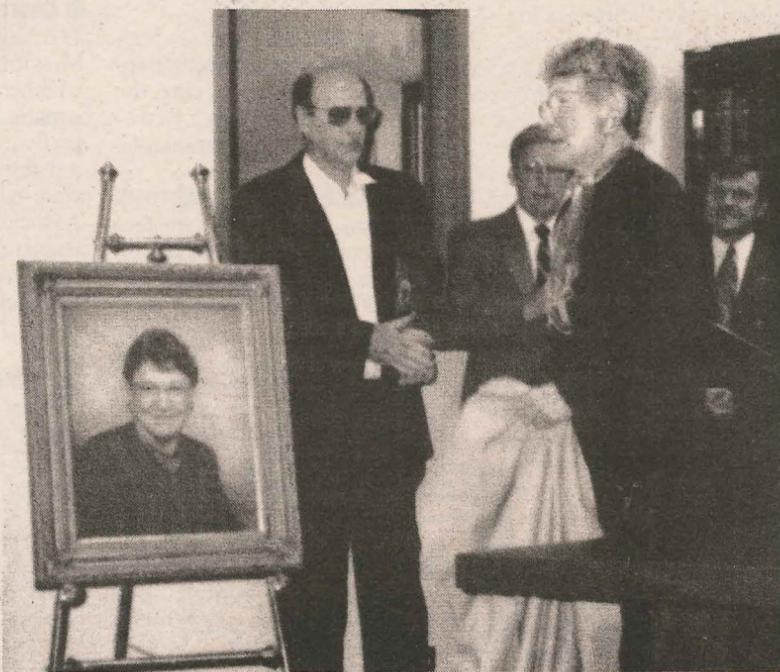
Steinke discussed church responses to conflict and change as part of the conference's focus on "Leadership Integrity: Growing Churches Through Tran-

sitions." The meeting was co-sponsored by its host, Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio.

Unfortunately, "reptilian regression" is common in conflict-ridden churches, Steinke stressed.

"The more anxious a church, the more likely it is to lose its ability to be thoughtful and creative," traits needed to resolve conflict, he said. That leads to a cycle of anger, anxiety and blame, which can continue to escalate

□ See Churches in conflict ..., page 9



PORTRAIT UNVEILED Doris Yeiser unveils a portrait of herself presented during dedication ceremonies for the new Doris Yeiser Center for Kentucky Baptist Archives at the Baptist Building in Louisville May 7. Yeiser, a longtime Kentucky Baptist Convention employee who has taken the lead in establishing the convention's archives, was surprised by the portrait. The KBC Executive Board has provided a new, enlarged space for the archives as part of a recent construction project. The new archives space is located where offices for the Western Recorder previously were housed.

Moving? See page 4 (0514)

Church leadership
integrity

Chapman: Churches more vital than denominations

WASHINGTON (BP)—Evangelical Christians "are compelled to proclaim the life-changing message of the gospel to all men everywhere," a key Southern Baptist Convention leader declared at a recent gathering of Baptists from across North America.

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, said that will happen "only as local churches are renewed and revitalized."

"Local churches, not denominations, are best positioned to do this. The word of God is the key to lasting renewal," Chapman told the North American Baptist Fellowship meeting April 26-28 at First Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

Asked by another denomination's top executive to state an "irreducible minimum for an evangelical theology," Chapman responded: "I would have to say the word of God is absolute truth and ... Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the Savior of the world. That's absolutely irreducible."

Chapman said Southern Baptists "are in a time when we are struggling to perhaps remain evangelical in the

purest sense." But while acknowledging that some Southern Baptists "would debate whether we are evangelical or not," he reminded his audience that "one of the greatest voices of evangelicalism is Billy Graham, who is a Southern Baptist."

Chapman noted that a commitment to Christian values is declining—of all places—in the church.

"The world is getting into the church faster than the church is getting into the world. It is leading to a compromise of Christians," he lamented. "Time will tell whether we can survive the kind of moral decay and demonic onslaught that I believe is occurring not only in America but all over the world."

Responding to another question, Chapman described evangelicalism as "separate and distinct" from fundamentalism. But, he continued, "evangelicals would believe strongly in the fundamentals of the faith."

Chapman said there are "differences in methodology (and) sometimes in intensity about things" between evangelicals and fundamentalists, but he indicated the labels are not

mutually exclusive.

"Sometimes it is possible for those considered fundamentalists and evangelicals to walk together," Chapman stated, "and that could ultimately become a mighty force for our God."

Chapman said he sees a "bridge" between evangelicalism and fundamentalism. "I think the bridge is faith and the convictions about the word of God, a theological bridge that is very real and acceptable," he explained.

Referring to evangelical Christians, Chapman said: "I believe we must make every effort in every phase of life ... race reconciliation, world missions, going into the suburban communities ... to not only be a spoken witness but to be a living witness for Christ, so that we speak for Christ and our actions do not betray us."

Also during the meeting, Daniel Weiss, general secretary of the American Baptist Churches in the USA, was elected president of the North American Baptist Fellowship, which is a regional fellowship affiliated with the Baptist World Alliance. The group includes 10 Baptist denominations based in the United States and

Canada.

Weiss delivered the conference's closing address on "Baptists and the Future of Denominationalism."

"It is increasingly clear that the context in which our ministry will occur makes our task more than formidable," he noted. "There is no question that our ability to make an impact, in the name of Jesus Christ, within this rapidly changing, incredibly complex world will be a difficult challenge. Business as usual will not be adequate for the task."

Emphasizing Christ's commitment to the church, Weiss noted, "We do fail Christ by making weak and impotent what he intended to be strong and powerful; to trivialize and minimize what he envisioned to be tremendous and magnificent."

Jesus "initiated a radical upheaval, a spiritual and social revolution," Weiss said.

Today's church has become "so organized, categorized, systematized and homogenized that we often become paralyzed," he lamented. "The organization is often seen as an end in itself rather than a means to an end."

Missionary count to top 4,200

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Southern Baptists' overseas missions force will reach the 4,200 mark for the first time when the Foreign Mission Board appoints about 50 new missionaries June 12 during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans.

The appointments are projected to bring the total number of Southern Baptist missionaries to 4,219.

Focusing on the theme "A World of Need," the appointment service will highlight urgent needs for Christian witness across the world.

Baptists from around the world will describe the need for missionaries in their areas. In return, new missionaries will tell how they are responding.

The appointment service will crown the Wednesday evening session of the June 11-13 convention, which is expected to draw 19,000 people to the Louisiana Superdome.

Parks says Fellowship should not become new convention

ATLANTA—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship should not declare itself a separate convention from the Southern Baptist Convention, Keith Parks says.

"CBF's name and structure encourage it to be what it says it is—a Fellowship. God can accomplish what he desires with the present organization," said Parks, former president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and current global missions coordinator for the Fellowship.

He wrote his opinion in the May 2 issue of the newspaper *Baptists Today*.

Those who have found sanctuary in the Fellowship should not be labeled disloyal to the SBC, Parks said. "We have not changed. Our convention has. We are still Southern Baptists in the original meaning of the term."

The idea of an unsanctioned subgroup existing within the larger SBC structure is nothing new, he said.

"The truth is that throughout the convention's history, many organizations led by Southern Baptists—and appealing to Southern Baptists for support—have functioned for years within the context of the SBC, though not officially endorsed by convention action."

Also, Parks said, the notion of the Fellowship becoming a "convention" appeals to an outdated mentality.

"Southern Baptists have become so accustomed to convention organi-

zation that many believe there is no viable alternative," he said. "We need to remember that conventions were not part of Baptist history until the early 1800s. Just as the convention concept was appropriate for that time until now, it is also reasonable that there are more suitable structures for the 21st century."

Past concepts of conventions "are basically incompatible" with where the Fellowship is headed and with global trends, he added.



"Having both been coaches in the past, Pastor Morgan's deacons have taken to giving him the 'Gatorade Treatment' after concluding a successful sermon."

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Brotherhood leaders form group.** Brotherhood leaders from 20 states have formed their own association, they say, to ensure that ongoing disaster-relief projects and other men's ministries don't suffer during a planned restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention. Twenty-six leaders, mostly Brotherhood directors employed by Baptist state conventions, voted unanimously to form the Association of State Brotherhood Leadership at an annual disaster-relief roundtable meeting April 30-May 2 in Brentwood, Tenn.

■ **Committee against excluding gays.** A study committee will recommend against amending the Texas Baptist constitution to exclude churches with homosexual pastors or deacons, because the state convention already has the power to oust those churches, the Baptist Standard reported May 8. The 14-member committee named to study seating of messengers at the Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting passed a statement saying homosexuality is forbidden in the Bible. However, the committee declined to recommend a constitutional change banning homosexual

acts because the convention already has the power to exclude messengers that "would be divisive and disruptive" to the convention's fellowship and purpose.

■ **Chaplaincy month.** May is chaplaincy month in the Southern Baptist Convention, recognizing the 2,412 Southern Baptists endorsed as chaplains and pastoral counselors.

■ **Brotherhood trustees concerned.** Brotherhood Commission trustees expressed concerns about the Southern Baptist Convention restructuring plan at their April 26-27 meeting before approving the use of "incorporators" to establish the new North American Mission Board. Trustees expressed their concerns to Mike Hamlet, a member of the SBC's implementation task force, which is overseeing denominational restructuring.

■ **New curriculum introduced.** Smyth & Helwys Publishing is launching a new line of children's curriculum this fall, officials at the moderate Baptist publishing house have announced. The new children's curriculum series, FaithSteps, is designed to be a flexible

and fun-to-use resource for "teaching children how to grow with God," said Nancy Morris, children's editor.

■ **Charismatic churches studied.** The Florida Baptist State Board of Missions will decide this week whether three churches with charismatic practices may continue to participate in the state convention. All three congregations formerly were members of Alachua Baptist Association but planned to continue contributing to the state Cooperative Program. However, their gifts were rebuffed at the January meeting of the state board of missions.

■ **Nobles gets 7-year sentence.** Former Mississippi College President Lewis Nobles was sentenced May 2 to more than seven years in federal prison after he pled guilty to stealing more than \$2.8 million in donations intended for the Baptist-affiliated school in Clinton, Miss. Nobles will in effect serve a sentence of seven years and three months, with automatic credit for the year and three months he was held in federal custody without bail. Federal law does not provide for parole.

KENTUCKY

Ashby, Jones, Hough named to KBC staff positions

CEDARMOORE—Two men were named to staff positions with the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board last week, while one current staff member was promoted.

Lowell Ashby, executive vice president and managing partner of Professional Software, Solutions and Technology Inc. in Louisville, was named director of the KBC business division. Ashby succeeds Barry Allen, who last December was elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Randy Jones, director of missions for Northern Kentucky Baptist Association, was named director of the KBC's new town and country missions department.

Tony Hough, associate director of the KBC's direct missions department, was promoted to director of a new metropolitan missions department.

The positions filled by Jones and Hough were created by reconfiguring what has been known as the direct missions department. That department's longtime director, Bob Jones, retired last year.

The staff elections and missions department reconfiguration were approved by the KBC Executive Board during its May 6-7 meeting at Cedar-moore Baptist Assembly.

Lowell Ashby, Ashby, who will begin his new duties heading the KBC's business division May 16, is a member of Simpsonville Baptist

Church in Simpsonville, where he has been a deacon, Sunday school teacher, church member and served in a variety of other capacities.

He twice has served as moderator of Shelby Baptist Association and is a former member of the KBC Executive Board.

In presenting Ashby to current Executive Board members, Bill Marshall, KBC executive director-treasurer, said he believes Ashby's extensive experience with computer technology will be essential for the business division position in the future.

Marshall also noted that Ashby will divest himself entirely of any financial interests in his company, which has done extensive contract work with the KBC in the past. Ashby will receive no financial benefit from any current or future contracts between the KBC and Professional Software, Solutions and Technology Inc., Marshall said.

Ashby, 44, earned the bachelor of science degree in mathematics in Morehead State University in 1974.

He previously was vice president of Mid-American Control Corp. in Shelbyville, associate management consultant with Touche Ross and Co. in Louisville, a systems engineer with Humana Inc. in Louisville and a sys-



Ashby



Jones



Hough

tems analyst with Lincoln Income Life Insurance Co. in Louisville.

Ashby and his wife, Linda, are the parents of three children, Linc, Lance and Len.

Randy Jones, Jones, who will direct the KBC's town and country missions department, has served Northern Kentucky Baptist Association since 1986.

Previously, he was associate pastor of Central Baptist Church in Winchester, director of missions for Boone's Creek Baptist Association and director of missions for Northwest Indiana Baptist Association in Indiana.

He has served three pastorates: First Baptist Church of Sonora, Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church of Utica and Maceo Baptist Church in Maceo. From 1972-1974, he was a field evangelist in Costa Rica and Paraguay with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Jones, 52, earned the bachelor of arts degree from Kentucky Wesleyan College in 1966 and the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary in 1972.

Jones and his wife, Lawanna, have two grown children.

As town and country missions director, Jones will serve as state missions director, supervise the mountain missions director and administer the missionary assistance program. He also will give support to the work of associations in non-metropolitan areas of the state.

Tony Hough, Hough, who will direct the metropolitan missions department, has been on the KBC staff since 1992.

Previously, he was director of missions and ministries for Long Run Baptist Association, pastor of Lynn Acres Baptist Church in Louisville and pastor of Twin Cities Baptist Church in Manitowoc, Wisc.

Hough, 46, earned the bachelor of arts degree in secondary education from Ball State University in 1972, the master of divinity degree from the Southern Seminary in 1979 and the doctor of philosophy degree from Southern Seminary in 1991.

He and his wife, Patricia, have four children, ranging in age from 5 to 19.

As metropolitan missions director, Hough will serve as state ministries director and state language ministries director.

His portfolio will include language, deaf, literacy and multi-housing ministries. He also will give support to the work of associations in the state's major metropolitan areas.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

Kentuckian to Boston. Raja Kandanada, a 1991 graduate of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College, has been named pastor and church planter among Asian Indians with Greater Boston Baptist Association. More than 20,000 Asians live in Massachusetts, mostly in Boston and its suburbs. Kandanada previously has participated in Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions efforts. He was ordained to the ministry March 31 by Trace Creek Baptist Church in Hickory.

