

December 3, 1996
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FOR THE RECORD

Jewish evangelism
The Southern Baptist resolution is attached and defended again at a forum of Jewish leaders. *Page 2.*

Prodigal ministries
Chuck Broaddus is working to give former inmates a Christian focus to help stay out of prison. *Page 3.*

Editorial
How can one be a radical Christian without being a bigot? *Page 5.*

Christmas programs
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Christian nation?
A report in England claims that country might not be recognizably Christian in the near future. *Page 10.*

Television
Parents told pollsters they'd prefer a rating system describing a show's content than one recommending age appropriateness. *Page 11.*

Couple's love for Honduran missions began in Kentucky

LA CEIBA, Honduras—This is a love story.

It's about God's love, which flowed through Kentucky Baptists to nurture Ken and Tammy Cummins.

The Cumminses, in turn, shared that love with the people of La Ceiba, Honduras.

Now love and gratitude flow from Honduran Baptists to the Cumminses and to the churches that sent them and sent volunteers who helped the Cumminses during their first term as Southern Baptist missionaries.

That love was evident when the Cumminses were leaving on furlough and stopped to say goodbye to Santos Archillo, pastor of Defenders of the Faith Baptist Church, and his wife, Edith. All four wept and prayed as they stood in the church building.

The structure in which they stood was the product of six weeks of work by teams of volunteers from Baptist churches in Kentucky, North Carolina and South Carolina.

The Cumminses finished their first term with an impressive list of accomplishments. They helped organize two churches. They also oversaw more than 400 volunteers who helped build two church buildings and a pastor's home, enlarged a sanctuary and a sem-

inary building, and remodeled a house that serves as a meeting place for a new mission point.

His wife started a social services ministry, which distributes clothing to needy families in all of the association's six churches.

The Kentucky churches that nurtured them have played a critical role in making these ministries possible.

Cummins grew up in Princeton, where his parents were

staunch believers. He accepted Christ as his personal Savior at age 7 and was baptized in Calvary Baptist Church.

"Kenny, one of these days you're going to be a preacher," predicted Edith Tosh, his primary class Sunday school teacher. Before becoming a missionary, he was pastor of Buffalo Baptist Church in Buffalo.

Mrs. Cummins grew up in a Catholic family in Morganfield and accepted Christ through the witness of two friends and the ministry of a non-denominational church.

As they prepared for the mission field at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, they were supported by the missions-minded churches where he was pastor. Since being on the field, these same churches and others have prayed for them, sent birthday cards to them and their three children, and



GREETINGS Kentucky native and missionary to Honduras Ken Cummins greets a neighbor of Harvest Baptist Church. The church building was erected with the help of Southern Baptist volunteers. Dec. 1-8 is the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's week of prayer for foreign missions. (FMB photo by Warren Johnson)

generally let them know they are loved and remembered.

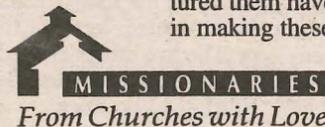
When Cummins was starting Harvest Baptist Church and needed a place to hold Bible studies, he found one—on his birthday, when thousands of Baptists were praying for him.

Just before leaving on furlough, the Cumminses received an outpouring of love from grateful members of Harvest Baptist Church, where volunteers had built both a church building and

pastor's home.

"Please thank Baptists in the United States for sending the Cumminses," said Jose Alcantar, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church, which sponsors a mission work among the Garifuna, black Hondurans from the Caribbean.

■ Dec. 1-8 is the week of prayer for foreign missions among Southern Baptists. More stories about missionaries are on page 8.



From Churches with Love

Erlanger church seeks ministry opportunities

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

ERLANGER—Bill Crosby had barely settled into his seat at a conference in Washington this fall before he got called out for a phone message.

Back in Kentucky, a college freshman had simply dropped dead the night before for no apparent reason. The boy was Jewish, but his parents were not practicing Jews. They had no family minister. But they knew Crosby, pastor of Erlanger Baptist Church, through the Northern Kentucky high school where their son had been on a sports team with Crosby's son.

In addition to trying to bring consolation to a grieving family, Crosby was faced with two urgent questions: Would he be willing to conduct the funeral? And could the funeral be held at the Baptist church?

While not a situation the average Baptist pastor faces most days, this experience illustrates what members of Erlanger Baptist Church say they like about their church and their pastor: If anyone in the area has a problem, they'll find help at Erlanger Baptist Church.

Crosby spent much of that Monday on the phone talking with the boy's parents and grandparents, the church office and others affected by the sudden death. Then he left the conference early the next morning to return to Kentucky for the funeral.

Another ministry was done; another connection into the community was strengthened.

Crosby and others believe that's



PASTOR'S CLASS Bill Crosby, pastor of Erlanger Baptist Church teaches a Sunday school class. The church constantly looks for chances to reach out to the community, Crosby said.

the secret behind the growth at Erlanger Baptist Church during the past decade and a half.

Since 1982, when Crosby came as pastor, the church has grown from 350 in Sunday school attendance to 650 in Sunday school and about 800 in three weekend worship services. The church budget has grown from \$275,000 to \$850,000 annually.

Phyllis Stamper, a local banker who has lived in Northern Kentucky for several decades, said both the church and Crosby have become well-known in the community.

"You know he's going to be there for you," she said of Crosby. "He has such a good reputation in the community. ... Wherever you go, people

have something good to say about this church."

