

WESTERN RECORDER

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

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FOR THE RECORD

**Vestal's plan**  
After being elected coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Daniel Vestal defined his goals for the organization. *Page 2.*

**What is 'Cooperating?'**  
Florida's state Baptist convention is considering what it means to be a "cooperating" church. *Page 2.*

**Cooperative Program**  
Kentucky Baptists gave a record amount, but it was shy of the state convention's budget. *Page 3.*

**Editorial**  
A 6-year-old's kiss highlights the loss of innocence for today's youth. *Page 5.*

**Lessons for leaders**  
A church consultant shares his top 10 list of mistakes churches make. *Page 6.*

**Abortion bill**  
The senate failed to override President Clinton's veto of a bill that would have banned a controversial late-term abortion procedure. *Page 7.*

**Volunteers praised**  
North Carolina Baptists thank Kentucky relief workers after Hurricane Fran. *Page 12.*

**Money**  
A Louisiana financial counselor has seen debts related to gambling skyrocket in that state. *Page 13.*

Films targeting whole family most profitable

By Mark Wingfield  
Editor

HOLLYWOOD—Demi Moore stripped for a major motion picture this summer, but Americans apparently considered the movie more of a tease than a turn-on.

"Striptease" joined a pack of R-rated films that lost their shirts at the box office this summer. The movie cost \$40 million to make and is projected to take in only \$35 million in ticket sales, according to an analysis in Entertainment Weekly magazine.

Other big-budget flops this summer included "Escape from L.A.," "Chain Reaction," "The Fan," "Multiplicity" and "The Phantom." Each cost millions more to make than it will collect in box-office receipts.

Summer box-office statistics continue a trend identified throughout last year by Ted Baehr, who analyzes the entertainment industry from a conservative Christian perspective.

In 1995, movies targeting broad audiences propelled box-office income, but R-rated movies dragged down the total gross, Baehr said in his annual "Report to the Entertainment Industry."

Last year's big budget R-rated flops included "Jade," "Strange Days" and "The Scarlet Letter."

Baehr heads an organization called the Christian Film and Television Commission, with offices in North Hollywood, Calif., and Norcross, Ga. The organization publishes reviews of most major motion pictures, rating them on areas such as values, violence and wholesomeness.

Baehr continues to press a point made loudly in recent years by film critic Michael Medved: G-rated movies make more money for Hollywood than R-rated movies, but Hollywood makes many more R-rated movies than G-rated movies.

In 1995, the average gross receipts of G-rated movies were 250 percent more than those of R-rated movies, Baehr said.

In its Aug. 18 issue, Entertainment Weekly, a mainstream entertainment magazine, reported a mixed lesson on family values from this summer's movies.

What prospered: "Movies that played to the whole family," reported the story's author, Gregg Kilday. This summer's top-grossing movies were mainly PG and PG-13 films directed to the family audience, he said. They included "Independence Day," "Twister," "Mission: Impossible" and "The Nutty Professor."

Both strictly adult fare such as "Striptease" and purely kiddie

See Entertainment ..., page 10

Lexington church offering English classes

By Ken Walker  
State Correspondent

LEXINGTON—With nearly 9,000 immigrants either living in Fayette County or attending the University of Kentucky, international residents have become a new mission field in Lexington.

That field is one Kay Aldridge is excited about reaching. She coordinates the English-as-a-second-language program at Porter Memorial Baptist Church.

"When I was 8 years old, I told my

mother I was going to be a missionary and go to China," said Aldridge, who is nearing her 80th birthday. "I didn't get to go, but China came to me."

A class for Chinese immigrants is the latest offering at Porter Memorial, which began holding classes in February 1994.

Aldridge had taken a class for teaching English language skills, but she didn't put it to use until after a man delivered Chinese food to her home.

She and her husband, D.M. Aldridge, former president of Clear Creek

Baptist Bible College, gave the delivery man a gospel tract "and a generous tip," she said, chuckling. A few days later, the man wrote to say he wanted to become a Christian.

A Chinese church member accompanied Aldridge on her visit to the man, who with his wife started attending Porter Memorial.

That spurred the church to set up English language classes.

Initially, the church publicized them by distributing brochures through the university's international

See Church using ..., page 3



UPROOTED Kentucky volunteers walk by a tree blown down by Hurricane Fran in Jacksonville, N.C. Bluegrass workers have finished their work, but not before making a good impression, say North Carolina Baptist leaders. See story on Page 12. (Photo by Mitch Bradshaw)

Counselor touts youth ministries during divorce

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Teenagers dealing with the pain of their parents' divorce need support at church, a licensed professional counselor said.

Of the more than 50,000 divorce recovery support groups in the United States, most are offered by schools, hospitals and community agencies, Sandi Black told participants in Discipleship and Family Development Week at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

Black, a staff member with Texas Christian Counseling Centers in Fort Worth, Texas, said "church is a place where families need to heal."

Southern Baptists appear to be leading this effort, she added.

"I can remember when churches wouldn't even talk about (divorce), as though it were not in their church. It was somewhere else," she said.

Youth ministry also has changed, she noted. "Youth ministers used to be the people who took youth on trips and kept them too busy to sin."

But the proliferation of single-parent homes and joint custody arrangements requires youth ministers to relate to and work with both youth and parents, she said.

A child whose parents are divorcing will experience the typical feelings associated with grief and loss, beginning with shock and numbness, Black said.

Anger, resentment, hostility and rage emerge as numbness wears off and reality is faced, she said. Teens often assume they are to blame for the divorce.

The next emotional step is one of bargaining, believing "this can be worked out," she said.

Depression follows when teens realize the situation cannot be changed. With time, the final stage of recovery—hope—allows teens to begin to live life again, she said.

"We have a whole generation of parents who didn't learn parenting from their parents," Black said. Youth ministers face the challenge of help-

ing divorced parents see how some teenage behavior problems may be the result of the parents' marital problems or broken marriage, even years after a divorce.

Teens face a variety of issues when parents divorce, she added. Among them:

- Considering whether to side with one parent over another.
- Choosing who to live with.
- Facing possible separation from siblings.
- Visiting the absent parent.
- Claiming personal blame for the divorce.
- Moving.
- Facing an uncertain financial future.
- Changing schools.
- Encountering the dating and re-marriage of a parent.
- Navigating difficult holiday arrangements.
- Enduring friends' perceptions.
- Taking on increased family responsibilities.

Moving? See page 4 (1001)

## BAPTIST BITS

■ **CLC names employees.** Trustees of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission have approved hiring three new employees: Jeff Carter, minister to married adults at Second Baptist Church of Houston, as director of citizenship concerns and legal counsel; Barrett Duke Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of Highlands Ranch in Littleton, Colo., as director of church relations; and Steve Nelson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lafayette, Tenn., as director of hunger concerns.

■ **More Baptists at Liberty.** Three more prominent Southern Baptists are being added to the trustee board at Jerry Falwell's Liberty University. The three are: Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., and past president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference; Gene Mims, vice president for the church growth group of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board; and Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark., and current chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Previously, eight of the 32 trustees guiding the independent Baptist university were Southern Baptists.

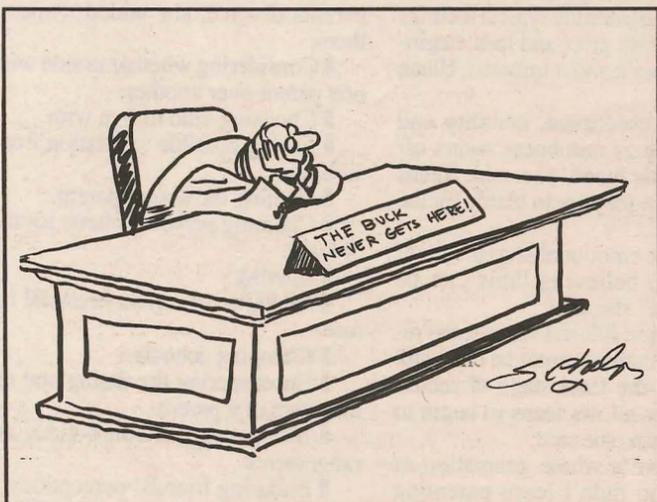
■ **DeFoor named to Fellowship post.** Bob DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church, has been named to fill the unexpired term of Greg Brooks for Kentucky representation on the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Coordinating Council. Brooks, former pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort, has moved out of state. Kentucky's two other representatives on the Fellowship council are John Barnett of Bagdad and Suzy Thurman of Lexington.

■ **SBC registration analyzed.** Kentucky was among the top 10 states in number of messengers registered at this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans in June, according to Registration Secretary Lee Porter. Kentucky ranked 10th, with 613 registered messengers. Georgia churches sent the most messengers, 1,274.

■ **Carter & Moyers honored.** Former President Jimmy Carter and journalist Bill Moyers have been named 1996 recipients of the Baptist Joint Committee's J.M. Dawson Religious Liberty Award. Carter will receive his award during the agency's 60th anniversary celebration Oct. 6-8. Moyers will receive his award at a later date.

■ **Williams staying at Brotherhood.** James Williams said Sept. 19 he intends to remain as president of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission until the agency closes June 19, 1997. Williams said he would consider taking an administrative position with the new North American Mission Board, which is being formed in a merger of the Brotherhood Commission and two other entities, but has no definite plans.

■ **Draper honored.** Trustees of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board honored Jimmy Draper Sept. 23 for his fifth year as president of the publishing agency. During their fall meeting, trustees also launched a new campaign to raise at least \$20 million for upgrades and expansion at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist conference centers. Draper and his wife, Carol Ann, announced the first pledge to the campaign. They will give \$25,000 over a four-year period.



## Vestal elected Fellowship coordinator

By Greg Warner  
Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—In his first remarks as coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Daniel Vestal sounded the familiar Fellowship themes of freedom, inclusion and missions but also called for an increased focus on evangelism, discipleship and church starting.

Vestal, the son of a Southern Baptist evangelist, was elected to the post unanimously and without debate by the group's Coordinating Council Sept. 26.

He is scheduled to begin the new job Dec. 1. He succeeds Cecil Sherman, the Fellowship's first executive officer, who retired in June.

Vestal, 51, said he wants to be a "spiritual leader" within the 5-year-old Fellowship. He said he did not "seek this mantle" of leadership but he has "a deep conviction God has called me to this place and this task."

"I love this Fellowship and the principles it believes in," he said.

Vestal, pastor of Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston since 1991, was a key figure in events leading to establishment of the fellowship of moderate Baptists after conservatives took over control of the Southern Baptist Convention during the 1980s.

He ran twice as the moderate candidate for SBC president, losing in close contests in 1989 and 1990. After the second defeat, when moderates abandoned hopes of a political victory in the SBC battle, Vestal called moderates together to consider their future.

The result was the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which was proposed in August 1990 and chartered

in 1991.

Speaking to the council after his election last week, Vestal described his personal spiritual commitment and his convictions about being a Baptist.

"That is more than just a word to me," he said. "I believe in the principles that word conveys."

Among those principles, he said, are liberty of conscience, separation of church and state and priesthood of the believer—all of which have been rallying cries of the moderate movement.

He also affirmed the term "free and faithful Baptists," which has become the label of choice for Fellowship people.

"I like to use that phrase," he said. "We are free, first of all, from the condemnation of sin through Jesus Christ. We are free from the burden of performance-based religion. Our consciences are free from any civil or ecclesiastical authority."

"I have been made free in order to be faithful to Jesus Christ," he continued. "I am free to be a bond-slave of Jesus Christ."

Vestal identified five commitments he said spell out his vision for the Fellowship:

■ The Fellowship is "a way for us to do cooperative missions with integrity, with vision and with freedom," he said. He later defined cooperative missions in broad terms, including not only global missions but discipleship, evangelism and starting churches.

■ The Fellowship will be "a voice for Baptist principles and Baptist ideas," he said.

■ The Fellowship will be "a resource center" for spiritual renewal, moral decision-making and "faith

formation," he added.

■ The Fellowship, he said, will be a place of "genuine fellowship" bridging the gaps of "gender, geography and generation." Those three factors are often cited as the fault lines within the Fellowship—and Vestal's greatest challenge.

"I don't see our diversities as weaknesses; I see them as strengths," he said.

■ The Fellowship will be "a laboratory of learning," he concluded. "This Fellowship is still learning what it is and what it will become. We are still in the process. We are still being shaped by the Spirit of God."

During a question-and-answer session with council members, Molly Marshall, a professor at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., asked what initiatives Vestal will take to promote women in ministry, including the pastorate.

Vestal, who is more conservative than many in the Fellowship, said on the issue of women in ministry "I have grown in my journey." He said he is committed to women ministers but approaches the issue in the context of missions.

"In order to do missions, it's going to require the gifting and calling of all of us," he said.

"This organization is not going to back down from its commitment to women in leadership, women in ministry and women in the pastorate, if that's what a church feels led to do."

Vestal outlined four "priorities" that will be a starting point for his administration—team-building, global missions, theological education and growth.

## Florida defining 'cooperating' church

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—The Florida Baptist Convention is breaking new ground by attempting to define what constitutes a "cooperating" church.

A proposal committee has drafted a document, which currently is under review by the state board of missions and could be presented to messengers at the state convention's annual meeting in November.

"We no longer can afford the luxury of assuming we all understand what is meant by a 'cooperating Southern Baptist church,'" said John Sullivan, executive director-treasurer of the Florida Baptist Convention. "I have no heart for doctrinal conformity but I do have a heart for doctrinal integrity. If we are going to be the Florida Baptist state convention, then we ought to be able to define who we are. To my knowledge this has never been tried before."

"I'm not asking for theological uniformity or conformity of every church in Florida," Sullivan said, "but we are seeking doctrinal integrity."

The committee's proposal calls for defining cooperation around four points:

■ **Theology.** Churches affiliated

with the Florida Baptist Convention must espouse a theology determined to be consistent with the Baptist Faith and Message, the doctrinal statement of the Southern Baptist Convention.

