

WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

Faith at work

This week's Western Recorder includes several items about Christian beliefs in the marketplace. Pages 1, 4, 6 & 7.

Hat in the ring

Ten months before next year's Southern Baptist Convention meeting, a bi-vocational pastor from Texas has announced plans to run for president. Page 2.

Zoning controversy

A zoning dispute has stirred up tensions between Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and the town of Wake Forest. Page 2.

25 years

Director of missions Janus Jones recently celebrated his 25th anniversary with two Eastern Kentucky associations. Page 3.

Family Forum

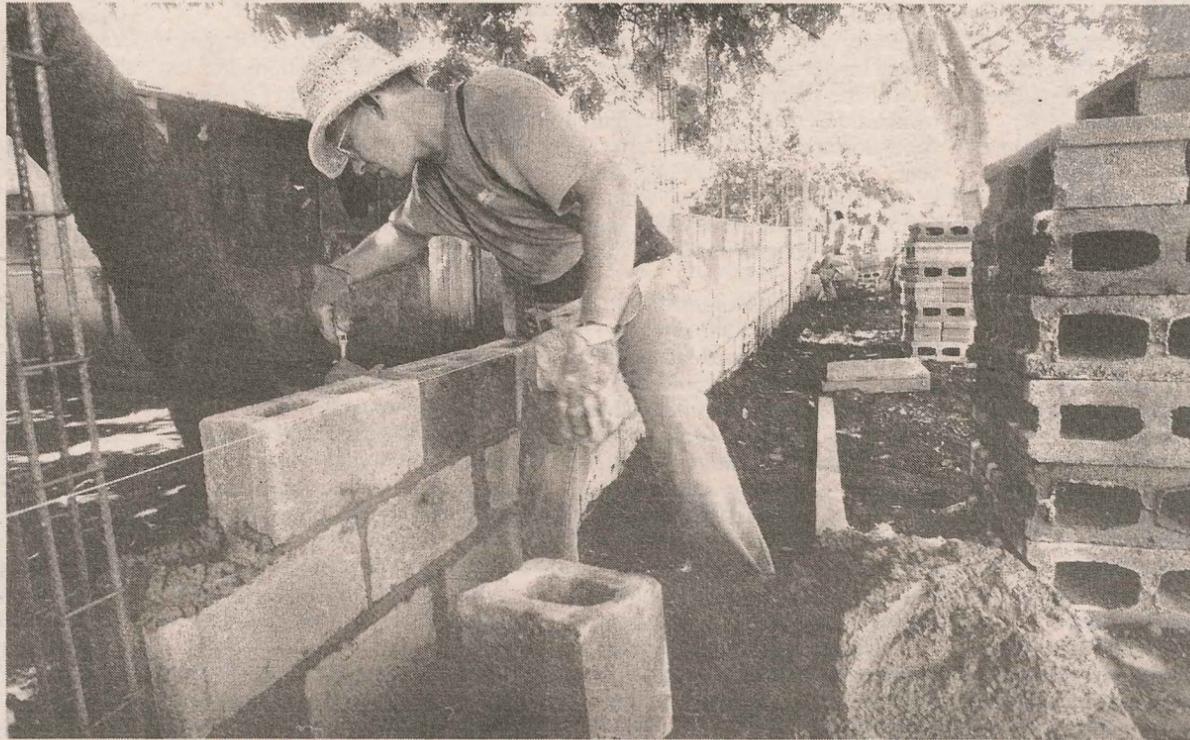
How can we show more respect to seniors? Page 4.

Editorial

Beware of terrorism in the church. Page 5.

Financial Forum

Does every church need a written budget? Page 9.



BUILDING PROJECT Tony Rodgers, youth and education minister of Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro, layers concrete block for a boundary wall at the Nicaragua Christian Academy in Nicaragua. Six youth from the church traveled to the mission project this summer as their senior trip. See story on page 3. (FMB photo by Warren Johnson)

Author explores conflicts of faith, work

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

Christian executives face a world of conflict between their beliefs and the marketplace, but the experience can enhance both work and faith, according to an author who studied the subject.

Evangelical CEOs often struggle to follow God and keep their faith alive while working in an environment that doesn't understand or accept their beliefs, Laura Nash writes in her book "Believers in Business."

Nash, a professor at Boston University, distinguishes "seekers," who confront the differences between faith and work, from "justifiers," who deny,

ignore or rationalize conflicts.

Seekers "pray about and study this problem daily," she writes. None claim a perfect track record, but Nash concludes the struggle produces positive results both corporately and personally.

In addition to keeping the more predatory aspects of capitalism at bay, Nash writes that mixing Christianity and business stimulates high ethical standards, promotes humane employee policies and transforms economic activity into a meaningful experience.

From interviews with clergy, evangelical theologians and 85 Christian executives, Nash found conflict occurs between:

■ *The love of God and the pursuit of profit.* While seekers had a strong work ethic and "an uncanny sense for making money," they were not driven by these goals, Nash writes. They "worked hard without the ego-trip."

They also found God in everyday occurrences on the job and linked their work with their personal identity as a Christian.

■ *Love and the competitive drive.* While performance is important, an attitude of service kept seekers' focus on the customer rather than on "winning," Nash writes.

■ *People needs and profit obligations.* Nash writes that CEOs who emphasize employee empowerment and dignity are extending the gospel of the

Historian lists trends facing U.S. churches

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (ABP)—Denominations are diminishing in their importance among Americans, according to church historian Leon McBeth.

"People no longer choose church by brand name," said McBeth, who has taught at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, for almost four decades and is regarded as an expert on American church history. "Members and ministers are increasingly interchangeable."

He was asked to describe current trends in American religion for a committee studying the effectiveness of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

McBeth predicted people will continue to "group" within religion. But rather than grouping by denominations, people are clustering as evangelicals, fundamentalists, charismatics, independents and the like, he said.

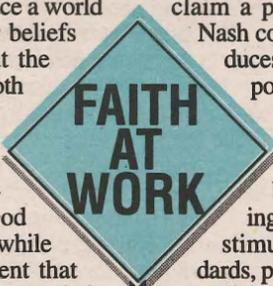
Other trends shaping U.S. religion, he said, include:

■ *More leadership roles for women in church life.*

"What we are now seeing in women's ministries in the church is not so much new as a recovery of earlier roles," he said. Baptist churches "routinely had women deacons" in the past, he noted.

"In the 21st century, a Southern Baptist church with men-only deacons will be the exception," he predicted. "A church or denomination that rejects women from leadership roles will forfeit the future."

□ See Trends ..., page 2



Student worker in Kentucky confronts own biases about AIDS

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Nineteen-year-old Tiffany Hicks didn't come to Kentucky this summer to work in AIDS ministry.

The sophomore at the University of Mobile in Alabama applied for a 1996 summer missions position and accepted her assignment to weekday ministries at the Baptist Fellowship Center, a Louisville agency serving inner-city families.

Hicks and her partner, Alabamian Darlene Bledsoe, understood their primary responsibilities would include leading the summer day camping program and assisting summer mission teams with work projects at the center.

But as Hicks discovered, there was more to the job than first met her eye—namely the center's new ministry to people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

"When I came, I had never been exposed to that type of ministry at all," Hicks said, admitting she had accepted many stereotypes about people who get AIDS. "My attitude was that these people did something to get HIV/AIDS, and they deserved it."

Hicks said she is glad she didn't know before she arrived that she would be asked to assist an AIDS-related ministry.

"I was kind of against it at first," she acknowledged. "I walked in thinking AIDS was God's judgment on people."

Hicks asked lots of questions of Brina Stephens, weekday ministries director at Baptist Fellowship Center.

Stephens, the students' supervisor, is a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board missionary. With two other people, she started CenterPeace, the center's HIV/AIDS ministry, about a year ago.

Hicks said she tried to assimilate

new information about AIDS without revealing her struggle to Stephens.

"She had so much concern and love for those people, and I wanted to know 'How is she like that?'" Hicks said of Stephens.

Not only did Hicks ask questions; during the course of the summer the young minister had to confront her fears and stereotypes as she built relationships with people affected by AIDS.

Once, for example, a child Hicks was supervising fell and skinned her knee. Hicks knew one of the child's relatives had contracted the AIDS virus. At first, Hicks said, she was scared and didn't know what to do.

"Then I realized this is ridiculous, and I just picked her up," she explained.

Also, loving and being loved by a

young child whose mother recently died of AIDS taught Hicks that people don't necessarily choose to be affected by the disease, she said.

"As I held her for the first time, my heart just broke," she said.

The summer experiences had a profound impact on Hicks, she said—one that has changed her perspective and her goals.

"Through CenterPeace Ministries, I have a whole new understanding" of AIDS and the importance of

ministering to those impacted by the disease, she said.

"I would love to work with HIV/AIDS ministry when I go back home," she added, explaining her plans to teach school when she finishes her education.

■ See page 3 for more stories about CenterPeace.



Tiffany Hicks

Moving? See page 4 (0820)

Seminary at odds with city about zoning, political activity

By Debbi Sykes
Raleigh News & Observer

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (ABP)—Some townfolk are charging that Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is exerting too little cultural and too much political influence.

One man is collecting signatures for a petition asking the Internal Revenue Service to reconsider Southeastern's tax-exempt status, and another tried unsuccessfully to set up new voting districts to dilute the impact of the school's 1,300 students and 200 employees.

Seminary supporters say the school's employees and students have a constitutional right to be politically active. They say they are disappointed that the town has twice refused to rezone some of the seminary's land to allow a shopping center to be built there. The seminary had wanted to sell the land so it could use the money for other purposes, perhaps for more student housing or endowments.

Seminary President Paige Patterson said he is disappointed by the latest rezoning rejection and considers it a disservice to a town where "you still can't buy a pair of britches."

But, he said, "whatever they do, they're not going to force us into a

position where we don't love them and support them and pray for them."

The seminary has always been involved in town politics. Members of its faculty and staff have, for example, served on the town board for years.

But the recent depth of involvement, said Gene McLeod, who retired from Southeastern in 1992 after 25 years, is "a whole order of magnitude, it's a quantum leap over what we would have perceived as being appropriate for a seminary to be involved in."

Businessman George Mackie Jr., whose parents are commemorated by a campus building named in their honor, is bold—some would say extreme—in his criticism of the school.

Mackie, who says he has collected several pages of signatures for the IRS petition, insisted the seminary overstepped its bounds last year when it pushed for students to register to vote, sent questionnaires to town commission candidates and tried to influence the commissioners.

Patterson shakes his head at the accusations. "Politically, they might as well get ready for the fact that the country cousins have shown up for the town picnic, and they're here to stay."

Patterson, who has been at Southeastern since 1992, said there's nothing

wrong with a Christian institution getting involved in politics as long as it makes sure its activity is civic rather than partisan.

Sure, Patterson said, the seminary sent candidates a questionnaire last year. But the school didn't endorse a candidate even though one of those elected, Daniel Heimbach, is a professor there. And he asked how registering students to vote is a crime.

"Since when do I have to check my citizenship to be an evangelical Christian?" Patterson asked.

Of the 309 newly registered people who voted in Wake Forest last fall, two-thirds lived in seminary dorms or on streets surrounding the school where many students live.

In July, the town board rejected the seminary's rezoning request for the second time, ruling that under the town's land-use plan, the seminary's property is too close to the market at Wake Forest shopping center.

Many neighbors and downtown merchants also objected to the rezoning.

According to Mayor Dick Monteith, the board fairly and objectively followed Wake Forest's long-range plans.