Erlanger Baptist Church is known as a congregation that genuinely welcomes anyone, Stamper said. "We accept them regardless of who they are."

The church's desire to embrace the community has been taught by example by Crosby and other church leaders, said Jeff Barbour, a country club manager who has been in the church 10 years.

"It comes from the top. If the ministers of the church display that willingness to give of their time in minis-

Rick Warren: Work smarter, not harder

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Rick Warren loves other pastors. But the leader of Saddleback Community Church, one of America's fastest-growing churches, doesn't like what he hears from many pastors' conferences.

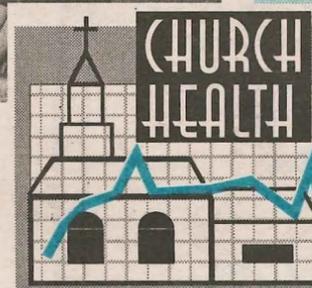
"They make it sound like dedication will bring success—that the problem is that we're just not dedicated enough," Warren said during a church starting and church growth conference.

"It's not just a matter of being dedicated," Warren said. "If dedication was all you needed to grow a church, 90 percent of our churches would be growing."

The Bible says it takes more than dedication to grow a church—it takes skill, Warren said, noting Ecclesiastes 10:10. "It says if the ax is dull and its edge is unsharpened, more strength is required. The point of that verse is work smarter, not harder."

"I don't know a more dedicated group of people in America than pastors," Warren said. "They love the Lord, they want their churches to grow, they want

□ See Warren: Pastors ..., page 11



David Miller, who as a trustee has played a key role in shifting Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to the right, has been denied a position as a trustee at Ouachita Baptist University in his home state of Arkansas.

Prominent seminary trustee denied spot at Ouachita

ARKADELPHIA, Ark.—An Arkansas man who has played a key role in turning Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville sharply to the right has been denied an opportunity to exert similar influence on a Baptist university in his home state.

David Miller, a retired director of missions from Heber Springs, Ark., is one of two men who were nominated to become trustees of Ouachita University but were subsequently rejected by the school's trustee board. Miller has been an outspoken conservative trustee at Southern Seminary during its recent period of transition. He served as second vice chairman of the trustee board last year.

By removing Miller and Rex Terry, a Fort Smith attorney who serves on the Southern Baptist Convention's

Executive Committee, as potential Ouachita trustees, a schism was avoided between the university and the state convention.

Miller and Terry were among four men nominated as Ouachita trustees earlier this fall by the state convention's nominating committee. That committee, on which conservatives hold a majority, rejected the list of eight potential nominees suggested by the university.

That prompted the university's trustee board to revoke a 1914 amendment to its charter that allowed the state convention to elect university trustees, thus declaring the board to be self-perpetuating. The state convention's Executive Board responded by escrowing contributions to Ouachita until the matter was resolved.

During the annual meeting of the Arkansas State Baptist Convention Nov. 19-20, messengers voted 801-456 in favor of recommendations of a "reconciliation committee." As a result, Ouachita trustees will share nomination power with the state convention. The plan allows Ouachita's board and a state nominating committee to submit an equal number of nominees each year for election by the state convention. The convention also may consider alternate candidates nominated from the floor.

For this year, the university accepted two of the state convention's nominees, while rejecting Miller and Terry. The two others elected to serve are Stephen Davis of Russellville and Bill Elliff of Little Rock.

During debate on the report of the

reconciliation committee Miller charged Ouachita's trustees were seeking to "steal the trusteeship out from under Arkansas Baptists."

"We ought to stand for righteousness and truth and not compromise or be held hostage by any group," he said. "We would not be here today voting on this proposal if we were not being held hostage by the trustees of Ouachita Baptist University."

After the reconciliation report was approved, Terry made a motion to defund Ouachita from the state convention's budget. His motion was overwhelmingly defeated on a show-of-hands vote.

Terry warned messengers they had taken "a very unwise action" and insisted the convention "will regret this decision."

HMB's Roberts dialogues with Jews again on resolution

By Sarah Zimmerman
SBC Home Mission Board

NEW YORK (BP)—Whether a Jew remains Jewish when he accepts Jesus as the Messiah seems to be the heart of friction over Southern Baptists' June resolution calling for more evangelistic efforts among Jews.

Phil Roberts, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board director of interfaith witness, spoke to the 83rd annual meeting of the Anti-Defamation League national commission in New York Nov. 7. Roberts was invited to the meeting to explain the resolution.

Roberts said the resolution was supported by "Hebrew Christians," Jews who have accepted Jesus Christ as the Messiah. He noted Southern Baptists want to lead non-Christians to spiritual conversion, not cultural conversion, and Christians are not expected to deny their heritage. Southern Baptists have about 30 Messianic

congregations with Jews who have professed faith in Christ and continue to observe Jewish customs, religious traditions and maintain Jewish heritage.

A commission member replied there is no such thing as a "Hebrew Christian." The 300-plus commission members attending the meeting agreed that when Jews accept Christ as Savior they become Christians and are no longer Jewish. Evangelistic efforts among Jews seem like attempts to rid the world of the Jewish population, commission members argued.

Rabbi Leon Klenicki, director of the Anti-Defamation League's interfaith department, said the resolution gave Jews the feeling "you want to finish our presence in the world."

Roberts read Southern Baptist resolutions from 1972 and 1981 condemning anti-Semitism. But Abe Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said: "It's a sham

to proclaim you are opposed to anti-Semitism and at the same time to say the only way we want you to live is to accept this. You can't have it both ways."