■ **Declaration.** The congregation must vote on the question of whether to affiliate with the convention, and that vote must pass by a simple majority and be recorded in writing.

■ **Finances.** The church must make annual contributions to the Cooperative Program unified budget through the state convention.

■ **Statistics.** The church must provide the state convention with an annual statistical profile.

Churches currently affiliated with the Florida Baptist Convention will not have to reapply for affiliation, Sullivan said. But churches seeking to affiliate with the convention in the future will have to meet the new guidelines.

Also, the guidelines could be used to determine whether a church currently affiliated with the state convention should be ousted or not. Had the document been in place earlier this year, the state convention could have used it during a controversy over three churches which are likely to be expelled because their

theology is deemed inconsistent with the Baptist Faith and Message. Those churches have been accused of advocating "charismatic" practices.

A denominational polity and practice committee, proposed as a newly created standing committee of the state board of missions, would govern all procedures to determine cooperation.

The new document also outlines requirements for associations to be affiliated with the state convention. A new association must have at least 15 constituted churches with a combined church membership of at least 14,000 members. The association also must meet a test for "theological integrity" and must enter into a cooperative agreement with the state convention.

Sullivan predicted the Florida document could become a model for other state Baptist conventions. "It will become a watershed document for state conventions that do not have this kind of document in place, and I can safely say none of them have it in place. We are seeking to define some things that have not been defined before."

Based on a Baptist Press report

## Kentucky record CP just short of making budget

By Mark Wingfield  
Editor

The Kentucky Baptist Convention ended its 1995-96 fiscal year Aug. 31 with receipts falling just shy of the \$12.23 million budget goal.

The KBC's portion of Cooperative Program receipts and the undesignated money churches sent for the state convention's use totalled \$12.05 million. That is 1.4 percent (\$168,957) short of the budget goal.

However, the KBC's combined receipts for the fiscal year registered a 4.9 percent increase (\$572,528) compared to receipts in the previous fiscal year.

Gifts to the Kentucky Cooperative Program for the year totalled \$18.59 million. These funds are divided, with 63 percent (\$11.71 million) used for Kentucky ministries and 37 percent (\$6.88 million) forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention. Cooperative Program gifts from Kentucky churches increased 4.1 percent (\$735,579) this year compared to the previous year, but still fell 0.8 percent (\$157,440) short of the budgeted goal.

Other general budget gifts to the KBC, which are given by churches that do not want their gifts split with the SBC, totalled \$340,230. That is 1.7 percent (\$5,861) less than the same type of contributions the previous year and 17 percent below what the KBC anticipated receiving.

The \$18.59 million in Cooperative Program receipts marks the KBC's

best-ever year in Cooperative Program giving. The previous high was \$17.95 million in 1993-94.

"The great news of a 4.1 percent increase in Cooperative Program receipts from Kentucky Baptist churches reflects, I believe, a continued commitment to missions, the rallying point which brought us together in 1837 (KBC) and 1845 (SBC)," said Bill Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer.

"While the increase was not large enough to reach the KBC budget, it was strong enough, coupled with the Executive Board's decision last year to hold the new budget at the same level, to give us hope of achieving budget this year," he added. "That is something we have achieved only three times in more than 10 years."

The strong showing this year also provides the basis for asking the convention at this year's annual meeting to approve a 2.5 percent increase for the 1997-98 budget year, Marshall said.

Lowell Ashby, the KBC's business division manager, echoed Marshall's praise for the good year.

The small shortfall between actual receipts and the budget should have a "minimal effect" when spread among all budget allocations, Ashby explained.

On the Executive Board's part, expenditures were held sufficiently below income to maintain a balanced budget, he added.

In addition to funding the Execu-

tive Board's mission work in Kentucky, the KBC budget also provides various levels of funding for Cumberland College, Campbellsville University, Georgetown College, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute, Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission, Kentucky Baptist Woman's Missionary Union and Baptist Healthcare System.

While calling the 1995-96 fiscal year's results a reason for thanksgiving, Marshall cautioned that it is premature to read into this any long-term trends.

"After 14 years of experiencing the ebb and flow of Cooperative Program receipts, I have learned not to make projections on the basis of a few months' track record," he said. "The recent back-to-back July and August receipts have been followed by the weakest September receipts since 1990-91. Since the new budget year began Sept. 1, it means we will be playing catch-up all year long."

The average annual increase in Kentucky Cooperative Program giving during the last six years has been 1.4 percent, growth that has been below annual increases in the Consumer Price Index.

"The bottom line is that the KBC, while increasing in Cooperative Program receipts from the churches, is facing what many others with similar growth patterns face: a significant decrease in percentage growth and buy-

ing power."

Because growth in receipts lagged behind inflation in recent years, the KBC Executive Board has cut seven staff positions and allocations to Christian education. Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children has received no increase in KBC funding in 10 years. Also, the KBC Executive Board staff has received virtually no new program funds in nine years.

Within the last year, a study committee proposed, and the KBC Executive Board approved, a recommendation to change the percentage split between Cooperative Program funds kept in Kentucky and those forwarded to the SBC. The proposal, which will be considered by messengers to the KBC annual meeting in November, would forward 35 percent of Kentucky Cooperative Program receipts to the SBC instead of 37 percent. It also would base future SBC percentages on the percentage of growth or decline in Cooperative Program giving by Kentucky churches.

The rationale offered by the study committee for making this change is that Kentucky agreed several years ago to increase its percentage of receipts given to the SBC as part of the vision of Bold Mission Thrust. The assumption was that churches would significantly increase their total giving to the Cooperative Program. Since this major increase from the churches has not occurred, the state convention has been caught in the middle, the committee said.

**"While the increase was not large enough to reach the KBC budget, it was strong enough, coupled with the Executive Board's decision last year to hold the new budget at the same level, to give us hope of achieving budget this year."**

Bill Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer

## Church using English language classes as outreach to international residents

Continued from page 1  
student offices.

Nearly 20 students, mostly Russians, and many of them Jewish, showed up for the first session. Since then, 72 people have attended the programs.

Nine Chinese students currently are enrolled in a two-hour class on Monday mornings. They are taught by Marie McKeene, Renee Bibb and Jackie Fischer.

Another class on Monday afternoons has 16 registrants from such nations as Russia, Ukraine, Indonesia and Iran. The teachers include Mary Elizabeth Simpson, Lisa Woodyard and Becky Ross. Aldridge substitutes as needed.

Porter's program is not unique. Outreach ministries to immigrants are growing in Elkhorn Baptist Association, according to Micki Robison, associational director of international and multi-housing ministries.

Immanuel Baptist Church in south Lexington has the oldest English language course in the area, she said, and Trinity Baptist recently held a conversational English workshop prior to starting classes targeting Vietnamese immigrants.

This outreach began last spring at the association's office, with 13 weeks of classes before a summer break.

In addition, Robison said North-

view Baptist includes a Spanish-speaking congregation, which evangelizes Hispanics harvesting tobacco each summer. The association ministers to Hispanics working the spring racing season at Keeneland.

"This is a growth area, especially with the Hispanic workers who come here each year," said Robison, who formerly worked at the Baptist Fellowship Center in Louisville.

"There's also the Toyota plant (at Georgetown), which brings in a lot of Japanese, UK students and internationals who work here."

The effort at Porter Memorial has paid dividends, said Jim McGee, minister of education.

"This has been a good ministry for our church," he said. "It seems to be catching on, and more people want to help now. It has meant a lot to us to minister to people who don't know the Lord and are from a different culture."

In addition to the English language classes, members at Porter have organized field trips and social events for students. None of these efforts have led students to become Christians yet, but Aldridge said church members keep praying.

"I love internationals," she said. "I'm just thrilled that our church can minister to them."

## Bluegrass teen guest edits parents' magazine

By David Winfrey  
News Directory

LOUISVILLE—Parents should not underestimate the value of setting Christian examples for their children, said a Kentucky teenager who served as guest editor for a magazine targeting parents.

Allison Lepper, 16, said her work with the November issue of "Living with Teenagers" taught her that parents often face the same morality choices at work their children face at school.

She said she also learned parents don't always communicate spiritual matters well with

their children.

"I think it's hard for parents to tell children, 'Hey, it's OK to be different. It's OK to live for God and to tell people that you're living for God.'"

Lepper said that in addition to teaching teenagers right from wrong, it's important for parents to explain why an action is wrong.

"It's not just the decisions that you make. It's why do you make the decision," she said.

Editor-in-Chief Ellen Oldacre said the staff annually produces an issue written and edited by teens to help parents understand issues facing their children.

Oldacre said Lepper represents "teenagers who are calling their own shots. They're not letting the world do it, and they know that God is the coach."

"It was exciting for us to work with that kind of young person," she added. "We write about them, but we don't always get to work with them."

"Living with Teenagers," which has a circulation of 45,000 is published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Lepper said she wanted the magazine to reinforce to parents that their actions speak louder than words.

"The issue, as a whole, I hope communicates some of the things that we're going through, what parents can do to help us and what their Christian walk can do to help us," she said.

"Parents' Christian walk does have an influence on what we do and how we live our lives," she added. "It's not just what they say; it's little things they do, even outside the home, that affect what we do and how we live."



**GUEST EDITOR** Allison Lepper said she hopes the November issue of "Living with Teenagers" magazine communicates both what teenagers are experiencing and how parents can help. (SBC Sunday School Board photo)

## 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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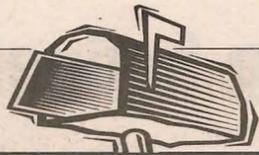
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## BAPTIST FORUM

### Against proposal

I was raised and saved in a Kentucky Baptist church. I was taught from preschool up of the importance of supporting our association, state, home and foreign missions. My home church gave 20 percent to the Cooperative Program. I was educated in a Kentucky Baptist school.

Kentucky Baptists have supported ministries like the children's home, Oneida, Clear Creek and others. We have supported not only the Cooperative Program but the special offerings as well.

It saddens my heart to know that Kentucky Baptists keep 63 percent of Cooperative Program funds here in our state of three and one-half million people while the world's 5.8 billion people get only 37 percent. I am saddened to find out there will be presented in this November's Kentucky Baptist Convention a proposal to increase the percentage to remain in Kentucky. I hope Kentucky Baptists will pray about this.

We recently had a World Missions Conference in the church where I am

pastor. Our people were impressed by the level of commitment our missionaries have. I believe all our missionaries deserve more support, not less. After all, the world is a much bigger place than our state.

David Morris  
Somerset

### 'Anti-Baptists'

In the current fight for control of the Southern Baptist Convention, one fact is often overlooked: Baptists have always stood for religious tolerance and religious freedom.

Baptists started in Europe, shortly after the Protestant Reformation. Our Anabaptist forefathers read the New Testament and noticed that adults were baptized in water after their adult conversion. The church's practice prior to that was infant baptism. This was a radical thought at the time, so the Anabaptist leaders were persecuted to the point of death for the heresy of rebaptizing adults, hence the name "Anabaptists." All they wanted was religious freedom.

Anabaptist thought quickly spread to England, where again our Anabaptist forefathers were persecuted by the Church of England. Again, all they wanted was religious freedom.

In search of religious freedom, the Anabaptists left England, along with the Puritans, and moved to the New World, which we now call America.

The Puritans, formerly the persecuted minority, now suddenly were the majority. They turned on the Baptists, and demanded that all the Baptists worship in the Puritan style. Baptists refused, so they were expelled.

How ironic. The Puritans wanted religious freedom for themselves, but would not grant that right to the Baptists. The persecuted suddenly became the persecutors.

Baptists here continued to fight for religious freedom, culminating in the Bill of Rights.

Suddenly in 1979, Baptists turned away from their roots. A tiny minority decided to ignore Baptist history and rewrite it for the sake of their new political party. The battle to control the SBC thus began.

What then shall we call these new misleaders? Let us call them what they really are: "Anti-Baptists."

Jim Evans  
Louisville

**Editor's note:** The Western Recorder's Sept. 17 issue carried a letter to the editor commending Charles Miller, principal at Louisville's Pleasure Ridge Park High School. The letter did not state, and the editor was not aware, that Miller is running for the 7th District state senate seat. In fairness to his opponent, incumbent Sen. Lindy Casebier, who is a member of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, this should have been noted.

### Most deadly weapon

Since the first atomic bomb was exploded over Japan, we have created the hydrogen bomb and now the cobalt bomb. Each with only one purpose: to destroy as many lives as possible. And, at the rate we are developing, one would think we might achieve our "goal" of ultimate destruction.

Today, men and women now carry concealed and unconcealed guns, knives and other means of assault.

But all of us carry on our person the most destructive of all weapons.

The ultimate device for tearing down, or building up is used by each of us daily. It is the tongue. "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Proverbs 18:21).

Perhaps it has never really been impressed upon us, what this "instrument" is capable of creating. It can lift up in praise or tear down in criticism. It can destroy in a moment a reputation that took a lifetime to create. It can create friendship or en-

## MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

### Not till it's time

When in 1986 I experienced a herniated disk, I was surprised but pleased to experience consolation (and suggestions) from a host of folks who had experienced similar situations. Most valuable was the encouragement of Wayne Oates, longtime sufferer and friend, to postpone surgery as long as possible and try my best to fulfill the painful ordeal of therapy. I took his advice, avoided surgery, and, for a significant period of time, paid attention to the kind of exercises which have made a positive difference.

Following my announcement to retire, I have had numerous conversations, some at my own initiative, with friends who have "suffered" through this transition called retirement. With few exceptions, I am hearing that retirement is the most pleasant "suffering" they have had in years! To hear them tell it, I wonder if I ought to get out of here this month rather than February.

While it's "time" for me to retire, I have discovered more than a few ministers—too many, it seems to me—who can't wait to retire. Not 62-, 63-, 64-year olds, mind you, but younger pastors. One of the more poignant moments I had with a minister not long ago was when he said to me: "I never thought I'd ever want to be older than I am, but frankly, I wish I were 62." (He is around 52). This was not the emotional expression of a bad day or two. This was from a pastor who has for some time reflected the classical symptoms of "burnout."

