

November 19, 1996
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What happened at the KBC

The Kentucky Baptist Convention held its 159th annual meeting at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green last week. Here's a summary of what happened:

■ **Officers.** Floyd Price, pastor of Scottsville Baptist Church in Scottsville, was elected KBC president. Other officers include First Vice President Paul Welch, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green; Second Vice President Steve Hadden, pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood; Secretary Wilma Simmons of Ekron; and Assistant Secretary Joe Priest Williams of Louisville. *Page 3.*

■ **CP change.** Messengers approved an Executive Board recommendation to change the percentage of Cooperative Program receipts forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention. *Page 1.*

■ **Messages.** Keynote addresses were given by Tony Campolo, Esther Burroughs, Bill Tichenor and Ted Sisk. *Page 7.*

■ **Motions.** Messengers defeated a motion to study whether to allow churches to set their own Cooperative Program percentage split between KBC and Southern Baptist Convention causes. They also heard the first reading of a proposal to amend the KBC constitution's definition of what constitutes a cooperating church. *Page 6.*

■ **Assemblies.** Final approval was given for creation of a new entity, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc., to own and manage Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek Baptist assemblies. *Page 6.*

■ **Marshall recognition.** Throughout the convention, tribute was paid to Bill and Alice Marshall. Marshall will retire in February after 14 years as KBC executive secretary-treasurer. *Page 3.*

■ **Resolutions.** Messengers adopted resolutions opposing partial-birth abortions, praising Bill Marshall, commending Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and thanking the host church. *Page 6.*

KBC revises funding split for missions

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

BOWLING GREEN—The Kentucky Baptist Convention will keep an extra 2 percent of Cooperative Program receipts for in-state use beginning September 1997.

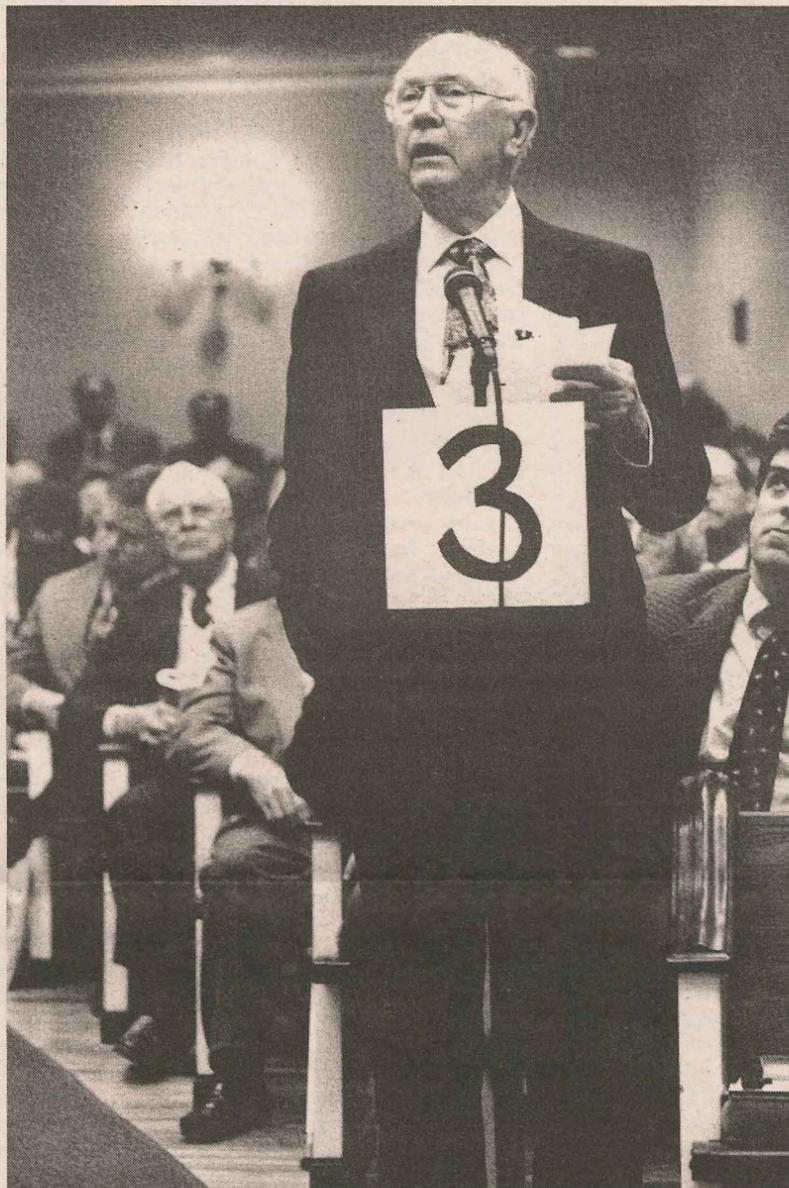
This recommendation, which originated with a study committee and was approved earlier by the KBC Executive Board, was approved by messengers to the KBC annual meeting Nov. 12 at First Baptist Church in Bowling Green. After a lengthy period of debate, the measure was adopted by a 57 percent majority on a 664-503 vote.

The action means the KBC will reduce by 2 percent, or about \$384,000, the portion of Cooperative Program receipts it forwards to the Southern Baptist Convention for national and international causes. Currently, the SBC gets 37 percent of all gifts to the Kentucky Cooperative Program and the KBC keeps 63 percent. Beginning with the 1997-98 fiscal year, the SBC will get 35 percent and the KBC will retain 65 percent.

The change returns the split between KBC and SBC causes to the level where it was before Southern Baptists adopted goals for Bold Mission Thrust, a plan to share the gospel with every person on earth by the year 2000.

KBC leaders said the change was necessary because churches had not caught the vision of increased giving necessary to fulfill the financial goals of Bold Mission Thrust. In 1981, the KBC had begun moving its percentage split with the SBC from 35 percent toward 40 percent. In subsequent years, however, churches have decreased the percentage of their budgets given to the Cooperative Program

□ See Cooperative program ..., page 6



IN FAVOR D.M. Aldridge, former president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and a former foreign missionary, speaks in favor of increasing the percentage of money retained for Kentucky Baptist mission causes. The measure passed by a vote of 664 to 503.

Campolo: Prepare churches for the post-modern world

By David Winfrey
News Director

BOWLING GREEN—Christians are living in a post-modern era requiring a faith that is intensely personal, passionate and prophetic, Tony Campolo told Kentucky Baptists during their annual convention.

"The question is, Will the church be prepared for post-modernity?" said Campolo, professor of sociology at Eastern College in St. David's, Penn. He defined post-modern society as one that no longer puts its faith in science and is looking for something else to give meaning to life.

"The answer is the church will be ready for post modernity if it rediscovers the truth it had in pre-modernity. It is the absurdity and foolishness of Jesus Christ."

Campolo said Christians will experience the power of God after they submit to God and spend intimate time in the presence of God. Instead, Campolo said, too many Christians segment faith from the rest of life or turn to their Bibles for "a verse a day to

keep the devil away."
"God is frustrated and says, 'Will you just give me some stillness?'" Campolo said.

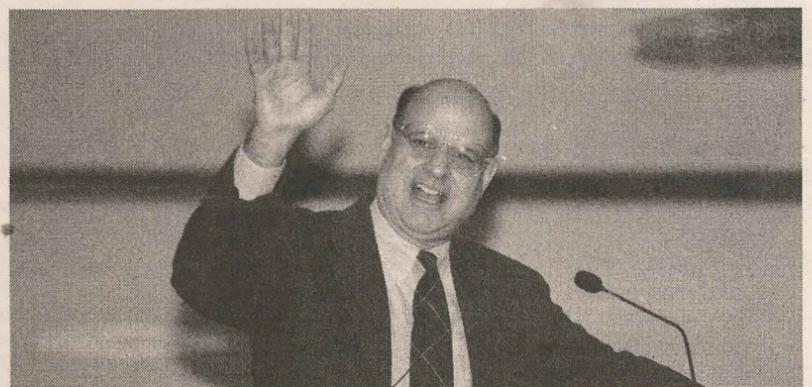
"Why don't you shut up for a change?" he asked. "The ultimate form of prayer is not reading off that list of non-negotiables but surrendering to a presence."

Addressing Baptist disputes, Campolo called them irrelevant compared to the need for all to surrender to God. "I am here to declare that after your denominations are done splitting over what is objectively true, it doesn't mean a thing if you have not submitted to Jesus Christ," he said.

The power of God available to Christians can attract today's youth, Campolo said, describing them as dead to emotion.

"The only church that will survive in the 21st century is a church that is alive," he said. "The generation that lies ahead wants a God it can feel."

Christians must also be prophetic, pointing out the difference between the path of the status quo and an alternate path to the kingdom of God,



CLOSING SPEAKER Tony Campolo told Kentucky Baptists the post-modern era requires a faith that transcends just believing in God. "What's the big deal about believing? Satan believes. ... He refuses to become a disciple." Campolo said.

Campolo said. "The preacher of the 21st century is going to simply ask people one question: 'Where do you want to live, Babylon or Jerusalem?'"

He challenged Kentucky Baptists against aligning American patriotism too closely with Christianity. "God is not an American. In fact, he may be a bit anti-American right now. ... To

whom much has been given, much is expected."

While calling America the "best Babylon on earth," Campolo said Baptists must decide which flag they will follow.

He said America's consumption is attracting a generation to lives that are not surrendered to being disciples of

□ See Youth is for ..., page 7

Moving? See page 4 (1119)

Texas moderates rebuff challenge; split considered

Mohler & Akin called 'up & comers'

CAROL STREAM, Ill. (BP)—Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Danny Akin, the seminary's vice president for academic administration, are among five Southern Baptists named by Christianity Today as emerging leaders. Other Southern Baptists named to the list are J.C. Watts, a Republican member of Congress from Oklahoma; David Gushee, former ethics professor at Southern Seminary who now teaches at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.; and contemporary Christian singer Rebecca St. James. Of Mohler, 37, and Akin, 39, the magazine wrote: "On Aug. 1, 1993, 33-year-old Al Mohler stepped to the helm of his denomination's flagship seminary, Southern Baptist Theological, took the wheel and made a strong turn to the right. The speed and velocity of that turn threw some faculty, staff and students off-balance—a few were thrown overboard. Mohler, foot on the gas, never looked back. His goal, he says, is 'nothing less than a recovery of the tradition and conviction upon which the institution was established.' "Mohler recently asked Daniel Akin to become his right-hand man. Akin is the protege of Paige Patterson, one of the original architects of the SBC conservative resurgence." Among other key evangelicals on the Christianity Today list are Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, and A.C. Green Jr., forward for the Phoenix Suns.

Here's a summary of what happened at other state Baptist conventions last week:

■ **Texas.** Texas Baptists re-elected a moderate pastor as president Nov. 11, turning back another challenge from conservatives and raising speculation of a split in the nation's largest Baptist state convention.

Incumbent Charles Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church of Arlington, was elected to the customary second term over Rick Scarborough, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pearland near Houston. Wade received 66 percent of the vote compared to 34 percent for Scarborough, whose campaign was backed by the conservative group Southern Baptists of Texas.

Wade led a three-person moderate slate of officers. All three won by margins of about two to one.