For Christians to be less than evangelistic with both Jews and Gentiles is to be less than biblical, Roberts said. Commission members countered that attempts to convert Jews are arrogant and anti-Semitic.

A Florida representative said trying to convert Jews conveys the message Jews are incomplete and something is wrong with them. That message leads to anti-Semitism and the types of persecution Jewish people have suffered for years, he said.

"Suppose for a moment that the New Testament is true," Roberts countered. "If it is, then the most anti-Semitic stand we could take would be to not share the gospel with Jewish people." He added that using Christianity to justify violence or hatred is

to repudiate the Christian faith.

Roberts used New Testament verses including John 3:16, Acts 1:8 and Romans 1:16 to explain the Christian perspective of sharing Christ with all people. The major question facing the early church, Roberts noted, was whether to let Gentiles be Christians.

Klenicki, however, said Romans 10:13 says everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. "We don't have to call on a certain figure in history," Klenicki said.

Because Jews believe in God, Klenicki said, "We don't need to be converted or evangelized. Humility, not aggressive evangelism, is the only ethical response by Christians to the Jewish community."

This was the second Jewish group Roberts has addressed regarding the SBC resolution in recent weeks. He faced a hostile crowd in late October at the National Workshop on Jewish-Christian Relations.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Doster elected in Louisiana.** Dean Doster, a regional coordinator with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, has been named executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Doster succeeds Mark Short, who is retiring.

■ **Recommendations sought.** Southern Baptist Convention President Tom Elliff is seeking recommendations on committees, resolutions committee, credentials committee and tellers committee. Information about qualifications and a nomination form may be obtained by writing Elliff at First Southern Baptist Church, Box 15039, Del City, Okla. 73155.

■ **Indiana praises SBC.** Messengers to the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana passed a resolution of support for the Southern Baptist Convention during their Nov. 12-13 annual meeting. The resolution says the SBC Executive Committee and each of the agencies and institutions and commissions of the

SBC that help us carry out our mission of preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to every creature."

■ **Retired ministers get attention.** Trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board voted Nov. 5 to commit themselves individually and corporately to respond to the plight of retired Southern Baptist ministers or their widows living in poverty.

■ **Correction:** An article in last week's Recorder about Tim Weber leaving the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary incorrectly characterized the "Covenant Renewal" document that resulted in Weber and five other new professors being hired in 1992 in an attempt to make the faculty more theologically conservative. The article said "each met the test of belief in biblical inerrancy." That is not correct. According to the "Covenant Renewal," belief in biblical inerrancy was not the criteria they met. However, each was deemed to be a conservative evangelical scholar.



Ministry helping former prisoners stay out of trouble

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—After four-and-a-half years in prison, Francis Birdsong is committed to living a different lifestyle than the one that landed him in trouble.

He credits his success to following a disciplined program created by a Christian-based ministry aimed at slowing the revolving door of Kentucky's prisons.

"It helps me stay positive," said the Lexington native, who has spent more than a year with Prodigal Ministries. "It provides me counseling and two mentors I can call if I have problems or just want to talk."

A restaurant cook, Birdsong said working is an important part of staying straight. So is his relationship with Christ, which recently led him to join Bates Memorial Baptist Church.

"I've met a lot of God-loving people through Prodigal Ministries, and talking to positive people helps me stay positive," he said. "The old me was fearless and a risk-taker, in a negative sense. I didn't care about anyone else."

The ministry was founded two years ago by Chuck Broaddus, a Louisville native who served seven years on robbery charges. Those crimes stemmed from a cocaine habit that cut short his career as a Jefferson County school teacher.

He began thinking about the ministry before he was freed in December 1993. While in prison he noticed former inmates returning to serve additional time.

"I wondered how I would be any different," said Broaddus, who recommitted his life to Christ behind bars. "When I was in prison, I saw a lot of organizations coming into prison. I assumed they worked with people when they got out of prison."

Afterward, he was surprised to find a lack of structured activity to help former inmates. That provided the impetus for forming the ministry, which draws its name from the prodigal son's story in Luke 15.

Housed at Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church, the effort is guided by an 18-member advisory board that includes several Kentucky Baptists.

Its first full-time secretary was Gregg Bingham, who now works for the state Woman's Missionary Union office but remains a volunteer.

"It has a small target audience but at the same time it's an important ministry," said Bingham, a member of Parkland Baptist Church. "It's an important group of people who need ministry, like any other ethnic or small group."

The ministry's goals are significant, said James Dent, a chaplain at Kentucky State Reformatory in LaGrange for more than 20 years.

"The lack of follow-up, especially with employment and counseling, is one of the leading causes" of recidivism, he said.

Participants in the program agree to such conditions as maintaining employment, attending counseling sessions and meetings, working with mentors, developing budgets and attending church.

The personal contact is the most valuable aspect of the program, said one man who gained his freedom less than two months ago.

"If I have a problem understanding the Bible, with peer pressure, or just need someone to talk to, Chuck is always there," said Reginald Burgess, a Louisville native. "He's like a second father."

Since September 1994 only six of the 50 people Prodigal has worked with have returned to prison, and two of those had charges pending before they joined the program, said Broaddus.

He said this ratio is low compared to inmate recidivism rates quoted to him of 25 percent to 35 percent within four years of release. But Broaddus said his own observations lead him to believe that rate is closer to 70 percent, adding that officials do not count parole violators in their numbers.