Nevertheless, Patterson's stance has been threatening, claimed Rod

Byard, a former commissioner who oversaw public relations for the seminary 13 years until the conservative takeover.

Last year, when the board first heard the seminary's rezoning request, he and Patterson exchanged pointed words.

In a March 17 letter, Patterson wrote, "For me to say to you that I view this as an unthinkable and unimaginable effort to restrain both the seminary and the community from the growth that is possible, and to say that I view it as a matter of sufficient concern for the entire seminary community to be placed on the highest alert and make preparations for the future to rectify the unconscionable nature of such pettiness, would be an incalculable understatement in and of itself."

He concluded his letter by writing, "I will be watching with great interest your personal vote before communicating to the seminary community what has transpired."

Byard interpreted it this way: "It was very clear that my political life was going to be targeted by his saying he was putting the seminary community on the highest alert. ... I thought it was so out of proportion of a reasonable relationship."

"Since when do I have to check my citizenship to be an evangelical Christian?"

Southeastern Seminary
President Paige
Patterson

"It was very clear that my political life was going to be targeted."

Former Wake Forest
Commissioner Rod
Byard

Trends predicted: More local power & spiritual interest

Continued from page 1

■ **Gradual erosion of Baptist distinctives.**

"Issues that once stirred us up now seem less meaningful or even totally irrelevant," he said. "Issues that galvanize us today were unheard of two or three generations ago."

Issues that once were Baptist hallmarks—religious liberty, separation of church and state, local church autonomy, the Lord's Supper for baptized Christians only and baptism by immersion—all are open to discussion today and even under attack, he said.

"The resurgence of Calvinism (with its belief in predestination) challenges our historic concepts of evangelism—preaching the gospel to all and inviting all who hear to respond and accept the claims of Jesus Christ."

■ **Decentralization of religion, like society.**

McBeth said the Southern Baptist Convention has centralized power, especially in its Executive Committee, but current trends move away from central bureaucracy.

"Localism is alive and well in Baptist life," he said. "This is a good time to be a state convention or local association. The winds are blowing your way."

■ **Shifting from a service mentality to a consumer mentality in church.**

People are choosing churches for what the church can do for them, not what they can do through the church, he said. The quality of programs, preaching and worship are ranked critically, he added, noting people select "a church that meets 'my' needs."

On the denominational level, this trend is observed in the declining membership of Woman's Missionary

Union, which focuses on ministry to others, he said. It is countered by the emergence of a new SBC Sunday School Board ministry aimed at women's inward needs.

■ **Change from an outward direction to an inward concern.**

"Society is changing," McBeth said. People once sought to get out and relate to other people. "After a hectic week, many want to get away from them," he said.

"This changes church visitation," he noted. "The idea of home visitation ... is a thing of the past." That calls for developing new ways to reach people, such as using the telephone and mail, and more contact during work time, he said.

■ **Movement from auditory to participatory worship.**

Baptists have moved against this trend by singing less and hearing more

choirs and soloists, McBeth contended. Baptists even "hire staff members who pray for us." But people hunger for participation and drama in worship, he said.

In a related vein, the invitation to accept the gospel is changing, he added. "The traditional 'altar call' of walking down the aisle ... will probably go the way of the double-knit leisure suit." Still, churches must provide effective ways for people to respond to the claims of Christ, he said.

■ **A high degree of spiritual interest.**

Unchurched Americans are about as religious in belief and practice as the church, he said, citing a Gallup Poll. Almost half express interest in relating to a church. "The opportunities still are out there to win people to faith in Jesus Christ and gather them into congregations," he said.

Texan seeking SBC presidency

HEARNE, Texas (BP)—A Texas bivocational minister of music announced his candidacy for president of the Southern Baptist Convention next year when it meets in Dallas.

Dan Bates, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Hearne, Texas, wrote in a letter to the editor of the Texas Baptist Standard that he will "run against Tom Elliff's re-election as president of the SBC in Dallas in June 1997."

Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., was elected SBC president this year. SBC presidents traditionally have been accorded a second one-year term, often without opposition.

Bates will be nominated by his pastor, Larry Blackmon.

Bates said he wanted to create a

"Southern Baptist Bureau of Reclamation" which he said would restore some of the Baptist distinctives lost during the past 16 years of the "conservative resurgence" at the national level of the denomination.

He said he was a "1920s fundamentalist," identified as a person professing complete confidence in the Bible and preoccupied with the message of God's salvation of sinners through the death of Jesus Christ.

Blackmon said, "Every state (convention) should have a favorite son candidate."

Bates, 51, is a native of Texas who grew up in College Station. He holds degrees from Houston Baptist University and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

SBC presidents traditionally have been accorded a second one-year term, often without opposition.



"Remember when we gave them little blue or white testaments?"

Yellow Creek students go to Nicaragua for mission trip

By Wally Poor
SBC Foreign Mission Board

MANAGUA, Nicaragua—A long-time dream of six Kentucky teenagers came true in July when they took their senior trip to Nicaragua for a missions experience.

The six, all graduating high school seniors and members of Yellow Creek Baptist Church of Owensboro, participated in a World Changers project.

Those who went on the trip were Jacob Wallace, Timothy Gaddis, Holly Hall, Tanya Rathore, Kristyn DeJarnatt and Kevin Eades.

They were led by Tony and Ron-da Rodgers. He is minister of youth and education at the church, and Mrs. Rodgers was one of two nurses

accompanying World Changer groups.

They and others worked with Southern Baptist missionary Jim Palmer in various construction projects.

The Yellow Creek youth had been on World Changers projects the past three summers. World Changers is a program of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission designed for young people to help with construction projects and gain missions experience.

The youth began planning two years ago to make the Nicaragua project their senior trip, Rodgers said.

In addition to the construction projects, the youth showed the "Jesus" film, distributed literature about Chris-

tianity and personally shared their faith.

Wallace, 18, said he was impressed by "seeing another culture, seeing how the people need God." He said his most rewarding experience was "playing soccer with the kids and just helping them. That's enough to make you feel good."

Hall said she met lots of children. "These children were starved for attention more than material items," she said. "They spoke Spanish, and most of us spoke only English, but a smile and a hug are international."

Rodgers said he hopes the trip gave students a vision of lifetime ministry. "With this under their belt, I don't believe they have any limitations as to where God could use them."



WORLD CHANGERS Jacob Wallace of Owensboro talks to a group of children in the Reconciliation Settlement in Managua, Nicaragua. He and five other students from Yellow Creek Baptist Church were among 91 youth and adult advisors participating in a World Changers project at the Christian Academy in Managua. (FMB photo by Warren Johnson)

Leader outlasts doubts; celebrates 25 years of service

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

WILLIAMSBURG—When Janus Jones was chosen to lead Mount Zion and South Union Baptist associations, some Baptist leaders believed the hometown boy wouldn't last.

"The most optimistic gave me a year. Most thought six months," Jones said.

After all, he was young, not seminary trained and had not been a full-time pastor.

But Jones, then a 27-year-old bivocational pastor and school teacher, proved them wrong.

On June 1, he celebrated his 25th anniversary as director of missions for the associations. In Kentucky, his tenure is second only to that of George Stack, who has served Owen County/Ten Mile Baptist associations 38 years.

"I knew four things that they

didn't," Jones said of those disbelievers. "I had a clear call from God. I had the respect and love of most of the churches and pastors. I was one of them. And I had the love, prayers and support of my family."

Not only has Jones lasted, but he has led the two associations to make great strides in the past quarter century, according to Rodney Hale, moderator of Mount Zion Association.

When Jones began, there were only five full-time pastors in the two associations. More than half the church buildings had no educational space. Few pastors had ministry training. And the association "office" was a hallway in Jones' home.

Today, there are 10 full-time pastors, 66 of the 68 churches have educational space, and the pastors and church leaders are "much better trained," according to Jones. Also, the associations now own a 1,500-square-foot office.

It is Jones' ability to "take people where they are ... and lead them beyond," which more than anything led to his success, Hale said.

Jones works in the background without attracting attention, but is there when churches need him, Hale said. "He has a deep love for his people and is concerned about their welfare."

Jones' wife, Carolyn, a preschool teacher, is willing to do whatever is necessary in support of her husband's work, Hale said.

Each year, Mrs. Jones opens their home to summer missionaries. During the past 26 summers, more than 50 students have lived with the Joneses.

During the years, Jones has:

- Led 270 vacation Bible schools in the two associations. More than 327 children made professions of faith in Jesus during those schools. "VBS is still my favorite" ministry, he says. "I'm still a teacher at heart."

- Developed a seminary extension center.

- Worked with five other associations to develop Laurel Lake Baptist Camp and Retreat Center. More than 300 attended this summer's camp.

- Served as a liaison between the associations and other Baptist entities. As the role of the association in Southern Baptist life has changed, Jones said he has led Mount Zion and South Union to plan more of their own work, rather than being conduits for state and national programs and information.

- Led the churches to give more than \$4 million through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program.

- Started a clown ministry team.

- Led in pioneering social ministries. The associations helped initiate two efforts to serve the community's needy: Cedaridge Christian Ministry, distributing food and other supplies, and Emergency Christian Ministry for the homeless.

CenterPeace Ministries responding to families facing AIDS

By Melanie Childers
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—CenterPeace Ministries, a new program at the Baptist Fellowship Center, is leading Kentucky Baptists to offer Christ's peace to people and families facing AIDS.

While more Baptist individuals are supporting the work of Christian-based AIDS ministries, the Baptist Fellowship Center is considered the first Baptist entity in the state to develop such an ongoing ministry.

"To our knowledge, this is the only Baptist organization in Kentucky" doing direct AIDS-related ministries, said Chip Miller, Kentucky Baptist Convention Sunday school director. Miller and his wife, Nancy, became noted authorities on AIDS ministry after losing a son to the disease several years ago.

The Baptist Fellowship Center, an inner-city organization supported jointly by the Southern Baptist Convention and the National Baptist Convention, has offered direct services since 1914 to the predominantly African-American population in Louisville's West End.

Brina Stephens, a Southern Baptist home missionary, serves as weekday

ministries director at the Fellowship Center. She said she dreamed of beginning an AIDS ministry ever since befriending a family struggling with AIDS several years ago. She found lots of affirmation for such work, but few opportunities, she said.

"Then I started paying attention to the statistics in my own community" around the Baptist Fellowship Center, she said.

"There has been a rapid increase of AIDS cases in the African-American community, especially among women and teenagers," Stephens said. "It seemed to the staff and the board that's where our ministry needs to be."

The center began offering services in September 1995. The ministry functions under the auspices of the center's weekday ministries department. About 25 families impacted by HIV/AIDS currently are assisted by CenterPeace Ministries—most on a weekly basis, Stephens said.

A Georgia native and 1994 graduate of the Carver School of Church Social Work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Stephens directs CenterPeace Ministries; she specializes in children and adolescent spirituality, conducts art therapy and family therapy and provides fellowship op-

portunities.

Stacey Jaudon, a recent social work graduate at Southern Seminary, serves in a volunteer role as pastoral counselor and leads a spirituality group for women.

"Our goal is to help them live, not die," Stephens added. "So many times, when an individual is told of their HIV status, it is seen as an automatic death sentence. And yet many times there are eight to 10 more years of life."

In addition to providing support to people and families living with HIV/AIDS, CenterPeace also assists Kentucky churches with seminars, volunteer opportunities and consultation.