Moderates asserted control of the 2.6 million-member Texas convention in the mid-1980s, even as conservatives were solidifying gains in the national Southern Baptist Convention. The message, Wade told reporters after his election, is that Texans want no part of the narrow dogma and exclusionary tactics of "fundamentalists" who dominate the SBC.

Scarborough and other conservatives accuse Texas moderates of deserting the SBC because many of them—including Wade—also support the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the national moderate organization.

"We are Southern Baptists. We are going to be Southern Baptists," Wade countered. "We are giving more money to Southern Baptists than we ever have. They ought to thank us instead of bashing us."

Wade said the Baptist commitment to freedom permits churches to have choices about the causes they support.

Conservative leaders said they were disappointed by the defeat, and some began talking of withdrawing to form a new convention, as conservatives in Virginia recently did.

"I'll go with a new convention tonight," Bill Sutton, pastor of First Baptist Church of McAllen, told fellow

conservatives who gathered hours after the election to consider their future.

But the group, Southern Baptists of Texas, voted almost unanimously to continue the fight at least one more year. They asked Scarborough to carry their banner again in 1997.

■ **North Carolina.** North Carolina Baptists re-elected a conservative president despite a challenge by moderates, who held a lock on the office until last year. Greg Mathis, pastor of Mud Creek Baptist Church in Hendersonville, won a customary second one-year term as president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, defeating moderate candidate Ray Howell.

Mathis, 41, garnered a 60 percent majority to defeat Howell, 42, senior minister at First Baptist Church in Lexington.

Last year, Mathis defeated the moderate-backed candidate, retired denominational employee Dewey Hobbs, by 96 votes, becoming the first person identified with the conservative group which controls the Southern Baptist Convention to win the office in the state, which had been a moderate stronghold.

Though not unprecedented, a challenge to a president who is eligible for re-election is rare in North Carolina. Howell told reporters he ran for president not because he opposed Mathis, who shunned politics in his first term, but "because of who Greg represents."

"He represents (leaders in) the Southern Baptist Convention and their takeover mentality," Howell said.

Mathis, however, "categorically" denied being part of any takeover group. "Greg Mathis is his own person under the lordship of Jesus Christ," he told reporters.

Mathis was backed by a group called Conservative Carolina Baptists. However, he said he is not a member of the group and had not seen the organization's pamphlet endorsing him for president. Howell was endorsed by Friends of Missions, a moderate group.

Mathis said he understood last year

why moderates were concerned his reelection might signal a conservative alignment in the state convention, but after a year's track record those fears were unfounded, he added. He pointed out his leadership appointments were balanced between conservatives and moderates and he had done nothing to challenge a budget that allows churches to fund the moderate Cooperative Baptist Fellowship rather than the SBC.

■ **Florida.** After a spirited 45-minute debate, Florida Baptists overwhelmingly approved new doctrinal and procedural guidelines for churches wanting to affiliate with the 1,700-church Florida Baptist Convention.

Under the lengthy document drafted by a study committee and recommended in September by the convention's state board of missions, new Florida Baptist churches must affirm teachings of the "Baptist Faith and Message" doctrinal statement and meet other requirements.

John Sullivan, executive director-treasurer of the state convention, said the study document, which revised several bylaws, offers a "yardstick to measure cooperation."

"We must identify who we are as Baptists. You cannot be a Baptist and believe anything you want to believe," Sullivan said to resounding shouts of "amen" and applause from messengers at the Nov. 11-13 meeting.

■ **Virginia.** Virginia Baptists approved a budget Nov. 12 that allocates more money next year for ministries in Virginia and sends less to national and global ministries outside the state.

The \$15.5 million budget for 1997, adopted during the annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, retains a higher percentage of church contributions in the state.

As a result, two of the state association's main recipients for national and world mission causes will get fewer funds next year: the Southern Baptist Convention about \$360,000 less, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship about \$135,000 less.

Almost all the increased revenues for Virginia—about \$1 million—will be allocated to the Virginia Baptist General Board, which is undertaking a sweeping reorganization to change the way it offers ministries to churches. The board, which was renamed the Virginia Baptist Mission Board, is given \$5.6 million, compared to \$4.7 million in the current budget.

The 1997 budget also eliminates funding for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, ending a 45-year relationship with the group. The \$2,100 was reallocated to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

■ **Georgia.** In a meeting interrupted by a bomb threat, conservatives continued to dominate Georgia Baptist politics at the state convention's 175th annual meeting Nov. 11-12. More than 6,200 members adopted a slate of conservative officers and censured Mercer University president Kirby Godsey for views stated in a recent book, "When We Talk About God ... Let's Be Honest."

Messengers endorsed action taken in September by the state convention's executive committee asking Godsey to "reconsider" his views and requesting Mercer University president Kirby Godsey for views stated in a recent book, "When We Talk About God ... Let's Be Honest."

In the book, Godsey rejects claims that the Bible is infallible and raises questions about doctrines including original sin and the Virgin Birth.

Allowed to address messengers, Godsey made an impassioned appeal against the censure, contending opposition to his book was "not about sound doctrine, but about politics."

While his plea drew some applause—along with some boos—it failed to sway messengers, who voted 67 percent to 33 percent for the censure.

In officer elections, Georgia Baptists chose Lawrenceville pastor Frank Cox as their new president. Cox, pastor of First North Metro Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, was openly promoted as the conservative candidate.

Movie on seminary changes draws full houses to film festival

By Pat Cole
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—"Battle for the Minds," a film about the changing views on women in ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, addresses issues that reach beyond the Louisville campus, according to a panel convened during the Louisville Film Festival.

The documentary captured the festival's best feature film award. More than 1,000 people viewed the film during the Nov. 6-10 event, and capacity crowds packed the theater for all seven showings. It also has played in the Vancouver Film Festival in Canada and the Mill Valley Film Festival in California. Producer Steven Lipscomb hopes it will be accepted into the prestigious Sundance Film Festival in Utah.

"Battle for the Minds" features interviews with seminary students, trustees, administrators, former and current

professors and Southern Baptist Convention leaders who tell the story of the transition at Southern. Footage for the film, which is presented without narration, was shot during the April 1995 meeting of seminary trustees and the 1995 annual meeting of the SBC.

The conservative movement now in control of Southern Seminary and the SBC has kindred spirits in various religions and regions of the world, said panelist Roy Fuller, who earned a doctorate in world religions from the seminary in 1992. "The one thing they have in common is that they're against changes in culture."

Lipscomb said the 1996 Republican presidential nominating process gives evidence that right-wing forces are becoming more powerful and demanding in American society. "When every candidate has to stand up and swear allegiance to the radical Religious Right, it's time to wake up," he said. The film, he noted, demonstrates that "freedom and democracy are pre-

cious things you can lose."

Since Al Mohler was elected president of Southern Seminary in 1993, the seminary has made a dramatic rightward shift in its theological stance. One of the more controversial changes has been the decision by Mohler and the school's trustees not to add any professors to the faculty who believe women can be pastors.

While opponents of women pastors say they're forced into their position by biblical authority, Lipscomb said the matter is not about the Bible. He said Southern Baptists once cited biblical authority to defend slavery but in 1995 the SBC voted to apologize for the practice.

Lipscomb's grandfather and great grandfather both were Southern Baptist pastors. His mother, Dixie Petrey, a student at Southern Seminary during the transition in power, now is a chaplain in Knoxville, Tenn.

During the panel discussion, Petrey, who is interviewed in the docu-

mentary, said viewing the film was another reminder that the voices of white males are too often the only voices heard from the pulpit.

Lipscomb admitted the panel discussion lacked balance. He said the seminary refused the festival's invitation to send a representative. In an interview with the Louisville Courier Journal, Mohler said the film misrepresented events at the seminary by using "classical propaganda techniques." Mohler told the newspaper he had seen portions of the film.

Western Recorder Editor Mark Wingfield, who moderated the panel, disagreed with Mohler's assessment. "The views you see on this film are accurate on both sides," he said. "These people have said these exact things to me over the past 10 or 15 years."

However, Wingfield said the film had been criticized for centering solely on women in ministry and ignoring other issues in the seminary debate.



KBC OFFICERS Newly elected officers (from left) are Paul Welch, first vice president; Wilma Simmons, secretary; Floyd Price, president; Joe Priest Williams, assistant secretary; and Steve Hadden, second vice president.

Scottsville's Price elected KBC president

By David Winfrey
News Director

BOWLING GREEN—Floyd Price, pastor of Scottsville Baptist Church in Scottsville, was elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 12 during the annual meeting.

Price was elected over Don Short, a vocational evangelist from Edyville, by a vote of 664 to 503.

In nominating Price, Bill Messer, pastor of First Baptist Church of Ashland, praised Price's commitment to the Cooperative Program.

Of the five churches Price has served as pastor, he led two to begin contributing to the Cooperative Program and led the others to increase their Cooperative Program giving, Messer said.

"He loves missions," Messer added.

James Doyel, pastor of Greenwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, nominated Short, noting how well-known he is in Kentucky churches.

"Don Short is an excellent preacher with a compassion for lost souls," Doyel said. "Don Short is one of us. He knows us. His heart beats as our hearts beat."

Neither Price nor Short identified themselves as the candidate of a particular faction. Price, however, was endorsed by the moderator of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship in a letter mailed immediately prior to the convention. Short was widely perceived to be the more conservative of the two candidates.

In other elections:

■ Paul Welch, pastor of Eastwood

Baptist Church in Bowling Green, was elected first vice president over Rodney Burnett, pastor of Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville, by a vote of 421 to 174.

■ Steve Hadden, pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood, was elected second vice president over David Jones, pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in London, and Dan Garland, pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Henderson.

In the first ballot, Hadden received 285 votes, Jones received 182 votes and Garland received 142. In the runoff, Hadden received 277 votes and Jones received 144.

■ Convention Secretary Wilma Simmons, a layperson from Ekron, and Assistant Secretary Joe Priest Williams, a retired pastor from Louisville, were re-elected.

Marshall's last address: 'Love each other'

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

BOWLING GREEN—"Love each other," Bill Marshall admonished the Kentucky Baptist Convention in his final address as executive secretary-treasurer.

Marshall, who will retire in February after leading the KBC 14 years, used his final report during last week's KBC annual meeting as a time to recall the convention's accomplishments and encourage the convention's future.

"What God has put together through Kentucky Baptists, let us not put it asunder," Marshall urged.

He cited the biblical imperative to forgive others, even those who may have been the cause of a wrong, as a means of saying the cooperative cause of Kentucky Baptists must be greater than any desire to keep score. He asked forgiveness from anyone he had offended during his tenure as executive-secretary.

Of the general unity Kentucky Baptists have known, he said: "Take care of it after I'm gone."

Marshall thanked his family, the KBC staff and KBC Executive Board

members for their support during his tenure. He expressed particular gratitude for three things:

■ The foreign missionary appointment service held in Lexington's Rupp Arena in 1987. "I realized then what it means to be on mission together and to cooperate," Marshall said. He called that event, attended by 13,000 people, "a symbol of your heart, which is missions."

■ Advances in partnership missions. This is "something Kentucky Baptists are doing right," Marshall said, explaining that the partnerships between the KBC and New England, Utah-Idaho, Ohio, Kenya, Brazil and Russia have caused "hundreds upon hundreds of Kentucky Baptists" to develop a global realization.