'Don't waste time swatting flies.' Bill Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, delivered the commencement address at Campbellsville University May 4, urging 167 graduates not to waste their time swatting flies. Drawing an illustration from his experiences as a missionary in Yemen, Marshall told about frantically swatting flies on a hot day while all the locals laughed at him. He discovered they had learned how to live with the flies. "Come to know quickly what is worth your emotional energy and time," Marshall said. "Concentrate on priorities, on the main things in life ... doing the best at whatever you do, nurturing your faith."

Mr. & Miss Campbellsville named. Eva Gail Floyd of Shepherdsville was named Miss Campbellsville University during com-

mencement ceremonies May 4. Anthony Lewis Cress of Waynesburg was named Mr. Campbellsville University.

Mountain Outreach gearing up. The Mountain Outreach ministry of Cumberland College will build four new homes for mountain families this summer, bringing the total of new homes built since 1982 to 79. All construction will be done with volunteer labor.

Seminar slated. First Baptist Church of Georgetown will offer a Family Estate Protection Seminar May 20 at 7 p.m. The program will be led by Richard Carlton of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and Warren Nash of Georgetown College.

Tilford honored. Daniel Tilford, associate professor of music at Georgetown College, received the college's 1996 Cawthorne Excellence in Teaching Award. Other faculty and staff receiving year-end recognitions included Stephen Biese, dean of student development, employee of the year; David Forman, associate professor of graduate education, Grave Award for innovative teaching; Ben Oldham, dean of education, Graves Award for staff; Sharon Smith, director of development technology, Graves Award for staff; Peggy Kiggins, director of donor research, Graves Award for staff.

Wingfield named editor; Winfrey news director

LOUISVILLE—Mark Wingfield and David Winfrey have been elected to new positions with the Western Recorder.

Wingfield, the paper's news director since 1991, was elected editor May 6 by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board. He had been nominated for the post April 2 by the Recorder's board of directors.

Under terms of a covenant agreement between the Recorder and the KBC, the Recorder board nominates the editor and the KBC Executive Board must affirm that decision for the election to be finalized.

Wingfield, 34, has been serving as interim editor of the Recorder since last December, when former editor Marv Knox left to take a position with the Texas Baptist Standard.

Winfrey, 30, was elected the Recorder's board of directors May 13 to succeed Wingfield as news director.

Since January 1992, Winfrey has been associate director of news and information with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta. In that capacity, he traveled across the nation reporting on issues related to missions, ministry, evangelism, church starting and church growth.

"David Winfrey's byline will be no new addition to the Recorder's pages," Wingfield said. "We have benefited from his writing from the Home Mission Board for several years. Now we'll have the advantage of having him here, applying his expertise to telling the story of Kentucky Baptists."

Wingfield commended Winfrey as "bright, energetic, articulate and an innovator."

"David shares our vision for maintaining the Recorder's reputation as one of the premier Baptist publications in America," Wingfield said. "His love of missions, his personal in-



Wingfield



Winfrey

volvement in the life of the church and his excellent skills as a writer and editor make a dynamic combination.

"We are fortunate to be able to attract someone of his calibre to the Western Recorder staff," he added.

At the Recorder, Winfrey will have primary responsibility for developing and editing the news and feature pages of the weekly publication. He also will do extensive news and feature writing.

Prior to working for the HMB, Winfrey was a staff writer for the Greenville Piedmont in Greenville, S.C. In that capacity, he covered city government, breaking news and religion.

He earned a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from the University of Georgia's Henry W. Grady School of Journalism in 1988, with a minor in political science. During his college years, he served as a writer and front-page editor for the Red & Black, the independent daily campus newspaper.

Winfrey is a member of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, where he serves on the missions committee and strategic planning committee. He also has been active in Christian recreation issues, working to develop a hiking ministry.

Winfrey will join the Recorder staff in June.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

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To submit a letter: Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length.

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors: Bill Thurman, Lexington, chairman; Rusty Ellison, Louisville, vice chairman; Jim Abernathy, Covington, secretary; Mark Boes, Cecilia; Tom Curry, Louisville; Frank Hatfield, Shepherdsville; Sherry Hignite, London; Melinda Mays, Vanceburg; June B. Rice, Paintsville; John Searcy, Franklin; Kenneth Wells, Somerset; Charles Midkiff, Greenville.



BAPTIST FORUM

Likes old hymns

In response to the editorial "Let's put an end to musical snobbery": The statement that some of the great hymns of our faith originally were labeled "vulgar," "carnal" and "human innovations" left me confused. The editor should have identified these hymns.

I think our old traditional hymns are wonderful and we should sing more of them. If contemporary music is what draws the younger people, then the church is in trouble.

Let's get back to our old traditional ways and hymns. I suggest Mr. Wingfield make a survey of several churches to see if they like the contemporary or the old-fashioned hymns. You might be surprised.

*Norma Lewis
Louisville*

Has he forgotten?

Midwestern Seminary President Mark Coppenger has turned his attention from good and bad people (March 19, page 2) to male and female people (May 7, page 2). Citing 1 Timothy 2:11-15 as his authority for establishing that women may not be ministers, he insists his point is reinforced by the passage's allusion to the creation account, the point apparently being that Paul's words cannot be explained away with the "changing culture" argument.

Has Coppenger forgotten about the Old Testament judge Deborah, a female and prophetess (preacher), who not only had the power of life and death over men as a judge, and not only preached to them (silent submission?), but ordered her military

commander and an army of 10,000 men into battle, accompanying the army herself and participating in the victory? Since she was an Old Testament character not too far removed from the creation, how would Coppenger explain her away? She is a fixture in what Coppenger describes as "God's inerrant word." But, of course, she was Old Testament and thus not subject to "culture change."

According to Acts 21:8-10, Paul spent some days with Philip of Caesarea, apparently staying in the same house as Philip and his four unmarried daughters who prophesied (preached). Would he have countenanced such shameful female conduct by abiding there if he felt the women were acting in violation of God's will? In 1 Corinthians 11:5,6, Paul acknowledges that women pray and prophesy (preach), but only insists they wear a hat when doing so, just as men (verse 14) degrade themselves by having long hair.

But, of course, these folks were New Testament, and thus ...

Paul, of course, knew about Deborah and Philip's four daughters. Is it possible that a seminary president has forgotten?

*James L. Clark
Danville*

A Greek lesson

Your editorial about baptism (April 30, page 5) reminded me that a number of years ago, I had the great privilege of ministering the word of God to all the congregations of the Greek Evangelical Church, traveling most of Greece with one or another of the pastors as interpreter.

On one occasion I was prompted to ask: "How does the Greek Orthodox Church christen infants?" The answer was, "It immerses them."

Because of my limited religious education, I then asked my companion, "How do the Greek evangelical churches baptize their converts?"

My friend responded: "We im-

merse them. Don't you think we Greeks understand our own language?" (The root of the Greek word from which we derived our transliterated word, "baptism," means "to dip, to bury, to plunge as in a liquid.")

*Donald MacDonald
Louisville*

'Rebaptizers'

As I read the April 30 edition of the Western Recorder, I was interested in the editorial opinion. Not having the benefit of being raised in the church, I was rather surprised that Baptists would question, of all things, the issue of believer's baptism.

A critical point is something that the editor eluded to but failed to clearly state. Baptists were indeed labeled "Anabaptists" as a "put down." An important note here is that "Anabaptists" means "rebaptizers."

Because most people in that day were born into religions that practiced infant baptism, being "rebaptized" was a radical, individual decision (an act of free will), and a public testimony of faith. This biblically based idea is what gave us our name and makes us Baptists (rebaptizers.)

Being baptized didn't save me, but it empowered me. Just as I feel stronger each time I take the opportunity to share Jesus Christ with someone. We know and teach that we are saved by "grace through faith" and baptism is not a prerequisite to salvation.

With this thought in mind it must be the requirement of baptism for church membership that is troubling to some. Because I'm sure this practice of believer's baptism is biblical, the only alternative would be to change the membership requirements of the church. We could just let one sign up and be a member.

Once that issue is resolved we can get back to work. "Making disciples of all nations, baptizing them ... and teaching them."

*Kevin McPherson
Elizabethtown*

Two unexpected gifts

One might not think that preparation for a Monday-Tuesday board meeting should include a Saturday-Sunday series of obligations covering 638 miles and two major presentations.

However, last weekend's experience proved to be a gift to me; a gift I would have missed had I "guarded" my calendar too carefully.

The first "gift" occurred as I recessed with faculty and administration down the aisle, smiling back at grinning seniors and master's degree recipients of the 1996 graduating class of Campbellsville College/University.

They would be the only class to receive two certificates; one from Campbellsville College and one from Campbellsville University.

The historic occasion unified the sacrificial faithfulness of Campbellsville College of the past and Dr. Ken Winters' visionary hopes for Campbellsville University's future.

It was good to be there; an honor to deliver their commencement ad-

dress. En route later to Murray, I shared with Alice the joy I felt in being a part, not only of a historic moment in Kentucky Baptist life but in the realization of how God uses a Baptist school in our mission together.

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

The second "gift" came on Sunday morning, participating in the 150th anniversary celebration of Murray First Baptist.

As late as Saturday night I was putting final touches on what I would preach. I stayed up late to finish Dr. Jack Birdwhistell's history of First Baptist, not yet published. I commented to Alice that I

had never read a church history so filled with the evidences of God's blessing upon them.

The church's influence and impact on the community; its faithfulness to the commission of God and, most especially, the overwhelming number of those who had been called out from that church for ministry and missionary service. I suspect that Murray First Baptist has given Kentucky Baptists as many preachers as any other one Kentucky church.



FAMILY FORUM

Summer vacation

By Wade Rowatt

Q. Should my 14- and 16-year-old teens be expected to get summer jobs?

A. As school ends, teenagers wonder about summer plans.

A job provides growth. Working gives experience in relationships. Youth relate to people beyond their families. This may help them appreciate their families more. Of course, they may learn interpersonal skills not picked up within their families.

A job teaches and increases skills. Youth can learn to operate machines such as cash registers, typewriters, computers, tractors, washers, etc. Many adults work at jobs that build on skills acquired in summer employment.

Having a job involves following a schedule. Youth learn to be on time and to use their work time productively. Usually they structure their time away from work more carefully.

At school, the structures are pretty tight. Rules are clear, and teachers, counselors and "the office" enforce the rules. This external control keeps youth more or less in line. A summer job usually has requirements, but less supervision. Teens can learn internal control. They can take care of themselves and become more personally responsible for their actions.

Sure a summer job provides money, but more importantly it gives teens a chance to do some growing. Families who do not need the money would do well to encourage their children to volunteer 10-20 hours a week in church or public service areas. If this is not possible, then at least they need an activity such as sports, dance, drama or music.

All teenagers need chores and responsibilities around the home. Those who are employed may have fewer, but at least they can care for their own rooms. Those without jobs should increase the amount of work at home during summer.

Also, they do need some time off. Perhaps a week of vacation between school and work will help. They need some daily relaxation time and a few days a week for themselves. Keep the balance. There is a time for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1-9).

Wade Rowatt is director of the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville.

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

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Sometimes the moment of decision brings no decision

SHE SAID



Alison Wingfield

When it comes to making decisions, my family declines. If my brother and parents and I get together and try to decide where we are going for carry-out, it can be a long, drawn-out process. Nobody wants to be the final decision maker. "What do you want?" "I don't care, whatever everybody else wants."

And then, when we finally come up with a choice, someone inevitably says, "I don't want that!"

Why is it that some of the simplest decisions in life are the most difficult to make?

Take the dinner question again. When Mark and I decide to take the boys out to eat, you would think it wouldn't be that difficult a decision. There are only so many kid-friendly restaurants where we dare make a second appearance. But we have to go through a few rituals before we can arrive at a decision.

First, we get the coupon book out and confirm that there aren't any places we like to go in it. Then we get the kids loaded into the car, and sit in the driveway discussing where we could go that would be different. Then we end up at the same place we always go.

Generally, Mark is quicker at making decisions than I am. I will agonize over the smallest purchases, trying to decide if this is the right product and whether I'm getting the best price for it.

Mark, on the other hand, can be on the impulsive side. Sometimes this is good, and sometimes it backfires on him. If only he could decide where to eat as fast as he can buy a suit.

HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

OK, so I may be the ideal impulsive buyer everyone on Madison Avenue wants to target. But at least I can make a decision.

Those people who don't know where they're going or what they want can be very frustrating to those of us who know exactly where we're going and where everyone else should be going as well.

When I married into Alison's family, I had to learn a new kind of decision-making two-step. This is one of those cultural distinctions, the kind missionaries have to learn before moving overseas to make sure they don't intend to raise a hand in greeting only to be perceived as giving the local signal for a common insult, like "Your children are as ugly as three-headed pigs."

The proper way to respond when initially asked to suggest a decision to a non-decision-making group is to follow their lead and decline—even if you actually have a preference. It really isn't polite to disrupt the flow of things by offering a viable suggestion on the first go-round.

Then, after you've feigned apathy for another round of questioning or two, it is acceptable to break the deadlock with what is perceived to be your sudden burst of inspiration. Timing is everything in this ritual.

Of course, it's not just family systems where you'll encounter different styles of decision making. In any group, you'll find people who make decisions—or to use the politically correct phrase of the day, "process" things—differently.

I realized this anew some months ago while serving on a pastor search committee. The seven of us got along pretty well looking for a pastor, but I'm sure glad we didn't have to shop for a new refrigerator together.

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

CP proposal signals changing times

It would be easy to interpret in political terms the request to change the percentage of Cooperative Program gifts sent from the Kentucky Baptist Convention to the Southern Baptist Convention. But that would yield a wrong interpretation.

It would be easy to interpret this proposal as acknowledgement that Kentucky Baptists have somehow failed in support of worldwide missions. That's not the case at all.

To begin to understand what's behind this proposal, one must grasp the major sociological shifts that have occurred in church giving patterns over the last decade or more.

The proposal in question is reported in detail on page 6 of this week's Recorder. In a nutshell, messengers to next November's KBC annual meeting will be asked to approve a proposal to reduce by 2 percentage points the amount of Cooperative Program money the KBC forwards to national and international causes through the SBC Executive Committee.

At first blush, some would read into this proposal retribution from a perceived "moderate" state toward a perceived "conservative" national convention. Any such accuser would be hard-pressed to find evidence of politicking, however. This proposal has come through three committees that are well-balanced and not prone to make decisions based on politics.