I realize these symptoms of burnout are not found exclusively in the ministry; that they permeate our insatiable society. Still, it hurts to realize that many ministers live in the shadow of depleted energy and diminished joy ... particularly if they never recover their potential.

Certainly there are resources for help, not the least of which could be a refreshing of the spirit through renewed spiritual disciplines. Surely it is in our deepest need we may find the

Lord most present. Perhaps the greatest obstacle to a minister's renewal is one's fear of crying "help" and not knowing with whom to share that cry. Ministers have a notorious reputation for having few truly-intimate friends.

Incidentally, I was advised in the late 1950s not to establish a few close friends in the congregation. That was poor advice, for me at least. Ministers are blessed when there is someone in the congregation upon whom they can lean and, when needed, unload.

I understand from my own experiences in this job the sometimes prolonged, gut-wrenching feeling of wanting to retire "before it's time." I've been there; done that. In time, through prayer, contemplation, dialogue with a friend and, my wife, Alice, I came out in the light of not just "hanging in there," but believing I was called to do this job and I wasn't finished yet.

Now, by the grace of God, I can lay it down even more confident that "there is life after the KBC." My retired friends assure me of that!

Joe Causey, pastor  
Providence Knob Baptist Church  
Rockfield

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

## ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



## Preschoolers' favorite recipes\*

By Jewell Nelson

Children build on what they know, and that is evident when asked how their parents or grandparents cooked favorite foods. Here are favorite "recipes" from preschoolers I have known.

■ **Chocolate chip cookies.** "Well, see. You mix up in a bowl and you put drops of it in a pan and you cook them in the oven. And, they are good!"

■ **Turkey and stuffing.** "You put it in a pan, and you—a BIG pan—and you put it in the oven and you cook it until Daddy comes home."

■ **Corn on the cob.** "You peel it and you put lots of butter on it. And you eat it."

■ **Pizza.** "Put it in a pan. Put cucumbers and stuff on it and cook it about a minute—or an hour."

■ **Chocolate cake.** "Put in a cup of flour, I think, and some milk and you bake it in a stove."

■ **Hot dogs.** "Put (a hot dog) in the microwave and cook it for five hours."

■ **Steak.** "Put it on the grill and you cook it. Sometimes it gets black and you must cut off the black."

■ **Mashed potatoes.** "She cooks the potatoes in a pot for probably three minutes. Then she mashes them with a fork, I guess, and puts squeeze butter in it. Then it's ready to eat."

■ **Chili.** "She puts in red beans. She cooks it about 6 or 7 minutes, that's almost as long as you bake bread. And then I put crackers in it."

■ **Bacon and eggs.** "My grandma cooks 'em in a pan on the stove. Then we eat them on the sun porch."

\* Caution: Don't try these at home.

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

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

## HE SAID/SHE SAID

### College kids look really young, so why aren't we any older?

#### HESAIID



Mark Wingfield

Denial seems to accompany every psychosis these days, but there's one form of denial that's a standard accessory in the male human psyche: Regardless of how old we get, we don't think of ourselves as being that old.

Come to think of it, this must afflict women as well. I recall one time hearing a woman who was more advanced in years than she apparently realized declare her frustration with "all those old women" at church. Some of those "old women" were younger than her.

Last weekend, I attended the state Baptist student convention in Winchester. Amid the sea of youthful faces, it was easy to revert in my mind to my own college years. The gap in our ages didn't seem so drastic, I convinced myself at first. Although I'm sure most of the students there wondered who that balding old man with the camera was.

It didn't take long, however, for me to be jolted into the reality of my true age. The energy of college students is something of which I have only a faint memory. They have the battery packs powered by the pink bunny with the unstoppable drum. I'm now powered by the quick-draining substitute.

It takes some fresh encounter like this to remind us every once in a while that we're not really as young as we think. I don't know why a daily look in the mirror doesn't accomplish the same thing. Perhaps we're too busy seeing ourselves in other people to see ourselves for who we really are.

#### SHESAIID



Alison Wingfield

Age denial seems to be equally common among both men and women. While men might not be as shy about admitting their actual age as women, women are more likely to act their age.

Men still do a lot of stupid things, like trying to slide into home base when they haven't played a softball game in five years.

I started to feel old when all the clerks at stores began calling me "ma'am." Funny, I don't feel like a "ma'am."

One of the things I've noticed about age is that my definition of old continues to change. When I was a teenager, 30 was ancient. Now that I'm in my 30s my perspective has changed a great deal (I won't say what is "old" to me now for fear of offending those who already have reached that particular age.)

Children can make you feel both younger and older at the same time. Sometimes when I am trying to keep up with our two perpetual motion machines, I feel twice my age. If we could just bottle that energy for ourselves. All we can hope for is extra measures of patience to deal with everything that seems to go alongside that energy.

But when we start playing games like hide-and-seek, or go fish, it takes me back to my own childhood. I get to participate in the wonder and joy that comes with each new discovery of their young lives.

The most important thing we all need to learn is to enjoy each phase of our lives, rather than looking back and wishing we could be this or that age. I must admit, though, I do miss some things, such as the innocence of childhood, the giggly silliness of high school, the wide-open doors of opportunity in college. Of course, those are all still a part of who I am on the inside, no matter how grown-up I may look on the outside.

## Of 1st-grade kisses and innocence lost

If you need any further evidence that America's children have lost their innocence, just visit Southwestern Elementary School in Lexington, N.C.

That's where 6-year-old Johnathan Prevette got thrown in the school slammer for kissing a first-grade classmate on the cheek. School officials pronounced the tow-headed child guilty of sexual harassment.

A school spokeswoman declared: "A 6-year-old kissing another 6-year-old is inappropriate behavior. Unwelcome is unwelcome at any age."

The National Organization for Women jumped to the school's defense, branding the young smoocher Most Likely to be a Sexual Harasser in the workplace in his adult life.

This is political correctness run amok—a point made repeatedly on TV talk shows and in newspaper articles throughout last week. Most Americans were outraged at the unnecessary punishment of a 6-year-old for an innocent kiss.

Sexual harassment is a serious problem indeed and should not be tolerated. But an innocent kiss on the cheek between 6-year-olds hardly constitutes the seeds of depravity.

Granted, public school officials must deal with an increasing number of youngsters who act and speak inappropriately because their parents have not protected their innocence. Through the modeling of their own bad behavior, mixed with exposing their children to inappropriate movies and TV shows, these parents do irreparable damage to their children and their children's classmates.

There's a moral in the story of Johnathan Prevette, however, and it even has a basis in Scripture.

Exodus 34 records the story of Moses ascending Mount Sinai to receive the second set of tablets containing the Ten Commandments, after he broke the first set in anger because of the sin of the Israelites. God tells Moses he is a God of unbounding love, but a God who does not leave the guilty unpunished. "He

punishes the children and their children for the sins of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."

Any social worker can readily affirm the truth of this declaration from God by recounting case after case where patterns of behavior get duplicated from one generation to the next, or where one generation pays the emotional price for the sins of another generation.

But the same truth applies to society at large. We reap the fruit of seeds sown by our ancestors.

Modern society is reacting to years of abuse of women by men—usually while the Christian church turned a blind eye at best or sanctioned the behavior at worst.

Extreme actions eventually cause equally extreme repercussions from the other side. That's the truth that has caught up with little Johnathan Prevette and smacked him right on the kisser. It's not his kiss that really caused the problem; it's the unwanted sexual advances of adult men and women born long before him.

What happened to this first-grader isn't fair and it isn't right. But it is understandable, given our history.

And it should propel us to examine what other reactionary fruit may be blooming as the result of the sins of our forebears—and the sins of ourselves. Extreme actions eventually cause equally extreme repercussions.

What will be the fruit in the generations following of the hateful extremism espoused by many ultra-conservative Christians in American politics today? What will be the fruit of churches that fail to speak out against true sexual harassment and sexual misconduct today? What will be the result of a culture that continues to foster racial divisions while denying those divisions exist?

How many more times will our children and our children's children have to lose their innocence because of the sins of their fathers and mothers?

—Mark Wingfield

## Memories of Henri Nouwen

By Tom Ehrich

Henri Nouwen's death in Holland at the age of 64 will stir many memories among Christians on all sides of the bitter divides.

Here is my Henri Nouwen story: In 1993, the Dutch Catholic priest, scholar and author gave the Bowen Lecture at Kanuga Conference Center, in Western North Carolina. I signed up a year in advance—the day I received my flyer.

So, apparently, did more than 400 others, the largest conference in Kanuga history. This was a rare opportunity.

I attended with my wife. It was the first such conference we had attended together in 17 years of marriage and parish ministry. After each Nouwen lecture, we went for a long walk, both to reflect on our teacher's words and to consider our own faith. Clergy couples don't always talk about faith. This week we did.

Henri Nouwen talked with his hands. Frail in appearance, he used a microphone and went just slowly enough that we could wade through his Dutch accent. But it was the long, slender fingers making dramatic arcs through the air that I remember most.

He told stories, mostly about himself. I happen to believe that faith is shared best by story-telling, not by theology or doctrine, so I was deeply moved by his tales about burning out at Harvard and knowing that if he stayed there, he would die spiritually; about making his way to France, broken, and discovering the L'Arche Community; about collapsing into their care; about committing his life to their ministry to the mentally handicapped.

Most of all, I remember a story told and a story lived.

Henri told about being invited to visit The Hermitage in Russia to see Rembrandt's "Return of the Prodigal." Other viewers filed by at a rapid clip, but he was allowed to sit in a chair for two hours and just look. He looked at the figures in the background, the father and the broken son.

The father had both hands on the boy's shoulders. One hand was the gnarled hand of a working man. The other, Nouwen said with a dramatic pause, was the delicate, tapered hand—"of a woman!" God suddenly became larger for this Catholic priest.

It was a stunning moment. More than 400 people—power people, mostly—looked through Nouwen's

eyes and saw the feminine nature of God. People wept.

Later, as Nouwen told about the L'Arche Daybreak Community in Toronto, where he served, he told about his friend Bill, a mentally handicapped man who was in the scholar's care.

Bill was on the stage with Henri, as was a nun from Daybreak. When Henri invited Bill to come to the microphone and speak, I remember thinking that people had come a long way to hear the Dutch scholar, not Bill.

To give Bill support, Nouwen stood next to him at the microphone. Bill was overcome by the prospect of speaking. He simply laid his head on Nouwen's shoulder and wept.

A room filled with church leaders suddenly glimpsed the incarnate nature of true ministry. Our work isn't about liturgies that we fight over, buildings that we fight over, books of worship that we fight over, hymnals that we fight over, small bits of institutional power that we fight over or doctrines that we are willing to kill over. Our work is to stand next to one another and provide a shoulder for weeping. (RNS)

Tom Ehrich is an Episcopal priest, author and former Wall Street Journal reporter living in Winston-Salem, N.C.

## COMMENTARY

## Lessons from the top 10 mistakes churches make

By Bill Easum

### My Top Three Mistakes

■ **Not dreaming big enough.** In 1986, the church I pastored from 1969 to 1993 purchased four acres of adjacent land for \$1 million. This purchase was the result of not dreaming large enough in 1972 and 1979. In 1972, we could have purchased an adjacent 14 acres for the same amount we paid for a new sanctuary. In 1979, we chose to build another sanctuary for \$1 million instead of spending \$2 million to relocate the church to the expressway.

*Lesson:* Effective leaders need to dream bigger and have more patience.

■ **Not focusing on the mission statement early in my ministry.** In the first year of my 24-year pastorate, we developed a mission statement that read, "Every person a minister of Jesus Christ." I understood the power of this statement, but I did not focus on it. I occasionally allowed myself and the church to lose sight of it. The larger the church grew, the more staff members we needed, and more work was required of each. As a result, I had a nervous breakdown and had few equipped ministers.

*Lesson:* Effective pastors focus on their mission statement.

■ **Not understanding soon enough the power of the meta model of small groups (groups of three to 15 people, led by equipped lay pastors, that multiply on a regular basis).** We began these groups in 1982, and worship grew from 400 to more than 800 in four years. But because I didn't understand the power of these groups to change lives, I did not put enough of myself into the process. It fell apart and had to be jump-started in 1992, losing valuable time.

*Lesson:* Meta small groups are an essential tool of evangelization and making disciples.

Learning from our mistakes and the mistakes of others is one of life's greatest sources of personal growth. Most effective church leaders relate to mistakes in much the same way scientists relate to research and development. They don't like their failures, but they learn from them and apply what they learn to the other areas of their lives.

Once a month, one pastor I know brings to the staff meeting a piece of paper that has written at the top, "What Mistakes Have We Made This Month?" At the bottom of the page is written, "What Lessons Have We Learned from this Month's Mistakes?" Then the staff discusses the two questions.

During 10 years as a consultant, I've developed a list of church leaders' top 10 mistakes. I share them in the spirit of the above staff meeting. See the column at left for my own top three mistakes as a pastor and what these mistakes taught me.

**NUMBER 10** **Not assimilating the importance of the automobile.** In 1950, people were fortunate to have one car, and those who didn't walked or took the bus to church. Today, few people walk to church, fewer ride the bus and many families come to church in two or more cars.

*Lesson:* Do what you can to provide adequate space for cars, vans, etc., if you want the people to hear the gospel. The average church needs one space for every two people on the property at the peak hour of the peak season.

**NUMBER 9** **Renting facilities to outside groups when the church should be using these facilities to do ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.** It is immoral for churches to rent their facilities when they could use them for ministry.

The most common mistake is renting the church to a preschool or day-care center. All this does is take up space the church could use and encourage churches to rely on rent rather than tithing.

*Lesson:* Don't rely on rent to survive. When demographically appropriate, churches should provide weekday ministries in which Christian values are taught to children and efforts are made to reach and disciple the parents. If a preschool or day-care center rents your facilities, ask the tenant to leave and start your own as part of your children's ministry.

