

June 4, 1996
 Vol. 170, No. 23

FOR THE RECORD

Amending statement
 Three Southern Baptist Convention leaders have agreed to propose a change in the wording of the SBC's new mission statement to include a reference to God the father. See page 2.

Mooney moving
 Curtis Mooney has announced his resignation as president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children to accept a position with a Texas children's agency. See page 3.

Family Forum
 Adult day cares offer an open door for churches looking to expand their ministries. See page 4.

Editorial
 Too many churches have shortchanged their minister's retirement contributions by financial corner-cutting and inadequate planning. See page 5.

Judicial request
 A Texas judge has asked a local Baptist church to help train unruly children and their parents through 10-week "Right Choices" and "Parenting by Grace" classes. See page 10.

Bible study classes opt for variety in literature

By Ken Walker
 State Correspondent

Compare the choices available in Sunday school literature today to the huge assortment of sizes, shapes and colors found in the modern grocery store, advises Vernon Cole, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church growth and administration division.

"Diversification is the big trend," Cole explained.

"How many different types of cereal do you see on the shelves now? That reflects the way people are thinking about Sunday school literature. They're looking at immediate kinds of things: Do people like it? Will they use it?"

Cole and others who work closely with church literature sales said a person no longer can walk into any Southern Baptist church while traveling and expect to find the same Sunday school lesson as he would at his home church.

Though most pastors and ministers of education contacted by the Western Recorder for this article remain generally supportive of Southern Baptist Sunday School Board material, many report they are more open to other options than ever before.

For example, at Zion Baptist Church in Henderson, Pastor Dan Garland said many adult classes use the Sunday School Board's "Life and Work" or "Bible Book" series.

But Zion also has offered other Sunday school classes, such as:

■ "Discovering the Bible," a four-part video series for new believers.

■ A 13-week study of Chuck Swindoll's book "Strike the Original Match."

■ "Friendship With God," a six-part series published by the Willow Creek Association, a division of the well-known Chicago-area mega-church. See Sunday school classes ..., page 12

Sunday
SCHOOL CHOICE



ROOM WITH A VIEW Pastor Eddy Maynard looks out through what used to be the roof of the educational wing of Brooks Baptist Church in northern Bullitt County. The Brooks church was thought to be the Baptist church most severely damaged by tornadoes that swept North Central Kentucky May 28. Behind the church building, the church parsonage where Maynard, his wife and three children lived, was nearly demolished. See story on page 8.

Baptists fly into action after tornadoes

By Mark Wingfield
 Editor

MOUNT WASHINGTON—Less than five hours after tornadoes devastated much of northern Bullitt County May 28, Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers were on the scene at First Baptist Church of Mount Washington.

By the crack of dawn May 29, the volunteers had established a command post and begun preparations for sending out hot meals and chain-saw crews.

The command center was staffed by 45 volunteers by mid-morning. The volunteers prepared meals for about 2,500 people that day and helped 27 residents clear their yards and homes of fallen trees.

The clean-up and feeding operation gained steam the next day and was projected to continue for two weeks to a month. By Sunday, June 2, the number of Baptist relief volunteers had grown to 159, "and they're all busy," reported John Lott, Kentucky Baptist Convention Brotherhood associate.

Kentucky Baptists' disaster relief operation is a ministry of the state Brotherhood department, done in conjunction with the American Red Cross. Nationwide, Baptist disaster relief units affiliated with the SBC Brotherhood Commission provide 90 percent of the hot meals distributed by the Red Cross during disasters, according to Red Cross statistics.

In Bullitt County, Baptist volunteers used the mobile kitchen set up at First Baptist Church of Mount Washington to prepare meals that were distributed by the Red Cross all over the devastated area, which stretched about 20 miles west to east.

More than 1,000 homes were destroyed by the twisters that touched down around 7 p.m. May 28. Hundreds of families were left homeless by the storm, but no one was killed or sustained life-threatening injuries.

Just hours after the storm hit, Billy Compton, pastor at First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, round-

ed up church volunteers to get the church building ready to serve as base camp for the disaster relief crews. The church's basement, which includes kitchen facilities, was flooded with several inches of water.

Across Bullitt county to the west, Little Flock Baptist Church near Shepherdsville became a temporary shelter for about 60 people the night of the storm. The church building sits near the Zoneton community and Meadowbrook subdivision, both among the hardest-hit residential areas.

The day after the storm, those devastated neighborhoods were strictly secured by police and National Guard units. Ken Lupton, minister of education at Little Flock, said he could not even enter the areas to check on the welfare of church members.

Volunteers serving through the KBC disaster relief unit came from across the state, many called out in the middle of the night Tuesday.

■ More photos on page 9



After the storm passed by

Is racial segregation in worship merely natural or sinful?

By Sarah Zimmerman
 SBC Home Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—"In all too many instances the most segregated hour of America is 11 o'clock on Sunday morning ... and the most segregated school of the week is the Sunday school."

Little has changed since Martin Luther King Jr. made that claim 33 years ago. The Southern Baptist Convention boasts of more than 1,500 African-American churches and near-

ly 5,000 language congregations, but people from different racial backgrounds rarely sit side-by-side in worship.

Is that racist or simply an effective way to reach people for Christ?

The answer has been debated for years, but the 1995 Southern Baptist resolution on racial reconciliation brings it up for review. Some charge that churches with predominantly one ethnic group are racist and unbiblical. Supporters of homogeneous churches contend that non-Christians

shouldn't be expected to cross cultural barriers on their way to salvation.

Homogeneous churches, or those of mainly one ethnic group, do not conform to the image of Christ, said Ted Ward, former professor of education and missions at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill. "Those churches are not seeing the whole story of what God wants to do," he claimed during a home missions conference last year.

The New Testament model is for cultural and socio-economic differ-

ences as described in Colossians 3:11 to be "submerged under the oneness of Christ," Ward said.

Jim Summers, pastor of Miami's Northwest Baptist Church, agreed. "I believe with all my heart that the homogeneous principle is not a biblical principle."

Summers' church is multi-racial, with flags from 41 countries hanging in the auditorium to represent members' home countries. "My church reflects what heaven's going to be," he said. See Is segregated worship ..., page 7

Moving? See page 4 (0604)

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Louisiana pastor** Bob Anderson will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, according to Ron Herrod, director of RHEMA Ministries who said he intends to nominate Anderson. Anderson is pastor of Parkview Baptist Church in Baton Rouge. One other person already has been announced as a candidate for first vice president: Fred Powell, president of Communicators Ministries in Richmond, Mo., and former associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta.

■ **Four graduates** of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will be honored as distinguished alumni at the seminary's luncheon for alumni and friends in New Orleans June 12: Glenn Armstrong, pastor of Beaver Dam Baptist Church in Beaver Dam; William Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Barclay Newman, American Bible Society senior translation officer from Springfield, Mo.; and Norman Townsel, pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church in Hamilton, Ohio.

■ **Millard Erickson** has joined the faculty of Baylor University George W. Truett Theological Seminary as distinguished professor of theology. He is former dean at Bethel Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

3 SBC leaders will propose amending statement

NASHVILLE—Bowing to pressure from an Oklahoma pastor's single-minded campaign, three Southern Baptist Convention leaders have agreed to propose a change in the wording of the SBC's new mission statement.

Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee, Ronnie Floyd, an Arkansas pastor who chairs the Executive Committee, and Mark Brister, a Louisiana pastor who chairs the Program and Structure Study Committee, jointly announced May 30 that they would propose the amendment when the SBC meets in annual session June 11-13.

The change first will be proposed to the SBC Executive Committee during its pre-convention meeting June 8 in New Orleans. If the Executive Committee approves, the proposal will go to the convention floor later that week.

The amendment would add the phrase "to the glory of God the Father."

The amended mission statement would read: "The Southern Baptist Convention exists to facilitate, extend and enlarge the Great Commission ministries of Southern Baptist churches, to the glory of God the Father, under the lordship of Jesus Christ, upon the authority of Holy Scripture and by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit."

Paul Brady, pastor of Ranch Acres Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla., had expressed concern over the lack of notice given to God the Father in the mission statement. He made a motion at the 1995 SBC annual meeting calling for a correction.

His motion was referred to the Executive Committee, which declined to act upon it. Subsequent requests from Brady to Chapman and Brister on the

matter brought no change.

Finally, Brady took his case to the denominational press, which in recent weeks publicized his concerns and the response he had gotten from SBC leaders.

In a May 31 Baptist Press story, Chapman and Brister issued statements reversing their earlier explanations to Brady that such an amendment was not necessary.

"I believe that it is the wise thing and the right thing to do for the Executive Committee to revisit the question," Chapman said in the Baptist Press story. "If the mission statement as it is written has the potential to cause concern or confusion among Southern Baptists, then it needs to be reconsidered. That Southern Baptists believe in the Trinity is not in question."

Brister added: "For the sake of theological clarification, we are sug-

gesting to the Executive Committee that it include this reference to God the Father in the mission statement."

Floyd emphasized that the initial wording of the mission statement "was not intended to state everything that we believe doctrinally about the Lord, the churches and the work we undertake together." However, he expressed support for the proposal to strengthen the theological emphasis of the mission statement as something for Southern Baptists to "rally around."

Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a strong force on the Program and Structure Study Committee, also weighed in favoring the change: "I take pleasure that Southern Baptists feel strongly enough about the doctrine of the Trinity that they are willing to put themselves on the line, even to the point of public debate."

Documentary examines women's issue at Southern

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—A Baptist battle over whether women can be pastors may be coming soon to a theater near you.

"Battle for the Minds," produced and directed by Hollywood filmmaker Steven Lipscomb, is scheduled for completion July 1. A rough cut of the 73-minute film will be screened for news reporters June 11 at the Southern Baptist Convention, where the issue has sparked controversy in the past.

A 1984 SBC resolution declared women are excluded from pastoral leadership because the woman was the first to sin in the Garden of Eden. Still, at least 50 Southern Baptist women serve as senior pastors.

In recent weeks, Mark Coppenger, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, called women pastors "one of the raging, raging heresies and confusions of the day."

Despite the public debate over women, Lipscomb said, much of the viewing public remains unaware of the controversy.

"My real reason for doing this film is I don't think anybody has any idea what is going on, either inside the Southern Baptist Convention or in the

outside world," Lipscomb said.

Lipscomb's mother, Dixie Petrey, is a Baptist minister and recent graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, where the issue of women in ministry has boiled over in recent years. In the 1994-95 academic year, Petrey was president of the seminary's Student Government Association.

Lipscomb, 34, said he began the project to chronicle his mother's struggle to become a pastor, following in the footsteps of both her father and grandfather. Instead, he said, he decided to focus on the transformation of Southern from a seminary openly supportive of women in ministry to an institution adamantly opposed to women pastors.

That transformation has taken place since 1993, when seminary trustees elected conservative Al Mohler as president. Professors who believe women can serve as pastors are now excluded from the faculty.

"If you believe that pastors can be women, then you need to go somewhere else, because we are not going to believe that," trustee Barrett Hyman of Louisville says in the film.

Trustee David Miller of Heber Springs, Ark., tells Lipscomb: "I personally think it has been somewhat deceptive and misleading for South-

ern Seminary to invite women to come there and receive theological training under the delusion that they are going to be able to serve as pastors in Southern Baptist churches. It ain't going to happen."

The film also quotes supporters of women in ministry, including Petrey; Molly Marshall, an outspoken supporter of women in ministry who resigned from Southern's theology faculty rather than face dismissal charges; and Paul Simmons, an ethics professor who retired under pressure.

Also appearing on camera are SBC President Jim Henry; Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Baptist sociologist Nancy Ammerman and retired ethics professor Henlee Barnette.

The documentary, which was filmed at Southern Seminary and at last year's Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, also interviews students, ministers and laypeople.

The story is told in a simple, straightforward style with no narration.

"The two positions dialogue," Lipscomb explained. While he concedes there was a danger of the film becoming one-sided, Lipscomb added, "The universal response to this film has been exactly the opposite. ... I really

worked hard to do this."

In the film, Lipscomb said, the issue of women at Southern Seminary serves as a microcosm of a larger story—the conservative swing within the SBC.

In what could be the most volatile portion of the film, former colleagues of Southern president Mohler say the one-time presidential assistant, previously a public supporter of women in ministry, changed his mind in order to become Southern's president.

"The bottom line for Al Mohler, in shifting the way he has shifted, is he truly wanted to be president of Southern Seminary," says David Key, pastor of First Baptist Church in Union Point, Ga.

Mohler acknowledges he changed his mind on the women's issue but denies he did so for professional gain. Keys' charges are "apocryphal and untrue," he tells Lipscomb.

This is the first film for Lipscomb, who left his career as a lawyer to pursue filmmaking. His credits include an unsold television pilot for the USA Network.

Lipscomb's documentary already has been accepted into the Vancouver Film Festival in October, and other festivals are interested, he said. He hopes to sell the film to HBO, PBS or another network.

Florida expels two churches

LEESBURG, Fla. (ABP)—Two churches targeted for charismatic tendencies have been expelled from the Florida Baptist Convention, but the jury is still out on a third.

The ouster by the Florida Baptist State Board of Missions followed an investigation into allegations that the three churches advocated non-Baptist doctrines such as speaking in tongues and being "slain in the Spirit."

The mission board voted May 17 to deny voting privileges to Trumpets of Truth International Church in Homosassa Springs and Riverside Christian Church in Hernando and to decline any of their mission gifts.

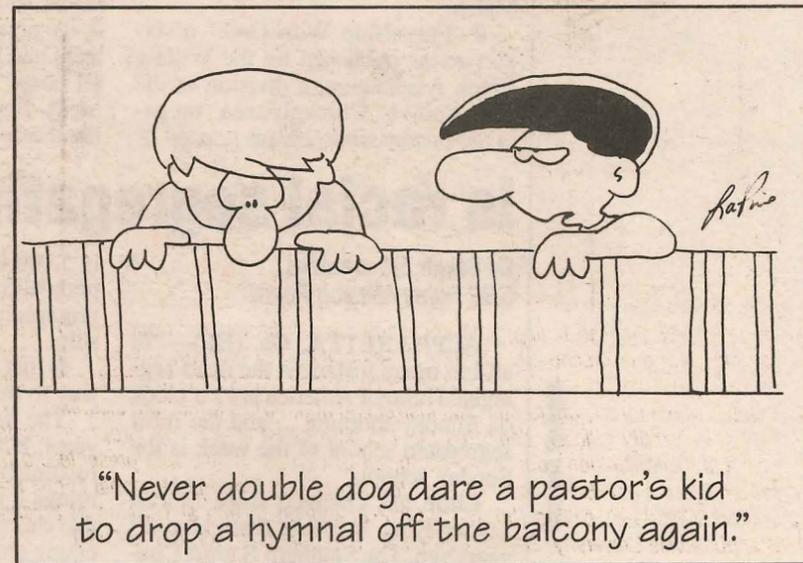
In January, the board appointed

an ad hoc committee to investigate charges that the churches—along with Main Street Baptist Church in Inverness—taught "neo-Pentecostalism."