"We're bringing two groups that have been scared of each other together," Stephens said, noting many churches want to help, and many families need congregations to embrace them and invite them into worship.

Stephens said she has been pleased by the response of many churches who scheduled seminars and eagerly volunteered to assist financially and in other ways.

CenterPeace Ministries fits perfectly with the Fellowship Center's purpose, Stephens said.

"We've been offering direct services of food, clothing and finances for

over 82 years," she said of the Fellowship Center. CenterPeace adds to the focus an otherwise neglected target group—those who have been infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.

CenterPeace is unique among service providers to people and families with AIDS, Stephens said. One example: rather than limiting ministry to the immediate biological family, CenterPeace extends services to whomever the person with AIDS deems is impacted as part of the "family." CenterPeace also offers a holistic approach, emphasizing people's spiritual concerns.

Bill Shoulta, chairman of the Baptist Fellowship Center board of directors and pastor of Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, where Stephens is a member, said the board has been "very enthusiastic" about CenterPeace.

"The board has recognized Brina's unique gifts and abilities from the onset in weekday ministries," Shoulta said. "Her passion for this ministry is very evident, and the board is behind her completely."

"As her pastor, I know this is not just another program for Brina," he added. "This is really where her heart is."

CenterPeace services

Among CenterPeace's services to families living with AIDS:

- Support groups for adults, children and families.
- Individual counseling.
- Fellowship field trips.
- Transportation services.
- Emergency assistance, including food, clothing and finances.
- Networking with service providers to address health and legal issues.
- Spirituality workshops.
- Children's camps and parents' day out.
- Linking families of faith.

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

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Should faith impact workers' rights issues?

By Chris Sanders

Sherry worked 10 years on the line in parts assembly. After years of trying, she and Dave found out they would have a baby. Her supervisor growled, "So I guess you'll be missing some work?" Two days later, she was laid off—due to "cutbacks."

A true story? Actually it's two true stories rolled into one. And it's the real story of the economic recovery of the United States in the 1990s: disposable workers, low-wage jobs and a short-term-profit mentality. The number of jobs created bears no relationship to the quality of life produced.

A worker recently asked a worker how he felt about the economy. "It stinks," the worker replied.

"But what about the 4 million new jobs created in the last three years?" quizzed the reporter.

The worker scowled and said, "Me and my wife have four of them."

Consider these numbers:

■ 10 million people full-time and draw food stamps to feed their families.

■ Workers laid off will stay unemployed an average of 161.5 weeks, 26 percent longer than in 1972.

■ The average corporate CEO takes home more than 100 times what his workers earn.

■ Downsizing, which has risen to firing 1.5 million full-time workers each year, is the darling of Wall Street. In the last half of 1995, six major corporations announced plans to eliminate 73,000 jobs and saw

their stock prices immediately jump up 5 to 30 points from their usual rate.

■ One in 10 workers gets fired for opposing favoritism, sexual harassment and/or dangerous conditions, or for organizing a union.

Workers need some good news. Jesus' first sermon at Nazareth ought to be a wake-up call for people of faith, just as it was in that pious little village long ago. When he said, "the Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to preach good news to the poor ... to let the oppressed go free..." he was speaking through the ages to us today.

The good news is that people of faith who recognize that discipleship means fighting racism, sexism and poverty are taking those struggles from social justice to the workplace. From the other end, unions and workers' rights groups are calling for a moral center and spiritual energy to drive their work.

It is as if the Apostle Paul were answering the "Macedonian call" (Act 16:9) again today: as if in a dream, workers are calling to the church to "come over and help us."

Low-wage workers, our working poor, are among the least of them. In this economy, the jobs pay from minimum wage to \$7 per hour. Multiply that times 2,000 hours (full-time work, if you can get it) and you have wages below \$14,000 per year, poverty level for a family of four. The jobs are in retail, food service, food processing, meat-packing, sewing and health care. They sound like dull job classifications until you know what they do.

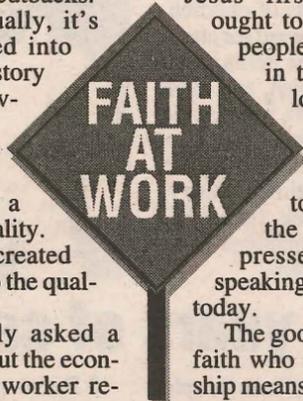
Here are two important examples:

■ Southern poultry workers cut and kill chickens and turkeys. Hauling hundreds of birds an hour in heat or cold, enduring the smell of blood and feces, they strip, slice and gouge until their hands become crippled from repetitive trauma. The turnover rate is high. Think about that with your next order of McNuggets.

■ Injuries are also a big problem among workers in hospitals and nursing homes. With restructuring and downsizing the work force, nurses and aides must do more functions and take care of more patients than they can handle. Many hurt their backs lifting and turning patients too big for them. Is that what you thought you were paying for with your health-care dollars?

People of faith should not be silent just because employment is an economic issue. The Bible is not silent. We know the money of the rich itself cries out when it is stolen from workers (James 5:1-5). We know that we are baptized into one body (1 Corinthians 12:12-26), and in Christ there is neither slave nor free (Galatians 3:28). We can and must speak to economic injustice and provide a vision for a time when workers "thresh in hope of a share of the crop" (1 Corinthians 9:7,9-10) will receive their due.

Chris Sanders is a graduate of both Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and also holds a law degree. He is a practicing attorney and director of Workers' Rights Outreach, a new effort to build relationships between people of faith and the workers' rights movement. He is a member of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville.



Associating together

From late July to October each year, a strategic series of meetings occurs across our commonwealth. With perhaps one exception, each of Kentucky's 77 Baptist associations will convene for their annual meeting.

Although distributed by area and date, the accumulated attendance represents the largest annual gathering of Kentucky Baptist church leadership. A conservative estimate of 100 in average attendance for each of these annual meetings translates into about 8,000 participants.

In the early years of Baptist life in America, visionary leaders realized the value of "associating together" as Baptist churches. Associations were formed around various causes including fellowship, doctrine, education and missions. The oldest existing Baptist association in Kentucky, Elkhorn, was founded in 1785, 52 years before the Kentucky Baptist Convention (General Association of Baptists in Kentucky) and 60 years before the Southern Baptist

Convention in 1845.

As the years have passed, most associations have become full-time or part-time "associational missionary," now, in most cases, called "director of missions." Many of the early associational missionaries were fully or mostly supported by state convention and Southern Baptist Home Mission Board funding. Most directors of missions in Kentucky still receive some subsidy from the KBC (about \$1 million). These funds are provided to the associations which, in turn, use them in support of their "missionary." This has been and still is a worthy investment even as more associations assume full financial responsibility.

The KBC is among the top state conventions in financial support of associational missionaries.

Unlike most state conventions, the KBC has a "connectional" relationship with the selection process of KBC Executive Board members. The association nominates for each vacancy two "candidates" to the KBC's committee on nominations from which the

committee picks one to recommend to the convention. Some have suggested if a similar plan existed between the state conventions and the SBC, a more representative group of Baptists would compose SBC boards than the largely one-sided representation of today. However, the SBC isn't likely to change to Kentucky's "connectionalism" and I am not aware of any current movement to change the KBC to a more "autonomous" relationship.

Associations in Kentucky today have grown more focused in their particular mission. They have, in many cases, visionized their opportunities for ministry based on perceived needs and have both rallied and supported thousands of volunteers for mission projects on a global basis, including the KBC-sponsored partnerships.

During this season when Kentucky Baptist associations gather for fellowship, inspiration and reporting the "good news" of their associational year, we wish them well and extend our gratitude for being cooperative partners in our mission together.

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

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



FAMILY FORUM

Beware of pre-judging senior adults

By John Lepper

A teenager recently complained to her father: "People just don't give me credit for knowing very much." The teen spoke of a specific instance in which an adult had prejudged her without knowing her.

Older people can identify with that feeling because they are sometimes (maybe often) pre-judged. For example, nursing home residents become distressed by the sing-song baby talk that is used with them. No wonder older people sometimes feel they are not being respected or taken seriously.

Two key factors that contribute to this relational predicament are patronizing and overaccommodating. We patronize another person when we relate in an offensively condescending manner. We do this when we treat a person in a submissive or "one-down" status.

How can an older person respond to this predicament?

On one hand, the older person may resist this role by withdrawing, regressing or expressing outright anger, leading to a broken or strained relationship. On the other hand, the elder can surrender to the patronizing and subtly reinforce the behavior of the younger person.

Older people face a trap when they are patronized. The younger person may not expect as much from the older person. The older person may meet this low expectation by making less effort. It becomes a vicious cycle in which the older person's potential is depreciated. This manner of relating also keeps relationships from reaching their potential.

This predicament can be avoided as we refrain from pre-judging. Instead of pre-judging, we need to relate to others as individuals and not according to some preconceived idea we have about what they can and cannot do. Younger people (including younger adults) need to move beyond assuming limitations and relate as equals, not from a superior position.

The predicament can be avoided as young and old relate with genuine respect for one another and their abilities.

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

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

HE SAID/SHE SAID

We'd be happy to sit and watch the grass grow if only it would

HESAIID



Mark Wingfield

I'm convinced weeds are one of the results of Adam and Eve's sin in the Garden of Eden. Surely weeds first sprouted after sin entered the world. Can you imagine them having a place in God's perfect world?

This may be strange theology or even bad agri-ology, but it makes a lot of sense to a sorry gardener like me.

Of course, if this line of reasoning is true, then I must be not only a sorry gardener but a sinful one as well. This summer, I'm growing more weeds than grass in our yard.

For five years I've tried to do my part for cleaning up our earth by not applying weed-killer to the yard. My neighbor, who grows delicious tomatoes in our shared compost pile, convinced me the secret is to grow thick enough grass to choke out all the weeds.

That may work some places, but I can't grow thick enough grass to know whether it's true or not. The birds keep eating my grass seed.

So this summer I went out and bought a jug of weed-killer, complete with three pages of warnings and instructions for application. After I finally found a day with the right conditions (how many days in Kentucky do you find when it hasn't rained for 48 hours and won't rain in the next 24 hours and when the temperature is below 80 degrees?), I donned the appropriate gear and let loose on the front yard.

I may have taken five years off my life by inhaling the stuff, but the weeds are unfazed. They're as strong as ever.

All this makes me ponder another theological question: Eve appeared to be the one doing the harvesting in the garden when she pulled that fruit off the tree. So why is yard work usually a man's job today?

SHE SAID



Alison Wingfield

Gardening is not my strong suit. I cannot even claim to be a fair weather gardener, because when the weather is fair, I am usually at the park or zoo or out for a walk.

But I do have those spur-of-the-moment times when I want to feel the earth between my fingertips. And I've learned some lessons about life along the way.

When I do get the urge to commune with nature, I plant flowers that don't need much attention other than a little water now and then. And I must admit to a sense of satisfaction and well-being when I am planting something. Flowers are one of God's most beautiful handiworks.

Pulling weeds gives me a different kind of satisfaction. I put off pulling them until I can't stand the sight of them any longer, but when I get ready to attack, watch out! Roots and all are gone when my weeder and I go to work.

I haven't had as much luck with our rose offshoot. When it first appeared, I thought it might be an errant rosebush, and I waited to see if it would produce any flowers. When my mother saw it, she told me it was just an offshoot, and that we should pull it up. As usual, I should have listened to my mother.

