

PRactical Resources for Christian Living

WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Persecution

A 20-member advisory panel on religious persecution was named recently by the U.S. State Department. It includes a Southern Baptist. *Page 12.*

Help members discover gifts, advisers say

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

AUSTIN, Texas (BP)—“Church isn’t a spectator sport,” Sue Mallory, director of Leadership Network’s leadership training, told participants in a recent lay-ministry forum.

Churches function better when laypeople are equipped to recognize their skills and trained to use them, she said at the forum sponsored by Leadership Network.

A key component of lay mobilization is a process in which trained interviewers lead church members to analyze their abilities spiritually, Mallory said.

“The interview enables you to come to know members so that they may serve and be served,” she noted.

The interviews uncover valuable information, both about how members can help their church and how the church can meet their needs, she said.

And that’s vital, she added: “Forty-three percent of the people leaving churches today do so because their needs are not being met, which is because they are not being asked.”

“Gift discovery is for ‘whole-life ministry,’ not just ‘slotting,’” added Brad Smith, a Leadership Network staff member. In other words, one’s spiritual gifts should be seen as impacting her or his entire life, not just a resource to be tapped for a single church job.

“Gift discovery has a greater purpose than just a more advanced way to assimilate new members and recruit church volunteers,” Smith said. “Placement opportunities include church, community and the marketplace.”

■ *Impact of lay involvement in church ministry discussed. Page 13.*



ENGLISH LESSON Pat Howard teaches English to Russian Baptist refugees at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. First Baptist is one of several Kentucky Baptist churches to sponsor refugees during the past six years. New sponsors are needed for Bosnian and Iraqi Kurdish refugees.

Refugee sponsors needed in Kentucky

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—When 100 Iraqi Kurdish refugees arrive in Louisville this month, Donna Straus hopes Kentucky Baptist churches will reach out to make them welcome.

As director of Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Straus recruits churches to sponsor refugees who resettle in Kentucky. Kentucky Refugee Ministries will resettle 30 of the Kurds; Catholic Charities will resettle the others.

Since no refugee can come to the United States without a sponsor, help is needed for the Kurdish families immediately, Straus said.

Most of the Kurds are former U.S. government employees, forced to flee Iraq when troops backed by Saddam Hussein retook a part of Northern Iraq previously under Kurdish control. Because they had worked for the U.S.

government, their lives were in danger. They felt they had no choice but to leave their homeland behind, Straus said.

In addition to the immediate need for sponsors to resettle the Kurds, Kentucky Refugee Ministries needs sponsors for 30 to 40 Bosnians who are expected to come to Louisville in the next few months to be reunited with family members who already have immigrated.

During the six years Kentucky Refugee Ministries has existed, the organization has resettled 1,000 refugees.

Kentucky Baptist churches that have sponsored refugees include First Baptist of Highland Park, Highland and Crescent Hill in Louisville; High-

land Hills in Fort Thomas; and First Baptist in Bowling Green, said Tony Hough, director of metropolitan missions for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Hough said he hopes 100 to 150 KBC churches will allow his office to put them on “a list of willingness” to sponsor refugees in the future.

Resettling people who have fled their homelands because of political, economic or religious persecution gives Kentucky Baptists opportunity to “express the heart of Christ to minister to people in need” and to follow the Old Testament instruction to “welcome the stranger,” Hough said.

■ *More stories about Kentucky Baptist refugee resettlement efforts and how to be involved are on page 9.*



Genetics discussion raises more questions than answers

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Genetics’ development into a science able to detect or predict future diseases leads to a cornucopia of ethical decisions, according to participants in a recent panel discussion at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.

Moderator Paul Simmons, professor of Christian ethics at the seminary, said some Christians question whether scientists should even uncover knowledge of genetic deformities.

“The question theologically (is): Is God doing this (causing disease) to us for reasons that escape us?” said Simmons, formerly a professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. “Is he doing this to test us or make us

better people? A certain segment of the church believes that, (saying) ‘let God be God.’”

However, he said, another view sees God present in human suffering as he was with Christ at the cross. Instead of thinking God forbids knowledge, Christians should consider how to use what God reveals to help others, said Simmons.

He suggested the latter idea better reflects the biblical account of stewardship as one of partnership between humans and God.

“Genetics and the Human Future” was the second conference on medical ethics this fall. Panelists raised several sensitive issues related to genetic testing:

■ *Who is entitled to the information?* Keynote speaker Pat Murphy, a

medical geneticist from Washington, D.C., called for federal legislation to prohibit insurance companies from denying clients life or medical coverage based on genetics data. Nor should anyone be forced to release such personal information, she said.

■ *How do people cope with the knowledge?* Joe Hersch of the Child Evaluation Center at the University of Louisville Medical School said such information can result in profound psychological adjustments and lifelong stereotypes.

■ *What happens to the fetus when prenatal testing uncovers a genetic mutation?* Hersch referred to a case where a man’s father had Huntington’s Disease, which causes dementia, personality changes and movement disorders. Those who have it

have a 50 percent chance of passing it to their children. The man’s wife didn’t want to bear their child if her husband had the disease, Hersch said. The man, however, didn’t know if he had the disease and didn’t want to find out. They resolved the dispute by testing the child and learned the fetus was normal.

■ *Should parents have prenatal testing regardless of their decision to give birth?* Ginger Harrell, a neonatal nurse at Kosair Children’s Hospital in Louisville, said parents of babies born deformed often say they didn’t get testing because they didn’t plan to abort the birth. But prenatal treatment and planning can help correct some of the infants’ problems, she said.

■ *Who decides what should be*
□ *See Genetics discussion ..., page 14*

Moving? See page 4 (1126)

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Gary Leazer**, the former Home Mission Board official who led a 1992-93 study of Freemasonry and later was fired for delivering a speech deemed sympathetic to Freemasonry, has become a Mason himself. "I had no interest at all in becoming a Mason until after I studied the fraternity during the controversy and after leaving the HMB," Leazer said. He said another factor was learning that Baptist statesmen such as Herschel Hobbs, George W. Truett and W.T. Conner were Masons.

■ **John David Hopper**, president of the International Baptist Theological Seminary since 1988, has resigned citing health reasons. Hopper, 61, presided over the seminary through its defunding by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and its move from Ruschlikon, Switzerland, to Prague, Czech Republic.

■ **Molly Marshall**, former theology professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been elected to a permanent tenured position at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kan. She has been teaching at the American Baptist school since August 1995 as a visiting professor.

■ **Arizona Baptists** adopted a proposal similar to one rejected by Kentucky Baptists this fall. A new missions giving plan adopted by the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention allows local churches to create their own formulas for how their Cooperative Program funds are divided between the state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. A similar proposal made from the floor of this fall's Kentucky Baptist Convention was voted down.

Garlands to Baylor; Weber to Northern

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

LOUISVILLE—David and Diana Garland, a couple widely known for their individual work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, have been named to the faculty of Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Also, Tim Weber, one of the first professors added to Southern's faculty after a "covenant renewal" document was implemented to require the addition of conservative theologians, is leaving the seminary to become dean at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Ill.

Diana Garland resigned from Southern's faculty last spring, about a year after she was fired by President Al Mohler as dean of the Carver School of Church Social Work. Mohler accused her of insubordination because she told Carver School students Mohler's faculty hiring practices were endangering the school's accreditation.

That brought into public view a long chain of events that ultimately led to the seminary's decision to close the Carver School by August 1997. The Carver School has been the only accredited master of social work program housed in a seminary in the United States.

Since last summer, Garland, who taught 17 years at Southern, has been

directing a family ministry research project at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. With her move to Baylor, she will carry that Lilly Endowment-funded project with her.

Her primary role at Baylor will be developing a new school of social work within the university. A Baylor news release described the proposed school as a place where "social work professionals (may) obtain their education within a Christian environment and choose a specialization that will provide expertise to work with congregations and church agencies."

David Garland, who stayed on at Southern as professor of New Testament interpretation after his wife's resignation, will become professor of New Testament at Baylor's Truett Seminary.

He has taught at Southern 20 years and is recognized as an authority on the gospels of Matthew and Mark.

Baylor University is a Baptist school with ties to the Baptist General Convention of Texas. It is the largest Baptist university in the United States. The Garlands each will begin their new roles at Baylor next fall.

Weber, who is moving to Northern Seminary, was elected to Southern's faculty as professor of church history in April 1992. He was among the first group of faculty members hired after Southern Baptist conservatives consolidated their control of the

trustee board and vowed to elect only theological conservatives to the faculty.

Weber was among six men elected to the faculty at that April 1992 meeting. All six came under intense scrutiny, however, because while each met the test of belief in biblical inerrancy each believed it might be possible for God to call a woman as a pastor or deacon.

That prompted trustee David Miller of Arkansas to say in the board meeting, "Why should we be satisfied with men who are 95 percent correct when there are hundreds of men who are 100 percent correct?"

Nevertheless, Weber, who came from a teaching post at Denver Seminary, a Conservative Baptist school, was elected to Southern's faculty. He was described by Larry McSwain, then the seminary provost, as "the finest, most conservative scholar in church history" and "the best-qualified candidate you will ever have a chance to elect."

Beginning in January, Weber will become vice president for academic affairs and dean at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, an American Baptist School in suburban Chicago.

Weber and David Garland become the 45th and 46th full-time faculty members to leave posts at Southern since Mohler became president in 1993.

Abortion tops state convention resolutions

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—Abortion drew the most attention in resolutions by Baptist state conventions this fall, particularly President Bill Clinton's veto of a ban on the controversial "partial-birth" abortion procedure.

Also, conservatives who now control the Southern Baptist Convention made few new inroads into the Baptist state conventions, which generally have been controlled by less-conservative forces.

Baptists in Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, South Carolina, New Mexico, Missouri, Ohio, Kentucky and New England passed anti-abortion resolutions. Some of the resolutions also condemned assisted suicide.

Concern for the growth of legalized gambling surfaced in several states. Anti-gambling resolutions were adopted in Alabama, Arkansas, Ohio, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Hawaii, West Virginia and Texas. Kentuckians added a sentence to the report of their public affairs committee reiterating a resolution passed last year against gambling.

Hawaii Baptists took a stand opposing same-sex marriages. A decision on same-sex marriages is pending in the state's Supreme Court that could legalize same-sex marriages. South Carolina, Oklahoma and Florida also passed resolutions critical of homosexuality.

An SBC resolution against the Disney Co., which gained national media attention last summer, went almost unnoticed in state conventions this fall. Alaska Baptists endorsed the prospect of a Disney boycott for what

they deemed anti-family corporate policies. California Baptists passed a statement registering disappointment in Disney policies but rejected language threatening a boycott.

While politics in state conventions are typically more muted than the open struggle between conservatives and moderates at the national level, several state conventions held key elections or considered other issues with undertones of the national fray.

In presidential elections, candidates backed by moderates won in Texas, Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee. Conservatives managed to hold on to the presidency against challenges to a customary second term in Louisiana and North Carolina. Conservatives won contested races in Georgia and South Carolina.

Conservatives in Texas suffered a setback when the moderate incumbent president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas won re-election by a 2-1 margin.

North Carolina moderates failed in an unusual effort to deny a sitting president a second term. Conservatives swept the top convention offices.

In related matters, Tennessee conservatives lost a bid to add appointive powers to the presidency, hoping to crack a committee process they say gives moderates undue power.

In Missouri, Baptists turned back efforts by conservatives to ban an exhibit at the state convention by the Baptist Joint Committee, a moderate religious-liberty group in Washington. Also, for the second straight year, Missouri Baptists refused to require convention leaders to embrace a belief in biblical "inerrancy."

California Baptists, for the fourth year in a row, opened their meeting debating whether a church with a woman pastor is welcome in their convention and for the third straight year voted to seat messengers from 19th Avenue Baptist Church in San Francisco. Conservatives challenged the church, which in 1993 hired Julie Pennington-Russell as pastor.

Louisiana Baptists rejected an effort backed by conservatives to add a statement of faith to the state convention's constitution.

Baptists in three states dealt indirectly with the SBC controversy by seeking to preserve fraternal relationships with Baptist institutions strained by moderate-conservative disputes.

Arkansas Baptists adopted a proposal to reconcile a dispute with Ouachita Baptist University. The university recently rejected two nominees to its board of trustees, fearing a political takeover by conservatives. Under the plan, Ouachita's board and the state convention will work together to choose trustees.

Alabama Baptists overwhelmingly approved a proposal for reconciliation with Samford University, giving the university a greater hand in initiating nominees to its board, which will still receive convention approval.

The Mississippi Baptist Convention approved a "covenant" system with Baptist institutions in the state. The compromise is an attempt to prevent institutions from cutting Baptist ties to avoid hostile takeover by trustees elected in battles between moderates and conservatives in the state convention.

Staff cuts near at 3 agencies to be merged

FORT WORTH, Texas—A severance package has been announced for employees of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission who will lose jobs through restructuring of the three entities into the new North American Mission Board.

The number of employees to be out of work due to the merger has not been announced. However, an official involved with the transition has said a "considerable" number of the current 500 employees would not have jobs with the new mission board.

Jack Johnson, RTVC president and chairman of a logistics team for the transition, said an announcement of details of the staff reduction is "imminent, before the end of 1996." Johnson said each employee will receive individual counsel and will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive clarification related to options and severance benefits.

Employees who lose their jobs will be given four weeks' notice, Johnson said. That apparently means a major part of the overall staff reduction will occur as early as January, five months before the North American Mission Board is created.