**NUMBER 8** **The laity's failing to respond to worship visitors within 24 hours.** My examination of hundreds of church job descriptions reveals that nine out of 10 seldom even mention evangelism.

They require pastors to spend more than 90 percent of their time working within the membership. Church leaders seem more concerned with taking care of the members, including reactivating inactives, than with reaching the unchurched or pre-Christian. This inward focus robs a church of its spiritual power, because God's church

exists for people whom it has not yet reached with the gospel.

*Lesson:* Churches should devote one-half of everything they do to reaching the unchurched and pre-Christian. Laypersons should visit guests within 24 hours and be equipped to pray with those who are ready for guidance. Instead of worrying about inactives, churches should keep people from becoming inactive.

**NUMBER 7** **Planning for a summer slump.** Nine out of 10 dying or plateaued churches with which I've consulted

shut down their choirs and reduce their schedules in the summer, even though summer is a major time for reaching new people moving into the area. Such actions send a negative signal to everyone. If something is not important enough to our Christian development to keep open in the summer, perhaps it may not really be that important the rest of the year. Shutting down in the summer translates into diminished commitment of time, energy and money; makes it harder to start up in the fall; and does not provide summer visitors a complete experience.

*Lesson:* Churches that make disciples are 12-month churches. Plan for a summer hump (instead of slump) by (1) having the adult choir sing all summer; (2) not combining or changing worship hours; (3) in some areas adding worship services during the summer, such as an outdoor service; (4) extending vacation Bible school to different locations throughout the summer; and (5) providing summer camps and ministries for children and youth.

**NUMBER 6** **Failing to appreciate the 80 percent rule of space.** Any time anything is more than 80 percent full, growth

becomes harder. If attendance is at 80 percent on an average Sunday, every other Sunday it is above 80 percent, and on holy days 100 percent plus. Hint: It takes 24 inches per person for worship, but most architects use 18 inches in determining seating capacity. For classrooms, it

takes 35 square feet per child for first grade and under, and 20 square feet per person over the first grade.

*Lesson:* Keep detailed records on each area of the church, and look for ways to increase its capacity before reaching the 80 percent mark. The primary areas to track are those used for worship and Sunday school, parking lots and hallways.

**NUMBER 5** **Failing to start an indigenous service. (Indigenous means sharing the gospel in the language, culture**

**and technology of the people you are trying to reach.)** A vital, growing church rarely has only one worship service. Just adding a service usually results in increased attendance of 20 percent or more. Making this service indigenous to the area often results in this added service's being the largest service within three to five years. If the same time, energy and more money are spent on the indigenous service as are spent on the original service, it is usually the largest service within three years.

*Lesson:* If you have only one service or if the largest service is more than 80 percent full, or if all your present services are traditional, begin a new indigenous service on Sunday morning between 9:30 and 10:30 (it will not hurt Sunday school).

**NUMBER 4** **Failing to provide enough staff members.** A primary reason churches fail to grow beyond 100 to

150 in worship: 100 people are all one person can adequately network, equip and mentor/midwife into ministry. In traditional churches the rule of thumb is one program/pastoral staff person for every 100 people in worship. In nontraditional churches that rely heavily on lay pastors, the number of people per program/pastor staff person is much higher.

*Lesson:* Hire people who can stay seven or more years and will focus on equipping laity rather than doing ministry. A mainline church should generally avoid hiring ordained associate pastors until it reaches 450-plus in worship. The first staff person to add (after attendance reaches 100) is a full-time secretary. The church's key ministries determine the remaining staff additions.

**NUMBER 3** **Pastors moving too often.** The average tenure for an ordained pastor is around four years. The average

tenure of a pastor in most large, growing, dynamic churches with great lay ministries is more than 10 years. The average pastoral tenure in the 21st century will be 20 to 30 years. Many of the large, dynamic churches with great lay ministries now have pastors in the 15th years or more.

*Lesson:* Early in his or her ministry, a pastor should find a church where a match exists between his or her vision and that of

the church and stay there for the duration. All pastors should try to "bloom where they are planted; be there while they are there"—not wait for God to finally give them a "good" church. There aren't any "good" churches lying around. Pastors and laypersons with vision develop "good" churches.

**NUMBER 2** **Underestimating the power of prayer in making disciples and decisions.** All renewal

in the church starts with prayer. However, most prayer today is misdirected. Too many pastors are professional pray-ers who pray in the place of the laity. Instead, they should teach laypersons to pray for themselves and others. The next time you ask for prayer in your church, make note of what people pray for. You will have to go to several different groups of people before you hear a prayer raised on behalf of an unchurched or pre-Christian person. Prayers are usually for physical healing of friends and loved ones and seldom for someone's salvation.

*Lesson:* Teach your people to pray for themselves and others. Make prayer a vital part of decision making instead of voting or trying to develop consensus. Organize people with the gift of prayer into groups that pray daily for the church and its leaders. Develop your own prayer life.

**NUMBER 1** **Not having a consuming vision and passion for the transformation of people.**

Too many church leaders are going through the motion while yearning for retirement. Too many local church pastors are little more than personal chaplains in dysfunctional hospitals where people never get well and get on with life. Yet many church members hunger for a spiritual leader who can help them and their church grow spiritually. Many pastors have received a heretical view of ministry. They take care of parishioners instead of equipping them for ministry. They do ministry rather than equipping laypersons to do ministry. A pastor should never do for people what they can do for themselves.

*Lesson:* If your ministry is not driven by this passion, take your Bible and go off and pray until God shows you the vision. If you have this passion, then don't let anything distract you from living it out. If you can't find this passion, get out of the ministry. Hint: Too much or too little passion for a vision can cause people to lose their integrity.

*This article originally appeared in the Net Results newsletter and is reprinted with permission. Bill Easum is a church consultant based in Port Aransas, Texas. A former senior pastor of United Methodist churches, Easum now works with churches of many denominations through 21st Century Strategies Inc. He is a graduate of Baylor University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology.*

## Senate can't override veto of abortion procedure ban

By David Anderson & Kim Lawton  
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—After an intense debate, the Senate refused Sept. 26 to override President Clinton's veto of a bill that would have banned a controversial procedure used in late-term abortions.

The Senate vote was 57 to 41, 10 short of the 67 needed to override the veto, and it ends the effort to enact the ban. A week earlier, the House voted 285-137 to override Clinton's veto.

The bill, the Partial-Birth Abortion Act, has become the symbolic center of the volatile abortion debate. In the six months since Clinton's April 8 veto, it has been the subject of a massive lobbying effort by those on both sides of the issue, including an unprec-

edented prayer service on the Capitol grounds by U.S. Roman Catholic cardinals.

"This is one of the most defining moments of our times," said Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., who supported the veto override.

But Sen. Charles Robb, D-Va., called the debate a political one, timed for "maximum voter impact before the election." Noting the argument of abortion foes that alternate methods to the controversial procedure exist, Robb said, "This bill wouldn't prohibit a single abortion from taking place, even in the third trimester."

The target of the ban is a procedure to end pregnancies in the last three months. It involves partially extracting the fetus from the womb before performing the abortion. No reli-

able statistics exist on how many abortions are performed using the procedure. Less than 1 percent of the estimated 1.3 million abortions performed in the United States each year are done in the last trimester.

Senate supporters of the ban, citing former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and other doctors, have described the procedure in graphic detail, arguing that it never was justified morally or medically.

Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., called the procedure "infanticide."

Opponents of the ban, however, cited the opposition of several medical societies, including the American College of Gynecologists and Obstetricians, as well as the testimonials of women who had undergone the procedure to argue that it is sometimes

necessary to save a mother's life or preserve her fertility.

"Everyone involved in this debate opposes late-term abortions," said Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., the leader of those supporting Clinton's veto. "All we are saying is that in the most tragic circumstances ... there be an exception."

Before the vote, an array of religious and conservative leaders who oppose abortion held a news conference to urge the Senate to override the veto.

Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council, a Washington-based conservative advocacy group, predicted that simmering outrage over the failure to override Clinton's veto could become "the sleeper issue" of the 1996 election.

**Senate supporters of the ban, citing former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop and other doctors, have described the procedure in graphic detail, arguing that it never was justified morally or medically.**

## Book alleges secret pope-U.S. alliance

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A new book claims Pope John Paul II secretly worked in partnership with the CIA to bring down Poland's communist government.

"His Holiness: John Paul II and the Hidden History of our Time" by former Washington Post reporter Carl Bernstein and Italian journalist Marco Politi, also claims the United States and the Vatican had a secret "informal" partnership on a range of issues from abortion to nuclear arms.

The authors contend John Paul met

with late CIA director William Casey and former CIA Deputy Director Vernon Walters 15 times, exchanging sensitive information in a joint effort to bring democracy to Poland while avoiding Soviet military intervention, the Associated Press reported.

As part of the informal alliance, according to the book, while President Reagan cut off funding for family planning programs overseas, the pope did not criticize U.S. efforts to install cruise missiles in Western Europe.

Citing classified U.S. cables to the

White House, CIA and State Department, Bernstein and Politi claim John Paul was told that the CIA had secretly given the Solidarity trade union movement more than \$50 million to support its work in challenging Poland's communist government.

The Vatican said it had no immediate comment as John Paul prepared for his trip to France. In 1992, however, Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls called similar allegations by Bernstein "bizarre" and said the pope never met with Casey.

## Religion in workplace bill broadly backed

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A coalition of more than two dozen religious and civil rights groups announced Sept. 19 support for legislation aimed at assuring that employers try to accommodate their workers' religious practices.

The proposed legislation, the Workplace Religious Freedom Act, was introduced last month in the Senate by Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., and in the House by Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y.

The proposed legislation is in response to court interpretations of 1972 amendments to the Civil Rights Act

of 1964 that supporters say have narrowed the protections workers have to practice their religion.

"For many religiously observant Americans the greatest peril to their ability to carry out their religious faiths on a day-to-day basis may come from their employers," the American Jewish Committee said in a statement announcing the formation of the coalition that will lobby for the bill's passage.

They cited instances of employers who will not make "reasonable accommodation" for employees' observance of the Sabbath or who refuse to

allow employees to wear religiously required garb such as a skullcap, turban, veil or other clothing that meets modesty requirements.

Among other members of the coalition are the National Association of Evangelicals, Agudath Israel of America, Americans for Democratic Action, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the Christian Legal Society, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the National Council of Churches, People For the American Way and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

## Democratic senators offer voter guide issues

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Nine Democratic senators, including Wendell Ford of Kentucky, have sent to Pat Robertson and Ralph Reed suggestions on how the legislators say the Christian Coalition's 1996 voter guides can be more Christian.

The controversial voter guides rate lawmakers by how they voted on selected issues deemed by the coalition to reflect Christian values.

The senators submitted a list of 10 other votes in Congress, charging they better reflect Christian values than some of the votes the Christian Coalition has included in previous guides.

"While we support efforts to educate voters on matters of public policy, we are concerned that the Christian Coalition voter guides highlight some votes that are not reflective of traditional Christian values and omit others that would be reflective of those

values," the senators said in a Sept. 12 letter to Robertson and Reed.

Efforts to obtain a Christian Coalition response to the senators' proposal were unsuccessful. A spokeswoman for the group said voter guides for the upcoming elections are still being composed.

At a news conference in Washington, Sen. Byron Dorgan of North Dakota questioned the coalition's use of votes such as the Star Wars defense system and the line-item veto.

Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada noted he had never seen anything in the voter guides dealing with the environment.

Several religious leaders joined Dorgan and Reid at the Capitol Hill news conference.

Jay Lintner, director of the Washington Office of the United Church of Christ's Office for Church in Society,

said the coalition's voter guides were unfairly biased against Democrats.

Lintner said the 10 votes selected by the senators reflect Christian values but distanced his group from several of the votes chosen.

"Three were pure party line votes and several were designed for partisan purposes," he said. "But because the Christian Coalition voting guides are so blatantly biased, mislabeling, distorting and they are chosen for partisan purpose, we urge churches to refrain from distributing these guides."

In addition to Ford, Dorgan and Reid, senators signing the letter were Minority Leader Thomas Daschle of South Dakota, John Rockefeller of West Virginia, Kent Conrad of North Dakota, John Kerry of Massachusetts, Barbara Mikulski of Maryland and Carl Levin of Michigan.

### NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Campus atheists, humanists, skeptics form alliance.** Students from 15 colleges and universities, saying atheist, humanist and skeptical views are often met with hostility on campus, have formed the Campus Freethought Alliance to coordinate activities, form new groups and protect the rights of non-believing students. The group was formed during a meeting at the Center for Inquiry Institute of the Council for Secular Humanism, a national humanist group based in Amherst, N.Y.

■ **Christian Coalition raises money for burned churches.** The Christian Coalition has raised about \$525,000 to help rebuild African-American churches burned during a recent spate of arsons. Coalition spokesman Mike Russell said the organization is seeking information from congregations of 72 burned churches to determine their needs for assistance.

■ **Priest-chaplain sues military.** Vincent Rigdon, a Roman Catholic priest who is also an Air Force Reserve chaplain, has filed suit against the military alleging his rights to free speech and religious freedom were violated when his military superiors said he could not enlist his parishioners in an abortion-related lobbying effort.

■ **Nation of Islam hosts peace rally for rap world.** Sparked by the shooting of rap artist Tupac Shakur, the Nation of Islam held a "Hip Hop Day of Atonement" in New York to honor the slain 25-year-old and try to bring peace to the sometimes violent world of "gangsta rap." Conrad Muhammad, the New York representative of the Nation of Islam, gave a speech that news accounts said mixed exhortations to black pride and self-reliance with attacks on Jews and whites.

■ **House members urge school prayer amendment vote.** A recent letter signed by 92 members of the House of Representatives urged Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., to schedule a vote on proposed constitutional school-prayer amendments before Congress adjourns for the fall campaign.

