

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

African-Americans
Despite recent moves towards racial reconciliation, Southern Baptists still have few African-Americans among their career foreign missionaries. *Page 2.*

Lawsuit
Western Kentucky University was ordered to pay \$5,000 and back pay to a bivocational minister fired from the university for refusing to work Sundays. *Page 3.*

Which are you?
Church member personality types were profiled at a recent "Super Saturday" training event. *Page 3.*

Editorial
Take this back-to-school test on religion. *Page 5.*

Persecution
A Kuwaiti Christian convicted of apostasy for converting from Islam fled his homeland rather than face an appeal. *Page 6.*

Irreplaceable?
What has Mother Teresa's impact been on the world? *Page 6.*

Election survey
Christian pollster George Barna finds Bob Dole and Bill Clinton are running neck-and-neck among "born-again" voters. *Page 7.*

'Escape' gives True Love Waits a satiric cameo

NASHVILLE (BP)—Organizers of the "True Love Waits" chastity movement are less than pleased with the campaign's cameo appearance in the movie "Escape from L.A."

The opening scene includes a large button reading "True Love Waits" worn by Utopia, daughter of the U.S. President who has moved the capital city from Washington to Lynchburg, Va.

"The movie presents the president's daughter as somewhat mentally confused, suffering from having retreated into a world of virtual reality and cyberspace," said Richard Ross, a consultant for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and "True Love Waits" spokesperson.

"Since (film director) John Carpenter depicted the president's family as emotionally and spiritually twisted, he certainly did not place a 'True Love Waits' button on the daughter as an affirmation of the campaign," Ross said.

Since the campaign's launch in 1993, more than 350,000 young people have signed pledge cards vowing to remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

Ross said directors unwittingly paid the chastity movement two compliments.

Set in the year 2013, movie directors suggest the campaign will last that long, Ross said. Second, "they believe that most movie-goers would recognize that phrase. Satire is only effective when viewers understand it."



PRISON MINISTRY Southern Baptist foreign missionary Melody Graham leads a literacy lesson with prison inmates in Roseau, Dominica. She and her husband, David, have worked on the Caribbean island since 1982. See story on page 9. (Photo by Betty Poor)

Kentucky couple offers island ministry

By Wally Poor
SBC Foreign Mission Board

ROSEAU, Dominica—In this Caribbean island nation, with rich volcanic soil in which almost anything will grow, Kentucky native David Graham and his wife, Melody, are planting seeds of faith.

Graham, a Southern Baptist missionary dentist, operates the Mustard Seed Dental Clinic.

The name occurred to the couple when they were on furlough attending Russellville Baptist Church and heard a sermon on Jesus' parable of the mustard seed.

"We felt that was what we are up

to, to plant the seed by faith so they could accept Jesus Christ by faith," Graham said.

Mrs. Graham has a variety of ministries in literacy classes with prisoners in Dominica's only penitentiary and pregnancy classes for women.

When they arrived on Dominica in 1982, they opened their first clinic in a Baptist church. It didn't work. Some people thought only Baptists could be treated. Others in this predominantly Roman Catholic country did not want to go to a Baptist church even for healing.

Since then, Graham has rented a series of buildings for the clinic. He

estimates he has seen a good slice of the island's population. Between 3,500 and 4,000 people attend the clinic every year.

Dominica's total population is about 71,000. Greater Roseau, where most of the patients live, has a population of 20,000, so in a year's time Graham will see one-fifth of the capital population.

Each patient pays what he or she can afford.

While filling out a patient's health history, Graham's assistants also explain what it means to accept Jesus Christ as one's personal Savior.

The names of patients who show interest are referred to a Baptist church, or, if there is none, to the nearest evangelical church.

□ See *Bowling Green native ...*, page 8



Graham

Research grants link spirituality & healing

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The National Institute for Healthcare Research awarded its second annual round of grants last week to medical schools offering courses that train doctors to be aware of the connections between spirituality and clinical care.

The curricula do not aim to turn physicians into chaplains, but help help them to be as adept at understanding patients' spiritual issues as they are at detailing medical histories.

"Although science gives us physicians power, power without human values is frequently meaningless, if not downright dangerous. When looking into the abyss, a patient needs more than just ... a good dialysis machine. The values have to be there," said Stephen Lefrak, professor of medicine and assistant dean at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, one of the winners of a \$10,000 grant.

The other 1996-97 recipients of the John Templeton Faith and Medicine Curricular Awards are:

■ Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University in

Winston-Salem, N.C.

■ Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland.

■ Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta.

■ George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington.

■ Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center of West Virginia University in Morgantown.

At the West Virginia University medical school, a required course will help students learn how religious commitment relates to health care and help students understand their own spirituality.

"The individual doctor-to-be will really delve into what their spiritual journey has been like and how that will affect people in their practice in the future," said Chaplain Vaughn Michael, director of pastoral care at West Virginia University Hospitals.

More than a quarter of the nation's 126 medical schools have applied for the grants, said Dale Matthews, director of the Faith and Medicine Program at the National Institute for Healthcare Research, a non-profit group that col-

lects research on religion and medicine.

Matthews considers the interest in the grants to be a sign of a "historic transformation" in medical education.

"It's the science that seems to grab the medical schools," he said, pointing to data that show religious commitment is a factor in longer survival and better quality of life for patients.

"Theology is changing to some degree and it's not as threatened by science. It's a win-win type of situation."

A primary goal of the recognized programs is to help doctors-in-training recognize that the beliefs of their patients may be a factor in their health care. But some of the medical educators honored Aug. 27 said it is also important for the clinicians to be aware of their own faith perspectives as they work in the medical field.

Christina Puchalski, a resident in internal medicine at George Washington University School of Medicine, said, "It's my theory that the reason physicians don't ask these questions is because they're uncomfortable with themselves."

Hicks to chair KBC search committee

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

PRINCETON—Peggy Hicks, a former Southern Baptist missionary to the Philippines and current president of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, has been named chairwoman of a 15-member committee to nominate the Kentucky Baptist Convention's next executive secretary-treasurer.

Under provisions of the KBC constitution and bylaws, Hicks was appointed by KBC President Bill Tichenor, pastor of First Baptist Church of Princeton. She is a member of Lime Kiln Lane Ministry, a mission of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

Late last week, Tichenor announced the names of search

□ See *Tichenor names ...*, page 3

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Foreign missionaries commissioned.** A commissioning service was held Aug. 13 in metropolitan Atlanta for 61 new Southern Baptist foreign missionaries. That brings the denomination's number of appointed foreign missionaries to 4,150.

■ **"True Love Waits" goes to college.** Campus ministry directors should promote a sexual abstinence campaign started for teens, according to a consultant for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Art Herron noted that half the students who pledged to sexual purity as part of "True Love Waits" are now college age. He said his goal is to take the campaign to 2,000 college campuses this year.

■ **Former FMB leader dies.** Frank Means, former area secretary for Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board work in Latin America, the Caribbean and South America, died Aug. 9. He was 84.

■ **Post "See You at the Pole" results on-line.** Participants in this year's "See You at the Pole" student prayer event, Sept. 18, can report results to the Home Mission Board youth evangelism Internet home page. The address: www.ozarksol.com/youthsbc.

■ **Network gets new name.** The Faith & Values Channel announced it will adopt a new name, Odyssey, and a new logo beginning with its fall season. The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission will continue to provide 20 hours of programming per week, said commission President Jack Johnson.

■ **Satellite seminary leader appointed.** Arizona pastor Emerson Falls has been named director of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's Rocky Mountain Campus, which opens this fall in Colorado. Falls is the first Native American to hold a high-level administrative post at a Southern Baptist seminary.

■ **College president named.** Pat Taylor, previously provost of Oklahoma Baptist University, has been named president of Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.

■ **Chernobyl kids still getting help.** Since 1993, nearly 750 Belarussian children have come to the United States for a six-week stay to drink water, consume food and breathe air not contaminated with radioactive ash. This year, 330 children visited North Carolina through the American Belarussian Relief Organization, a non-profit organization founded by a Mogilev Baptist layman and a former Southern Baptist missionary in Connecticut.

Foreign missions force has few blacks

By David Winfrey
News Director

RICHMOND, Va.—Southern Baptists have apologized for slavery, established a task force on racial reconciliation and started African-American churches.

But 151 years after the convention was founded so slaveholders could be missionaries, the denomination has very few African-American career foreign missionaries.

Of Southern Baptists' career foreign missions force of 4,200, only seven are black, according to David Cornelius, director of African-American church relations for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The former missionary to Nigeria, who is black, now spends half his Sundays in African-American churches promoting foreign missions service.

"I have more invitations than I can field myself," he said. Offers to send other FMB representatives are often

declined.

"What they're wanting is their congregation to see an African-American who has been there, done that."

Cornelius said he learned after taking the job in 1992 that the issues related to African-Americans serving overseas are not as clear-cut as he had imagined.

In addition to long-term suspicion of Southern Baptists, black congregations traditionally have sent money rather than go themselves, he said.

After its establishment in 1845, the Southern Baptist Convention appointed 61 African-Americans as foreign missionaries in its first 30 years. During the 20th century, only 10 have been appointed, Cornelius said.

The key reason, he said, is a lack of missions education in African-American churches.

He now points black congregations toward missions education resources from Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood Commission.

Additionally, he is developing a missions education program specifically for black churches.

Despite the low statistics, Cornelius said he is optimistic about the future of African-American Southern Baptists serving as career foreign missionaries.

"I'm happy to say I'm seeing change in more black Americans being interested in going to other parts of the world as missionaries," Cornelius said. "I am convinced God is calling more."

About 15 Southern Baptist African-Americans presently are preparing for foreign missions service, he said. "If all 15 get to the field, we will have more serving as career missionaries than any time since the 1800s."