The severance package was approved at a Nov. 14 meeting of the logistics group in Fort Worth, Texas.

Johnson said those eligible for the severance benefits will be anyone either notified that due to restructuring they will have no job available or anyone offered a job at a lower pay level who declines to take that job.

If an employee is offered a position at the North American Mission Board and declines it, he or she will be ineligible for hiring in any other full-time North American Mission Board position or as a consultant for a period of one year.

The severance package includes:

■ One week of pay for each year of denominational service, with a minimum of four weeks and a maximum of 26 weeks.

■ Medical and/or dental insurance benefits will continue through the severance period.

■ Other existing benefits will be paid during the four-week notice period only.

■ Payment of severance benefits is contingent upon the employee signing an acceptable release waiver. The provisions of that waiver were not made public.

No special benefits will be offered for early retirement other than those options already available through each agency's current policy.

Based on a Baptist Press report

Toothbrushes help Russian missionary duo

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

MOSCOW—When is a toothbrush more than a toothbrush? When it becomes a tool for sharing the gospel, missionary Nancy Walden said.

When Walden and her husband, Bob, arrived in Moscow last May as field coordinators for the Kentucky-Russia mission partnership, one of their first tasks was to inventory office items. To their surprise, they found thousands of toothbrushes. Naturally, they wondered what they should do with all those toothbrushes.

At the suggestion of a co-worker, the Waldens started sending a bag of brushes out with each Kentucky volunteer team. They "trusted the Lord" to let team members know what to do with the brushes, she said.

The toothbrushes were a big hit. In Russia, a toothbrush is expensive and most people can't afford one, Mrs. Walden said.

With each toothbrush, team members included a gospel tract, a New Testament, and a verbal testimony of their faith in God.

At a children's camp, children were more pleased with the toothbrushes than with the toys volunteers gave them, Mrs. Walden said.

At a medical project, one lady cried as she told how she used her fingers to brush her teeth. She thanked the medical team, held the brush to her lips and kissed it. "Next time you hold your toothbrush, pray for all the Russian people who received a toothbrush," Mrs. Walden requested.

Hell House showing results, pastor says

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LONDON—Harlan Avera Jr. recently baptized the fourth convert from his church's October "Hell House" attraction, and he looks for more new members in the near future.

"This has turned out to be a tremendous blessing for me and the church," said Avera, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church. "This has made a tremendous impact. I'm not sure we will ever be the same. Our people are ready to do it again."

Calvary attracted more than 2,100 people to its Halloween play, presented over six nights. Staged by a 52-member cast, it was patterned after a popular attraction organized by a church in Denver.

Approximately 50 churches in 25 states presented "Hell House" this fall. It includes scenes depicting a drunk-driving death, an abortion, a human sacrifice, a teen suicide, an AIDS-related death of a homosexual, and a walk through hell.

After viewing it, 210 people in London signed cards saying they had received Christ as Savior and 156 rededicated their lives to Christ. Avera said three-quarters of the converts were teenagers.

Since nearly 60 percent of the viewers came from outside London, following up has been a time-consuming task. Church members have been informing churches in other areas about the decisions and calling local residents, Avera said.

Youth pastor Jamie Maxey said he has contacted about 25 of the 70 London-area teens who completed decision cards, and some of those have attended services. Eventually he expects Calvary's youth group to expand from about 30 active members to more than 50.

Maxey said the realistic dramas had an impact on young people, particularly the teen suicide portrayal,



helping guide them toward a personal relationship with God.

"I think a lot of them were involved in the things we presented, whether it's alcohol or some of the music they listen to," he said. "They may not have been involved in abortion, but it's often presented as a way out."

Many attended the event mistakenly thinking it was a haunted house, Maxey said, which may have been a blessing.

He also credited the church's youth group with actively promoting the event. In addition to getting flyers distributed through Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he said Hell House became a topic of discussion that week in area schools.

"It just made me more committed to reaching people for Christ," said Maxey, who also teaches a Head Start preschool program. "We had young and old people saved, and an 80-year-old man who rededicated his life. It



had far-reaching effects."

Calvary members decided to produce the drama after Avera received a promotional flyer about it last spring. When Avera and Maxey took the idea to the congregation, members unanimously approved it.

HELL HOUSE More than 2,100 people attended the Halloween play, presented over six nights by Calvary Baptist Church in London.

Choir gets missions lesson during tour across New England

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

BURLINGTON—Kentucky Baptists could take a lesson or two from their New England counterparts, said Vic Harrison, director of Burlington Baptist Church's senior adult choir.

The Solid Rockers choir sang their

way across New England recently, and Harrison said the trip opened the eyes of a lot of volunteers as to how much of a mission field New England is.

In spite of limited finances, a post-Christian culture and overwhelming spiritual needs, the New England Southern Baptists they met work with

"zeal, commitment and dedication," Harrison said.

"They are up against some tough odds, yet they continue to have a godly attitude," he said, adding that he hopes Baptists in Northern Kentucky will emulate that enthusiasm.

Harrison also said Kentucky Baptists would do well to look at their own region as a mission field and quit "pretending it is like it was in the '50s, '60s or even the '70s."

The group especially was impressed with the weekday ministries offered to children in inner-city Waterbury, Conn., by Southern Baptist missionary Maner Tyson.

Tyson described about 10 ministries he has begun and maintains with limited help, Harrison said. Tyson provided the Kentuckians with specific dollar amounts needed to fund both large and small mission projects, Harrison said. "I hope we can send people to help him."

During their trip, the Solid Rockers shared their music in inner city missions, nursing homes, senior high rise apartments and churches.

The October Kentucky-New England partnership mission trip was an opportunity for members to experience Southern Baptist work in New England as well as enjoy a fall foliage tour, Harrison said.

"Now, we know real places and real people we can send money to and go to help," he said. "We saw where our home mission dollars are going."

The choir gave four planned concerts and several impromptu ones—including one in a small Congregational church in New Hampshire.

The group worked with tour guide Mary Beth Caffey, a Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteer in Maine. They visited Southern Baptist work in Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. They also visited several favorite tourism sites, including Boston's Old North Church and Providence, R.I.'s, First Baptist Church.

The group was the first senior adult choir to minister in New England as a part of the Kentucky-New England partnership, Harrison said. It also was their first mission trip outside the state.



SOLID ROCK SINGERS This was the group's first mission trip outside Kentucky.

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

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BAPTIST FORUM

Dream world

I found James Merritt's message at the Pastors' Conference in Bowling Green Monday afternoon quite interesting. Perhaps he has a point about past and present happenings at Southern Seminary. He expressed gratitude that he could now wear his Southern cufflinks and class ring with pride ... something he evidently could not do until recently. He spoke of the "fables" that had been taught there in the past and of the "preacher-boys" who in the future will leave the seminary with degree in hand to preach the "truth" and change the state of Kentucky.

With this in mind, I find myself wondering, "How will we define truth for the generations to come?" Having relegated the truth by godly men and women from Southern's past to mere fable, perhaps the degree I received from Southern was nothing more than entertaining fiction, somewhat like a Mickey Mouse cartoon whose characters charm and amuse, but offer little else. Given the action of our convention last summer, I hesitate to invoke Mickey's name. But I find his being unwelcome in our convention—as well as those who invested their lives in sharing the truth of God's word through the ministry of Southern Seminary pre-Mohler—a sad commentary on Southern Baptist life.

I agree with Merritt that future Southern graduates will change Kentucky, but not for the better. The respect for God's word and the autonomy of the soul and the church that I learned at Southern gave way to a corporately approved truth, suddenly producing scholars and saints whose theology cannot be questioned, whose ideology cannot be argued against.

Like it or not, fables are being

taught and preached in the SBC, but it is Merritt and those who stand with him who live in a dream world.

James Abernathy
Covington

Tobacco farming

I can't understand why Christians are putting such a strong emphasis on banning the tobacco industry. It's legal!

God has given all of us a unique freedom of choice. Why should we be so arrogant to think we are to make rules about what is right and wrong?

If we would focus on becoming godly individuals—"Be ye perfect, Be ye holy"—God would take care of the rest. If a man is at peace with his tobacco crop, so be it. If he is not, God should be the one he struggles with, not other Christians. If you must, promote that people smoke less and encourage a safer intake level rather than ban the crop.

The time of Christ's return draws nearer with each passing day. I'm sure he will be more interested in our efforts toward spiritual health matters, not physical ones. When we are in tip-top spiritual health, God takes care of our physical needs and leads us as individuals to make healthy decisions for our body.

We've all heard "what God could do with one person who was truly and wholly devoted to him." Do you think that person would be out focusing on issues that are diverse? As a body of Christ, I say let's stick to those things we can agree on (unity) and see what God can do with that.

Jody Cooley
Bedford

Rest of nomination

Because of lack of time, I was unable to complete my nomination of Dan Garland for second vice president. I do not mean to be indifferent toward the two men nominated but would like to add the following.

Dan Garland is a contributor to the

New writer

James Stillwell is the new author of the Western Recorder's Family Forum columns on singles. Stillwell is associate pastor with single adults at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

He holds the bachelor of arts degree in religion from Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn.; the master of divinity and master of arts in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas; and is working toward the doctor of ministry degree in family ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

He is married to Vivian Stillwell and has four children: Daniel, Rebekah, Katie and Garrett.

In this writing assignment, Stillwell replaces Harry Rowland, former pastor of Fort Mitchell Baptist Church. Stillwell's columns on single adults will join the regular rotation of Family Forum columns on children, teens, marriage and aging.

booklet "Gift-Based Deacon Ministry" produced by the church growth division of our KBC. Since Zion Church in Henderson helped to pioneer gift-based deacon ministry, Dan has been a consultant in that area for the KBC. He has shared this concept with more than 50 churches in the past three years. Dan also has served as a conference leader for Super Saturdays. He has served on the Executive Board with the business and finance committee and just completed a term on the order of business committee.

Under his leadership, Zion Church is alive, growing and healthy. Hopefully, Kentucky Baptists will recognize his leadership abilities and elect him to a state office in the near future.

Bill Carter
Frankfort

me back to the house where all my young life Thanksgiving took place.

The cedar opened my memory to the frequent times I spent cold nights in their upstairs bedroom; Grandmother taking blankets from her cedar chest to cover me.

When in Frankfort, I rarely fail to drive by the brick structures which were their frame house and grocery store. Once I stopped and got permission to walk through the house. Nothing remained that seemed familiar.

So I must resort to the memory I have of it all: the bookcase with all the family pictures, Grandmother in her rocking chair, the carpet on which we played marbles, the dining room with the big table for the "grownups" and the smaller ones for the children—all set for the Thanksgiving meal.

I swing open the low, metal gate, walk up the stairs to the front porch and see Granddaddy, sitting in his chair by the door, looking out and smiling at me.

I go in and we are all together again.

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

Thanksgiving again

Though I never felt I was a bigger man, my grandfather was at least a foot shorter than I by the time I started college. I have always presumed my father's height came through my Grandmother Pfeiffer's side of the family.

I thought of him as "small" only on one occasion. After he could no longer wade Elkhorn Creek, I carried him from the car down a steep, rocky bank to a good fishing spot. A year later I said my good-byes before Alice and I left for Israel in 1957. While we were there, he left us.

Hot summer nights on the back "sleeping porch" often found me beside him, eager to get up early to head for the stream he taught me to love and respect.

He laughed when my first shot with his 12-gauge, double-barrel L.C. Smith knocked me flat on the ground. It hurt and I didn't think it funny but his laughter made me laugh. When I shot my first rabbit, it was he who did the bragging back at the grocery store.

He left us 39 years ago, but I still miss him, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas, those special times when their home was so central to the families of their three sons. Between the two, Grandmother "ran the ship," not only because she had great inner strength, but because she kept the accounts, paid the bills and wrote the letters. Granddaddy could only write his name.

But he could do what to me were a thousand other wonderful things—fix bikes, drive a car, build a playhouse in our backyard, fish, untangle my fishing line, hunt rabbit and quail, play Chinese checkers with me, drink coffee out of a saucer. Without intending to, he taught me compassion and generosity by the scores of times he took groceries from his store to folks in the neighborhood who needed help. I remember Grandmother once saying to me, "Your grandfather would give away the store if we'd let him."

While pulling out some sweaters from the cedar chest in our closet not long ago, the sweet smell transported

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



FAMILY FORUM

How can I forgive my ex-spouse?

By James Stillwell

Q. *Forgiveness seems to be the crux of the experience of healing from a divorce, yet it is so difficult. Why should I forgive? What are the mechanics of the forgiveness process?*

A. Forgiveness is vital for anyone who has gone through the pain of divorce. There is no positive way to come out "on the other side" without walking the pathway of forgiveness. It is never easy. The wrongs done to us are real. We can't rationalize them away. Each party bears responsibility for hurts inflicted on the other. The deeper the hurt, the harder the process, yet the more vital forgiveness is.

In forgiveness, you set a prisoner free, and that prisoner is yourself. You decide it's time to move on with your life, that the "blaming game" is getting you nowhere. The energy we cling to in our anger and hate tends to eat us alive. We're like the prisoner in the ancient medieval picture of hell, sitting in the corner, chewing on our own bone.

Without forgiveness, the other party continues to exercise control and take up residence in your mind. Forgiveness is deciding to move from the energy of hate to a new freedom. Realizing what a bitter person you could become if you refuse to forgive, you make the decision.