In reality, this proposal may be the first true wake-up call to Kentucky Baptists that giving patterns have changed dramatically, and continue to change.

The visionary excitement behind Bold Mission Thrust was fostered during an era of high inflation and high denominational loyalty—an era when Cooperative Program receipts were increasing as much as 14 percent annually. Both of those highs have now turned into lows. And unfortunately, financial reality has not kept up with the financial dreams.

Blame the baby boomers; blame the inflation-busters; blame those infernal paradigm shifts. These are the real factors behind the changing financial scene in religious bodies nationwide.

The predicament Kentucky Baptists face is in no way unique. Baptists and other religious denominations nationwide are being forced to change the

way they do business because church members and churches have changed the way they do business. As usual, it has taken several years for the impact of this shift to ripple down to the state convention level.

Here are some of the factors behind the shift:

■ *Baby boomers and busters don't give to charitable causes the same way their parents and grandparents do.* Numerous studies have documented that boomers give

primarily to causes they can see and be involved in rather than to large bureaucracies over which they have little control.

■ *Churches of all denominations across the nation have begun keeping more of their offerings for local use and sending smaller portions to state, national and global ministries financed by denominations.* More funds kept at home have built buildings, added staff and spurred a variety of other new initiatives.

■ *Churches have begun supporting missions efforts in more than one way.* The day of the single channel for missions giving and involvement is gone, like it or not. As the world has seemingly grown smaller and easier to access, churches have created opportunities for direct action by their members. Today, many Baptist churches not only support the Cooperative Program but put additional money into local, national and overseas partnerships in which their members can participate and see direct results.

So the truth is that while Kentucky Baptists may have fallen short of the highly ambitious financial goals set in the 1970s and '80s, we have not fallen short in our support for missions. Kentucky Baptists are doing more missions work today than 10 years ago.

The proposal that has been passed by the KBC Executive Board merely acknowledges the changing times. To longtime Southern Baptists and denominational loyalists, it is a hard truth to acknowledge.

Whether this proposal is the best way to face the new reality will be decided by messengers to the KBC annual meeting. But no vote of the KBC can reverse the sociological trends that are forever changing the face of denominational finances.

—Mark Wingfield

Peace! Be Still!

The powerful thunderstorms of May 5 had a tremendous impact on South Jefferson Baptist Church in Louisville. These wind attacks created havoc all over Meade, Breckenridge, and Southwestern Jefferson Counties.

Our congregation had just begun discipleship training when the storm hit at 6:05 p.m., knocking out our electricity. We dismissed all classes to go to the fellowship hall in the

basement. About 25 youth, 10 children, and 20 adults gathered around tables with candles as our only light.

Our minister of music brought a piano from the next room and we began to sing familiar hymns and choruses. Then the pastor requested testimonies from each table about favorite Bible characters. More singing followed in an attempt to calm nerves and provide activity until the time passed. Finally, persons were asked to share their personal salvation testimony. After sev-

en testimonies, an invitation was offered.

With the candles flickering and the pianist playing softly, four young people gave their hearts to Jesus and one adult rededicated his life to following his Savior.

Through the pounding rain and howling winds, that small gathering of discipleship training students found what the disciples experienced when Jesus said, "Peace! Be still!" and they experience peace in the midst of the storm.

Greg Burton
Louisville

EDITORIAL

KBC asked to adjust percentage forwarded to SBC

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

Cooperative Program facts

■ The 15 largest state Baptist conventions, including Kentucky, together contribute 92 percent of all funds channeled through the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program.

■ On Cooperative Program gifts as a percentage of church undesignated receipts, Kentucky ranks fourth among the 15 states.

■ On average, Baptist churches in these 15 states give 8.28 percent of their undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program. Kentucky Baptist churches give 9.97 percent.

■ Kentucky has the ninth-largest Cooperative Program budget of the 15 states. Texas has the largest, and Illinois has the smallest.

■ Kentucky ranks ninth among these 15 states in percentage of Cooperative Program gifts forwarded to the SBC. Kentucky currently gives 37 percent to the SBC. Georgia ranks first at about 44 percent. Texas ranks last at 33 percent.

■ Six of the 15 states decreased their percentage forwarded to SBC causes between 1994 and 1996, while three increased their percentages.

Data based on 1994 and 1996 information, using the most recent statistics currently available.

CEDARMORE—The Kentucky Baptist Convention will be asked to reduce slightly the percentage of Cooperative Program gifts it passes on to the Southern Baptist Convention beginning in September 1997.

The change, approved on a 59-36 vote by the KBC Executive Board May 7, was proposed by a Cooperative Program work group appointed out of the board's business and finance committee.

That work group has reported that financial projections made in the late 1970s and 1980s related to Bold Mission Thrust were "unrealistically ambitious" and have not come close to being met by Kentucky's churches. Bold Mission Thrust, launched in 1979, is a Southern Baptist effort to share the gospel with every person on earth by the year 2000.

In response to the vision of Bold Mission Thrust, the KBC earlier adopted a goal of increasing over time the percentage of undesignated Cooperative Program gifts sent to the SBC to 40 percent, leaving 60 percent of receipts for state ministries. Over this period of time, the percentage given to the SBC has increased from 35 percent to 37 percent.

This vision was based on the assumption that local churches, inspired by Bold Mission Thrust, would significantly increase their contributions to the Cooperative Program.

However, while the KBC has increased the percentage of its receipts forwarded to the SBC, Kentucky's churches on average have reduced the percentage of their receipts forward to the Kentucky Cooperative Program.

The proposal drafted by the work group and approved by the Executive Board has two parts.

The first point: "Effective Sept. 1, 1997, return to the original base of 35 percent for SBC causes, a percentage which reflects the percentage decrease in church Cooperative Program contributions since 1987."

The second: "Base the future percentage allocated to the SBC on the percentage of growth or decline in Cooperative Program giving from the churches."

To become effective, the proposal must be adopted by messengers to the KBC annual meeting in Bowling Green next November.

The 2 percent difference in Kentucky allocations to the SBC would result in about a \$375,000 reduction in contributions to the SBC in the 1997-98 fiscal year. For the 1996-97 fiscal year, the KBC is projected to forward to the SBC \$6.94 million.

The SBC portion of the Cooperative Program funds the Foreign Mission Board, Home Mission Board, six SBC seminaries and other national ministries. The KBC portion of the Cooperative Program funds a variety of missionary endeavors across the state, services to the churches provided by KBC staff, student ministries on college and university campuses, five Baptist schools and a family of state agencies and institutions.

The business and finance committee work group said the change is necessary because gifts from the churches have not kept pace with the projections used in 1980 to justify a plan of increasing percentage giving to the SBC each year. This plan originally was adopted as part of the Bold Mission Thrust emphasis.

For example, had Bold Mission Thrust goals been achieved, Kentucky Baptist churches would have contributed \$45.6 million to the Cooperative Program in 1995. In reality, Kentucky Baptist churches contributed \$17.8 million in 1995, less than 40 percent of the target.

The Bold Mission Thrust goals also projected that Kentucky Baptist churches would contribute \$57.6 million to the Cooperative Program in the year 2000. However, that goal is three times higher than what Kentucky Baptist churches actually contributed last year.

During the same period the KBC increased its percentage giving to SBC causes, Kentucky Baptist churches on average reduced their percentage of undesignated gifts forwarded to the Cooperative Program. The average percentage of undesignated church receipts given to the Cooperative Program in Kentucky has declined from a high of 11.88 percent in 1987 to 9.97 percent last year.

This has placed a squeeze on mission money available for use in Kentucky, the work group reported.

The work group said this squeeze has been made more severe by two other factors: The KBC assuming ownership of Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly and the KBC assuming greater responsibility for matching contributions to ministers' annuities.

Upon obtaining Jonathan Creek in 1983, the KBC spent \$1.8 million on building improvements. Additionally,

operating Jonathan Creek has required about \$100,000 in subsidies each year since then.

KBC expenditures on the expanded annuity plan have increased from \$250,000 per year to \$640,000 last year.

Some results of this squeeze, the work group reported, include:

■ Reduction of KBC staff by seven positions.

■ No new funds for KBC Executive Board programs in nine years.

■ Decreasing allocations to KBC Christian education causes.

■ No increase in allocations to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in 10 years.

The Cooperative Program proposal generated the most discussion of any item presented to the KBC Executive Board during its May 6-7 meeting at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly. Although a majority of board members voted for the proposal, those who opposed it had the most to say during discussion.

Several pastors compared the KBC's predicament to tight financial situations faced in their churches in the past. At such a time, reducing missions giving isn't the answer, they argued.

Bill Groover, pastor of Bethany Baptist Church in Louisville, said he has faced difficult financial challenges in three churches in the past. "Each time we increased our missions giving, and God blessed us," he reported.

For the KBC to decrease its contributions to the SBC "would send out the message that this is the way to solve financial problems in churches," Groover said.

Ron Davis, pastor of Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church in Cecilia,

echoed that thought. "Whenever you step back in faith it is not recognizing a total commitment to the Lord," he said.

Further, Davis added, support for SBC causes is the primary reason churches give through the KBC Cooperative Program. "The SBC is what we are; the KBC is how we do it," he reasoned.

Supporters of the proposal, however, said the KBC's ability to inspire greater contributions from the churches cannot be compared to a pastor's ability to inspire greater contributions to local church offerings.

"The churches have voted with their pocketbooks. They have not caught the vision of Bold Mission Thrust," said Michael Barley, pastor of Franklin Street Baptist Church in Louisville and a member of the business and finance committee.

Barley noted he hopes this downward trend in giving from the churches would be reversed. But in light of how churches have been giving, "this is a realistic proposal," he said.

Plus, the proposal puts the burden of concern on the churches, Barley said: "People will know if their churches cut back there will be consequences. This puts the accountability on the churches."

Billy Randolph, a layman from Franklin, echoed Barley's thoughts, speaking in favor of the motion. "There's a time when you've got to balance your checkbook," he said. "We can't place more money than we actually have."

The proposal now goes to the KBC annual meeting, which will be held Nov. 12-13 in Bowling Green. If approved, the change would not take effect until the KBC's 1997-98 fiscal year.

Bold Mission Thrust goals and actual receipts

With the vision of Bold Mission Thrust as inspiration, Kentucky Baptists in the late 1970s determined to increase the percentage of Cooperative Program gifts shared with the Southern Baptist Convention over the course of time. The assumption was that churches, inspired by Bold Mission Thrust, would contribute increasingly larger sums of money to the Cooperative Program. This action was initiated at a time when inflation was running in the double digits and Cooperative Program receipts were increasing as much as 14 percent annually.

The chart below compares budget goals projected based on these earlier assumptions about Bold Mission Thrust with actual receipts in Kentucky for the same years.

Fiscal year	Budget goal	Actual receipts	% of goal received
1977	\$7.20 million	\$7.05 million	97.9
1978	\$8.00 million	\$7.84 million	98.0
1979	\$8.80 million	\$8.58 million	97.5
1980	\$10.0 million	\$9.46 million	93.6
1981	\$12.0 million	\$10.68 million	89.0
1982	\$14.4 million	\$11.87 million	82.4
1983	\$16.8 million	\$12.89 million	76.7
1984	\$19.2 million	\$13.57 million	70.7
1985	\$21.6 million	\$14.27 million	66.1
1986	\$24.0 million	\$14.78 million	61.6
1987	\$26.4 million	\$15.76 million	59.7
1988	\$28.8 million	\$16.35 million	56.8
1989	\$31.2 million	\$16.78 million	53.8
1990	\$33.6 million	\$17.12 million	50.9
1991	\$36.0 million	\$17.00 million	47.2
1992	\$38.4 million	\$17.00 million	44.3
1993	\$40.8 million	\$17.22 million	42.2
1994	\$43.2 million	\$17.95 million	41.5
1995	\$45.6 million	\$17.86 million	39.2

New entity proposed to own and manage camps

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

CEDARMORE—A new entity known as Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc. will be formed to manage Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek Baptist assemblies, if a proposal from the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board is approved in November.

The Executive Board was authorized last November to develop a way to implement a motion adopted by messengers to the 1995 annual meeting regarding Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

That motion required the KBC to maintain ownership of Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek as "separate bodies with their own boards of trustees." The successful motion pre-empted plans already announced for the KBC to dissolve its ownership and management of Cedarmore.

The administrative committee of the Executive Board has been working for six months on how to implement this motion. The committee, chaired by Charles Barnes of Louisville, reported to the full Executive Board May 7 at Cedarmore.

Barnes reported that the committee's proposal will require additional action by messengers to the KBC annual meeting in Bowling Green in November. This is because the proposal calls for creating one entity to

govern both assemblies, while the motion appeared to call for two entities, and because the proposal calls for transferring ownership of properties to the new entity.

Here are highlights of the proposal approved by the KBC Executive Board May 7:

■ A new entity to be called Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc. would be incorporated for the purpose of owning and operating Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

■ Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc. would be governed by an eight-member board of trustees elected by the KBC upon recommendation by the KBC nominating committee.

■ Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc. would administer each assembly through administrative committees made up of four trustees of the corporation plus four regional members elected by the corporation's board.

■ A covenant agreement would be adopted between the KBC and Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc., giving the new corporation the same kind of relationship with the state and institutions currently have.

■ The KBC would transfer to Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc. title or ownership of all property, equipment, fixtures, furnishings, vehicles and other assets of the two assemblies.

■ Transfer of this property would

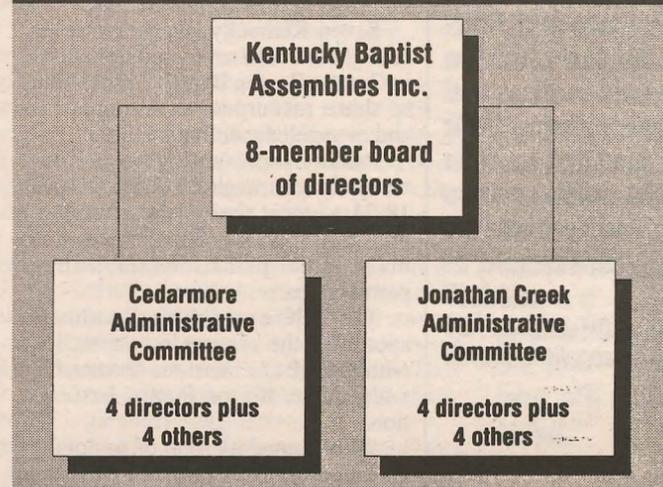
be conditioned upon a reversionary clause. This clause states that Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc. shall not use the properties "for any purpose other than providing facilities and services in an environment conducive for ... events focused on evangelism, Christian worship, religious education, Christian fellowship and such other programs which purposes would be consistent with the mission of the Kentucky Baptist Convention." Breach of this clause could cause the properties to revert back to ownership of the KBC.