Besides statistical success, Prodigal has seen other encouraging results, he said. Two clients have been bap-

tized, many joined churches and others went from a state of homelessness to working and maintaining their own apartment.

Not all is joy, though. Some clients who are progressing will miss work with flimsy excuses. Broaddus said he has learned he can't work any harder for a client than that person is willing to work for himself.

"The frustration is constant," said Prodigal's founder. "We're dealing with people who haven't had success, so many don't believe they can."

Aside from the personal frustrations, Broaddus said he also faces financial battles.

This year's budget is \$52,000, but the ministry has tentatively been offered to take over operation of a halfway house next year. That would cost \$200,000, he said. Sixty percent of the ministry's clients would take advantage of such a facility, he said.

The ministry's church-attendance requirement resulted in the loss of a grant that would have been used to hire a client advocate. Broaddus called that ironic, since Prodigal has served Muslims and doesn't reject non-Christians.

"We are convinced that it is God's will that we add a client advocate to the staff," Broaddus said. "If we are correct, we know that he will provide a better, alternative way to fund the position."

"When I was in prison, I saw a lot of organizations coming into prison. I assumed they worked with people when they got out of prison."
Chuck Broaddus,
founder of Prodigal
Ministries



MINISTRY BY THE TRUCKLOAD Fielding and Helen Ballard, operators of Henderson House Ministries in Shelbyville, unload a truckload of toys and clothes for the Christmas giveaway of Mountain Outreach. Mountain Outreach, based in Williamsburg, is an Appalachian-area ministry staffed by students at Cumberland College.

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Professor dies.** Jim Howard, professor of education and chair of the division of education at Campbellsville University, died Nov. 21. He was 62. Howard began teaching at Campbellsville in 1991 and founded the university's first master of arts degree program in education with the first students enrolling in August 1992.

■ **Georgetown makes list.** George-

town College is among the 300 colleges and universities included in the 1996 edition of Barron's Best Buys in College Education. Schools were selected based on their faculties, curricula, price and the preparedness of students after graduation.

■ **"Messiah" to be performed.** Campbellsville University's concert chorus will perform a sing-along version of Handel's "Messiah"

Thursday, Dec. 12, at Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville at 7:30 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by Campbellsville University and the Western Recorder.

■ **Correction:** The Nov. 19 issue of the Western Recorder wrongly identified the secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministry Association. Elected was Joe Ball of Edgewood Baptist Church.

Russian man 'stays put' long enough to accept the gospel

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

MARTISHKINA, Russia—His breath smelled of alcohol, his face was covered with stubble, and he never stood still. The man kept pacing back and forth as the Kentuckians talked to his mother about Jesus.

"I thought he was under conviction," said Gloria Stanton, a member of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset. She and other Kentucky Baptists were in Russia as part of the state convention's partnership with Russian Baptists.

But then again, she thought, he just could have been upset with the three Americans who had come to talk with him and his mother.

Repeatedly, the man named Alexander left the room, only to return a few minutes later to light a cigarette at the stove. At one point, he even pulled his stocking cap over his face as if to block out the message, Stanton said. Finally, Alexander sat down and "stayed put."

After much discussion, the moment of decision came. "Perhaps this is the appointed time for you to consider the message of salvation," John Nunley, director of missions for Liberty Baptist Association, suggested through an interpreter to the Russian.

There in the tiny, cold kitchen both Alexander and his mother professed faith in Christ.

Immediately Alexander smiled, Stanton said. "You could see he was serious." The following Sunday, both Alexander and his mother attended the local Baptist church.

Stanton called that encounter the most dramatic opportunity she and fellow evangelism team members had on their October mission trip. Most people, she said, were "eager to hear and respond."

"It was a joy to witness the openness of people to receive the word of God with a smile, a thank you..." Stanton said.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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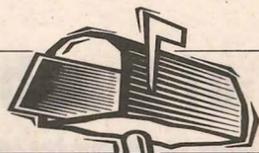
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BAPTIST FORUM

Come to Russia

Kentucky Baptists, you are invited to Russia as a volunteer through the Kentucky/Russia partnership. Why go to Russia? Here are some reasons.

1. Less than 1 percent of the population attends any kind of Christian church on any given Sunday.
2. Crime, as well as organized crime, continues on the rise.
3. Three out of every four pregnancies are terminated through abortion, for a total of more than 4 million each year.
4. Average life span for men is down to 57 years. The five major causes of death are heart illness, liver problems, lung cancer, accidents and suicide. All are alcohol- and tobacco-related. Child suicide is on the rise.
5. Russia is still one of the most responsive countries to the gospel at present. There is freedom to preach and evangelize.

6. Many new churches have been started, and many are in the planning process.

7. Many men and women need training for the work of ministry and teaching Sunday school.

8. There are only 11 full-time missionary couples (FMB) in Russia, which has more than 150 million in population.

9. God has given an unprecedented opportunity to change the future of a nation.

10. The door is open. You are invited to come to Russia. What will you do about this invitation? Will your answer be constant prayer, sacrificial giving and unhesitant obedience to God's invitation?

The choices are many, the needs never-ending and the rewards eternal.