By the time we got around to trying to dig it up, that thing had wrapped its tentacles around the roots of our pear tree and wouldn't let go. If we dig this thorn in our side up, we could hurt the root system of our beautiful tree. So the tree and thorn bush live side-by-side. The best I can do is keep it trimmed back.

It is a lot easier to take care of sin when it first sprouts in our lives, rather than waiting until it becomes a huge weed, entangling us.

Don't let church terrorists get their way

America's collective mind has been riveted on terrorism this summer. From the bombing of a U.S. military station in Saudi Arabia to the suspected attack on TWA Flight 800 to the bombing in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park, domestic and international terrorists have struck fear in the hearts of millions.

But there's another type of terrorism you haven't heard about and may not have thought about. Unfortunately, you may have seen it, though, or experienced its effects.

Baptist churches are easy targets for terrorist attacks. Not the kind launched with plastic explosives or dynamite. And not the kind that kill people physically. Terrorists in the church use words as their weapons. And although they don't kill the body, they wound the soul.

Like the terrorists who bring down airplanes and spew shrapnel through crowded parks, church terrorists run stealth operations designed to prevent peaceful events from going forward. Church terrorists are people who cannot control a congregation to their liking and so resort to verbal violence in attempts to derail whatever or whomever they consider threatening.

Don't like the pastor? Just gently spread a few rumors about his character or leadership abilities. Never blatantly accuse him of anything, just make people suspicious.

Don't like a committee chairwoman or other lay leader? Just suggest here and there that she's attempting to run the church by herself, that's she has some questionable agenda or is out to hound the staff. No need to have any proof.

The subtle acts of a church terrorist are intended to stir up fears in a congregation, to aggravate divisions and foster distrust.

America has demonstrated that terrorists can be handled only through unflinching resolve not to play the terrorist's game. Over and over again we've heard presidents and international experts on terrorism explain that terrorists cannot be allowed to set the agenda, that they must be refuted as cowards and villains.

The same is true in the church. Terrorists must not be allowed to rip apart the spirit and witness of a church to satisfy their personal agendas.

Here's how to take precautions against terrorists in your church:

- Muster the collective courage to confront bullies. Many more pastors have been run off from churches because one person or one family couldn't let go of a vendetta than have been run off for any good reason the majority of the congregation agrees upon. Yet when the congregation—particularly key church leaders—remains silent, they become accomplices to the crime.

- Facilitate open conversation among the congregation and staff. If an issue is serious enough to merit extended conversation, discuss it as a congregation rather than in unholy huddles in the parking lot. Unnecessary secrecy creates a breeding ground for unethical acts.

- Don't be a party to malicious gossip. If you don't know something to be absolutely true, don't repeat it.

- Require honesty and truth-telling. Believe it or not, some church folks will lie. Stop liars in their tracks, because even what appear to be "small" lies can snowball into issues that split churches. Truth-telling matters greatly.

- Think critically. When someone tells you something negative, put on your thinking cap. Is what has been suggested even possible? Does it ring true with other information you can gather? Don't believe everything you hear.

- Work through proper channels to air concerns, and don't allow anyone to obstruct proper channels. There is no place in the church for "rump" sessions where a few disgruntled members get together to compare gripes about the pastor or other church leaders. If you have a concern, follow the biblical model and take it directly to the person responsible. Likewise, if you hold a position of leadership and a concern is brought to you, don't sit on it and hope it will go away.

- While welcoming all people into the church, do not place emotionally unhealthy people in positions of leadership.

- Keep the church's bigger mission in mind rather than focusing on the narrow agenda of yourself or someone else.

—Mark Wingfield

EDITORIAL

Not our favorite verse

In all my years of pastoring, no one has ever told me this was their favorite verse of Scripture: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

To be candid, I have always approached this passage with fear and trembling. I am certain I do not fully understand it, and some days I'm not sure I want to.

It is a verse that makes most of us uneasy and uncomfortable. We handle it like a double-edge razor blade and carefully tuck it away before it hurts anybody.

Today's political consultants would tell Jesus he was crazy for saying it and by doing so ended any hopes of gaining a following. There was too much competition for the souls of men to be this honest. Talking about self-denial and crosses was a far cry from promising people a chicken in every pot and car in every garage.

Why did Jesus say this? What did

he mean? What should be our response?

He said it because of his great love for us. Look what is at stake—life. "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world yet loses his own soul?" (Luke 9:25). There is a lot of discussion in the passage about life and death, loss and gain, joy and sorrow. Jesus wants us to find and enjoy abundant and eternal life. This passion for us demands honesty.

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

What did he mean? To be his disciple would require three things: discipline, sacrifice and obedience.

One thing "to deny yourself" means is to say no to anything unhealthy, regardless of how pleasurable or satisfying it may be. This implies human nature is self-centered and we are going to be in constant conflict with our sinful nature which wants to touch, taste and handle forbidden things. This will require enormous discipline, which by the way, only God can provide.

To take up your cross daily is a way

of saying that a disciple of Jesus must make sacrifices for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. I need to choose to do things that could be avoided and in the eyes of the world should be—forgiving enemies, giving money to help the poor, telling the truth, running an honest business. The "cross" in this passage is not a calamity thrust upon me but a sacrifice I voluntarily make.

To "follow me" refers to unquestioning obedience on the part of Jesus' disciples. It is discerning the will of God when faced with choices and moving in that direction. It implies that Jesus, whom we can always trust, will be in front of us leading in the right direction—not the easy one, but the right one.

Now, what should be our response to this blatantly honest leader? Depends upon what you want—life or death, gain or loss, joy or sorrow. "Whosoever loses his life for my sake will save it" (Luke 9:24). Choose life and Jesus.

Bob Browning, pastor
First Baptist Church
Somerset

Russian Baptists skeptical of capitalism

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

NANCY—Opening a business in Russia is a big challenge in itself, but convincing Russian Baptists that owning a business is not a sin is a bigger challenge, according to a Kentuckian who led two business seminars in Russia this year.

"I had to be on my toes all the time," Morris Norfleet said of the first seminar in late January. He went to St. Petersburg at the invitation of the pastor of Central Baptist Church, who wanted young adults in his church to learn how to start their own businesses in order to achieve better lives.

With Bibles in hand, the 20 students challenged Norfleet at every turn with questions about why Christians should be in business, he said. He countered each with carefully chosen Scripture passages.

Questions about charging interest seemed especially important to them. Norfleet told the students "the Bible states not to charge interest in excess and take advantage of your brother." Most students were of Jewish background, he said.

Two basic principles undergirded Norfleet's approach: a Christian in business must be honest, have integrity and meet the needs of people; and a Christian in business must al-

ways offer a quality product and service.

Despite their initial objections, by the end of that 30-hour seminar, students overcame their skepticism and even developed business plans. In fact, two students began businesses before Norfleet left Russia.

By the time Norfleet returned to St. Petersburg in July, four more students had started enterprises in banking, carpentry, real estate and cold storage facilities. And while Norfleet had planned one-on-one visits with each of the students, most visits turned into "mini-seminars" as students brought eight to 10 of their friends with them.

"I have never worked with a group more interested in learning," said Norfleet, retired president of Morehead State University.

FAITH AT WORK

Russian business aids needed

Following two trips to Russia to help Baptist young adults get started in business, Kentuckian Morris Norfleet notes the following needs:

- More seminars to teach business skills. Baptists are discriminated against in Russia, and many college-educated Russian Baptists don't realize the opportunities they have to better their lives through owning businesses, he said.

- A loan fund for business starts. A woman in Norfleet's January seminar wanted to start a jewelry business, but couldn't raise the \$70 needed to begin.

- A structure to provide continuous technical assistance. Currently, Norfleet corresponds with seminar students via e-mail sent through his Russian translator.

- A network of Russian Baptists who are beginning businesses.

To help, contact Calvin Wilkins at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, (502) 245-4101, extension 462.

Author explores Christian CEOs' lifestyles

Continued from page 1

good steward "from the stewardship of things to the stewardship of lives."

Still, issues such as wages, labor negotiations and the underperforming employee are not ignored and require balancing the personal needs of workers with the profit needs of the company.

Humility and the ego of success. Seekers' sense of ego is a paradox, Nash writes. "The man of Christ has tremendous energy and capability, but ultimately all such worldly achievement is insignificant."

A strong prayer life, an eternal view and a firm sense of accountability with emphasis on family and friendships help keep egos in perspective.

Family and work. Those interviewed keenly felt the pressures of family time versus work time.

Many said they spent too much time on the job during the start-up days of their businesses.

However, they also said the stability and support of their families—including strong, "traditional" wives—had allowed for greater risk-taking in business.

"Ironically, their business lives are more like the relational nurturing of the family, and their families are more hierarchical than average," Nash concludes.

Faithful witness and the secular city. This tension most distinguished the evangelical businessperson, Nash writes.

"As CEOs, they must be 'insiders' in the corporate culture while maintaining their 'outsider' identity as committed Christians." Plus, as evangelicals, they bear an obligation to share their faith.

Charity and wealth. While "justifiers" see wealth and success as reward, seekers view money as a significant source of tension, Nash writes.

Seekers constantly battle melding

their business personae with their missionary roles.

Ultimately, refusing to be consumed by wealth, coupled with charitable contributions, helps seekers resolve the tensions of their financial success.

They prefer to contribute to activities that bring others to Jesus and that materially help the disadvantaged help themselves.

Nash described the seekers she interviewed as committed Christians with a sense that "believing is an active verb—a full-time process of interacting with God—rather than a passive label to be displayed and forgotten."

Among those with whom Nash talked were Max De Pree of Herman Miller Corp.; Tom Phillips of Raytheon Corp.; Fred Roach of Centennial Homes Inc. in Dallas; Kenneth Wessner and Allan Emery Jr. of the Service-Master Co.; and Philip Caldwell of Ford Motor Co.

Executive found Christian faith helped weather market crash

SIMPSONVILLE, S.C. (BP)—Nine years have passed, but Greg Horton vividly remembers how the Lord helped him withstand the "Black Monday" stock market crash.

Horton, a founder of Ryan's and Quincey's restaurants, was on a mission's trip in a small South Korean town when he heard the news. Back in Seoul a few days later, a group of Americans were in a hotel lobby bemoaning their losses of between \$5,000 and \$50,000.

"I told them I didn't know what they were going about," said Horton, a deacon at Temple Baptist Church in Simpsonville, S.C. "The best I could figure, I had lost between \$3.5 million and \$4 million. They couldn't understand why I wasn't ready to go out and shoot myself."

"I told them the only thing I could think of was the Lord was trying to get my attention, to make me aware of where things stood. Like it says in the Bible, things can come and go quickly. He showed me how fast he can wipe it out if he wants to."

Horton, who now operates his own business, said he and his wife always have expressed their availability to employees to discuss spiritual matters.

"A lot, when they know that, will call you if they have a problem," he said. "A good percentage of people are seeking something but they don't know what they're seeking."

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to: Youth Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 200 North Morgan St., Morganfield, KY 42437.

FOR SALE: First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, Ky., offers two manual, 38-rank Steiner-Recht pipe organ, originally installed 1969. Organ has some deterioration—sold as is. Buyer responsible for dismantling/removal by Oct. 15, 1996. Sealed bids submitted by Sept. 8, 1996. Successful bidder to be notified by Sept. 15, 1996. FBC reserves the right to refuse any bidder that cannot provide adequate assurance that removal will be appropriately handled. Inquires should be addressed to: Trustees, First Baptist Church, 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, KY 40065; (502) 633-1317.