■ Should Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc. ever attempt to sell the Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek properties, the KBC would retain a right of first refusal to purchase the property.

■ The new entity's initial board of trustees would be elected at this November's convention and would be expected to take full responsibility for the assemblies on Sept. 1, 1997. Should the new board not be able to assume full responsibility on that date, a temporary plan has been drafted that would allow the KBC to continue operating the assemblies in the interim.

■ The board of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc. would have full authority to hire staff and establish budgets, as well as to determine the location of its headquarters.

Proposed administrative structure



■ The current KBC allocation of \$325,000 annually to Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore would be guaranteed to continue unchanged for three years. Future allocations would be determined by the KBC budgeting process.

■ Remaining camps and assemblies Board's camps and assemblies capital additions and improvement fund and major repairs and replacement fund would be transferred to the new corporation. These funds would total about \$1.1 million. Of this total, \$112,000 would be required to be set aside as an operating reserve.

KBC's three liberal arts schools propose joint campaign for funds

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

CEDARMORE—Kentucky Baptists' three liberal arts schools are seeking permission to conduct a joint fund-raising effort that would include appeals through local churches.

Funds raised in the three-year effort would be divided equally among Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown College.

Except for up to \$1 million for a capital project on each campus, all funds raised would be invested with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to create student scholarship endowments.

The three schools already have authority to conduct fund-raising appeals, but according to KBC policy, any effort that directly receives local congregations must receive prior approval.

Presidents of the three institutions made their appeal to the KBC Executive Board May 6-7 and received the first step of approval. Now the request goes to messengers attending the KBC annual meeting in Bowling Green next November for final approval.

The presidents—Ken Winters from Campbellsville, Jim Taylor from Cumberland and Bill Crouch from Georgetown—said the primary thrust of the campaign would be to raise much-needed student-aid funds. They noted that federal aid

for students is decreasing, and that a decreasing percentage of the schools' budget is being provided by Cooperative Program gifts, thereby hindering growth in school-based financial aid.

The joint campaign would "promote a greater feeling of partnership with the Baptist churches of Kentucky," the presidents noted in a statement. "It is our collective thinking that such a demonstration of solidarity between our three institutions will promote ... stronger partnerships by Kentucky Baptists in our efforts to strengthen our ministry of Christian higher education."

When appearing before the Executive Board's agencies and institutions committee, the three presidents were asked if the financial needs described point to any future plans from the KBC. Reference was made to the recent decision of Baptist Healthcare System to dissolve its covenant agreement with the KBC and appoint its own trustees in the future.

Cumberland's Taylor responded that the three Kentucky Baptist schools "would like to become more Baptist all the time."

Further, one reason the presidents want money from this campaign to go into the Kentucky Baptist Foundation is to demonstrate their commitment to the KBC, he said: "If we leave, you get to keep the money."

OTHER BOARD ACTIONS

In addition to the major actions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention reported in this week's Recorder, the board also took the following actions during its May 6-7 meeting at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly:

■ **Budget.** The Executive Board adopted a \$20.91 million budget for fiscal year 1996-97, of which 63 percent will be spent on KBC ministries and 37 percent will be forwarded to Southern Baptist Convention ministries. The Kentucky portion of the budget is virtually unchanged from the current year.

■ **Nominations.** Approved a report from the KBC committee on nominations to fill 10 unexpired terms on the Executive Board and other KBC agency and institution boards. New Executive Board members elected are David A. Smith of Murray, Blood River Association; Larry Thompson of Liberty, Casey County Association; Alan Todd of Henderson, Green Valley Association; Donald Williams of Ravenna, Jackson County Association; John Dean of Stanford, Lincoln County Association; Chester Badgett of Campbellsville, Taylor County Association; Kenneth Slone of Hindman, Three Forks Association; and Al Sumner of Smiths Grove, Warren Association. William Cole of LaGrange was appointed to fill an unexpired term on the board of Oneida Baptist Institute. Charles Midkiff of Greenville was appointed to fill an

unexpired term on the Western Recorder's board.

■ **Camp rates.** Summer camp rates at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore assemblies were raised by \$2 for the 1997 season. This increase has no bearing on the upcoming 1996 summer camping season, for which rates will remain the same as the year before.

■ **Brotherhood structure.** The Executive Board's missions and evangelism committee reported a request from Kentucky Brotherhood to study the way the Brotherhood Convention relates to the KBC Executive Board. Brotherhood director Bob Simpkins said the idea is to determine if Kentucky Brotherhood could be strengthened by adopting a model similar to that used in Texas and North Carolina, a model which closely resembles the way Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union relates to the KBC. Simpkins said this would especially impact disaster relief work. "We need to be able to say yes quicker sometimes than we can in the current structure," he explained. A five-member subcommittee, chaired by Drew Martin of Painstville, has been appointed to study the issue.

■ **Freda Harris Center.** The Executive Board approved plans for an \$85,000 addition to the Freda Harris Center in Southeastern Kentucky. Funds for the project already are in hand.

Partnership pairs 14 churches in Kentucky & Boston

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

"We wanted a group of pastors to go there and first-hand see what the field is like, and then to bring their churches back in the summer once they've made an assessment of needs."

Bill Jagers, KBC evangelism director

Seven Kentucky Baptist churches have joined with seven congregations in Greater Boston Baptist Association to share resources, encouragement and evangelistic activities.

Pastors representing each Kentucky church traveled to Boston April 18-21 to meet their sister churches, preach in their worship services and make initial plans for establishing partnerships.

The KBC evangelism department sponsored the venture in conjunction with the KBC's missions partnership with Greater Boston Baptist Association.

"We wanted a group of pastors to go there and first-hand see what the field is like, and then to bring their churches back in the summer once they've made an assessment of needs," explained Bill Jagers, KBC evangelism director. "It's just our way of being involved in the partnership."

The evangelism department issued invitations to several Kentucky churches—representing a variety of sizes and geographic locations—to be paired with a congregation in Boston. Seven churches accepted the invitation.

Jagers and evangelism associate Monty Carter filled out demographic profiles for each participating congregation and mailed the information to Ignatius Meimaris, Greater Boston Baptist Association director of missions. Boston leaders then paired the Kentuckians with appropriate Boston congregations.

After a day of orientation and visiting Boston congregations, the Ken-

tucky team members dispersed to spend two days with the Boston congregations with which they had been paired. Some preached revival services, while others conducted leadership development workshops and other training sessions.

"I believe they're going to help us tremendously," Jagers said of Baptists in Boston. "The spiritual enthusiasm of those people is astounding. With minimal resources in some instances and a lot of hardship, they are doing magnificent work for the kingdom; our pastors will be challenged by that."

"But also, we'll bring a lot of stability and experience in mission work, and laypeople skilled and trained in different areas and pastors with compassionate hearts," Jagers added.

Pairing up with individual churches helps Kentucky Baptists get a feel for religious work outside the Bible Belt and lends a tighter focus to the partnership venture, Jagers suggested.

The pairs of churches already have worked out times and appropriate activities for summer or fall mission trips, pastors reported. Some are discussing long-term connections as well.

For example, Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville already has shipped 20 cases of Bibles and 1,000 "Eternal Life" booklets to Christian Gospel Assembly in Winthrop, Mass., Pastor Rodney Burnette explained.

Cedar Creek Baptist Church in Louisville, founded in 1792 and the second-oldest church in the KBC, has been paired with Cohasset Community Church—a group so young it

hasn't developed into a full-fledged congregation yet, explained Pastor Rusty Ellison of Cedar Creek.

The Cedar Creek congregation is planning now for a summer evangelistic team to conduct backyard Bible clubs in the area and assist with survey work. In addition, Ellison hopes to be "another set of eyes" for church planter Robert Hurlbut to see needs and opportunities in the community.

Ken Carvalho, pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Middlesboro and a New England native, has helped organize a team of 18-20 people who will go to Metropolitan Baptist Church in Cambridge, Mass., July 6 for street evangelism, a Creative Days camp similar to a backyard Bible club, surveys, maintenance and "anything we can do to help that church," he said.

In some respects, Louisville's St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church looks similar to its counterpart, Lily of the Valley Baptist Church in Mattapan, Mass., said St. Paul's pastor, Lincoln Bingham. Both are predominantly African-American and are located in a deprived downtown area.

St. Paul's will concentrate on leadership development seminars in Mattapan—including deacon ministry, Sunday school and children and youth ministry, Bingham said.

At the same time, Lily of the Valley members can offer a fresh spirit of enthusiasm to the Louisville church, Bingham added. "Certainly their dedication to Christian ministry under whatever conditions can be a strength to us," he said. "That kind of tenacious determination will be very helpful to us; we don't always

have enthusiasm, excitement for what we're doing."

Graefenburg Baptist Church, where David Head is pastor, will be conducting sports camps for North Shore Baptist Church in Peabody, Mass. A team of 25 Kentuckians will leave June 28 for the event, a major annual outreach at the church.

First Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg will bring the pastor of its partner church, Bethel Evangelical in Somerville, to Lawrenceburg for a week this summer. Marc Biennestin, a chauffeur and bivocational minister, has not had any vacation or time away in the four years he has served as Bethel's pastor.

Lawrenceburg Pastor Jeff Eaton will lead his church to Somerville in the spring of 1997, after extensive preparation for ministry among the Haitian people in Boston.

Rick Shannon, pastor of First Baptist Church in Pikeville, has focused on prayer ministry with Family Fellowship in Randolph, Mass. Woman's Missionary Union groups are searching for ways to minister to Randolph's pastor, Ed Waldron, and his family. Mission trips hopefully will follow.

How to get involved

Many opportunities remain for individuals and churches to participate in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership with Greater Boston Baptist Association. For current information, call the KBC partnership missions office at (502) 244-6462.

Ultimately, Kentucky Baptists will have to decide what kind of relationship, if any, they want to have with the hospital system without electing any trustees, Marshall said.

KBC officials negotiating with Baptist Healthcare System

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

CEDARMORE—Representatives of Baptist Healthcare System's board of directors and the Kentucky Baptist Convention have begun meeting to propose a future relationship between the two entities.

KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Marshall reported to the KBC Executive Board May 6 that he and three other KBC representatives met with representatives of the hospital board May 1.

Baptist Healthcare System trustees voted in a closed meeting March 19 to dissolve their covenant agreement with the KBC. The move would enable members of the hospital board to name their own successors on the board, removing the KBC from the process.

Marshall reported to the Executive Board that Baptist Healthcare System trustees have "exercised their right in the covenant ... to withdraw from us."

Since the initial announcement, the action has been "reinterpreted" by Baptist Healthcare officials "to say all they want is to name their own trustees," Marshall said. "They are willing to keep all other elements of the covenant."

Ultimately, Kentucky Baptists

will have to decide what kind of relationship, if any, they want to have with the hospital system without electing any trustees, Marshall said. Some Kentucky Baptists will prefer not to have any relationship under those terms, he predicted, but others may be willing to continue a relationship.

"Pray for us as we together see if there is some new agreement that will satisfy the Baptists of Kentucky," Marshall pleaded.

The Executive Board officially authorized Marshall to continue negotiations with Baptist Healthcare System representatives, with the goal of having a proposal ready for action at the KBC's annual meeting in November.

Tommy Smith, president of Baptist Healthcare System, addressed both the full Executive Board and the board's agencies and institutions committee.

Before the full board, Smith said, "This move was not made in order to abandon our Baptist roots."

Rather, the hospitals want a "continued close working relationship with the Kentucky Baptist Convention," he asserted.

He described the board's action as "a difficult but necessary decision" related to changes in the health care industry and the system's need to

take on new debt. Creditors were wary of the hospital board's stability because of its relation to Kentucky Baptists, he said.

At no time during the Executive Board presentations did Smith mention the primary reason for the breaking of ties initially given by himself and others—that the break was deemed necessary to prevent the hospital board from being captured by conservatives just as boards related to the national Southern Baptist Convention have been captured in recent years.

However, in the agencies and institutions committee meeting later the same day, Smith said his board was "not reacting to anything that has happened. There are no hidden issues I'm aware of."

In the smaller committee meeting, Smith faced a number of questions.

"What precipitated the feeling that the board was in jeopardy?" one committee member asked.

Smith affirmed that since the adoption of the covenant agreement, there has "never been anyone elected (to the hospital board) we did not nominate."

Nevertheless, that amount of control is not sufficient to satisfy lenders, who saw the hospitals' relationship with the KBC as lacking stability, Smith said.

Smith also was asked what would happen if Baptist Healthcare System, after breaking its formal ties with the KBC, sold some of its properties.

He responded that Baptist Healthcare System's articles of incorporation currently state that if the corporation is dissolved, 50 percent of the proceeds would be given to the KBC. However, he did not address what would happen if parts of the hospital system were sold or if the articles of incorporation might be changed at a later date.

Another committee member asked if Baptist Healthcare System's decision was setting a precedent for other agencies and institutions to break formal ties with the KBC in the future.

"I don't know," Smith responded. "One difference is we really aren't dependent upon anyone else for the financial commitments we have." The hospital system receives only about \$5,000 per year from the KBC, by far the smallest allocation of any KBC agency or institution.

Smith said the shape of any future relations between Baptist Healthcare System and the KBC will be proposed by the committee of his board that currently is meeting with KBC representatives. That group is scheduled to hold its second meeting in July.

CHURCHES

Churches in conflict told: 'Stop thinking like reptiles'

Continued from page 1

if parties in the conflict do not use the thinking parts of their brains to deal with the situation creatively and redemptively.

Fortunately, churches can turn their attention toward positive, creative ideas that can guide them out of stress and conflict, Steinke added. He compared the church to the human body and suggested 10 "principles of health":

■ **Wholeness is not attainable.** "There is no perfect congregation, because of human folly and sin," he said. So conflict that grows out of expectations of perfection is ill-founded.