Larry and Joy Lindsey

Nancy and Bob Walden

Russia partnership coordinators

Musens moving

After about 29 years on the coast of Kenya, we are transferring to Nairobi, Kenya. I will serve as the volunteer coordinator for the mission as well as the church statistician. My wife, Jenny, will teach at the missionary kids' school in Nairobi.

Our address will be P.O. Box 30405, Nairobi, Kenya. Any of our friends on e-mail may contact us at JMUSEN@MAF.ORG. We would love to hear from Kentucky, and we could tell you of the opportunities for volunteer service in Kenya.

Jim Musen

Missionary to Kenya

Mark of beast

Paul said that the day of Christ will not come "except there come a falling away first and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition" (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

The son of perdition is the anti-Christ who will rule the world during the seven years of the great tribulation. He is the man of sin whose number 666 will be marked on the right hands or foreheads of the people who will doom their souls to serve him.

For the first time in history, the technology is available for the anti-Christ to rule the world. Computers, atomic bombs, satellites and other technological developments make the rule of the world dictator possible.

Throughout the world, people are accepting globalism, the concept of the global village and the global economy. Their minds are being prepared for acceptance of the AntiChrist and for the time when they will not be permitted to buy or sell without the mark of the beast.

It appears that we are now living in the time of the falling away that will precede the rapture of the church, the great tribulation, the 1,000-year reign of Christ, the great throne judgment and eternity forever.

After speaking of the signs of his own return, Jesus said, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape

all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

We Christians living in the dangerous times of the present falling away should get our priorities straightened out immediately. First, we should follow our Lord's command to watch and pray always. Then we should carry out his great commission to preach the gospel to all the world.

William Hagan

Taylorsville

Spirit present

One sentence in the last editorial (Nov. 19, page 5) leapt off the page—the one which read, "Who would have thought the Holy Spirit would show up for a Baptist convention?"

Well, Mr. Editor, I for one believe that his presence was guaranteed. Matthew 18:20 gives us this promise. If two or three believers were in the midst in Bowling Green, then the Holy Spirit was surely there.

While your remark might have been tongue-in-cheek or just sarcasm, I deeply resent the implication. Here I thought you were just the editor of our state paper, and now I find out you are also the final authority of where and when God's Holy Spirit is showing up.

John Routh

Upton

Insult to farmers

Two weeks ago (Nov. 12, page 1) you printed some very distasteful words about tobacco farming. My cousin supported his mother, sister, wife and son by raising tobacco. My best friend and her family depend on tobacco sales as a supplement to other income. That article was an insult to honest, hard-working, God-fearing tobacco farmers.

These people best confine their writing and other activities to saving souls and cease and desist writing about subject matter they know nothing about.

Bryce Vanlandingham

Erlanger

Gratitude generates generosity

Through these 14 years, I have had the joy of opening an occasional letter in which a check has been sent for something special. I now wish I had kept a journal of such letters, not so much to keep a financial account, as to reflect upon the giver and the cause.

A letter last week, however, was the first of its kind and has preoccupied me to such an extent that I have neither sent the check on to our business office nor have I replied to the sender. Actually, I have been inwardly challenged by it.

I have known the sender for many years, dating back to the '50s. Having always liked and respected the couple, I had difficulty understanding and accepting when a few years ago a church of which he was pastor terminated him. This happens with increasing regularity these days.

This occasion was for them, as in the case of all ministers, a humiliating

time. In increasing numbers, involuntary termination marks the exit of a pastor from ministry altogether.

This couple, however, weathered the storm with the help of friends and, in this case, the ministry of the KBC Executive Board. Specifically, our board provides some financial assistance in times like these.

These funds are not a loan, not expected to be returned. Often they put bread on the table, pay the utilities or insurance or rent. They make a difference in the quality of a difficult transition.

And so it was that when I opened the letter dated Nov. 14, a check for \$800 fell in my lap.

The first of the letter consisted of kind remarks concerning my forthcoming retirement and an update on his wife's medical condition which had recently been a serious, touch-and-go situation. They have taken

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall



FAMILY FORUM

Dealing with holiday loneliness

By John Lepper

While we think of the holiday season as a time of peace and joy, it also can be a time of intense loneliness, particularly for the elderly. For example, the season may heighten the loneliness of the widow who has outlived her husband and lives a distance from her children and grandchildren. The holidays bring reminders of past celebrations and intensify the feeling of aloneness.

Life circumstances such as the loss of a spouse, physical impairments and the loss of mobility all contribute to feelings of isolation. To retire after an active and fulfilling career can take us out of numerous social relationships. We may cope with feelings of loneliness through the year but find the holiday season brings to mind and magnifies our sense of isolation.

How can we deal with our loneliness? How can we help another person deal with loneliness? Consider these suggestions:

■ **Repair relationships.** Take the first step in mending broken relationships.

■ **Grieve for and let go of relationships that cannot be changed.**

■ **Listen.** Listening to the life story of another person dispels loneliness for the listener and the one talking.

■ **Reinterpret your situation.** How you view life has a tremendous bearing on your attitude. The positive side of loneliness is solitude.

■ **Reach out to others.** Circumstances and physical limitations only limit the manner in which we reach out. If you have such limitations, consider using the telephone or writing letters as ways to reach out in a positive way.

■ **Create new relationships.** For the elderly person who has experienced many losses, this may mean developing new "family" ties. Christian friends are, in reality, brothers and sisters in Christ.