SEEKING: Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Mt. Olivet, Ky., is seeking a pastor to live on the church field. Optional bivocational. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, North Main St., Mt. Olivet, KY 41064.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to: Moreland First Baptist Church, 501 Old Danville Pike, Hustonville, KY 40437.

SEEKING: First Baptist Hopkinsville accepting resumé for full-time minister of music. Mail to: FBC, 1400 S. Main Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240, Attn: Minister of Music Search Committee.

VOLUNTEERS: Volunteers needed immediately to teach two-week sessions of pastor's school in Tambov, Russia, beginning in September. Instructors needed in Old Testament, New Testament, theology, ethics, leadership, church music and worship, evangelism, church history, preaching and others. Some seminary training required; MDiv preferred. Cost: \$1,995. Contact: KBC Partnership Missions, (502) 245-4101.

SEEKING: Minister of music for growing church in western Shelby County—25-30 hours per week. Send resumé to: Frank Hack, Simpsonville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 56, Simpsonville, KY 40067. (502) 722-5246 or 722-8914.

SEEKING: Two part-time positions: 1) youth minister for growing, active youth group; 2) minister of music. If interested, send resumé to: Farmdale Baptist Church, 5610 U.S. Hwy. 127 S., Frankfort, KY 40601.

CHRISTIAN ART: Lovely hand-framed Scripture pictures. Original watercolor designs. From \$15. Personalizing available. For free color catalog, call (800) 886-4611. The Crown Prints Gallery.

SEEKING: Manufacturing facility in western Kentucky searching for corporate communications leader candidates. Appropriate four-year college degree required. Must have at least 5-8 years of relevant professional experience (e.g., communications, journalism). Experience in training would be helpful. For further information, contact Pat Wolfe at (800) 626-7096, ext. 643. EEO Employer: M/F/D/V

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: Full-time church secretary. Send resumé to: Church Personnel Committee, Farmdale Baptist Church, 1238 Durrett Lane, Louisville, KY 40213.

SEEKING: Historic Parr's Rest, Inc., a superior-rated personal care facility on Cherokee Road in Louisville, Ky., is seeking a program director/director of nursing to lead its residential, adult day and respite care programs. Qualified candidates will have RN or BSN, a verifiably successful background in geriatrics, knowledge of psychiatric issues and medications, and a proven track record of leadership. Mail resumé to: Charles L. Smith, Administrator, Parr's Rest, Inc., 969 Cherokee Rd., Louisville, KY 40204. No phone calls, please. Inquiries will be kept in confidence.

SEEKING: Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati-area Baptist church expanding from part-time youth activities director to full-time minister of youth and children. Send resumé to: Search Committee, c/o Jeff Hume, 9125 Clear Brook Ln., Covington, KY 41017.

Faith impacts business practices, care for employees

By Ameet Sachdev
Lexington Herald-Leader

LEXINGTON—Management's message on the employee bulletin board at MetalForm Industries Inc. simply reads: "Be a Servant."

The advice is actually more of a reminder to Vice President Kevin Stuban to meet the needs of his employees and customers first. It's a message repeatedly emphasized in the Bible, and a principle Stuban applies in running the Lexington metal-stamping plant.

Stuban is not afraid to express his religious convictions in the workplace. The born-again Christian strongly believes that the teachings of the Bible can be integrated into modern-day management.

"If you use Christian teachings when you manage, you get rid of management by intimidation," Stuban said. "Cut-throat management is not Christian."

Free expression of one's faith in today's business world is still uncommon but losing some of its stigma, according to management consultants. The movement, they say, falls within a larger revival of spirituality—regardless of faith—in the workplace.

"Companies are recognizing that people don't lead segmented lives," said Rona Roberts, a management consultant in Lexington.

"Employees bring their spiritual and family values with them. It's part of a larger movement called 'spirit at work.'"

At an increasing number of companies—including MetalForm and a handful of others in Lexington—spirituality starts at the top, reflecting the concerns of senior managers.

It's hard to say whether there are more spiritual executives or whether executives are simply more comfortable speaking out in an era more receptive to their views.

Though wary of being perceived as overzealous, these managers argue that faith provides a fundamental competitive advantage, humanizing their organizations and sharpening their sense of obligation to employees and the community.

"Look at many of the CEOs of today," says Judith Neal, associate professor of management at the University of New Haven in Connecticut, who published the newsletter "Spirit at Work." "Many of them grew up in the '60s, which was a time of idealism and a lot of values."

"These people in leadership positions are now saying they want to live by these values and want them to be part of their management."

MetalForm started production in July 1993 with six employees in a warehouse off Palumbo Drive. Three years later, it has 72 employees, and sales are expected to climb to \$18 million by October.

Stuban says without hesitation that God deserves all the credit. "I'd be blind if I didn't recognize that," said Stuban, who wears a two-inch gold cross around his neck.

This is a turnaround for the 30-year-old Michigan native who says he

wasn't much of a church-goer before moving to Lexington four years ago. That's when his father, Joseph, decided to expand his Michigan stamping operation to Kentucky to meet the needs of automotive customers who were moving south.

MetalForm was started by Joseph Stuban and some partners in suburban Detroit in 1964. The Stuban family now owns and runs the company. Joseph Stuban is president and chief executive officer, and his wife, Haroldene, serves as treasurer. Kevin and younger brother, Dale, 27, run the Lexington division.

Kevin and Dale Stuban both grew up with the company, spending summers working for their dad. Kevin began an apprenticeship in the tool room when he was 15.

After graduating from high school in 1984, Kevin Stuban worked at MetalForm for two years before joining another stamping operation in Michigan.

Still in his 20s, Stuban gained an insider's view of the fast-paced and intense auto industry where a defect in a \$3 part can cost an automaker millions of dollars.

Fierce competition among suppliers promoted a system where employees were motivated by fear, Stuban says.

"The competition is so cost-centered that the auto industry sometimes forgets that it needs partnering and teamwork," he said.

He returned to MetalForm in 1990, and two years later was put in charge of setting up the Lexington operation. Stuban tried to take care of the needs of his employees by following the example his father set in Michigan.

MetalForm employees don't pay a cent for health insurance and can enroll in a 401(k) retirement plan. Press operators make an average starting wage of \$7 an hour and can earn 30-cent raises every three months after a 90-day probation period. The pay scale for skilled maintenance workers, who are in short supply in Central Kentucky, ranges from \$10 to \$20 an hour.

MetalForm also is a big believer in training to ensure safety and quality standards. Stuban is proud of his personnel policies, and he proclaims that the Lexington plant is non-union. The Michigan operation also has kept organized labor out in a pro-union state.

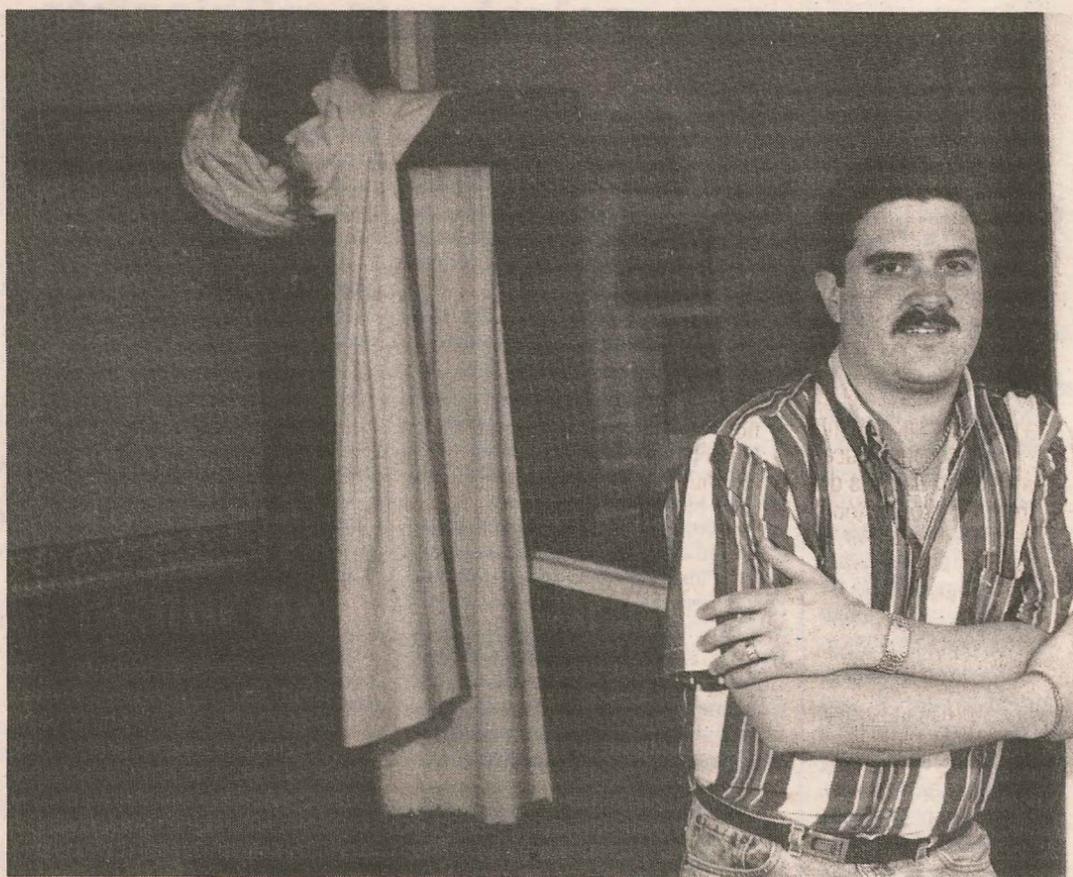
While working 60-hour weeks getting the company up and running, Stuban became heavily involved in The Church at Andover, a Southern Baptist congregation. In the spring of 1994, Stuban, who was raised a Lutheran, was baptized, or "saved."

Since then, this young, hard-driving manager has been transformed, co-workers say.

"Kevin listens first before he makes a decision," said Damon Graham, first shift production supervisor. "He doesn't blow things out of proportion."

Longtime friend Jim Stidham, who transferred from Michigan with Stuban to open the Lexington operation, said the change is more subtle.

"He's found more peace with him-



self," Stidham said. "And now he spreads peace to everybody else."

But you won't find Stuban evangelizing his flock of employees. Company literature doesn't feature Bible sayings, nor does it make mention of a Christian mission.

The only Christian wisdom he imparts to employees comes from the book "The Management Methods of Jesus." The "Be a Servant" motivational message on the bulletin board came from the book.

Stuban prefers to take what he learns from the church and the Bible and translate that into a strict code of ethics for his employees.

"What impressed me was that I could listen to the Sunday message, and I could walk in and apply what I had learned to teaching business ethics to my people," Stuban said.

Cursing is discouraged in the plant. Employees are encouraged to treat each other with respect. Violations of the company's discrimination and harassment policies could result in termination.

Employees say both Kevin and Dale Stuban set a good example in the way they deal with them honestly and fairly.

"Our general manager has high Christian moral values, and they kind of trickle down through the company," Graham said.

Stuban is keenly aware that he has to walk a fine line when talking about his faith in the workplace.

Although he sometimes uses biblical examples in meetings, he is careful not to seem intimidating. That's why he doesn't have a Bible in his office.

"He doesn't preach; he doesn't force anything on you," Graham said.

But Stuban says his door is always open for spiritual talks. Some employees enjoy talking with him and his brother, who is also a member of The Church at Andover.

"The brothers are very spiritual,"

said Teresa Strings, who joined the company 14 months ago as press operator. "When I get the opportunity to converse with them, I do."