African-Americans interested in exploring foreign missions opportunities may contact Cornelius at (800) 999-3113, ext. 1422.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

Port ministers protest potential new law

PORTSMOUTH, Va. (BP)—A group of Southern Baptist ministers to seafaring people is opposing legislation that would deny access to U.S. courts by seafarers on ships flying foreign flags.

A resolution by the Southern Baptist Seafarer's Minister's Fellowship urges U.S. Senate leaders to eliminate the "Cruise Ship Tort Reform" section from the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 1996.

"Foreign seafarers have had access to U.S. courts since 1915. ... The implementation of Cruise Ship Tort Reform would ... undermine the incentive of flag-of-convenience operators to raise the crew's standard of living and give advantage to substandard operators who choose to exploit their crews," according to the resolution, passed during the fellowship's August meeting.

Under a "flag of convenience," a

ship owner in one country may register a vessel with another country, said Philip Vandercook, executive director of the New Orleans Baptist Seaman's Service.

"American flagging of ships is decreasing dramatically because when they're flagged here in the States, they have to abide by U.S. law, which is often more stringent."

But even with the looser regulations that other countries may offer ship owners, foreign seafarers docked in American ports can sue in U.S. courts under current law, said Tim Rice, a port minister in Charleston, S.C.

"Cruise Ship Tort Reform would keep foreign sailors who are injured or denied wages (from suing in U.S. courts) while they're working for an American company that reflags a ship" said Rice, president of the fellowship, which has members in 35

port cities.

Ed Lee, a staff member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said Cruise Ship Tort Reform is designed to protect U.S. taxpayers.

"Why should a British seafarer injured on a Liberian-registered vessel in the middle of the Pacific Ocean be allowed to come to the U.S. to sue?"

He said the tort reform proposal would allow seafarers on foreign-flagged vessels access to U.S. courts under certain circumstances. "If they could not sue in their own courts, (the restrictions) would not apply."

But Tim Posey, a port chaplain in New Orleans, said the legislation "could set the work of port chaplains back over 100 years."

The act is in a conference committee to iron out differences. The House version contains cruise ship tort reform. The Senate version does not.

Group cautions against rising hostility toward government

DALLAS (RNS)—Hatred of government and politicians is a "clear and present danger" in American society, said participants in a recent ethics colloquium.

A paper titled "Politics is not a Four-letter Word" was the product of the Maston Colloquium sponsored by the Center for Christian Ethics.

"A rising tide of animosity and hostility toward government threatens to undermine the ability of anyone to govern," the group concluded. "Incessant attacks on government erode the moral core of our communities, our cities, our states and our nation, drawing us toward mindless acts of anti-government terrorism, such as the Oklahoma City federal building bombing."

Foy Valentine, former leader of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, said the aim of the colloquium, named for pioneering Christian ethicist T.B. Maston, was to offer

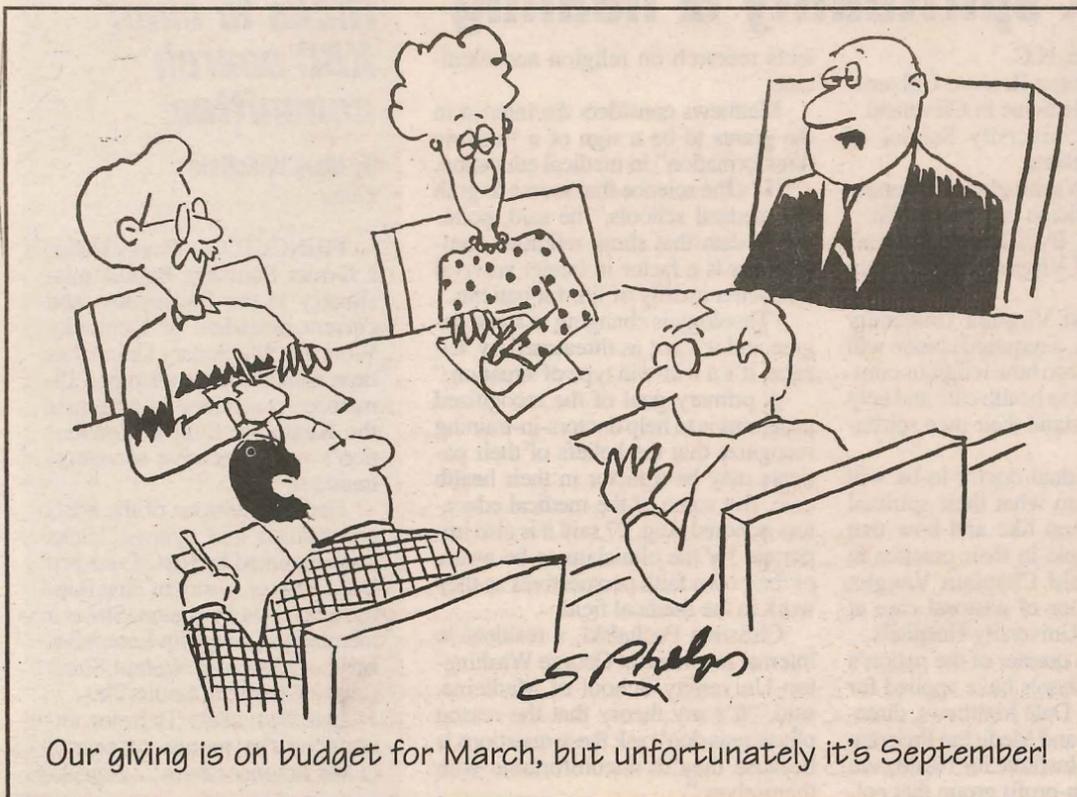
suggestions about "what should be done about redeeming the genre of politics."

While warning against over-zealous criticism, the participants acknowledged political leaders have their problems.

"We recognize that those who govern are capable of shameful misconduct and can be wasteful, extravagant, incompetent and dishonest," the paper said. "Government nearly always stands in need of correction and improvement."

The group also warned about fallout from the trend of "dismantling government."

"The recent stampede to abolish selected government services ... is putting at risk those whom Jesus Christ called 'the least of these my brethren'—the poorest and most needy, the weakest and most vulnerable among us," they said. "Less government is not necessarily better government."



Bivocational pastor wins first round of suit

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

BOWLING GREEN—Western Kentucky University has been ordered to pay \$5,000 in damages plus back pay to a bivocational minister who was fired from the university's staff when he refused to work on Sundays.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights ruled June 20 in favor of Alfred Cook, a former plumber for the university who also serves as pastor of two rural Baptist congregations. The Commission further ordered the university to reinstate Cook's employment.

Cook claimed he was fired from the maintenance crew at the state university in November 1993, after his schedule was changed to include Sunday work, which he refused to do.

The university maintained Cook's problem could have been worked out in time, if he had been willing to work some on Sundays. Later, the university also suggested Cook could have swapped out his Sunday work schedule with other maintenance employees, if any were willing to swap.

The university further said that the person who fired Cook was not authorized to do so, thereby making his departure a resignation rather than a firing.

Cook maintained it was against his religious convictions to work at all on Sundays. And since he believes no one should work on Sundays, he could not ask another employee to take his Sunday work, he said.

The Commission ruled that Cook had been the victim of religious discrimination.

Under Kentucky statute, the Commission's ruling carries the weight of law, but its rulings may be appealed in circuit court. Western Kentucky University filed an appeal with Warren Circuit Court July 15. The appeals process is expected to take several months.

Recorder extends office hours

Beginning this week, the Western Recorder has extended its office hours to better serve Baptists in the central time zone, Editor Mark Wingfield announced.

Rather than closing at 4:30 p.m. Eastern time, the Recorder office will remain open until 5 p.m. Eastern time. The office will continue to open at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time.

This change in hours affects only the Western Recorder. The Kentucky Baptist Convention's hours remain the same.

Tichenor names KBC search committee

Continued from page 1

committee members he appointed in light of Bill Marshall's Aug. 22 announcement that he will retire in February.

In addition to Hicks, committee members are:

■ Charles Barnes, a retired banker and member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville. Barnes currently serves as chairman of the KBC Executive Board's administrative committee. He also is chairman of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation's board.

■ Billy Compton, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. Compton is a former KBC president and former associate in the KBC evangelism office. He has served several Kentucky churches as pastor. Compton also serves on the board of Campbellsville College.

■ Maribeth Hambrick, a Georgetown laywoman who currently serves on the board of Georgetown College and heads development efforts for Kentucky WMU's Second Century Fund. She is a member of Georgetown Baptist Church in Georgetown.

■ Willis Henson, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah. Henson is a longtime Kentucky pastor who has served in a host of denominational roles, including a term as KBC president. He currently serves on the

KBC nominations committee.

■ James Jones, pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church in Campbellsville. Jones also is a longtime Kentucky pastor who has served in a variety of denominational roles, including a term as KBC president. He currently serves on the KBC nominations committee.

■ Wallace Kent, pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church in Frankfort. Also a longtime Kentucky pastor, Kent currently serves on the KBC public affairs committee.

■ Terry Lester, pastor of First Baptist Church of London. Lester currently is chairman of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's board. He also serves on the KBC nominations committee.

■ Bill Messer, pastor of First Baptist Church in Ashland. Messer is a former KBC Executive Board member and former KBC president who currently serves on the board of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

■ David Nelson, retired pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro. Nelson has served numerous Kentucky churches as pastor and has held many denominational posts, including being a former KBC president.

■ Bret Robbe, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro. Robbe currently serves on the KBC constitu-

tion and bylaws committee.

■ Delores Spears, a laywoman from Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah. Spears is a former president of Kentucky WMU and has been active throughout Kentucky Baptist life. She currently serves on the KBC committee on committees and WMU executive board.

■ James Taylor, president of Cumberland College. Taylor is the longest-tenured head of any KBC agency or institution. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Williamsburg.

■ Paul Welch, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green. Welch is a current member of the KBC Executive Board.