Florida Baptist officials recommended expulsion of the two churches after they met with leaders of the Homosassa Springs congregation and were denied a meeting with the pastor of the Hernando church, they said.

The committee has not yet decided about Main Street Church.

It is thought to be the first time a state convention has used the "Baptist Faith and Message" doctrinal statement to exercise discipline against a church.



Mooney leaving children's home for Texas agency

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Curtis Mooney has announced his resignation as president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children to become president and chief executive officer of DePelchin Children's Center in Houston.

Mooney, 48, will assume leadership of the Texas children's agency Aug. 1.

DePelchin is a private, non-profit agency that serves children and families with psychiatric residential care, foster care, emergency shelters, an adoption service and outpatient mental health programs. The agency has eight locations in the four-county metro Houston area.

Although not affiliated with any religious body, DePelchin maintains a strong relationship with the Baylor University School of Medicine.

The agency has an annual budget of \$15 million and serves more than 20,000 individuals annually. By comparison, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children has an annual budget of \$10 million and serves about 2,300 children and adults annually.

During the last eight years, Mooney has led Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children to become Kentucky's largest private residential child-care agency. Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children provides many of the same services in Kentucky as DePelchin provides in Houston, focusing on care for children who have been abused, neglected or whose families are in crisis.

Since assuming leadership of the Kentucky Baptist agency in 1988, Mooney has led Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children to launch the

First Step Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption service, the Cornerstone Counseling ministry, a family foster care program, the Genesis Home for girls in Mayfield and a regional shelter and wilderness camp program in Somerset.

The number of clients served has increased 150 percent during Mooney's tenure, from 350 annually to 2,300. The agency's annual budget has more than tripled, from \$3 million to \$10 million.

Also under Mooney's leadership, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in 1993 received accreditation from the Council on Accreditation for Families and Children.



Mooney

"Curtis Mooney is one of the ablest leaders in the field of child care," said Terry Lester, chairman of the trustee board for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and pastor of First Baptist Church in London. "There are countless children and families in Kentucky today whose lives have been made better because of Dr. Mooney's leadership.

"We are selfishly saddened to be losing him, but send with him our best wishes, our prayers, and total confidence that he will serve the children and families of Texas as well as he has those of Kentucky."

Mooney, a native of Dixon, said the decision to leave Kentucky was extremely difficult.

"Kentucky is home for me, and Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is one of the finest child-care organizations in the nation, with a staff that is second to none," he said. "It has been a true joy to serve here, but after much thought and prayer, I believe God would now have me serve him through this new position."

In addition to its reputation for outstanding services, DePelchin has been a leader among child-care agencies nationwide in implementing a managed care program.

"The real attraction to me is it is a cutting edge agency, being able to set the direction for children's services nationwide in the future," Mooney explained.

At DePelchin, Mooney will replace Bob Barker, who is taking early retirement in order to travel nationwide helping other child-care agencies implement some of the managed care programs DePelchin has pioneered.

Lester said trustees of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children will form

a committee to search for a new president. Under terms of a covenant agreement with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, trustees of the child-care agency have full authority to employ a president.

Mooney said he is certain the many facets of the Kentucky Baptist ministry will continue to excel after he is gone.

"We have some of the best staff in the nation working here right now," he explained. "We are really very fortunate to have some wonderful people who know what they are doing. The future for this agency is very bright. We have an excellent board, and I feel they will do a very thorough and diligent search."

Brown named metro-Louisville director

LOUISVILLE—Stan Brown, director of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Genesis Home for girls in Mayfield, has been named metro-Louisville regional administrator for the child-care agency.

Brown, who has served at Genesis Home since 1994, will oversee the work of Spring Meadows Children's Home in Louisville, the First Step pregnancy counseling and adoption service, the metro-Louisville family foster care program and the Center for Independence.

The newly created position expands upon a vacancy created when Mike Dixon moved from being director of Spring Meadows to the new position of director of religious life for the entire Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children system.

The Baptist agency also employs regional administrators for its

programs in the western, southern and eastern areas of the state.

"We're very excited to have Stan move to this new position," said Audrey Puryear, vice president for programs. "He brings a wealth of experience and has shown his leadership skills through the tremendous job he has done at Genesis Home."

Before moving to the Genesis Home position, Brown was child placement director for Buckner Baptist Benevolences in Dallas. He also had served the Texas agency as assistant director and then director of adoption services.

Brown earned degrees from Southern Illinois University, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the University of Illinois.

Brown began his new assignment June 3. His office is located at Spring Meadows Children's Home.

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College** awarded three new degrees for the first time during spring commencement ceremonies. Ronald Wenzel was the first to receive the bachelor of ministry degree. The school also awarded honorary degrees for the first time. Tom Eliff, pastor of First Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., and nominee for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention, received the honorary doctor of divinity degree. Casie Ausenbaugh, owner of Mayfield Machine and Tool, was given the honorary doctor of humane letters degree.

■ **Clear Creek Baptist Bible College** will host the Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission June 28. A 5:30 p.m. dinner is open to all, but reservations are required by calling (606) 337-3196, extension 109. The evening's program will focus on the history of the Baptist school, located in Pineville.



FIRST CLASS Applied biology and chemistry classes from Adair County High School were the first public school group to tour Campbellsville University's newly established Clay Hill Memorial Forest. Here, Campbellsville biology professor Gordon Weddle, acting director of the forest, offers students instruction about a plant they are examining. The Baptist university officially dedicated the 135-acre forest May 7. The property, located near the Taylor-Marion county line northeast of Campbellsville, was presented to the university as a gift. Educational groups desiring to visit Clay Hill Memorial Forest may contact Weddle by calling (502) 789-5328 or writing to him at Division of Science, Campbellsville University, 200 W. College St., Campbellsville, Ky. 42718-2799.

Beechwood discovers mission in its own backyard

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—A ministry opportunity had been just beyond the back fence for a quarter of a century, but it took a home mission study and prayer experience to get Beechwood Baptist Church to see it, according to Woman's Missionary Union Director Minnie Harriman.

"It's been there forever," the 81-year-old Harriman said of the 170-unit Stonehenge Condominium Complex, which literally abuts Beechwood's property in east Louisville. Actually, the complex is about 25 years old.

But, even though 15 Stonehenge residents are active members at Beechwood Baptist, the church "had never looked at the real potential for ministry there," Harriman said.

Then came the 1996 Southern Baptist home mission study, which featured chaplaincy, and the annual week of prayer for home missions, which focused on multi-housing ministries.

For the mission study, Harriman decided to depart from the church's tradition of having a guest speaker.

Instead, she enlisted 10 men from the church to role play 10 types of chaplains. "It went over real well," she said.

A few weeks later, when Beechwood Baptist participated in the annual week of prayer for home missions, someone suggested that the church could do more than just study and pray—they could get involved next door.

"I'm not sure who thought of it first," Harriman said, "but we had a ministry opportunity right under our noses."

The mission emphasis, she said, made the church aware of a need which "almost yelled, 'Why haven't you done it before?'"

Harriman encouraged Interim Pastor Robert Blackman to write a letter to the condominium council, offering his services as a volunteer chaplain.

The complex "gladly welcomed this and thought it a very good idea," Blackman said.

And although in the two months since, Blackman has not been called on for counsel, several residents who previously had not attended the church have come to Wednesday night supper and Bible study.

Plans for singalongs, game nights and picnics are in the works.

"We're off and running," Harriman said. "Of course, we don't know what the potential will be ... but we couldn't pass this up." After all, it is right next door.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

MARK WINGFIELD
Editor

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

C.R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

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

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.

To subscribe: Send \$10.60 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$8.50 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 244-6472, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

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.



Statement spinning

With regard to your story on the revised SBC mission statement that does not make specific reference to God the Father (May 21, page 2), I agree with Paul Brady on the possible long-term effect—the erosion of biblical truth and spiritual purity, not to mention God dishonoring those who do not honor him—and implications of an incomplete recognition of our God, as he exists in the Trinity.

Among many New Testament references, the book of John is replete with instances of Jesus directing our attention to the Father. In the sixth chapter Jesus states he came to do the will of his Father, and not his own. Yes, they are one, but they are three individual and distinct persons in one.

One dishonors the Father by not acknowledging him.

However, there seems to be a more subtle spin in the statement that I am equally concerned with, and that is the reference to the existence of the SBC to “facilitate, extend and enlarge the Great Commission ministries of the Southern Baptist churches.”

My understanding of Scripture tells me that I am not to promote the theological spin of a particular doctrine or denomination but to present the complete and unadulterated truth of God's word (and particularly the gospel leading to salvation) to a lost and dying world.

Do not the Scriptures adequately capture and state our mission? Is there not a specific Scripture or two that can be used to state the mission of the SBC? Why must we constantly rewrite Scripture?

Omit a little here, fudge a little there and presto, our personal or corporate spin may leaven “the loaf” and lead us astray.

*Mark Roon-Reitmeier
Dry Ridge*

A good friend returns

Because of my forthcoming journey to Russia, Western Recorder readers will have the pleasure, once again, of hearing from long-time friend and leader of Kentucky Baptists Franklin Owen.

His gracious in agreeing to write these columns during my absence reflects the character of the one who led so capably as executive secretary-treasurer from 1972 to 1983. His contribution to Kentucky Baptist life dates well before that to the years of his pastoral ministry at Lexington's Calvary Baptist Church.

Among his more notable efforts during those Calvary years was his role in the state convention's “permitting” women to bring a report to the annual meeting. It is difficult for many of today's Kentucky Baptists to realize that until 1962, only men could bring reports to the KBC annu-

Likes old hymns

I concur with Norma Lewis' letter in the May 14 issue in regard to the old hymns.

When I was 5 years old (1908), I went with my father to a baptizing in Rose Creek. Members of the church sang the old hymn “Softly and Tenderly.” That is the first hymn I can remember, and I am yet very fond of it.

Some years ago, a college student who had a beautiful voice sang the old hymn in modern musical version. To me, it was a “disaster.” I'm sure the author, Will Thompson, would have agreed.

*Hubert H. Houchens
Franklin*

Before council of men

Many have given witness to Al Mohler's reputation since his arrival at Southern. Having read a number of articles in the Western Recorder and the Courier-Journal, I believe they are not unlike the message Eve received while in the Garden of Eden.

It was gleamed in a conversation with one minister that gladness was shown with Mohler's trouble with accreditation and student resistance. In a pulpit sermon I think I heard another minister throw a few stones because he believed his friend was dismissed unfairly from his position at Southern.

I don't know whether Mohler is a Christian or not. I don't know him. All I know is a lot of criticism has come his way.

Religionists who have too much inertia will always find out late their positions have put them at greater risk than to accept Fundamentalism (or word of God) under grace, as fundamental to Christian faith.

I believe Fundamentalists under the law ascribe to today's modernism or liberal faith—a teaching that I believe is a negation of faith.

As said before, I don't know Mohler; it's not about him or endorsement of him in any way. It's about ourselves, like a pastor being

al meeting.

Early in his years as executive secretary, he led an effort to change the way the KBC's Executive Board is constituted. While that effort failed, now almost 25 years ago, he may yet be proved to have been visionary on this matter. The KBC Executive Board consists of more than 180 members and is still growing.

While the present structure has its strengths, its size raises legitimate questions about adequate board member involvement and cost-effectiveness. And, of course, a good many Baptists still question this association-nominated process as lacking the strict autonomy many Baptists prefer.

Franklin Owen's years at the KBC helm were the most financially progressive since the Cooperative Program became the major stream of KBC resources. These were years of double-digit percentage growth as well as double-digit inflation. These

turned out of the pulpit—a reputation scarred, etc.—all because one's faith was challenged before a council of men.

*O.M. Rector, Jr.
Monticello*

Coppenger wrong target

A new target has appeared for the liberal press to attack. Mark Coppenger has the difficult task of presiding over a Southern Baptist seminary (Midwestern). If nothing positive can be found by the liberals in this brilliant and dedicated man of God, then why not cease and desist in these unwarranted attacks.

The liberal branch of our fragmented convention has a growing number of their own seminaries. They may teach what they will. The official schools will teach from an authoritative Bible. What is to question about that?

In his letter to the Baptist Forum (May 14, page 4), James L. Clark shot a mighty arrow at the wrong target. He completely missed the point of women in ministry. His two scriptural illustrations of women serving the Lord have absolutely nothing to do with ordaining women as deacons or ministers in the New Testament church.

Conservatives treasure the ministry of women in the churches. We know how women have been a lifeline in the churches. But anyone who espouses the ordination of a woman as pastor or deacon has either not read the New Testament or does not believe it.

A culture is to be judged by the Bible, not the Bible by a culture. Cultures change; the Bible does not. The word of God is “forever settled in heaven” (Psalm 119:89). It is a reprehensible effort to try to divide Jesus and Paul as though they have opposing views.

The Holy Scriptures are right. Therefore, when Coppenger preaches that authoritative message, he is right. Now, pray for him in his herculean task.

*Bill Hall
Danville*

years so strengthened the Mission Reserve Fund that the next administration was enabled to take on special mission endeavors, including our multiple partnerships, Mission Kentucky I and II and major evangelism projects.

Some would say that these were the “good old days.” These probably were the best years before the controversy had its impact.

A stately man, not only in height but in demeanor, Frank Owen continues an active life of ministry as pastor of the Locust Grove Baptist Church in Bracken Association. He and Sue are enjoying again some new years of membership in Calvary Church of which he was once pastor.

This good friend of Kentucky Baptists still has much to tell, and I hope he will keep on telling it, some of it in the forthcoming columns.

I know the readers will enjoy this time with one whose life has meant so much to so many.

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



Adult daycare an open door for churches

By John Lepper

Only one adult day-care center existed in Kentucky in 1973. Today there are 84, including 45 licensed as “health model” centers where medication can be administered and 39 certified as “social model” centers. So reports the Courier-Journal in a recent feature article about this trend (May 26, page H-1).

Actually, Kentucky is behind other states like Connecticut and Maryland. In those states, adult day care centers seem to be growing faster. The above-mentioned article cites a center in Louisville that has a capacity for 55 “guests” with only 20 enrolled and an average daily attendance of only 10. Maybe the need is not as great here as in other areas.

Other factors play a part in the slow response to these centers. According to one researcher, Kentucky folks just aren't as familiar with adult day care centers as people in other states. Also, some people caring for an elderly relative may think they should “do this alone” and not ask for outside help.

Cost also may be a factor. One center charges \$36 per day while another charges \$59 per day. Medicaid may pay the fees for some who attend a center licensed as a “health model.” The high cost may be prohibitive for others.