As in any decision, timing is crucial. Anger and hurt must be admitted before it can be released. If you wait for the perfect time to encounter the ex-spouse, it may never come. Even if a conversation with the ex-spouse is not possible, the process can take place, sometimes by writing your thoughts down as a prayer or a letter.

Forgiveness is "getting the hate out." You get in touch with the hurt and give up the right to hurt back. You take ownership of your part of the breakup, asking forgiveness for your part. It is risky because your overtures of forgiveness may not be received graciously by the other party.

Still, the decision to forgive creates a sense of closure, and the possibility of a relationship with the ex-spouse not characterized by simmering animosity or hostility. By giving yourself a new lease on life, you ride the cosmic crest of love rather than staying in the muck and mire of hate. You release the Spirit's power through your life once again.

James Stillwell is minister with single adults at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Tales of the naked and the dread confirmed at the YMCA

HESAIID



Mark Wingfield

The local newspaper recently carried an article about new research on why many people don't join health clubs or go to the gym to exercise. It seems a huge percentage of the flabby population thinks everyone who goes to the gym already is fit and they would be embarrassed to be seen sweating alongside these superior specimens of the human form.

I've got news for these people from deep inside the men's locker room of the YMCA: It just ain't so.

I don't know where those male-model types pump up their made-for-TV muscles, but it's not at any gym I've ever frequented, especially not at the Y. Most of us, like most of the male population at large, look a whale of a lot better fully clothed than otherwise. There's a reason no women ever drill peep holes from the women's locker room into the men's, and it's not because women don't know how to use a drill.

Granted, about half the regular population at our Y is under 40 and in theory could have firm figures. But the other half is above 70 and has no memory of a firm figure.

Even so, some of these regulars apparently share the same fear-inspired modesty as those non-health clubbers the researchers talked to. Take the guy I recently saw paddling away in the YMCA swimming pool nearly fully clothed: swimsuit, shirt, beach shoes. I later encountered the same man in the shower room, and he was still dressed the same way.

All this reminds me of the Advent hymn "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent." That's hard to accomplish. For too many of us, the flesh virtually screams out.

SHESAID



Alison Wingfield

Although the logic in the study Mark mentioned seems sort of silly, I do find myself thinking along the same lines. "If only I looked better, I would go to the Y more often." But I do force myself to go occasionally.

Swimming is my preferred method of exercise, but it has its drawbacks. The primary one: I have to wear a swimsuit.

I do my best to ignore any mirrors in the locker room until I'm finished swimming and completely dressed.

The second drawback is the walk from the locker room to the equipment room for a paddle board, and then to the other side of the pool to the lap swim lanes. The longest walk of my life.

But I've decided that the time of day I usually swim does help a little. More than half the pool is taken up by water aerobics, and some of these swimmers are elderly women who are not in the best of shape. While it may not be kind to compare yourself to someone 30 years older than you are, it helps to know there are those worse off than I am in the body department. On the other hand, it also is depressing when you see people twice your age who have a better physique that you ever will.

The women's locker room at the Y is not an awe-inspiring tribute to how good you can look with a little bit of exercise. There are not many people I know who look all that good in spandex and tights. And most swimsuits don't leave much to the imagination. Unfortunately.

I'm glad God created us all different. I just wish my different was more like those tall, svelte bods you see in the health club ads.

What is the purpose of your church?

When's the last time you remember someone standing up during prayer meeting at your church and requesting prayer for someone to become a Christian or for someone to become a more devoted disciple of Christ?

When's the last time your congregation earnestly prayed for God's Spirit to work among you and your community, bringing people to repentance and advancing the kingdom of God? How about something more than a perfunctory "Lord send a revival and let it begin with me" ditty?

If you belong to an average Baptist church, such prayer requests may be all too rare. Standard fare for Wednesday night prayer meetings, and for Sunday school prayer times as well, is what Grady Nutt called an "organ recital."

We spend great time going into intimate detail about physical ailments great and small. But we spend precious little time actually praying for those ailments, and we spend even less time praying for anyone's spiritual ailments.

Frankly, we devote inordinate time praying for people who are ready to meet Jesus to stay in their earthly torments a little longer while paying no attention to people outside the church who have perfect health but are headed for a fatal destination without Jesus.

Is it any wonder that two-thirds of our churches are in poor health themselves? We're focused on the wrong things.

The agenda for our prayer meetings reflects a larger problem: We have forgotten what is the primary purpose of the church.

The primary purpose of the church is not to minister to the sick. Yes, such ministry is one important part of the church's role, but it is not the main role. The church that focuses primarily on praying for the sick becomes obsessed with sickness.

The primary purpose of the church is not even worship. Yes, worship is a vital part of what the church does, but it is not the main thing we are called to do corporately. The church that focuses on worship as the main thing becomes self-absorbed. Liturgy becomes more important than love.

Nor is the primary purpose of the church to increase the budget, build bigger buildings or run the largest number of people through the baptistry. These are all good and worthy things, but they are not the main thing.

The primary purpose of the church, according to the Bible we claim to believe, is to make disciples, to be the physical manifestation of Christ in the world. Jesus' last words before leaving his earthly sojourn to return to heaven were these: "Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

At the time of his ascension, Jesus also said: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."

It is a sad commentary that so many churches today must appoint committees to develop mission statements, when the mission already has been stated. Contemporary mission statements are good tools, because they help us focus on making the main thing the main thing in our own communities. But it shouldn't take weeks of study to determine what the mission is.

Praying for the sick, creating meaningful worship, providing adequate buildings, baptizing converts and garnering financial support all play a role in making disciples—when they are seen as interrelated parts of the greater mission.

What is the primary purpose of your church? Think about it next time you go to prayer meeting. Where your prayers are, there will your heart be.

— Mark Wingfield

Too spoiled to be grateful

By Dale Hanson Bourke

By the standards of most of the world, Americans are extraordinarily fortunate.

No wars threaten our borders, no famines claim the lives of our citizens. The vast majority of our population is employed, well fed, safe and warm.

And yet there is a growing threat that comes from our very own fat and happy population. It starts when we take all we have for granted and become forgetful about what it took to get here.

It increases when we become complacent about exercising the rights that make the United States unique. And it grows critical when we begin to believe we deserve all that is good and shouldn't take responsibility for the problems we have.

To put it simply, most Americans are too spoiled to be grateful and too comfortable to help those who aren't. The majority of our population is too young to remember the Depression or a world war and too satiated to imagine true need.

And so when we come to this designated time of thanksgiving, our gratitude is often perfunctory. It's hard to

be truly grateful when you can't imagine the alternatives to the life you have.

I am as prone to the ills of our society as anyone; as quick to lust after new toys, acquire unnecessary belongings and daydream about what would make me even happier.

But this year, at least, I will have a new sense of gratitude.

My thanksgiving is heightened by my memories of a trip to Sarajevo earlier this year and my encounter with a young woman who had enjoyed all the city could offer before the war.

When I met her, the designer sweater she wore was threadbare, her home had few remaining windowpanes and was crowded with relatives. Her medical school education was indefinitely on hold. Despite her obvious trials, her face glowed with joy.

"Before the war we had everything and we always wanted more," she admitted. "But now we have so little and we are grateful for everything."

She was jubilant because the water had been turned on every other day in her home. Gas, it was rumored, would follow soon. The once-proud citizens of this sophisticated Europe-

an town were overjoyed at the prospect of basic utilities.

When we asked the young woman if there was anything we could send her from the United States, she quickly thanked us and said no. "We have everything we need," she replied.

The group of American women walked away in awe. We found ourselves envious of this woman's serenity in the midst of rubble. And we recognized our own attitudes in her description of prewar decadence.

I have heard people say, "What America needs is a good war." I hope not. Instead, I would like to believe that the Bosnians and Zaires of the world will serve as graphic reminders of our good fortune.

All the riches of our country cannot make up for a population that doesn't accept the responsibility of our good fortune or understand the true meaning of gratitude.

The Bible tells us, "To whom much is given, much will be required." As we pause to count our blessings during this holiday season, we must also consider the cost of our prosperity. It is far more difficult for us to be truly thankful in the midst of plenty. (RNS)

Dale Hanson Bourke is the author of "Turn Toward the Wind" and publisher of Religion News Service

Religious leaders blast move toward TV liquor ads

"The decision to drop hard liquor advertising demonstrates what we already knew about the alcohol industry. They are definitely more concerned about profits than they are concerned about the welfare of society."

Will Dodson, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's director of government relations

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Religious leaders are among those speaking out against the United States liquor industry's decision to lift its six-decades-old voluntary ban against television and radio advertising.

The Distilled Spirits Council of the United States announced Nov. 7 that the industry would seek the same broadcast access for advertising that beer and wine makers currently have. Council president Fred Meister said the hard liquor industry would advertise "responsibly" on local stations, as well as cable and computer outlets.

The announcement has drawn sharp criticism from many quarters, including government officials, civic groups and religious leaders.

"Given the social problems that alcoholism creates, I'm extremely disappointed," said Robert Dugan, vice president for governmental affairs at the National Association of Evangelicals.

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Reed Hundt called the decision "disappointing for parents and dangerous for our kids."

The Center on Alcohol Advertising expressed similar concerns, noting that "the fastest way for a product to take hold with the youth culture is to air ads on the broadcast media."

Mothers Against Drunk Driving warned that the move will open a "floodgate to alcohol ads on TV."

Many religious leaders agreed.

"The decision to drop hard liquor advertising demonstrates what we already knew about the alcohol industry," said Will Dodson, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's director of government relations. "They are definitely more concerned about profits than they are concerned about the welfare of society."

Said Thom White Wolf Fassett, general secretary of the Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church: "Instead of providing more inducements for young people to drink, we should work to reduce alcohol use and problems among teens."

In a statement, Fassett noted alcohol is the leading cause of death

among 15 to 24-year-olds in the U.S.

Dugan suggested that Congress consider stepping in. "I don't look for a congressional cure for everything, but perhaps it would be a good idea in this case because the costs of alcoholism in our society are so horrendous. If (the liquor industry) is going to persist in this, maybe Congress ought to take it up immediately when they come together in January."

The voluntary ban on liquor ads has been in place since 1936 for radio and since 1948 for television. ABC, CBS and NBC said they are not planning to abandon their own policies against running liquor ads.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press.

Promise Keepers reaching out beyond stadium rallies

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

DENVER—Promise Keepers, the evangelical organization that has filled stadiums this year with more than 1 million men seeking spiritual renewal, has long said its aim is to send men back to their churches fired up for God.

But with local men's ministries often stagnant or nonexistent, Promise Keepers wanted to make sure the conferences resulted in more than momentary warm fuzzies.

Now, the burgeoning Denver-based ministry has begun to form working relationships with Protestant denominations to help revive men's ministries at the local church level.

Already, Promise Keepers has

formed a partnership with the Assemblies of God, the second-largest Pentecostal group in the nation, and with the International Pentecostal Holiness Church. Earnest conversations have begun with at least four other denominations and other groups are in more tentative stages of discussion.

"Promise Keepers is catalytic," said Dale Schlafer, Promise Keepers' vice president for revival and awakening. "The men get turned around, get turned on and then it's the local church's job and then the denomination's job to marshal that."

The Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission has discussed with Promise Keeper leaders ways the two entities can complement each other.

Brotherhood promotes its men's ministries department as a resource to

assist church men's groups to participate in the activities promoted at Promise Keeper rallies, such as Bible studies and ministry work.

Men's ministries existed decades before Promise Keepers was founded in 1990. But many that had grown stagnant have been revived recently, in some cases because of the influence of Promise Keepers.

James Mathisen, a sociology professor at Wheaton College in Illinois, said Promise Keepers has created some ill will among denominational leaders with their efforts to break down the walls between church groups. "I think they're very wise to negotiate," he said. "This would represent a major shift in their strategy."

Promise Keepers officials are talking with both evangelical and main-

line Protestants, although theological differences are likely to impede formal partnerships with mainline groups.

"It's hard to put down something that's reaching 1.1 million men," said Doug Haugen, president of the North American Conference of Church Men's Staffs, a consortium of 22 Protestant mainline and evangelical denominations.

Promise Keepers officials say they work to offset misconceptions that the national men's organization is trying to become another denomination.

"We want to work through institutions and denominations that are already in existence and come alongside of them to assist them," said Daniel Erickson, the acting director of Promise Keepers denominational relations.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Philanthropy's broker plans settlement.** Prudential Securities, the broker for the now-bankrupt Foundation for New Era Philanthropy, plans to settle four lawsuits brought against it by paying \$18 million to some of the groups who lost money by investing in New Era. New Era collapsed in 1995 when Prudential moved to freeze the charity's assets to cover a \$45 million credit line it had extended to New Era founder John G. Bennett Jr. Within a week, New Era filed for bankruptcy.

■ **One-third of homeless men are vets.** A new survey of homeless shelters indicates that one homeless man in three is a veteran, most of whom fought in Vietnam, according to the International Union of Gospel Missions. Seven percent of homeless women also are veterans, according to the survey. "The scars of Vietnam still are not fully healed for many veterans," said Stephen Burger, executive director of the union, an association of nearly 250 faith-based rescue missions.

■ **Anti-abortion stand no harm to candidates, group says.** The National Right to Life Committee claims polling data show opposing abortion did not harm congressional candidates in the Nov. 5 election. On the core issue of abortion on demand, anti-abortion advocates saw a net gain of two seats in the Senate but a loss of six seats in the House.

■ **Lutheran, Episcopal churches to vote on full communion.** Leaders from the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have readied the text of an agreement that will bring the nearly 8 million members of the two groups into full communion. Under the terms of the agreement, there would be an immediate mutual recognition and interchangeability of the ordained ministries of each denomination.