Still, "all living things drive toward health, to stay alive," he noted, asserting even the most conflicted churches strain toward improvement.

■ **Illness is a necessary complement to health.** "It's all right to be sick and burdened down" sometimes, he said. "The body must be sick in order for us to become whole and well and healthy."

For example, a vaccine exposes a body to weak germs that slightly infect the body, enabling it to build up its immune system and protect itself from deadly disease, he said.

■ **The body has innate healing abilities.** "No one can give you what you don't already have" to bring about healing, he said. The "cures"—to bodies and for conflicted churches—"only promote the healing process."

■ **Agents of disease are not the causes of disease.** When a body gets sick, the disease occurs because the body enables the germ to grow and spread, he said. Likewise, anxious and fighting congregations feed on anger and anxiety, which are only the symptoms and not the causes of conflict.

■ **All illness is bio-psycho-social.** "Everything is connected," he said of bodies and churches. "Mind, body and spirit all play a part in health."

■ **Early detection is the best prevention.** "Congregations often allow conflict to go on for years," Steinke lamented.

He called upon church leadership to be the "immune system" that detects illness in the congregation and confronts it head-on. Most groups, such as churches, that fail "have a peacemonger at the top—someone who will not take a stand," he said. The congregation nevertheless will rise above the leadership's level of faith, belief and courage.

■ **Everybody is different, but two emotions always destroy the body—bitterness and vengeance.** The antidote is gratitude, he countered. "Healthy congregations are gracious, giving, generous."

■ **A healthy circulation system promotes health.** Just as a strong heart helps keep a body healthy, effective communication protects a church

from conflict, Steinke said. By communicating, church members can support and encourage each other and isolate such "germs" as gossip, complaining and misinformation.

■ **Breathing properly is nourishing to the body.** The Holy Spirit—whose biblical name means "breath"—must be active in a church, he said, noting the Spirit gives comfort and strength to the church.

■ **The brain is the largest secreting organ of the body.** "For an organization to be healthy, it needs good leadership," he said. "You cannot even talk about congregations being healthy without good leaders. They must provide problem-solving strategies and imagination."

The most dangerous "viruses" that inflict churches are secrets, Steinke reported. A church's problems cannot be healed if they are kept secret, he explained. Such behavior empowers those who accuse and blame others and keeps the church from developing creative solutions to its conflict or challenge.

Church leadership
integrity

Leadership more about effectiveness than efficiency

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

SAN ANTONIO (ABP)—Almost anybody can learn to be a leader and further the cause of Christ, author and Christian entrepreneur Bob Buford told participants in the Baptist Center for Ethics' "Leadership Integrity" conference.

"Leadership is about effectiveness, and effectiveness can be learned," said Buford, a Dallas television executive who in mid-life turned his energies toward Christian philanthropy and founded Leadership Network, a ministry think-tank based in Tyler, Texas.

Leadership "isn't black magic or rocket science," he said. "You can watch it and learn it. It's something you do."

In part, he defined leadership as knowing and practicing the difference between effectiveness and efficiency. "Effectiveness is getting the right things done; efficiency is doing things right," he explained. "Jesus was effective; Hitler was efficient."

Buford outlined eight "leadership practices that are learnable and doable." An effective leader, he said: ■ **Possesses a clear vision of the whole situation.** "A leader has a vision of both the whole and the parts and helps people understand the relationship between the two," he said. In that regard, a leader can help others relate their daily or weekly activities to the goals toward which they are working.

■ **Measures the "end game."** The leader is one who can "find the long-term measures that make sense out of what you do day-to-day," Buford said. Churches and businesses that remain successful across generations have had leaders who cause them to strive for "big, hairy, audacious goals," which surpass the leadership of any one person, he said.

■ **Leads from the inside out.** "The Lord coated us with 'psychic DNA'—the one thing we're put on earth to do," he said. "The really good leaders lead out of their own guts to-

ward a task they're called to do. ... They have a story; they embody that story."

■ **Leads from the outside in.** A good leader also "reads the culture well," he noted. A good leader looks at disciplines outside the church and applies the best of cultural trends to church applications. This ability helps churches adapt to change and meet needs in changing culture, he added.

■ **Practices what the Japanese call "kaizen," or continuous improvement.** "This is what (Chicago megachurch pastor) Bill Hybels calls 'relentless tweaking,'" always seeking to do ministry better, he said.

But he offered a warning: "It's very important to have a profound measure"—a standard of excellence so that churches don't just change for the sake of change and veer off from their objectives.

■ **Takes an entrepreneurial approach.** Entrepreneurs effectively convert resources to "higher productivity," he said. They get the most out of the people, material and money

available to the cause.

But despite stereotypes, "entrepreneurs aren't off-the-wall risk-takers," he said. "They 'push the envelope' some, but they aren't extravagant. Entrepreneurs also aren't necessarily creative, but they're able to adapt a great idea to their circumstances."

■ **Understands relationships between groups of people.** The leader of the future will be able to "put together alliances of people," he said, noting Christian groups "are no longer defined by the boundaries of the local church."

"Life is not simple anymore," he said. So effective leaders must understand how to "get laypeople into play" and enable various groups with common goals to work together.

■ **Deals well with her or his own "shadow side."** A leader sees himself or herself truthfully, acknowledges personal weaknesses, builds on strengths, creates a team whose personal strengths and weaknesses are complementary and leads a balanced life, he said.

Churches' generational conflict not always matter of age

SAN ANTONIO (ABP)—Conflict between generations shapes much of American life, and the church is not immune, religious educator Brad Creed told the Baptist Center for Ethics' "Leadership Integrity" conference.

"We are endlessly preoccupied with the generational differences that surround us," said Creed, dean of Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary.

He cited a long list of choices and options that confront churches and their members with what basically amount to generational approaches to church. They include praise music vs. hymn-singing; expository sermons vs. life-application preaching; Baptist Book Stores vs. Christian Family Bookstores; use of money to support

the denomination vs. other causes; biblical commentary by Herschel Hobbs vs. Chuck Swindoll; Brotherhood vs. Promise Keepers; Training Union vs. small groups.

"We can scarcely say the word 'generation' without facing an awareness of our differences," he said.

Creed said church leaders and researchers often oversimplify generational issues by grouping people in rigid age cohorts and examining characteristics of each group.

He advocated instead looking at congregations as complex systems and as the "body of Christ."

"If there's a gap (in churches), it's a congregational, not necessarily generational, gap," he said. "People who entered a congregation 30 years ago—whether at age 10 or age 40—

tend to see it differently than new members who have been there less than five years."

For example, he said, the "old" generation in a church might be led by a 35-year-old lawyer who grew up in the church, while the "new" generation's leader might be a 65-year-old retired military officer who moved to the community three years ago.

He also questioned a trend to tailor churches for a specific niche, usually baby boomers, and advocated instead taking a multi-program approach, offering organizations and ministries for all members, whatever their age.

Churches geared toward one specific generation tend to have "a short shelf-life," Creed said, insisting churches need the durability that comes with serving multiple genera-

tions. "Churches need both the wisdom of elders and the promise of youth," he said.

On a larger scale, Baptists must deal with the shift from one generation's idea of denomination and cooperative ministry to new ideas coming from a new generation, Creed said. He cited frustration with "the failure to turn loose of what is fading away and to embrace what is new."

"That's part of the pain of our denominational conflict," he said. "We must turn toward those who are coming behind us."

For Baptists, he stressed, a key to success will be "redirecting our energy from building a denominational culture to a local-church culture—toward practices that make for community."

Steinke called upon church leadership to be the "immune system" that detects illness in the congregation and confronts it head-on. Most churches that fail "have a peacemonger at the top—someone who will not take a stand."

"Effectiveness is getting the right things done; efficiency is doing things right. Jesus was effective; Hitler was efficient."
Bob Buford

"People who entered a congregation 30 years ago—whether at age 10 or age 40—tend to see it differently than new members who have been there less than five years."
Brad Creed

Panel hears views on assisted suicide

Terminally ill patients need a "system of medical care that will tend to their needs—the needs of the ill and their family—more than whatever economic or institutional imperative may be at hand."

Medical professor Carlos Gomez

WASHINGTON (BP)—Terminally ill Americans need adequate care as they approach death rather than a right to physician-assisted suicide, a Congressional subcommittee was told in an April 29 hearing.

Witnesses both opposed to and in favor of physician-assisted suicide testified at the hearing before the Constitution Subcommittee of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee. Rep. Charles Canady, R.-Fla., chairman of the subcommittee, scheduled the hearing in response to recent rulings in federal appeals courts in California and New York striking down laws banning assisted suicide.

The current debate needs to be moved from "its very narrow focus on the question of the legalization of physician-assisted suicide to the much broader issue that concerns the American public—the need to provide good care of the dying," said

Kathleen Foley, chief of the pain service at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Overwhelming evidence shows physicians are not trained to treat pain, Foley said, noting, "Providing care for the dying" is not occurring.

"In my clinical practice, I have been asked by suffering patients to aid them in death because of severe pain," Foley said. "I have had the opportunity to see these requests for aid in death fade with adequate pain control, psychological support, provision of family support and with the promise that their symptoms would be controlled throughout the dying process."

Terminally ill patients need and desire a "system of medical care that will tend to their needs—the needs of the ill and their family—more than whatever economic or institutional imperative may be at hand," said Carlos Gomez, assistant professor at the

University of Virginia School of Medicine and medical director of the school's hospice. "It is, unfortunately, a system of care which we American physicians have been slow to understand and, moreover, have at times resisted outright."

Some witnesses cited the experience of The Netherlands, where assisted suicide and euthanasia are accepted practices, as evidence of abuse.

Six of the 15 witnesses at the hearing supported assisted suicide. None did so with more passion than controversial Episcopal Bishop John Spong.

The "right to participate in the management of one's own death" is a new, inalienable right, said Spong, whose support of the ordination of homosexuals also has stirred controversy. He said he hopes "this Congress will grant this right to the American people."

Florida convention lobbies legislation

TALLAHASSEE (ABP)—A lobbyist representing the Florida Baptist Convention has caused a stir in the state by claiming "one million-plus Florida Baptists" support legislation permitting limited gambling and other controversial proposals, such as school prayer and tuition vouchers for religious schools.

Lobbyist William Bunkley, a lay Baptist from Tampa, was hired by the state convention to represent the concerns of Florida Baptists to legislators in the state capital of Tallahassee.

Bunkley kicked off his Tallahassee assignment in April by hand-delivering to legislators a six-page "legislative agenda," which he said was "supported" by the estimated 1 million Florida Baptists. The packet included a letter of introduction and endorsement from John Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention.

Included on the legislative wish list were three bills benefitting private-school and home-schooled students, two school-voucher proposals and a measure permitting student-led prayer at secondary-school events.

Other proposed bills would allow certain clubs to conduct games of chance, require informed consent before performing abortions, restrict computer pornography, and make it illegal for state health officials to remove a child from a home where abuse is suspected without a court order.

Most of the bills did not pass during the two-month legislative session, which concluded May 4, but Florida Baptist support was credited with helping get a school-voucher bill approved by a committee for the first time.

Nonetheless, endorsement of the bills by convention officials sparked protests from some Florida Baptists.

"What they are doing is anti-Baptist," said Evelyn Evans, a member of Coral Baptist Church in Miami, who complained some of the proposals violated the Baptist principle of church-state separation. "I'm just heart-sick," she said. "In our history, Baptists have died to keep church and state separate."

But others, like Fort Lauderdale pastor Dan Southerland, endorsed the

effort. "Southern Baptists are the second-largest denomination in the state of Florida behind Roman Catholics," said Southerland, pastor of Flamingo Road Baptist Church. "We need to use our position of influence for good, and the legislature is one place we can do that."

Don Hepburn, director of public relations for the state convention, said the legislative agenda was based on resolutions and other statements made by the convention. Hepburn said he drafted the agenda with Sullivan and assistant executive Glen Owens.

But in some cases, Hepburn acknowledged, Bunkley overstated or misstated the convention's position. "I attribute that to Bill Bunkley's enthusiasm and overzealousness to do his job on our behalf," he said.

The agenda, distributed to lawmakers on convention letterhead, identified 17 bills under consideration by the state legislature during its March-to-May session. The description of each bill ends with the statement, in bold underlined type: "The Florida Baptist Convention supports this proposed legislation."

Court upholds bankrupt tithers

ST. LOUIS (RNS)—A federal appeals court ruled May 6 that contributions to a church from a bankrupt Minnesota couple cannot be seized by creditors.

The decision overturned a lower court ruling that required the Crystal Evangelical Free Church of New Hope, Minn., to relinquish to a bankruptcy trustee \$13,450 that Bruce and Nancy Young had tithed to their church before their contracting business failed in 1992.

The latest ruling, by the 8th District U.S. Court of Appeals, was one of the first tests of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a 1993 law that received broad bipartisan support. The law prevents government from enforcing laws that encroach on religious practice unless there is a compelling reason to do so.

"We hold that the recovery of the contributions substantially burdens the debtors' free exercise of religion," the appeals court said in its ruling. "Even though the church does not compel tithing, the debtors consider tithing to be an important expression of their sincerely held religious beliefs."

The decision said repaying creditors is less of a "compelling interest" than public health or national security. Thus, the church should not be forced to surrender the contributions.

In a dissent, Senior District Judge Andrew Bogue noted that recovering the money does not prevent the Youngs from practicing their religion. "Regardless of the eventual outcome, (the Youngs) were given the opportunity to practice their religion as they chose during the year they were insolvent," he wrote. "Are cautious potential creditors now expected to question the applicants in-depth regarding the highly personal activity of religious giving?"

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Billboards no longer smokin'.** Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company said May 2 its 3M Media subsidiary will no longer accept billboard advertising for tobacco contracts. Anti-smoking advocates, including the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, a coalition of 275 Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish investors, hailed the announcement as a major victory. The religious corporate-responsibility group had planned to raise the tobacco advertising issue from the floor at the company's annual meeting May 14.

■ **Mississippi considers marriage definition.** The Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission May 3 joined a chorus of state pro-family groups calling for a special legislative session to address the possibility that Hawaii may soon sanction same-sex marriages,

forcing other states to accept the unions under provisions of the U.S. Constitution. "Dealing now with this issue by legislative statute will present a stronger defense in court than if we address it after the fact—when we have same-sex couples flying to Hawaii, getting married and then returning to Mississippi to demand recognition," said Paul Jones, executive director of the Baptist group.