Now's the time for churches to enter the scene. Several decades ago, churches flocked to open child care centers. Even today, child care and after-school programs are worthy ministry options for many churches. But those ministries target young families, a group churches want to reach.

What about the elderly and their families? With our population rapidly aging, maybe a new ministry model would be the adult day-care center. This ministry would target the frail elderly and the generation of adults responsible for their care.

Churches may not be able to qualify for licensing as a “health model” but might qualify for the “social model.” Whether or not your church is ready to begin such a ministry, you may do your part to reach out to the frail elderly and their caregivers.

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

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Families teach us how to live but also teach us how to die

HESAIID



Mark Wingfield

How do you tell a 4-year-old his grandmother is dying? Cancer is a concept hard enough for adults to understand, much less for preschoolers to wrap their inquiring little minds around.

Yet this is what we're living through right now, as Alison's 57-year-old mother nears the end of a courageous four-year fight against breast cancer.

We've had to move from the explanation that Grandma Lacy is "very, very sick" to the hard truth presented as softly as possible.

"Did Grandma Lacy get hit by a car?" Garrett asked, relating the news to the only other instance of death he knew—Itchy, the dog down the street.

"No, Grandma Lacy has cancer, a very bad sickness that sometimes people don't get well from," I replied.

"Am I going to die of cancer or am I going to get hit by a car?" he asked next.

And thus the conversation continued, and still continues. Yet through the simple faith of a child, love is expressed even amid sorrow. "Will Granddaddy Lacy be lonely?" Garrett asked later.

"Yes, I'm sure he will," I replied.

"Well, when we go visit him, he won't be lonely," Garrett quickly reasoned.

It's sad that Luke and Garrett won't have known their grandmother in the way we would have preferred—her love for literature, her sharp mind, her tenacious spirit. But it's sadder still that they won't have known the remarkable faith and courage she demonstrated in dying.

If only they could see her journey more clearly now, perhaps their childlike questions would be answered for a lifetime.

SHESAID



Alison Wingfield

Dealing with my own grief in the midst of two very curious children and their questions is challenging.

There are times when I just can't talk about it. But the boys' quest for understanding also has helped me, by forcing me out of my shell of despair and into the need to deal with the many issues surrounding my mother's terminal illness.

Losing a parent is a devastating experience. Watching that parent suffer

triples the heartache.

One of the few good things about knowing a loved one is dying is that you can make sure she knows how much you love her. It also gives you a time to reflect on her effect on your life while she is still with you.

My mother is a tenacious woman. She fought this cancer as long as there was a chance to beat it. Her decision to die with as much dignity as possible under the circumstances has given me an even greater respect for her and for my dad, who has been taking care of her at home.

My mother is a caring woman. Even in her dying, she has shown the consistent caring she always has had for my dad, my brother and me. She has accepted her pending death, but is concerned that she won't be here for us and her grandchildren.

My mother is a wonderful woman. She was there when I needed her, ready to advise, but never pushing herself on me. She showed me the path, but let me find my own way in life.

Now she's showing me a path neither of us had anticipated. I hope that when my time comes I can face death with as much dignity and courage as she has.

I love you, mom.

Editor's note: Avanel Lacy died June 1, the day after this column was written.

Do the two-step to help retired ministers

Think of the minister who has meant the most to you or your family through the years. Now imagine that minister reaching retirement age.

What financial resources do you imagine that minister having for retirement? Think hard, because you might be surprised to compare your imaginary answer to the real-life questions that minister's family faces.

It's no secret that ministry is not the calling most likely to make a person financially wealthy. Few ministers are paid what they're worth, and many aren't even paid what's fair.

But a secret too well kept is that the financial condition of many ministers gets worse at retirement. In an effort to cut financial corners or to make a salary package look more livable than it really is, churches often shortchange the minister's retirement contributions. They steal from the future to pay for the present.

Obviously, this is not the case in all churches and for all ministers. Many churches have made great strides in offering adequate pay and retirement contributions for their ministers. And some ministers are able to retire without financial worries.

But the fact remains that many churches and ministers have not made such advances.

Here are some cold, hard facts about Kentucky's retired ministers:

- 35 percent of the 1,113 retired Kentucky ministers currently receiving annuity benefits from the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board get less than \$200 per month. That's 384 retired ministers living on less than \$200 per month, plus whatever small amount they get from Social Security.

- 15 percent of the 1,113 retired Kentucky ministers currently receiving benefits from the Annuity Board—168 people—get less than \$100 per month.

- The average benefit paid to all Kentucky retirees by the Annuity Board is \$409.40 per month.

These are statistics in which Kentucky ranks at about the national norm. But this is one case where being statistically average carries no badge of honor.

What is the cause of this desperate situation?

It's not because the Annuity Board has failed to offer good retirement programs or has failed to make good returns on investments. Quite the contrary. The Annuity Board offers highly rated annuity plans that consistently rank well above the national average in annual earnings.

The problem is that even outstanding programs like the Annuity Board's can't get blood out of a turnip. When churches fail to help their ministers make adequate retirement contributions—and to begin making those contributions at an early age—it becomes increasingly impossible to make up for lost time.

EDITORIAL

Here are two important steps you or your church can take immediately to address this problem:

First, make sure your minister is paid a livable wage, which includes a contribution equal to 10 percent of annual salary to the Annuity Board on the minister's behalf. Make this a rule whether your minister is 25 or 55.

Don't give your minister a lump-sum pay package and expect him to take care of his own retirement planning. However wise your minister may be, he always will be tempted to rob Peter to pay Paul. Make it a church policy that salary and annuity contribution are two separate items that cannot be mingled, and then set

both items at a fair level.

This first step will not solve the immediate problem of retired Kentucky ministers living in virtual poverty, but it will sow seeds for preventing the problem from continuing in the future.

Second, consider joining a nationwide effort to supplement the monthly income of retired ministers with underfunded annuities. This effort, called Adopt an Annuitant, is an ideal project for individuals, small groups or entire churches to undertake.

Through the Adopt an Annuitant program, the Annuity Board selects needy retired ministers to receive an extra \$50 per month. Fifty dollars a month may not sound like much to you, but it creates a 25 percent to 100 percent increase for some retired ministers.

Once a person begins receiving the Adopt an Annuitant benefit, the Annuity Board assumes a lifetime commitment to that person. The relatively small amount of money the Annuity Board receives from the SBC Cooperative Program each year goes entirely to relief work such as this. Other contributions to the Adopt an Annuitant program make it possible for the Annuity Board to expand its relief ministry.

With a gift of \$7,500, you can endow an adoption in perpetuity. With a gift of \$600—or \$50 per month—you can fund the supplement for a needy retiree for an entire year.

The Annuity Board has produced an outstanding video on the Adopt an Annuitant program. The real-life stories of gratitude from saints of God who receive the small monthly supplement will bring tears to your eyes. Consider showing this video in your church, Sunday school class or missions group.

Act today, and you'll have plenty of time to secure the video and other information before June 23, which is designated as Annuity Board Sunday. For these materials or more information, contact Joe McIntosh at the Annuity Board, P.O. Box 2190, Dallas, Texas 75221-2190, or Don Spencer at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433.

—Mark Wingfield

A beach bum's guide to summer literature

Many of us vacation with our families, but we also bring along friends: Our favorite authors.

While some prefer the works of such literary megastars as Joan Collins and Robert Ludlum, for others, a week spent reading of gratuitous sex and violence leaves a bad taste in the soul. If the point of vacation is to rejuvenate the soul, I suggest this short list of literary classics:

- "The Brothers Karamazov," by Feodor Dostoevski. My favorite novel, bar none. It raises the great questions of belief and non-belief, boiling down the great issue into one unforgettable sentence: "If there is no God, then all is permissible."

- "Pilgrim's Progress," by John Bunyan. A poignant look at the tra-

vails and glories of the spiritual pilgrimage, it strikes themes at the heart of human existence.

- "That Hideous Strength," by C.S. Lewis. Redemption is the theme of this masterwork. But like the rest of Lewis' science fiction, this is a great story greatly told.

- "Les Misérables," by Victor Hugo. Hugo writes here of forgiveness, Christian fidelity and compassion, against the backdrop of revolutionary Paris.

- "The Thanatos Syndrome," by Walker Percy. A great Catholic novelist from the South who wrote many great books, but this is his best, and Percy's most prophetic.

- "Cancer Ward," by Aleksandr

Solzhenitsyn. There is nothing much more to be said about this Nobel Laureate, save to remind ourselves that Solzhenitsyn went through hell and came out the other side something of a saint. You think you have troubles? Read Solzhenitsyn, who also teaches us how to hope.

- "The Father Brown Mysteries," by the great Christian social critic G.K. Chesterton.

These books, of course, are reminders that many of the great works of our civilization have been written by authors with strong religious faith. I expect people will be reading them hundreds of years hence. I do not expect the same for Ms. Collins. (RNS)

Charles Colson
Prison Fellowship

COMMENTARY

Feeling the music

"Improvisation is not for the timid; it is for those who feel the music."

Last weekend I attended the graduation of a cousin from the non-traditional studies program at Virginia Commonwealth University. Cliff Edwards, a professor of religious studies at the university, was the speaker.

The fact that most commencement addresses miss their mark is not always the fault of the speaker, who generally says timely and wise things well. The breakdown in communication often lies with the audience, which consists of relieved students and proud family, a gazillion dollars poorer, present to see Bobby or Sally march across the stage wearing a black robe and goofy tasseled hat to grab the coveted parchment.

But Edwards did not miss the mark. His brief speech was about a concept familiar to musicians—improvisation. Edwards quoted from a book by composer Stephen Nachmonovitch, "Free Play: Improvisation in Life and Art."

"The unexpected awaits us at every turn and at every breath," writes Nachmonovitch. "The future is a vast, perpetually regenerated mystery."

Because the future is so formless,

so mysterious, it belongs to people who acknowledge that improvisation is part of life, according to Edwards and Nachmonovitch. Familiar patterns change, and those who are able to depart from structured plan, as a gifted musician moves away from a musical score, contribute something lovely and necessary to our common life.

The skill to follow a pattern established by someone else cannot be presumed. Not everyone can play a musical composition written by Chopin or Mozart. But it takes a combination of talent, creativity and courage to depart from the score. Improvisation is not for the timid; it is for those who feel the music.

I am struck by how much improvisation is involved in faith. Abraham leaving Ur, Jacob working for Rachel, Joseph in Egypt, Moses and his band of escaped slaves in a rocky wilderness, Joshua and his companions in Canaan, Hebrew exiles in Babylon, Mary and Joseph trying to find sanctuary for their child, Barnabas finding a way to help the church, Paul and

Silas at one preaching point or another, Jesus with a lad's lunch. God with a Roman cross and a garden tomb—none included a clear pattern to follow, a simple, well-worn plan of action. All called for decisive action by people who, in the absence of a score, felt the music and possessed the courage to play something new.

Baptists, along with many other denominations, are at a point in our corporate life where familiar patterns are changing. The Southern Baptist Convention, once a monolithic entity, is splintered into multiple groups, including the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Alliance of Baptists. In New Orleans this month the SBC will vote to dissolve seven of its 19 entities. Familiar organizations like the Foreign Mission Board will wear a new title, and the Home Mission Board will have a new identity and expanded mission. The cooperative approach to funding missions is being blended with the society method it once replaced. Denominationalism is a "vast, perpetually regenerated mystery."

So is life in our Baptist congregations. The institutionally-loyal builder generation who created such strong

congregations is passing responsibility over to a boomer generation that is not so much anti-institutional as it is non-institutional. Patterns of worship and organized church life on which boomers were nurtured no longer command the attention and interest of a generation weaned on television, fast food and fractured family relationships.

I have concerns about our Baptist future. I am concerned that many congregations are satisfied with launching criticisms at the "perpetually regenerated mystery" of our culture, and do not understand that we are leaving the improvisation in our churches to leaders who have not mastered the basics of Baptist polity and practice, which is like leaving musical improvisation to beginners.

I am concerned that many pastors and lay leaders are not trying to discern the difference between what is culture in order to bless new ways of reaching an increasingly unchurched generation.

The next few years are a time for improvisation. I hope we have the faith to feel the music and play it.

Mike Clingenpeel
Editor

Virginia Religious Herald

COMMENTARY

'Let your light shine'

Regarding much of the negative publicity surrounding the collegiate environment today, God's spirit is shining through two young people on a local college campus in Kentucky.

In the fall of 1995, the 16th annual Mr. Murray State University pageant was held, organized by the Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, as their annual philanthropic event for the National Arthritis Research Foundation.

Crowned as the winner of the pageant was John Mark Whittaker, a senior, middle school education major from Pineville. He is the son of Bill and Rebecca Whittaker, who reside in Pineville where Bill Whittaker serves as president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

The contestants in the pageant competed in talent, interview and presentation categories. As a contestant, John Mark represented the Baptist Student Union, where he is actively involved in many activities, including the Christian drama ministry "Sowers of the Word." John Mark's walk with and commitment to the Lord are visible in his life daily, and his spirit and love for people make him a wonderful role model and witness on our campus.

On another positive note, the annual Miss Murray State University pageant was held on Murray State's campus the following spring semester. The winner this year was Julie Boram, a junior middle-school education major from Marion. I met Julie as a freshman at Murray State University, and we later became sorority sisters and close friends. Julie led me to the Baptist Student Union ministry where

she also serves on a campus outreach sign language team. Julie is a Christian young woman whose beauty is mirrored in her spirit. Her enthusiasm and kindness are contagious and her love for Christ shines in her daily walk. John Mark Whittaker assisted Julie's crowning, and at that moment I felt great pride in knowing that these two extraordinary Christian people would represent Murray State University in the coming year. No doubt the attributes of which I

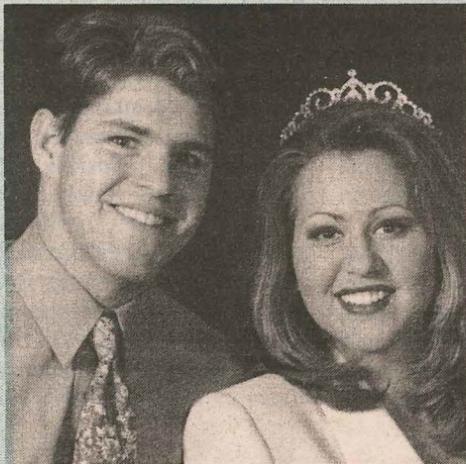
have spoken earlier will touch all those they meet.

In the days to come, both Julie and John Mark will continue to search for God's will in their lives. Julie will accompany the "Open Hands" sign language team to Atlanta this summer, as they have been invited to perform street ministries for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. John Mark will serve as a counselor for the Baptist Sunday School Board-sponsored

Centrifuge camps across the East coast. I feel blessed to call both of these fellow students friends, for their lives remain an inspiration and example in my own Christian walk.