Stuban also has extended an open invitation to employees to visit his church, where he is on the board of trustees.

If workers decide to visit, they wouldn't have to go far. The church is temporarily leasing space in one of MetalForm's warehouses, while its permanent building off Todds Road is under construction.

The company also donates a percentage of profits to the church every year. Stuban declined to say how much. MetalForm's only other charitable giving was to the American Cancer Society.

By being so open, particularly in its relationship with the church, MetalForm does risk alienating customers, said Neal of the University of New Haven.

But Stuban said the risk is minimal, especially if the company meets or exceeds the expectations of customers. One of MetalForm's biggest customers agrees.

"If some religious belief leads them to behave like gentlemen when doing business, then that's fine," said Dennis Maxwell, purchasing manager for Johnson Controls in Georgetown.

MetalForm was named one of Johnson Controls' preferred suppliers last year for delivering 10 million parts on time with no defects.

The company is now expanding by investing \$4 million in a new press. It is also completing a deal to buy some neighboring buildings for more warehouse space.

"It's very simple," Stuban said. "We came to Kentucky with a vision and God took care of the rest."

Used with permission of the Lexington Herald-Leader. Herald-Leader Researcher Linda Smith-Niemi also contributed to this article.

WORKPLACE WITNESS
Kevin Stuban, vice president of MetalForm Industries Inc., said he didn't go to church much until he moved to Lexington. He joined the Church at Andover and now the congregation leases space in one of MetalForm's warehouses until construction of the church's permanent building is completed. (Herald-Leader photo by Mark Cornelison)

Moon no longer outsider with more mainstream religionists

By Ira Rifkin
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—There was a time when associating with Sun Myung Moon was a distinct no-no for more mainstream religionists who generally regarded Moon's Unification Church as a cult.

But the speakers' list for this month's Moon-sponsored conference in Washington is evidence that, despite his theology and controversial past, the Korean-born religious leader is no longer off-limits—at least when it comes to conservative politics and "family values."

Among the speakers at the three-day conference of the Moon-sponsored Family Federation for World Peace were such prominent evangelicals as Christian Coalition Executive Director Ralph Reed, Family Research Council President Gary Bauer and Concerned Women for America President Beverly LaHaye. Robert Schuller of the Crystal Cathedral also was on hand.

"They're working to strengthen the family and so are we," said Christian Coalition spokesman Mike Russell, when asked why the organization associated itself with Moon.

"Ralph doesn't agree with every organization he speaks to. Part of his job is to be a diplomatic envoy to groups we do disagree with but may be able to work with," Russell said.

The family holds a central place in Unification Church theology, which

teaches Jesus failed in his mission because he did not establish the "perfect marriage." The church—which is said to have no more than 10,000 members in the United States—also teaches that a sinless world can only result from a "sinless family."

Despite those professed beliefs, Moon, who now lives in Irvington, N.Y., has had family problems of his own.

Hak Ja Han is his fourth wife; Moon divorced the previous three.

Moon's acceptance by mainstream religionists began with his imprisonment for three months on tax evasion charges in 1984, said Gordon Melton, director of the Center for the Study of American Religions in Santa Barbara, Calif.

"His jailing was seen by many in the religious community as an issue of religious freedom and the persecution of a maligned religious minority," Melton said.

In addition, Moon's establishment of The Washington Times newspaper gave religious conservatives "a platform in the nation's capital that they craved," Melton said.

Schuller spokesman Mike Nason said the lineup of speakers was a major factor in Schuller's decision to deliver the opening invocation.

"The list of leading political figures told us that this is a strong coalition that could achieve something," said Nason. "Coalition, not collision, is what Schuller is all about. We don't have to agree on theology."

Cuban aid agreement reached

WASHINGTON (RNS)—

The U.S. Treasury Department and the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church have reached an agreement on shipping to Cuba 374 computers seized by the federal government earlier this year from Pastors for Peace.

The low-grade computers will be distributed to Cuban clinics and hospitals to support a medical information network, said Pastor Thom White Wolf Fassett, general secretary of the Methodist agency.

The computers were seized when Pastors for Peace, a Minneapolis-based activist organization, attempted to take them across the U.S.-Mexican border for shipment to Cuba.

Treasury agents seized the computers because Pastors for Peace did not have an export license. Under terms of the U.S. economic embargo on Cuba, churches and other charitable organizations are allowed to send humanitarian aid if they receive a U.S. government license.

The seizure of the computers led to a 72-day fast by Lucius Walker, head of Pastors for Peace's parent organization.

In a compromise designed to end the fast, Treasury Department officials agreed to release the computers to the Methodist agency, but Pastors for Peace, while insisting the agency could not apply for a license, did provide all information required of groups seeking a license.

A lesson of love

"I hate school."

Even parents with children who excel in the classroom have probably heard this comment at some point. It's a common sentiment for children who are just coming into the care of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

The discouragement these children express is hard to describe. But you might be discouraged too if school life before you came into Baptist care meant you went to school hungry, were laughed at because your clothes were dirty or didn't fit well or that you spent your school day worrying about being yelled at or slapped when you returned home.

Our children are coming from situations of abuse, neglect and chronic chaos. They arrive feeling defeated. One of our staff commented recently that children who have been told repeatedly that they are stupid think that school is just another place to fail.

These are children like Matt. When Matt first came to KBHC he was locked inside a world of fear. There was so much trauma and pain in his life, he could not begin to pay attention in class. His grades were

poor; he was failing.

Today Matt is preparing for his first year of college. He sees the possibilities that are available to him through education and hard work. He holds onto God's promise to care for him and guide him through his life.

I can't help but wonder where Matt would be if it weren't for KBHC and people like you. Would he be looking for escape through drugs or alcohol? Would he have finished high school?

Each fall Kentucky Baptists help us provide clothing and school supplies for hundreds of needy children. We are now in the process of buying shoes, shirts, dresses, jeans, pencils, pens, notebooks and many other supplies.

Thank you for helping them grow to their maximum potential. Your love sends a message of encouragement—a lesson which will last a lifetime.

Brenda Gray is vice president for development and communications for the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Rd., Middletown, Ky. 40243. Call (800) 456-1386. The World Wide Web address is: <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Brenda Gray

Covey's '7 Habits' promotes author's Mormon beliefs, researcher claims

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—"The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" is rife with Mormon doctrine altered to appeal to a mass audience, according to a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board interfaith witness specialist.

In the August issue of SBC Life, the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's magazine, Bill Gordon claims "The 7 Habits" by author Stephen Covey helps promote the author's Mormon beliefs.

"The 7 Habits" contains many of the same principles, anecdotes and illustrations used in an earlier book by Covey, "The Divine Center," Gordon said.

That book promotes Mormon beliefs and attempts to show any spiritual model other than the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is a false "map" limiting the

personal development of followers, Gordon said.

"Covey explains in this book that he has discovered how to communicate Mormon truths to non-Mormons by simply changing his vocabulary," Gordon said.

Because Covey's religious beliefs are Mormon, not Christian, Gordon stated, "Churches and religious organizations should seriously reconsider whether it's appropriate to use a personal growth program written by someone who believes false doctrines."

Covey's beliefs about salvation also are uniquely Mormon, Gordon stated. Gordon quotes "The Divine Center" as warning readers against seeking a special relationship with Jesus because "the Christ-only approach is inappropriate for Latter-day Saints and for this book."



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FINANCIAL FORUM

The basics of church budgets

By Doug Strader

Does every church have a budget? If they receive tithes and offerings they have a budget.

Does every church have a written budget approved by vote of the church members? No.

Should a church have a written budget approved by vote of the church members? Before I answer that question, we need to answer some others.

What is a church budget? One definition says, "A church budget is a way of planning how the church's money will be spent. It is a plan of spending that the membership has approved and will be a guide throughout the year."

What are the benefits of having a church budget?

- A better understanding of the church's mission.

- A higher trust level among members.

- Increased giving.

- More ministries accomplished by planning ahead.

- New ministries may be discovered or unproductive expenditures eliminated.

- Helps to put the church on a sound spending plan.

- Insures fair distribution of income.

What steps are necessary to begin the budget process?

- The pastor, treasurer, deacon chairman and/or other leaders could compare money received and expenditures incurred by the church during the past year.

- Categorize the expenditures, listing total amount spent during the year in each category.

- Analyze expenditures and percentages. Are you pleased with the amount spent in each category?

- Plan and project income and expenditures for the next year.

- Present the budget to the church for discussion and approval. The budget should be flexible, it can be revised by a vote of the church if necessary.

Should the budget be promoted?

There is value to be gained in promoting the budget. The church members will understand the budget, they will be challenged to give in order to help meet the budget goal, and they will see how the budget relates to the mission and vision of the church.

Should your church have a written budget? Yes. If you need information or help, please call (502) 245-4101.

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

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Swing Low, Sweet Chariot



A Mighty Fortress

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Onward Christian Soldiers

Marching To Zion

Stand By Me

When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder

Shall We Gather At The River



If, On A Quiet Sea

Jesus, Lover Of My Soul

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Shall We Gather



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NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Evangelical abortion rate low.** The Alan Guttmacher Institute, a non-profit research group that studies abortion and related issues, reported a survey of women in 1994 and 1995 that showed 18 percent of those having abortions identified themselves as "born again" or evangelical. Meanwhile, Cardinal John O'Connor of New York called for Catholics in the archdiocese to return to meatless Fridays to spiritually combat partial-birth abortions.

■ **Navy names first Muslim chaplain.** The first Muslim chaplain in the U.S. Navy was welcomed this month at a Pentagon commissioning ceremony attended by Secretary of the Navy John Dalton and Navy Chief of Chaplains, Donald Muchow. The appointment for Lt.j.g. Monje Malak Abd al-Muta'Ali Noel Jr. comes three years after the U.S. Army got its first Muslim chaplain.

■ **Congressman condemns Christian persecution.** Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., introduced a resolution to condemn what he called a growing international problem of Christian persecution. "In China, Sudan, Vietnam, Egypt, Pakistan and many other countries around the world, Christians are forced to endure severe persecution just because of their faith," he said. The World Evangelical Fellowship declared Sept. 29 to be an international day of prayer for the "persecuted church."

■ **Bishops protest sacramental tape.** Bishop Anthony Pilla, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, protested an Oregon county circuit court for letting defense lawyers listen to a secretly recorded sacramental confession in jail. State officials have apologized for the taping and said it would not be used by the prosecution. But the suspect's lawyer said she may use it. Both the Portland archdiocese and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops have argued the taping violated the sanctity of the confessional and it should be destroyed.

■ **Methodists report giving up.** Giving to the major benevolence funds of the United Methodist Church during the first six months of the year were a hefty 3.5 percent, more than in the same period in 1995, the denomination reported. The funds, which finance the operation of the denomination's national institutions and missions work, received a total of \$33.7 million during the first six months of the year.

Recognition of Deceased Kentucky Baptist Leaders

The 1996 Kentucky Baptist Convention Obituaries Report will include information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, September 1, 1995 through August 31, 1996.

These persons would be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has significantly benefited our state convention fellowship and mission programs.

We need your help to gather the following information:

1. Full name of deceased
2. Date of birth
3. Active or retired status in last position held in city, state where located
4. Name of church where member, association, state where located
5. Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

Please forward this information before September 4 to:

Obituaries Report 1996
Mrs. June Rice
117 Laurel Street
Paintsville, Kentucky 41240-9363

These obituary entries will be reported to the 1996 KBC annual meeting in Bowling Green. You are an important part of our network to gather information on those servants who deserve to be remembered among Kentucky Baptists.