Salvation Army leads top charities for '95

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Americans gave 5 percent more to the country's largest charities in 1995 than in 1994, with the Salvation Army and Catholic Charities USA receiving some of the most generous donations, according to an annual survey by the Chronicle of Philanthropy.

The Salvation Army, which collected \$644.3 million from private sources, topped for the fourth year in a row the Philanthropy 400, a survey of the top 400 charities. This recognition came despite a drop in donations of 11.3 percent.

American Red Cross was ranked second, and Catholic Charities ranked third, raising \$419.4 million from private sources.

Both the Salvation Army and Catholic Charities are finding they have to market themselves in new ways because of the greater competition for donations.

The Salvation Army has reached an agreement with Wal-Mart to place its red Christmas kettles outside the retail chain's 2,268 stores. In the past, the charity negotiated with individual stores.

"Marketing is a word that is a little

bit difficult for us," said Robert Watson, national commander of the Salvation Army. "It's not our style to do an ongoing, round-the-clock, slick marketing strategy."

Fred Kammer, president of Catholic Charities USA, said his group has been trying to make potential donors more aware of its work. "Most of our agencies had spent so little on fund raising."

Two years ago, only half of Catholic Charities' affiliates included professional fund raisers as staff members. Now 85 percent of the affiliates have them.

Religious conservatives to launch 'morals' PAC

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A prominent religious conservative says he is forming a political action committee to push such "values" issues as opposition to abortion and pornography, which he said the Republican and Democratic parties have pushed to the sidelines.

"The great danger facing America is not from barbarians at the gates, but the sickness of our own hearts," Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council, said in a speech at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

The Family Research Council is a spinoff of James Dobson's Focus on the Family, a major group in the con-

servative political constellation commonly called the Religious Right.

Bauer, a former official in the Reagan administration and a graduate of Georgetown College, had harsh words for his Republican Party and the presidential campaign of Bob Dole.

"What is at stake is whether this great experiment in ordered liberty under God can survive," he said. "That was the great issue that should have been central to the presidential election. Instead, in some bizarre role reversal, the party most associated with the permissiveness of the last 30 years constantly talked about values, while the party, my party, that counts on the votes of millions of Americans

worried about our virtue deficit, seemed obsessed with our wallets."

Bauer said his political action committee would be named the Campaign for Working Families and would be anchored on opposition to abortion.

He blamed Dole's defeat on his failure to push the conservative values agenda in the campaign and for not criticizing Clinton more strongly for the president's veto of a law that would have outlawed a controversial method of late-term abortion.

"Soon, sometime soon, the elites of the Republican Party had better find the courage to speak for the values of the people whose votes they count on on Election Day," he said.

Bakker says spiritual journey led to revised theology

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

HENDERSONVILLE, N.C. (RNS)—A decade ago, when the PTL television ministry was at its peak, Jim Bakker was so busy raising money he hardly had time to read the Bible.

Now, after five years in prison and two years of introspection on a rented North Carolina farm, he considers the holy book, marked and highlighted throughout his incarceration, to be "an old friend."

Such is the transformation of the 56-year-old Bakker, who has gone from the height of power at the modern Christian campground called Heritage USA to the depths of despair in a prison cell. In 1989, after getting caught in a sex and money scandal, Bakker was convicted of bilking supporters of his Praise the Lord ministry out of \$158 million.

With that fall from grace, Bakker embarked on a spiritual journey that has led him to change radically his theology, his social consciousness and his attitudes about money. Although he continues to deny he intentionally defrauded anyone, he now admits he was so obsessed with his earthly empire he ignored the spiritual foundations on which it was supposed to be based.

"I realized I had been teaching people how to get rich and how to fall in love with material things, and Christ says you can't serve material things," Bakker said. "He said, 'Don't build treasures on earth.'"

Bakker said he especially had misread a key verse in the third epistle of John: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

"The word 'prosper' here meant a good journey," said Bakker, recounting his study of the verse's original

Greek. "John would simply say 'I'm wishing you a good journey through life, even as your soul has a good journey to heaven.' ... It has nothing to do with money."

Bakker, author of the recently published "I Was Wrong," said he used to prepare sermons by using a concordance to look up verses that applied to a particular topic.

But in prison, with ample time for reflection, he wrote down by hand every word spoken by Jesus in the Gospels.

That intensive study, Bakker said, changed his understanding of the text and of himself. Bakker applied verses like "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" to his own life.

"The word is what convicted me and I repented," he said. "I kept hitting these things—judge not, condemn not—and the Lord just dealt with me. He said I had to pray for my enemies."

So, just as writing down the words of Jesus changed Bakker's interpretation of the Bible, writing down the names of people he had considered his enemies helped him repent.

"I began to make a list of everybody—the judge, the prosecutors, the ministers who helped put me in prison, those who testified against me, my friends who never have spoken to me since the day I lost PTL," he said.

And, he had to add the names of his ex-wife, Tammy Faye Messner, who divorced him while he was in prison, and Roe Messner, her new husband who helped Bakker build the former Heritage USA in Fort Mill, S.C., and is currently appealing a conviction of bankruptcy fraud.

"I prayed for them every day," said Bakker. "There were days when I didn't feel like it. Then, I would just read their names to God and I said,

'God help me.'"

Bakker acknowledged there were times he backslid.

"Roe was the hardest for me to forgive, but I have totally forgiven him now," he said. "If God said you had to build a church with Roe Messner ... I could do that today."

Although Bakker mentions thoughts of building a church again, he presently is touring the country to promote his book and making guest appearances at conferences and in church pulpits. Bakker, defrocked from the Assemblies of God, said he was ordained a couple of years ago through a "fellowship of ministers" he declined to name.

But he approaches his work with the spirit of an inmate.

"I'm more of an inmate than I am anything else today," said Bakker.

His time spent as Inmate Bakker, No. 07407-058, gave him a chance to see how those inside prison walls viewed the clergy they watched on television news reports—"People at abortion clinics screaming hate, ministers saying, 'Throw 'em in prisons and lock 'em up and throw the key away.'"

"The men in prison were booing preachers while I was sitting in the room," Bakker said. "This is the image that the world sees of Jesus Christ. No wonder they don't want Jesus."

Today, Bakker said, his social agenda has changed from the time when PTL supporters primarily visited the ministry's fancy Christian hotel and amusement park and watched "The PTL Club" on television. The role of a ministry, Bakker now believes, is to reach out to those who are in need—including the incarcerated, as well as ex-cons trying to adjust to life outside prison walls.

"This is somebody's family member and we treat them like they're non-entities," he said. "As soon as I'm off

parole I'm praying to God that the prisons will allow me to come in and speak. I would rather speak to inmates than any group in the world."

Bakker proudly details how his daughter, Tammy Sue Chapman, is active in prison ministry and his son, Jamie—now known as Jay Bakker—works with street people.

"This demonstrates what our family believes," he said. "I believe that we are to feed the hungry and we are to clothe the naked."

As he fondly recalled the church group in his last prison assignment in Jesup, Ga., Bakker said he now realizes that a local church is more important than a television ministry.

"A television can't hug you. A television can't marry you or bury you," he said. "I don't think anybody can do too much spreading of the word, (but) if it becomes a substitute for the local body of Christ it is wrong."

Bakker, who expects to be off parole by April 1997, recalls struggling to constantly raise money—as much as \$500,000 a day—to keep up with goals and expenses at Heritage USA.

"God's people ought to just give to the church without being prodded so much," he said.

But Bakker said he didn't want to chide current televangelists.

"I don't criticize these men today who are having to do this," he said. "They're on a speeding train and they can't stop it. If you don't pay your bills you're damned and if you don't raise the money you're damned."

For his own part, Bakker said the transformation from televangelist to avid Bible reader continues.

"I feel like I'm further from arriving than I've ever been," said Bakker. "I'm far from perfection. The more that I knew the word, the more I realized how gracious and full of grace God is and how much I had to go in my own life."

Daggs receives entertainer of the year award

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Vocalist Lisa Daggs has won the 1996 Entertainer of the Year award from the Christian Country Music Association.

Daggs, who was voted New Artist of the Year in 1995, was honored during the association's awards show Nov. 14 in Nashville.

According to CCM Update, a publication that covers contemporary Christian music, other winners included Ken Holloway, named Male Vocalist of the Year, and Paula McCulla, named Female Vocalist of the Year.

The Fox Brothers were named Vocal Group of the Year and Seneca was named Vocal Duo of the Year. New Artist of the Year was awarded to Wilcox & Par-doe.

Country music star Loretta Lynn was honored with the Living Legend Award for her contributions to the industry.

Graham to air 'peace plan' this Christmas

MINNEAPOLIS (BP)—Evangelist Billy Graham will take his ultimate "peace plan" to the air waves this Christmas season.

Graham's message will be presented in a world television Christmas special called, "A Season For Peace," to be televised in North America Dec. 3. It also will be aired throughout December in more than 150 countries and territories in 33 languages.

"Even though we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace at Christmas, peace itself seems illusive," Graham says in the program. "There are border disputes, ethnic wars, religious battles, and perhaps most persuasively, people are battered by conflicts within. All over our world, people are

beginning to realize that in their quest for peace, what they are really searching for is God."

"'Season For Peace' is not a traditional Christmas program," said Bob Williams, director of international ministries for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. "It contains a message by Billy Graham about peace with God, peace among people and the birth of the Prince of Peace."

In countries where residents are less familiar with the Christmas story, the program will begin with a contemporary drama of the Christmas story.

The special includes perspectives from Nobel Peace Prize recipients Archbishop Desmond Tutu and South

African President Nelson Mandela on the world's unceasing quest for peace. "We have all made mistakes in the past," Mandela says. "Let us forget the past, let us join hands and work together."

Also featured in the special is a commentary by former President Jimmy Carter on the need to "look within" to find the problems that create tension and distrust. "I'm a Christian and I worship the Prince of Peace," Carter says. "I don't think there's any doubt about it, that anyone who has faith in Christ would have, as part of our elementary human commitment, the promotion of peace, the protection of peace, the end of strife and hatred, of alienation among people."

Holiday radio messages available to churches

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Eight 30-second holiday radio spots have been produced by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission for use by local churches.

"Each spot provides a Christian holiday message and has been produced so that a local church can add a brief message at the end," said Ed

Malone, vice president of radio services.

Spots prepared for and sent directly to stations close with statements such as, "Brought to you by your Southern Baptists friends," but other CDs have been prepared so churches can personalize the spots.

"We encourage local churches to

add their own brief message to the end of each spot," Malone said. A CD with all eight spots is available at no cost. A church can use as many spots as it chooses and work with local radio stations in personalizing them.

Contact Stan Grubb, church media consultant for the Radio and Television Commission, at (800) 292-2287.

"I realized I had been teaching people how to get rich and how to fall in love with material things, and Christ says you can't serve material things."
Jim Bakker

Resettlement ministry helps families start new lives

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Four years ago, Branimir Goran's future looked bleak. He, his wife and two sons were trapped in war-torn Bosnia. Every day they faced sniper fire, food shortages and the ever-present tensions of a country torn by a religious war.

Now, thanks to Kentucky Refugee Services and Crescent Hill Baptist Church, the Gorans are building a new life in Louisville.

The Gorans are among 1,000 refugees Kentucky Refugee Services

has resettled in the state in the past seven years, said Director Donna Straus. All fled their homelands because of political or religious persecution which placed them in danger, she said.

The refugees have come from Somalia, Cuba, Vietnam, Iraq, Vietnam, the former Soviet Union and Bosnia.

Their grit and determination helped them make the decision to leave the familiar and begin anew in an unknown country, Straus said.

"It takes a gutsy person to leave everything behind, take a child by the hand and start life over in another country," she said.

That same determination has helped every family resettled by Kentucky Refugee Services quickly to become "100 percent self-supporting," Straus said.

Critics say refugees are a drain on the community and end up on welfare, "but it doesn't happen in the state of Kentucky," Straus said.

As the local arm of Church World Services, Kentucky Refugee Services enlists churches to sponsor the refugees for their first months in Kentucky.

In most cases, cost to the U.S. taxpayer for each refugee family is foodstamps for one month and medical insurance until a family member finds employment and insurance coverage begins, Straus said.

Within 90 days, most refugees have found employment and within six months most need only emergency government assistance, she said. Refugees also reimburse the government for plane fares to the United States, Straus added.

That was true for the Gorans, said Kathy Springs, Crescent Hill's refugee ministry coordinator.

Before the war in Bosnia, the Gorans enjoyed a middle-class lifestyle, so in Louisville, they "want to get ahead in life," Springs said.

When the Gorans arrived in September 1995, Crescent Hill mem-

bers rallied around them to provide three months' rent, food, clothing, furniture and transportation to English classes and doctor's appointments. They also gave them a car.

Church members invited the Gorans into their homes for meals and helped them adjust to Kentucky life. They invited the Muslim family to church.

Two months after arriving, the Gorans were well on their way to self-sufficiency, Springs said. Within three months, the only government help they still were receiving was a medical card.

With the help of Crescent Hill members, Goran found a full-time job. Within four months, Mrs. Goran had found work. The older son enrolled in the University of Louisville.

Even though the official resettlement relationship ended after three months, Crescent Hill members still keep in touch with the Gorans, Springs said.

They are "an easy family to love," Springs said. "They are so grateful; it's easy to continue to give to them. I care about them like I do about my other friends."