I ask that you continue to pray for such Southern Baptist ministries and others on our campuses. I see God's movement on this campus and a true desire to spread his love. In Matthew 5:16 Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." These two people represent a light that will continue to shine for others. In a world that can often be discouraging, Christ's light in us is a constant reminder of God's love and grace for others.

Emily Lutz
Murray



Whittaker and Boram



No comfort

Your recent Mother's Day editorial (May 7, page 5) was correct. For us, Mother's Day is a time of pain and grief.

We are in the 20 percent of couples who are infertile. That means childless. We have been pregnant four times. All four of our children have died "en utero," in the womb.

Our first pregnancy came in the fall of 1989. We were thrilled. During the week of Christmas, pain and bleeding started, then got worse. Christmas Day we went to the hospital with severe pain and bleeding. It was a life-threatening "ectopic" pregnancy, in the Fallopian tube. It's similar to an aneurism. Without immediate surgery, the victim bleeds to death internally. Thus ended pregnancy No. 1.

Pregnancy No. 2 came in the fall of 1990, a healthy, normal pregnancy. Christmas morning, we had a miscarriage.

Our third pregnancy was another miscarriage.

Our fourth pregnancy was another tubal, a rerun. All four of our children have thus died.

Our Sunday school teacher, the crude insensitive macho type, told us to quit talking about our grief in Sunday school. We had to leave that church and look elsewhere. We have found a new church home where we can express our grief.

Will we ever have children? Only God knows, and he's not telling. God is silent.

We are still stuck in Job chapter

three. For us today, Jesus is still dead, still in the tomb.

Can we attend Mother's Day services? Absolutely not. Louisville-area Baptist churches need to have a memorial service for children: unborn, stillborn and deceased. As Jeremiah 31 says, women refuse to be comforted because their children are no more. That's us. Nothing can comfort us. Nothing.

Jim and Trish Evans
Louisville

More 'falsehood'

In answer to Eugene Rivers' article (Feb. 13, page 8) which attacks the Christian Coalition, he has bought the propaganda of the liberal left. He claims the Republican agenda is to cut back on social programs for the poor. This is a falsehood.

The Republican's "Contract with America" states they will give power to the states to mete out social monies, which they would do at much less cost than Washington, thus increasing benefits for the poor. It is a sure-fire tool to get ire raised by simply suggesting tax cuts will occur for the rich. Another falsehood.

Environmental protection is necessary, but when big government encroaches upon private property and seizes it without compensation, that is an injustice. Unfortunately, this happens all too often.

Rivers is not well informed, and I suggest he get the true facts instead of relying on the religious left and on the liberal media.

Jesus said in Matthew 10:34, "Don't think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. I have come so that a son will be against his father," We see this now in these last days, even churches against churches. Even so, Lord Jesus, come.

Joyce A. Smith
Edgewood

BAPTISTS

Conservatives uniting behind one candidate this year

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS (ABP)—After a two-year experiment with new leadership, Southern Baptists are expected to return the reins of power to the group of conservative leaders that has steered the Southern Baptist Convention since 1979.

The June 11-13 convention in the New Orleans Superdome will conclude the two-year tenure of Jim Henry of Orlando, which loosened—at least slightly—the tight grip hard-line conservatives have held on SBC leadership since 1979, when they began a successful campaign to wrest control of the 15 million-member convention from moderates.

Messengers to the New Orleans convention are expected to elect Oklahoma pastor Tom Elliff to succeed Henry—apparently without opposition. A former missionary, Elliff was the choice of a group of about 80 conservative leaders, including most of the men who have held the office since the conservative swing began.

The group of 80, which also included some of Henry's supporters, met in Atlanta in November to agree on a nominee—and thus avoid a repeat of the awkward 1994 showdown among conservatives that produced Henry's election.

Elliff was the consensus choice, although the group almost tapped Paige Patterson, architect of the conservative movement, for the president's post, according to participants.

Those leaders say Elliff's election would ease their concerns that Henry's appointments to key SBC committees have slowed the momentum of the conservative movement.

The amiable Henry is closing out the most peaceful tenure of an SBC president since the 1970s. Though every bit a conservative, Henry's presidency has focused on consensus issues such as racial reconciliation.

For those closest to the fray, however, his tenure is being judged on whether it aided or hindered the denomination's rightward swing.

Supporters say Henry, as promised, has enlarged the pool of Southern Baptist leadership in a way that will create a healthier convention.

Opponents say Henry's leadership—and particularly his appointments to key committees—has diverted the conservative juggernaut, though only temporarily.

Still others say Henry's tenure has changed nothing.

"It was more an election of a man than a change in direction or philosophy," said Bailey Smith, an Atlanta evangelist who served two terms as president in the 1980s and remains a

key conservative leader. "Jim Henry may be somewhat of a parenthesis in that effort."

Although he did not seek or receive the endorsement of the conservative hierarchy in 1994, Henry outpolled Alabama pastor Fred Wolfe—the movement's hand-picked candidate—thus breaking the 15-year string of victories for the close-knit fraternity of conservative leaders.

Henry's election did more. It earned a place at the table for the younger conservatives, who wield increasing influence in the conservative movement. Many were invited to the Atlanta meeting that selected this year's conservative nominee.

At the Atlanta meeting, Smith nominated Elliff, his brother-in-law who succeeded him as pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla. Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, also was suggested, along with several others.

Elliff and Patterson emerged as the group's favorites, and Elliff drew six more votes than Patterson in a secret ballot. Patterson withdrew, leaving Elliff as the group's choice.

The result is a rarity in Southern Baptist life—a field of one for the presidency and its all-important appointive power.

If no one else is nominated when

the election is held June 11—and there still are no signs anyone will be—it will be the first time since 1942 that a non-incumbent has run unopposed.

Henry insists he supports Elliff's nomination and respects "the godly men" who selected him. But he said there is no need for a hand-picked candidate to preserve conservatives' gains.

"Unless we are threatened in some way by people who are not committed to conservative values, then it would probably be best for it to be open," he said. "If there were some kind of real and not imagined threat, it might be important to narrow it to one person. But in the situation we are in now and in the future, I hope we would be open to just letting men be open to the Holy Spirit and say 'I'm available.'"

Hard-line conservatives say indeed there is a threat, and they point to Henry's appointments as evidence.

Henry abounded the practice of picking committee members who had been scrutinized by core conservative leaders. He turned down the offer of a long-time conservative operative to screen nominees for him.

Instead, Henry consulted the executives and presidents of the state conventions and others in the Baptist bureaucracy.

Messengers to the New Orleans convention are expected to elect Oklahoma pastor Tom Elliff as president—apparently without opposition. A former missionary, Elliff was the choice of a group of about 80 conservative leaders.

Is segregated worship normal or sinful?

Continued from page 1
said.

On a different note, Charles Chaney, Home Mission Board vice president for starting churches, said the biblical issue is not cultural mix but whether a church accepts people who have received Christ. "When you refuse to offer fellowship to those who have said 'Yes' to Jesus Christ, you've given up your right to be a New Testament church."

Chaney supports multi-cultural churches, which he calls urban culture churches because they typically thrive in cities with racial diversity. "But I'm not willing to say they're the only kind of church we need. We need multiple strategies in a multi-cultural society."

Churches that remain homogeneous, Chaney said, can demonstrate racial reconciliation by working with an association of churches that recognizes the value of each culture.

Multi-racial churches can be less effective in evangelism because asking non-Christians to be comfortable there is expecting them to "be as mature, if not more mature, than people with a long history of Christianity," Chaney said. "It's requiring them to have Christian principles relating to race before they ever become Christians."

While agreeing that people don't like to move outside their culture, a professor of preaching and practical theology at Fuller Theological Seminary in California said emphasizing evangelism rather than reconciliation is a current heresy.

"Southern Baptists have bought deeply into the premise that God's primary purpose of the church is to grow, and you grow by evangelism,"

William Pannell said during a Feb. 29 teleconference on racial reconciliation. "If any group of people defines ministry of church in such a singular, almost exclusive way, it will rarely go to the idea of reconciliation in a radical way at the local level ... One begins to see reconciliation as a side issue; something you can do when you get around to it or if somebody burns the town down."

The Apostle Paul defined the church's ministry as reconciliation, Pannell noted. But Chaney said the first step in reconciliation is being right with God. Chaney also said being multi-racial does not guarantee that a church has overcome racism or that the church is reaching everyone in its community.

While Pannell said evangelistic zeal keeps churches from being more ethnically inclusive, Ward and Summers said they believe churches remain homogeneous out of fear.

"Pride and fear motivate our concern to be among people we can more easily trust," Ward said.

Summers put it in Southern terms: "It's fearful when you live in a place where everyone doesn't say, 'Ya'll come back now, ya' hear?' Differences mean challenge, and challenge means change. We're frightened by the unknown."

In 1989, Willie McPherson feared the unknown. He started churches in predominantly black communities, but his HMB office was part of a larger church extension department until restructuring formed separate divisions for starting Anglo, African-American and language churches.

McPherson said he saw the new structure as segregation, but now he sees its value. "I was told we were

doing it to be more effective in reaching people for Christ, and that's been true. I thought the (1989) restructure said Southern Baptists were moving back to the 1950s, but it said Southern Baptists are concerned with reaching everyone with the gospel, and this is the most effective way."

McPherson added, however, that the HMB's strategy works because people are "groupish and culture oriented. Until society changes, we're going to have churches made up of one culture."

And until everyone in the United States is fluent in English, Southern Baptists will need homogeneous churches, added Russell Begaye, HMB director of language church extension.

"People must hear the word in their language and in the context of their cultures," Begaye said.

Many world religions, for example, promote multiple gods: one to prevent earthquakes, another to thwart disease and another to deter mental illness. People with that background may hear the gospel and accept Christ as a god to protect them from hell. Churches unwittingly neglect the doctrinal needs of internationals if they do not address the issue of polytheism, Begaye said.

At the same time, some cultural expressions are compatible with Christianity, such as a Chinese church celebrating the Chinese New Year or a Messianic Jewish congregation observing Passover.

Choosing a church that identifies with a specific heritage does not make a person racist, Begaye said. It usually means the person feels accepted, and the need for acceptance crosses racial lines.

Task force calls for inclusive appointments

NASHVILLE—If the Southern Baptist Convention hopes to fully implement its 1995 resolution on racial reconciliation, the convention's leadership needs to look more like a rainbow, Gary Frost told members of a task force on racial reconciliation.

Frost, an Ohio pastor and second vice president of the SBC, is a member of the racial reconciliation task force.

"The leadership needs to be more reflective of the constituency," Frost said. "Ideally, it would resemble a rainbow—the entire spectrum of American society represented within the ... Southern Baptist Convention."

The task force suggested the next president of the SBC meet with the committee on nominations immediately after his election at this month's convention in New Orleans "to personally appeal to them to increase the ethnic and racial representation on our boards of trust."

The panel further called for "an aggressive implementation of programs to increase racial and ethnic minorities ..."

However, the convention must not degenerate into setting "quotas and set-asides" to guarantee minorities positions within convention leadership, warned Richard Land, president of the SBC Christian Life Commission and a member of the task force.

Based on a Baptist Press report



After the storm passed by

'Now we really have an open house,' Brooks pastor says

Churches damaged

BULLITT COUNTY—At least three Baptist churches in northern Bullitt County were damaged by tornadoes that swept across North Central Kentucky May 28.

Among them:

■ **Brooks Baptist Church**, located near the Bullitt-Jefferson county line and the Brooks exit off I-65. The church sustained major damage to its existing educational facility and to a new 300-seat sanctuary under construction.

■ **Summit Hills Baptist Church**, located near the heavily damaged Pioneer Village community off Preston Highway. The church lost its steeple, front porch and a portion of its roof over the kitchen, fellowship hall and choir room. The church van was thrown against a telephone pole.

Every tree on the property was blown down.

■ **Little Flock Baptist Church**, located on Preston Highway just north of Shepherdsville, sustained damage to one large section of glass. The church sign, built of brick and marble, also was laid flat. Just across the four-lane highway, however, homes were destroyed.

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

BROOKS—The day after a tornado blew through Brooks Baptist Church, Pastor Eddy Maynard stood amid the rubble greeting church members and other well-wishers.

A family of four piled out of their car, stepped across the fallen bricks and twisted lumber pieces and embraced Maynard. "Pastor, we don't have a house anymore," the father of the family announced matter-of-factly.

If ever a pastor could relate to the needs of his congregation, Brooks could. His home, the parsonage located behind the church, also was a total loss.

Maynard's wife, Elaine, and their

three children rode out the May 28 storm in the hallway of the modest parsonage. After the storm, the small area where they huddled was among the few sections of the house with plaster remaining on the ceiling. The entire roof had been blown off, and several walls caved in.

In a newly added front bedroom, a comforter had been ripped off a bed and pulled through a wall like thread through a needle.

Maynard remembered that only a few days earlier his family held an open house to show off the parsonage's new bedroom. "Now we really do have an open house," he quipped.

The pastor and deacon Charles Montgomery rode out the storm inside the church building. They had been doing construction work on a

new addition to the church when they saw the twister coming over a nearby hill.

That new addition, a 300-seat sanctuary that was nearly complete on the outside, sustained heavy damage, as did the second level of the older educational wing.

Brooks Baptist Church, located in northern Bullitt County near I-65 and the Brooks exit, sits next to a field where cows were grazing before the storm. When Maynard and Montgomery walked out of the church after the storm, the cows from the field were standing at the church door. The fence they would have had to penetrate to get there was still standing.

Similarly, after the storm passed, Maynard's family discovered a dog in the ruins of their house. "We don't

have a dog," Maynard explained.

Throughout the day after the storm, the Maynards and other church members began picking up some of the scattered pieces of their church and parsonage. They often stopped to talk to reporters and others.