■ **Census Bureau reports a decline in U.S. poverty.** The U.S. Census Bureau last week reported declines in both the poverty rate and the number of poor people. According to the report, the number of poor people decreased by 1.6 million between 1994 and 1995 to 36.4 million, and the percentage of the population living in poverty dropped from 14.5 percent to 13.8 percent. The poverty rate for children has been at or above 20 percent since the early 1980s.

■ **Speaker says gambling wins in presidential election.** Regardless of the November presidential election's outcome, the gambling industry will be a winner, said Charles Lewis, executive director of the Center for Public Integrity. The gambling industry has given \$2.5 million during the past four years to the Democratic and Republican parties and to the campaigns of both Bill Clinton and Bob Dole, Lewis said.

## Religion, history & politics collide in tunnel flap

**For Jews and Muslims in the Holy Land, the temple controversy is very much part of the region's present day realpolitik—an everyday contest between two peoples for control of holy ground that has now erupted into an unholy war.**

By Elaine Fletcher  
Religion News Service

JERUSALEM (RNS)—As riots and gunfire exploded last week across the West Bank and Gaza, a group of evangelical Christians walked through the eerie half-light of an archaeological tunnel, whose recent completion ignited a virtual holy war between Muslims and Jews.

The 30 tourists traversed the subterranean passage on a transparent footpath over the path of an ancient aqueduct, so focused on their own religious experience that they were largely unaware of the conflict the tunnel project had ignited close to the city's most sensitive holy sites.

The 130-yard excavation, a final link in a system of passageways leading from the Jewish-controlled Western Wall to the northwestern edge of

the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in the Muslim quarter, has triggered the most violent Israeli-Palestinian confrontations since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

But in the tunnel, all was tranquil. Gentle folds of stone rose to a peak 35 feet above the pilgrims; beneath the transparent path, water flowed. Suddenly, the narrow corridor opened into a small room, with the columns, arches and pavestones of a commercial street from King Herod's time. In antiquity, it had been a street leading to the northwest corner of the ancient temple open area—the holiest site in Judaism. Today, it is the site of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, the third holiest site in Islam.

When the Christians emerged from the tunnel into the Old City's Muslim quarter, they were pelted

with stones thrown by angry Palestinians. The tourists fled back to the tunnel for safety and returned along the path they had come.

For these pilgrims and most of the world's Christians, the Temple Mount and its environs remain largely abstract religious symbols, which, at most, point symbolically toward the second coming of the Messiah.

But for Jews and Muslims in the Holy Land, the temple controversy is very much part of the region's present day realpolitik—an everyday contest between two peoples for control of holy ground that has now erupted into an unholy war.

Rumor, legend and religious speculation have fed Muslim fears, albeit unsubstantiated, of Jewish excavations directly under the Temple Mount, in a search for lost religious

treasures.

Dan Bahat, the archaeologist who supervised the recent Hasmonian tunnel excavation, noted the official guidebook of Al Aqsa Mosque says that there never was a temple on the site. "That's the source of the problem."

Sheikh Hassan Tahboub, head of the Supreme Muslim Council, which oversees the Al Aqsa Mosque, said that point is irrelevant. In Muslim belief, even the Western Wall where Jews have traditionally worshiped—as well as the adjacent tunnel system—is all really part of the Al Aqsa Mosque compound. As such, he said, it is Muslim property.

"It is all part of a trust given to us by the will of God, and nobody can give it back to anybody," said the Muslim leader. "We couldn't even enter into a debate."

### WORLD VIEW

■ **China threatens Australia over Dalai Lama.** China is threatening to impose trade sanctions on Australia if government leaders meet with the Dalai Lama, the exiled Buddhist spiritual and political leader of Tibet. The Dalai Lama has been campaigning for greater autonomy for Chinese-controlled Tibet. China considers him a political activist who is trying to split China.

■ **Jewish group wants 'modest' flight.** Ultra-Orthodox Jews want airlines that fly to Israel to respect their beliefs by not showing in-flight movies and by having male flight attendants serve religious male passengers. About 10 percent of Israel's 5 million people are part of the ultra-Orthodox minority, which lives in self-contained neighborhoods and follows a strict code of conduct. That code forbids contact between men and women who are not married to each other.

■ **Religious activity seen in Cuba.** The Seventh-day Adventist Church is preparing to open a new theological seminary in Cuba, signifying what denomination officials say is a breakthrough for the church in Cuba. In a separate matter, diplomatic sources in Havana told Reuters that a senior Vatican official will visit Cuba this month in a trip that could pave the way for a meeting between Cuban President Fidel Castro and Pope John Paul II in November in Rome.

■ **Kenya says cults are sacrificing humans.** The government of Kenya says it has evidence that devil worshipers in the nation are sacrificing humans, drinking their blood and raping children. Human rights groups said the government in the strongly Christian country was blowing the devil worship issue out of proportion to divert attention from pressing domestic economic and political problems.

■ **Henri Nouwen, Catholic theologian and writer, dies.** Henri Nouwen, a theologian and author of more than 30 books on spirituality, died Sept. 21 in Hilversum, Netherlands, at age 64. The cause of death was a heart attack. Nouwen was a prolific author, with more than 30 published titles, including "The Wounded Healer" and "Our Greatest Gift."

■ **South Africa may liberalize abortion access.** South Africa's fledgling post-apartheid government, after months of internal moral and political debate, proposed a draft law on abortion that would greatly liberalize a woman's access to the procedure.

■ **Nigerian Muslims clash with police.** Nigerian Shiite Muslims protesting the arrest of a religious leader clashed with police Sept. 18, leaving at least seven dead. The incident was the second since the arrest of Sheikh Ibrahim el-Zakzaky, described by news agency reports as a fundamentalist who police charged with operating an unlicensed radio station that broadcast "inciting" sermons.

## Reformation's hometown gets Luther-mania

WITTENBERG, Germany—This sleepy town where Martin Luther lived for 36 years probably hasn't seen so much excitement since 1517, when Luther nailed his famous 95 theses criticizing papal practices on the door of a local church, launching the Protestant Reformation.

A major tourism campaign to mark the 450th anniversary of Luther's death has brought an estimated 300,000 visitors so far this year to this medieval town. Luther-mania shows no sign of abating.

As autumn leaves color the landscape, visitors who would ordinarily visit Germany for Octoberfests are plying the streets of Wittenberg, where virtually every shop window is festooned with Luther's portrait.

Keepsakes celebrating the birth of Protestantism abound. More than 200 Luther souvenirs are available, from beer mugs and key chains to cakes and liqueurs bearing Luther's likeness.

"Everyone who comes to Wittenberg can get what they want in terms of Martin Luther. If they want a T-shirt they can get a T-shirt. If they want history of religion, they can get

history of religion," said Stephan Schelhaas, director of Wittenberg's tourist information bureau.

The emphasis on Luther is perceived as a good thing by those who endured two generations of official atheism under the former communist regime. But others are irked by the idea of marketing Luther, who spent his life preaching against the commercialization of spirituality.

Tensions between church and tourism officials erupted earlier this summer when Friedrich Schorlemmer, a local minister of the Evangelical (Protestant) Church, accused tourism officials of being "spiritual eunuchs." In a magazine article, Schorlemmer condemned the tourism project for its crass commercialism and lack of serious theological and scholarly substance.

But in a town where only 25 percent of the residents still identify themselves as Christians, the question became, Who owns Luther?

"I really don't understand what the church has against what we do," said Schelhaas. "Luther isn't only a religious figure, he's also an important historical and social figure. ... Why

shouldn't people be allowed to make of him what they want?"

While most of the region's ministers have refrained from epithet-slinging, there is a general agreement that the boundaries of good taste have often been overstepped.

Not all of Wittenberg's residents see Luther-mania as a bad thing.

"There are two generations of residents who, because of forced atheism ... have not set foot in a church," said Martin Treu, director of the Lutherhalle, a museum and center for scholarly research. "The good thing about this campaign is that it is getting people reacquainted with Luther."

Mike Huettneraich, owner of the town's Irish Harp pub, agreed.

"Some of the stuff may have been mega-kitsch, like the rock 'n' roll concert with a laser show the town put on in honor of Martin Luther in June," he said. "The important thing is that young people are learning about Luther. Even though most of them aren't religious, it's good for young Germans to be proud of Luther. They really don't have many great role models to look back on."

## Church unity effort falling short, speaker says

MOSHI, Tanzania (ABP)—After a century of seeking Christian unity, ecumenical dialogues have done little to resolve differences that divide churches around the world, a World Council of Churches official told a gathering in Tanzania.

"After a century of intense theological activity, the churches in most places seem no closer to unity," Alan Falconer told a meeting of the council's Faith and Order Commission.

Relations between Christian denominations have improved during the 20th century, but "the fruits of the struggle for consensus have not materialized," he said.

Founders of the so-called ecumenical movement, which led to establishment of the World Council of Churches in 1948, believed theological dialogue could help resolve dif-

ferences of faith and church order and thus unify Christianity, Falconer said.

On the brink of a new century, however, trends indicate Christianity in many places is becoming more sectarian, he said.

"There seems to be a growing tendency in the churches to wish to assert their confessional identity and to resist change," Falconer said.

## Report says sex slaves kept by African 'holy men'

NEW YORK (RNS)—The Anti-Slavery Society of Australia has charged that as many as 35,000 women and girls—some as young as age 8—are being held as sex slaves by traditional religious leaders in west Africa.

The society, in a report released Sept. 16, said the females were given voluntarily by their families "in order to appease the gods and to atone for

wrongs committed by their relatives, usually male relations."

The report—"The Forgotten Girl-Slaves of West Africa"—said the females were being held principally in Ghana, but also in Togo, Benin and Nigeria. The report was compiled by an Australian lawyer and included testimonies and photographs of females ranging in age from 8 to 86.

Elizabeth Evatt, Australia's repre-

sentative to the U.N. Human Rights Committee, called the situation a tragedy.

The anti-slavery society has begun to raise funds to help gain the freedom of at least some of the female slaves. But Paul Bravender-Coyle, the attorney who compiled the report, said the only long-term solution to the problem is "to educate the people and the priests."

# KENTUCKY

## Kentucky Baptists help build South Dakota camp

By Joyce Sweeney Martin  
Staff Writer

CUSTER, S.D.—Bill Savery has met some Kentucky champions, and they aren't even Wildcats.

The pastor of First Baptist Church in Custer, S.D., called youth from three Kentucky churches who have helped construct a youth camp during the past three years "some of the finest people I have ever met. They are champions."

In 1994, a group from Macedonia Baptist Church in Owensboro were the first Kentuckians to make the trek west.

That year, 15 youth and adults, led by Youth Minister Paul Gunn, worked on a log dining hall for Camp Volunteer, which is owned by First Baptist Church.

"A couple of the youth had never held a hammer, but they learned quickly," Savery said.

The next year, Macedonia enlisted a mission group from Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington to join them. That year, the two groups completed the walls of two log cabins and did more work on the dining hall, Gunn said.

This past summer, in addition to building a cabin, the two groups ex-

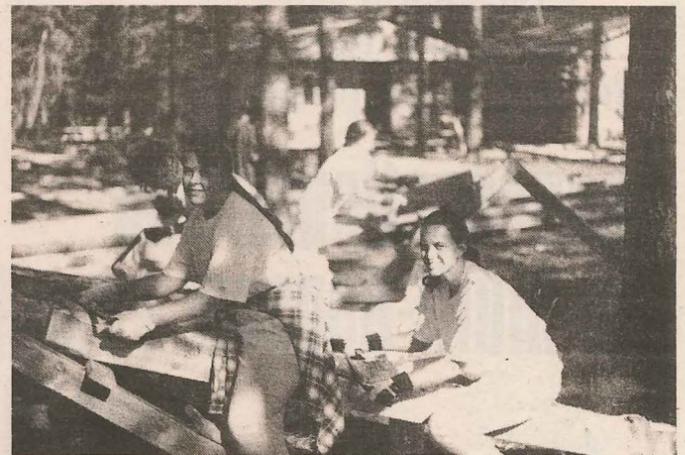
perienced the fruits of their hard work as they hosted the camp's first retreat, Calvary's Youth Minister Linc Taylor said. Fourteen children from the Pine Ridge Native American Reservation, 70 miles from Custer, enjoyed a week at the camp. In addition to working at the camp, both youth groups spent time with children on the reservation.

Also this summer, a group of 47 youth and adults from Springdale Baptist Church in Louisville followed up by mowing and cleaning the five-

acre camp property, said Tracy Turner, Springdale's minister to students.

"They were a gung-ho, no nonsense group, too," Savery said. "When they left, the campground was in immaculate shape."

Two college-age men on the Springdale team were so moved by the needs in the area, they came back to Kentucky, made arrangements to put their summer work plans on hold and returned to Custer to work two additional weeks, Savery said. "They were incredible."



**SUMMER CAMP** ■ Top: Paula Bauscher and Jessica Peters of Macedonia Baptist Church in Owensboro skin logs for a cabin built at Camp Volunteer in the Black Hills of South Dakota. The camp is about 70 miles from Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and will be used by groups seeking to minister to Native American Sioux. ■ Left: Sarah Ellington of Calvary Baptist in Lexington swings one of the many children at the playground of Lakota Baptist Church at the reservation. The children are so starved for attention, they play with youth groups until they are told to go home, said Paul Gunn, youth minister of Macedonia Baptist Church.