For more information:

■ Tony Hough of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's metropolitan missions department needs churches willing to sponsor refugees, (502) 245-4101.

■ General information about refugee resettlement in Kentucky is available from Kentucky Refugee Ministries, (502) 452-9055.

■ A guide to refugee resettlement is available from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's department of immigration and relief ministry, (770) 410-6330.

Kentucky refugee resettlement worker says efforts pay off

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

BOWLING GREEN—Refugee resettlement is no short-term project for Pat Howard.

She has spearheaded the refugee ministry of First Baptist Church in Bowling Green since its inception in 1990.

While volunteers in this work are needed for any length of time, for Howard, the resettlement work is "not for a month or a year; it's for a lifetime."

The easy part is getting the refugees set up when they first arrive in the States, she said. The hard part is the "day in, day out routine" of helping them face crises and adjustment to American life.

Howard recalls the "easy" days in March 1990 when nine families—with a total of 54 members—arrived in Bowling Green from Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

First Baptist had voted to sponsor the Baptist families fleeing religious persecution in the former Soviet countries.

"We appealed to the people that these were persecuted Christians who needed help and our church responded in a magnificent way," Howard said.

By the time the refugees arrived, more than 300 First Baptist members had been mobilized to welcome them. Sunday school classes and Baptist Women groups agreed to sponsor them.

Throughout that month, Howard and other First Baptist members kept the road hot to the Nashville airport. They met each family and took them to their new homes in Bowling Green.

For the first 60 days, "we provided everything they needed," Howard said. That included food, a place to live, clothes, classes for English as second language and transportation.

Housing the refugees was relatively easy because the church owned four houses, Howard said. Other housing was rented or donated by church members.

Two physicians in the church, Jeff Blackerby and Paul Parks, provided free medical services.

Other Baptist churches in the area helped with a six-week summer project to get the children ready to

begin public school.

From the beginning, the congregation integrated refugees into the life of the church, Howard said.

From inviting them to Wednesday night church-wide meals to throwing birthday parties for them, "we made them visible," she said.

"We made a big deal of it." After 60 days, most refugees were ready to look for jobs and permanent housing; most became partially self-supporting, Howard said.

The longest any family required church-sponsored housing was nine months. Most found jobs too, she

said. That was the easy part, Howard said.

The hardest work involved helping them adjust to life in America, she said.

Understanding the American work ethic was especially difficult for them, Howard said.

In the Soviet system, a time clock was unheard of. It didn't matter whether a worker went to work or stayed home, she said. In Bowling Green, such work patterns made it difficult for the refugees to survive the 90-day probation period most businesses require. Some lost two or three jobs.

Finally, Howard said she "told it like it is: 'If you want to be an American, you have to work like an American. If you don't do it, we can't help you.'"

Most, she said, accepted her words gracefully and adjusted, recognizing the difference between the American and Soviet systems. Six years later, several have the same jobs they took when they first arrived, she said. Only one family got really upset with

Howard; they moved to California.

Other adjustments were required, Howard added. "I helped pay for lots of car insurance early on," since the refugees did not understand why it was necessary, she said. She also helped buy cars and loaned money for other needs.

Being a liaison between the children and their parents has had its ups and downs, she said. "Children become American very fast," and parents often consulted her to check out what their children told them about life in America.

Howard admits she was the glue that helped First Baptist stick with the families. She has been the refugees' liaison with the church, she said.

For Howard, all the work has been worth the effort.

Today, most refugees are involved in First Baptist Church, either in the Eastern European or Russian Sunday school classes and worship services or in the Anglo services. Six of the children were baptized recently.

In May, seven became U.S. citizens. Every family now owns a home. Two of the children were national winners in a Bible quizzers contest. One adult has graduated from Western Kentucky University; three more will graduate soon.

Every family that borrowed money from Howard has paid her back—including the one that moved to California.

The refugees have learned to reach out to others as well, she added. They have financed two deaf evangelism teams which went to Russia through the Kentucky-Russia mission partnership.

In August, the Russian-Americans hosted five Russian Baptists who came to lead revival services for Eastern Europeans living in Bowling Green.



Howard

How to sponsor a family:

Donna Straus, director of Kentucky Refugee Ministries, suggests the following basic responsibilities and costs for churches sponsoring a refugee:

- Meet refugee at airport.
- Provide an apartment. Usually, a church furnishes the apartment and provides two months' rent. Rent should be an amount the refugee can afford after a couple of months.
- Provide necessary clothing.
- Provide food or food allowance for the first 10 days.
- Assist with transportation to medical appointments for required tuberculosis tests, immunizations and other tests.
- Help any children in a refugee family enroll in school.
- Maintain contact with Kentucky Refugee Ministries as resettlement progresses.
- Be a friend and source of emotional support during the 90-day sponsorship period.

Straus estimates the cost of sponsorship for a family of four as:

- Apartment deposit: \$150.
 - Two months' rent: \$800.
 - Two months' utilities: \$200.
 - Food for first few days: \$150.
 - Necessary used clothing: \$200.
- Total estimated cost: \$1,500



Sponsors advise how to help refugees

Kentucky Baptists who have led their churches' efforts in resettling refugees offer this advice:

■ **Be realistic.** "Don't romanticize helping, and accept people as they are," said Joyce Stevens, who coordinated the efforts of Highland Hills Baptist Church in Fort Thomas in resettling an Armenian family of four in 1992.

Linda Speed of Louisville's First Baptist Church of Highland Park agreed. On the whole, she said, her church was "thrilled" with the opportunity to resettle a Somali family of seven in 1994. However, next time she would not take such a large family. Finding an apartment for seven people was not easy, she said.

■ **Be ready to work hard.** "It took much more hard work than we dreamed of," said Kathy Springs of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ **Enlist a core group who will see the resettlement through to completion.** It's easy to get church members involved in the beginning, but as time passes, responsibility falls on a few people, sponsors said.

At Crescent Hill, up to half the congregation initially got involved. But about 25 people carried out the long-term responsibilities, Springs said.

Anne Smith of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville recommended at least six church families help each refugee family.

■ **Learn as much as possible about what is expected of sponsors.** A "Manual for Refugee Sponsorship" is available from Kentucky Refugee Ministries.

■ **Be as open and accepting of cultural differences as possible.**

■ **Face your fears and overcome them.** Don't let the language barrier keep you from getting involved, Smith said. "I smiled a lot and went to McDonalds."

■ **Check your motivation.** Get involved because "it is Christ-like," Stevens said. "He reached out to those in need."

Refugees, through no fault of their own, have been ousted from their country and can't go back, Speed said. "We felt a real strong nudge that we were doing for 'the least of these.'"

■ **Don't expect to convert refugees to Christianity.** "We were trying to help people out of a bad situation," not convert them, Speed said. However, she said, the Somali family her church resettled gladly listened to the story of Jesus and church members hoped "through our actions, they would learn what our religion was."

■ **Be willing to learn.** Don't worry about what you don't know, Springs said. "Just jump in" and help.

Second Mile helps kids shop for clothes

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

GLASGOW—One recent Monday morning, 50 children boarded a public school bus and headed to Glasgow Baptist Church to go shopping.

The children were the first of three groups chosen by local elementary school faculties for the church's "Second Mile Ministry." Started this year, it is designed to provide clothing to needy children.

During a three-day period in mid-October, 150 children and 20 youth shopped for free new and used clothing, said Diane Quin, the ministry's founder.

It was an event she and the church began preparing for in mid-August, she said.

Borrowing the idea from another church, and with support from the Glasgow Baptist's pastor and youth minister, Quin talked with the school superintendent, who secured permission from the principals of the three schools.

The schools agreed to choose the children who would participate, to secure permission and clothing size lists from the parents and to provide

transportation to and from the church.

Meanwhile, Quin collected donations and recruited volunteers.

"It was a monumental job," she said.

Church members brought mounds of used clothing, which had to be mended, sorted by size and stored.

Sunday school classes as well as individual church members donated 33 pairs of new jeans. Even a local businessman who is not a member of the church made a sizable donation.

Momentum quickly picked up when Pastor Scott Mackey gave a children's sermon in which he asked the children where their clothes come from. "Most said, 'Mommy and Daddy,'" Quin said. That spurred lots of thought and discussion, she said. After that, church members brought "more and more new clothing."

Church members also donated more than \$4,000 in cash, which Quin and fellow member Martha Boyd used to buy new items.

Mary Chamberlain helped them tag and fill the bags. Each child got one bag with a pair of jeans or a sweat suit, underwear, socks, a hat

and gloves. Some children also received shoes.

By the time the first children arrived, the church was excited, Mackey said. "There were folks who participated in this ministry who haven't ever participated in any ministry of the church."

Members, he said, saw "an absolute connection between Jesus' command to go into the world and the children we reached."

On shopping day, volunteers served as shopping buddies, greeting the children, giving them their bags of new clothes and assisting them in selecting clothes.

When the three shopping days for children were over, middle school teachers brought 20 students for night-time shopping, Quin said.

The children's responses made all the work worthwhile, Quin said. "Their eyes just lit up" when they saw the clothes, she said.

One girl held her bag of clothes tightly to her chest and hugged it like a teddy bear, Quin said.

A boy who chose a coat would not remove it, even though it was a very warm day, she said.

Another girl filled two bags to overflowing and "could hardly walk under the load," Quin said.

Russian pastors' school needs teachers

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia—Kentucky Baptists are needed for two-week teaching assignments at the pastors' school in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The school operates on a September through May schedule, according to Kentucky-Russia partnership coordinator Sarah Bivins. Teachers must have at least a master of divinity degree.

Teachers are needed for a variety of subjects, Kentucky Baptist Partnership Director Calvin Wilkins said.

Subjects needed include: Old Testament, New Testament, church administration, church history, Christian education, pastoral ministry and the role of the pastor.

Bivins suggested two professors come for each two-week period.

Housing is available, Wilkins said.

In the past, "wonderful, caring, capable professors from Kentucky" have taught in the pastors' school in St. Petersburg and in other places in Russia," she said. But, "many more Russian Baptists are waiting to be trained for ministry."

For information, contact Calvin Wilkins at (502) 245-4101.

4,000 Christians attend prayer and fasting event in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS (BP)—About 4,000 Christians from across the nation gathered for three days of fasting and prayer Nov. 14-16 in St. Louis.

Thousands more joined the third annual event—this year called "Fasting and Prayer '96"—via satellite sites in churches and homes.

"We're here to challenge Christians to humble themselves before the Lord and pray," said Campus Crusade for Christ founder Bill Bright, who co-chaired the event with his wife, Vonette. "We are experiencing what other nations have experienced when they turned their backs on God. The goal here is to say, 'Lord, we have sinned against you, and we ask you to forgive us and heal our land.'"

The event originated two years ago when 600 Christian leaders from numerous denominations met in Orlando, Fla., to fast and pray. This year in St. Louis, in a room the size of two football fields in America's Center, people from California to Florida gathered in groups of 10 to 12 to pray for revival in their lives, their churches and their country. Many also fasted for the three days.

The event was divided into themes beginning with confession and forgiveness.

Speakers focused participants on praying for leaders, government, the church, the family, the Great Commission, "specialty groups" including the media and athletes, and personal spiritual growth.

"I think the fact that we're praying for specific needs, such as our leaders in our nation and communities, will impact me," said Wendell Sapp, pastor of Compton Heights Baptist Church in St. Louis. "And having done that, I think I'll be more inclined to lead my congregation in praying for our leaders."

Speakers included Tom Elliff, president of the Southern Baptist Convention; Shirley Dobson, chairperson of the National Day of Prayer; Bill McCartney, founder of Promise Keepers; Pat Robertson of the Christian Broadcasting Network; and Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in suburban Memphis, Tenn.

Planners of the fasting and prayer gathering hope to make it an annual event.

More college students impacted by Baptist ministries in 1996

By Chip Alford
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Almost a quarter of a million college students were impacted through Southern Baptist student ministry programs in fiscal year 1996, according to a report from the Baptist Sunday School Board's national student ministry.

The annual compilation of statistics showed 237,731 students participated in Southern Baptist student ministry programs during the year, up from 236,344 in 1995. The total number of students involved in missions also increased from 23,491 in 1995 to 27,056 this year.

According to the report, compared to 1995:

■ Student involvement in Bible study groups rose to 34,905 from 34,172.

■ Contributions to student missions climbed to \$3.28 million, up from \$3.16 million.

■ Student conversions decreased to 5,535 from 5,963.

■ Active, ongoing participation in student ministry declined to 103,099 from 104,326.

■ Blacks involvement in student ministry rose to 9,261 from 8,979.

■ Ethnic involvement in student ministry rose to 5,105 from 4,872.

■ The number of churches, Sunday schools or missions students helped start rose to 362, up from 346.

AIM '96 thanks Kentucky Baptists

ATLANTA—Approximately 1,655 people became Christians as a result of Atlanta International Ministries during the Olympics, according to Linda Johnson, executive director of the effort.

"We are thankful Kentucky volunteers were a part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience," said Johnson, a former Southern Baptist missionary in Orlando who moved to Atlanta to help organize AIM '96. About 30 different churches, Baptist Student Unions and youth teams participated in AIM activities.

"We are already seeing fruits of their labor through salvation decisions, requests for biblical materials and the continuation of special event ministries started from summer games energy," Johnson said. "Response cards have been returned to us from many international visitors who were able to hear about Jesus Christ during their visit to the Games," she said. "AIM is grateful for the volunteers from Kentucky because they were a vital part of this ministry."