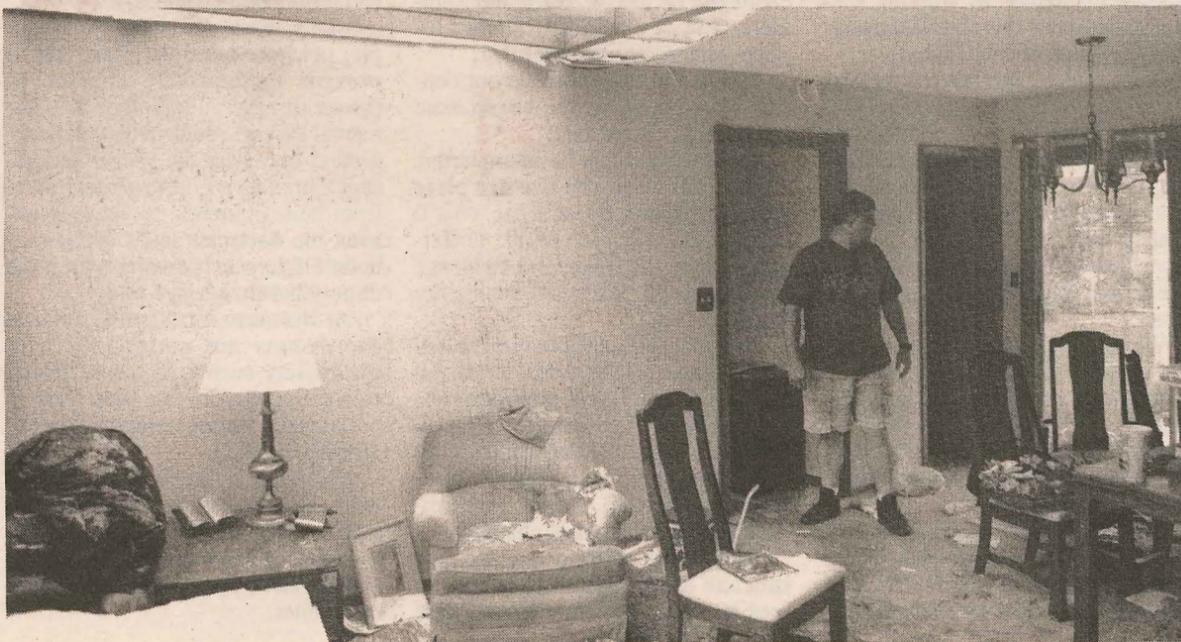
"Some people have asked if this has shaken my faith in God," the pastor said. "I told them it has not."

Given the extent of the damage in his area, it is miraculous that no one was killed or injured, he said.

And when asked by one TV reporter why God would allow a church to be damaged so severely, Maynard turned to Scripture for an answer. "The Lord causes his rain to fall on the just and the unjust alike," he said.

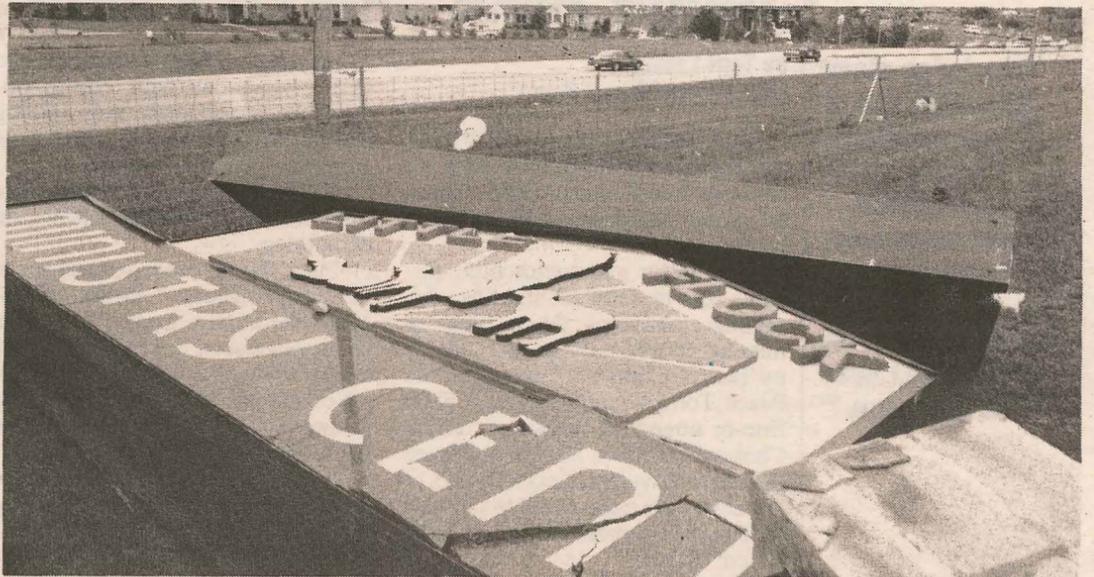
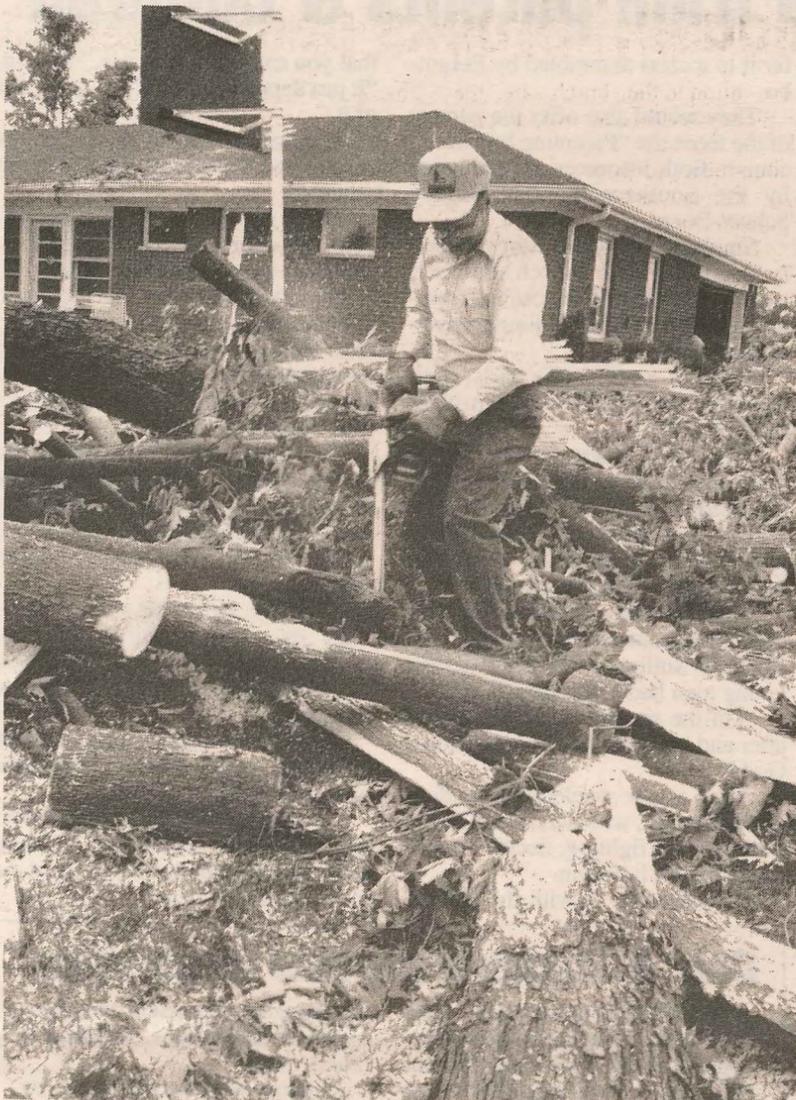


PICKING UP THE PIECES ■ Above: Pastor Eddy Maynard and his wife, Elaine, say farewell to church members who have come by to assess the damage to the church building and parsonage. Some church members began washing soaked and soiled clothes so the pastor's family would have a few things to take with them to their temporary home. Other church members helped sort through the rubble and offered plenty of hugs and words of support. ■ Right: Maynard walks through the demolished parsonage where his wife and children rode out the storm. The house had no electricity, no roof and only a few walls, but the telephone still worked.

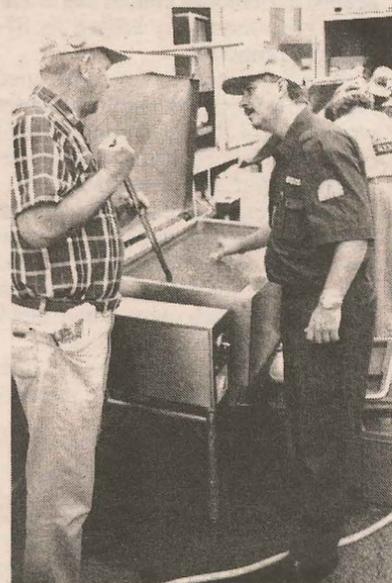
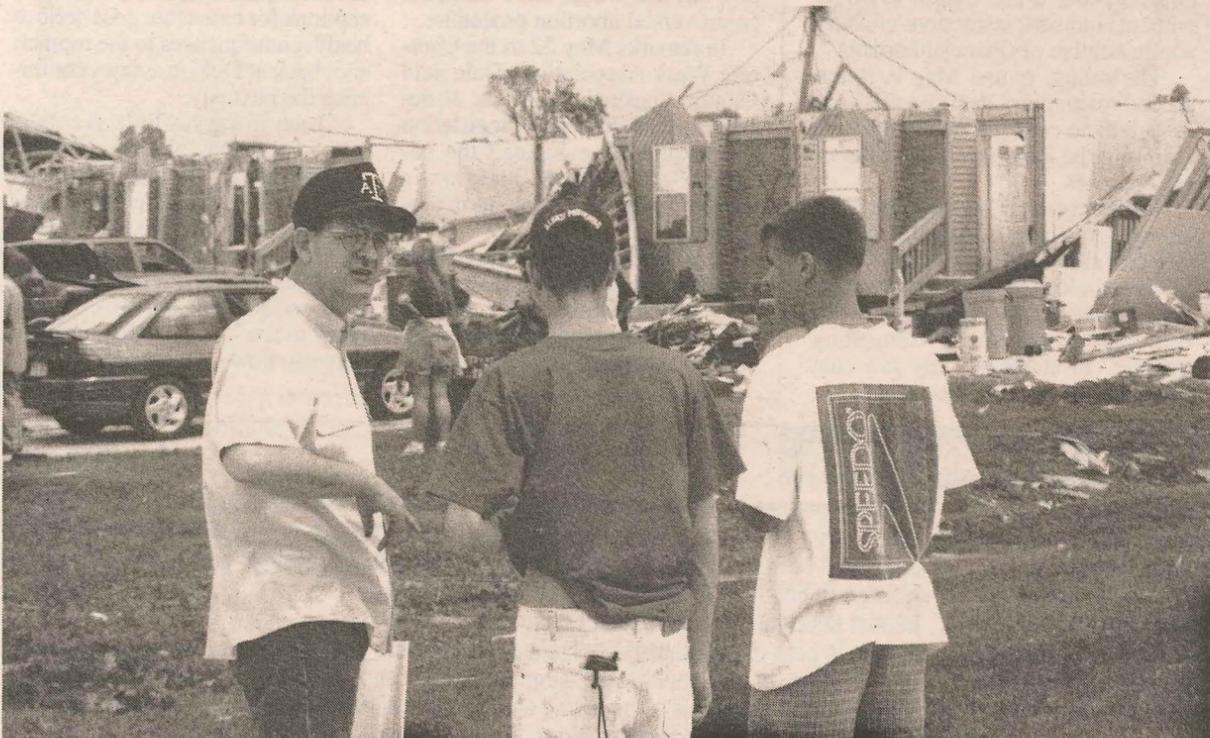




After the storm passed by



■ Above: Little Flock Baptist Church near Shepherdsville sustained only minor damage to its building, although the church's sign was knocked into pieces on the ground. Destruction was more severe in the Meadowbrook subdivision across the highway, seen in the background of this photo.



■ Middle above: Disaster relief volunteers trained by Kentucky Brotherhood line up at the back of a flatbed truck to check out chainsaws for their cleanup assignments in Mount Washington. ■ Directly above: Gary King, a coordinator with the Brotherhood relief team, checks the temperature of a huge pot of beef stew while a volunteer stirs. By June 3, disaster relief volunteers had prepared 14,000 hot meals for those impacted by the tornado.



■ Above: Billy Compton, pastor of First Baptist Church in Mount Washington, surveys a demolished portion of the Northfield subdivision with teenagers from his church. The teenagers were helping a relative move out of her severely damaged home. ■ Left: A disaster relief volunteer (right) gets directions on how to get to a storm-damaged home. She was dispatching chain-saw crews to clean up fallen trees.

■ Top left: A volunteer with the Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood's disaster relief crew cuts up a large tree in the front yard of the mayor of Mount Washington's home. Chain-saw crews worked for free throughout the storm-damaged region, offering help to anyone who needed assistance. By June 3, the crew had cleared 115 yards.

Send financial contributions marked for disaster relief to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood department, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433. The KBC is not accepting gifts of clothing and food.

Judge asks church's help to train parents & children

"The judge stood up during one of our meetings, threw up his hands, and said, 'I need some help. This is serious. I've got all these kids coming through my court, and I need some guidance.'"

By Terri Lackey
SBC Sunday School Board

BAYTOWN, Texas (BP)—A Texas judge's willingness to stick his neck out landed nine of Harris County's unruly teenagers inside a church house.

The junior and senior high students sent to court for fighting, disrupting classrooms, taking drugs or missing classes were given a choice by Harris County's Justice of the Peace Tony Polumbo—pay a \$500 fine or attend 10 weeks of "Right Choices" classes at Memorial Baptist Church in Baytown, Texas. Parents of the teens were encouraged to show up for the same number of "Parenting by Grace" classes.

It all started when Polumbo begged for help during a community meeting and Memorial Baptist Pastor Steve James volunteered to lend him a hand.

The two serve together on a committee assigned to attempt to lower the student dropout rate. Members of the committee endeavor to give students with deficient home lives the skills and encouragement to stay in school.

"The judge stood up during one of

our meetings, threw up his hands, and said, 'I need some help. This is serious. I've got all these kids coming through my court, and I need some guidance,'" James recalled.

The pastor said it was impossible for him to hear the judge's pleas and do nothing.

"Our church needs to minister to the neighborhood," James said of Memorial Baptist, located less than a mile from Robert E. Lee High School and its body of about 3,000 students. "We can't just sit here and say we are going to minister to our own, and that's all."

"After the meeting, I told the judge we were going through a 'Parenting by Grace' program at our church, and it was meant to give parents some parenting skills," James said. "I suggested we might teach it to some of the parents."

Following Polumbo's appeal, James met with Memorial's minister of education, Stan Sullinger, and Sunday school director, Karen Smithson, to find a way to help the court deal with unruly young people.

The three came up with a plan to first teach their young people Josh McDowell's "Right from Wrong: Right Choices" materials and then of-

fer it to a class assembled by Polumbo.

They would also offer the parents of the teens the "Parenting by Grace" course. Both resources are produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Smithson and Mark Berg, a family counselor and church member, teach the teens who choose the classes over the \$500 fine. Sullinger teaches the parents.

The first week of the class, Sullinger said the kids held an "in-your-face" attitude.

"They were saying 'I don't want to be here, and I'm not going to learn anything.' And we were saying, 'Great, then you don't have any expectations, and anything you learn will be better than you thought.'"

Donte Tousant, 15, is one who was determined not to learn anything in the class, Sullinger said. But later the young man had a change of heart.