One other person Tichenor has asked to serve on the committee had not been able to respond to Tichenor's invitation by the time of the Western Recorder's deadline Aug. 30. That name will be released later.

Tichenor said he has called the search committee together for an initial meeting Sept. 5 in Louisville. Beyond that, the committee will determine its own schedule and process.

Nominations for the position of KBC executive secretary-treasurer should be sent to the search committee in care of Peggy Hicks, 9820 Longwood Circle, Louisville, Ky. 40223.

Churches find diversity in personalities

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

LEXINGTON—Few Kentucky Baptist Convention churches can claim the usual hallmarks of a diverse congregation, but most do have one claim to diversity, the KBC's church growth director said last week.

While the membership of most KBC churches is not racially, ethnically or socio-economically diverse, the point of greatest diversity is "the wide range of personality types" of the members of a given congregation, said Vernon Cole, director of church growth and administration.

Cole spoke at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, at one of six "Super Saturday" training events sponsored by the KBC. Two more

events are scheduled Sept. 7 in Somerset and Paducah.

Most KBC churches are "lily-white," Cole said.

He also explained that 50 percent of the members of a typical KBC church fall on one rung of the socio-economic scale; 20 percent are above that rung; 20 percent are below; and 10 percent are scattered up and down the scale.

Even those churches which claim diversity in worship styles should remember that "just because you do two or three things differently than the church down the street doesn't make you diverse," Cole said.

But each church has a mixture of personality types which influence how members relate to one another and how the church functions, he said.

Using an ancient psychological-spiritual model called the "enneagram," Cole illustrated nine personality types which become "power points" from which church members operate. These are the reformer, helper, status seeker, artist, thinker, loyalist, generalist, leader/boss and peacemaker.

"The value of understanding these personality types is that it becomes easier to accept others for what they are," he said.

Citing the Apostle Paul's juxtaposition of the differing gifts of the Spirit with the call for believers to love one another in 1 Corinthians 12 and 13, Cole noted when that a church understands and embraces the diverse personalities within its membership, "creative dialogue, tolerance, understanding and acceptance" result.

'Power points' from which church members operate

■ **Reformer.** High moral standards. Harsh on others who make mistakes. Earns love by being perfect. Focuses on should, must and ought to. Driven by anger but denies presence of that anger.

■ **Helper.** Earns love by being helpful. Manages others' lives. Likes to be needed. Motivated by anxiety and responds to the heart rather than the head.

■ **Status seeker.** Earns love through achievement and image. Sensitive to status. Wants to be first, to lead, to be seen. Driven by a deep sense of anxiety to avoid failure, but handles anxiety by denying its presence.

■ **Artist.** Looks for love at a distance. Feels special, the possessor of special talent. Longs for what is un-

available, far away and hard to get. Internalizes anxiety by insisting that since I am unique, I am not anxious and people will have to love me.

■ **Thinker.** The thinker, who always wants to withdraw to discover more information. Prefers to work alone. Observes life but doesn't commit to spiritual or intimate connection. Removed from the pain of life by viewing it from the head rather than the heart.

■ **Loyalist.** Insecure but needs reassurance constantly. Motivated by the fear of not being accepted and therefore gains acceptance by serving as a consultant, telling others what must be done. Identifies with underdog.

■ **Generalist.** Wants it all. Enjoys the initial attraction in love, drawn to

pleasure, always looking for new adventures. Charming, embraces others and talks way out of trouble.

■ **Leader/Boss.** This is the champion. Finds love through protection and power. Gravitates to positions of authority and control. Has the truth and doesn't want to hear other options. Sees world in all-or-nothing style.

■ **Peacemaker.** The negotiator, always meshing with others while sitting on the fence. Adopts many points of view and thereby avoids committing to any one view.

Based on information from Helen Palmer's book "The Enneagram in Love and Work" and Father William in "Process of Forgiveness," as reported in the Christian Century and interpreted by Vernon Cole.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Byrd Ison,** former director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department, died June 25 at age 74. Ison worked for the KBC Executive Board from 1972 through 1984. He previously had been pastor of Thomas Baptist Church in Irvine, Silas Baptist Church in Paris and Midway Baptist Church in Midway. In retirement, Ison served as pastor of New Salem Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ **The Western Recorder's** board of directors last week approved a 15 percent increase in display advertising rates for the newspaper. The new rate will be \$23 per column inch, up from \$20. Also, classified advertising rates will increase 20 percent, from 50 cents per word to 60 cents per word. The rate increase will be effective Oct. 1. Subscription rates remain unchanged and are not projected to change within the next year.

■ **Lake Cumberland Foundation Inc.** in Somerset has established a \$25,000 scholarship at Campbellsville University for health careers.

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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BAPTIST FORUM

March for Life

Each year Kentucky Right to Life Association sponsors a Walk for Life. We have volunteered to help organize the walk for this year.

In the past, there has been very little participation from Louisville-area Baptist churches. We feel this is probably due to a lack of organization and planning.

Those participating in last year's walk ranged from carried-and-strollered infants to senior citizens in their 80s.

This is an ideal event in which to show your support for the God-given right to life of the unborn child. This year's march is Sept. 21.

Danger of immorality

How long will Jesus endure immorality? Do you think Jesus might be exasperated with the perversion of our generation?

1 Thessalonians 5:22 says, "Avoid every kind of evil." We should avoid immorality rather than attempt a balancing act on the verge of iniquity. Sadly, many say, "I know how far I can go."

From atop Georgia's Stone Mountain, the largest boulder in the world, a young man unsuspectingly walked down the gradual slope of the dome-like mountain. Suddenly he became aware that he had gone too far and was powerless to retrace his steps. He had gone to the point of no return. Frantically, he cried for help, but no one was able to reach him as horrified spectators helplessly watched him fall to his death.

Our world is scattered with the re-

The undecideds

I don't know about you, but I became a little bored with most of what I experienced in viewing some of both political parties' conventions. I also note that the media had the same experience. For sure, nothing I saw made me change my mind about my vote.

I, probably like many of my readers, went into it fairly strongly committed to my candidate and it would take a lot of "bad stuff" to change my vote between now and Nov. 15.

I guess the truth of the matter is that I am not very open to change on some things. A little shaping here; a little sandpapering there, sure. But I am really not likely to change many of my positions without a big bang of some kind.

I join many others who think the polls only matter when there truly is a significant constituency which really hasn't made up its mind. Some recent polls suggest there is still a sizable group of those "undecideds" out there

To participate, a liaison from your church should send us the following information: church name, liaison's name, address and phone number. Send information to 6314 Fernview Rd., Louisville, Ky. 40291, (502) 239-1054.

*Marty and Brenda Childress
Louisville*

Son teams shine

This summer has been one of my busiest. It has also been one of my most challenging. I had the opportunity to be a camp pastor at Cedarmore this summer. I went being naive about the week. Tom Smoot had thoroughly prepared me for all my duties and the duties of others, but camp was still an unknown experience for me.

It quickly became a highlight of my ministry. I was with well-trained, God-committed young men and women who serve through our Baptist Student Union Son teams. These teams were created by Tom Smoot and serve our

mains of lives that made immoral choices. They said, "I know how far I can go," but unable to stop their momentum, they sped past the line they had drawn for themselves. Horrified onlookers helplessly watch as people become examples of immorality's effect.

How long will Jesus endure immorality?

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

"O unbelieving and perverse generations," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up

with you?" (Luke 9:41).

*Daryl Varble, pastor
First Baptist Church
Whitley City*

Spiritual barometers

I once heard a story about a man who lived on Long Island some years ago.

He bought himself a fine barometer. When it arrived at his home, he

who might yet be persuaded one way or the other.

These past 14 years in denominational life have convinced me that there are a lot of "undecided" Baptists out there. They are still "registered Southern Baptists" but they are undecided about what they are experiencing in denominational life.

While there are many who favor the so-called "conservative resurgence," there are also many Southern Baptists who strongly disagree with the new direction and the leaders of the new direction. Some of these have become a "minority opposition party" which is usually identified as the Co-operative Baptist Fellowship, but runs much deeper than the "party."

But there is that other "party" not yet identified in name but apparently growing in increasing numbers. In fact, they may well become, if they are not already, the largest single bloc in the Southern Baptist Convention.

While one might call them "mid- dlers," they really defy any label.

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

state well in creative ministries.

The talents of these men and women are something we all should experience. I understand they represent a younger generation, but their hearts are well placed with our Lord centered in their lives. Laura Carr and Carla Wainscott did a tremendous job directing the entire week. The cooperation of all the Son team members was one of flexibility and intent. They wanted all campers to know our Lord. I established an eternal friendship with these student summer missionaries.

I want to challenge the pastors of our state to use the many BSU ministries from our college campuses throughout our state. First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg is going to schedule a different BSU team on a monthly basis. They have something to share, and we have something to gain from their ministries.

Thanks, guys, for a great camp week. My hat is off to you all.

*Jeff Eaton
Lawrenceburg*

was extremely disappointed to find the indicating needle stuck, pointing to the sector marked "Hurricane."

After shaking the barometer vigorously several times, its new owner sat down and wrote a scorching letter to the store from which he had bought the barometer and mailed it the following morning from his office in New York. That evening, he returned to Long Island to find not only the barometer's needle missing, but his house also. The barometer's needle had been right after all; there was a hurricane.

How many times do we disregard the warnings and truths of the Bible, not realizing that those words mean what they say and are given to help us escape from the wrath to come and to find a refuge in Jesus Christ, the only Savior?

God's truths are given to help us through our daily activities and allow us to experience a full and abundant life.

*Dave Hoschar, pastor
Waddy Baptist Church*

"Baptists," maybe, and probably the majority still comfortable with the term "Southern Baptist," partly because they don't want to leave home. Could they be the new "third" party? Still forming through discomfort rather than intention; listening and looking for leadership?