MISSIONS

Relief work made impact, say volunteers

By David Winfrey
News Director

MISSIONS ON PARADE
Kentucky Baptist volunteers (from left) Terry Shinkle, Wanda Klein and Etta Butcher and workers with the city of Quincy, Mass., show off the truck, driven in the city's Veteran's Day parade, used to promote the disaster relief work.



FRANKLIN—Kentucky volunteers' recent disaster relief work in Quincy, Mass., made a big impact on the community's leaders and churches, said volunteers Etta and Jerry Butcher.

"We really laid a foundation in terms of our partnership" with New England Baptists, said Butcher. About 40 volunteers with Kentucky Broth-

erhood traveled to Quincy to clean homes and basements after flooding in October.

One woman became a Christian as a result of their ministry. Crews cleaned 94 basements and witnessed to many families who asked them why they traveled so far to pressure wash and sanitize the homes of people they didn't know.

One woman kept asking what the service would cost or if there was a catch to letting them clean her home, Butcher said.

Workers explained that they were volunteers who saw this as a ministry, he said. The woman told them she had no insurance and had prayed two days earlier for God to help her with the water-damaged material and raw sewage in her basement. "She couldn't believe God had sent us that far to help her," Butcher said.

Added Mrs. Butcher, "Even the churches there were in awe." A Presbyterian church hosted the volunteers for a meal and thanked them for renewing their vision for working in the

community, she said.

"They said, 'Our church was dead, and you have shown us what we should be doing. You have helped bring us back to life.'"

Community leaders also thanked volunteers for their work. The mayor made them honorary citizens.

The Butchers, members of Calvary Baptist Church in Franklin, have been involved in disaster relief since 1992. "It's the only ministry in which people invite you into their home instead of you having to knock on their door to witness to them," Butcher said.

The only problem with disaster relief, he said, is that it's addictive.

"If you don't want to continue it, don't get in it," he said. "It's habit forming, and you can't give it up."

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SEEKING: Mt. Olivet Baptist Church seeking pastor to live on church field. Optional bivocational. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, c/o Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, North Main St., Mt. Olivet, KY 41064.

SEEKING: Lead singer. Well-established acapella group seeking lead singer; needs to be a Christian, male, comfortable with many styles of music and very, very talented. Willing to sing almost every Sunday with an occasional week night or Saturday. Weekly pay around \$150. Call Paul at (502) 897-9567.

SEEKING: Qualified Christian applicants for relief houseparents at residential care program to work in three boys' cottages. Salary, fringe benefits and apartment provided. Must be 21 years of age, high school diploma or GED. Interested parties contact Tim Tharp, Baptist Children's Home, P.O. Box 579, Carmi, IL 62821; (618) 382-4164. Couples or singles welcome to apply.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education and youth. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Midlane Park Baptist Church, 6500 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 50218.

NEEDED: Full-time custodian to begin Jan. 1, 1997. Will have full responsibility for maintaining Valley Station Baptist Church, day care and grounds. Send resumé until Dec. 15, 1996, to: 5415 Valley Station Road, Louisville, KY 40272. Phone: (502) 937-1730.

SEEKING: Social worker. Missouri Baptist Children's Home is seeking a master's level social worker for full-time position in Southeast Missouri. Prefer LCSW of LPC licensing. Competitive salary and full benefits. Call Wayne Crull at (800) 264-6224 for more information.

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

NEEDED: House to buy. Minister in Louisville needs inexpensive 3-bedroom house to buy. (502) 244-6470—ask for Jeff.

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.

NEEDED: 40 copies of the 1977 New Broadman Hymnal in good condition. Contact Ann Richards at work (502) 484-2430 or (606) 643-5257.

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

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.

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.

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.

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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.



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MISSIONS

SBC foreign missionaries with ties to Kentucky retire

RICHMOND, Va.—Five couples with ties to Kentucky were among the 88 retiring missionaries honored recently by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. The 88 missionaries served 2,287 combined years of ministry, according to the FMB.

■ **Richard and Barbara Clement**, who served in Ecuador and Venezuela. Clement is a native of Mortons Gap and was pastor of Panther Creek Church in Owensboro.

■ **Paul and Peggy Grossman**, who served in Liberia, France, Senegal and Burkina Faso. Grossman is a native of Owensboro.

■ **Robert and Jeane Myers**, who served in Panama, Costa Rica and Bahamas. Myers was former recreation minister for Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville and an adjunct professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

■ **Raymond and Helen Reynolds**, who served in Belgium and Germany. Both served on staff at Central Baptist Chapel in Louisville while attending Southern Seminary.

■ **Joe and Hilda Winchester**, who served in Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago. Both are natives of Murray. Winchester is former pastor of Lake City Church in Grand Rivers; Hebron Church in Eddyville, Squiresville Church in Owenton and Cerulean Church in Cerulean.

The 88 retiring missionaries served a combined 2,287 years in foreign missions.



The Clements



The Grossmans



The Myers



The Reynolds



The Winchesters

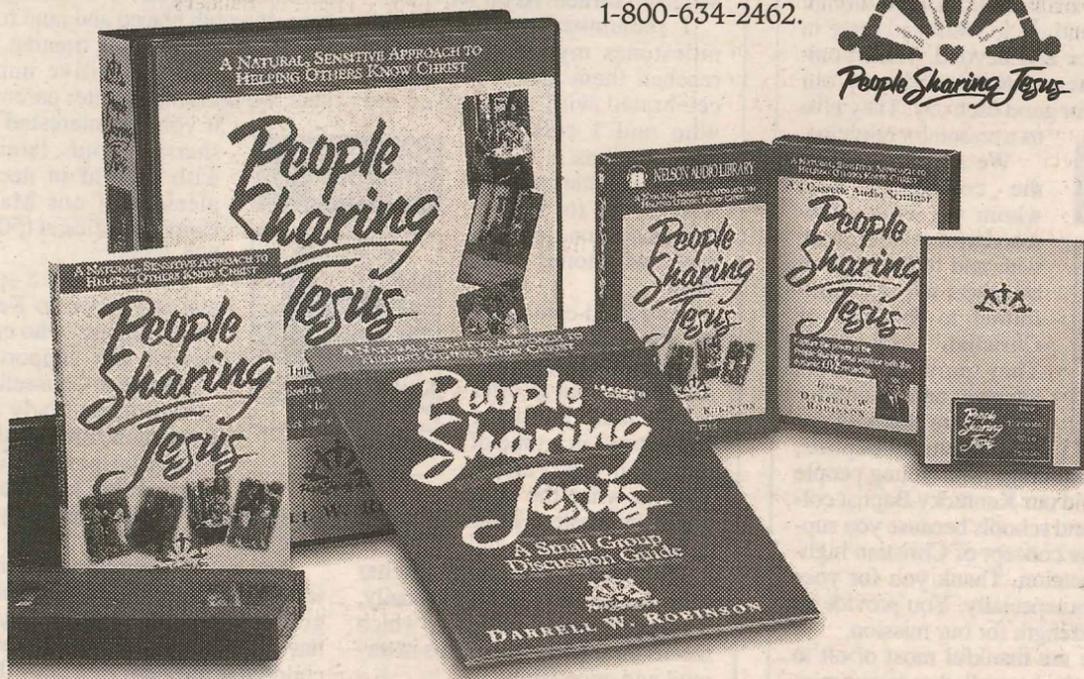
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Religious freedom advisory panel named

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The U.S. State Department formally announced the formation of a special advisory committee to study religious persecution around the world and recommend responses.

The panel is comprised of 20 members from across the religious spectrum and is chaired by John Shattuck, assistant secretary of state for democracy, human rights and labor.

Shattuck said the committee is part of the Clinton administration's commitment to finding "new and creative means" to deal with human rights crises around the world.

In January, the National Association of Evangelicals, which represents 15 million Christians in a variety of denominations, called on the U.S. government to take stronger measures on behalf of persecuted Christians around the world, including the appointment of a special presidential adviser for religious liberty. The state-

ment came amid a new effort by evangelicals and Catholics to raise awareness about the global plight of persecuted Christians.

On Oct. 11, 13 conservative evangelical and Catholic leaders wrote Clinton expressing concerns that "so inherently unwieldy and far-flung a body" would be "unlikely to seriously address, much less investigate the issue."

Diane Knippers, president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, a Washington-based research and advocacy group, said she remains concerned.

"If this committee gives voice to members who have ideological commitments to denying the very problem of persecution of Christians, in the end it will do more harm than good," she said.

Committee member Nina Shea, director of Freedom House's Puebla Program on Religious Freedom, ac-

knowledged it "will be a challenge to work with people of diverse religious affiliations and interests" on this issue. However, she said she believes this challenge "can be met through breaking into smaller working groups with specific focuses."

But Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission and another signer of the evangelicals' letter, called the response inadequate. "The concerns raised in our joint letters are not addressed successfully or adequately by the appointment of this committee," he said.

Committee member Jim Henry, former SBC president, said in a written statement: "It is my fervent prayer that the work of the committee will visibly raise the attention of our government and public consciousness to the increasing persecution against Christians and other religious minorities in many places in the world."

Woman detained for giving pens with crosses

NEW YORK (RNS)—Freedom House, a New York-based human rights group, has asked President Clinton to intervene in the case of an American woman who has been detained in Vietnam and accused of "illegal religious propaganda" for distributing pens with Christian crosses on them.

Man Thi Jones, a 54-year-old nurse from Sacramento, Calif., has been under house arrest in a hotel since Oct.

6. An evangelical Protestant, Jones was born in Vietnam, but became a naturalized U.S. citizen 21 years ago. She entered her home village in the southern coastal lowlands on a tourist visa in early October.

According to Freedom House, local authorities have confiscated Jones' passport and visa and continue to interrogate her almost daily.

Communist officials have cracked down on Vietnamese Christians and

Buddhists in the past year, according to Freedom House.

In a letter to Clinton, Nina Shea, director of Freedom House's Puebla Program on Religious Freedom, urged the president to act to secure Jones' release. "Intervening to end the unlawful detention of the American Christian woman Man Thi Jones is a good place to start giving human rights visibility in America's relationship with Vietnam," Shea wrote.

Christian man faces flogging for marrying

FLORENCE, S.C. (RNS)—A Muslim student in South Carolina is calling on officials of the United Arab Emirates to release her Christian husband, who has been sentenced to a year in prison and flogging after an Islamic court ruled the couple's interreligious marriage invalid.

Elie Dib Ghalib, a 30-year-old Lebanese Christian, has been imprisoned in Abu Dhabi since his arrest last November, five months after his marriage to a Muslim woman.

Last month, an Islamic court determined that Ghalib was guilty of adultery because any marriage between a Muslim and a non-Muslim is illegal in the United Arab Emirates. The court sentenced Ghalib to an additional year in prison and to a flogging of 39 lashes.

"I am asking for justice. I just want them to leave my husband alone," said Mona Ghalib, 25. She said that after the October ruling she decided to bring her husband's case to the attention of the international community.

The international human rights group Amnesty International has taken up Ghalib's case.

Advisory committee members:

- Chairman John Shattuck, assistant secretary of state.
- Don Argue, president of the National Association of Evangelicals.
- Joan Brown Campbell, general secretary of the National Council of churches.
- Diana Eck of Harvard University.
- Baha'i leader Wilma Ellis.
- Irving Greenberg of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership.
- Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando and former Southern Baptist Convention president.
- Frederick Calhoun James of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Leonid Kishkovsky of the Orthodox Church of America.
- Samuel Kyles of Memorial Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn.
- Jewish scholar Deborah Lipstadt of Emory University.
- David Little of the U.S. Institute of Peace.
- Laila Al-Marayati of the Muslim Women's League.
- Roman Catholic Archbishop Theodore E. McCarrick of Newark, N.J.
- Warith Deen Mohammed, leader of Al-Islam.
- Russell Nelson of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.
- Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, N.M.
- Barnett Rubin of the Council on Foreign Relations.
- Nina Shea, director of Freedom House's Puebla Program.
- Elliot Sperling of Indiana University.
- Archbishop Spyridon of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

A time for thanks

By Robert Dunston

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High: To shew forth thy loving-kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night" (Psalm 92:1-2).

As I grew up, my family's Thanksgiving Day was the same each year. After sleeping late and eating a light breakfast so we could save up for Thanksgiving dinner, we watched Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. A far larger than normal feast was consumed at noon with the rest of the day spent in relaxation. It was a day to be thankful for life and family and to begin looking toward celebrating the gift of God's son on Christmas Day.

Our family continues to follow much the same pattern, hoping to catch the spirit of this special opportunity to say thank you to God for his many blessings to us. While we know we should be thankful each day, it is good to have a day set aside to open our hearts in thanksgiving to God.

As a Cumberland College family, we have much to be thankful for. We are thankful for the students who come to us. Their inquisitive-

ness and eagerness encourage us to learn more ourselves and to prepare new educational experiences and opportunities for them. They keep us fresh and focused.

We are thankful for our alumni who continue to work and serve in America and beyond. Their commitment and ability influence our world for good each day. They give us a reason for rejoicing.

We are thankful for the colleagues with whom we work. How wonderful it is to work with and to be inspired by others who are committed to the task of Christian education. They provide encouragement and guidance.

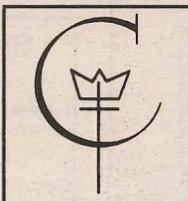
We are thankful for you, Kentucky Baptists, who encourage your young people to attend our Kentucky Baptist colleges and schools because you support the concept of Christian higher education. Thank you for your prayers especially. You provide us with strength for our mission.