## Brotherhood Golf Tournament

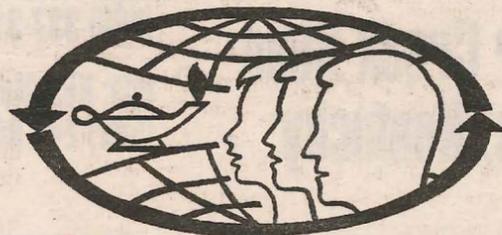
**Thursday, October 3, 1996**  
**10:00 AM (EST)**  
**Lindsey Golf Course**  
**Ft. Knox, KY**

For more information or to  
register call the Brotherhood  
office: 502-245-4101

## Building A Legacy For The Future 1996 Brotherhood Convention

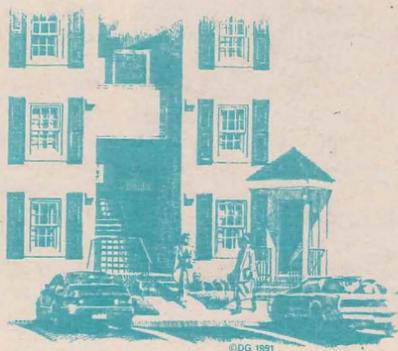
Friday & Saturday  
October 4 & 5  
Registration Begins  
8:30 AM Friday

Stithon Baptist Church  
Radcliff, Kentucky



The Kentucky Baptist Convention and Clear Creek Baptist Bible College present

## Congregationalizing the Multi-Housed: Practical Skills for Ministry



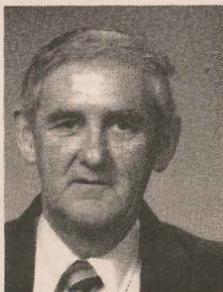
Stuart Perkins



Barbara Oden



Chris White



Neal Stevens



Charles Brock

**October 21-22, 1996**

**Monday 9:00 a.m.—  
1:00 p.m. Tuesday**

**Clear Creek Baptist  
Bible College**

**300 Clear Creek Road  
Pineville, Kentucky**

Registration: Clear Creek  
(606) 337-3196

Info: KBC Metropolitan Missions  
(502) 244-6461

## Entertainment analyst trying to bridge Christians & Disney

*Continued from page 1*

pulp fiction such as "Kazaam" bombed.

An ironic outcome of this poor showing on both extremes of the movie spectrum is Kilday's prediction for next summer's movie crop: "More PG-13 movies for the entire family and fewer G-rated films."

Another plot twist occurred with Disney's big summer release, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," a family movie in which Disney attempted to introduce more adult themes.

"Hunchback" is projected to gross \$100 million in box-office receipts. That's a profit of \$30 million, but it's the lowest domestic gross for a classically animated Disney film since 1989's "Little Mermaid." Entertainment Weekly reported. "For all the money Disney will make from 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame,' the industry still considers the film a major disappointment."

"Hunchback" was criticized by many conservative Christians as further proof that Disney has abandoned family values.

Soon after the movie was released, messengers to the June Southern Bap-

tist Convention threatened a boycott of all Disney products as a protest of the company's personnel policies related to benefits for partners of homosexuals.

Baehr has been positioning himself as a peacebroker in the SBC flap with Disney, according to the October 1996 issue of Charisma magazine.

Baehr said the SBC protest, which has been joined by other conservative religious groups, may have hit "Hunchback" in the pocketbook.

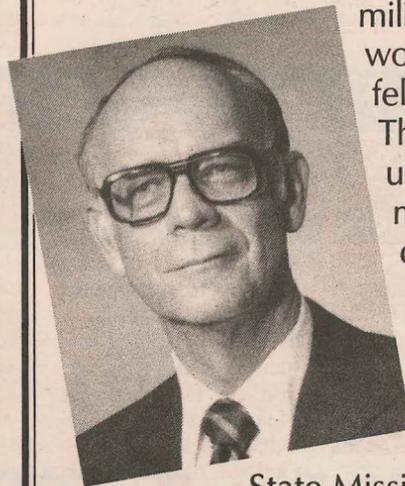
But this summer's Disney flap illustrates the lack of good communication between Christians and Hollywood, Baehr said.

"Disney's domestic partner insurance is dumb and abhorrent," he said. "But you have to understand that Disney was one of the last entertainment companies to adjust for gays, and for years drew the wrath of homosexuals for their procrastination."

Disney officials are equally confused about the Christian community's desires, he added. "We are re-establishing who the Christians are and what their concerns are."

## A personal word about Eliza Broadus

Here in Christian County, we have a new multi-purpose ministry building near Gate 4 at Fort Campbell. This is our meeting place for military men and women, worship, Bible study, fellowship and recreation.



The new building is also used for our Hispanic ministry, and a Korean congregation will be using the building for English as a Second Language lessons. Thanks to the Eliza Broadus Offering for

State Missions, the heating and air conditioning system is being completed. *Ralph McConnell, pastor of Fruit Hill Baptist Church in Hopkinsville*

**Boldly Go! Support the Eliza Broadus  
State Missions Offering  
1996 Goal: \$800,000**



# MISSIONS

## Mission center move to keep target audience

HOPE, Ark. (BP)—If Arkansas Baptists' Migrant Mission Center doesn't relocate in less than a year—an estimated \$300,000 move—it will go from ministering to more than 10,000 migrants to less than 2,000.

The center is a missions outreach to thousands of migrants who travel each year to farming-related jobs in the Northeast. It is located near a government-run rest stop, education center and medical clinic for migrants.

The government facilities will move in 1997 to a new location on Interstate 30. "When they move, we need to move the same day," said center director Paul Roaten.

Arkansas Baptist missions director Jimmy Barrentine said money from other state projects will provide most of the cost of the move. Otherwise, "we will be going from witnessing to and ministering to 10,000 migrants every year to less than 2,000."

Center workers distribute hygiene kits, clothing, toys and Christian literature, and they host worship services, Roaten said. "We've had 55 professions (of faith in Jesus) already this year."

## Agencies want help for Kurdish assistants

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Despite the evacuation to Turkey of 2,100 Kurds, U.S. aid groups have called upon the American government to do more to help those Kurds who worked for the aid groups in northern Iraq and who now fear reprisals from Saddam Hussein.

The Kurds who fled to Turkey were being airlifted Sept. 16 by the United States to Guam, prior to their expected resettlement in the United States.

The Kurds, accompanied by family members, feared being targeted by the Iraqi dictator for having cooperated with the United States in an area that now has fallen under the control of other Kurds aligned with Hussein.

The current U.S. plan is to evacuate only those Kurds directly hired by the U.S. military and U.S. government agencies, leaving those who worked with the non-governmental aid agencies in danger.

Martin Wenick, chairman of the committee on migration and refugee affairs of InterAction, an umbrella agency of refugee assistance groups, said some Kurds who worked with the U.S. agencies already have been executed because of "their service to the international relief operation."

The aid groups began working in northern Iraq in 1991 following Baghdad's effort to crush a Kurdish revolt that began in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War. The United States and its allies established a Kurdish "safe area" in which the aid groups operated. That safe area has now been overrun.

"Our agencies stand ready to offer



you assistance to rescue these dedicated relief workers," Wenick said in a letter to Assistant Secretary of State Phyllis Oakley.

A Southern Baptist worker in Ankara, Turkey, said he is concerned for the safety of Kurdish staff who assisted Southern Baptist relief work.

"We have about 60 (Kurdish) staff, and about 300 people including all their family members," he said.

The worker, who asked not to be identified for security reasons, oversees relief and medical work Southern Baptists have performed in northern Iraq since the end of the Gulf War.

"We've been here for a week talking to the U.S. Embassy, representatives of the U.S. Office of Disaster Assistance, UNICEF, the U.N. High Commission for Refugees and others. We can't get them to give us a defi-

nite answer."

The Iraqi-allied Kurdish Democratic Party has said it will protect these workers, but the worker said Saddam has made no secret of his intention to punish Kurds who have worked with the U.S. government or Western aid groups since the Gulf War.

"To Saddam it doesn't make any difference whether they're a direct hire or work for a (private agency)," he said. "He's going to kill them just the same. They need protection and they need to get out."

The worker said a U.S. Embassy official told him Kurdish employees of private relief agencies were "not even part of the discussion anymore" as evacuation plans developed.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press.

**RELIEF** Kurdish refugee children carry food delivered by Southern Baptists after the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Relief workers now say Kurdish employees of the ongoing relief effort in northern Iraq face possible death at the hands of Iraqis who have re-entered the region. (BP file photo by Paul Obregon)

## Institutional expressions

How fortunate we Kentucky Baptists are to have the variety and quality of institutional life we have, and what a great job each institution is doing in touching the lives of those they serve in the name of Christ and in behalf of you and me and our churches. They deserve our affection and a full measure of our financial support, and you and I deserve the opportunity to provide that support.

In my early years as the Kentucky Baptist Convention business manager, then Executive Secretary Franklin Owen taught me so much about the value of the institutional expressions of our Convention's life. He taught me how much they are our self-image and how much we need them to accomplish Christ's mission in Kentucky and beyond. I also learned from him what a great part they are of our image to others. People see them. These visible, tangible institutions operated by Kentucky Baptists give realization to the public that we are doing things beyond our churches—things that make a difference in our society, and who can measure the value to society of the "leaven of

the lump" of our various institutions? They have much to do with how we are perceived by people who otherwise would never see anything but our church buildings.

Please join me in demonstrating "warm, fuzzy feelings" for: Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Oneida Baptist Institute,

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Campbellsville University, Cumberland College, Georgetown College and Baptist Healthcare System. In addition to these, whose boards are elected by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the Foundation is pleased to serve Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College. And surrounding all of these with ser-

vice and support are the Western Recorder, the Foundation and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

Give us a call at (502) 244-6466 so we can show you how you can provide permanent financial support through the Foundation to one or more of your favorite Baptist causes.

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, 10605 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40223.

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

## Costly mistakes

By Charles Cox Jr.

Elvis Presley ...  
Marilyn Monroe ...  
J.P. Morgan ...  
John Wayne ...

Through the years, these names have become synonymous with wealth and influence. Like you, they had families and friends.

But, with all their fame and fortune, each made at least one costly mistake that profoundly affected their families and loved ones forever—none had a proper estate plan.

As a result, the estates of these famous people experienced extremely high settlement costs and unnecessarily large shrinkage. As a matter of fact, Elvis Presley's sizable estate shrank by a whopping 73 percent because of inadequate planning.

If you haven't planned for your estate, the federal and state governments have. That's right. Federal and state laws could dictate, in certain situations, what is done with an estate if there is not a proper plan in place.

A lack of planning could cost your family and loved ones considerable expense and countless

hours of unnecessary work and frustration. However, appropriate estate planning will prove to be an incalculable blessing for the persons, ministries and institutions you cherish.

Baptist Healthcare Foundation wants to help you help others.

Each day, we provide helpful, easy-to-understand material for persons interested in learning more about the importance of wise stewardship. Also, the Foundation offers free estate planning seminars in our hospitals throughout the year.

If you are interested in receiving helpful estate planning material, attending an upcoming estate planning seminar in your area or scheduling an appointment to talk with someone from Baptist Healthcare Foundation about the importance of wise financial planning, please contact Baptist Healthcare Foundation. Our materials and services are offered to you at no cost or obligation.

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

# MISSIONS

## North Carolina Baptists laud Kentucky volunteers

By David Winfrey  
News Director

**"Words are completely inadequate to express my personal appreciation and the gratitude of countless North Carolina citizens for the ministry offered by the Baptist people from your state."**

Roy Smith, executive director-treasurer for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, in a letter to Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Marshall.

JACKSONVILLE, N.C.—Kentucky Baptists have left the storm-damaged community of Jacksonville, but not before aiding many families and leaving a good impression of Christians and Baptists, according to the director of missions for the local Baptist association.

Kentucky Baptists pulled out Sept. 24, said E.J. Hines. During their time in Jacksonville, near the U.S. Marine base Camp Lejeune, 117 Kentucky volunteers served about 33,000 meals and helped clear debris from the homes and property of 193 families, Hines said.

"They endeared themselves to Tarheels," he said. "They were beautiful people who did a marvelous thing to validate the Christian faith, to strengthen the work of local churches, to inspire local leadership to become better organized for disaster relief themselves."

Local volunteers were impressed by the work ethic of Kentucky Baptists, who labored through rain and other difficulties, Hines said.

"They did not shy away from hard work," he said. "I saw a work ethic in them that was very impressive."

Roy Smith, executive director-treasurer for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, also praised Kentucky Baptist workers.

"Words are completely inadequate to express my personal appreciation and the gratitude of countless North

Carolina citizens for the ministry offered by the Baptist people from your state," Smith wrote in a letter to Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Marshall.

"Men and women of all ages have responded to the call and have demonstrated the meaning of Christian concern and compassion as they have 'ministered in Jesus' name,'" Smith wrote.

Volunteers from Kentucky and other states have gone, but North Carolinians continue to labor, Hines said. Fran cut a 70-mile path of destruction from the coast to the state capital, about 100 miles inland, he said.

New River Baptist Association's complex in Jacksonville sustained about \$135,000 worth of damage to roofs of two buildings and their contents, he said.

Homes in 18 counties were affected, but Hines said the county where Jacksonville is located had the most damaged or destroyed residences: 5,889.

"We're going to be living with this a long time," he said, adding that it will take time to learn which families were uninsured or underinsured. "Already we're discovering that some lower-income folks didn't have a penny" in insurance.

Kentucky Baptists aided the ministry of local churches, Hines added.

"Their deeds were very impressive and needed, but beyond that the spirit of Christ and their compassion was so contagious that it has affected not only Baptists but also this community."



**BLOWN DOWN** The steeple of New River Baptist Church in Jacksonville, N.C., lies beside the church building after Hurricane Fran. (Photo by Mitch Bradshaw)

### Bethlehem Baptist Church, Oneida, Tenn. Great Commission Missions Conference

October 6 with Dr. Larry Lewis, President, HMB  
8 a.m. Men's Breakfast • 11 a.m. Morning Worship

October 13 with Dr. Jerry Rankin, President, FMB  
6 p.m. International Potluck • 7 p.m. Evening Worship

Brother Lon Chenoweth, Pastor  
(423) 569-4518, (423) 569-8868

### An award-winning college

By Robert Dunston

Recently, Cumberland College received two recognitions.