History suggests that when anyone draws the line too tightly in defining Baptists, reaction will ultimately occur, often first in the form of two factions (parties).

Two such "parties" have formed rather distinctly now, giving enough time for the "undecideds" to have a little closer look at the strengths and weaknesses of each.

It will be interesting to see if either party can persuade the majority of the "undecideds" to join their party during the next decade.

I could be wrong, but I suspect that if neither does, we can look for a new party of Baptists a few years from now, already stronger than in their silence they may realize.

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



FAMILY FORUM

Getting started right

By Wade Rowatt

Q How can I help my two teenagers as school begins?

A Asking such a question is a good start. Youth whose parents take an interest in their education out-perform kids whose parents are uninvolved. Express your support for good grades and proper school conduct.

Check out their course placement. Are they taking classes that fit their abilities? Underchallenged students soon grow bored. When work exceeds ability, they give up in hopelessness.

Youth tend to live in the "here and now" and aren't known for looking at the cause of their problems. For example, time at work, hours practicing sports or playing music and long weekends with friends make proper study all but impossible. Help them be realistic about how much study time is needed to make the grades and, most importantly, to grow in knowledge. Keep time balanced—some work and some play.

Give credit (and rewards) where credit is due. Acknowledge academic accomplishments. Give them clear compliments. Surprise them with a special treat "because you're doing so well in school." Increase allowance for better grades.

Friends play a major role in setting standards. Make your home, time and money available to support positive friends. Say "no" to activities that do not promote education.

Talk to other parents and expect school work to get done.

Listen to your teenagers' complaints about problems and look for ways to solve problems and eliminate excuses.

Consider sponsoring a candidate for the school board in your next elections.

Volunteer to serve on parent-teacher committees.

Help your youth find at least one teacher as a mentor. Teens need a "hero" teacher who inspires them to do their best.

Finally, get a copy of the cassette tape, "So You are Having Trouble in School" from the "24-Hour Counselor" series. (Your church may have it; if not, order it from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.)

Reprinted from Western Recorder, Sept. 6, 1994.

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

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

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Resolve tips the scales when fending off the three 'ch's'

HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

Today I finally admitted that I've gotten too chubby to wear one of my favorite pair of dress pants.

Early this morning, I squeezed myself into these plaid pants, trying not to remember that when I first bought them they hung loosely around my waist. By the time my Grape Nuts were devoured, my constricted abdomen was in such a knot I knew I couldn't make it through the day with this clothing charade. I went back

upstairs and changed pants.

One of the women in our office, upon hearing this story later that morning, commented that that's the problem with pregnancy—you never lose the added weight around the hips. I agreed, even though I had to admit that I hadn't been pregnant. Alison had, and even that was four years ago. Neither fact excused me.

During her pregnancy with the twins and subsequent year of breast-feeding, she nearly ate us out of house and home. Being the sympathetic type, I ate right along with her. Four years later, she's cut back but I'm still marching on. I never met a chocolate dessert I didn't like.

Some of my more rotund friends get aggravated when they hear me moan about weight gain. After all, they complain, I'm still tall and relatively thin. "Relatively" is the operative word here: If you keep outgrowing each new set of clothes you buy, you've still got a problem.

I've decided my problem really is a mental one, anyway. Several years ago, Ward Walker, a friend with a perpetually wide girth, chided me as I offered some good reason why it was OK to down a two-pack of twinkies after lunch. "You rationalize like a fat person," he said.

SHE SAID



Alison Wingfield

I don't want to talk about it. Like the Scripture says—knowing what is right to do and then not doing it.

I know what I should be doing to lose weight. I just don't want to do it. And the older I get, the harder it is to set my mind to anything, much less stick with it.

As I told my doctor recently, things that start with "ch" are my downfall: chips, cheese and chocolate. Is there life after these three? I've tried the low-fat versions—yuck! Eating the low-fat stuff makes me crave the real thing. So I end up eating both.

Living at home with two growing boys does not help the situation any either. Some days I think our two munchkins have bottomless pits for stomachs. An hour after a decent meal, they're ready for more food. It is difficult to refrain from eating right along with them. And they are nine years away from puberty!

Limited though their tastes may be, our children actually eat healthy meals. Unfortunately, they also have inherited their parents' sweet-tooths. Garrett would live on cookies if I let him.

Mark's dilemma is a bit more amusing. I always have had to fight my weight. This is new territory for him. When we were first married, I had trouble finding his waist size in pants, because he was so skinny. At least now we don't have that problem.

Too bad we don't live in another era, when robust women were in—I could have been a perfect model for a Rubens painting.

Regardless of what the scales say, when we weigh it all, God created our bodies and we should be taking the best care of them we can. Now what to do about the three "ch's"?

Kentucky doesn't need casino gambling

Kentucky's gambling dogs are back, barking up the tree of state government with an appeal to allow casino-style gambling at race tracks.

This has been a bankrupt idea every time it was rejected before. It remains a bankrupt idea. It always will be a bankrupt idea.

Last week, the president of Churchill Downs trotted out the sorry idea of legalizing casino-style gambling in a speech before Gov. Patton and Kentucky's delegates to the Democratic National Convention. Tom Meeker said Kentucky's horse tracks need the added leverage of video gambling in order to keep their customers from moving on to the greener pastures of casinos in neighboring states.

To quote a bit of wisdom my father instilled in me as a child, two wrongs don't make a right.

Gambling on horses is bad enough. To demand that Kentucky's citizens prop up one gambling enterprise by giving it a monopoly on another form of gambling is unconscionable and probably unconstitutional.

The purpose of state government should be to en-

hance the lives of citizens, not to create more opportunities for citizens to destroy their lives. Although many call it harmless entertainment, gambling destroys lives. That is a proven fact, documented by mountains of research and rivers of tears shed by those who have learned this lesson first-hand.

Gambling is based on the faulty promise that you can get something for nothing. Even the rare person who wins big through some means of gambling does so at the expense of many others who have lost. And based on the odds, gambling is not just a win-lose proposition, it is a win-lose-lose-lose-lose proposition.

The governor was quoted by Associated Press as responding that he's "as open-minded as a blank sheet of paper" about Meeker's proposal that the General Assembly be called into special session next year to legalize casino-style gambling at horse tracks.

Help the governor get some words on his blank sheet. Let him know you oppose any further encroachment of gambling interests in our commonwealth.

—Mark Wingfield

EDITORIALS

Take this back-to-school test on religion

If the average member of a Baptist church had to take a test on what forms of religious expression are allowable in public schools, she probably would flunk.

But she would be in good company: Many school administrators and teachers also couldn't make the grade on this topic. And that is the root of many unnecessary battles over church-state issues every year.

While many people have legitimate disagreements with the current state of the law, by far the majority of battles that will be recorded this year in public schools vs. people of faith will be blown out of proportion due to ignorance.

Now that school has started, it's a good time to brush up on the facts. Take this true-false test, and then clip this column for reference throughout the school year.

1. The U.S. Supreme Court has outlawed all student prayer in public schools.

False. The Supreme Court has ruled against state-sponsored or state-organized prayer in public schools. That means no school official may organize times of student prayer or create situations in which a captive audience is required to participate in a religious exercise, even if a majority of students approves.

School officials may lead a moment of silence at a designated time during the school day, so long as they do not promote prayer over other types of quiet reflection.

And students remain free to pray alone or in groups any time they choose, so long as it is not disruptive to the educational process. The courts have interpreted this to give students wide latitude for individual expression, even though that message hasn't gotten through to every school official.

2. Students may not use school facilities for Bible studies or religious activities.

False. Under the Equal Access Act of 1984, Congress ensured that public schools must allow religious groups access to school facilities outside instructional hours on the same basis as other student groups. That means a public school cannot prevent a Bible club from meeting on campus before school so long as it allows the chess club, drama club or any other student organization to use the facilities.

3. Students may wear to school clothing with religious symbols or religious messages.

True. To the same extent that any other symbols or messages are allowed on clothing, religious themes must

also be allowed. That means, for example, a school cannot ban T-shirts with religious messages so long as T-shirts with any other message are allowed.

4. Students are not allowed to bring Bibles to school, and especially aren't allowed to read their Bibles at school.

False. The only restriction is if a student's behavior becomes disruptive or coercive. Clearly, a student should not be allowed to read his Bible during a time when he is supposed to be engaged in other educational activities. Nor are students allowed to make a spectacle of their Bible reading or to force classmates to read the Bible with them.

5. Students may express their religious beliefs in class assignments and class discussions.

True. Despite mounds of misinformation on this point, students are allowed to talk or write about their religious beliefs at times when the subject is relevant. For example, if a teacher asks students to draw pictures of meaningful times in their lives, it is appropriate for a Christian student to draw a picture of her baptism. This relevant part of a student's life cannot be censored any more than another student could be prevented from drawing a picture of a motorcycle rally.

6. Teachers must avoid any mention of religious holidays such as Christmas and Easter.

False. Teaching about religious holidays is permissible in public schools, while celebrating religious holidays is not. It is entirely appropriate for teachers to teach about religion in both elementary and secondary schools. The test is whether the teacher's use of religion has an educational purpose or merely is a means of promoting one religious belief.

If you didn't fare too well on this brief quiz and need some after-school tutoring, contact the Freedom Forum First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University. Ask for a copy (or multiple copies) or their excellent brochure titled "A Parent's Guide to Religion in the Public Schools." The brochure is free. They also offer a more in-depth book on the religious liberty rights of students called "Finding Common Ground: A First Amendment Guide to Religion and Public Education." It costs \$9.50.

Contact the Freedom Forum at 1207 18th Ave. South, Nashville, Tenn. 37212, (615) 321-9588. Address their home page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.fac.org>.