■ Strength of the KBC's agencies and institutions. "Nothing pleases my heart more than to stand before you today and say ... that all our agencies and institutions—though one may be slightly amended—are still part of this convention," he said.

Marshall and his wife, Alice, were recognized at several points throughout the annual meeting. Several hundred people attended a reception in their honor Nov. 12 and stood in a



FAREWELL ADDRESS Bill Marshall praised Kentucky Baptists' commitment to missions in his last convention address. He called churches' partnership missions work in America and abroad "something Kentucky Baptists are doing right."

long line waiting to express personal appreciation.

The KBC Executive Board presented Alice Marshall with a painting and Bill Marshall with the keys to his fleet car, which will be given as a gift upon his retirement.

Messengers also passed a resolution of appreciation for the Marshalls, citing numerous accomplishments during his tenure.

CONVENTION NOTES

■ **Churches added.** Six new churches affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention this year, and two more were added under watchcare status. Those joining were Beulah Land Baptist Church of La Grange, Cadiz Second Baptist Church of Cadiz, Morgantown Community Church of Morgantown, Freedom Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg, Rolling Hills Baptist Church of La Grange and Purchase Baptist Church of Benton. Joining under watchcare were Antioch Baptist Church and Canaan Missionary Church, both in Louisville.

■ **Messenger totals.** This year's Kentucky Baptist Convention registered 1,583 messengers. With an additional 302 visitors or members of the host church present, total attendance was 1,885. This year's messenger total is close to last year's convention, which registered 1,587 messengers.

■ **Presidential appointments.** New KBC President Floyd Price has announced these individuals to chair KBC committees: James K. Pierce, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, committee on arrangements; Brad Johnson, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, committee on committees; Charles Midkiff, pastor of First Baptist Church in Greenville, committee on nominations; Todd Toole, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky, committee on order of business; Glenn Durham, a layman from Harlan, committee on public affairs; Bob Donovan, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Maysville, committee on credentials; Don Zuberer, pastor of Valley Station Baptist Church in Louisville, committee on resolutions. Price's appointment for chair of the committee on constitution and bylaws could not be confirmed before press time.

■ **More appointments.** Outgoing KBC President Bill Tichenor named four people to serve on the convention's committee on committees. Glenn Armstrong, pastor of Beaver Dam Baptist Church in Beaver Dam, will fill an unexpired term through 1998. Named to 1999 terms were Brad Johnson, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green; Al Hardy, pastor of Good Hope Baptist Church in Campbellsville; and Drew Martin, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paintsville.

■ **Future meetings.** Next year's KBC annual meeting will be held at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, Nov. 11-12. The 1998 meeting will be held at the Galt House in Louisville, Nov. 10-11. The 1999 meeting will be held at the new Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington.

■ **KBAMA officers.** Kentucky Baptist Association of Ministers with the Aging elected new officers last week: President Larry Cook of Frankfort First Baptist Church, First Vice President Wayne Moore of Williamsburg; Second Vice President Ron Wilburn of Gano Avenue Baptist Church in Georgetown; and Secretary-treasurer Carolyn Monday.

■ **Church music officers.** Kentucky Baptist Music Conference elected new officers last week: President Marvin Reynolds of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset; President-elect David Love of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green; and Secretary-treasurer Jack Gordon of Second Baptist Church in Hopkinsville.

■ **Willham honored.** W.O. Willham, director of missions for Mercer and South District Baptist associations, was named director of missions of the year by the Kentucky Baptist Directors of Missions Fellowship.

■ **DOMs elect officers.** The Kentucky Baptist Directors of Missions Fellowship elected new officers last week: President Rick Robbins of Blackford Baptist Association; Secretary-treasurer Bob Morrison of Little Bethel Baptist Association; President-elect John East of Ohio River Baptist Association; and Vita-Link newsletter editor Harold Greenfield of Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association.

■ **Youth ministry officers.** Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministry Association elected new officers last week: President John Rice of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown; President-elect Scott Wiggins of Immanuel Baptist Church in Elizabethtown; Secretary-treasurer Joe Baugh of Second Baptist Church in Hopkinsville; and Editor Art Rogers of First Baptist Church of Russellville.

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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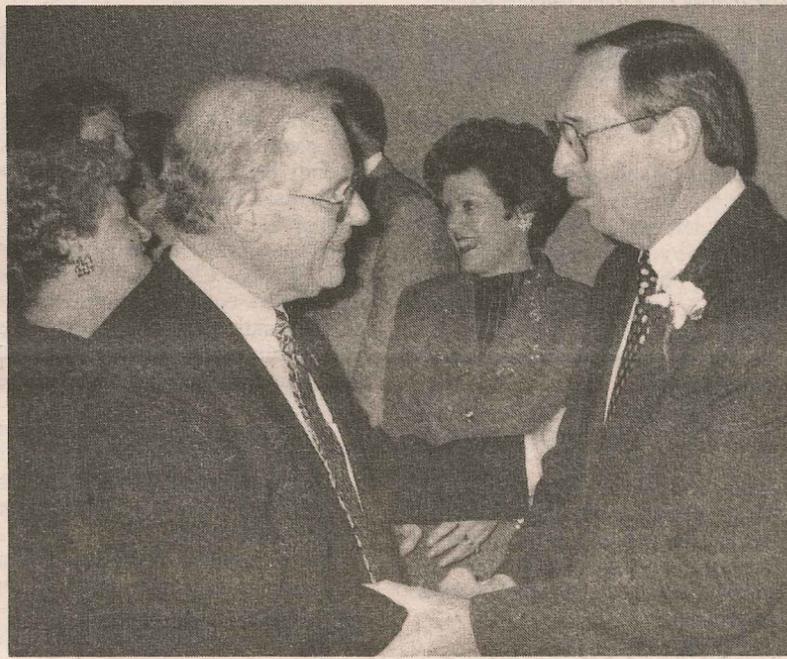
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KBC scenes

In addition to the scheduled times of business, last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting also featured music, fellowship and shopping. ■ **Below:** Messengers browse through tables of books at the Baptist Book Store set up in the exhibit area. This year's exhibit area was organized around a "Mission Possible" theme and included numerous drawings for giveaway items. ■ **Below right:** Bill and Alice Marshall greet well-wishers in a receiving line during a Tuesday night reception. Hundreds of Kentucky Baptists stood in line to greet Marshall, who will retire in February as KBC executive secretary-treasurer. ■ **Right:** Alma Randolph, a gospel singer from Owensboro, sings during the closing session of the annual meeting.



When words fail

I am having one of those experiences familiar to folks who have been overwhelmed by generosity and kindness but find it difficult to know what to say when "thank you very much" just doesn't cover the full range of one's feelings about it.

Probably the largest crowd in my 14 years to stay through the final session (Wednesday morning) of a KBC annual meeting experienced what was as close to a spiritual outpouring as anything I've witnessed in recent years.

The closing hour of our annual meeting became an unexpected and powerful gift from God. Surely no one left without some evidence in the deeper places of our hearts that the Lord was calling us all to repentance from sins which diminish our witness and our joy.

Throughout this past year, our president, Bill Tichenor, gave freely and lovingly of himself, not only to me, to the board and convention committees, but to folks across the state

who "needed a word" with or from the president. He and Glenda were a special gift from Kentucky Baptists to Alice and me, even before folks knew it was our last year.

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

How gracious were those who, well past 11 p.m. (CDT), waited in the long line to give Alice and me the gift of a personal word at the lovely reception suggested by Administrative Committee Chair Charles Barnes and arranged by KBC staffer Denise Withers. It is now a beautiful memory to take with us.

The generous gift of the fleet car I now drive and can drive away when I leave in February will pleasantly remind me of more than 850 Executive Board members with whom it has been my privilege to serve these 14 years.

When Floyd Price, representing a subgroup of the Administrative Committee (Price, Drew Martin and Anna White), presented Alice the beautiful print of Elkhorn Creek by Paul Sawyer, Anna White could not have known

at the time she selected it that it was beside Elkhorn Creek that Alice and I first talked of marriage.

Just minutes before it was time for that would be my last report to the KBC, our two daughters, Sharon and Shawn, walked in to sit beside us, the youngest of whom lives now in Phoenix and had led me to believe she could not come. I had also received word that morning from our son, Steve, that he and wife Vanessa would have to miss my report after all—business! As I began my report, in they both walked to sit with the rest of our family! Alice and I have proudly witnessed the multiple graduations of all our children. Now they were sitting together to affirm their dad's "graduation."

"Thank you" doesn't approach how I feel and what I'd like to say to my Kentucky Baptist family who have given us these material gifts on this special occasion.

Nor can "thank you" ever convey my gratitude for having experienced among this family of Baptists some of the most joyful and fulfilling years of my 40 years of ministry.

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

FAMILY FORUM

What makes a marriage healthy?

By Diana Garland

Q. We are getting married soon. How can we "divorce-proof" our marriage?

A. In many ways, that question is like asking "What food should I eat to be healthy?" Marital health comes from many sources.

The most important ingredient in a healthy marriage is recognizing marriage is a daily discipline of Christian life. The skills of living faithfully and lovingly are not complicated. What makes marriage such a challenge is that "marriage" is happening every day and every night.

For the past few months, my work has required me to travel frequently, so that I am home with my husband less than half of each week. The rest of the time, we have been limited to a nightly phone call. I am struck by how much easier it is for me to "be nice" and focus on our relationship when we are together, when that time is so limited. Of course, the trade-off is that I feel lonely and cut off many days.

Many couples live with this rhythm of separation and togetherness all the time. It brings its own daily challenges.

The more usual pattern for most couples, sharing the same space morning and evening and weekends, brings another set of challenges. Living well in marriage is like struggling with being overweight. In weight management, the hard part isn't losing weight; the hard part is altering one's lifestyle so a healthy weight can be maintained.

The same is true of marriage; we can have wonderful moments of intimacy and joy. That is not the hardest part. The hardest part is maintaining love and commitment and care daily.

For example, the simple little skill of listening requires continuous work in marriage. Instead of listening to understand, too often we listen to respond.

There is a selflessness and a trust in good listening.

Selflessness and trust: these are hallmarks of marriage for Christians. They come in the moment-by-moment decisions, woven into the fabric of our lives. Ultimately, they are signs of God's grace in our lives.

Diana Garland is a Baptist family ministry specialist currently doing research for Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the Lilly Endowment Inc.

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Kids ask killer questions about death but see what's important

SHESAI



Alison Wingfield

As hard as it is to talk about death in general, and my mother's death in particular, having the boys around is good therapy for me. They keep me talking about it.

Their insatiable quest for knowledge and understanding naturally leads them to ask constant questions about death and what happens afterward.

It is so hard to know how much and what to say. Our tendency is to soft-peddle the reality of death.

The most recent questions we've had to deal with come from a Noah's Ark picture book. Noah's ark always has been one of the boys' favorite Bible stories, so we bought this beautifully-illustrated book which tells the story in pictures. Up until recently, we have been able to gloss over one particular page, which shows the animals left behind after all the two-by-twos went in the ark.

Now the boys want to know what happened to those left-behind elephants and giraffes and zebras, and why they didn't get on the ark.