First, Cumberland was selected for inclusion in the Student Guide to America's 100 Best College Buys, 1997-98. Criteria for selection included schools whose costs for the 1996-97 academic year will be below average, but whose 1995-96 freshman class had grade point averages or SAT/ACT scores above the national average. A total of 1,782 colleges and universities were surveyed and Cumberland College made the grade.

We are obviously delighted to be included. Cumberland's administration, faculty and staff have been committed for many years to providing the best in quality Christian education at the lowest price possible.

Second, the Acton Institute selected Cumberland Mountain Outreach program as one of 10 recipients of the 1996 Samaritan Awards. The Samaritan Awards honor private initiatives across the nation seeking to meet needs. The judges look for programs that demonstrate life-changing work and that can be replicated in other places by other groups. The programs need to ad-

dress spiritual and moral needs as well as material needs and must encourage individual dignity and self-sufficiency.

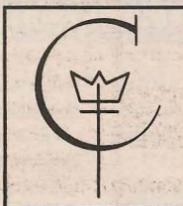
This past summer, Mountain Outreach built four houses for people who would not have had them otherwise. These are not gifts. New homeowners help with construction and pay off the cost of building their

home during a period of years. When the last payment is made, the home is theirs. Students in Mountain Outreach stay in touch with the families through the years, offering friendship, support and spiritual encouragement and guidance. Often, as homes are built, lives also are rebuilt upon the foundation of Christ.

These awards Cumberland received indicate the value of Christian education. To obtain the knowledge, skills and discipline necessary to succeed in life is what every college and university should provide. Christian institutions of higher education, like Cumberland, go beyond that goal and provide a challenge and a framework to lead and serve under the lordship of Christ.

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

**CUMBERLAND COLLEGE**



### Seams of gold

The innocence and purity of a child's smile can cheer your heart. But when 5-year-old Rita first came into the care of a Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children foster family, her grin showed rotten, broken teeth—signs of the awful neglect she had endured. In addition, Rita could not hear or speak—not because of injury or retardation, but because no one had taken the time to nourish her body or stimulate her senses so that she could grow properly.

Once in care, Rita clung to her foster parents as if they were her life preservers. This wonderful Christian family helped her to know that she is a precious child of God. Her broken smile was repaired, and she was given the medical care she needed to help her hear.

And as the fog of the past lifted, Rita found her own tender, sweet voice. She even developed a talent for asking those difficult questions that 5-year-olds ask such as "Where does the wind come from?" and "What's behind the sky?"

Through her foster family, this now delightfully animated little girl has been given a chance to

see, hear and touch what is at the heart of the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children ministry—the love of Christ.

In Japan, a potter will prize a cracked pot beyond all others. Sometimes he will fill the seams with gold and put the repaired pots in places of honor. Damaged pots are cherished more because of the pain and difficulty the vessel has endured.

Many people might not see the value of precious children like Rita—perhaps they look at the damage surrounding the pot and forget that it is still intact. Rita's teeth were broken, but someone still noticed her smile.

KBHC needs foster families for many more children like Rita. Is God leading you to give a child a chance at wholeness? Are you a person who can fill the seams of a broken vessel with gold? If you think you might be, please give us a call at the number below!

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

**HOMES FOR CHILDREN**



Brenda Gray



## FINANCIAL FORUM

### Life insurance policies as charitable gifts

By Laurie Valentine

Using life insurance to fund a charitable gift can provide you with both current and deferred giving benefits. It can also provide you the opportunity to make a bigger ultimate gift for charity than you ever thought possible.

While you may not be able to make a gift of thousands of dollars all at once, you may be able to make a gift of smaller amounts on a regular basis to cover the cost of premiums for a life insurance policy on your life.

To accomplish this type of gifting, all you do is irrevocably transfer either the ownership of a policy that you already have or a new policy to your church or other charitable cause. Then, each year thereafter you would make gifts equal to the amount the church or other cause would need to pay the premiums on the policy.

You are entitled to a current charitable income tax deduction approximately equal to the cash surrender value of the policy at the time you irrevocably transfer the ownership to the charity. You will also be able to deduct the gifts you make each year to pay the continuing premiums on the policy.

At your death, the charity as beneficiary can collect the proceeds immediately. There is no waiting for probate settlement of your estate, and the charity usually incurs no expense to collect the death benefit. Best of all, the amount the charity receives at your death generally far exceeds the cumulative amount of the premiums paid during your lifetime.

Making this type of gift provides you with the satisfaction of knowing that something of yourself is left behind to provide continuing benefits to a cause that you have supported during your lifetime. It provides the charity with financial resources to ensure a measure of long term financial strength and stability to carry out its programs and missions.

Life insurance and charitable giving—a winning combination for many would-be charitable donors!

*Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.*

## Counselor seeing gambling debts skyrocket

BATON ROUGE, La. (BP)—Until a few years ago, large gambling debts had little impact on Dave Sledge's work as chief executive of Consumer Credit Counseling Services.

Now, however: "Every day our counselors are sitting down with people just wiped out by gambling," he said.

Sledge added that his company takes no legal or moral stand on gambling.

"But it's fair to say that experience

has demonstrated that a lot of people have gotten hooked and cannot deal with it. We've seen them lose their savings, their cars, their homes."

A disturbing aspect is that counselors are seeing a new kind of person caught in the debt trap, he said.

"We're seeing people in their 30s, 40s, 50s who have kept their noses clean all of their lives in terms of financial management and credit," Sledge noted. "But then gambling moved into their area and, bam, they get hooked. And before they know it,

they're in serious trouble financially."

Sledge said clients often have gambling debts more than double their annual salaries.

Problem gambling already runs deeper than many people realize, he added.

"We're seeing just the tip of the iceberg here," said Sledge, adding he has seen a 13 percent increase in clients this year. "All you have to do to get an idea of that is to listen to the talk on the street. Bankruptcy lawyers are laughing all the way to the bank."

**"We're seeing just the tip of the iceberg here."**

*Dave Sledge, chief executive of Consumer Credit Counseling Services in Baton Rouge, La.*

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**WANTED:** Minister of worship, Glasgow Baptist Church, 375+ average worship attendance. Great opportunity in growing county seat church.

Handbells, fully graded children's choir, instrumental ensembles, vocal ensembles. Send resumé to: Minister of Worship Search Committee, Glasgow Baptist Church, P.O. Box 489, Glasgow, KY 42141.

**SEEKING:** Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is seeking a communications assistant for its communications office. Position requires good organizational, computer and communication skills. Send resumé to: 10801 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40243, Attn: Human Resources. EOE.

**SEEKING:** Concord Baptist Church pastor retiring 12-31-96. The church will receive resúmes from those interested in seeking the position of pastor through the end of October. Concord is a rural church 13 miles southeast of Madisonville in western Kentucky. The church was organized in 1838 and is a member of Little Bethel Baptist Association. Send resúmes to: Pastor Search Com-

mittee, Concord Baptist Church, 7650 White Plains Road, White Plains, KY 42464.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: Plano Baptist Church, 600 Plano-Richmond Road, Bowling Green, KY 42104, Attn: Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Youth minister; bivocational experience preferred. Person to provide dynamic, fun, biblically-based leadership of youth ministry. Send resumé to: Buck Grove Baptist, 255 Buck Grove Road, Ekron, KY 40117, Attn: Beth.

**CLEANING:** Need your windows cleaned or gutters cleaned out? Residential or commercial, call (502) 363-4324 for free estimate.

**SEEKING:** A multiple-staff, seeker-sensitive, purpose-driven church is looking for a full-time youth and children's minister to provide vision, direction, training and leadership to a team of volunteers. Individual must be gifted in teaching and must have management skills, a high energy level, fresh ideas and the ability to function in a team approach to ministry. Interested? Experienced? Chal-

lenged? Send resumé to: Search Committee, Springfield Baptist Church, Springfield, KY 40069. Phone: (606) 336-3544.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of youth, either single individual or couple, interested in building an exciting youth program. Salary plus use of parsonage negotiable. If interested, send resumé to: Hillcrest Baptist Church, Personnel Committee, 684 Devils Hollow Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

**FOR RENT:** Sanibel Island, Florida: 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo available for vacation rental. Large pool, tennis courts, bikes, canoe, kayak, screened porch, lovely secluded beach. Weekly rates May through mid-December: \$575. Call Pat Owen, (502) 895-8752 (home) or (502) 897-5079 (office).

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**Rev. Sam Cathy**, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Friday Night: **Dr. John Phillips**, Memphis, Tenn.

**Dr. Bobby Boyles**, Oklahoma City, Okla.

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- A roof for Central church in Bryansk.
- \$1500 to install an electrical system at Dzerzhinski church.
- Sealer for Vishney Volochok building.
- Upcoming associational annual meetings in the seven associations which form the Baptist Convention of New England.
- Greater Boston Baptist Association Director of Missions Ignatius Meimaris.
- Baptist Convention of New England Executive Director Ken Lyle.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BATTLETOWN**—Wolf Creek Church will celebrate its 175th anniversary Oct. 13. **Lowell Cantrall** will be guest speaker at the 11 a.m. service. **Tom Taylor** is pastor. Call (502) 968-6491 for more information.

■ **CADIZ**—New Hope Church celebrated its homecoming Sept. 15, with a day of praise, worship and fellowship.

Rock Front Church celebrated its homecoming Sept. 15. **Irvin Darnall** was guest speaker.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Harrods Creek Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary soon. All pastors, ministers of music and/or youth, present and former members should contact Barbara Brannin at (502) 241-8863. Leave a message with your name, address and phone number.

■ **CRITTENDEN**—**Gene Livingood** retired as pastor of Gardnersville Church in Pendleton County

Aug. 15. He is available to supply preach. Contact him at: 103 North Main St., P.O. Box 317, Crittenden, Ky. 41030 or call (606) 428-2116.

■ **DEXTER**—South Marshall Church called **Howard Conner** as pastor Aug. 7.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Valley Creek Church will begin two Sunday morning services at 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. Oct. 6. Call (502) 737-9282 for more information. **Steven Hill** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Henderson Memorial Church recently called **John Reed** as minister of education and activities. He is a graduate of Cumberland College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church will celebrate its 85th anniversary Oct. 6. at 10:45 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Former Pastor **Ray Dobbins** will

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be guest speaker. Call Lillian Perkins at (502) 368-0650 for more information.

Eighteenth Street Church will ordain **Larry Ferguson**, **Greg Sexton** and **Randall Constant Jr.** as deacons Oct. 6.

**Bill Emerson** resigned as minister of music at Jeffersontown Church, effective Sept. 29, to become minister of music at United Methodist Church in Athens, Ga.

Worship with **Michael Card** in concert and support missions to Ghana when you buy your ticket from Salt & Light Ministries. Concert is Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m., Memorial Auditorium. Call Salt & Light at (502) 895-1573 for tickets.

**Jim Carpenter** resigned as pastor at Woodland Church to become associational missionary for Tri-County Baptist Association in Martinsburg, W.Va.

■ **MIDDLESBORO**—**Phillip Akers** celebrated his 17th anniversary as video coordinator at First Church Sept. 28.

■ **MURRAY**—Grace Church called **Wesley Feltner** as youth minister.

**James Simmons** celebrated his 10th anniversary as pastor at Memorial Church. Also, **Paul Adams** was called as minister of music. He began his new ministry Sept. 1.

### YOUTH GROUPS NEEDED

Atlanta, Orlando, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo, New Orleans, Branson, Denver, Tampa, Chicago for summer missions. We provide meals, lodging, assignment. For info, costs, contact Youth on Mission, Bx 2095, Rocky Mt, NC, 27802  
(800) 299-0385

## Record offering collected by World Changers

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Participants in this year's World Changers projects gave a record \$28,112 to support ministries in Memphis, Tenn., and Savannah, Ga.

World Changers director Andy Morris said the contributions represent participants' "commitment to a complete missions experience of not only praying for missions and doing missions, but also giving to missions."

Sponsored by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, World Changers involves youth in missions projects including home construction and renovation or participation in inner-city ministries and paint projects.

Brinkley Heights Baptist Church in Memphis, the Union Mission in Savannah and Savannah Baptist Center will receive this year's offering.

Brinkley Heights Baptist Church offers emergency food and clothing assistance, summer children's clubs, apartment Bible studies, substance abuse counseling and health-care screening.

Union Mission in Savannah provides homeless people with housing as well as education and job training programs and substance abuse treatment. It also offers ministry to people with AIDS.

Savannah Baptist Center offers age-graded Bible studies, a food pantry and clothing closet, tutorial services and literacy classes.

## 'Look on the fields; they are white already unto harvest'

We have just completed our fall revival. Much time had been spent in prayer by our faculty, staff and students. This was the first time many of our students had ever attended a revival. We never know what they are thinking.

I remember the first time I heard the term "revival." Not having grown up in a Christian home, I remember riding in a car and seeing a tent on some vacant field. When I asked my mother why the tent was there, she told me it was a "revival." You and I know that a tent does not mean that a revival is going on. My mother probably did not understand the true meaning of revival.

I think we had a "true revival" last week. The evangelist was our own Steve Crumpler, one of our science teachers. Steve knows our students, and has a good understanding of the messages they and our faculty and staff need. We not only had the traditional evening services, but we also used our daily chapel services for revival messages. On Sunday morning and evening several students accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior of their lives. Others rededicated their lives to the Lord, and still others came to pray and request prayer.

I am happy to say that many other students responded to the invitation in our chapel services. Coming forward during chapel is a little more difficult than in an evening service, because at chapel every student and teacher is in attendance. It is not easy to make a public decision in front of your peers. But in every chapel service, 10 to 20 students came and knelt at the altar. After the service, the rest of the students were dismissed. Those who had come forward were encouraged to remain so that an adult or BSU small group leader

could pray with them.

Some of these students had only been at Oneida for a few weeks. Others had been here much longer. We know about 60 percent of our students are not Christians when they come to us. Many Christian schools will not accept a student who is not a Christian.

We believe that a Christian school has no greater opportunity or responsibility than to provide an environment in which lost students can be told of a Savior who loves them. We know that every boy and girl will not become a Christian while attending our school. But many will, and many others will remember the spiritual things taught them while here.