—Mark Wingfield

WORLD VIEW

■ **Bishop bans bootlegger burials.** Roman Catholic Bishop Alojzy Orszulik of Lowicz, Poland, banned church burials for bootleggers to mark the church's traditional August "month of sobriety." Poland is ranked third, after Russia and Romania, in the consumption of hard liquor. An estimated 10 percent of Poland's adults suffer from alcoholism.

■ **Group finds Christianity growing in China.** Members of a National Council of Churches delegation returned from China saying they found Christianity is growing there but facing a number of challenges. One estimate is that China has one pastor for every 3,000 to 4,000 parishioners.

■ **Bonhoeffer formally cleared of treason.** Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German theologian executed by the Nazis in the waning days of World War II for his participation in a plot to kill Adolph Hitler, has been formally cleared of the treason charges that sent him to his death. Justice officials in Berlin announced in August that Bonhoeffer's sentence had effectively been lifted when the German state threw out all Nazi-era convictions in May 1946.

■ **Child labor reported high.** The International Labor Organization, a Geneva-based agency of the United Nations reported this summer the number of child workers remains disturbingly high, with 73 million children ages 10 to 14 now employed around the world. That represents 13 percent of all children in that age group, the report stated.

■ **Swiss Muslims face burial opposition.** Muslims who want to bury their dead in some Swiss cities face opposition from the right-wing Swiss People's Party. The party "appealed to the fears of Swiss Christians of an expansion of Islam and of being overrun by foreigners," said Peter Dettwiler of the Swiss Protestant Church in Zurich.

■ **Shroud's date debated.** Researchers from the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio studying the Shroud of Turin said the 14-foot linen cloth some believe to be the burial garment of Jesus may have been woven at the time of his death—not during the Middle Ages. The researchers claim a microscopic layer of bacteria and fungi may have skewed the results of carbon dating of the shroud. Others were unconvinced. "We've been through this before," said Paul Damon of the University of Arizona, defending conventional methods of carbon-dating that found the shroud was woven between 1260 and 1390.

■ **Germans urge boycott of film starring Scientologist.** A German youth group affiliated with Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Party has called for a boycott of the movie "Mission Impossible" because Tom Cruise, the film's star, is a Scientologist. The boycott call is the latest in a string of attacks on Scientology in Germany. The head of the Christian Democratic Party in Kohl's home state said Scientologists should be banned from holding government jobs and the Church of Scientology's non-profit status should be reconsidered.

Christian Kuwaiti flees homeland for U.S.

Washington (ABP)—Robert Hussein, convicted of apostasy in Kuwait after converting to Christianity, has fled to the United States rather than face an appeal.

He is deciding whether to seek religious asylum in America, according to Jim Jacobson, president of Christian Solidarity International-USA, a human-rights group based in Front Royal, Va.

Hussein, a former Muslim who changed his name from Hussein Qambar Ali after his conversion, was ruled an apostate in Islamic court May 29. He has been in hiding in Kuwait, living with expatriate Christian families since his conversion became public in December.

A once-wealthy contractor whose conviction cost him an estimated \$4 million in assets, Hussein converted to Christianity during a visit to the United States. He made his conversion public during a legal battle with his estranged wife. He left behind his wife

and two children, who were forbidden by the ruling from contacting him.

Hussein was convicted after three Muslim lawyers pressed a civil case against him, claiming he should be stripped of all civil rights as a Kuwaiti citizen. Under Islamic law, a Muslim who deserts his faith loses marital, parental and inheritance status. A Kuwaiti judge stated that "people like the defendant must be killed."

The Kuwaiti government insisted Hussein had not been sentenced to death, citing religious freedom guarantees in the nation's constitution. Hussein, however, went into hiding. He has received death threats and claims police did not protect him.

Hussein, 44, left Kuwait Aug. 16. Upon his arrival at Dulles Airport, he was whisked away in a private vehicle to an undisclosed location.

"Robert has been given a very precious gift of coming to America," said Jacobson. "We don't have many suc-

cess stories as far as getting someone out who has been charged with apostasy and sentenced to die."

Observers noted that his departure before a Sept. 15 appeals hearing saved face both for Kuwait's moderate government—which wanted to avoid confrontations with both militant Islamics and the international community—and the National Evangelical Church of Kuwait, which has fully supported Hussein's right to religious freedom but reportedly had become distanced from the new believer in recent months.

Hussein's case drew widespread support from the international community. Among supporters were the U.S.-based Rutherford Institute, which helped him file his appeal; a coalition of 48 members of Congress, led by Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn, which wrote the Kuwaiti crown prince on Hussein's behalf; and Jerry Rankin, head of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press and Religion News Service.



Hussein

Is Calcutta's Mother Teresa irreplaceable?

CALCUTTA, India—Her gift is basic for a religious mystic: the ability to see the face of God, as she often described it, "in its most distressing disguise."

Mother Teresa has moved with passionate intensity through the 20th century, inspiring millions with her devotion to the poor who wander the world's war zones and refuse-strewn streets. And her mystic's vision is that misery is an invitation to make manifest the mercy of God.

As the frail nun hovered between life and death in a Calcutta hospital last week, the question persisted: What will the world do without her?

The answer is clear to the self-effacing sister who answered the telephone in San Francisco, where Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity operate an AIDS hospice, a soup kitchen and a shelter for homeless women and children.

"Mother's work is God's work and even if Mother goes, God will be here," said the young nun, who declined to disclose her name. "We'll miss her presence in the world, but God's not going anywhere."

In Rome, Douglas McLaren of

Caritas International, a Catholic humanitarian organization, was less clear about how to fill the void created by the passing of a woman some regard as a living saint.

But the most important thing, he said, is not the person, but the inspiration that comes from her life and work.

"The great thing that Mother Teresa has done is to put the plight of the extreme poor on the political agenda," he said. "I think her life has given an evangelical mission to the world."

For Eileen Egan, a writer and retired veteran with Catholic Relief Services, the idea of a world without Mother Teresa is an invitation for others to develop a mystic's vision.

"It's something that all followers of Jesus should share," Egan said. "I think every religious person has to have a vision and live on the mystical level."

Egan's 1986 biography of Mother Teresa, "Such a Vision of the Street," is drawn from personal experiences in the early 1950s, when she followed Mother Teresa on her rounds.

"She took me from the Home for Abandoned Children to the Leper Home to the Home for the Dying,"

Egan recalled. "I was just there for a few days. I said to her: 'How do you do this every day, day after day the same tragedy, the same suffering?'"

"She said, 'To me, each one is Jesus in a distressing disguise.' Jesus as leper. Jesus eaten alive by worms. Jesus in a distressing disguise. That struck me with tremendous force."

Mother Teresa may not be the only one to perform heroic acts for the poor, but she's one of the few who have been awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts. And Egan has a few theories why this one small nun in a blue and white sari gained the admiration of so many.

"This little woman still stands for the inviolability and sacredness of each human person. That's what draws people to her. They want some sign that people aren't throw-aways," she said.

"A lot of people are wondering, 'What is the meaning of my life?'" Egan said. "They see a woman who has nothing but love and is expressing it in works of mercy. They may not repeat what she's doing, but they do something in their own lives—even a smile."

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Barna: Dole not attracting enough 'born-again' voters

OXNARD, Calif. (ABP)—Bill Clinton and Bob Dole are running neck-and-neck in the race for votes from "born-again" Americans, according to pollster George Barna.

And, in contrast to recent presidential elections, the Democratic president is 11 points ahead of his Republican challenger in competition for votes among self-described fundamentalists, Barna reported.

The Barna Research Group conducted a summer poll of 1,006 adults revealing the candidates' standing among voters segmented by religion.

Clinton commands a 45 percent to 32 percent lead over Dole among Americans at-large, the organization reported.

"One reason why Dole is floundering in the presidential race is his failure to connect with key conservative religious groups—notably born-again Christians, fundamentalists and even people who say they are part of the Religious Right," Barna said in a statement that accompanied the poll results.

For example:
 ■ "Born-again" voters barely prefer Clinton over Dole, 39 percent to 38 percent. This group represents 40 percent of the American electorate.

■ Evangelicals—a visible subset of the "born-again" population—favor Dole over Clinton, 55 percent to 17 percent. However, the entire group comprises only 8 percent of the U.S. adult population, "providing little lift"

to Dole, Barna noted.

■ Voters who identified themselves with the Religious Right, which is believed to be one-fourth of registered voters, favored Clinton by a one-point margin, 41 percent to 40 percent.

■ People who call themselves religious fundamentalists also tilted toward Clinton, 44 percent to 33 percent. This is "the opposite of what might be expected, given the ideological leanings of the two major-party candidates," Barna noted.

■ Americans who say they are moderately or minimally involved in faith matters, a group which comprises 80 percent of the electorate, indicated a strong preference for Clinton, 50 percent to 29 percent.

Dole's selection of Jack Kemp as his running mate could help the Republican ticket among "born-again" voters, the Barna polling analysts speculated. Still, Dole has difficulty with America's conservative religious segment, Barna added.

"In the last four presidential elections, the conservative Republican candidates garnered three-quarters of the conservative religious vote," he noted. "Mr. Dole's tendency to create a 'big tent' inclusive party has not endeared him to 'born-again' voters,

while Mr. Clinton has become more aggressive in promoting 'family values' as a means of connecting with this group.

"If Mr. Dole does not carry the 'born-again' group by a substantial margin, then he can start making his retirement plans."

Barna's research also shed light on what he called "widespread misunderstanding" about the political perspectives of "born-again" adults.

For example, the latest poll showed "born-again" Americans are equally likely to be Democrats and Republicans, registering 42 percent each.

Most "born-again" Republicans describe themselves as politically conservative, and most "born-again" Democrats see themselves as politically moderate, the poll found.

For polling purposes, "born-again" referred to individuals who indicate they have "made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their life and who say they will go to heaven after they die because they have confessed their sins and have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior."