■ **Give the gift of friendship.** This is the season to give gifts, to reach out with warm hearts of peace, joy and kindness. One of the most significant gifts you may give this holiday season is the gift of friendship and inclusion to a person who feels lonely. To paraphrase Scripture, "Inasmuch as you do it to these, my brothers and sisters, you do it unto Christ."

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

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Is it too late to send Santa an addendum to the Christmas list?

SHESAI



Alison Wingfield

Despite our best (and maybe not-so-best) efforts, our children are in the "gimmee" mode of Christmas.

We knew we were in trouble when they discovered the Toys R Us catalog one Sunday and pored over it so many times that it is now scattered page-by-page throughout the house. Luke even slept with his favorite page the other night.

Our "Dear Santa" letters were filled with ideas, but Luke announced the other morning that he wanted to send a postcard to Santa because he had forgotten to put something on his initial list. I tried to talk him into telling the Santa at the mall about the addition, but that wouldn't satisfy him.

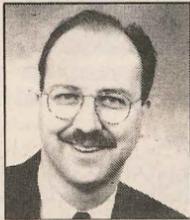
At the same time, I know we have done a few things right, because every time we pass a Salvation Army ringer (which is almost every day, since they are outside Kroger), they insist on putting money in the bucket. And they took great delight in contributing to a recent canned food drive our church had.

Seeing Christmas through the excitement of our kids is refreshing. It brings back many special childhood memories for me.

Even as a grownup I still have trouble getting to sleep on Christmas Eve.

But I haven't completely reverted to childhood, unlike somebody I know. I think Mark is just as excited as Luke and Garrett about what they will get. Boys and their toys.

HESAI



Mark Wingfield

All I want for Christmas is buckets and buckets of Legos—for our two boys, of course. I'm planning a special trip to the mall to put in a good word with Santa on their behalf.

The child inside this adult body gets frustrated because we (well, maybe I) are so limited in what we can build with the limited number of Lego pieces we (well, OK, the boys)

own. How many times can you build a scrawny little go-cart or half a shotgun house? We need some jumbo-buckets of Legos with zillions of pieces to build mansions and malls and stadiums.

Never mind that our 4-year-olds seem quite content with our minor creations. They still see limitless possibilities in the pieces we have. As far as they're concerned, we could build a Lego stairway to the ceiling.

Christmas brings out the materialistic side in everyone, but it hits hard on the bond between father and sons. It's a challenge not to admit that we sometimes want our children to have bigger and better toys more for our benefit than for theirs.

After all, our attention spans may be shorter than theirs when it comes to playing together.

In the end, I have to remind myself that it's not really the toys that make the relationship between parent and child. Sure, the boys have their eyes on one of those jumbo Lego sets at the toy store, and they know it would be fun. But whether we have one bucket of Legos or 100, they still invite me to get down on the floor and play with them. My best gifts to them are time and attention.

Must true Christianity make us bigots?

"One of the key questions of the 21st century will be 'How can one be a radical Christian without being a bigot?'"

This statement, written by a church consultant in a recent journal article, hits the proverbial nail on the head.

As Christians, we are called to live out the exclusive claims of the gospel in a world that demands we be inclusive in every way. Every person's values must be given equal weight. Every religion must be accepted as equally true.

Modern believers have responded in two extremes to this squeeze between Christianity and culture.

On one hand, some take great joy in proudly showcasing themselves as "counter-cultural" Christians. They color every scenario with stark blacks and whites. They love to make themselves victims of persecution by the culture. They delight in drawing attention to how exclusively they interpret the Bible.

On the other hand, some take equal pride in demonstrating how broadly they can pitch the tent. They color nothing in black and white. They go to seed on the fact that Jesus welcomed the outcasts and persecuted of society, forgetting that Jesus at the same time made hard demands on all who would follow him.

The world sees too much of both extremes, and particularly of representatives of each extreme locked in battle with each other. Thus, our bigoted views of each other cause us to diminish the witness of Christ in our world.

No doubt about it: Jesus walked on Earth as a radical role model, and he calls us to radical discipleship.

But he was no bigot.

How can we walk that fine line today?

The groundbreaking Baptist ethicist T.B. Maston gives some good counsel in the last book he wrote before his death, "To Walk As He Walked." As the thesis of his book, Maston cites a passage from 1 John 2:5-6: "By this we may be sure that we are in him: he who says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked."

Maston concludes that "an authentic Christian is one who permits the resurrected Christ to live in and through him or her," who realizes that "Christ came on the inside of my life to live."

He quotes other Bible passages to remind us that "Jesus went about doing good" and we should "go and do likewise."

If we truly follow the footsteps of Jesus, Maston says, we will live in a multi-layered paradox: We will reveal God, dignify humanity, include the excluded, emphasize the distinctive call of God on every life, be servants, be compassionate, touch people and separate the sinner and the sin. Not an easy assignment.

Christians must assert the exclusive claims of the gospel by declaring that there is only one way to God. We must not bow to the false notion that all roads lead to salvation.

But we must confess at the same time that we are not the spiritual highway patrol. We are called to walk as Jesus walked, not to replace Jesus. Otherwise we become not only bigots but heretics as well.

— Mark Wingfield

EDITORIAL

It's not nice to fool Mother Nature

By Frederica Mathewes-Green

While visiting a Texas shrine to the Virgin Mary, I noticed a form of devotion I hadn't encountered before: Pilgrims had expressed their faith in the healing powers present by pinning up silver images of the objects of their prayer. On small plaques the size of playing cards were pictured a leg, a little boy, an arm, a woman, an eye. One bore a surprising image: a pair of breasts.