In Mark 1:17, Jesus said he wants to make us "fishers of men." We are not responsible for the harvest, but we are to cast our nets on both sides of the boat in hope of leading some to Jesus. Some would criticize us for taking so many students who do not meet certain standards. They would advise us to not allow students to attend our "Christian" school unless they first agree to clean up all of the sin in their lives. A basic fact of life is that you cannot clean fish until you catch them. I am grateful that God has given us so many opportunities to win lost boys and girls to the Lord. After they have been won, we will let the "Master Fisherman" do the cleaning. I cannot find anywhere in God's word that we are responsible for cleaning the fish.

Except for a Christian home, there is no better place or opportunity to lead a young person to the Lord than in a Christian school.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## The man of the mountain

"During his 55-year involvement with missions, Merrill Aldridge has lost count of all the work he's helped begin. But no matter the number, his heart is in the mountains and with helping the people there—whether it's the mountains of Kentucky or of Zambia, where he worked for two and a half years as a volunteer missionary after retirement." Lisa Smith uses those words to begin a feature article about Clear Creek President Emeritus D.M. Aldridge in the September-October issue of the MissionUSA.

Did she say retirement? The pace Merrill Aldridge keeps would tire most working people. Since he and Mrs. Aldridge returned from Zambia in 1984, he has served in 12 interim pastorates. After two years as director of missions in Rockcastle Association, he signed on as a church starter strategist with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He now works to help reach 700 multi-housing starts within five years, a goal of Mission KY 2. Months ago, he scheduled a conference about that strategy on our campus. We expect hundreds to be present next month.

Just mention Copper Creek and his eyes reflect the excitement of a

first-time pastor. The rural church is four miles from Brodhead in Rockcastle County. He helped start the work seven years ago and secured most of the money for the first building. In October '96, he became interim pastor. With an attendance of 40, the congregation had 16 additions last year. The highlight was a summer baptism of seven in near-by Copper Creek, witnessed by nearly 200.

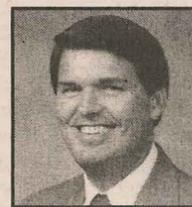
For the first time in a half century, he and Mrs. Aldridge are members of different churches. "I decided to move my membership to Copper Creek. Kay is still at Porter Memorial. She now has an outreach to Chinese residents of Lexington."

The Aldridges have shown their love for Clear Creek with a leadership pledge to our Beyond 2001 campaign, and he serves as chair of the college community phase.

I asked him what he's enjoyed most about retirement and he answered, "I've been busy." No doubt about that. All of Kentucky, especially the mountain area, continues to be blessed by "the man of the mountains."

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

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

## Baptist judge no stranger to conflict because of faith

GADSDEN, Ala. (BP)—Judge Roy Moore is no stranger to conflict over his Christian faith.

The Alabama Baptist said he doesn't relish battling separation of church and state issues, but he is not afraid to take them on.

Under fire for hanging the Ten Commandments in his Etowah County courtroom and offering occasional prayers before jury selection, Moore most recently has come under attack for a divorce case he is hearing that involves allegations of a lesbian affair by the wife. The woman and her attorney have asked Moore to step down from the upcoming hearing, which has attracted state and national attention, claiming his fundamentalist Christian beliefs will prejudice his ruling.

Moore has refused both requests and has set the final hearing for Oct. 7-8.

"If I step down, that would mean anyone could just go shopping for a judge who thinks like they do," said Moore, a member of First Baptist Church of Gallant, Ala. "They just don't like what I stand for, and I'm certainly not going to step down because of what I believe."

Moore said standing up for his Christian beliefs is part of his oath to God, no matter what challenges that may provoke. "When you do what you believe, you are going to run into problems."

Moore went to Montgomery County Circuit Court last month to defend his display of the Ten Commandments and prayers in the courthouse.

With energy and authority, Moore likes to quote George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman and James Madison to support his

case that America is grounded in a belief in God.

"For me to acknowledge God in my courtroom is not a violation of my duty—it is my duty," he said.

This insistence on fulfilling that "duty" made the judge an easy target for the American Civil Liberties Union, which filed a lawsuit against Moore in March 1995. In conjunction with the Alabama Free-Thought Association, the ACLU claims First Amendment rights are violated because the courtroom prayers and Ten Commandments on the wall represent an establishment of religion.

The Ten Commandments trial was a declaratory judgment filed by the governor to request the state's position on the issue of prayers in the courtroom. Gov. Fob James voiced support of Moore's position in 1995 and approved the state paying \$85 an

hour to offset the legal fees of Moore's attorney.

The judge in that case is scheduled to render a decision in mid-October. But Moore predicted, no matter what the outcome, the case will go to the Alabama Supreme Court and possibly to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"We will fight this all the way to the Supreme Court, and I think we will be successful," Moore said. "They say I am coercing people by displaying God's law. I am just one small courtroom in one state, so does that make all our American money saying 'In God We Trust' and every monument in Washington, D.C., referring to God coercive too? I don't think so, and I don't think what I'm doing is either."

"I don't think we have to hide our faith, and I wish we would understand that acknowledging God is not establishing a religion."

**Moore most recently has come under attack for a divorce case he is hearing that involves allegations of a lesbian affair by the wife. The woman and her attorney have asked Moore to step down from the upcoming hearing, which has attracted state and national attention, claiming his fundamentalist Christian beliefs will prejudice his ruling.**

## Couple's work takes them from no kids to 60

ELIZABETHTON, Tenn. (BP)—During a mission trip, his first, to New Orleans, Joe Ledford saw children in "helpless and hopeless" circumstances, he said.

Ledford said that when he returned home he kept thinking about children and wondering how he could prevent such heart-break.

Ledford and his wife, Linda, who also went on the mission trip to New Orleans, talked with Becky Brumitt of Watauga Baptist Association about their concerns. Brumitt, another member of the mission team, suggested they work with children in a Big A Club she had started in a government-subsidized community.

That was two years ago, and the couple now claims as "their" children about 60 children they have met through Big A Club.

"Maybe that's why we didn't have birth children, because we wouldn't have time to do this," said Ledford.

The ministry not only has changed their lives, but has changed their church, noted Ledford. Before the couple met the children, the church had realized its need for more youth. As Sunday school director, Ledford had led the congregation to pray for more children to attend.

After getting acquainted with the children attending Big A Club, the Ledfords encouraged their church to buy a van. They use it to transport children not only to Big A Club, but also to transport them to Lynn Valley Baptist Church.

Sunday school classes have doubled in size and a children's choir is planned. Parents of children have made professions of faith and joined the church as a result, added Linda Ledford.

## Obstacles don't hamper this church starter

By Sarah Zimmerman  
SBC Home Mission Board

ALEXANDRIA, Ind. (BP)—A rained out block party, water leak, termite infestation, personal health problems and lack of Bible school workers might discourage most church starters.

But Harrison Williams sees God at work and sums up the situation with his trademark phrase, "Isn't that neat?"

Williams leads the only Southern Baptist congregation in this Indiana town of 11,000 people. Despite the setbacks, Williams said he couldn't get away from the needs of the community. "My desire to do work here was so strong, I couldn't quit."

While his desire is strong, his back isn't. A deteriorating spine forced the bivocational pastor to undergo three surgeries in three years and take disability leave from his full-time job.

"I'm not strong enough to spend real long days on the church field," said Williams who lives 30 miles away. "In order for us to build a church, everybody has to go out and do what they can."

Williams has baptized 27 people since starting Calvary Baptist Chapel two years ago. He visited one woman undergoing kidney dialysis and led her to make a profession of faith in Jesus as Savior. Her son, who listened to the gospel presentation, also became a Christian.

Another man who visited the church with his aunt indicated initially he was saved. But as he continued to attend, he told Williams, "I need the Lord."

The church met originally in a community building used primarily for senior adult activities. The congregation included two non-Christians, one Christian, Williams and his wife, Nancy.

To teach the basics of Christian living, Williams used Total Church Life material in Sunday school for two months. Written by Darrell Robinson, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board vice president for evangelism, the book emphasizes three points: exalt the Savior, equip the saints and



evangelize the sinner.

Williams added an emphasis on prayer to those building blocks of worship, discipleship and evangelism. "Now we have 35 or so on Sunday mornings, and we had 67 on Easter," Williams said. "We've reached about a dozen youth. Isn't that neat?"

This summer 71 children attended two backyard Bible clubs sponsored by the church. Since most church members are new Christians, the church did not have seasoned workers for the clubs. Church members volunteered, however, and the teachers learned the material as they taught their students.

Dick Morgan, a member of Kingston Avenue Baptist Church in nearby Anderson, teaches the adult Sunday school class at Calvary Chapel.

"It's exciting to see people come to the Lord in their homes and here at the church and in unexpected places," Morgan said. He said he's seen alcoholics change their lifestyles after becoming Christians and one woman bring her entire family to church after she became a Christian.

As the church grew, Williams began looking for a permanent place to meet. He found an abandoned church

building surrounded by knee-high weeds. At first he was told the building was not for sale, but was later told the congregation could lease it. However, \$225 a month for a lease payment is a high cost for a small congregation.

Last year the church sponsored a revival meeting under a tent. A man from another town who attended the services said God told him to help pay the rent on the building. He paid the lease for a year.

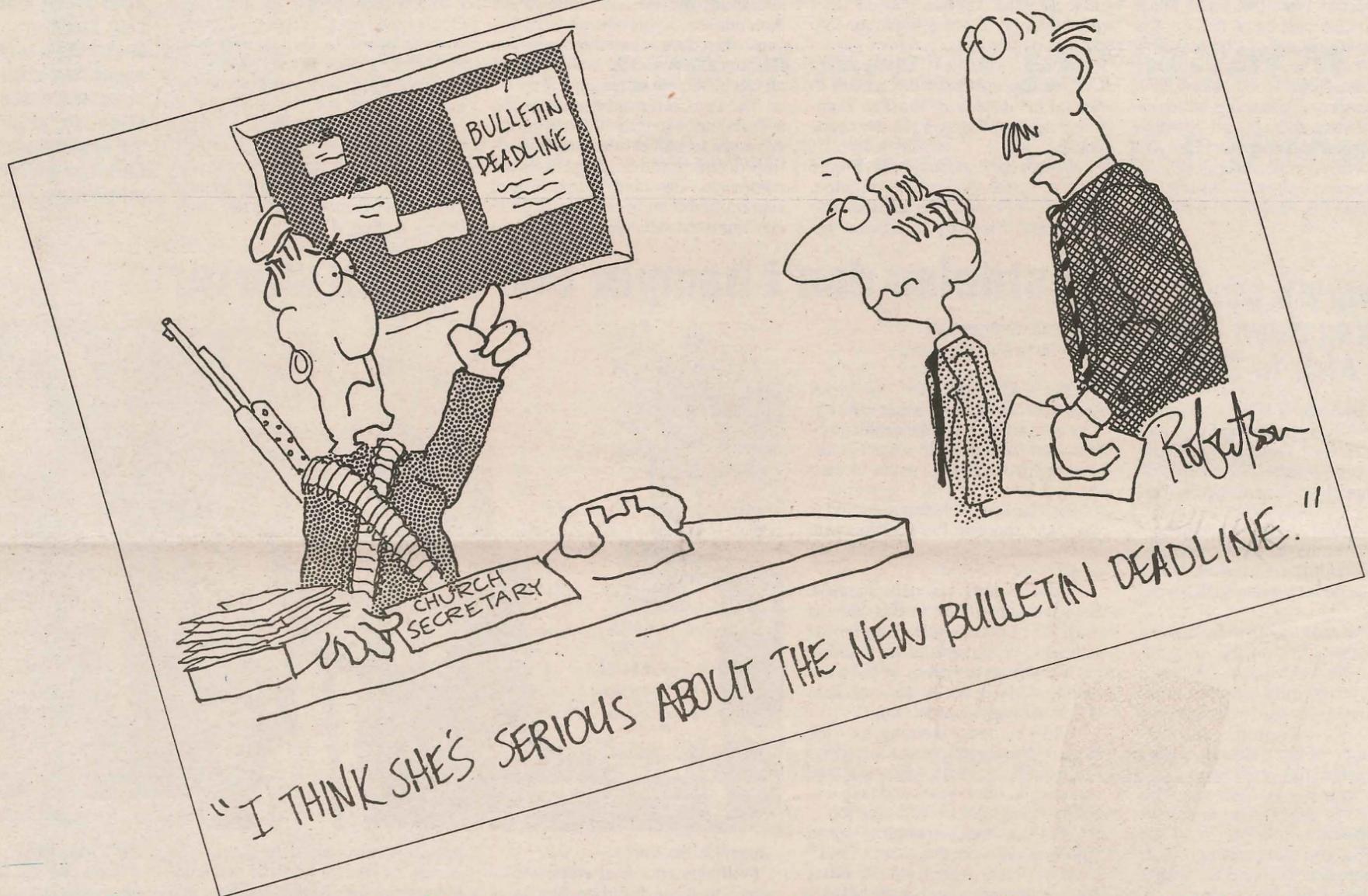
The congregation wanted to buy the building, but the asking price of \$23,500 was beyond their budget. Then a water line broke and repairmen discovered that the building was infested with termites. The congregation was told the stained glass windows were the only thing worth saving.

The building was sturdy enough to provide a short-term meeting place, however, so the congregation bought it for \$8,000. Members borrowed the money, but the man who paid the first-year's lease paid off the debt. The church has started a building fund for a future site, and the same man donated \$3,000 toward it.

"Isn't that neat?"

**ISN'T THAT NEAT? Harrison Williams (left) has baptized 27 people since starting Calvary Baptist Chapel two years ago in Alexandria, Ind. Associational missionary Clarence Albertson (right) said the church is a "beautiful testimony to what can happen when the Lord is in charge." Williams' wife, Nancy, is pictured between the men. (BP photo by Sarah Zimmerman)**

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