"On the second week, he stayed after and asked some questions about God."

After a few weeks of attending class, Tousant, who was sent to Judge Polumbo for fighting, decided learning wouldn't hurt him.

"If you come in with the attitude

that you can learn, you can," he said. "It just depends on what you make out of it."

Sullinger said many of the parents who attend the classes are just plain ashamed.

"They held the attitude at first that 'This is a church, and we are here because we are evil, sinful people.' But in the class, we have assured them that they are not horrible, terrible parents. They are just here to learn some parenting skills and to find ways to get more involved in their child's life," Sullinger said.

Five weeks into the class, attitudes of the young people seem to be changing, according to Smithson, who acknowledges the success of the class can be measured in "baby steps."

"Still, the kids seem more at ease. They are asking questions and challenging some of our ideas," she said. "It seems like they really want to learn something."

And because the meetings are held at church, each session is concluded with prayer, Smithson said.

"If they think we are going to forget to pray, they remind us," Smithson said. "I think that's just great—a real accomplishment."

Church may sell landmark

SEATTLE (RNS)—The Washington State Supreme Court has blocked enforcement of Seattle's Landmark Preservation Ordinance against a Methodist church that wanted to raise money by selling its 87-year-old property.

In a 5-4 decision, the court ruled that the Seattle preservation ordinance would impair the First United Methodist Church of Seattle's constitutional right to free exercise of religion.

Dissenting justices argued that the ruling was premature, since the ordinance had not yet been enacted and was not ripe for enforcement against the church, which owns a half block of property in downtown Seattle.

But in an opinion written by Chief Justice Barbara Durham, the majority

held that the state and federal constitutions guarantee that "if United Methodist decides to sell its property in order to respond to the needs of its congregation, it has a right to do so without landmark restrictions creating administrative or financial burdens."

The ruling, issued May 9, is the second major court decision this year to weigh the constitutionality of laws requiring the historic preservation of old churches.

In a decision in January, the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in New Orleans upheld the constitutionality of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which requires governments to demonstrate they have a "compelling interest" in enforcing any law that may infringe on religious rights.

Dole & Clinton trade jobs on abortion

WASHINGTON (ABP)—President Clinton and Republican challenger Bob Dole exchanged a war of words over the president's veto of a bill that would have banned a controversial abortion procedure.

In remarks May 22 to the Catholic Press Association, Dole said Clinton "pushed the limits of decency too far" in vetoing legislation that would have banned the so-called "partial-birth" abortion, a rare but controversial late-term procedure.

Dole said the veto was evidence that Clinton lacked moral leadership and direction. He said the country has an administration "constantly exhorting itself and lectur-

ing the public but itself fundamentally adrift, without direction or moral vision."

Clinton, who vetoed the bill because he said it failed to make exceptions for cases that pose serious health consequences to the mother, shot back at Dole in a news conference the next day.

"I am always a little skeptical when politicians piously proclaim their morality," Clinton responded.

Clinton's veto raised the stakes in the abortion debate early in his re-election campaign. Several religious leaders have denounced the veto, and Republicans are expected to try to use it against the president between now and the election.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Funds rejected.** The Jewish National Fund, which raises money for reforestation and other land-related projects in Israel, has reversed its decision to accept a \$50,000 donation from two organizations that seek to convert Jews to Christianity. The money from the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America and the Union of Messianic Jewish Congregations would have underwritten the planting of a 10,000-tree forest.

■ **Principal apologizes.** Harry Lambert, principal of Westminster West Middle School in Westminster, Md., has apologized to students for temporarily halting their practice of praying aloud during recess. A group of about 25 eight-graders had been gathering to pray.

■ **Panel asks equal protection for gays.** The Colorado Civil Rights Commission has adopted a resolution asking Gov. Roy

Romer to push for legislation next year that would give gays and lesbians the same protection against discrimination that blacks and women have. The resolution comes in the wake of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that a Colorado law barring local communities from passing civil rights statutes for homosexuals is unconstitutional.

■ **Heresy case to be appealed.** A group of 10 Episcopal bishops who accused retired Bishop Walter Righter of heresy for ordaining a non-celibate gay man as a deacon said May 28 it will file a formal "Statement of Exceptions" and take the case to the denomination's 1997 general convention. The group intends to seek church legislation that would specifically bar such ordinations.

■ **Hate talk denounced.** The rising tide of

hate talk permeating the U.S. airwaves is endangering the nation, according to a statement released May 23 by the fourth Maston Colloquium, a group founded by Baptist ethicists. "Our American public square is being systematically poisoned by the language of assault," the statement said. "We call on people of good will and especially on people of faith in God to build a fence of protest, rejection and correction around those who may persist in spewing the pollution of hate into the public airways."

■ **Euthanasia opposition urged.** A bipartisan group of 40 House members, led by Rep. Charles Canady, R-Fla., asked the Clinton administration May 24 to voice its opposition to assisted suicide. In a letter to U.S. Solicitor General Drew Days, the House members urged the administration to file a friend-of-the-court

brief with the U.S. Supreme Court, asking the justices to reverse a federal court's ruling that prevented restriction of assisted suicide.

■ **Coin challenge unsuccessful.** Without comment, the U.S. Supreme Court May 20 rejected a lawsuit filed by a group of Colorado residents who sought to have the motto "In God We Trust" removed from U.S. coins and currency. Similar challenges have been rejected in the past.

■ **Clinton opposes gay marriages.** President Clinton supports legislation which would enable states to refuse recognition of homosexual marriages, White House spokesman Michael McCurry said May 22. The president's endorsement of the Defense of Marriage Act came a week after a sometimes-contentious congressional hearing on the legislation.

PEOPLE



FINANCIAL FORUM

Your checkbook tells your values

By Doug Strader

What can your checkbook teach you about your values?

Before you answer that question with "nothing," you may need to do some checking. I can remember a few years ago when Esther and I went through this process how astonished we were when we learned where our money was going.

If you do most of your business by writing checks, using a debit card and having automatic withdrawal for some payments, it will be easy to conduct this experiment.

First, categorize your expenses from your checkbook. Each month, add your expenses for food, housing, utilities, church, medical, etc. Do not leave anything out; include every expense in some category. Make sure you include all expenses for an entire year. Add up the total expenses for the year. Do not get discouraged when you cannot account for every expense you incurred during the year. All of us use cash for which we cannot account, unless we keep such records.

Next, look back over the same year and add all your income. Be sure to include money from all parties who contribute to the family budget.

After Esther and I did this, it amazed us that there was no accounting for such a large sum of money. We had used cash for which we had not kept a record. The money was spent, but we had no idea where it had gone.

Now check each category carefully and see if the money spent in each category is compatible with what you value. What item received most of your money? Do you feel good about spending that much for that purpose? As you look at each item, ask yourself: "Is this a high priority for me and my family? Does this spending validate what I consider to be of value?"

As you study your findings, determine what adjustments you need to make in order to have your checkbook reflect your values. Ask yourself the hard questions: "Am I a responsible steward of all that God has given me? Have I been selfish, or have I been willing to share with those in need? Have I been faithful in giving to the church? What am I willing to do in order to make my checkbook compatible with what I value in life?"

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

Kentuckians graduate from seminaries

At least 38 Kentuckians received degrees from Baptist-affiliated seminaries during spring commencement ceremonies.

■ **Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.**

Doctor of ministry: Danny Lewis Morris, Campbellsville; Jack Lynn Acree, Lowes.

Doctor of philosophy: Timothy Wade Harris, Woodburn.

Master of divinity: Timothy Neil Bond, Louisville; Phyllis Jo Borchert, Louisville; William Bernard Watkins, Louisville; Steven Ray Neel, Owensboro; Parush Raikov Parushev, Louisville; Cherry Winkle Moore, Lexington; Terre Jasper, Danville.

Master of divinity in Christian education: Scott Alan Frederick, Henderson; Darie Wilson, Hopkinsville; Roger Taylor, Central City; Dean Whitaker, Hazard.

Advanced master of divinity: Kenneth Paul Orr, Lexington.

Master of divinity in missions: John Harvey Hyde, Louisville.

Master of church music: Christopher Edward Hale, Bowling Green; Janie Benjamin, Louisville; Steven Grayson, Owensboro; Leslie Ann Hancock, Louisville; Marcus Brown, Bowling Green.

Master of arts in Christian education: Heath Scott Gabbard, Lexington; Olive Yvonne Grinion, Louisville; Rodney Lynch, Danville; John Akers, Elizabethtown; Tim Simpson, Frankfort.

Master of social work: Nikolina Nedelcheva Parusheva, Louisville; Autumn Betts, Frankfort; Julie Elizabeth Wiegand, Florence.

Associate of arts: Douglas Miller, Louisville.

Diploma in church music: Ronald

Alan Cheak, Shelbyville.

■ **Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.**

Master of divinity in Christian education: Kevin Joseph Mullins, Louisville.

Master of arts in Christian education: James Marion Poynter, Berea.

Associate of divinity: Bryan Lewis Prather, La Grange.

Bachelor of arts in biblical studies: John Hillard Weaver, Ashland.

■ **Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.**

Diploma in Christian ministries: Gloria LaMae Word, Owensboro.

■ **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.**

Master of divinity with biblical languages: Timothy Wayne Hooker, Paducah.

Master of arts in church social services: Kevin Leigh Hall, Frankfort.

Georgetown offers program for high schoolers

GEORGETOWN—Georgetown College has announced a special reduced tuition program for high school students who want to take college-level course work.

Prior to graduation from high school, students may enroll in summer, fall or spring term classes for \$100 for each three-credit-hour course.

The program has been available in Scott County for several years and now is being expanded to the contiguous counties of Bourbon, Fayette, Franklin, Grant, Harrison, Owen and Woodford.

For information, call (800) 788-9985.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Associate pastor—emphasis in music and youth. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Grapevine Baptist Church, 85 Sandcut Rd., Madisonville, KY 42431.

SEEKING: The First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg, Ky., is looking for someone to fill the position of minister of music. This is a full-time position with a salary package range of \$35,000-\$36,000. Would prefer seminary graduate with 0-5 years experience. Please send resumé to: Connie Sammons, Committee Chairperson, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 756, Prestonsburg, KY 41653. Resumés will be accepted through June 30, 1996.

NEEDED: Growing church in Stanford, Ky., needs approximately 60 Baptist Hymnals, 1975 edition. Please contact Bro. Wayne Stephens at (606) 365-9367 or Beverly Dudderar at (606) 365-2406 in Stanford, or Steve Pruitt at (606) 273-8685 in Lexington.

SEEKING: Persons with secretarial experience and computer application skills to accept temporary work assignments. Contact: Administrative Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky. Phone (502) 245-4101.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to children. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Lyndon Baptist Church, 8025 New LaGrange Rd., Louisville, KY 40222.

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

SEEKING: Meta Baptist Church is searching for a full-time minister of music and youth. If interested, send resumé to: Meta Baptist Church, 8807 Meta Hwy., Pikeville, KY 41501. Pastor Ron Spurgeon.

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

WANTED: Minister to students. A dually aligned (SBC and CBF) church seeks a half-time minister to students. Twenty miles south of Louisville. Immediate opening; will consider bivocational and/or college or seminary applicants. Send resumé and other information to: Student Minister Search Committee, First Baptist Church, Shepherdsville, P.O. Box 26, Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

NEEDED: Pastor for New Life Baptist, Elyria, Ohio. Our former pastor of 11 years has been appointed a DOM. Please send resumé c/o Doug Feller, NLBC, 112-A Eastern Heights, Elyria, OH 44035.

SOUND: System problems? Need consultation, training? Call Jim Cottrell, professional church sound engineer. Serving as sound/media engineer for KBC annual meetings, technical director, Severns Valley Baptist. (502) 862-9586.

NEEDED: A well-established and growing church needs a pastor. The church has a large Family Life Center and gymnasium. Please send resumé to: Corydon Missionary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 205, Corydon, KY 42406, or call: (502) 533-6972 evenings.

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.

TOUR: 10 days Russia, Moscow and St. Petersburg, Oct. 7, 1996. All meals, ballet, circus, plus all the sites, \$1,799. Call Pastor Jack Studie, (502) 247-8331, for brochure. Experience you can trust!

SEEKING: Children's minister. Newly established part-time position in rapidly growing suburban Louisville church. Individual will be responsible for assisting church program and ministry organizations in comprehensive education program for preschoolers and grades 1-6. Send resumé to: Cedar Creek Baptist Church, 7709 Bardstown Rd., Louisville, KY 40291.

SEEKING: Pastor. Send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 76, Dayton, KY 41074.

SEEKING: Church secretary. Part-time position of 30 hours per week. Secretarial experience and computer literacy required. Wonderful working environment in rapidly growing church. Start at once. Please send resumé to: Cedar Creek Baptist Church, 7709 Bardstown Rd., Louisville, KY 40291.

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: Youth minister. Part-time position in rapidly growing suburban Louisville church. Exciting youth ministry opportunity which already includes a dynamic Wednesday night contemporary youth worship service, with teaching, music videos and worship and praise music. Church activities center and facilities in rapidly growing suburban area present outstanding growth opportunity. Please send resumé to: Cedar Creek Baptist Church, 7709 Bardstown Rd., Louisville, KY 40291.

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

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

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).

Sunday school classes opting for variety in literature

"The common term people use is, 'We want in-depth Bible study. But that means vanilla to one person and pistachio to another person.'"

Vernon Cole

Continued from page 1 church.

"That's what people want: a selection," Garland said. "They won't come to a book study just because the Southern Baptist Convention puts it out. They want to make sure it meets their needs and is easy to understand."

Still, that doesn't mean that Sunday school has turned into an "anything-goes" hour.

Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green has used material published by Gospel Light for preschoolers, David C. Cook's "Just Me and the Kids," a study for single mothers; and occasionally some teaching videos.

But the majority of Sunday school classes still use Sunday School Board material, said Minister of Education Scott Kilgore.

"We're looking for biblical soundness, consistency with Baptist doctrine and ease of application," he said. "We're also concerned with a needs-based approach, the ability to target a group and flexibility."

Chip Miller, director of the KBC's Sunday school department, said he sees this kind of desire for flexibility everywhere he travels. More Kentucky Baptist churches are

blending their own mixture of Sunday school literature, he reported.

One of the key new entrants into the Baptist Sunday school literature market has been Smyth & Helwys, a Georgia publishing house founded in 1991 by Southern Baptist moderates who became frustrated with the perceived theological and political perspective of the Sunday School Board.

Smyth & Helwys has made some inroads in Kentucky, but few churches rely solely on the new publisher for all their curriculum needs, Miller said.

Although much smaller than the Sunday School Board, Smyth & Helwys competes directly with the board in sales for children's, youth and adult Sunday school literature.