"Born-again" Christians comprise 38 percent of the adult population and 43 percent of registered voters.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **United Methodist** bishops have launched an initiative to involve the entire membership of the nation's second-largest Protestant denomination in the effort to end child poverty. As a first step, the bishops asked each of the church's more than 35,000 congregations to designate a Sunday in October as a "Children's Sabbath," when parishioners would reflect and act on the plight of poor children.

■ **Two organizations,** Muslim Women for America and the Council on American-Islamic Relations, announced plans to register Muslims to vote and get more Muslims to the voting booth. "We would like our communities to have 100 percent voter registration and, hopefully, 100 percent turnout," said Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

■ **Four men, including two former members of the Ku Klux Klan** were indicted Aug. 16 in connection with the burning of Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church in Greeleyville, S.C. Meanwhile, the American Bible Society has pledged to give new pew Bibles to churches struck by arson. Project coordinator Fred Allen said the society has a list of about 80 such churches.



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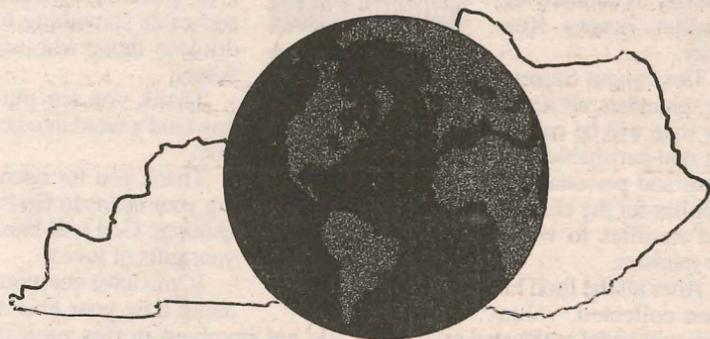
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Bowling Green native takes dental ministry to Dominica



OPEN WIDE David Graham treats a patient in the Mustard Seed Dental Clinic in Roseau, Dominica, as his dental assistant observes. Each patient at the clinic receives evangelistic material. (Photo by Betty Poor)

Continued from page 1

As patients leave, they are given printed instructions on the care of their treatment, from fillings to root canals. Each pamphlet also contains an evangelistic message.

Graham, who grew up in Bowling Green and was a member of Eastwood Baptist Church, followed his father's example in becoming a dentist. "Dad seemed to enjoy being a dentist so I thought I would, too," he said.

He attended Western Kentucky University and then the Louisville School of Dentistry. While in Louisville he met his wife, who was attending Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. They have two sons: Brian, 18, and Daniel, 14.

Graham first came to Dominica as a dental school student with a volunteer group from a church in Georgia, where his aunt was a member.

"I came for a good time and left with a call," he said.

The Grahams arrived on the island five years after Dominica obtained its independence.

Having already served as a volunteer, Graham came with definite ideas about what he wanted to do. He wanted to have dental clinics in all the island's population centers.

For a decade he did, in cooperation with the new nation's health ministry. Afterward, government officials told him they were taking over the clinics.

Meanwhile, he also had established

the clinic in Roseau.

Having recently returned from furlough, the Grahams have just gotten installed in their new quarters, the entire second floor above a drug store on Great George Street. Great George is the primary road leading to Roseau's downtown area, so everyone in town travels by the clinic.

Graham serves as de facto director of missions for the Dominica Baptist Union's five churches.

He holds meetings in the reception area during hours when the clinic is not in operation. He meets monthly with leaders for sharing and prayer. He publishes a monthly newsletter for the Union and aids individual churches with preparation of printed material.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is seeking an administrative assistant for the finance and administration department. High level of secretarial and administrative skills needed. Must be a high school graduate with at least 3 years secretarial experience. Send resumé to: 10801 Shelbyville Rd., Louisville, KY 40243, Attn. Human Resources. No phone calls please. EOE.

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SEEKING: Minister of music. Summit Missionary Baptist Church, 5839 Bybee Rd., Ashland, KY 41102, has an opening for a part-time minister of music. Call Dr. Oscar Rose at (606) 928-4953 or send a resumé.

WANTED: Part-time minister of youth and part-time minister of music. If interested in either position, send resumé to: Bellepoint Baptist Church, 622 Kentucky Ave., Frankfort, KY 40601 by Sept. 13.

SEEKING: Part-time music director. Salaried position. Send resumé to: Kento-Boo Baptist Church, 634 Kento-Boo Ave., Florence, KY 41042; Attn: Larry Simpson.

SEEKING: Oneida Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Wonderful opportunity for ministry to church family and OBI students. Seeking a special person to serve in a special place. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Oneida Baptist Church, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972.

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

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

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It's round-up time!

"I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink."

These words from the Gospel of Matthew are very familiar to us. They compel us to reach out with Christ's love to a world in need.

One out of every five children in Kentucky lives in poverty. I am very grateful that Kentucky Baptists put this passage of Scripture into action through their ministry to children and families across Kentucky.

Throughout September, churches all across our state will be collecting non-perishable food items and personal care supplies for the children and families to whom we minister.

After all the food has been collected, volunteers will travel in donated trucks to pick up the tons of food donated by Kentucky Baptists. Your gifts of food and personal supplies will make a tremendous difference in many lives.

One of the unique aspects of our food round-up this year is that we will have two father/son teams to pick up the food. Lou Kahne and his son, Vince, will cover the eastern half of the state while Donnie Jett and his son, Larry, will cover the western part of the state. We are

very grateful for their help in this special project.

We are also very grateful for your continued support of our food round-up. Your church's gifts of food and personal supplies will help us meet the daily needs of our children. This will allow us to put more money into programs and serve more children.

Thank you for reaching out with Christ's love to feed the hungry and offer something to drink to those who are thirsty.

Thank you for putting God's word into action.

Thank you for opening your hearts to God's children. God will bless your gifts of love.

If you have questions about how your church can get involved in this project, please call. We can send you a complete list of the items needed and a list of the pick-up points our trucks will be visiting!

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Brenda Gray

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/>

MISSIONS



FINANCIAL FORUM

Christian vs. secular financial planning

By Don Spencer

Most financial planning follows the same basic process: set goals, assess the current financial status, develop a budget and plan and, finally, implement the plan. How should a Christian's financial plan differ?

Probably the greatest difference relates to giving. A budget and financial plan designed by those in the secular field will generally include charitable contributions as one of many "flexible expense" items. A Christian's budget planning will list the tithe as the first "fixed" expense. A Christian's budget should reflect a belief that the tithe comes first, off the top. Other charitable gifts may be included as "flexible expenses."

The tithe may be the most obvious difference in a Christian's financial plan. In addition, there are attitude differences. Listed are five perspectives a Christian should have regarding money:

■ Our possessions are temporal (2 Peter 3:10-14 and Luke 12:15). Remember the old saying, "You can't take it with you." A Christian's use of money should reflect that attitude.

■ Our possessions are not a source for pride or conceit (1 Timothy 6:17). The world attaches power, prestige and happiness to money. The Christian knows this is incorrect, because of the third perspective.

■ God owns it all. We are stewards (Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 12:16-21). The Bible speaks about stewardship more than salvation. Over half of Jesus' recorded parables deal directly or indirectly with stewardship. We must take it seriously. A steward's attitude toward money is radically different from the attitude of an owner.

■ Concern for family financial support is scriptural (1 Timothy 5:8). Money is a medium of exchange in our world. We cannot ignore it. Jonathan Swift said: "Every man ought to have money on his mind. No man ought to have money on his heart."

■ Our stewardship is an outward visible indicator of an inner spiritual condition. Show me how a person handles money, and it tells me volumes about his or her spiritual life. Show me how a church handles its money, and it tells me volumes about that church's spiritual condition.

Don Spencer is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department.

Ministry includes prisoners & new moms

By Betty Poor
SBC Foreign Mission Board

ROSEAU, Dominica—If you look for Southern Baptist missionary Melody Graham on the Caribbean island of Dominica, you might find her in prison or at the hospital.

She has not committed a crime, nor is she sick.

Instead, she spends time every week teaching prisoners to read and preparing expectant mothers for childbirth.

Graham, a native of Huntsville, Ala., met her husband David, of Bowling Green, while she was studying social ministries at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and he was in the Louisville School of Dentistry.

Since 1982, through his dental ministries at the Mustard Seed Clinic and her prison and childbirth ministries, they have met needs at all levels of society—from destitute prisoners to

middle- and upper-class patients. They have been in Dominica long enough to see these ministries bear spiritual fruit.

"I'm not a real outgoing person, but I have surprised myself with the boldness of sharing the gospel in prison," Graham says. "This has helped me have more confidence in other ministries."

She teaches literacy to minimal security prisoners in the Stockfarm Prison, Dominica's only jail. She has a different group each day, three days a week.

She starts each class reading Scripture and comments from Billy Graham's leaflet "Steps to Peace with God," which presents the plan of salvation.

She tells the men they need to learn listening skills before they can learn to read, and they also need to hear the gospel.

Oliver was 35 and didn't know the

alphabet, but after literacy classes he checked out novels from the prison library and read a poem on national radio for his reading class "graduation." Additionally, he accepted Christ in a prison worship service and started attending church when he was released.

Romaine, a prisoner for 14 years, had the gift of teaching. He served as Graham's teaching assistant for two years.

He was not a Christian, but finally he told her, "I can't say 'no' anymore. I'm accepting the Lord."

Graham explains that often prisoners have committed only petty crimes. Normally they would only be sentenced to a fine, but they are sent to prison because they are too poor to pay the fine. Often, they turn to drugs and theft because of unemployment.

Learning to read improves their prospects for getting jobs when they finish their sentences, she added.

Graham also teaches such skills as filling out a job application or requesting a loan. One of her literacy graduates is now a security guard.