We are thankful most of all to God, who has called us to our ministry. He provides our direction and sustains our work.

It is good to give thanks to God.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Reaching milestones together

In the Heaton household, fall always has special meaning, and this year it is even more special. Our oldest son, Joseph, turned 21 in October, and our other son, Michael, turned 16 on Nov. 24.

I remember reaching these milestones myself, and I never reached them alone. My family celebrated with me, just as my wife and I celebrate with our sons.

Many of the children who come to KBHC have had no one to share such milestones with them.

As a child-care agency, the goal is never to replace a child's biological family, but to offer a safe and nurturing "substitute" in a time of transition and crisis. That is what the programs in Western Kentucky strive to do.

The Dixon Temporary Shelter cares for as many as 10 girls daily. It is an emergency shelter, which means these girls come to us in turmoil and uncertainty.

Whether they are with us days or weeks, Kenny Williams and his staff strive to make the girls feel at home at Dixon.

The Genesis Home in Mayfield, under the leadership of Director Tammy Keezer, continues to serve

young girls with very special needs on a longer-term basis to help them overcome the traumas of abuse and neglect.

Western Region Foster Care continues to grow. We currently have 46 youth placed and nine foster families undergoing training.

Despite these positive numbers, we need more foster parents.

If you are interested in sharing your family with a child in need, please call our Madisonville office at (502) 825-0338.

I want to say a special thank you to Kentucky Baptists who embraced and supported Cornerstone Counseling in this region. Early intervention through this Christian-perspective program has kept many

families intact. What a blessing you have been.

And to all Kentucky Baptists who faithfully give to the Thanksgiving Offering every year, you have empowered us to serve more children in Western Kentucky than ever before.

Bill Heaton is administrator for KBHC's Western Region programs headquartered in Madisonville. Call (800) 456-1386. The World Wide Web address is: <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Heaton

LEADERSHIP

Impact of lay involvement in church ministry discussed

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

AUSTIN, Texas (BP)—Christian fulfillment and church effectiveness result when church members discover their God-given talents and get to work, leadership specialists told a recent convention of church leaders.

This can benefit ministers who feel "burned out" because they are expected to perform duties beyond their physical endurance, said Sue Mallory, director of Leadership Network's leadership training.

Often in such situations, 90 percent of church members are doing little or nothing to help their churches achieve their goals and minister in their communities, said Mallory, former director of lay ministry at Brentwood Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles.

"We believe in the priesthood of the believer—that every Christian is a minister," Mallory said. Therefore, as a matter of Christian stewardship, churches should be discovering, cultivating and utilizing the gifts and abilities of their ministers, she said.

Brad Smith, a Leadership Network staff member, said churches should affirm a "theology of the laity" that recognizes a wide array of skills and attributes.

This is biblical because the Apostle Paul said God prepared people with

different abilities so the church might be strengthened, said Smith, who specializes in working with churches that mobilize laypeople. (Leadership Network is a church leadership training organization based in Tyler, Texas.)

Effective lay ministry relieves overworked ministers and lay members who take on multiple church tasks, Smith and Mallory noted.

Lay mobilization "frees pastors and other ministers to do what they were called to do and trained to do," Mallory said. "We expect pastors to be experts at finances, volunteer management, administration and recruitment, when what they were prepared to do is preach and teach."

"A lot of what we call 'lay empowerment' actually is 'clergy empowerment'—enabling them to better equip laypeople to do the work of the church," Smith added.

Conventional wisdom suggests using spiritual gifts might add more work to church members' schedules, but Smith claimed helping laypeople discover their spiritual gifts and use them actually simplifies their lives.

Churches often "fill the slots" when recruiting staff for their Bible study, missions and other programs, he explained. Consequently, people are goaded into taking church jobs for which they are ill-equipped or unprepared. This leaves them miserable,

and they often do poor jobs because they are frustrated and/or incompetent to do the task, he said.

But ministries flourish and members bloom when churches take the time and effort to help members discover their skills and find places of service that draw upon those abilities, he said.

Smith compared a healthy lay ministry to a xeriscape garden, which utilizes only plants that are native to the region. Xeriscape gardens need attention, but they look beautiful and perform well because they are well-suited for the soil and climate. Similarly, churches that enable laity to use their natural skills tend to be healthy, productive and suited to withstand the rigors of the things that happen to them, he said.

Effective lay ministries also help churches thrive in environments that can be hostile to Christianity and the church, he said. That's largely because fulfilled, effective laypeople naturally share the gospel with friends, neighbors and colleagues—leading them to faith in Christ through one-on-one relationships, he said.

Lay ministry also helps "close the back door" for churches, Smith said.

Many churches fail to involve new members in the life of the congregation, he said. "Once they become a member, there's nothing left—no next

step." But by helping new members determine and use their gifts, churches also bring them into deeper relationship with the congregation, ensuring longer involvement.

Three critical elements must be in place for a congregation to build team ministry between laypeople and clergy, Smith said:

■ The program must have the support of the pastor and top leadership.

■ The program must be adequately resourced and given church-wide visibility.

■ The program needs leadership from a person with authority to run a church-wide program, he added.

Also, lay ministry must extend throughout the church, Smith noted. "It is more than new-members' classes, gift seminars or 'slotting' members into jobs. It involves helping individuals grow through discovering their gifts and learning to serve well."

People should be guided "step-by-step from visitor to empowered ministry," he said. "Volunteer programs are connected with discipleship programs so that people understand how their service affects their Christian growth," he added.

"The key is that (the church) does not see lay mobilization as just another program ... but as an entire new way of doing church."

"The key is that (the church) does not see lay mobilization as just another program ... but as an entire new way of doing church."
Leadership Network staff member Brad Smith



How will your church celebrate Christmas?

Tell us how your church plans to celebrate Christmas this year, with special events, music, drama, pageants, ministries and more. The Western Recorder plans to publish a listing of Christmas events in Kentucky Baptist churches over the coming weeks so others may share in your joy. We would like for your church to be included in this free listing, but you must act quickly.

Either call us today at (502) 244-6470 or send the form below via mail or fax—(502) 244-6474.

Church Name: _____

Church Address: _____

Church City: _____

Person giving information: _____

Event/ministry: _____

Date(s) and time(s): _____

Special notes: _____

PRAYER PARTNERS

- Pray for these specific needs related to Kentucky Baptist partnerships with Russia and New England:
- Kentucky partnership missionaries in Russia as they prepare for the Christmas season.
 - Kentucky volunteers needed for 1997 construction projects in Russia.
 - Kentucky volunteers needed for 1998 medical projects in Russia.
 - A Mandarin-speaking person to assist the pastor of Chinese International Baptist Church in Waltham, Mass.
 - Kentucky mission groups to go next summer to Bethesda Baptist Church in Hyde Park, Mass., to lead vacation Bible.
 - Kentucky mission groups needed next summer in Cambridge, Mass., to repair Cambridgeport Baptist Church's building.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

- CALVERT CITY—Altona Church will dedicate its new addition to the church Dec. 8 at 3 p.m.
- DRY RIDGE—Dry Ridge Church ordained **Jimmy Shanks** as deacon Nov. 10.
- GREENVILLE—Second Church will ordain **John Pendley** to the deacon ministry Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.
- New Cypress Church called **Joey Vincent** as pastor.
- LOUISVILLE—**Ferrill Gardner**, pastor at Carlisle Avenue Church for more than 21 years, will retire Dec. 22.
- South Jefferson Church will hold revival services Dec. 1-4 at 7 p.m. **Don Short** will be the evangelist. **Andy Clifton** will lead the music.
- **Amy Brown** resigned as minister to children and students at Melbourne Heights Church.
- Lakewood Church called **Art Sauer** as minister of music Nov. 10.
- MURRAY—Westside Church re-

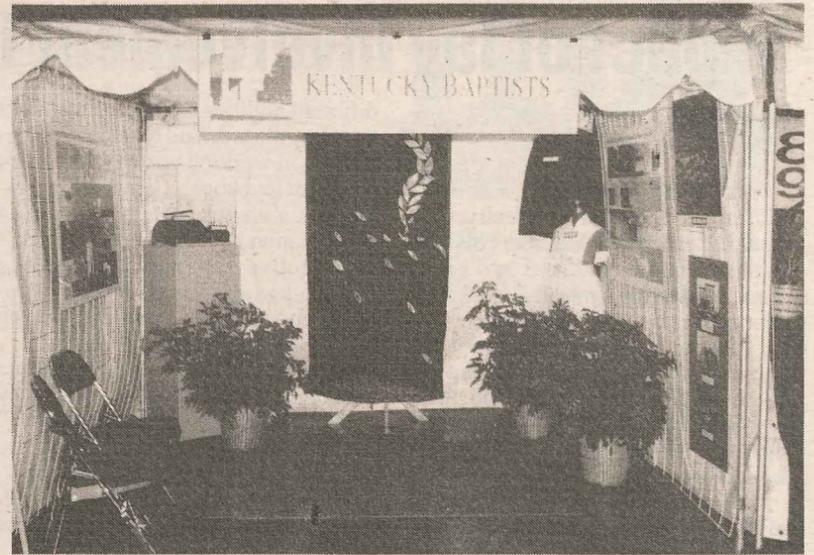
- cently celebrated its 15th anniversary.
- PHILPOT—Dawson Church called **Craig Bratcher** as pastor. He previously was pastor as Pleasant Ridge Church in Utica. He will begin his new ministry Dec. 1.
- SOMERSET—**Richard Walden** recently resigned as pastor of Sunrise Church.
- TAYLORSVILLE—Little Mount Church called **Scott Savell**, a student at Southern Seminary, as senior pastor. Savell began his new ministry Nov. 17.
- UTICA—Sugar Grove Church ordained **Darrell Mason, David McBrayer** and **Chris Oldham** to the deacon ministry Nov. 10.
- WHITESVILLE—**Pete Taylor** resigned as pastor of New Panther Creek Church.
- Bells Run Church recently celebrated its 175th anniversary. **Curtis Daugherty** resigned as pastor.

Genetics discussion raises more questions than answers

Continued from page 1
done for children with diseases?
 "Those with proxy consent can't determine the future for these children," said Harrell, a member of North View Baptist Church in Lexington. "Should the professional or the family? (The latter) bear the costs financially, emotionally and psychologically."

■ Will genetics result in attempts

to create a race of "super" offspring? Reading from a 1983 document adopted by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Rebecca Tollefson suggested such a danger and said humans' dominion over life must never be perverted for economic gain.
 "This is supposed to be in leadership to be reading about this issue, to be aware of (it) and sensitive to the chal-



FESTIVAL OF FAITHS The Kentucky Baptist Convention joined religious groups from across the region Nov. 17-20 to exhibit in a first-of-its-kind "Festival of Faiths" held in Louisville. The interfaith event was organized by the Cathedral Heritage Foundation to showcase the religious heritage of Kentucky and Southern Indiana. Denise Withers, KBC communications specialist and coordinator of the KBC booth, said response to the Baptist presence was overwhelmingly positive. The KBC booth featured two timeline boards, photos, a banner and memorabilia from the Kentucky Baptist Hospital School of Nursing. Each booth at the exhibit was created to look like a revival tent from the late 1800s.

lenges of couples and families," said Tollefson. "As a church we're called to be informed and not stick our heads in the ground when we confront these issues. We have to think through and ask these critical questions. The church is supposed to be there as a caring community, and often we don't find that."
 The "super race" issue cropped up

again during the question-and-answer session. Murphy, who has worked with a committee on ethical, legal and social implications on the Human Genome Project, said that is one of its likely outcomes.
 "We won't know all the answers," she said, adding that the ambitious research project also is looking at a variety of other genes.

Why Oneida?

For several months we have been working on a new information folder for pastors, mission directors and youth leaders. I have felt for a long time there may be pastors and others who are not sure when to suggest Oneida.

While Oneida is a unique ministry, we are not able to meet the needs of every child. I felt that it would help pastors and others to have access to a resource that would help a parent, pastor and child better understand exactly what Oneida could provide a middle or high school student.

Several of my staff helped me with this project. Some designed and printed a folder. Others gathered pertinent information, and the folder began to take shape. After months of writing and re-writing, adding and deleting information, the final product was ready.

The primary purpose of the folder is to provide honest information about Oneida. The information should help a pastor or parent understand how we can help meet a child's needs.

Information is provided about who comes to Oneida. One of the most common reasons a young person comes to us is the need for structure and discipline. With so many young people growing up in broken and single parent homes, often structure and discipline are inadequate.

Frequently a student is falling further behind academically. Other young people come to Oneida because they want to attend a Christian school. Just last week I asked two girls why they came to our school. Their answer was, "If you knew how it was in our school, you would not ask that question."

Information is provided about several students who found success at Oneida. They came from

many different backgrounds, and they came for varying reasons. Often a child you are concerned about will be greatly encouraged if he can just read the stories of these young people.

The folder provides information about athletics, admissions policy, the academic program, co-curricular activities, faculty and a statement of our philosophy, goals and objectives.

I am happy to say we handed out several hundred folders at the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

I could not be more pleased with the response from most of the pastors. Time and time again, pastors and youth leaders mentioned that they knew a young person who possibly needed the ministry we provide. Several said they wished they had had this information sooner.