So we've had to tackle the not-so-pretty part of the story—those left behind.

But death is a reality they need to know about. I am glad we decided to take the boys to my mother's viewing at the funeral home, since they were not old enough to attend the funeral. They were able to touch her and say goodbye. As a result, I think they have a better and healthier understanding of death.

HESAI



Mark Wingfield

Several months after Alison's mother's death, we had an opportunity to reinforce the boys' first experience in understanding life and death. The father of a close family friend died, and we took the boys with us to visitation at the funeral home.

On the trip to the other side of town, we talked again about why people die and what happens after death. The boys had a jillion questions, most of which were repeated three or four times, as though we never had answered them before.

At the funeral home, we visited with our friends, spoke with the widow of the deceased and chit-chatted with some other friends. After about half an hour, we started to leave.

As we got to the door, Garrett stopped cold in his tracks. I tugged on his hand, urging him to keep moving. He would not be moved.

"We forgot to see the guy who died!" he said emphatically.

Indeed, we hadn't passed by the open casket, mainly because there had been a steady crowd of people there who we didn't want to disturb. But Garrett was insistent, so we turned around and made our way through the line.

On the way home, I was the one reminded of an important lesson about life and death: How often do we engage in religious events, religious conversations, even worship and forget to see the one who died and rose again?

Challenge of Campolo message remains

On occasions all too rare, we go to worship and unexpectedly recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit among us. The closing session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting last Wednesday morning was such a time for many.

Who would have thought the Holy Spirit would show up for a Baptist convention? Yet there in the sanctuary of Bowling Green's First Baptist Church, something out of the ordinary happened both collectively and individually.

It came on the heels of what already had been an exceptionally good convention. Despite some hard decisions made in business sessions, the spirit of messengers had been outstanding. Even in disagreements, those present acted with kindness and love. And beyond the business, the program was marvelous. Every message and every piece of music was delivered with excellence.

So it is no wonder that when Alma Randolph walked to the platform singing "He is here, holy, holy; he is here, amen" everyone paid immediate attention. Never has a singer brought so many stiff white Baptists to their feet in applause to God. This had to be a work of the Spirit.

If Tony Campolo couldn't preach after that set-up, he would have had to give up preaching. No danger there, however. Using a giftedness with which God has blessed few preachers, Campolo made us feel so good while helping us realize how bad we really are.

Yet in this gift, delivered with the help of the Holy Spirit, all that had gone before in the annual meeting was wrapped up in a single spiritual package. In a message on postmodern Christianity, Campolo urged us to look to the end of life and assess how we will be remembered. Will we have sold out to Jesus? Or will we have sold out to the Babylon of American materialism?

Like Esther Burroughs who spoke the night before, Campolo told real-life stories of people who are making a difference for God and of people whose lives have become indifferent to God.

Seated in our pious poses, we all mentally shamed the former student Campolo described who at one time pledged to give his life helping people as a medical

missionary but instead now rakes in millions doing elective cosmetic surgery in New York City. And we wanted desperately to identify with the other former student who could be making millions as an attorney defending the rich and famous but instead has given his life to defending the poor on Alabama's death row.

The glow of the moment was warm. But now a week later, perhaps our hearts have grown cold again. Will this Spirit-filled moment in Bowling Green make a lasting difference in our lives, our churches, our convention?

What will people say of you when your life is done? That you had a big house? That you drove a nice car? That you had perfect attendance at Sunday school? Wouldn't it be better for them to say you loved and helped people? Or that you truly surrendered your whole life to God in spiritual service (regardless of your vocation)?

What would people say of your church if it were to cease to exist? That you built a fancy recreation center that a few hundred people used? That you had expensive stained-glass or the largest pipe organ in town? Wouldn't it be better to be remembered as the church that gave itself and its money in rescuing people? Or as the church that spent as much on missions as it did on itself?

What would people say of our convention if it were to be no more? That we were the largest in the state? That we spent a number of years fighting? That we thrived in the 1950s? Wouldn't it be better to be eulogized as a collection of Christians who were so sold out to God they made a difference far greater than their size would indicate? Or that together we had been on a mission so powerful that it had to be of God?

What do all these questions have to do with the rest of the convention's business? While the recommendation approved on altering Cooperative Program percentages was a difficult but necessary move, consider this: If we—individually and collectively—lived up to the challenge Campolo laid out, a recommendation on reducing global missions funding would not have been necessary.

— Mark Wingfield

Thanks from Utah-Idaho

By Lavoid Robertson

One of the greatest experiences in my work with the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention has been the involvement of the Kentucky Baptist Convention since 1989 in partnership with our convention.

It has been thrilling to see God work in these two conventions to unite hearts and lives together as contact after contact was made and project after project was completed.

More than 1,000 people from Kentucky have traveled to Utah and Idaho to minister in different ways.

For me, a highlight of our partnership was the tours conducted by teams of Kentucky Baptist leadership into the Utah-Idaho area.

The teams talked with pastors and church members in order to feel the hearts and hurts of those ministering in lonely, out-of-the-way places. Early on, these tours set the pace for the six years of partnership to follow.

Soda Springs, Idaho, was the site of one of the first ministry projects. Bob Morrison brought a construction crew to Soda Springs to help build their building. In one week, the building went from foundation to putting

on the roof. While the men worked on the church, their wives held vacation Bible school and backyard Bible clubs.

It has been exciting to see relationships develop and people return to Kentucky after ministering in Utah or Idaho with broken hearts for the work here.

Through prayer, ministry and service beyond any expectations, Kentuckians have gone the second and third mile to help in every possible way to lighten the load of pastors and churches in Utah and Idaho. Only eternity will reveal the complete picture.

First Baptist Church in Grantsville, Utah, received a group of Kentuckians in August 1990. Twenty men from Yellow Creek Baptist Church of Owensboro, Ky., conducted a revival in the Grantsville church. During the day, the men completed some wiring, worked on the baptistry and built a sign and a steeple for the church. They also visited in the community, conducted surveys of about 200 homes, installed turf on the church lawn and even attended a meeting of the Grantsville Lions Club where they were recognized for their work on the church.

PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS

One of the most recent contributions made by Kentucky Baptists was to First Baptist Church in Brigham City, Utah. Warren Baptist Association and Director of Missions Jerry Oakley printed and mailed 3,000 announcements to addresses in Hyrum, Utah, where a new mission work had just begun. There were 99 in attendance at the March 3 dedication of Emmanuel Baptist Church. The church continues to grow and has called a pastor.

Allow me to express my deep and heartfelt appreciation for the involvement of the good Baptists of Kentucky in the partnership. Especially do I want to say thank you to Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Marshall for his vision of mission outreach and to Partnership Director Calvin Wilkins for his tireless, continued support.

All the Kentucky convention staff, as well as hundreds of Kentucky Baptists, have given physical, emotional and spiritual help to our people. I have never made a request that was not considered and given the utmost effort.

Kentucky Baptists, we in Utah and Idaho will continue to pray for your every effort to reach the lost for Christ.

Lavoid Robertson works with the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention as coordinator of the Utah-Idaho/Kentucky mission partnership, which officially concludes at the end of this year.

KBC rejects church choice for Cooperative Program

By David Winfrey
News Director

"It is my understanding we are one of the few state conventions that require giving to the Cooperative Program to qualify for messengers to the state convention."

Bob Fox, pastor of West Point Baptist Church in Centertown

BOWLING GREEN—Messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention defeated a motion to study letting churches determine how their Cooperative Program money would be split between the state convention and Southern Baptist agencies.

Messengers also heard last week a first reading of a proposed constitutional change that would affect how churches financially qualify as members of the state convention.

Don Cole, pastor of Salem Baptist Church near Brandenburg, offered the motion on Cooperative Program splits.

The motion would have directed the KBC president to appoint a committee to study letting churches set their own percentages for splitting money between Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention causes.

"I'm a firm believer that the local church exists on its own and that the state convention exists to serve the local churches," said Cole, an at-large member of the Executive Board.

He said the motion would let "churches control how their money can be used by the Southern Baptist Convention and the Kentucky Baptist Convention."

But Earl Bell, a messenger from

First Baptist Church of Frankfort, spoke against the motion. "I doubt the pragmatism of it. How could our convention ever develop a budget?"

Messengers defeated the motion, 301-481.

Bob Fox, pastor of West Point Baptist Church in Centertown, offered a first reading for the proposed constitutional change.

If ratified next year, it would alter Article III, Section 2 of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's constitution concerning membership. The change would break the link requiring a church to give to Southern Baptist causes in order to be considered a member of the state convention.

According to the constitution, a church is allowed two messengers to the annual meeting for contributing to the state convention's work.

A church is allowed an additional messenger for every \$250 contributed to the Cooperative Program. A maximum of 10 messengers are allowed per church.

Currently, 37 percent of Cooperative Program funds are forwarded to the SBC. Some churches also make direct contributions to the KBC, requesting that the money not be split with the SBC.

If changed, all representation at the annual meeting would be based on giving to the "convention's work."

Fox said he proposed the change

to address what he called inconsistencies between the two methods of messenger appointments and to break the connection between the state and national convention.

"It is my understanding we are one of the few state conventions that require giving to the Cooperative Program to qualify for messengers to the state convention," he said.

"That creates a connectionism that is traditionally anti-Baptist," he added. "We have our own convention, and gifts to that convention ought to count toward representation in that convention."

The amendment must get support from two-thirds of next year's messengers to be enacted.

The amendment was not referred to the convention's committee on constitution and bylaws, but that committee has the prerogative to consider the matter before next year's meeting and to offer an opinion.

Messengers also voted to create a new entity to oversee the two Kentucky Baptist assemblies.

In other business, messengers:

- Authorized the three Kentucky Baptist colleges to launch a joint financial campaign. As KBC agencies, the schools are prevented from fundraising in KBC churches without approval by messengers. The campaign will begin during spring 1998.
- Changed the terms of service for

Western Recorder trustees from three years to four years.

- Affirmed a recommendation from the constitution and bylaws committee to set 15 churches as the minimum number required before a new association may petition the KBC for affiliation.

- Added a sentence to the report from the Temperance League expressing opposition to state-sponsored gambling.

- Directed the KBC staff to announce in advance the child-care arrangements for future annual meetings.

Messengers also passed four resolutions concerning:

- Partial-birth abortions. In addition to affirming the sanctity of life, opposing the procedure and resolving to lead the country to value lives, messengers also voted to send a copy of the resolution to the president, vice president, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate majority leader.

- Appreciation for Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Marshall and his wife, Alice. Marshall will retire in February.

- Clear Creek Baptist Bible College's 50th anniversary.

- Appreciation for the host church, First Baptist Church of Bowling Green, and others for their work at the convention.

Convention moves campgrounds closer to agency status

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

BOWLING GREEN—By this time next year, Kentucky Baptists' two campgrounds should be under the management of a new agency called Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc.

Messengers to the KBC annual meeting last week approved creation of the new agency in response to an action taken at the 1995 convention.

At the 1995 meeting, a motion was made from the convention floor to circumvent an Executive Board recommendation to dissolve ownership of Cedarmore Baptist Assembly and es-

tablish both Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly as convention agencies apart from Executive Board management.