When push comes to shove, "the major criteria is probably ease of use, not theological or methodological," Miller said.

One factor in the struggle to meet Bible study needs is the diverse audience that publishers are trying to serve, Cole observed.

Baptist Sunday schools present a wide divergence in educational levels and learning styles, including a spectrum ranging from those who have been in church for years and want a "richer background" to recent converts who desire more basic literature, he said.

"The common term people use is, 'We want in-depth Bible study,'" Cole said. "But that means vanilla to one person and pistachio to another person."

To complicate matters more, the Sunday School Board and Smyth & Helwys aren't the only competitors in the changing market of Sunday school literature.

Other publishers who call on Kentucky Baptist churches include:

■ David C. Cook Ministries, part of a diverse publishing giant, Cook Communications, located in Colo-

rado Springs, Colo.

■ Scripture Press of Wheaton, Ill., which recently was acquired by Cook, but will retain its name.

■ Standard Publishing of Cincinnati, one of several firms Miller said have made major gains in marketing vacation Bible school materials to Kentucky Baptist churches.

■ Gospel Light Publications, a division of Regal Books in Ventura, Calif.

■ Group Publishing of Loveland, Colo., which is well-known for its children's and youth materials.

Sunday SCHOOL CHOICE

ΩS OMEGA SERVICES
ELIZABETHTOWN, KY

765-7899 For Your
TAPE
Ministry

AUDIO - VIDEO



Church Buses Rental Buses

(New & Used)

Call Henry Headden
Carpenter Bus Sales Inc.

Brentwood, Tenn.

1 (800) 370-6180

1 (615) 371-6180

Available in 20' to 33' Models
(12 to 38 passengers)

Guaranteed Buy-Back Program • We Buy Used Buses

You're invited to attend ... MISSION MEETING '96

HAWAII

"NEVER FORSAKEN, NEVER ALONE"

July 26 - 31 1996

A uniquely historical gathering in the beautiful Hawaiian tropics for Missionaries, MK's & anyone devoted to sharing the triumphant story of Jesus' love to all the nations of the World.

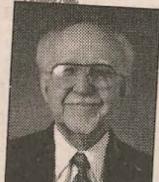
TESTIMONIALS BY:

Daily Schedule Includes:

- Morning Inspirational Sessions
- General Assembly with Keynote Speaker
- Small Group Break-out Sessions
- Evening Service with Special Soloists, MK Choir, Orchestra and Special Message
- All night prayer service



Dr. Clayton Bell
Senior Pastor
Highland Park Presbyterian,
Dallas, TX & Missionary Kid



Dr. Dwight Baker
Missionary (Israel and India)



Donna Rice Hughes
A message of Hope and Redemption
from Her Journey of Pain and Suffering



Fern Harrington Miles
Missionary to China,
Phillipines & Taiwan
Author, *Captive Community*
A Story about Her Years in a
Japanese Internment Camp

Over 40 Inspirational Speakers Featuring:

- Winston Crawley • Robert Deneen
Guy Henderson • Carter Morgan
Alma Hunt • David Hughes
Bill Tisdale • Eunice Bland Smith
Grover Tyner • and MANY MORE!

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR MK'S OF ALL AGES!

- CHILDCARE PROVIDED
- INTERPRETATION FOR HEARING IMPAIRED
- TRAINED CHRISTIAN COUNSELORS ON SITE

FEATURED MUSICIANS

OUACHITA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: DICK BAKER

SOLOISTS: DOUG OLDHAM • WILLA DORSEY BARBARA TUCKER

Information & Registration

For convention registration call:
Woman's Missionary Union
1-800-419-0561

Registration Deadline: June 25, 1996

Those special memories

By the end of the Civil War virtually every family in our nation had experienced the loss of a loved one to war. The tradition of Decoration Day or Memorial Day which we celebrated last week grew out of that sense of loss and the desire to remember very special people.

Memorial Day eventually became a day to remember all loved ones who have left us. It became a day to go to the cemetery and (before perpetual care cemeteries came along) clean up around the graves and plant flowers. Families often gathered for a picnic.

Today, Memorial Day serves more as a kickoff to the summer than anything else. It is still a day for families to gather, but there is far less emphasis on visiting the cemetery.

I believe it is still important to focus on the idea of remembering loved ones on Memorial Day. Since our families have become scattered across the nation, it is generally not possible for everyone to gather at the cemetery. It is possible, however, for all of us to stop for a few minutes to remember a special loved one, to think about a special joy they brought to

our lives, and to say a prayer of gratitude to God for what that person meant to us.

As you pause for Memorial Day, or as a loved one passes, I would ask you to consider giving a memorial gift to the children in the care of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. All across the state, churches and some funeral homes have plaques that can be placed near the other expressions of sympathy to share that you have given a gift of life to children who have known so much pain.

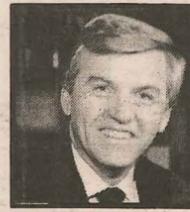
We have memorial envelopes available for you to send a gift to us. We notify the family of your gift in memory of their loved one. For a recent loss, we also

send the family members a pamphlet entitled "Out of the Darkness..." I have had so many comments from people who shared how it helped them deal with the grief they felt.

Take time to recall special memories and help a young life experience real joy.

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

Kentucky churches mix the new with tried and true

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Although Kentucky Baptists are sampling literature from other publishers, most still rely heavily on the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board products.

Sunday School Board spokeswoman Linda Lawson said the Nashville-based publisher supplied some type of Sunday school literature to nearly 2,100 Kentucky Baptist churches in the fourth quarter of 1995. That represents about 86 percent of the 2,400 churches affiliated with the KBC.

About a fourth of the adults enrolled in Sunday school at Melbourne Heights Baptist Church use the "Formations" series published by a new Sunday School Board competitor, Smith & Helwys. But Minister of Education Ken Orr said that is down 15 percent since he joined the Louisville congregation in the fall of 1994.

The initial decision to break away from exclusive use of Sunday School Board literature was "a conscious effort to pursue some different options," Orr said. "We had some folks in the church who were supportive of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and wanted to see what was available."

Although he allows classes to choose their own material, he encourages them to consider Sunday School Board curriculum.

In a couples class Orr teaches at Melbourne Heights, he tried the Smyth & Helwys "Formations" series and decided after four months to return to the Sunday School Board's "Life and Work" series.

Orr found the Smyth & Helwys literature easier for teacher preparation but lacking in depth for students. "When it came down to how this affects me where I live, it sort of dropped off."

Still, other Kentucky churches have been using the "Formations" series ever since it was launched several years ago and remain pleased with it.

Other Kentucky churches have remained faithful to the Sunday School Board's line of literature, but have begun supplementing it with special-interest classes using other products.

For example, West Side Baptist Church in Murray sticks closely to Sunday School Board literature, although this fall some adults will use

the popular "Experiencing God" study in place of standard curriculum. "Experiencing God" also is published by the Sunday School Board, but not as Sunday school literature.

The Murray church will offer another special-interest class this summer for college students home for summer break. Pastor Glynn Orr said this fits a trend he sees emerging across the church.

"People want to do more theme studies," he said. "They want to spend a quarter looking at things like marriage or parenting. I wish we had some material dealing with

those things in Sunday school curriculum."

Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington also looks favorably on traditional material from the Sunday School Board.

Minister of Education Glen Cummins said the "Life and Work" series is the most popular because it addresses crucial, real-life issues. He said members' primary concerns are variety, subject matter and getting others active in Bible study.

"Smith & Helwys materials have come to us, and David C. Cook's regular mailings, and they come by," he said. "But we still feel the Southern Baptist material meets our needs."

Cummins said he believes the Sunday School Board has become more responsive to churches' concerns in recent years. Suggestions now can lead to changes in six months instead of taking three years as it did in the past, he said.

In Bowling Green, Living Hope Baptist Church has supplemented Sunday School Board literature with special classes in "Experiencing God" and "Get Acquainted with the Bible." This fall it will adapt T.W. Hunt's "The Mind of Christ" study to a Sunday school format.

But aside from special-interest topics, most classes from kindergarten through adults use Sunday School Board studies, said Minister of Education Scott Kilgore.

"I wonder if you get the full approach when you bounce from one thing to another," he said.

His one exception is Gospel Light Publishing's material for 2-year-olds and 3-year-olds. "I like Baptist distinctives and emphasis, but I don't know if that applies to that age group," he explained.

"I wonder if you get the full approach when you bounce from one thing to another."
Scott Kilgore, minister of education at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green

Sunday SCHOOL CHOICE

Publishers know variety drives literature purchases today

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

NASHVILLE—Size has its advantages.

As the nation's largest publisher of Sunday school curriculum in English, the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board also offers material in Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Laotian, Vietnamese, French, Arabic and Japanese.

But no matter what the language, the trend in today's churches is a smorgasbord approach that allows classes or departments to choose their own literature, said Linda Thompson, senior coordinator of marketing for the Sunday School Board's church growth group.

"There was a time when if one class used 'Life and Work,' everyone used it," she said. Now churches select a mixture of that and the board's

other two series, which are in the process of being redesigned and given new names, she added.

The Sunday School Board offers three lines of Sunday school literature because there are so many different types, sizes and kinds of Southern Baptist churches, Thompson said.

Regardless of what they choose, churches share primary concerns about literature, she said. Those concerns include:

- Being biblically based and educationally sound.

- User-friendliness, especially teachers' guides so instructors can prepare lessons.

- Economics, getting good value for their dollar.

Mark McElroy, editor of the "Formations" series at Smyth & Helwys publishers in Macon, Ga., said his in-

dependent company also addresses the needs of Baptist churches.

What concerns customers most is relevance, he said. "If it's not being relevant to life the other six days a week, the discussion is not very fruitful on Sunday morning."

"They want scriptural content, but they want it relevant to daily life. It's not necessarily a departure from 15 or 20 years ago, but the stakes are higher. Sunday school can be a tool of outreach, but if it's not based on life experiences, they will have a hard time."

Because it is difficult for one curriculum to meet everyone's Bible study needs, Smyth & Helwys also has developed a series of five-session studies called "Extensions," McElroy said.

This summer the 5-year-old publishing house will release "Faith

Steps" for children. A new adult study, "All the Bible," is scheduled for release next year and will focus on developing Bible study skills.

Competing in today's tight literature market also requires making better use of technology.

In mid-April, the Sunday School Board opened its "SBCNet Resource Center" over the private SBCNet forum, part of the CompuServe commercial on-line service. The resource center offers Bible study resources and current updates to Sunday school lessons.

Smith & Helwys supplies weekly support to "Formations" users which can be obtained via fax or over the Internet.

The updates link current events with published material, and include other news and comments that teachers can use for lesson preparation.

Sunday school literature market highly competitive but not growing

Sunday school literature may be a highly-competitive market today, but it isn't a growing market nationwide.

Among the factors cited are the costs of purchasing literature, dwindling membership in many denominations, a decreasing emphasis on Sunday school and some churches dropping it altogether.

Even among Southern Baptists, who continue to have the strongest adult Bible study program of any religious body, Sunday school literature sales have been declining. The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has experienced a slow decline in sales since 1983, said spokeswoman Linda Lawson.

That trend can be seen in Kentucky.

Kentucky Baptist churches purchased about 440,000 units of dated literature from the Sunday School Board the last quarter of 1995, a decrease of 3.3 percent from the fourth quarter of 1994.

"The major factor has been the economy," Lawson said. "Churches tell us they have a certain amount of dollars to spend and that's all. If they pick up something new, they will have to drop something else."

However, the Sunday School Board has partially reversed the trend in its "Life and Work" series. A redesigned, more colorful product debuted in the fall of 1994, boosting sales of the youth series by 3 percent over the next year. Sales of the

adult version rose by 1.4 percent.

The Sunday School Board hopes for a similar response to its redesign of the other two curriculum that will be released in October.

The traditional "Convention Uniform" series will be renamed "Family Bible Series." It still will be the only one where all age groups study the same Bible passage.

The "Bible Book" series will change its name to "Explore the Bible" series and offer separate plans for youth and adults.

Although covering only a fraction of the market the Sunday School Board enjoys, Smyth & Helwys publishers has steadily grown in sales of Sunday school literature since its founding in 1991, said spokesman

Ben McDade. Currently, sales are up 16.5 percent over the same period last year, he reported.

Smyth & Helwys currently provides literature for more than 2,000 churches nationwide, McDade said. He estimated that about 175,000 people study from Smyth & Helwys literature each Sunday.

Kentucky is among the top five states for sales of Smyth & Helwys literature, but it not the company's top market, McDade said. Other top states for use of Smyth & Helwys literature are North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia and Texas.

Comparative figures were not readily available from other publishing houses that sell to Kentucky Baptist congregations.

PRAYER PARTNERS

- Pray for these specific needs related to Kentucky Baptist partnerships with Russia, Boston and Utah-Idaho:
- Volunteers needed for evangelism project in St. Petersburg, Russia, Oct. 9-22.
 - Volunteers needed for medical project in St. Petersburg, Russia, Oct. 9-22.
 - Dentists needed in Russia Sept. 3-15, Oct. 9-22, Sept. 4-17.
 - Community Church in Cohasset, Mass., and Pastor Robert Hurlbut.
 - Churches of Utah/Idaho Baptist Convention as they plan to receive Kentucky mission teams this summer.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Living Hope Church ordained **Rick Roepke** and **Jeff Tudor** to the gospel ministry May 19.

Marc Brown of Bowling Green has been presented a Performer's Certificate by Southern Seminary's School of Church Music.

■ **COVINGTON**—Immanuel Church will present a Southern gospel concert with the Ball Family Singers and Skeeter Davis at the Garden of Hope located on Edgecliff Drive June 15 at 3 p.m. Call (606) 341-3476 for information.

■ **EASTWOOD**—Eastwood Church called **Keith McKinley** as interim pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will sponsor "Day-Spring," an annual event for women, June 8 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Guest speaker is **Mamie McCullough**, a nationally-recognized inspirational speaker, who overcame seemingly impossible circumstances to live a life of happiness and success. Music will be provided by **Alma Randolph** of Owensboro.

■ **FRANKLIN**—New Hope Church called **Larry Baker** of Trimble, Mo., as pastor. Baker is a native of Russellville. He will begin his new ministry June 9.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Bellepoint Church celebrated its 50th anniversary May 26. Former pastor **Paul Whit-**

ler was guest speaker. **Bobby Brooks** is pastor.

■ **HARDIN**—Blood River Baptist Association elected **Harlan Williams** as director of missions. He previously was pastor for 10 years at Second Church in Russellville.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—**Tyre Denney** retired as pastor of Alton Church June 2. Denney served the church 29 years.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Kevin Mullins** of Louisville received the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association Award at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. The award is presented to a graduating senior, based on academic performance, leadership potential and promise for educational ministry.

Foster Avenue Church called **Frank Kuriger** as pastor.