The Grahams have raised two sons in Dominica—Brian, now in college, and Daniel, born right after they finished missionary orientation in 1982. Raising a newborn in Dominica has helped Graham relate to pregnant island women awaiting their first baby.

"Everybody is an expert about newborns," she said. "I remember a woman stopping me when I was in the market with Daniel and telling me to support his back better."

Graham encourages the women in the childbirth preparation class to discuss the "old wives' tales" they hear.

"Someone told an expectant mother eating okra would help her deliver," she said.

Another was told scratching her body would produce birth marks on her baby.

Graham teaches pregnant women the Lamaze method of childbirth. She encourages husbands to witness the birth of their babies and to coach their wives on breathing.

She also reviews what mothers can expect at the hospital, breast feeding and care and dressing of newborns.

If the husbands cannot or will not assist their wives, Graham goes to the hospital and serves as their labor coach.

She begins each session of the five-week birth preparation class, held during the final trimester of pregnancy, with a devotional from a Christian poem book, "A Miracle of Love—The Gift of Life."

She follows up with each woman, visiting in her home after her baby is born.

From ex-convicts to first-time mothers, Graham gives Roseau citizens attention in their time of need.

The Grahams' prayer requests:

■ Mrs. Graham's prison ministry.

■ Their son Brian, who is starting his sophomore year at Campellsville University.

■ Their son Daniel, who starts the 9th grade this week in Dominica.

■ Mr. Graham's work with the dental clinic and his efforts to help churches organize for outreach.

■ Deliverance Baptist Church and Boetica Baptist Church, which need pastors.

■ Four Baptist churches that need to build new facilities.

Revival

Sept. 9-13 • 7 p.m. every night
Mt. Elmira Baptist Church
3644 Mt. Elmira Rd., Brooks Ky.

Guest speaker: Danny Castle from North Carolina
His youth group will be joining him Wednesday-Friday

Let's get on fire for God!

The 'Cross and Crown'

By Robert Dunston

The "Cross and Crown" is one of our favorite symbols for Cumberland College. Although simple in design, it beautifully and powerfully conveys the foundation goal of Cumberland College.

No symbol captures the depth of God's love for us like the cross.

On the cross Jesus Christ died so we might have life more abundantly. Through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, our sins can be forgiven, our lives can begin anew.

At Cumberland College we live, teach and learn knowing that in Christ our lives can be and need to be different.

The love that flowed through Christ needs to flow through us as his children.

While the crown typically conjures visions of power and prestige, at Cumberland we view the crown in the context of Christ's life.

As Paul wrote, Jesus left the glory of heaven to become a humble servant (Philippians 2:6-8). Jesus cared for the sick, visited the friendless and loved the unlovely. The only crown he wore during his earthly ministry was a crown of thorns (John 19:2,5).

We can do no less than follow

our Lord's example. Thus service to our community and world in Christ's name is a vital part of our college life.

Surrounding the cross and crown in our symbol is the letter "C" representing Cumberland. As the "C" has its center in the cross and crown, so Cumberland has its center in the love, self-sacrifice and

service demonstrated by Christ during his earthly ministry.

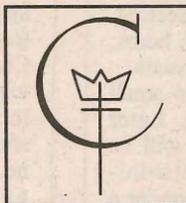
We live out our faith keenly aware that our world needs the love and message of Christ. We also are aware that to spread the gospel, we must be prepared physically, mentally and spiritually.

Students are a sacred trust. We teachers do not take them for granted. We seek to guide and nurture lives as we help our students learn the ways of God.

Our students are our present and our future and much is at stake. We pray that we and our sister Kentucky Baptist institutions of higher education can meet the challenge and make a difference now and later for Christ in our world.

Robert Dunston is chairman of the religion department at Cumberland College, 6000 College Station Dr., Williamsburg, Ky. 40769

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



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- That someday Russian churches now meeting in homes will have church buildings in which to meet.
- \$6,000 needed immediately for the Yelets Baptist Church near Moscow to pay workers from the Ukraine who have worked on the church's building.
- Jack and Ava Shelby, career missionaries in the Commonwealth of Independent States and Russia.
- The upcoming annual meeting of the Greater Boston Baptist Association.
- Resources needed for the ministry of Boston-area Baptist campus ministers.
- Volunteers needed to work with the large numbers of international students attending Boston-area schools.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

- **BRONSTON**—First Church will celebrate its homecoming and dedication of a new picnic shelter Sept. 15. **John Zupancic** is pastor.
- **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Green River Memorial Church will honor Pastor **Don Gowin** and his wife, **Sharon**, for 20 years of ministry Sept. 8 at 10 a.m.
- **DEMOSSVILLE**—Wilmington Church will celebrate its 192nd anniversary with a homecoming revival and weekend of activities Sept. 6-8. Call Pastor **John Justice** for details, (606) 356-5695.

- **FRANKLIN**—**Jeff Crabtree** resigned as minister of youth/children at First Church, effective Sept. 8, to become minister of youth and education at First Church in Portland, Tenn.
- **GREENSBURG**—Trammell Creek Church called **Bill Small** as pastor.

New Salem Church celebrated its homecoming Aug. 19. Former Pastor **Landon Hadley** was guest speaker.

Russell Heights Church celebrated its homecoming Aug. 25. Director of Missions **Wilburn Bonta** was guest speaker.

Four couples with Kentucky ties appointed foreign missionaries

Four couples with ties to Kentucky were appointed in August by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to be foreign missionaries.

Danny and Mary Crawley were appointed to the west African country of Ghana.

Crawley, a physician, will work on the staff of a rural hospital and they both will be involved in outreach ministries.

He is the son of Dan and Elveree Crawley of Frankfort. Dan Crawley is a retired minister.

Only 24 percent of the popu-



Crawleys

lation of Ghana is Christian. Baptists have a goal of having 2,000 churches there by the year 2000.

Crawley is a native of Frankfort and a graduate of Georgetown College and the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. He and his wife have been members of Crestwood Baptist Church.

Carrollton pastor **Dave Warren** and his wife, **Terry**, were appointed to the Dominican Republic where they will start and develop churches and be involved in outreach min-



Warrens

- **HAWESVILLE**—**Eugene O'Bryan** resigned as pastor of New Life Church.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Concord Church called **Joe Kitchens** as pastor. He will begin his new ministry Sept. 15. The church is celebrating its 154th anniversary Sept. 8.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Gethsemane Church will present Christian music performer **Jerry Goff** in concert Sept. 15 at 10:55 a.m. Known as "Mr. Gospel Trumpet," Goff has performed for almost 30 years.

Carlisle Avenue Church honored 60-year members, **Mr. and Mrs. O.M. Campbell** on their 73rd wedding anniversary Aug. 31.

South Jefferson Church will celebrate its 74th anniversary Sept. 8. **D.E.**

Jones will be guest speaker. The music will be led by **Brian Voelker**. The event will include a potluck dinner and gospel singing quartet "Saints Alive." Everyone is invited.

Lyndon Church called **Kelly Graybeal** as part-time minister to children. He is a student at Southern Seminary. Graybeal will begin his new ministry Aug. 26.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Lewis Lane Church called **Tom Collier** as interim youth director.

■ **SALEM**—**John East** recently celebrated his 13th year as director of missions for Ohio River Association.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—First Church called **Chad Caddell** as minister to youth. He began his new ministry Sept. 1.

istries.

Dominican missionaries and Baptists started 21 new churches last year.

Warren is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Louisville native **Lauretta King** and her husband, **Alton**, were appointed missionaries to Brazil.

The Kings will be involved in outreach ministries in addition to Alton King's assignment to teach at South Brazil Baptist Theological



Kings

Seminary in Rio de Janeiro.

Mrs. King is the daughter of missionaries to Brazil, **Mary Halsell** of Louisville and the late **Tommy Halsell**. Mrs. King attended Georgetown College and received a master of arts degree in Christian education from Southern Seminary.

Also, Pastor **Earl Quick** and his wife, **Patti**, were appointed to Uruguay, where he will start and develop churches.

Quick, a graduate of Cumberland College, is a former summer missionary to Kentucky.



Quicks

Maybe, our most unusual gift ever

No trip to Oneida would be complete without a story or two about things God has provided for us through our many friends. There is rarely a day that we do not get a truckload or two of donated items. As I have shared before, we may have to use a little imagination to find a use for some gifts, but there are still many hidden treasures.

I could completely fill this article with a list of items given to us in recent months. Not long ago we were given a wide-screen television, a pick-up truck, piano, organ, four-wheel-drive emergency vehicle, desks and so on. However, we recently received what may be the most unusual gift ever.

A.B. Colvin, longtime friend and supporter of Oneida, has had a problem with too many squirrels in his back yard. I knew from time to time he would catch them, take them to a local park and turn them loose. In a recent discussion with him, I suggested that we would love to have some squirrels on our campus. His reply was, "I can give you all you want."

Now squirrels may not seem like a very big deal to most people, but I did have an ulterior motive. This year, two of our science teachers, **Steve and Sophie Crumpler**, along with some volunteers, spent most of their summer building four outdoor classrooms. They built three dozen benches, did some landscaping, and what had been a year-long dream became a reality.

Two of the outdoor classrooms are located on our farm. They will provide many students with an opportunity to study different kinds of plants and animals. For many of our students who come from the city, it will be their first exposure to such a wonderful experience.

A third classroom is located on top of one of our mountains. We cleared the mountain several

years ago, and plan someday to pasture cattle on this land. This area called the "sheep flats" is part of 110 acres given to Oneida in 1990 by several brothers and sisters who were raised on this property. Up in the tree line an observation room was built so our students could look out over the mountain top and observe the various plants and animals. To get to the observation room, you have to walk up a little water branch so you will not be seen. After about a one-fourth-mile walk you can come in behind the room and enter from the rear.

It is a beautiful sight!