We are grateful to you.

June Rice, Person to Report to the 1996 KBC annual meeting

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

Pray for these specific needs related to Kentucky Baptist partnerships with Russia and Boston:

- Positive dialogue between Russian Baptist and Orthodox leaders.
- Completion of a church building in Seltzo, Russia.
- Faculty and teaching materials needed at the seminary in Moscow.
- Oral Lewis, church planter among West Indians in Boston.
- Vera Woods, church planter in Medford, Mass.
- Children who heard about Jesus for the first time while attending sports camps conducted by Boston-area churches this summer.
- Boston congregations struggling to meet financial needs while continuing to minister to those who need Christ.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BOWLING GREEN**—Barry Shelton resigned as music director at Burton Memorial Church to focus his service on ministering to young people.

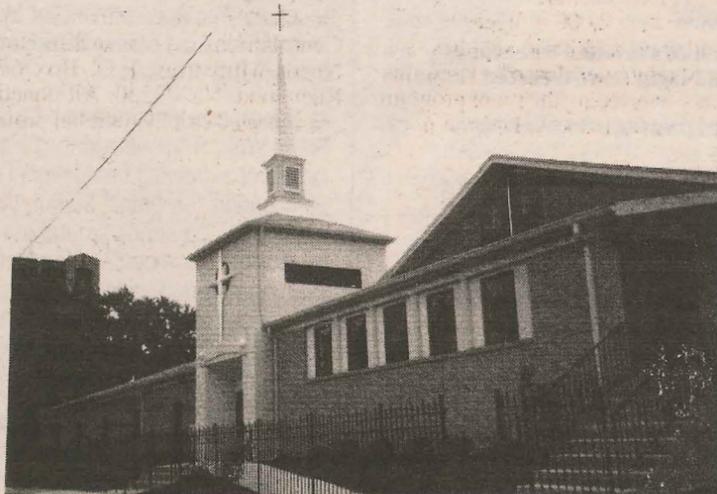
■ **FORT MITCHELL**—Harry Rowland resigned as pastor of Fort Mitchell Church to become pastor at the Baptist Church of Beaufort, S.C. He will begin his new ministry Sept. 8.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Greg Brooks re-

signed as pastor of Immanuel Church.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Oak Grove Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary Sept. 8. The event will include worship at 11 a.m., followed by a noon meal. Former pastors will speak and the "Hartland Group" of Eddyville will sing. Everyone is welcome. Paul Drury is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Eighteenth Street Church will present Mark Andrist,



NEW BUILDING St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville cut the ribbon Sunday on its renovated church building and new multi-ministry building. The African-American congregation in the Smoketown community is dually aligned with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky. The congregation chose to renovate instead of relocate, said pastor Lincoln Bingham. "We believe that here, after almost 108 years of existence in Smoketown, is where God would have us to be and to do the work he has called us to do."

new recording artist, performing in concert Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. Admission is free. Randy Constant Sr. is pastor.

Buechel Park Church will host "Neighborhood Festival '96" Sept. 21 from 3-7 p.m. Call (502) 452-9541 for more information.

Bruce Maples resigned as minister of music at Hurstbourne Church, effective Aug. 15., in order to give more time to his growing business.

Melbourne Heights Church called Amy Brown as minister to children

and students. She will begin her new ministry the first week in September.

■ **WALTON**—New Banklick Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary Sept. 15. Former pastors will be recognized at the 11 a.m. worship service. There will be a lunch at noon, followed by a service of praise and music at 1:30 p.m. All members and friends are invited.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Ephesus Church celebrated its 148th anniversary June 9. Cova Duvall was guest speaker.

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A truckload of seashells

While serving in the Oneida ministry can be a physical, spiritual and emotional challenge, one can learn a lot about the ways God works. If we are not careful, we can miss blessings he wants to give us.

Many times we ask God to provide for us, but we have preconceived ideas about how we want him to bless us.

Oneida is well known for rarely ever turning down a gift. Many times it appeared the gift was something we really did not need. It seemed maybe God would like for "someone else" to benefit from that particular gift.

I often take our guests through our storage area. I tell them we have found over the years that God does indeed provide for our needs, but we must make sure we do not turn away those blessings out of ignorance.

If someone were to call us today and ask, "Could you use a semi-truck load of seashells?" without much thought I would say "Yes, please send them." I can imagine the relief of the caller, because someone was finally taking this unwanted gift off his hands. I can hear him say, "What in the world are you going to do with a truckload of seashells? I have been trying to give these away for weeks!"

My answer would be quick and simple. God knows our needs before we do, and often makes provisions for us without our being aware of it. Since I do not always know our needs, I trust him to provide.

At times I have taken people on a tour and they have commented on the color of paint that had been used to paint a particular area. They usually ask something like this, "Who chooses the color of paint you use?"

I usually smile and say, "God does." He has

provided this paint free of charge, paint that no one else wanted to use. We are not "picky" about the way God meets our needs, just thankful that God laid it upon someone's heart to give. It is not the color I would go out and buy, but this is what God has supplied.

Last year I received a phone call from a person offering us a gift. Apparently not everyone wanted this item, a gift some would call a "load of seashells." I told this person we would be happy to have this gift and that we could definitely use it.

Two things happened when I accepted. First, we were about to receive a blessing from God. Second, the giver had the satisfaction of doing something worthwhile for someone else.

One week later this person had another gift that nearly anyone could use—food! I do not know why I was called again, since there were so many who could have used it. Maybe this person felt sorry for us because we were so needy as to accept the first gift. Maybe I was called because she was grateful we had taken something off her hands that no one else wanted.

When I went to pick up the gift, I had no idea of the quantity of food being offered. You can only imagine my surprise when my truck was loaded with "16 tons" of canned food!

I could sit here in my office and make a long list of things we need. I could also offer some advice about just how God could provide for us. He does not normally meet our needs the way I had expected, but he always meets our needs.

Next week I will give you some other examples of the way God takes care of us.

Reprinted from WR, Aug. 1, 1995

W.F. "Bud" Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, Ky. 40972

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Pastors are hard to find

High Street Baptist Church in Somerset had Sam Adkins Appreciation Day on Aug. 4 in honor of their beloved pastor and his wife, Betty. The preceding Sunday marked the conclusion of a 22-year ministry for this 1973 Clear Creek graduate.

There were few dry eyes when Adkin's baptized his 12-year-old grandson, Dustin. Later in the service, the pulpit area filled with those whom Adkins had baptized while at High Street. The group included several entire families, and many who were adults at the time of their conversion.

Cooperative missions leadership was the testimony from Pulaski Association Director of Missions David Aker. Adkins led the way in the associational decision to have a full-time program. Aker recalled an effort to become debt free, and High Street was the only church to meet the goal adopted by the association.

Tommy Wicker grew up in High Street. Adkins baptized him and the church ordained him to the ministry. Now the pastor of First Baptist Church in Burkesville, Wicker recalled the helpful advice and encouragement received from his pastor. "I'll always remember him saying, 'The reason we have blue Mon-

days is because we have an empty Sunday. There's a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. Never let the deacons get the best of you.'"

Another touching scene came when those born during the past 22 years gathered around Sam and Betty. Hugs from preschoolers demonstrated the special relationship every Christian family would like to see between a pastor and their children.

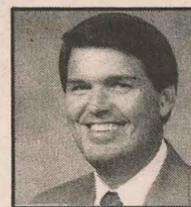
Deacon Shine Robinson was on the 1974 search committee. "We found this 'young man' out at Polly Ann Church. Through the years we've found him to be a man of integrity, a pastor who loves his people, and most of all, loves the Lord. Preachers are easy to locate, pastors are hard to find."

The presentations included a porch flag, made by the preschoolers, to hang out when Adkins goes fishing, a favorite recreation. The love offering exceeded their expectations four-fold and left Sam and Betty virtually speechless.

The choir anthem at the close of the service expressed the commitment of pastor and people, "In a changing world we'll trust in him, the one unchanging Lord."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Southern Baptist relief efforts impact N. Korea, Chechnya

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists have shipped almost two dozen containers of food and given hundreds of thousands of dollars to help stave off the starvation threatening 5 million North Koreans.

The response has been strong enough to allow the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to release another \$350,000 to the relief project.

To date, 24 containers of food—each carrying 450 boxes of rice, beans, noodles and other nonperishables—have been shipped to North Korea by Baptist state conventions, said Bill Cashion, director of the FMB's human needs office.

"This will allow us to keep the commitment Southern Baptists made to feed a city of 50,000 people for six

months, and even go beyond that," Cashion said.

Extending the aid was necessary because the starvation threat in the country continues to worsen, he said.

North Korea's first harvest after last year's catastrophic floods will be meager at best. New flooding is expected to destroy most of this year's harvest. Before this year's floods, up to 5 million people already faced starvation, the International Red Cross estimated.

Young children reportedly were getting only about a third of the calories they need. Meager diets leave children and the elderly vulnerable to disease. Outbreaks of diarrhea and measles have been reported.

The FMB, Woman's Missionary

Union and the Brotherhood Commission challenged Southern Baptists to meet the dire needs in North Korea. Congregations, including many Korean Baptist churches in America, gave offerings for hunger relief.

"Our prayer is that North Koreans will recognize we are doing this for no other reason than to share the message that God loves them and cares for them," Cashion said.

Meanwhile, Southern Baptists also have contributed about \$60,000 in hunger and relief funds to help victims of the Chechnya war.

More than 2,000 refugees have received food and basic supplies, said Jack Shelby, the Moscow-based missionary overseeing the relief program.

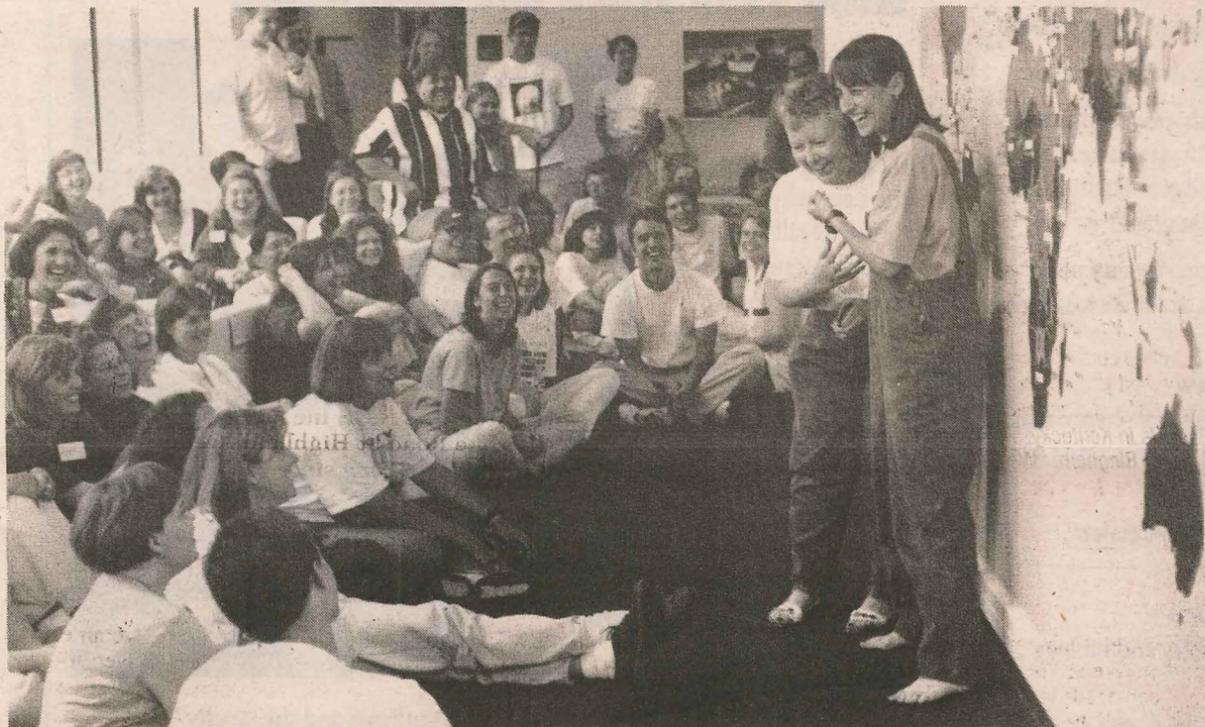
Chechnya is located on the north-

ern slopes of the Caucasus Mountains in southwestern Russia, on the border of the former Soviet republic of Georgia, between the Black and Caspian seas.