In determining how best to implement the intent of the 1995 motion, the Executive Board ultimately suggested creating just one new entity to manage both camps. That idea was approved by messengers last week, along with details of the transition.

Messengers also approved an eight-member board of directors for Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc. The initial board members are Harold Pike of Covington, Steve Ayers of Bowling Green, Bill Tichenor of Princeton,

John Lang of Fort Thomas, Calvin Bohannon of Hardinsburg, Jeff Eaton of Lawrenceburg, Willis Henson of Paducah and James E. Jones of Campbellsville.

Related actions approved by the convention last week include a covenant agreement outlining the relationship between the KBC and Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc., transfer of properties from the KBC to the new entity and articles of incorporation for the new entity.

In addition to receiving the properties of Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc. also will be given about \$1.1 mil-

lion currently held in the Executive Board's camps and assemblies capital additions and improvement fund. The KBC has guaranteed to provide the entity an annual appropriation of \$325,000 for three years, with any future annual allocations determined through the regular budgeting process.

For now, the Executive Board continues to own and operate both camps, even though the board of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies has been constituted. In the coming months, that board will begin organizing itself and making necessary arrangements, such as hiring staff, establishing an office and creating a business plan.

If all goes as planned, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies will assume full operation of Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek Sept. 1, 1997.

Cooperative Program change takes effect in September 1997

Continued from page 1

rather than increasing percentage giving as anticipated.

Herb Booth, a medical doctor and member of Florence Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky, spoke on behalf of the Executive Board to explain the recommendation. He said the 40 percent goal was an arbitrary number chosen in 1981 "in the light of double-digit inflation" and rapid growth in giving by churches.

However, the dream of continued increases in giving "did not catch fire in the churches, where Cooperative Program giving originates," Booth said.

While giving a greater percentage to the SBC and receiving a smaller percentage from the churches, the KBC has faced its own needs for increases in funding state missions, Booth said. He told messengers adopting the proposed change would "al-

low for a balance of missions and a balance of our checkbook."

Mike Routt, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, spoke against the recommendation, saying he appreciates the mission needs in Kentucky but believes "the greatest need is world evangelization."

Larry Baker, director of missions for Christian County Baptist Association and a member of Second Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, also spoke against the recommendation.

"We sent our missionaries overseas, and now we're getting ready to pull the rug out from under them," said the former missionary to Peru. "Two percent may not sound like a lot, but 2 percent will mean the difference in whether some projects are funded."

Chester Badgett, pastor emeritus of Campbellsville Baptist Church and a

former trustee chairman of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, also argued against the change.

"Kentucky is far better off as far as the possibility of people knowing Christ than any of our mission fields," he said. "We ought to be ashamed that we would rob 1.7 billion people in order to spend more on ourselves."

Among those speaking in favor of the recommendation was Gene Willett, pastor of Jackson Grove Baptist Church in Bowling Green, who identified himself as the father of a missionary.

Willett said he spoke in favor of the proposal "with a heavy heart." However, he declared that Kentucky Baptists have "a big mission field that's not just foreign missions."

"We have to do what we have to do, even when it hurts," he said.

D.M. Aldridge, former president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College and

a former foreign missionary himself, also spoke for the change. "I beg you with a missionary heart as big as anyone in Kentucky" to adopt this change, he said.

Adoption of the change does not mean the percentage split between KBC and SBC causes will remain at the new level forever. The recommendation also contained a provision that future decisions about the percentage split will be based on "the percentage of growth or decline in Cooperative Program giving from the churches."

For the 1997-98 fiscal year, the KBC adopted a Cooperative Program operating budget goal of \$19.22 million, a 2.5 percent increase over the current year's budget goal. If the budget goal is reached, Kentucky ministries will receive \$11.7 million and SBC ministries will receive \$6.9 million, not including special offerings for either state or national causes.

Baptists don't force doctrines on others, Tichenor says

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

BOWLING GREEN—Authentic Baptists don't try to force their doctrinal beliefs on others, Bill Tichenor said in his president's address during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 12.

"There may be some here who would say if you don't believe as I

believe, then you don't believe the Bible," noted Tichenor, pastor of First Baptist Church of Princeton. "Whenever one talks like this, he isn't talking Baptist talk. The moment that you as a Baptist try to force your particular views on another person ... you cease to act like a Baptist."

Tichenor used the president's address to highlight two hallmarks of Baptist doctrine: the autonomy of the

local church and the soul competency of every believer.

The doctrine of soul competency is the only unique contribution Baptists have made to religious thought, Tichenor declared, quoting the early 20th century theologian E.Y. Mulins. While Baptists have been champions of other important ideas—such as the authority of Scripture and baptism of believers by immersion—those ideas have not been unique to Baptists.

Other key Baptist beliefs grow out of the important belief in soul competency, Tichenor said. "This is the reason we believe the church is to be free from the state's control."

He cited Jeremiah 31 and Hebrews 8 as forming the biblical basis for this doctrine, which asserts that every Christian has direct access to God and can hear directly from God without any intermediary.

"Beyond Christ, there is no mediator," Tichenor said. "We need no human mediator to pray for us, and we need no official interpreter of the Scriptures."

"Now certainly we may help each other. But how un-Baptist, and I believe unscriptural, it would be for one believer to go to another and say, 'I want you to tell me the official meaning of this passage of Scripture. I can get it only from you. I have neither

the right nor the ability to understand for myself. You are my priest.'"

Baptists have no formal creeds because Baptists have "a living faith" that is "written on our hearts and minds."

The doctrine of soul competency does not mean it doesn't matter what one believes, he explained. "Everyone is responsible to God for what he or she believes, but you are not responsible to me or to any other man."

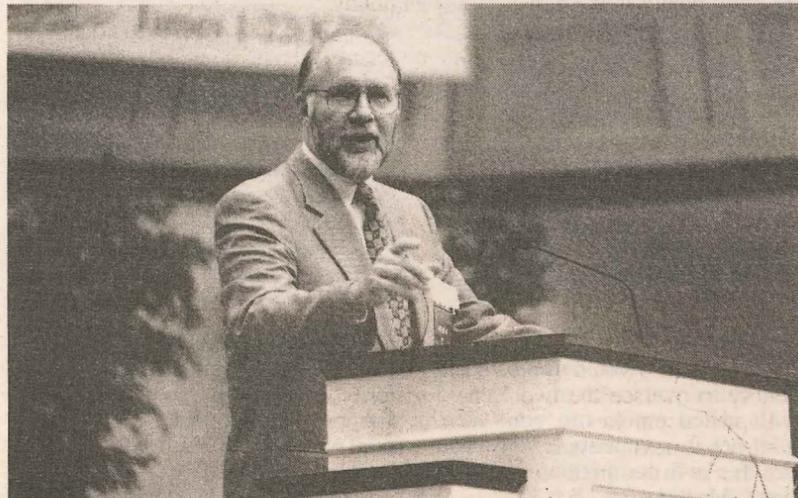
"We have no authority in the Scriptures to go on theological 'witch hunts,'" Tichenor continued. "Some feel they are the bulldogs of orthodoxy, the ones appointed to safeguard the faith. More than the need for faith protection is the need for faith proclamation and faith demonstration. Faith is best demonstrated in love."

On the related doctrine of the autonomy of the local church, Tichenor explained that Jesus Christ is the sole authority for any Baptist body, be it local church, district association, state or national convention, he said.

However, this autonomy must not preclude cooperation for the sake of fulfilling the Great Commission, Tichenor said. "You are free to disagree with denominational programs and methods, but you are not free to disagree with God's directive to go into all the world."

"The moment that you as a Baptist try to force your particular views on another person ... you cease to act like a Baptist."

KBC President Bill Tichenor



BE BAPTIST KBC President Bill Tichenor, during his convention address, speaks about the autonomy of the local church. When he made trips to the Baptist Building in Louisville, "not once did I feel I was going up to Baptist headquarters. I was going from Baptist headquarters."

Burroughs: Model Jesus in the neighborhood

By David Winfrey
News Director

BOWLING GREEN—Christians must model Jesus by reaching outside the church with their faith, missions and evangelism promoter Esther Burroughs told Kentucky Baptists Nov. 12 during the annual KBC convention.

"Is it not time that we got outside the walls of the holy and into the culture?" asked Burroughs, of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's evangelism division. "Isn't it time we became the living word to touch the world we live in?"

She encouraged Kentucky Baptists to imitate Christ, quoting the Message version of the Gospel of John which reads, "And the word became flesh and blood and moved out into the neighborhood."

"Empower the lay people in your congregation to be the living word in the community in which they live," she said.

Burroughs cited examples of missionaries and church mission teams to



MISSIONS STORIES Esther Burroughs of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board addresses the KBC.

illustrate the importance of living one's faith in the community.

Mildred McWhorter, a now-retired inner-city missionary in Houston, once was asked by a child if she was God because of her kind acts, Burroughs noted.

Missionaries to Alaska taught a 100-year-old woman to spell the name

of Jesus. When they returned to her home, Burroughs said, the woman had written "Jesus" on her wood box, grocery bag and cereal box.

"I want to ask you something, Kentucky Baptists: Where is the name of Jesus written in your life so that when they see your life they ask, 'Is it God?'"

Youth is for heroism, not comfort, Campolo says

Continued from page 1

Christ. "Don't argue with me on this one. Christmas is coming up," he said. Soon, he noted, people will be fretting over what to buy for the person who has everything. The answer is nothing, he contended, but no one has the guts to tell his or her family they didn't buy gifts but gave the money to missions.

He recounted how one of his students had promised to become a doctor and return to the mission field af-

ter seeing a desperate need for medical help in a third-world country. When they met years later the student had instead become a cosmetic surgeon. The student protested that he tithed and went to church, but Campolo told him, "You sold out, Charlie, for a Porsche and a Jacuzzi."

He recalled another acquaintance with a law degree, however, who shunned a number of lucrative job offers to defend death-row inmates because he believed America's justice system treats the poor and rich differ-

ently. Campolo challenged pastors to encourage youth in their church to consider spending a year in missions between high school and college.

"Youth was made for heroism, not for pleasure," he yelled. "If the Mormons can get their kids to give two years of their lives, why can't we get ours to give one year?"

He said parents are right to question whether youth might stay on the mission field. "It may be too much fun out there building the kingdom."

Sisk's convention sermon: 'Is Christ supreme in your life?'

By David Winfrey
News Director

BOWLING GREEN—Although Christ is supreme in all realms of the universe, people still must allow him to be supreme in their lives, Ted Sisk said during the annual sermon of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 12.

"We need to bow before him and declare that he is King of Kings and Lord of Lords before whom every knee shall bow," said Sisk, pastor emeritus of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Sisk cited several areas in which Jesus Christ is supreme including creation and revelation. "Man's chief longing is to know God. It has always been," he said. "When Jesus touches your life, God



Sisk

has touched your life."

Other areas of supremacy, he said, include:

■ **Religion.** With 2 billion followers, Christianity is still the largest religion in the world, he noted.

■ **Mediation.** "If anyone wants to know God, he has to come to him through Christ the Son."

■ **Church.** "The pastor's not the head of the church," Sisk said, adding he expected to hear support from the deacons for that statement. "Christ is the head of the church."