■ **Gay marriage bill introduced.** Four Republican members of Congress took a preemptive strike at same-sex marriage May 8, backing legislation that would define marriage under federal law as a "legal union between one man and one woman." Anticipating a pending Hawaii court decision that could legalize gay marriage in that state, the measure, known as the Defense of Marriage Act, also would deny federal benefits to members of same-sex

marriages and allow states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages performed elsewhere.

■ **Baptist testifies on tax law.** A Texas Baptist attorney and businessman urged a congressional tax-writing panel to "maintain and enhance" charitable giving in the nation by keeping tax incentives for charitable donations in any tax-reform package it approves. Randall Fields, chairman of the board of regents of the Baylor University System, was among witnesses appearing May 1 before the House Ways and Means Committee. The panel, chaired by Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, conducted the hearing to assess the impact of various tax-reform proposals on local governments and non-profit groups.

■ **Supreme Court declines abortion appeal.** The U.S. Supreme Court said April

29 it will not consider reviving a South Dakota law that required parental notification before a minor could receive an abortion. The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down the law because it included no opportunity for "judicial bypass" in special cases. Laws in other states that require parental notification make an exception if the minor is able to persuade a judge that an abortion is in her best interest.

■ **Actions speak louder than words.** Simply holding religious beliefs does not deter a person from committing crimes, but regular participation in religious activities does, a new study has documented. The study, reported in a recent issue of the journal *Criminology*, found that the greater a person's involvement in religious activities, the lower that person's chances of being involved in a wide range of crimes.

Flap over Mormon student highlights differing beliefs

By David Winfrey
SBC Home Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—When a Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter in Tennessee recently refused to honor a Mormon student, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints raised a protest.

Mormon representatives said the student was in fact a Christian, and therefore should have been eligible for the honor. FCA leaders didn't see it that way.

Southern Baptist interfaith witness leaders praised the FCA decision, saying the Mormon church's reaction illustrates their desire for mainstream status and the ignorance of many Christians about Mormon teachings.

"Over the last 10-plus years, the Mormon church has made a very deliberate, conscious effort to cast

themselves as mainstream Protestants and evangelicals," said Phil Roberts, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's interfaith witness department. Such posturing, Roberts added, has "an ulterior motive to proselytize Protestants."

A Nashville chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes informed senior Aaron Walker that he could not receive athlete of the year honors because he is a member of the Mormon church. FCA members at Page High School backed their Mormon teammate by refusing to attend the awards banquet.

The Nashville Banner quoted Walker as saying: "I don't know why they would not consider us Christians. We believe Jesus Christ is our savior just like any other Christian."

But Southern Baptist interfaith witness specialists said Latter-day Saints hold basic beliefs that differ

significantly from Christianity, placing Mormons in the category of cults.

"Mormons say, 'We worship the same Jesus.' Well, no they don't," said Mike Reynolds, director of Utah Missions Inc., a Mormon watchdog group based in Marlow, Okla. "The Jesus of Mormonism is a created being who is a god, not God. There is your basic difference."

An HMB interfaith witness bulletin outlining Mormon beliefs states Mormons believe their god "lived on a planet as a mortal man before attaining 'godhood' or 'exaltation.'"

Reynolds and Roberts said the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints seeks acceptance by mainstream Christianity despite Mormon doctrines claiming to be the only true church and condemning all other churches as heretical.

"We don't have to say we stand apart from Mormons," Roberts said.

"Doctrinally, and by their very confession and opinion of mainstream Christians, they have done that themselves."

Reynolds said many Christians are ignorant of the differences between their beliefs and the beliefs held by Mormons. He compares it to his experience at age 14 when he asked his father, a deacon, about Mormons.

"My dad's basic statement was, 'I know they're wrong, but I don't know why.' And I find most Baptists (believe) that way today," he said.

"I think most of them know that Mormonism is incorrect and they know there's a little difference in the gods. But the terminology is confusing," Reynolds said. "It sounds like Baptist-ese, but it's not. It's Mormon-ese. It all has a different meaning; every last thing from baptism to God to son of God."

"The Jesus of Mormonism is a created being who is a god, not God. There is your basic difference."

Mike Reynolds, director of Utah Missions Inc., a Mormon watchdog group

CLASSIFIED ADS

NEEDED: 100 song books for Little Cane Creek Baptist Church, Red River Baptist Association. P.O. Box 190, Campton, KY 41301. (606) 668-3517.

CARE: Helping Hands Companion Home Care provides transportation, companionship and personal care from quality, Christian caregivers. Linda Hyers, (502) 426-9783.

SEEKING: Minister of music/outreach for northern Kentucky SBC church. Call (606) 635-2444. Grant's Lick Baptist Church, 175 W. Clay Rd., Alexandria, KY 41001. Dr. Paul E. Broyles, pastor/teacher.

SEEKING: DeHaven Memorial Baptist Church accepting resumés for a full-time minister of administration/education. Address inquiries: Personnel Committee, 307 W. Jefferson St., LaGrange, KY 40031.

NEEDED: Bilingual pastor for Spanish Baptist Church, 1420 Cerrillos Rd., Santa Fe, N.M. Please send resumé to: P.O. Box 5959, Santa Fe, NM 87505, Attn: Pulpit Search Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and children in a church with tremendous potential. Please send resumé ASAP to: Pastor, P.O. Box 384, Lewisport, KY 42351.

SEEKING: Growing church in northern Kentucky with strong youth program desires to hire a full-time youth minister. Please send resumé

SEEKING: Resumés 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 resumé 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 resumés is May 31, 1996.

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

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

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

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

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).

Evangelical group self-critical

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (RNS)—More than 100 evangelical leaders meeting recently in Cambridge, Mass., have issued a document harshly critical of their Protestant movement, saying some members have strayed so far from basic biblical tenets that the word evangelical has lost its meaning.

"The evangelical world today is losing its biblical fidelity, moral compass and missionary zeal," the Cambridge Declaration of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals concludes.

The document's signatories were not disclosed, and the statement did not single out specific individuals or groups for criticism.

Traditionally, evangelicals have identified themselves as conservative Protestant Christians who regard the Bible as God's infallible word and seek to convert people to Christianity.

The declaration's writers state that evangelical pastors, scholars and other leaders—including themselves—need to repent for their willingness to be dominated by the norms of popular culture rather than the historic principles of the Protestant Reformation.

The document says, for example, that pastors should preach only about the Bible rather than on their opinions or "the ideas of the age." Clergy also should have more oversight over the "doctrinal content of the music" in worship services, the document declares.

Report cites 137 art protests

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Conservative religious or political groups instigated dozens of incidents last year in which paintings, movies, plays and other artistic displays were altered or kept from public view, according to People for the American Way, a liberal advocacy group.

In its fourth edition of "Artistic Freedom Under Attack," the group cited 137 challenges to artistic expres-

Among the targets of criticism are churches in the so-called "church growth movement," a hallmark of which is fast-growing megachurches with congregations of 2,000 or more. The document contends that such churches focus too much on marketing strategies to fill their pews.

The document also is critical of clergy who preach a gospel that combines Scripture with ideas about self-esteem. Such an approach, according to the declaration, instills a "false confidence" in human ability rather than focusing on God's grace.

"Therapeutic technique, marketing strategies, and the beat of the entertainment world often have far more to say about what the church wants, how it functions and what it offers, than does the word of God," the declaration states.

David Wells, a vice president of the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals, said his group seeks reform of the evangelical movement. The alliance's 14-member council invited more than 100 people to a meeting in April and issued the declaration at the gathering's conclusion.

Although some participants wanted to "name names" of clergy and groups targeted for criticism, they were overruled by their peers, Wells said. "We kept ourselves to simply talking about ideas," he said.

"It (the document) is expressing the judgment that the evangelical house is in considerable disorder," said Wells, a historical and systematic theology professor at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass.

While People for the American Way claimed the groups had "censored" the artwork, the Coalition and others said their activity was merely citizen activism.

"The evangelical world today is losing its biblical fidelity, moral compass and missionary zeal."



Georges



Hillses

Kentuckians appointed by FMB

RICHMOND, Va.—Two couples with Kentucky ties were appointed to missionary service by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in April.

Scott and Sandra George will live in Portugal, where he will work as a national youth ministry consultant. The Georges also will be involved in a variety of outreach ministries.

He is a former minister of youth at First Baptist Church in Carrollton and considers St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville influential in his Christian growth. Both George and Mrs.

George earned the master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She previously was a public relations assistant at Oxmore Toyota in Louisville and served as director of youth ministries at Middletown Christian Church in Louisville.

Kenneth and Donna Hills were reappointed as missionaries to Senegal, where they will do agricultural development among the Fulani people.

They previously served as missionaries in Niger Republic and Benin.

He considers First Baptist Church of Murray influential in his Christian growth. He attended Southern Seminary.

Focus on Family employees taken hostage by armed man

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Minutes after conservative Christian activist James Dobson heard evangelist Billy Graham warn of the dangers of a violent world May 2, Dobson's own Focus on the Family ministry in Colorado Springs, Colo., became a target of violence.

A gunman, armed with a small handgun and what he claimed were explosives strapped to his waist, entered the sprawling campus on the northern edge of Colorado Springs at 1:30 p.m. and took four Focus on the Family workers hostage at the ministry's main building. Police evacuated 500 of the ministry's 1,200 workers and blocked off access to the area.

After 90 minutes of negotiations, the two men and two women held captive were released without injury.

The suspect, whom police identified as Kerry Steven Dore, 43, of Denver, surrendered at about 7:15 p.m. and was taken into custody. Police said he was being charged with first degree kidnapping, felony menacing and false reporting of explosives.

"I don't think there is any business, any ministry, any church that is not under threat," Dobson said in a telephone from a Washington hotel room. Dobson had come to Washington to participate in the National Day of Prayer and for ceremonies honoring Graham and his wife, Ruth.

Dobson said the gunman was "a

construction worker who worked for the company that was building" the Focus on the Family complex. The man, Dobson said, "was injured on the job."

Police said Dore was "seriously injured as a result of a fall" during construction of the main Focus on the Family building in October 1992. "He apparently was angry over the workman's compensation settlement and was blaming Focus on the Family," the Colorado Springs Police Department said in a statement.

One of the hostages, Laurilee Keyes, said Dore promised not to hurt them, but appeared nervous and fidgeted with the hammer of his gun.

According to AP, Dore said in a March interview with the Denver weekly, Westword, that he was seriously injured while helping build the Focus on the Family headquarters. Dore received a \$40,000 cash settlement and monthly payments of \$1,126.

Dobson declined to divulge details of security at the organization's campus. "We have reasonable security," he said. "There have been only two or three incidents in all the years ... but it only takes one. Once someone got within three feet of me with a knife. That was after I interviewed (serial killer Ted) Bundy," who met with Dobson hours before he was executed in Florida's electric chair in the 1980s.

A mother's special love

Every Saturday morning I call my mother in Dixon, Ky. Often it takes a couple of tries to get through because my brother and two sisters seem to also always call her at virtually the same time. I believe the reason we always choose Saturday morning to call has to do with how special Saturdays were at our home when we were growing up. Mom always fixed a big breakfast of biscuits and gravy and we all had a little more time to just enjoy each other.

After working with hurting children and families for so many years, I have grown to appreciate mom and dad more than ever. I am saddened that so many children today never know the unconditional love that I have always felt.

I'm reminded of a young boy I'll call Carl who lives with us at Spring Meadows. A few weeks ago he had an opportunity to visit with his mother who had just gotten out of prison. He was excited and had dreams of soon going home to her so our family worker made the arrangements and accompanied him. But instead of the joyous reunion he was expecting, Carl found his mother in a drug-

induced unconsciousness. It seems she needed a "fix" more than she needed Carl. Understandably, he sobbed in anger and deep, deep hurt.

I am grateful that Kentucky Baptists can reach out to this young man. He didn't get the loving hugs he wanted from his mother that day but he did get the loving, comforting and compassionate hugs of a wonderful Christian social worker. She was there for him then and will be there for him in the days and weeks ahead because Kentucky Baptists have cared enough to reach out with the arms of Jesus.

I hope your experiences with your mother have been more like mine than like Carl's. If so, I would ask you to join with me and my wife, SuEllen, as we honor our mothers by making a gift to KBHC this week. Honor what your mother gave you by helping a child who may have never known a godly mother's love!

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Curtis C. Mooney



RIBBON CUTTING A dedication and ribbon-cutting service was held May 7 for the new Baptist Building West, which houses the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and the Western Recorder. The \$1.5 million facility was built by the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board, which leases spaces to the three entities. The new building is located on the same property as the main Baptist Building, but is a separate structure. Shown cutting the ribbon to the new office are Barry Allen, Foundation president, Kay Trisler, WMU executive director, and Mark Wingfield, Western Recorder editor.



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Dear God, Dear God

By Bob Cunningham

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. (Romans 8:26)

We try to have a "prayer time" with our children just before going to bed. My daughter, when she was 4, usually did a modified version of the way we say grace at meal times—always speaking some

form of gratitude for food (she shares her father's love of eating). My son, when he was 2, far less experienced at praying, typically prayed in one of four basic forms:

1. "Amen." (The shortest and simplest)
2. "Dear God, Amen." (A bit more personal)
3. "Dear God, Dear God, Amen." (Somewhat repetitive, though said with considerable affection)
4. "Dear God, I love you, Amen." Usually requiring prompting and coaching from us)

Actually, version 3 is my favorite. Partly because, given the speech patterns of a 2-year-old, he just sounds so cute saying "Dear God, Dear God." But mostly because he said the prayer so earnestly, as if God were his best and

dearest friend. As if, having declared how dear God is to him, there's really no need to say anything else. Except "amen."

Many of us struggle at times with how to pray, unsure of what to ask God for and even less certain of what God will or won't do. And there are those times we are so overcome with emotion or so

confused or overwhelmed that we can't even begin to put our thoughts into words, much less express them toward God as prayer. I

have begun to think maybe my son has it right. Perhaps we'd do best to simply declare our love and affection for God, say "amen," and trust that God's Spirit really does "intercede" for us ... conveying our deepest and innermost hopes and fears to God.