Exposed breasts look out of place at a religious shrine, because the common association is with naughty sexuality, low-cut Playboy fare. But of course this is not what they mean to the women who live with them.

For women, our breasts are body parts as familiar as an elbow, not something we don for special occasions, like a cocktail dress. They can signal pregnancy or oncoming menstruation with aching, or embarrass a new mom with a sudden letdown of milk. And they can mean death.

These silver breasts were not displayed at the shrine because the petitioner was so proud of her pair. Over barriers of culture and language women can understand each other here. The pilgrim pinned up this image because she was scared.

I know about this. My mother and grandmother have both had mastectomies. Women continue to

stand helpless before the increasing tide of breast cancer.

A recent report in the Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health described one more, and somewhat unexpected, potential cause of breast cancer: abortion.

This analysis of 23 independent studies spanning 40 years showed a consistent correlation between abortion and breast cancer.

Allowing for variation due to the woman's age and childbearing status, abortion can increase her chance of eventually developing breast cancer by 50 percent.

The mechanism has to do with something women have been saying for decades: We are whole beings, not assemblages composed of detachable parts, not X-rated Mrs. Potato Heads. What affects any part of our bodies affects all.

Early in pregnancy, estrogen begins preparing the breasts for eventual breastfeeding, and cells multiply at tremendous speed. Late in pregnancy, other hormones counteract this initial onrush as they complete the process. For this reason, a completed pregnancy gives an inoculation-like measure of protection against breast cancer.

When the body is preparing for miscarriage, estrogen levels do not reach the heights they would in a healthy pregnancy, so an increased

danger of cancer is not observed. But when a healthy pregnancy is artificially interrupted, the estrogen coursing at breakneck levels never meets its counteracting force. Estrogen makes things grow, good cells and bad together. Abortion may empty the womb, but it does not end the process in the breasts.

A number of objections have been brought against the report's chief author, Dr. Joel Brind. It is argued that the increase is small: less than a doubling of risk, while cigarettes increase the risk of lung cancer 20 times.

The connection is still a valid cause of concern, however, and information each woman should be free to consider and make her own decision about—not something well-meaning authorities conceal because it might upset her. In the fight against breast cancer, information is not the enemy.

In fighting the war against breast cancer, we need all the help we can get. Brind is to be congratulated for his courage in producing a study that is certain to be attacked and dismissed because of its unsettling implications, though they shouldn't be too surprising. Artificial tampering with women's fertility can have surprising, and deadly, repercussions.

It's not nice to fool Mother Nature. (RNS)

Frederica Mathewes-Green is author of the recent book "Real Choices" and a frequent contributor to Christianity Today magazine.

COMMENTARY

Welcome to home of the perpetual stewardship drive

About this series

This is the third installment in a year-long series of articles on church health in Kentucky. The series has been coordinated with a church growth research project conducted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Churches featured represent a balanced sampling of the churches that participated in the research project. Churches participating in the project were chosen through a random sampling method. A smaller segment then was isolated for more detailed research. Many more growing, healthy churches could be presented than space allows in this series.

ERLANGER—If you think your church asks for money too much, don't go to Erlanger Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky.

This growing church has been in a capital stewardship campaign since 1980, and doesn't plan to be out of one until after the turn of the century.

The problem isn't that they can't pay off their debts but that their consistent growth and desire to minister have forced them to keep expanding their base of operations.

Some of that financial pressure could have been relieved if the church didn't have such a strong commitment to missions. But while expanding on the homefront, members of Erlanger Baptist Church also have grown in their commitment to missions.

During the last 16 years of capital campaigns, the church has raised \$2 million for capital needs but also has given \$2.6 million to missions causes. Currently, the church gives 24 percent of its budget to missions causes of all types.

Pastor Bill Crosby believes one reason Erlanger's members have continued to give sacrificially is because they are presented with so many options and opportunities.

Erlanger Baptist Church not only gives to traditional missions programs but also participates in volunteer projects at home and abroad. Church members have gone to places as far-flung as Panama, Idaho and Boston. They are active in associational missions efforts and work hand-in-hand with ministries such as Habitat for Humanity.

The church also allows every member a choice about how to channel his or her missions contributions through the church. About one-third of the congregation supports the global missions efforts of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, while the remaining two-thirds support the traditional Cooperative Program ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

But that doesn't mean the church can easily be labeled a "moderate" church. Those familiar with the church point to the wide spectrum of political and theological positions held by church members. Offering giving options has helped the church main-

tain unity, they say.

Crosby said the church decided the controversy in the SBC "is going to be an issue, but it's not going to be an issue to the point that it keeps us from working here in our community."

"We gave people a choice in giving, and then it was time for me to shut up," the pastor said.

"To major on minor issues that are divisive when we look about us and see all the depravity and decay" would be unthinkable, Crosby explained. "The average guy doesn't care whether you're a moderate or a fundamentalist."

Erlanger Baptist Church is proof that by giving people choices local churches can maintain fellowship and grow in ministry, according to Crosby and other church leaders.

Rusty Ellis, a police officer who travels 21 miles with his family to attend Erlanger Baptist Church, said the freedom offered there is pleasant. "The (SBC) stuff doesn't matter. We don't have to toe the line that's being

directed. I don't think we're told what we have to be."