Sisk summarized: "In all fashions of reality, Christ is supreme."

The question that remains, however, is whether that supremacy has been realized personally, he added.

"Is he supreme in your life? Is he supreme in your home? Is he supreme in your church? Is he supreme in our denomination and our convention?"

Pastors' Conference features variety of suggestions

BOWLING GREEN—Be faithful to your family, take a leadership role in your church, don't be afraid to be controversial and remember to do the work of an evangelist, pastors were told during the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference last week.

Those admonitions and dozens more were given to pastors at the annual event, held prior to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

At the start of his address, Richard Harris of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board said jokingly, "We've probably already heard more than any of us are thinking about doing."

Here's a sampling of advice given pastors during the conference:

■ **Be an evangelist.** "There are a lot of people in your community just waiting for someone to tell them about Jesus," said evangelist Curtis McGee.

■ **Be a family man.** "The real ministry of a pastor begins in his house, with his family," said Ronnie Stinson, pastor of Trace Creek Baptist Church in Hickory. "God has ordained that the man should be the head of the home. The church will never be any stronger than the pastor's home."

■ **Take the lead.** Citing a biblical definition of a pastor as an "overseer," Stinson noted, "In the average church I know anything about, the pastor is anything but the overseer." The pastor should get God's vision for the church and tell the people what it is, he said.

■ **Don't do it all.** "God has called us as pastors ... that we are to equip the saints," Stinson said. "We are to energize and equip the body of Christ to minister."

■ **Preach the Bible.** "If you don't preach doctrine, you don't preach nothin'," Stinson said. "We must get back to biblical preaching."

■ **Don't worry about criticism.** "If they've got a complaint, they need to take it up with God," said James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga. "Let criticisms fall where they may."

■ **Don't be afraid of politics.** "If you preach the Bible and you preach it truthfully, you're going to preach on politics," Merritt said. "When a man gets up in the pulpit and says it is wrong to veto a ban on partial birth abortions, he is telling the truth."

■ **Preach constantly.** "It is not our job to make the message accessible; our job is to make the message avail-

Kentucky's future brighter, Merritt predicts

BOWLING GREEN—Changes at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary mean Kentucky now stands a chance of spiritual renewal, a Georgia pastor said last week.

"For too long we have turned out preachers in this state who have taught people fables rather than fact," said James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga., and a prominent figure in the Southern Baptist Convention's "conservative resurgence."

"When we start turning out young preacher boys who will teach people the truth, that's when we'll turn Kentucky around," he said in a hopeful reference to the seminary's new administration.

Merritt, who is a personal friend of seminary President Al Mohler and frequently praises changes made there, spoke twice during the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference Nov. 11 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

He noted that under the new seminary administration, he had been invited to speak in a seminary chapel service.

"If you had told me 20 years ago when I started to seminary and 14 years ago when I finished my second degree that I would be invited back to speak in chapel at Southern Seminary, I would have told you Bill Clinton could be elected president," Merritt said.

able," Merritt said.

■ **Focus on your calling.** "God hasn't called you to run my race. God hasn't called me to run your race. We're not in competition with each other. We're in competition with ourselves," Merritt said.

■ **Stick to God's message.** "People don't want to hear what we believe about something. People want to hear what God says," said Ronnie Sivells, pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Princeton.

■ **Realize the urgency.** "Folks, our message is urgent, but we are not," Sivells said. "Those to whom we preach don't have much time."

■ **Hold church members accountable.** "Most Rotary Clubs demand more for membership than our churches," Harris said. "Let's take a stand on what it means to be a part of the family of God."

■ **Be steadfast.** "God hasn't forgotten you. The harvest will come," Harris said.

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

PASTORS' CONFERENCE OFFICERS Newly elected officers of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference are Secretary Charles Gresham of Temple Baptist Church in Central City, Vice President Jerry Tooley of Bellfield Baptist Church in Henderson and President Richard Oldham of Glendale Baptist Church in Bowling Green.



Cumberland Potpourri

By Robert Dunston

This week we bring you a collection of items about groups and events at Cumberland College.

Cumberland's Upsilon-Upsilon chapter of the National History Honor Society, Phi Alpha Theta, received the Best Chapter in the Nation award for schools with less than 3,000 students. Our chapter has won this award for an unprecedented 19 out of the past 20 years. The chapter's journal, *The Upsilonian*, also received the national society's prestigious Gerald D. Nash Student Journal Prize laureates for 1995-1996. Both honors carry with them financial awards, which our chapter donated to our library to purchase books. Over the years our Upsilon-Upsilon chapter has donated almost \$5,000 to our library. We congratulate Eric Wake, chair of our history and political science department, and Robert Stephens Jr., last year's chapter president, for their hard work and commitment.

On Friday, Nov. 1, Cumberland's chemistry department conducted its annual chemistry symposium. A total of 304 students came from 20 high schools across Kentucky and one high school from

Tennessee. The students competed in team and individual events in the fields of chemistry, physics and biology. Competitions included team demonstrations, a science bowl, computer problem solving, a submarine contest and a mousetrap car race. The students proved again that learning can be fun. Congratulations to Jim Hicks, chair of Cumberland's chemistry department, and to the faculty and many students who worked with him preparing for and operating this exciting competition.

Cumberland's Cyber-Chat Room on Tuesday evenings continues to grow. From 8 to 9 p.m., Cumberland personnel are online to talk with prospective students. Admissions counselors will be in the room Nov. 26, and coaches of Cumberland's sports teams will be online Dec. 3. If you want to talk with students, join us Dec. 10. Faculty members from various disciplines will be in the room Dec. 17. To enter the room simply use your Internet browser to the site, <http://www.cumber.edu/cyberchat.htm>. We would love to visit with you.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



"Mending Broken Hearts"



A tiny newborn girl without a family... a 4-year-old who watched his mother shoot his father... a homeless teenager living on the streets. Each of these real children had their hearts mended last year by Kentucky Baptists who reached out with Christ's healing touch. On their behalf, the staff sends you their thanks and asks that you support generously this year's Thanksgiving Offering for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

1996 Thanksgiving Offering Goal
\$950,000

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
<http://www.iglou.com/kbhbc/>



Create community to be successful, educators told

By David Winfrey
News Director

BOWLING GREEN—Christian leaders must foster a sense of community for themselves, their congregations and non-members considering churches, a leadership specialist said last week.

Too often churches fail to cultivate a sense of community even though many claim to be loving fellowships, said Reggie McNeal, director of leadership development and pastoral ministries for the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

"I have yet to be in a church that says, 'We are the coldest place on earth,'" he told last week's gathering of Kentucky Baptist Religious Edu-

cation Association.

Because of their busy schedules, ministers often don't have strong friendships, McNeal noted.

But ministries have short life spans when leaders fail to develop community in their congregations, he added.

"When we quit loving, we quit leading," he said. "I know some people who are still going through the motions, but eventually it's going to catch up with them."

He encouraged ministers to develop friendships, establish contacts with a mentor and enlist a strong prayer support team.

"If we're too proud to ask people to pray for us, then what we do is not very important," he said.

Community is one of the strongest

attractions for people outside the church, and it is the greatest strength a small church can have when compared against a large church with more resources, he said. "People outside the church are desperate for community."

McNeal noted the largest Christian church in Korea is built upon small groups of no more than 10 people each. "What churches need to learn is that if you can do small church well, you can grow to be as big as you want to be," he said. "People will go to where they feel closest to home."

McNeal listed five other ways God shapes leaders:

■ **Communion.** A minister's private walk with God is critical to the success of his or her ministry, McNeal said. "We're in the God business, and we don't need to be ashamed of that."

■ **Circumstances.** Leaders should

recognize that circumstances are heart-shaping experiences, McNeal said. "God takes no pleasure in your pain, but he knows that your pain can make you whole."

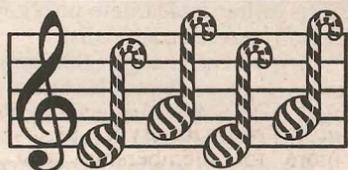
■ **Conflict.** Conflict is a normal occurrence in congregations, McNeal said. "If you think it's not normal, then every time you have conflict in your congregation you're going to think, 'There's something wrong here.'"

■ **Culture.** Christians should move from a segmented view of life that separates the secular from the sacred. Instead, they should realize that God is at work in the culture.

■ **Call.** "Over the long haul, you have to figure out why you're on the planet," McNeal said. He urged leaders to look at themselves and discover the core values that drive their activity.

KBREA officers

The Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association last week elected leaders for the new year: President Sam Newman of Burlington Baptist Church, President-Elect Jeff Hicks of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville and Secretary-treasurer Sam Spragens of Central Baptist Church in Paris.



Make a Joyful Noise!

Local choirs are invited to showcase their talent December 1-25 for the entertainment of holiday travelers at Louisville International Airport.

Groups are limited to 35 members.

Performances should be 45 minutes to one hour.

For additional information or to schedule a performance, contact Lavenia McDaniel at 368-6524, ext. 119.

Accountability

Every not-for-profit organization should be accountable to a constituency. With the financial improprieties that recently have plagued some of the largest not-for-profits in this country, and a few Baptist organizations in other states, accountability to a constituency is of greater importance than ever before.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is pleased to be accountable to Kentucky Baptists through a process established in a covenant agreement with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Not only are the directors elected by messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, but the Kentucky Baptist Foundation makes periodic financial and informational reports to the KBC and its Executive Board. Also, the annual audited financial statements of the Foundation are submitted to the KBC for review by the Executive Board's business and finance committee, and the audited statements are published in the KBC Annual.

Let me assure you the Kentucky Baptist Foundation board and staff take seriously our responsibility to be accountable to you, our constituency. Not only is it proper, but we also want to merit the respect, trust

and confidence of donors, prospective donors, investment and prospective investment clients.

The other institutions and agencies with which the KBC has covenant agreements are accountable to Kentucky Baptists in basically the same manner as the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. Because of this you can have confidence (a) the missions of these organizations are entrusted to capable and qualified boards, elected by our Baptist constituency, and (b) your gifts will be used effectively for their intended purposes.

So, there is a high degree of accountability within your family of Kentucky Baptist institutions and agencies. They deserve your affection and financial support and—yes, you deserve the privilege of including these institutions and agencies in some aspect of your Christian stewardship.

Thank you for the privilege of serving such a wonderful constituency of Baptists in Kentucky. Let us know how we can help you include these institutions and agencies in your stewardship planning.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen



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CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED: Part-time minister of youth and part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: Pastor, Bethany Baptist Church, 2319 Taylorsville Road, Louisville, KY 40205.

SEEKING: Full-time or bivocational pastor. Small rural SBC church. Parsonage provided. Send resumé to: Donald Rhodus, 105 Golfview Dr., Richmond, KY 40475.

WANTED: Full-time minister of youth. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Boone's Creek Baptist Church, 197 N. Cleveland Road, Lexington, KY 40509.

SEEKING: Small growing church is looking for permanent part-time youth minister. Prefer Baptist background. Must be available a minimum of one night per week plus Sunday and have own transportation. Salary commensurate with qualifications. Please submit resumé with references to: Joe Kyser, pastor, c/o Lyle Road Baptist Church, P.O. Box 55, Georgetown, KY 40324.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Newport, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music. Anyone interested should submit resumé to: René DeJarnette, 212 S. Grand Avenue, Fort Thomas, KY 41075.