"Dear God, Dear God."
Amen.

Bob Cunningham is a chaplain at Baptist Hospital East. He is married with two children: Holly (age 5) and Eli (age 3).

Any questions or comments concerning this article, Baptist Healthcare System or Baptist Healthcare Foundation should be directed to Charles W. Cox Jr., president of Baptist Healthcare Foundation, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, Ky. 40207. (502) 896-5003 or (800) 224-4745.

PEOPLE



FINANCIAL FORUM

Foundation serves variety of donors

By Laurie Valentine

Using the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to accomplish your Christian estate stewardship objectives provides a variety of advantages to you and the charitable causes you wish to benefit.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is the only agency which may receive gifts for the support of every Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist cause. As a "member of the family," the Foundation has a special appreciation and affection for the ministries that will be supported through your gifts. This important connection provides assurance to you, as the giver, that the Foundation has each cause's best interests in mind.

Many donors want to provide support to more than one charitable cause and realize that dividing their gifts may result in lower total support to their charitable beneficiaries. A single trust or endowment fund established with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation can be set up to provide support to more than one charity at the same time. This can result in more consistent levels of support for all—each charity will have the benefit of the same level of competent investment management services and the economies of centralized fund management.

Making the Kentucky Baptist Foundation the manager of your gift allows the causes you wish to support to do what they were called to do—missions, Christian education, child care, evangelism, disaster relief, etc. You relieve the charity's board or staff from day-to-day investment research, analysis, decision-making, transacting and reporting.

The Foundation board and staff have a sincere desire to help each Kentucky Baptist determine how to practice Christian stewardship at a higher level. This desire is reflected in the variety of gift plans offered and in the ability of the Foundation to accept gifts of any size. A plan can be tailored to accomplish each giver's objectives.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation's board and staff take seriously their mission to provide management of gifts and bequests in a manner that assures the giver that what took a lifetime to bring together will be preserved to perpetuate the giver's Christian witness.

Lauri Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

Cummins named Outstanding Woman

Continued from page 1

children and adults to join this Bible study group or that mission club.

Cummins has spent her adult life in the inner city, working to help give families a chance for a better life. It is a life for which Cummins seemed destined from the time she started teaching Sunday school at age 15 at her hometown church in Crittenden.

Cummins didn't go to college immediately after high school, opting instead to get a job in order to help her family. Then, in 1973, she arrived at South Side Baptist Church.

"I got lost in the jungle of life for a time until I came to South Side," she recalls. "I had heard that they needed people who would commit to helping others in the inner city."

Cummins had no formal training in ministry, yet she knew missionary work was in her heart.

"I wanted to start a Bible club. I asked them (South Side Baptist) to give me three months to make it work. It was half-days in the beginning. I hadn't gone to college or seminary, but God helped me through it and the people saw that I could do it."

Cummins attributes the special bond that she has with the people in Covington to her own life as a daughter of a poor tenant farmer.

ter of a poor tenant farmer.

"I talk their language, and I've lived their life," she says. "These people are alone, stuck in crowded apartment buildings. They don't see themselves with any worth, and they don't have any hope. Some don't realize that they need help; they think this is the way life is."

Through her ministry, Cummins coordinates food and clothing distributions for the city's poor. She involves inner-city adults in her programs and children in after-school activities, summer programs and such events as Halloween parties and overnight lock-ins. She takes more than 100 children each summer to day camp at Bullittsburg Camp.

Cummins has worked with Mountain Outreach of Cumberland College and has chaperoned college students to Red Mesa, Ariz., to build a new home for a Navajo Indian family. Close to home, Cummins distributes baskets of Thanksgiving Day suppers and helps supply needy families with food and toys for Christmas.

"A lot of people think the inner-city kids are all on drugs, and some are," Cummins said. "But along with them are people who are struggling and trying to do what is right. Some

people bring things on themselves, but the kids can't help it—they're caught in the middle. They didn't ask for the drugs."

She is a tireless missionary who begins work at 9 a.m. and finishes about 9:30 in the evening. She does not consider herself a workaholic, admitting that she enjoys some activities so much that "they make the harder work seem much easier."

Watching the ministry grow in Covington and expand into City Heights has been gratifying.

"Thirteen years ago we started solely with the kids," Cummins explained. "I went up and down the street and started talking to people. I visited the homes of the girls in GAs. The Victory Club came out of that. And now some of the Victory Club moms are helping; they were helped and now are giving it back."

Cummins considers her greatest accomplishment to be that her three daughters are following in her footsteps. Two, Tracy Witt and Sarah Stevens, volunteer at their mother's side. A third, Amy, is a missionary in New York.

Cummins' guiding belief is a philosophy that was shared with her by Harold Pike, pastor of South Side, when she first began working at the church.

"Brother Pike told me, 'Helen, you can't think too highly of yourself, but you've got to believe that you are somebody special. You and God together can help.'"

"I hope I have instilled in these boys and girls and adults that they are each somebody special, that they have self-worth and that they can do and be great things," Cummins said.

"I hope I have instilled in these boys and girls and adults that they are each somebody special, that they have self-worth and that they can do and be great things."

Helen Cummins

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THANKS A.B. Colvin (left), retired director of missions and evangelism for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, receives recognition from Annuity Board President Paul Powell for coordinating Kentucky participation in the Retired Ministers' Support Corps, a ministry to assist retired ministers with underfunded annuities.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

- Pray for these specific needs related to Kentucky Baptist partnerships with Russia, Boston and Utah-Idaho:
- Russian Baptist churches which desperately need funds for construction projects.
 - Russian interpreters working with Kentucky volunteers.
 - That many children will receive Christ as Savior during the children's camps to be held in Russia this summer.
 - Work teams needed at New Colony Baptist Church in Billerica, Mass., where a dwelling is being converted into housing for volunteers.
 - Kentucky teams going to Utah-Idaho to minister this summer.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

- **BOWLING GREEN**—Richard W. Bridges resigned as pastor of First Church May 12. Bridges, who has served the church as minister of education, associate pastor and pastor since 1970, plans to take a one-year sabbatical before pursuing other ministry interests. In addition to numerous advances during his tenure, the church recovered and rebuilt after a fire burned its historic sanctuary to the ground in 1991.
- **CHARLOTTE, N.C.**—Tony Romeo, Baptist campus minister at Western Kentucky University from 1969-1974, died May 2 at age 58. Funeral services and burial were held in North Carolina.
- **COVINGTON**—Ashland Avenue Church called William Class as pastor. He previously was pastor at First Church in Woodbine, Ga.
- **GEORGETOWN**—Great Crossing Church called Richard Clark as part-time minister of youth.
- **HARRODSBURG**—Bethel Church called Jack Geurin as pastor. He previously was pastor at Morrisville Church in Bolivar, Mo. He began his new ministry May 5.
- **HENDERSON**—Geneva Church called Kenneth Wilkerson as pastor. He previously was pastor at Finley Church.

Shockley as pastor.

■ **HICKMAN**—First Church will celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary May 19, with messages from former pastors, a luncheon and music. Also, Clifton Davis of Tiptonville, Tenn., was recently called as pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Gardenside Church called Judy Gallenstein as youth coordinator.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Jim Smith resigned as youth minister at Lakewood Church.

The youth/college choir of Crescent Hill Church will present a spring concert, "The Lord of the Dance," May 19 at 6:30 p.m. The program will include anthems and selections from the musical "Narnia."

Immanuel Church recently called Van McQueen of New Albany, Ind., as pastor.

■ **MURRAY**—First Church celebrated its sesquicentennial anniversary May 5.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Lewis Lane Church called Shane Garrison as summer youth director. He is a student at Campbellsville College.

■ **SCOTTSVILLE**—Scottsville Church called Wendy Amiet as associate minister of youth and children.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—Lee Hef-

ley, longtime member and deacon at Bardstown Junction Church, died April 14. He is survived by his wife, Jean; a daughter; two sons; six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Pleasant Grove Church will present the Southern gospel group "The Journeymen" in concert May 18 at 7 p.m.

■ **SMITHLAND**—Cave Springs Church called Jim Lee as pastor.

■ **TURNERS STATION**—Turners Station Church called Tom Campbell of LaFollette, Tenn., as pastor. He is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and a student at Southern Seminary.

■ **WHITESBURG**—First Church called Sherry Murdock as director of music. She previously was minister of music/youth at Pine Branch Church in Spruce Pine, N.C.

Missionary update

■ **James and Vanita Brooks**, missionary associates to Japan, are on the field and may be addressed at P.O. Box 31, Okinawa City 904, Japan. They are natives of Louisville.

■ **John and Florence Griggs**, missionaries to Zimbabwe, are in the States at 925 Skyline Dr., Morristown, Tenn. 37814. She was born in Blue Diamond, Ky.

■ **Grundy and Jean James**, missionaries to Chile, are in the States at 514 E. Main St. Georgetown, Ky. 40324. He was born in Louisville and also lived in Lexington. She was

born in Louisville and also lived in Shepherdsville and Owensboro.

■ **Long and Mary Pham**, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field and may be addressed at P.O. Box 7506, DAPO Lock B, 1300 Domestic Rd., Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines. Both were born in Saigon, Vietnam, and consider Louisville and Saigon their hometowns.

■ **Wendell and Betty Smith**, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field and may be addressed at P.O. Box 54, San Pablo City, Laguna 400, Philippines. They are natives of Hardin County.

■ **Cathy Sue Smith**, missionary to the Philippines, is on the field and may be addressed at P.O. Box 2016 MCPO, 0706 Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines. She considers Russellville her hometown.

■ **Brad and Sally Womble**, missionaries to Niger Republic, are in the States. They may be addressed in care of First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 608, Gruver, Texas 79040. She considers Hopkinsville her hometown.

■ **Are we on your church's mailing list?** Many of the items in the Mountains to the Mississippi column are gleaned from church and associational newsletters sent to the Western Recorder. If the Recorder is not currently on the mailing list for your newsletter, please add us so we can share with others in the state your significant milestones.

A woman's touch

The next time you come to Oneida, you may want to take a minute or two and ask some of our faculty and staff "How did you come to Oneida?" Some of the stories are so amazing you may not believe them. One such story, which I do not have time to tell in this article, is how Ken and Nancy Martin came. In March of 1995 my wife, Kay, and I were sitting in the living room of the Martins' home, near Hopkinsville.

Our farm manager was ill and not able to continue his duties. It was a sad day in February, 1995, when Mr. Tillman told me he would have to leave due to his failing health. He had recently met Ken Martin and thought Mr. Martin might be a good farm manager. After talking to Mr. Martin at length in his living room, his wife asked what I had for her to do. I immediately said I would like for her to work with our girls, especially those who had gotten into trouble and were going to be suspended. In most schools, when students are suspended, they get a few days off from school and not much more. But at Oneida when students get into trouble, they are required to work while the other students go to school. Nancy was not sure she could do the job, but agreed to pray about it.

Three months later, the Martins were on their way to Oneida. Nancy had agreed to work with our girls, and to take over the operation of our two commercial-sized greenhouses. She asked if she could use one of the greenhouses to grow flowers. I said that was fine; even though we could not eat flowers, they would be pretty to look at.

This spring we began to see the results of her efforts. During the winter months she worked with girls who needed a "time out." She worked with them in the greenhouse, showing a loving and caring attitude. They planted thousands of seeds. She not only grew the many flowers she

liked so much, but also hundreds and hundreds of vegetables to be transplanted to the garden.

Already this spring there are several hundred cauliflower, broccoli, cabbage, and tomato plants in the garden. There are still hundreds more to be put out a little later, and enough extra to be sold. She hopes to sell enough plants to pay for the seeds and other materials she had to purchase.

Then there are those flowers; row after row of flowers. She has been busy all spring with the girls and some volunteers, planting hundreds of flowers all over the campus in our many gardens. Frankly, I have never been interested in growing flowers. My motto is pretty simple, "If you can't eat it, don't grow it." I must confess I was really impressed with the beauty of the plants in the greenhouse ... potted flowers and hanging plants everywhere.

Not only have these plants added much to the beauty of our campus, but the plants in the garden will save the school hundreds, possibly thousands, of dollars this summer and fall. The girls, and some boys, who have worked with her are now able to see the results of their efforts. Even though many were doing this because of some misbehavior on their part, we were able to punish them and provide a learning experience at the same time. What a wonderful opportunity to be able to use work to correct a child, and at the same time provide a source of pride and achievement.

Paul tells about our diversity of gifts. Each of us is able to contribute to his kingdom's work. In this case we have been able to see the gift of "A Woman's Touch."

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Even better the second time around

Few ministers have the opportunity to return as pastor for a second time, and often the experience doesn't work out. M.D. Cabe and New Bethel Baptist Church near Sandersville, Ga. demonstrate it can be done.

Cabe was pastor in 1972-79 and then went to Tennessee for 10 years. In the midst of a decline, New Bethel called him again. Signs of vitality abound. More attend children's church now than the entire Sunday school had then. The

church usually takes home the attendance banner from associational events. Men participate in Carpenters for Christ mission projects. The church gives about 20 percent of offerings to missions.

The auditorium has been bricked, central heat/air added, and educational building erected and another remodeled. Members will soon retire a \$100,000 debt. The community enjoys the lighted softball field and tennis court.

An attractive lobby bulletin board read, "Look what our youth have been doing." Activity photos included three of "Preacher Cabe" baptizing youth.

Kaolin (white clay) mines employ several members. Much of the farm land is now in pine trees; other farmers wonder about the impact of new government policies and the end of subsidies. Pastor Cabe also

farms 100 acres where he has built a home. Every pastor needs a 68-foot front porch with a swing!

I witnessed Cabe's person-centered ministry soon after I arrived in his home. A call came that an elderly member has collapsed with a possible stroke. The pastor went to help and returned with the man's grandson, Steve. Carolyn Cabe prepared some food and fixed Steve a bed in the family room.

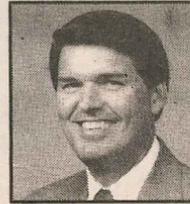
For eight years Cabe has been president of the Washington County Ministerial Association. The group plans to help with the Hospice ministry. Cabe also serves on the associational advisory committee for the state Executive Board.

Deacon Wyman West said his pastor is a good Clear Creek representative. "Your graduates have a different outlook on ministry. I have seen the sacrifices they make."