A Baptist church in Grozny, the capital, is serving as the distribution agent, Shelby said.

As many as 40,000 people, most of them civilians, are estimated to have died since December 1994, when Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent troops to stop the republic's independence efforts.

Southern Baptists can contribute to the FMB's hunger and relief fund. Contributions may be sent to Human Needs Ministries, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230. All donations are allocated strictly for relief projects.



TIES THAT BIND Sharron Hawk, a former missionary to Nigeria, and Christine Carter, a missionary journeyman to Scotland, share a light moment as 68 new journeymen wrap up four weeks of training at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va. Hawk is associate director of the FMB's missionary orientation department. (BP photo by Roy Burroughs)

Positive television makes comeback this season

By Alan Sepinwall
Religion News Service

PASADENA, Calif.—On CBS' "Touched by an Angel," you don't get just a spoonful of sugar to help the morals go down. You get it in large economy sizes.

Each week, heavenly co-stars Roma Downey and Della Reese—herself a minister in the "positive thinking" Church of Religious Science—travel the country in search of lost souls to save.

For the past year, "Touched By an Angel" producer Martha Williamson has been doling out the good vibrations with as much subtlety as Oliver Stone. Starting this fall, she won't be alone.

While some new shows bask in darkness and paranoia (including "X-Files" rip-offs "Dark Skies" and "Profiler"), a second, more positive trend may well be the one that survives.

Following on the heels of CBS' success with "Touched by an Angel," expect three new shows about traveling good Samaritans:

■ "Early Edition," which might as well be called "Touched by a Newspaper," stars Kyle Chandler as an average Joe from Chicago who starts receiving tomorrow's newspaper today and uses that knowledge to prevent real horror stories from happening.

■ "Promised Land," or, if you will, "Touched by Major Dad." Gerald McRaney plays a man who loses his job, packs his family into a motor home and tours the country, trying to solve other people's problems.

■ Though it's nestled in the middle of NBC's all-paranoia Saturday night, "The Pretender" quickly became "Touched by a Smart Guy" at the TV critics' convention. Michael Weiss is a super-genius capable of assuming any role he chooses and travels the country in search of wrongs to set right.

Williamson, who also produces "Promised Land," couldn't be happier to see others cribbing her style.

"I'm thrilled that there are other shows attempting to copy us," she said. "I hope they do it well, and I hope they do it right. I hope they decide to

show the message that there are good things, there are right and wrong things in this world, and we need to take stands on them."

Williamson said she hopes "Promised Land" will "do for America what 'Touched by an Angel' did for God. She added that the time is right for a return to feel-good entertainment.

"We're at a time right now where Americans are very discouraged about what's going on. And yet, I was raised to believe some very fundamental, positive things about our country. And I was always hoping someday I'd have a forum to put them in."

The Williamson steamroller has already caused one other network to alter its fall schedule. The upstart WB network had originally scheduled its most-hyped new fall show, the Aaron Spelling-produced "7th Heaven," to air Sundays at 8, opposite "Touched by an Angel," because of the similar themes. But now, WB has moved the show to Mondays.

"7th Heaven" happens to be about a minister who—all together now—solves other people's problems.

Former missionary encourages students to pray specifically

By Traci Muller
SBC Home Mission Board

ROSWELL, Ga. (BP)—Former missionary Peggy Grossman knows about the power of prayer. It saved her life once.

She and her husband, Paul, were missionaries to the West African nation of Burkina Faso for 30 years. Now retired, the couple worked with Acteens volunteering during the Olympic games in Atlanta.

"I had to take a flight to go to a missions meeting, and the small planes in Africa are not always reliable. My daughter was very worried and did not want me to go," she told Acteens at a worship service.

During her flight, the pilot announced the plane was experiencing mechanical problems and he was going to land at a nearby airport. The temperature in the plane rose, and passengers learned an engine was smoking.

"The businessmen around me were very upset, but I managed to remain calm. I figured this might well be the end and, if so, it was my time to go," she said. "The pilot told us to prepare for a crash landing, and the plane was slanted at an angle as it began to descend."

But at the last minute, the plane leveled out and the pilot landed safely. Grossman went to her meeting. She learned 10 days later she had been lifted up in prayer.

"A woman I had never met before or heard from called to tell me my name had been mentioned at a missions meeting she attended on the day of that flight," Grossman said. "She said my name had come up several times during the meeting, so the group had prayed for my safety a number of times. This woman knew something must have happened on that day and she was certainly right. God heard their prayers for me."

She asked Acteens to be specific in their prayers for missionaries. Many times people simply ask God to "be with the missionaries today," she said.

"If you know missionaries, pray for them by name," she said. "They experience problems and struggles just like you. Ask God to help them with particular difficulties they come up against in their work and personal lives."

Children of missionaries also need prayer, Grossman reminded them. "Many times they have to attend worship services they don't understand because it is being conducted in a different language than their own. Their parents are required to learn the language but the children are not. This can be very difficult for them."

Momentum is Building With Award-Winning Academics.

Grads have big plans for the future

Georgetown College takes great pride in the success of its students. Some 1996 graduates are going on to graduate studies at these competitive and challenging schools.

Baylor University

Dean Davenport, philosophy and business ethics double major, university fellowship in philosophy

Carnegie Mellon University

Joel Jirak, computer science and philosophy double major, graduate assistantship in computer science (assistantship offers also from University of Kentucky, College of William and Mary, Wooster Polytechnic Institute and Baylor University)

Georgetown University

Christy Rothwell, chemistry major, graduate assistantship in chemistry

Miami University of Ohio

Amanda Forman, communication arts major, graduate assistantship in speech communications

Clark Hale, communication arts major, graduate assistantship in speech communications

Tiffany Hammond, math major, English minor

Susan Staten, chemistry major/math minor, graduate assistantship in chemistry

Ohio State University

Rachel Yavelak, political science major

Penn State University

Brian Cabbage, philosophy major, department and university fellowships in Ph.D. program in philosophy (also received Liberal Arts Fellowship from Penn State)

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Paul Clifford, philosophy major, M.Div. program

University of Florida

Marty Robinson, communication arts major, English and computer science double minor, graduate studies in public relations

University of Kentucky

Kelli Dean, political science major

Randall Justice, political science major

Lori Kidwell, political science major

Bill Randall, English, philosophy and religion triple major, graduate assistantship in English (full scholarship and quality achievement grant)

Jennifer Feiler, chemistry and philosophy double major, graduate assistantship in chemistry

UK College of Law

Matthew Stoffel, political science major (also admitted to Case Western Law School)

Rachel Wagner, English major/business minor

UK Medical School

Rob Holder, chemistry and biology double major

Meredith Crisp, biology major

University of Louisville

Graham Troop, history major, English minor, graduate studies in rhetoric and composition

U of L School of Music

Michelle Clark, music major (also accepted to Eastern Kentucky University)



Thornton elected BSU president

Traci Thornton, a junior with a double major in Spanish and communication arts, has been elected president of the Baptist Student Union of Kentucky. The election took place at the BSU annual Leadership Training Conference, which was attended by 400 college students from across the state. Thornton is the first Georgetown College student in several years to serve as state BSU president.

Georgetown College Academic Team wins 1996 state championship

The Georgetown College Varsity Academic Team won the championship of the Kentucky College Quick Recall League for the second consecutive year and the college's Junior Varsity Team took first place in its competition.

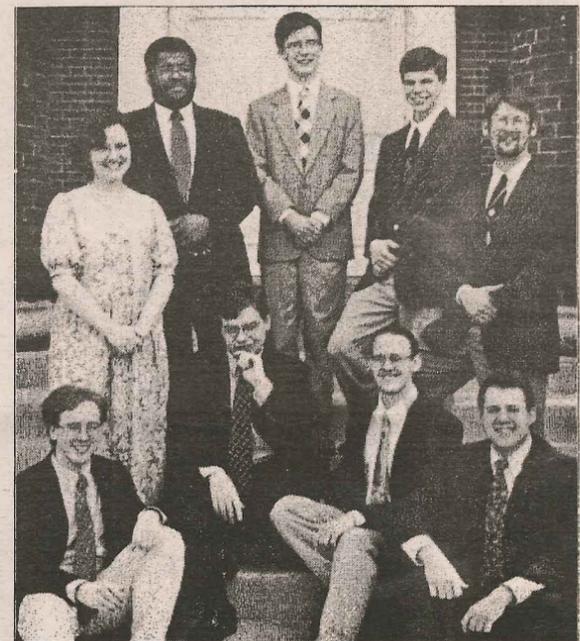
Dr. Charles Boehms, senior vice president/academic dean, said, "The sweep of both state championships demonstrates the quality of Georgetown College students. The team is a great compliment to the college, its students and the faculty."

Barbara Burch, English instructor and team coach, said, "For the players to attain their goal of winning the state championship was an incredible accomplishment, given the demands on their time as seniors."

The college's varsity players were Rob Holder '96 of Lexington, Ky.; Mark Roy '96 of Ashland, Ky.; Bill Randall '96 of Grants Lick, Ky.; and Brian Cabbage '96 of Leitchfield, Ky. Holder and Roy were instrumental in founding the team in 1993 when they approached college administrators to get permission to compete.

Freshmen Jeff Bowersox of Owensboro, Ky., and Josh Dragoo of Mt. Sterling, Ky., members of the junior varsity, were named Rookies of the Year. Other junior varsity players were three sophomores, Nathan Smith of Phelps, Ky., the team captain; Brad Stone of Columbia, Ky.; and Holly Krebs of Mt. Sterling, Ky.; and two freshmen, Darren Burris of Brownsburg, Ind., and Eric Polsgrove of Frankfort, Ky.

Other institutions in the KCQRL are the University of Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky University, Murray State University, Transylvania University, University of Louisville, Pikeville College, Union College, Campbellsville University, Alice Lloyd College and Cumberland College.



Davenport places second in national essay contest

Dean Davenport, a double major in philosophy and business ethics, was the second-place winner in the sixth annual National Lord Acton Essay Contest, sponsored by the Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty. His essay, titled "A Theological Perspective on the Rise of Poverty in America," won Davenport a \$500 cash prize and the chance to have the essay published later this year.

The competition was open to any undergraduate or graduate student currently enrolled in a theological seminary or religious studies program. Davenport graduated with honors in philosophy.

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