SEEKING: Meta Baptist Church is presently in the process of searching for a full-time minister of youth and music. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Meta Baptist Church, 8807 Meta Hwy., Pikeville, KY 41501.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music. Outstanding opportunity in growing church and in high-growth community. Send resumé to: Music Search, Simpsonville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 56, Simpsonville, KY 40067.

WANTED: Substitute teachers grades K-8; part-time physical education teacher; computer teacher grades K-8 part-time or full-time. Contact: Beverly Flood, (502) 222-9377.

SEEKING: Director of youth, interim, part-time. Work with youth 7th-12th grades. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 303 East Cedar, Franklin, KY 42134, Attn: Melinda James.

NEEDED: 2 accompanist editions of the 1975 Baptist Hymnal in good condition. Contact Middle Creek Baptist Church, (502) 358-4462.

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

FOR SALE: 21 10-foot pews (7 years old), pulpit, communion table, 2 clergy benches. Call: (502) 224-2728.

WANTED: Steinway or Mason-Hamlin grand piano. Any age, any condition; will pay cash and pick up. Call (800) 449-3850 anytime.

SEEKING: Minister of adult education and new member assimilation. Dynamic, growing church has an opening for a committed, growth-minded minister. Present membership is approximately 4,000 with average attendance of approximately 1,700. Resumé should be forwarded to: Personnel Committee, 11704 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37922.

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

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Continued confidence for Moscow partnership field coordinators Bob and Nancy Walden as they learn Russian.

■ Kentucky pastors who will teach in Tambov, Russia, this November and December.

■ The "toothbrush ministry" in Moscow. Volunteers distribute much-prized toothbrushes with a gospel tract, a New Testament and a word of testimony.

■ Short-term volunteers needed to train discipleship leaders in Bethel Evangelical Southern Baptist Church in Somerville, Mass.

■ Long-term youth minister for Bethel Evangelical Southern Baptist Church in Somerville, Mass.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BEAVER DAM**—Central Grove Church recently celebrated its centennial anniversary.

Independence Church recently celebrated its centennial anniversary.

■ **BURNSIDE**—First Church called **Richard Christian** as interim pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Robinson Creek Church called **James Blackaby** as pastor.

■ **CANEYVILLE**—Caneyville Church held revival services Oct. 27-30. Several decisions were made for Christ.

■ **CENTERTOWN**—Waltons Creek Church called **Clifton Lovell** as pastor.

■ **EUBANK**—**William Brown** resigned as pastor at Pulaski Church.

■ **FORDSVILLE**—Pleasant Grove Church recently celebrated its 150th anniversary.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church called **Paul Reid** of Garland, Texas, as minister of music.

■ **HENDERSON**—First Church licensed **Ron Osborne** to the gospel ministry. Also, **Mike Farmer**, **Marshall Howell**, **Ron Whobrey** and **Leo Winchester** were ordained as deacons.

■ **IRVINE**—Calvary Church ordained **Dan Ball**, **Tom King** and **Earl Horn** as deacons Nov. 10.

■ **KEVIL**—**Phil Shelton** resigned as minister of music at Newton Creek Church.

■ **LAGRANGE**—Buckner Church called **Phillip Kays Jr.** as minister of

music.

■ **LONDON**—East Pittsburg Church celebrated its centennial Oct. 13.

Weaver Church called **John Napier** as pastor.

Jackson Memorial Church celebrated its homecoming Nov. 10.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Broadway Church ordained **Faith Aelits**, **Betty Allen**, **Margaret Barlow** and **Susan Hodapp** as deacons Nov. 17.

■ **MOUNT STERLING**—Howards Mill Church called **Bill Bush** as pastor.

■ **OLATON**—**Raymond McDonald** resigned as pastor at Olaton Church.

■ **PADUCAH**—Twelfth Street Church called **Tim Percy** as pastor.

■ **RINEYVILLE**—Rineyville Church will celebrate its 90th anniversary Dec. 8. **Bill Crouch**, president of Georgetown College, will be guest speaker. A potluck lunch will be served at noon, and a 2 p.m. program will follow.

■ **ROCKPORT**—**Bill Castlen** resigned as pastor at Rockport Church.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—Second Church called **Ron Wells** as pastor. He previously was pastor at First Church in Oak Grove.

■ **SOMERSET**—Calvary Church called **Rick Davidson** of Hillsboro, Ohio, as minister of music.

New Enterprise Church called **Jim McKinney** as pastor.

Jewell Hail resigned as pastor of Pleasant View Church.

Executive Board still negotiating with Baptist Healthcare System

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

BOWLING GREEN—A special committee of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board that has been negotiating with Baptist Healthcare System has been authorized to continue its work for up to another year.

During its Nov. 11 meeting in Bowling Green, the KBC Executive Board authorized the four-man committee to continue working toward outlining "a new relationship and agreement" between Baptist Healthcare System and the KBC that could be presented at the KBC's 1997 annual meeting.

Members of this committee—**Bill Marshall**, **Barry Allen**, **Charles Barnes** and **James Taylor**—have been in conversation with Baptist Healthcare System since last spring, when trustees of the hospital system announced their intent to dissolve their covenant agreement with the KBC and elect their own successors in the future.

As a result of negotiations so far, Baptist Healthcare System trustees have agreed to amend their organization's governing documents to guarantee that Baptists will continue to make up 75 percent of the trustee board and that the KBC would receive back its original investment should the organization be sold.

"The progress that has been made

is positive," KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer **Bill Marshall** told the Executive Board. "We would like to find a way for us to continue this relationship."

In other business during the Nov. 11 meeting, the Executive Board:

■ Approved by a hand vote, with a significant amount of opposition, a request to let the current Executive Board administrative committee serve as an interim committee after Marshall's retirement in February. Opponents of the proposal argued that would naturally be the job of the new administrative committee.

■ Gave final approval to a plan to move KBC Sunday School Director **Chip Miller** into a new position as church leadership specialist.

■ Approved giving \$1,000 per year to the Southern Baptist Historical Society and the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools.

■ Approved an administrative committee request to give Marshall his current KBC fleet car as a retirement gift.

■ Approved an adjusted figure of up to \$866,875 to build a new Baptist Student Union facility at Northern Kentucky University, with up to \$100,000 to come from year-end funds.

■ Approved final plans to build a multi-purpose building at the Freeda Harris Center in Eastern Kentucky for \$85,000, with \$13,000 provided by Blood River Baptist Association.

It was good to be back

Two weeks ago my wife, Kay, and I were in Cleveland, Ohio, for the Ohio Baptist Convention. I had been looking forward to being back in my home state. I was hoping to see some old friends and meet new ones. To my knowledge it was the first time Oneida had an information display at this convention.

After getting lost in Cleveland (I know most men never get lost) two or three times, I decided to purchase a map. With map in hand and a lot of advice from Kay, I was able to find the church where the convention was to be held.

The next day we set up our display and began to meet folks who had come to the convention. One of our first visits was to find a young lady whom Kay and I taught in Sunday school and church training back in the early '70s. We had not seen her for several years, but we knew she worked in the Ohio Baptist Convention office and was the executive assistant to the executive secretary/treasurer. We saw several pastors and friends we had known while we lived in Ohio.

I could not help but remember my early days as a Christian. I was born and raised in Dayton, Ohio. I came from a broken home and was living with my mother and stepfather when I started attending Westwood Baptist Church in Dayton. I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior during a revival in 1960 at age 16. I was the only Christian in my family. Deacons and others in the church visited me in my home. They believed a Christian boarding school would give me a better opportunity to grow as a Christian, and they encouraged me to consider such a school in Kentucky. Needless to say, I was excited about the

opportunity to attend a Christian school, but I knew I did not have the financial resources. I wrote a letter to the president of Oneida Baptist Institute and explained my circumstances. Though it seemed like months, two weeks later I received a letter from Oneida telling me I could come. I was so excited. My mother did not understand why I wanted to leave home and go to a boarding school, but I am so thankful she allowed me to come.

In November 1961, we traveled to Oneida.

There was no Interstate 75 in those days. Gas was 28 cents a gallon, and I believe mother had to borrow money for gas. I never got homesick like most kids who go to boarding schools do. At Oneida I got three meals a day, slept in a clean bed and did not have the many negative influences I had at home.

As Kay and I talked to the pastors and others who came by our display, we were able to share the benefits of a Christian boarding school. We encouraged pastors to consider any young person in their churches who may be living in a difficult home environment.

Perhaps some young person in the community could be helped by a school like Oneida. We also are aware there are a lot of grandparents whose grandchildren need a school like Oneida. Often the grandchild may live two or three states away and is in a home environment that leaves much to be desired.

Many pastors had heard about Oneida and knew a little about our ministry. Others had no idea such a school existed. They gladly accepted our information. One pastor already has called about a child in need of Oneida.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Convention celebration

The Bowling Green sessions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention brought us much affirmation as we celebrated 50 years of partnership. Many people complimented our convention report. Clear Creek singers thrilled us with great music. The testimony of third-year student, **Keith Sands**, exemplified the impact we have in individual lives.

Clear Creek has a strong supporter in **Willis Henson**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lone Oak.

Working in the exhibit hall is special. Several messengers and fellow exhibitors joined us on Tuesday to sing the doxology and enjoy a piece of anniversary cake.

Our dinner for alumni and friends at Calvary Baptist Church drew 125 people. It was at Calvary, when their facilities were at 11th and Fair in Bowling Green, that I came to know the Lord as my personal Savior and was baptized. The church also ordained me to the ministry. Members of Calvary provided an abundant dessert table, and five of their ladies served food and washed dishes.

On Wednesday morning, the Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission presented a certificate recognizing our 50 years of shared ministry.

Exhibit visitors related memories from the past 50 years. Ohio County pastor **Duncan Smith** recalled a 1947 trip with seven boys from Bandana Church in Ballard County to attend camp at Clear Creek.

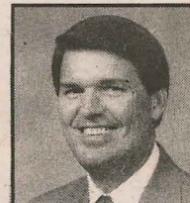
After 32 years, pews made in the former campus furniture factory still are used at Mount Olivet Baptist Church in Washington County. Mrs. **Oliver Hawkins** said, "The church went through the '64 flood and we bought pews from the school for \$100 each. They still look good. They've also been through a flood; we just cleaned off the mud."

As a volunteer, three years ago **Lewisburg** resident **Tom Moody** did electrical wiring on new student housing duplexes. He lived in Pineville as a child and remembered his father helped haul rock from the creek to build **Alice Rains Auditorium** which was completed in 1926.

This first semester will end soon with another set of memories for our campus family. We begin another decade of partnership with Kentucky Baptists. Thank you for undergirding this work.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

MISSIONS

Baptist hospital a ray of hope amid Zaire tragedy

By Wendy Ryan
Baptist World Alliance

GOMA, Zaire (BP)—If it is at all possible to find a ray of hope in the daily unfolding tragedy in Zaire, it can be found in the story of Joe Lusi, a Zairian Baptist doctor who daily risks his life to serve refugees in the Virunga Baptist hospital in Goma, supported in part by Baptist World Aid.