A '72 graduate, Cabe said he could have been voted "most likely to fail." He was pastor of Turner Church in Verda, Harlan County. "Sometimes a pastor can't stay at a church; they close the door on you. That's also happened to me, but the Lord has been good to me, and God blesses because the people do the work the Lord asks."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Church's role in Rwanda under scrutiny

VATICAN CITY (RNS)—Modeste Mungwarareba says that when confronted with issues of justice in Rwanda, the Roman Catholic Church prefers darkness to light.

Notwithstanding Pope John Paul II's recent admonition that priests and nuns who collaborated in the 1994 genocide should admit their sins and face legal accountability, Mungwarareba, a Catholic Tutsi from the southern village of Butare, says the church in Rwanda and the Vatican show no signs of forcing clergy to be judged at the altar of the legal system.

"Some clergy were responsible for killing people, and it is known and proven that some were aware of what was happening," said the 44-year-old priest, who hid for nine days from Hutu troops in a Butare church when the fighting erupted in April 1994. He survived on eucharistic wafers and water from the sacristy, then found refuge in a convent for two months.

"A lot of gestures and words showed that some priests had no compassion for the ones who were killed," said Mungwarareba, who was in Rome for a meeting on missionary work. "For me, justice is light. It is better to shine light on the situation."

But in Africa's most Catholic country, neither the church in Rwanda nor the Vatican has taken concrete measures to identify suspects or conduct an international investigation of its members' behavior in an attempt to clear the air.

Monsignor Ivan Marin-Lopez, who recently visited Rwanda on behalf of the Vatican, said flatly, "That is not our task but that of the international community."

The pope has stated that only individuals, not the church, can be held responsible for the sins that were committed.

But with the U.N. international war crimes tribunal set to begin trials in July of the first 10 indicted Rwandans, none of them clergy, the church's role in Rwanda is coming under increasing criticism on several fronts.

It is accused of seeking the release of several priests in custody for alleged crimes, defending clergy suspected of crimes and having helped priests flee the war without attention to questions of culpability.

While questions have been raised about the church's handling of legal affairs, no one has disputed reports that it and its flock were a principal target of the violence, in which 500,000 to 1 million people, mainly Tutsis and moderate Hutus, were killed.

Hundreds of priests and nuns were murdered for trying to hide thousands of innocent people. Hutu and Tutsi forces frequently attacked churches, which were easily vanquished in the campaign of mass slaughter.

What's more, the number of priests and nuns suspected of complicity is but a tiny fraction of the

thousands of Hutu army troops and Tutsi rebels who engaged in civil warfare.

"Churches were a convenient target," said Rakiya Omaar, co-director of African Rights, a London-based human rights group that has published several reports on the war. "The killers knew where to find people. A lot of priests and others were murdered."

The Catholic Church is not the only denomination under suspicion in connection with the atrocities. A number of Anglican church officials also have been accused of involvement in the massacres.

But the Catholic Church is by far the leading religious power in Rwanda, where 62 percent of the population is Catholic.

Aside from issues of judicial accountability, the Vatican has refused to acknowledge what many Rwandans say is obvious—that the church failed to ease strains among Hutu and Tutsi clergy who openly identified with the warring parties and that these divisions may have fueled the war.

In fact, since Catholicism arrived in Rwanda more than a century ago, the church has nearly always been divided between the Hutu and Tutsi camps. During the 1930s and 1940s, the Tutsis dominated church affairs. In the 1970s the power center shifted to the Hutus, and the church became closely aligned with President Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu whose assassination touched off the fighting.



FOCUS ON TIBET Tibetan Buddhists like this woman spin a prayer wheel to send their pleas for mercy to the spirits they believe control their lives. "Tibetan Buddhism, behind its thin veneer of kindness and nonviolence, is a hopeless religion of works that only leads its adherents into an ever-deepening bondage to the powers of darkness," said Randy Sprinkle, director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's international prayer strategy office. "The saving love of the one, true God as ultimately expressed in his Son, Jesus Christ, is almost completely unknown in Tibet." Southern Baptists have set aside a 24-hour period beginning at 6 p.m. May 24 to pray for the people of Tibet. The 1996 Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization focuses on the nearly 5 million Tibetans worldwide. There are no more than a handful of Christians in Tibet, and no known congregations.

WORLD VIEW

■ **Nazi dictatorship called inhumane.** German state secretary Anton Pfeifer, speaking on plans for a Holocaust memorial, says the Nazi dictatorship's inhumanity was based on a lack of moral norms and human values. "It is essential that the memorial in Berlin, by bundling our memories in a prominent and visible place, gives us occasion again and again to look at ourselves," he said in a speech in parliament May 9. "The systematic inhumanity of the Nazi dictatorship had its decisive basis in the mockery of every human value system and the destruction of all moral norms."

A cornerstone ceremony for the planned memorial, currently stalled by a design dispute, is scheduled to take place near the Brandenburg Gate on Holocaust Day, Jan. 27, 1999.

■ **Burundi residents flee.** Thousands of Burundians are continuing to flood into Zaire, fleeing increasing violence in the northwestern part of their African country, a U.N. refugee official said May 8. "Some refugees are now arriving with bullet wounds and say the fighting is getting worse," Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the U.N. refugee agency, told Associated Press. "We are expecting more refugees. The flow does not show signs of stopping."

■ **Remains finally buried.** The brains of mentally handicapped children whom the Nazis considered "unworthy of life" were buried May 8 in a memorial grave at Vienna's central cemetery. They were the remains of hundreds of German and Austrian children murdered by the Nazis who conducted experiments in a quest for an Aryan "master race." The children's brains have

been stored in a Vienna psychiatric hospital for half a century, in formaldehyde-filled jars labeled with each victim's name, date of death and diagnosis—usually "idioty," the Reuter news agency reported.

■ **Jehovah's Witnesses arrested.** A Singapore judge ruled May 2 that the government acted legally when it jailed and fined seven Jehovah's Witnesses for threatening national security by belonging to the banned sect. The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society—the formal name for the Jehovah's Witnesses group—was declared illegal in Singapore in 1972 because of its theological opposition to military service and swearing national allegiance. Officials said Jehovah's Witnesses were undermining the nation's draft laws and public order.

■ **Catholics and Muslims clash.** A move to make two Muslim feasts national holidays in Mozambique has heightened tensions between Muslims and Roman Catholics in the African nation. Prior to its independence from Portugal, Catholicism was the official religion of Mozambique. In the years since, Islam has overtaken Catholicism as the nation's dominant faith. There are about 4 million Muslims and 3 million Catholics in the nation of about 17 million.

■ **Banks agree to search.** Jewish leaders and Swiss banking officials have agreed to look for what may amount to billions of dollars that were deposited in Swiss banks by Holocaust victims. A two-page agreement, signed in New York May 2, is intended to pave the way for the banking officials and representatives of international Jewish

groups to search for the funds. Secrecy laws have prevented heirs from retrieving money deposited in Swiss banks by Jews who later perished in the Holocaust. The banks have now pledged to open their records to the committee.

■ **Gambling flying high.** At a time when gambling is hotly debated as a moral issue, two airlines are planning to install electronic gambling machines on some of their jetliners. British Airways and Singapore Airlines plan to make poker, blackjack, roulette and slot games available to passengers wishing to play the games from their seats. Travelers 18 years and older will be able to use their credit cards to play the games, the Associated Press reported.

■ **Mormon temple nixed.** An outcry from local Roman Catholics and concerns about urban development have led city officials in Monterrey, Mexico, to block the construction of what would have been the country's second Mormon temple. Thousands of Catholics gathered signatures and purchased advertisements in newspapers protesting the temple construction.

■ **Shroud of Turin to be exhibited.** Roman Catholic Cardinal Giovanni Saldarini of Turin, Italy, has announced that the controversial Shroud of Turin, thought by some to be the burial cloth of Jesus, will be publicly exhibited in 1998 and again in 2000. It has been under the custody of the archdiocese of Turin since 1587 and on display only twice—in 1933 and 1978.

■ **Was the Bard a Catholic?** British scholars are discussing the possibility that Will-

iam Shakespeare (1564-1616) was a "church-papist," one who outwardly conformed to the established Protestant Church of England while secretly harboring Roman Catholic beliefs. Shakespeare wrote at the height of the Elizabethan era, when Anglicanism was becoming the established religion and Catholics were persecuted. The debate began this spring with publication of an article by Margarita Stocker, a professor at St. Hilda's College of Oxford University. Stocker argued that Shakespeare's play "Love's Labor's Lost," was a daringly subversive attack on Queen Elizabeth's persecution of Roman Catholics.

■ **Outdated equipment sought.** Film projectors gathering dust in church closets could improve the quality of life in developing countries and provide an avenue for Christian witness, says a Baptist layman in Waco, Texas. As vice president of Amigos Internacionales, Bob Sloan is soliciting outdated audiovisual equipment to help build media libraries in Third World countries. And as vice president for Texas Baptist Men's educational fellowship, he hopes to enlist Baptist teachers as volunteer trainers in educational technology around the globe.

■ **'Holy Coat' to be displayed.** For only the third time this century, a cloak some believe is the robe worn by Jesus on his way to the crucifixion will go on display in the German city of Trier. According to Reuters, the Roman Catholic diocese of Trier expects as many as 1 million pilgrims and tourists to see the so-called "Holy Coat of Trier" at the city's cathedral between April 19 and May 16.

Momentum is Building.

Excitement is in the air at Georgetown College. Momentum is building and students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends agree that Georgetown is on the move.

With an eye to the future, Georgetown is preparing students to be leaders in the global marketplace of the next century. Georgetown students are exposed to current technology in conjunction with a strong, values-based liberal arts education. This combination gives graduates a definite advantage as they enter the job market or graduate school.

Here are just some of the exciting things happening at Georgetown College today.

West End Project

Georgetown College is preparing to break ground on a \$12-million, state-of-the-art Learning Resource Center, which will serve as the academic centerpiece of campus.

The two-story, 53,000-square foot building will feature a 125-seat, high-tech auditorium; a 100-seat distance learning center; a replica of the Yale Law Library study room, including a 14-foot high fireplace; a three-story

entrance hall; movable stacks for book storage; study tables with computer hookups; and space to accommodate 220,500 volumes of books and 1,050 periodicals.

In addition, construction has begun on a new Art Building. The building, to be located on the corner of Mulberry and College streets, will feature one of the largest galleries in Central Kentucky, and classrooms and facilities for painting, drawing, printing, design, multimedia sculpture and photography.

Technology

Thanks to a generous grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation, Georgetown College is installing fiber-optic cable throughout campus. By the fall of 1996, students with their own computers will be able to access the Internet from their residence hall rooms, or from campus computer labs, unlocking the resources of the World Wide Web with full-function audio and video. The cable will also allow students to have educational television programming in their rooms, including international broadcasting from as far away as Europe and Russia.

Centers of Distinction

Gatton Center for Leadership Development
The Harper Gatton Center for Leadership Development is designed to enhance the unique Georgetown College experience. Students who participate in the program can cultivate an understanding of volunteerism and ethical decision-making, strengthen leadership abilities and explore career development activities.

The Marshall Center for Christian Ministry
The college is launching the William and Alice Marshall Center for Christian Ministry, with its dedication to take place in January 1997. The center will help students prepare for Christian leadership and service in the global mission of the 21st century.

Accolades

Georgetown College has once again been honored with accolades in several distinguished publications: *U.S. News & World Report's 1996 Annual Guide to America's Best Colleges*, *Peterson's Guide to Competitive Colleges 1995-96*, and the John Templeton Foundation Honor Roll for Character Building Colleges for 1995.



Georgetown College's 1996 Summer Servants were commissioned during a service for family and friends in John L. Hill Chapel.

President's Ambassadors

The President's Ambassadors program was established by President William H. Crouch Jr. in 1992 to encourage exemplary juniors and seniors to become involved in the development and promotion of the college and to offer leadership training opportunities. The President's Ambassadors also participate in special educational and social activities to help prepare them for life after college.

Fundraising Accomplishments

In a report released by the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities, Georgetown, for the first time ever, raised more money from private sources than Centre College or Transylvania University.

Athletics

It has been an exciting year in Tiger athletics, highlighted by the men's basketball team making it all the way to the NAIA National Championship game in Tulsa, Okla., and bringing home the runner-up trophy.

Head basketball coach Jim Reid was inducted into the NAIA Hall of Fame in recognition of his 23 years of outstanding service as head coach of the Tigers and was named 1996 NAIA Coach of the Year.

In addition, volleyball coach Donna Hawkins and Reid also celebrated their 500th wins this past year.

The college mourns the loss of Reid who died April 4.

Student and Alumni Success

There is no better illustration of a college's success than the accomplishments of its students and alumni. Georgetown takes great pride in our many stellar students and distinguished alums.

Sixty of our top students will participate in the 1996 Summer Servant program, doing mission work for various organizations including the KBC and the SBC. Students will be serving in places as near as Lexington, Ky., and as far as the Philippines and Kazakhstan.

Senior Brian Cabbage spent last summer studying Rene Descartes thanks to a College Younger Scholars Award from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Only 150 grants are given annually and Cabbage was the only Kentuckian to be honored last year.

Junior Traci Thornton has been elected president of the Baptist Student Union of Kentucky. The election took place during BSU's Annual Leadership Training Conference attended by approximately 400 college students from throughout Kentucky.

Georgetown's outstanding alumni include Earl Goode, class of 1962, president of GTE Information Services Inc. Under Goode's progressive leadership, GTE Directories won the prestigious 1994 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

Robert N. Wilson, a Georgetown graduate of 1962, is vice chairman of international corporate giant Johnson & Johnson.



Parks Baptist Scholars Award

Daniel E. Glaze

For the first time ever, Georgetown College has selected one of the nation's top Baptist scholars, Daniel E. Glaze of Richmond, Va., to receive a four-year, full tuition, room and board scholarship through the newly established Parks Baptist Scholars Award. Glaze, currently a senior at Richmond Community High School, speaks five languages and plans to major in religion and French at Georgetown. Glaze's father and both his grandfathers are ministers.

The award honors Dr. Paul Parks, class of 1943, a longtime trustee, and his late wife, Phyllis, for their humanitarian efforts and Christian service.

GEORGETOWN

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