St. Matthews Church recently honored **Verlin Kruschwitz** by naming him pastor emeritus.

Cloverleaf Church will host the "Heartland Boys" in a gospel music concert June 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Joel Weaver resigned as pastor at Audubon Church May 26, to work full-time toward the doctor of philosophy degree at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Midlane Park Church will feature the Middletown Disciple Choir from Middletown Christian Church in a concert of multicultural Christian



GROUNDBREAKING Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College held groundbreaking ceremonies for a new faculty office building May 15. The new facility will include nine faculty offices, a conference room, staff lounge and a reception area. Since 1988, the school has grown from one full-time faculty member to six, plus several adjunct faculty members. Shown on the front row at the groundbreaking are **LaVerne Butler**, Mid-Continent's president; **Rick Johnson**, a circuit court judge and president of Mayfield-Graves County Chamber of Commerce; **Mariowen Reed**, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce; **Charlie Simmons**, director of missions for Graves County Baptist Association; **Ken Klingler**, the school's director of institutional advancement; **Charles Blair**, director of missions for West Kentucky Baptist Association; **Ray Provow**, chairman of the school's trustee board and pastor of Sedalia Baptist Church; and **Larry Washburn**, the school's business administrator.

music June 9 at 7 p.m.

Bill Cubine resigned as interim pastor at Lyndon Church.

Ashby Lane Church held a note-burning and debt-retirement celebration April 28.

■ **MURRAY**—Poplar Spring Church called **Jack Jones** as associate pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—First Church called **Roger Palmer** as minister to students. He began his new ministry June 1.

West Fork Church called **Richard**

Edmiston as pastor. He previously was pastor at West End Church in Paducah.

■ **RADCLIFF**—**Gene Waggoner**, pastor of Stithon Church for 35 years, retired May 31. He will be available for supply, interim pastorates, Bible studies and revivals. Call him at (502) 351-3841.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—**Janus Jones** celebrated his 25th anniversary as director of missions in Mount Zion Association June 1.

Busy, busy, busy!

When school was out last week and most students went home to enjoy a long summer of fun and relaxation, about 40 students stayed here on our campus to help with the summer chores.

Some of the boys are working on the farm. Even though school is out, there are still crops to get out, equipment to repair, cattle and hogs to be fed, feeder pigs to get to the market and hundreds of bales of hay to get in. Anyone who has grown up on a farm or has worked on one knows there is no such thing as a "summer break" on the farm.

About five boys have been mowing our acres of lawns. Grass does not stop growing for the "summer break." These boys start early in the morning, trying to beat the afternoon heat. In addition to mowing the grass, they must trim around the miles of sidewalks, flower beds, shrubs, trees, park benches, buildings, guard rails and hillsides where mowers cannot go.

Several of the girls have been working in their dorm and dining room. They have been busy cleaning and painting rooms, waxing floors, washing windows and helping in the dining room.

Some of the boys have been doing the same type of chores in their dorms. Additionally, they have helped to do many other odd-and-end chores across the campus.

The students who are working now will work from the time school was out until summer school begins. They will have the option of going home for the rest of the summer or going to summer school. Another group of students will be here when summer school is over and work until the fall term begins.

Our students have been following this routine for many years. While all of our students are on a substantial scholarship, many can pay little or

nothing to attend our school. From the very first day of school in January 1900, boys and girls have been coming to Oneida who could not afford to pay. Originally the room and board was one dollar a month. For those who could not come up with the dollar, a bag of coal, sheepskin or some other gift was offered in exchange for the opportunity to go to school.

While we do not today accept coal, sheepskins, etc., we still take many students who cannot afford to pay. Most students here have no idea who pays and who cannot. Many of the students themselves do not even know their parents are unable to pay. About the first of April every year we meet with students who are on full or nearly full scholarships. Those who have been here for several years know we are going to ask them to help us some during the summer in order to make ends meet. We simply do not have the funds to hire people to do the many things our students can do.

I wish I could say that all of those who are on substantial scholarships are eager to help. There are always some who are not willing to stay a few weeks and help out. We simply tell them that we have already helped them during the past school year, and if they want to attend next year with the same scholarship they will have to help us a few weeks in the summer. While there are always a few who say "no," the vast majority willingly agree to help. Like most things in life, this is a two-way street for the students and for us. We get the much-needed work done while they learn that nothing in life is free. They can say with pride "I have done all I can do to help myself."

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Senior testimonies and future plans

Charles Keller's most precious memory of his Clear Creek days came when the family visited as prospective students. "Our son, Aaron, accepted Christ as his Savior. Since then our daughter, Ashleigh, has become a Christian and I have baptized both of them." The family has moved to Harmon Memorial Baptist Church in Maxie, Va.

South Carolina student **Bill McCabe** cites his major accomplishment as "being a student after 30 years. I'll always remember the day in 1992 when they called me out of class because Sandy's mother went to the hospital. Dr. Ditty interrupted his class session so we could pray for my family." Bill plans to enroll at Southeastern Seminary.

Allen and Cindy Sanders and their two children came to Clear Creek from Ohio. He now has "a new appreciation that God has his people everywhere." Allen has already completed a semester at New Orleans Seminary. Cindy's experience in our book store opened the door for work in the seminary book store.

Winchester native **Randy Stone** made it through graduation without his wife, Sherry, going to the hospital. The due date for their baby was that day! Randy is thankful for

"stronger self-confidence and learning so much about the Bible."

The faculty selected **Mike Thomas** to receive the R.P. Mahon Founders Award for response to God's call in the midst of adult life. This second-year graduate goes to Columbus, Ohio, as minister of education. For three years he was a teacher in our child development center.

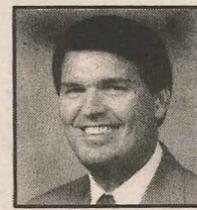
David Wainwright stated: "I've really enjoyed watching the Lord work in Mia's and my life. We came here by faith and the Lord has met our every need." The Wainwrights move to Southeastern Seminary where the Lord has already provided jobs.

Tennessean **Doug Williams**, youth minister at Trinity Church in Middlesboro, is engaged to **Cathy Thomas** and will enroll at Southern Seminary. "I learned to be open-minded and to know what I really believe."

"I have learned that no matter what comes up in life, God is there to help you." **Jon Yeoman**, from Indiana, received the Claude Fox Award for the individual demonstrating the most progress as a student.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Family values a new political force in South Africa

By John Fleming
Religion News Service

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (RNS)—A few days after it announced it was withdrawing from the coalition government formed with the African National Congress, the National Party and its leader, F.W. de Klerk, uttered a message central to its new opposition stance: Family values.

What emerged from the collapse of the coalition, religious leaders and political observers argue, is a potentially much stronger National Party, one that is in a position to appeal to a broader section of the electorate.

The National Party, the architect of apartheid that dominated South African politics for 44 years, can now concentrate on erasing its image as an oppressor and billing itself as the bearer of Christian values, potentially drawing not only from its traditional white base but also from the majority black community, observers say.

"Family values is a growing theme in this country," said Edward Antonio, a professor of religious studies at Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand. "People here are deeply concerned about growing crime, abortion, the death penalty and pornography. Using these issues, the NP can very well turn itself into a

South African Moral Majority."

At the same time, observers say, the National Party will try to paint the African National Congress as a threat to Christian and family values.

"The National Party is going to have a good time playing on topics like abortion that the ANC is seen as supporting," said Albert Nolan, a Catholic theologian at the Institute for Contextual Theology in Johannesburg.

"The ANC also has all that past baggage of being communists. Now the NP is in a position of presenting itself as Christian while presenting the ANC as ungodly," Nolan said.

The coalition arrangement—known as the Government of National Unity—was forged by the two parties during negotiations leading up to the first all-race elections in 1994. Meant to last until 1999, it was seen as a transitional arrangement aimed at placating the white minority and business interests nervous about a sudden takeover by an inexperienced African National Congress.

In the past, the National Party was seen as a strongly religious party but a religious party of South African whites. Throughout the apartheid era, the party was closely associated with the Dutch Reformed Church, which espoused the separation of the races. Just as the National Party is attempt-

South African Baptists still divided

EAST LONDON, South Africa (BP)—Unity talks between the predominantly white Baptist Union of Southern Africa and the mainly black Baptist Convention of South Africa have broken off, according to a report in Ecumenical News International.

The talks proved "futile," said the Baptist convention's general-secretary, Desmond Hoffmeister, because the Baptist union "is not ready to deal with people of color."

Ecumenical News International, which reported on the controversy May 9, is a news service sponsored by the World Council of Churches and three other religious bodies and is based in Geneva, Switzerland.

Hoffmeister called off the talks in March but said the convention is ready to resume them when the union "unequivocally demonstrates" its readiness for genuine reconciliation.

The news service also reported that Hoffmeister, in a recent statement, additionally

had said negotiations proved fruitless "because of the intransigent and contradictory actions of the union that negate the spirit of reconciliation permeating the South African community."

The report drew a note of regret from Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

"The BWA still is concerned about furthering talks between the Baptist convention and union in South Africa," Lotz said. "I have indicated to the convention and union that press releases, new articles, etc., is not the proper forum for the necessary dialogue and conversations aiming toward understanding and reconciliation. It is our fervent prayer that discussions will resume and that our Baptist brothers and sisters in South Africa will one day be able to celebrate in a public service that unity for which Christ prayed. The BWA continues to stand ready to participate in future discussions by sending a team."

ing to present itself as a party of all races, the mainline Dutch Reformed Church itself is undergoing a reformation, abandoning its separatist ideology.

By using Christian messages, the National Party could attract an enormous following, according to Anto-

nio, Nolan and others. In recent years South Africa has seen an explosion of black membership in Christian churches.

In 1960 about 7 million blacks belonged, but by 1991 that number was up to about 22 million—or 77 percent of all blacks.

Kuwaiti court declares Christian convert an apostate

WASHINGTON (RNS)—An Islamic court in Kuwait May 29 proclaimed Hussein Qambar Ali, 45, guilty of apostasy—abandoning Islam, the majority religion in the Persian Gulf Arab state—because of his conversion to Christianity.

Hussein, who has taken the Christian name Robert, has 30 days to appeal the decision to the Constitutional Court.

Because Hussein's case is believed to be the first of its kind in modern Kuwait, his punishment is unclear.

Asked if Muslims might take the ruling as permission to kill Hussein, Judge Jaafar al-Mazidi, who chaired the Shi'ite court in Kuwait City, told the Reuter news agency, "That is possible."

But killing an apostate violates criminal law, the judge added. "Ku-

waiti people are as far as could be from" such a killing, he said.

The Kuwaiti Constitution acknowledges that Sharia (Islamic law) is the "main source" for all law, but there are no legal provisions calling apostasy a crime.

While apostasy has no legal penalty under Kuwaiti criminal law, it does under Islamic rulings, Mazidi was quoted by Reuters. "Apostasy in Islam has a hadd (penalty) which is death, (forceful) divorce, distribution of belongings to heirs before death," the judge said.

Hussein has demanded that the Constitutional Court view his case on the grounds that Kuwait's constitution guarantees freedom of belief, Reuters said.

Hussein has remained in hiding since December, when he made his conversion public during a legal bat-

tle with his estranged wife over whether he should be allowed to visit their two children. In interviews with local newspapers, he alleged that his wife was divorcing him and preventing him from seeing his children because he had adopted Christianity.

After the interviews were published, three lawyers filed a private suit against Hussein, charging him with apostasy. He said he subsequently received several death threats.

The lawyers said they did not want Hussein killed but wanted him stripped of several civil rights, including his Kuwaiti nationality, according to Reuters.

Human rights groups denounced the verdict. "We Americans who are free and have tremendous influence through our government over Kuwait have a moral responsibility to do

everything in our power to defend this victim of the most fundamental of human rights abuses," said Nina Shea, director of the New York-based Freedom House's Puebla Program on Religious Freedom.

Shea said she hoped Americans would "exert various levers, including those through our military defense of Kuwait," to let the Gulf state know that "our interests are not limited to oil supplies and trade."

On May 23, 12 U.S. senators, led by Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., and Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., wrote to Kuwait's head of state, Amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabath, expressing their concern about the case and their hope that Hussein's right to religious freedom would be respected. Several members of the House of Representatives have also written to Kuwaiti officials.



GREETINGS The president of Bulgaria, Zhelyu Zhelev, receives Theodor Angelov, president of the Union of Baptist Churches in Bulgaria, and Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, for a recent conference about Baptists in Bulgaria who are struggling for religious freedom.

Report: Doctors and nurses threatened worldwide

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Doctors and nurses around the world have been killed or jailed by governments for refusing to participate in torture and other human-rights abuses, Amnesty International said in a report released May 22.

The London-based human-rights organization said doctors have been coerced—sometimes by law—into assisting in amputations, inflicted as punishment, and pressured into issuing false medical reports. Health professionals are not only victims of coercive practices but also perpetrators, according to the report.

Physicians were criticized for giving "passive assistance" by tolerating government-sponsored torture as well as for actively giving medical advice, assisting at executions or helping to cover

up human rights violations.

"The vulnerability of doctors or nurses results from the absence of a strong collective refusal to compromise ethical and professional standards," the report said.

The report cited examples from 15 nations of medical human rights violations. For example:

■ In Iraq in 1994, doctors were required by law to amputate the ears and brand the foreheads of military and civilian deserters. One Iraqi physician was executed and others imprisoned for refusing to carry out these orders.

■ In Bahrain in 1995, security authorities warned doctors that if they treated people wounded in anti-government protests, they would suffer repercussions.

Top 10 Reasons to Use the Western Recorder's Church Newpage Plan

- 10.** It's easier to create than any newsletter you're doing now.
- 9.** Members get more for their money than just a newsletter; they get a world of helpful news, features and perspectives.
- 8.** It's on schedule. Our weekly or monthly schedule helps you keep on top of communicating with church members.
- 7.** There's something for everyone. The Western Recorder isn't just a denominational paper; it's a reader-friendly paper full of practical resources for Christian living.
- 6.** It gives perspective. If you're concerned about church members being aware of the world around them, reading the Western Recorder is a must.
- 5.** We'll make you look great. The Western Recorder staff will work with you to create an attractive layout and show you how to keep your newsletter looking great week after week.
- 4.** Church secretaries love us. Church secretaries who make the switch to publishing the church newsletter through the Recorder routinely tell us it was one of the biggest helps they've received.
- 3.** We'll work with the Post Office, so you don't have to.
- 2.** We'll do it your way. The Recorder publishes newpages a variety of ways and receives newpages a variety of ways. We can meet your needs.
- 1.** We'll save your church money. Most churches currently publishing a newsletter of any kind discover they can save hundreds, sometimes thousands of dollars by publishing their newsletter on the Western Recorder.

Call (502) 244-6473 today for details.