If you are a pastor or youth leader and work with young people who may be in need of this ministry, I encourage you to request this folder. You never know when a young person in your church or neighborhood, or the grandchild of a member of your church may

want to consider Oneida.
 We know we are not able to meet the needs of every hurting young person. We also know there are many who could be helped by this ministry. An honest look at the information in this folder, a phone call to our admissions director or a visit to our school should help to answer many questions.

If you would like a copy of the information, write to Oneida Baptist Institute, Admissions Director, P.O. Box 67, Oneida, Ky. 40972. Or you may want to call; (606) 847-4111 ext. 233. To request by fax, the number is (606) 847-4496.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

How do we compare?

It is helpful to know how Clear Creek compares with other Bible colleges. As a member of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges, every two years we receive a statistical report on major categories of our program. A comparison with schools of our size reveals some encouraging facts.

We retain 74 percent of the students who enroll, five percent more than most other schools. An amazing 87 percent of those who entered Clear Creek in 1989 completed the program within the normal time frame. This compares with 43 percent among all AABC schools. Because our students are preparing for ministry, 100 percent participate in weekly Christian service assignments.

The faculty-student ratio is 12.8 while other Bible colleges stand at 15.2. All our full-time faculty hold a master's degree (compared to 92 percent for schools of our size), while 60 percent of the faculty have an earned doctorate—nearly double the percentage of our sister schools. I'm sure the faculty will be pleased to know our salary-benefits package is about 15 percent higher.

We put more funds into our library. In recent years the collection

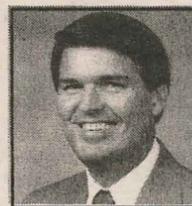
has grown through libraries donated by retired pastors. Our campus family uses the library more than other schools.

The report shows a strong financial position, with cash, investments and plant/equipment assets almost double that of other institutions. Total revenue was \$600,000 higher. Schools of our size have an average \$484,307 in debt; Clear Creek has none—that's zero. I remember when our monthly bills included a sizable debt service. Now our training program benefits from available cash flow. We also are fortunate to have an endowment seven times higher than other schools.

Even with these indicators of strength, there is much to be done. The Beyond 2001 campaign will provide needed help with student scholarships, academic facilities, personnel and student workshops. During the next three months, our campus family will closely examine how we are doing in fulfilling our mission. This planning will be used to draft our 1997-98 budget. The end result will be better-equipped leaders in the churches.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Jaguars chaplain says God is at work in Jacksonville

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—When Jacksonville Jaguars' strength coach Jerry Palmeri asked Don Walker to become team chaplain, the veteran pastor felt his gift was in church planting, not nurturing the spiritual lives of athletes.

But Walker, who had led many sessions of "Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God" by Henry Blackaby and Claude King, knew enough to look and see if this opportunity signaled divine activity.

"I think what most impacted me (from the study) was finding God at work and joining him," Walker said. "When we got to Jacksonville, I real-

ized this was a place God was at work."

Walker said Palmeri believed he was seeing God's activity in Jacksonville. "Jerry talked about the church life and morality he was experiencing that he hadn't seen before. He was excited about the potential of what God was doing, and I caught the dream."

Another door opened for Walker. Because the chaplaincy is a volunteer post, he still had to earn a living. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes needed a director for its northeast Florida office, and Walker was hired.

Afterward, a contingent of Jaguars players and cheerleaders helped stage

a "Victory Banquet" that revitalized the Christian group's work around Jacksonville. Currently, there are 50 FCA groups in area middle schools, high schools and colleges.

"There seems to be a major move of God in the city, not just with FCA," Walker said. "There's what God is doing on the team, and there is also the number of church plants springing up."

One of Walker's first team responsibilities was establishing trust with players. Because many people seek personal gain from professional athletes, Walker said he sought to emphasize his role as a servant.

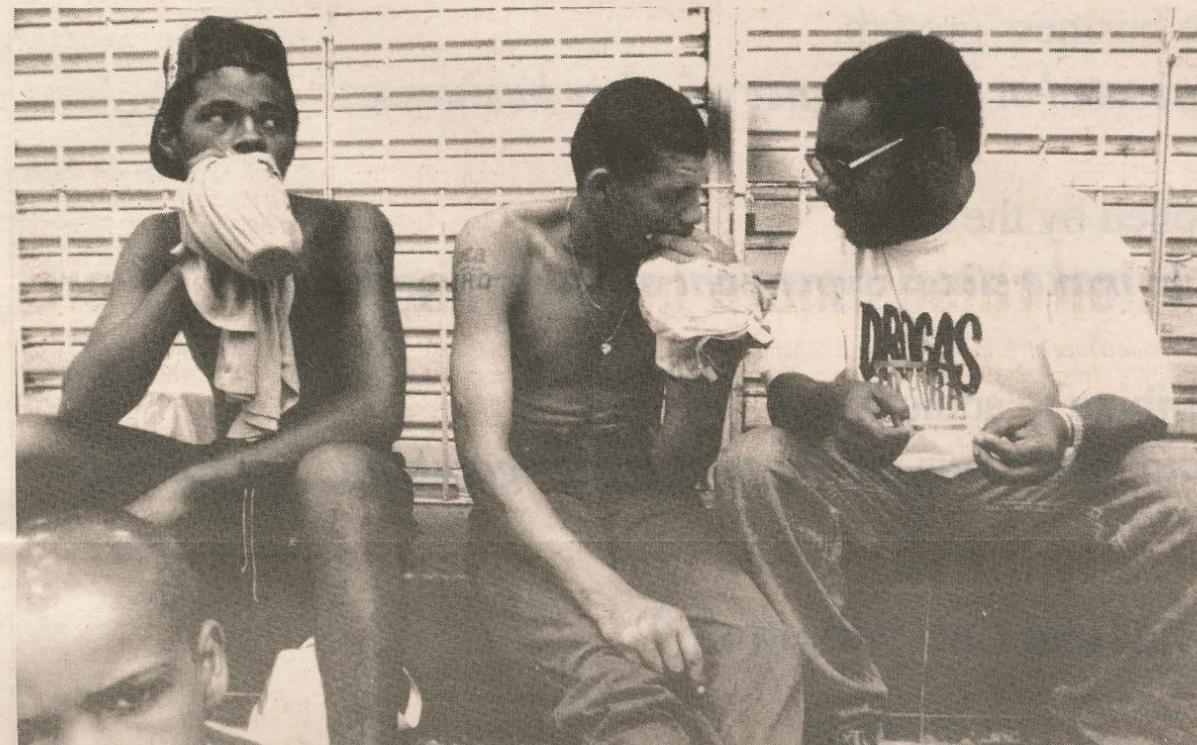
He began by holding chapel services at the team's first spring minicamp. He even flew to Wisconsin to conduct Saturday night Bible studies during summer training.

The spiritual atmosphere led to nine players accepting Jesus as their personal Savior during an 18-month period, Walker said.

Miracles have happened on the field, too. One player recovered in two weeks from a separated shoulder after some of the team's Christians prayed over him.

"When guys get injured, their first response is, 'We need to pray,'" Walker said.

One player recovered in two weeks from a separated shoulder after some of the team's Christians prayed over him. "When guys get injured, their first response is, 'We need to pray.'"



INSTANT RAPPORT Brazilian Baptist Walter de Souza (right) counsels in Recife, Brazil, with a 23-year-old street dweller holding a bottle of industrial glue inside his T-shirt. Beside them, an 18-year-old sniffs glue. A former drug addict, Souza said his experiences give him instant rapport with street kids. (BP photo by Don Rutledge)

Baptists throw 'lifeboat' to street kids in Brazil

By Mary Speidel
SBC Foreign Mission Board

RECIFE, Brazil (BP)—Walter de Souza lifts a sleeve of his T-shirt. Scars cover his arm. They're all over his body.

When Souza lived on the streets of Recife, sometimes he'd shoot up with intravenous drugs nearly 10 times a day. He'd smoke about 10 marijuana cigarettes, pop about 30 pills and drink four bottles of liquor. All in a day.

If crack cocaine had been around then, "I'd be dead already," says Souza, 35. He came close several times during nearly seven years of street life. Once, drugs he took stopped his heart. More than once, he was shot and left for dead. He even was buried alive, with his head sticking out of the ground.

"It was awful. I suffered a lot." That in itself gives him instant rapport with street kids. "I tell them I've been there, and the only one who could help me was Jesus," says Souza. "They listen to that."

Souza, a Brazilian Baptist, works for Youth Challenge, an evangelical program that helps Recife street kids. The project includes a ranch with a

rehabilitation program for up to 100 men and boys from the streets. Some of those boys later move to a Baptist home staffed by Brazilian Baptist house parents in Recife. Southern Baptist missionary Ravina Towe opened the home, financed by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

This morning Towe and Souza stoop on a Recife street, listening to a shirtless street boy. The "boy"—actually a young man of 23—sits on the curb sniffing glue. He sounds agitated. "My aunt used to beat me with pieces of steel," he says, pointing to scars on his back. "I was treated like trash, so I left home. I've been on the streets since I was 6. I've been robbing and sniffing glue since I was 9."

Today, Souza and his Youth Challenge colleagues are "throwing the lifeboat" of Jesus Christ to Recife's street kids. Youth Challenge workers attempt to rescue the youths one life at a time.

One of those kids is Junior Guttenberg, 16. Towe remembers the first time she saw him. At a stoplight, he asked to wash her windshield for money. But he was so small he couldn't even reach it. He washed her

side mirror instead. "That just killed my soul," recalls Towe.

Junior had run away from home to escape an alcoholic father who beat him. The boy sought refuge in the streets, where Baptist pastor Joel Bezerra convinced him to enter the Youth Challenge program. Bezerra, the program's director, helped start the project through his church in downtown Recife. Street people often sleep at its doorstep.

Local evangelicals run Youth Challenge. Towe has taught "Master-Life" and "Experiencing God" discipleship materials to the program's workers. All of them are Christians; most have overcome drug addictions and street life through Youth Challenge.

Through the Baptist home, several boys attend vocational schools where they're learning a trade. Others go to military and public schools. Junior attends a school run by a Recife soccer club. He wants to study medicine someday. Or be a soccer star.

Towe has high hopes for Junior and all "her boys" at the home. "If God opens the door, I believe we'll have some of them in the university," she says. "That's my goal."

Church leaders say country music not just for honky-tonks

BRANSON, Mo. (BP)—Can anybody find the sheet music to "Drop kick me, Jesus, through the goal posts of life?"

Country music—long associated with honky-tonks, steel guitars and big hair—is making a place for itself in some worship services.

To learn more about this trend, 120 people from around the nation attended the National Country Music Church Conference at the Day Star Ministry Center in Branson.

The three-day conference, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, drew people from states as far away as North Dakota, Washington, Maryland, Kentucky, Wyoming and California.

"Music has a lot to do with how people perceive the entire service. It has the emotional appeal. I think that's why people are really looking at ways of presenting the gospel in different music styles," said Sheila Artt, communications director at Day Star Church.

Day Star members plan to start a Saturday night country music service early next year.

Most conference speakers stressed the same point: Never change your message; constantly change your methods.

"We are trying to get the message across that there are different lifestyle approaches churches can use to reach a secular society," said Henry Smart of the HMB's church starting division. "Open the doors through music, and make the secular person want to come to church."

"Don't compromise the gospel, just put it into a different verbal and song package," Smart said. "There are different options for reaching people for Christ."

First Baptist Church of Harrisburg, Ill., has discovered the ability to reach new people through an 8 a.m. Sunday country music service, said Pastor Steve Martin.

"We started a country music church as an alternative worship service because we were not reaching as many as we would like through traditional services," Martin said. "Many families have come to our church that would never have come except to the country music service."

The church, which recently celebrated its 125th anniversary, had reached a stagnant period and many members were ready to give up, he said.

Martin and other pastors surveyed the community and found there was one unifying theme. Country music was the most popular type of music by far.

The idea for an alternative worship service was born, and it has proved to be successful, he said.

"There is an excitement within our 8 a.m. service that can't be duplicated in our regular service," Martin said. "Country music is the music, the heartbeat, of common people."

Church planting strategist J.V. Thomas said music can draw people, but the Christian message must remain the primary focus.

"Country music is a unique strategy at a unique time with which to evangelize America," he said. "I believe we can take it to the very gates of hell, to the honky-tonks and other places Satan has used throughout the years."

Casino Gambling: A Bad Bet for Kentucky

Common gambling myths:

MYTH: Gambling is a painless source of new revenue.

FACT: Gambling is regressive; the poor are hardest hit.

MYTH: Gambling will stimulate business growth.

FACT: Gambling revenue is generated at the expense of other businesses.

MYTH: Gambling will be controlled by the state.

FACT: Gambling interests seek to make states dependent on gambling dollars.

MYTH: Gambling does not contribute to addictions.

FACT: Gambling is addictive, and addictions increase wherever gambling is legalized.

What can one person do?

- ✓ Get the facts.
- ✓ Share the facts.
- ✓ Contact your legislators.
- ✓ Register and vote.

The Kentucky Coalition Against Casino Gambling will oppose the gambling industry in every forum at every level.
We want your help to strengthen and expand our grassroots organization. For more information, contact:

Temperance League of Kentucky

2722 Crittenden Drive, Louisville, KY 40209

(502) 635-0002

From its inception, the purpose of the Temperance League of Kentucky has been to provide a spiritual ministry by extending the work of the church in her concern for the total welfare of mankind and by urging Christian action on moral issues, with special emphasis on correcting the problems caused by the use of alcohol as a beverage.

Funding is provided by citizens and churches who see the need for our ministry.