The fourth outdoor classroom is right here on a beautiful corner of our campus. There are three terraces in this area, with stately stone walls separating each section. On the lower section, a garden has been planted with herbs, wildflowers, annuals and perennials.

One the second terrace, two small fountains contain some fish. Later some cattails and water lilies will be added. Finally, on the third level a dozen benches have been placed under a huge spruce tree. What a splendid opportunity for our students to watch

bugs, birds and bees. Most of these kids have heard about the birds and the bees. Now they can watch God's handiwork.

No, I have not forgotten about the squirrels. So far, 10 squirrels have been relocated to Oneida. You see, I asked for the squirrels in order to add a new dimension to our campus. To my knowledge we have never had squirrels on our campus before. We are hoping they will stay here and produce some baby squirrels in the spring. I do not think you ever get too old or are ever too young to enjoy squirrels.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Ministry preparation in Boston

"Do you know what I don't like about you?" 6-year-old **Willie** asked **Arlis "Junior" Seward**.

Junior wondered what Willie didn't like and asked him. "You laugh too much." It was a defining moment for our student body president.

"God had convicted me that I had so much to laugh about and to enjoy in life. Children like Willie have so little." Willie's mother is a heroin addict; his father an alcoholic.

Junior and wife, **Debbie**, went with six others from Southside Baptist Church in Middlesboro to participate in the Kentucky/Boston partnership. Pastor **Ken Carvalho**, a 1978 alumnus, returned to his home state of Massachusetts.

The Swards said the experience produced some culture shock. "Our group was primarily Haitian, with two from India and one Chinese child. It was exciting to be there and to know God had made it possible."

Limited finances almost kept them at home, but church members helped pay their way. "The Lord bent us as far as possible without breaking. We worked with children who had no idea about Jesus. One little girl said her HIV-positive mother had to wear a bag over her

mouth, and when she got tired, tried to jump out the window. We realize much patience is needed to share the word, show his love and wait for the results."

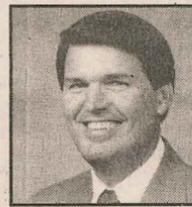
The Swards are natives of Lincoln County. Junior, who converted at age 13, was a machine operator for a radial tire company. In 1991, en route to Danville, he began to weep under conviction. "I went

back and called my pastor to talk about the Lord's dealing with me." Clear Creek alumnus and Director of Missions **Stan Stevenson** encouraged him to consider Clear Creek and brought him for a visit. After commuting the first semester, the family moved to the campus. "We both soon obtained jobs; everything fell into place."

Debbie is accounts receivable clerk in the business office; Junior supervises many of the student custodial workers. During recent months, he has stayed busy as a supply preacher. The family looks forward to where the Lord will send them after May graduation. The mission trip to Boston was another part of their ministry preparation.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

New Christian keeps God's law by writing it in marble

PORTLAND, Ore. (RNS)—Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments carved in stone.

Steve Williams stepped down from his Safeway semi-truck with the same religious edicts etched in two types of marble and slate.

Tradition holds that Moses received the commandments directly from God. Williams' inspiration came more circuitously.

Six months ago, the Portland, Ore., trucker hopped into his semi and found the radio tuned to Christian programming. He listened all night.

At the end, a minister asked the listeners to say a prayer and accept Jesus as their Savior.

"Before I knew what I was doing, I found myself saying the acceptance prayer," Williams, 44, said.

"It shocked me, but I felt something good from the top of my head to the tips of my toes. I felt God inside me, outside me, all around my whole being. From that time, I've been on cloud nine."

That night, Wendy Williams knew there was something different about the man she's known since fifth grade.

"When he came home that night, it was almost like I didn't know him. The crude language has stopped and he has nice things to say now. At first I doubted what he said had happened—yeh, right!—but he hasn't changed back. So I have to believe he believes God has driven him to do this."

Steve Williams started watching religious TV shows and noticed a lot of people had found God, but then let the experience slip away.

What could he do to prevent it from

happening to him? he wondered. When he opened his Bible for the first time in years, a passage from John 15:15 jumped out at him: "If you love me, keep my commandments."

That was it. He would carve the Ten Commandments, literally etching his vow in stone.

"I feel in my heart that this is so godly and so good. I just want to be worthy and get God's word out," he said.

"I don't know what it is, but every time I make one, I get this warm feeling—a tingling sensation through my body—like someone's inside me."

Working as much as 30 hours a week and burning up the couple's savings, Williams etches the Decalogue on inch-thick, 12-by-15-inch slabs of rough slate and smooth marble.

As an adult, Steve Williams found

time to coach baseball but not to go to church.

That's why his younger sister, Kim Kasch, once included her brother's name among the folks to be prayed for by her Sunday school class at Hinson Memorial Baptist Church in Southeast Portland. Kasch—and fellow church members—are now praying that Steve Williams' tablets will be an inspiration to others.

Inspiration or curiosity, Williams has been featured on television, has appointments with art galleries and can't keep up with the orders that are coming his way.

He says: "With all the turmoil this country's in, if people came back to God's commandments, do you know how much better everybody would be if they lived by these? I so badly want to do a good job for God."

Williams noticed a lot of people had found God, but then let the experience slip away. What could he do to prevent it from happening to him?

Man answers Hong Kong calling as residents want out

By Martha Skelton
SBC Foreign Mission Board

HONG KONG (BP)—Why would an IBM executive working in Silicon Valley retire early and accept a new job in a place many people are leaving?

Ask Anselm Siao, new executive director of Baptist Press in Hong Kong, which publishes Christian literature for Chinese around the world.

Born in Hong Kong, Siao knows many people wonder about his choice. Hong Kong is scheduled to become part of mainland China—under communist rule—in 1997. Siao said his assurance of God's leadership settles the question for him.

Siao made his living designing and developing software for IBM until he retired in 1994. As a member of South Bay Chinese Baptist Church in San Jose, Calif., he took mission trips and worked as a volunteer for a Chinese Christian literature ministry.

He was convinced of the strategic importance of such an effort. "We need the (gospel) message in written form so that it can be studied, so it can be integrated into the culture," he said. "Publishing (Christian) books is a long-range thing that contributes to the total growth and maturity of the Chinese church and the Chinese Chris-

tians."

Doing such a ministry at this pivotal time in Hong Kong's history appeals to Siao.

"Hong Kong will be a special administrative region of China, so in a lot of ways the distinction that now exists will no longer be there. Looking at it positively, we can do a lot more things after 1997," he said.

"We want to continue the ministry; we want to do bigger and better things."

Siao foresees a 21st-century Christian literature effort that crosses all borders.

Wherever Chinese-speaking people live—in China, the Pacific Rim or around the world—Siao sees ministry opportunities. "Numbers alone will blow your mind, there are such vast opportunities," he explained. He anticipates taking the Christian message to the Chinese through multimedia efforts.

"Everywhere you look, there are Chinese people, and God is using them as a bridge," he said. He compares today's situation to the Apostle Paul's mission strategy: Paul first sought out the Jewish synagogue and then used the Jews as a stepping stone to preach the gospel to the non-Jewish people.

Since Siao and his wife moved to



Hong Kong, they have faced many adjustments. An adult daughter and her family stayed in America.

There also are certain to be many challenges in developing the ministry in Hong Kong. He already knows the possible schisms between those in

Hong Kong who have no choice but to stay and others, like him and his family, who have a passport that would permit them to leave.

"The decision to come back is a big one because of the readjustment, re-entry into a culture that you have left."

NEW JOB Anselm Siao, left, and Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board worker Gwen Crofts look over a table of materials produced for use by Chinese-speaking Christians around the world. Siao took early retirement to go to Hong Kong as the country is about to return to rule by mainland China. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

African-American pastor recalls impact of church bombing

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP)—The pastor who gained national attention in 1963 by the racially motivated bombing of his church, received the first Black Southern Baptist Heritage Award.

John Cross, then 36, was pastor of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., when the bomb exploded Sunday morning, Sept. 16, in the church basement. Four girls, ranging in age from 12 to 14, were killed in the blast.

In the days, weeks and months following the bombing, Cross prayed and studied the Bible as never before, seeking to prepare sermons to bring healing to his wounded congregation.

"It wasn't easy to keep the people from losing faith in God or desiring to take up arms," he said. "I think our

membership realized the world contained people of different persuasions and different mind-sets and different levels of love and hatred, and the bombing did not make them condemn every Caucasian."

In his sermons, Cross told church members "suffering will come to everyone." He assured them "that God, through Christ, gives us the strength to endure the suffering."

He learned spiritually and experientially what he already knew intellectually: "grief lasts longer than from the funeral to the cemetery."

Cross calls that bombing the "spoke on the wheel of the Civil Rights movement in this country." It escalated the pace of change toward greater inclusiveness and ignited concerns of many in the white communi-

ty, he recalled.

Cross stayed at Sixteenth Street Church until 1968. He said he moved to Montgomery, Ala., to work with Southern Baptists, "to influence change from the inside out." He served as director of a Baptist fellowship center, campus minister at Alabama State College and director of an extension center at Selma University.

In 1971, he moved to Atlanta to be associate pastor of Oakhurst Baptist Church. Later, he joined the staff of Atlanta Baptist Association. He retired in 1989.

Cross said he has seen progress among Southern Baptists in racial reconciliation, "but not as much as I'd like to."

The challenge now is "to put words into deeds." Leadership must come

from pastors of local churches, he said.

"Southern Baptist pastors are not as involved in trying to bring about change in the local setting," Cross said.

In the months after the 1963 bombing, Cross stopped giving interviews, convinced he had nothing else to tell. Today, he feels a stewardship of the experience and welcomes opportunities to share his reflections.

"We forget so easily," he said. "It takes certain things to bring us back to reality."

Cross cited the rash of fires, many ruled as arson, that damaged or destroyed African-American churches in the last 18 months. "It has made us realize we're not free yet. There are still bridges to cross and walls to be torn down."

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