Goma is at the center of fierce fighting between rebels, Zairian soldiers and Rwandans in a region with an estimated 1 million Rwandan refugees and displaced Zairians.

On Nov. 9, Lusi was interviewed on ABC Evening News pleading for medicines for the refugees.

What Lusi did not say was how he was almost killed serving the refugees.

In a report to Baptist World Aid, his wife, Lyn, said Lusi, a hospital driver and a handyman hid together during the Oct. 31 battle for Goma as

the battle raged for the army camp near the hospital.

"Helpless, terrified patients prayed all night for God's mercy on them," she quoted her husband as reporting. By midday that Friday, the army camp was taken, but the hospital was spared.

As relative calm returned to the area, Lusi called the few remaining hospital personnel together. "If I am going to die, I want to die doing my work," he said. "Let's get ready for the wounded."

The wounded already were arriving at the hospital door, but there was no electricity for sterilizing or water to wash wounds.

"Tell every family member they have to bring water with their patient," Lusi ordered. Lack of power meant he could not use the pressure cookers to sterilize the water. Lusi ordered the doors to be taken from the operating room and burned to boil water.

When that was not enough, Lusi

ordered benches to be burned from a church next door. Personnel, however, would not burn the benches.

By Nov. 4, both water and electricity had returned to the hospital, and for seven days Virunga was the only hospital functioning in the town.

After that, the General Hospital reopened, and both hospitals agreed to work together treating the wounded. But their work hangs on medicines getting in and peace being restored.

Everyone fears the outbreak of an epidemic because people are drinking untreated water and eating raw whatever food they find, the Lusis reported.

On Nov. 12, the Lusis accompanied a small Cessna Caravan plane of Africa Inland Mission which took some supplies to the hospital.

Mrs. Lusi described Goma as "bedraggled beyond belief," but their reception at the hospital was "a joyful reunion with the 12 remaining staff."

One hour after they arrived, a convoy of rebel soldiers unloaded 32 seriously injured Goma residents who were ambushed as they tried to return.

"The nurses worked with speed and compassion, but they worked without anesthetics," she reported.

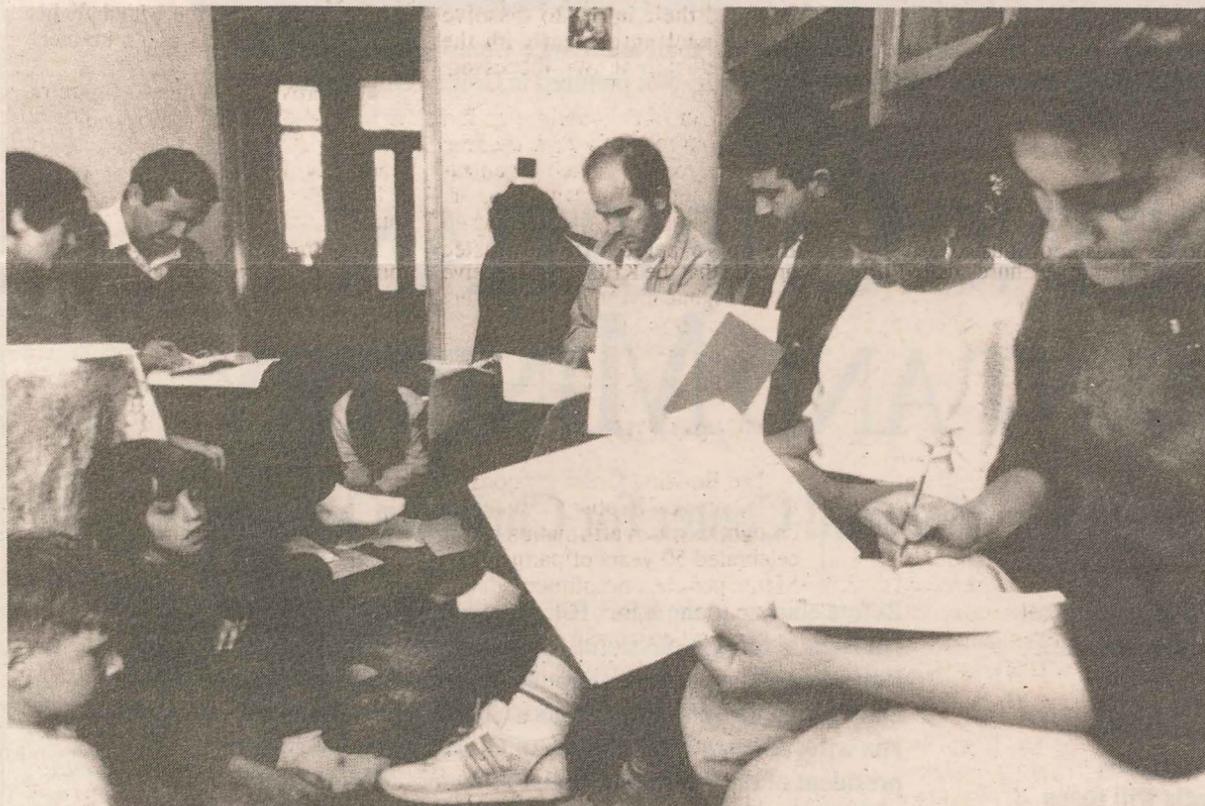
More medical supplies are needed urgently. Lusi needs much prayer that God will sustain him through another war that now threatens to engulf his country of Zaire, she added.

A member of the Nairobi Baptist Church in Goma, Lusi has served Hutu refugees in the camps at Goma since 1994, after the Rwandan genocide sent tens of thousands fleeing to the Rwanda/Zaire border.

Baptist World Aid's Africa Refugee Assistance Fund will help the hospital as soon as the international community opens access to the refugees.

Donations may be sent to Baptist World Aid, 6733 Curran Street, McLean, Va. 22101.

As relative calm returned to the area, Joe Lusi called the few remaining hospital personnel together. "If I am going to die, I want to die doing my work," he said. "Let's get ready for the wounded."



BIBLE STUDY Missionary Gale Hartley (fourth from right) leads a Bible study in Fier, Albania. The new church there has baptized 29 new believers—most of them teenagers and young adults. (FMB photo by Don Rutledge.)

Professional clown organizing Christian circus

By Dena Dyer
Southwestern Seminary

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—The smell of greasepaint, the sight of clowns and jugglers and the taste of popcorn and cotton candy transcend language and culture. So do smiles and giggles.

"Everybody, no matter what their race or age, loves a circus," said Eugenio Adorno, professional clown and student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

Such broad appeal convinced Adorno to organize a Christian circus to be held next March in conjunction with the seminary's 1997

student missions conference.

Circa del Rey, or Circus of the King, originated when Adorno and his wife, Audria, brainstormed about ways to creatively impact their hometown of Barceloneta, Puerto Rico.

In 1994 and 1995, local churches supplied volunteers, handed out thousands of free tickets and followed up with people who expressed interest in Christianity.

The two circus crusades attracted 4,500 people, and 500 decisions to follow Christ were recorded. "It was a real blessing to see such a response," Adorno said. "The Lord opened all the doors. I was the producer, but he was the director."

The Fort Worth performance will feature professional magicians, jugglers, animal acts and clowns, he said.

Adorno noted the ultimate impact of a Christian circus outreach is up to God. "As I always like to say, clowns make people laugh, but only God fills man's heart with joy."

Adorno has trained professionally with two former members of Ringling Brothers circus—Frosty Little and Leon "Buttons" McBryde. Each year, Adorno attends their "Advanced Studies in the Art of Clowning" camp.

"My dream is to have an international Christian circus, which would be on the road all the time, presenting the gospel," he said.

Chinese church in Virginia is a living memorial to Lottie Moon

By Marty Croll
SBC Foreign Mission Board

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (BP)—One of the most vivid memorials fashioned to honor foreign missions heroine Lottie Moon stands in Charlottesville, Va.

It's an eternal memorial—a growing body of Chinese Christians. They worship in the fellowship hall of First Baptist Church, the very church whose pastor brought young Lottie Moon face to face with Jesus Christ in 1859, before she became a missionary to China.

Freddie and Dorothy Sun, products of the ministry of Lottie Moon and her colleagues, began building this memorial several years ago.

In China, Sun worked as a research geologist for the Chinese Academy of Sciences. His own people led him to Jesus in 1955. "That was a year of great persecution in China," he says. "Communists closed churches and arrested many pastors. It was very scary."

Mrs. Sun's parents, products of American missionary work, taught her Christianity from childhood. In 1960 she was forced into a labor camp. While studying at Beijing Medical University, her faith had come into conflict with the communists.

"I was not a preacher or anything," she remembers. "I was not even a strong Christian, but I just didn't deny my Lord's name. The communists weren't satisfied. They wanted young people to worship (Chinese leader) Mao Tse Tung as if he was God."

At one point, she came close to death and lost her left lung from near starvation and long, hard hours of labor.

Freed 20 years later after Mao's death, she landed a job with associates of the United Nations World Health Organization and came to North Carolina as a medical scholar. Later she moved to Charlottesville.

The Suns were drawn to pastor Joel Jenkins of First Baptist Church. "He is world missions-oriented," Mrs. Sun says.

She got a vision to start a Chinese Bible study fellowship. "The Lord gave me one word: cook." The Suns started a group from her kitchen. "We would eat, then we would talk about the Bible. It kept growing and growing and growing."

The church organized in 1992. This year Revival Church called its first pastor, Michael Zhu.

Zhu said he became pastor because of the church's missions character. "We see the bigger picture. Scholars go back home to China to do evangelism there. We prepare (them) to go back to their homeland. Like a fish goes back to water, Chinese always have a heart for saving their people."



The Marshall Center board members are (front row, l. to r.) Dwight Moody, Alice Marshall and Lance Cunningham; (back row, l. to r.) Al Riddley, Bill Marshall, Jack Birdwhistell and President William H. Crouch Jr. Not pictured is Coleen Burroughs.

CULTIVATING CHRISTIAN DISCERNMENT AND MINISTRY

Georgetown College to inaugurate Marshall Center for Christian Ministry

Georgetown College will launch the Bill and Alice Marshall Center for Christian Ministry during a three-day inauguration that will take place Jan. 21-23, 1997.

The center is named for Dr. William M. Marshall, the executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and his wife, Alice. The Marshalls will focus their energies as co-directors of the center after Dr. Marshall's retirement from the KBC in March 1997.

"The Marshall Center will be committed to helping Baptists understand who we are and to translate that understanding into tangible ministry and mission," said President William H. Crouch Jr. The center will carry out initiatives related to theology, missions, leadership, family and academics.

Before coming to the KBC, Bill served as a pastor and Southern Baptist foreign missionary in the Middle East. He is a Kentucky native, a 1957 alumnus of Georgetown College and a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His wife, Alice, a 1957 alumna of Georgetown, is a former president of the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives group and a partner in the retail corporation Wallpaper for Less.

"It was as a student at Georgetown that my Christian calling and vocational mission were experienced," said Bill Marshall. "It is a 'holy place' in my pilgrimage. Alice and I are thrilled with the intention of Dr. Crouch's vision for a center for Christian ministry at Georgetown College and are honored to be associated with it in this special way."

GEORGETOWN

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