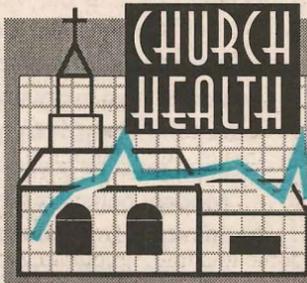
Crosby said the SBC controversy has had one unexpected but positive influence on his ministry: It has opened his eyes to a wealth of ministry partnerships Baptist churches can join hands with.

"I was a company man," he said. "I wouldn't even work with Habitat for Humanity. They were somehow suspect."

But now the church has expanded its missions base by keeping strong ties with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and SBC while reaching out to new partners in ministry as well, he said.

The church also funds its benevolent ministries through a unique means. Every Wednesday night, the offering plate is passed for a benevolence fund. Those present drop in an average of \$1 each, which may not sound like much but actually goes a long way toward supplementing the church's budgeted benevolence ministries.

"Because of this offering, we are able to do two or three times what we could do if we just used the budgeted funds," Crosby explained.



Research: Healthy churches look beyond their own needs

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

Healthy, growing churches in Kentucky look beyond their own needs to reach out in a variety of ongoing ministries, new research indicates.

The church growth research project conducted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church growth and administration division over the last year has focused on more than numerical growth in churches.

The study, led by Vernon Cole and Cynthia Woolever, examined four areas: numerical growth, systems growth, maturational growth and incarnational growth.

Incarnational growth measures how well a congregation shares Christ's ministry to those in need.

Finding evidence of incarnational or ministry growth is essential to describe a church as healthy, Cole explained. "Any time you do something that only concentrates on the self, eventually that sours."

To get at that issue in the research, Cole and Woolever asked churches in the survey sample what they had done in the last month that helped somebody outside the church in a specific, tangible way.

They discovered that both growing and non-growing churches often are involved in ministries that reach beyond the congregation. The difference between growing and non-growing churches is the degree to which they engage in such ministries, Cole said.

The research found that growing churches in Kentucky have "good" or "exceptional" ministries to their communities. They also have increased their emphasis on missions in recent years.

Further, the increased emphasis on ministry to the community has been done not just by the pastor but by lay leaders as well. A highly characteristic factor identified in Kentucky's growing churches is that lay leaders have performed an act of ministry for someone outside the church or someone who is not a Christian within the past two to four weeks.

Growing, healthy churches also are more likely than other churches to conduct Bible study or Sunday school in settings outside the church building, the research found.

Erlanger church seeks ministry opportunities

Continued from page 1

try to the community, people will respond," he said.

"This congregation has learned how to love not only itself but others," added Steve Sorrell, a high school principal who grew up in the church.

Although a \$2.5 million addition to the property currently is under construction, it clearly hasn't been buildings that have drawn people to Erlanger Baptist Church in the past. For example, Sunday school classes meet in any of a half-dozen buildings or converted houses on the property.

Crosby admits the physical amenities of the church property and the lack of parking aren't natural drawing cards. That's why he's hopeful the new 38,000-square-foot addition—which includes a large preschool area, youth area, fellowship hall, kitchen and Christian Life Center—will open even more opportunities for ministry.

The Christian Life Center, which includes a full-size basketball court, elevated walking/jogging track, racquetball courts and fitness center, will be open to everyone in the community with no membership fee.

Even with the addition, members cite the people of Erlanger Baptist Church as more important than its buildings.

"It's a big church in a small community," Barbour said. "You don't really get lost in the bigness of it. It gives you the feeling of a big family."

That big family has grown to include a diverse mixture of people: old-timers, newcomers, English-speakers, deaf people who communicate in American Sign Language, Japanese, Arabs, Koreans, Bosnians, blacks and whites. Erlanger's membership comes from 19 ZIP codes.

That is evidence, Crosby noted, that the congregation has successfully moved from being a community church to a regional church. Given the



CHILDREN'S CHOIR Youth at Erlanger Baptist Church sing "Love in Any Language" using American Sign Language on a Sunday when the church's deaf congregation had joined other members for communion.

rapid growth and changes that have occurred in Northern Kentucky in the last 25 years, such adaptability has fueled the church's growth, he said.

Location hasn't hurt Erlanger Baptist Church in another way as well. The church sits on Erlanger Road between Dixie Highway, a major Northern Kentucky artery, and the Northern Kentucky/Cincinnati Airport. An estimated 60,000 vehicles pass the church site every day.

The power of this presence, combined with the outreach sensitivity of the congregation, is illustrated in a story recalled by Lori Lindeman, lay coordinator of the church's Saturday afternoon contemporary service.

A woman whose family attended church nowhere passed the church regularly as she drove through the community. When the Saturday service began, she made mental note of the sign announcing the time and day, as well as the alternative nature of the service.

One Saturday afternoon, this woman got her family into the car for a drive and then surprisingly led them to Erlanger Baptist Church where, without having planned to, they attended worship. Because the atmosphere was informal and the dress ca-

sual, they didn't feel out of place.

Now that family attends the Saturday service regularly, Lindeman said.

While location offers a distinct advantage, being Baptist doesn't automatically translate into hauling in the newcomers. Northern Kentucky is one of the few areas of the commonwealth that is not predominantly Baptist in culture.

Not being the predominant religion means the Baptists have had to work hard to make a place.

The difference at Erlanger Baptist Church is not that the pastor or other leaders are extraordinarily gifted, Crosby said. Rather, what makes the difference is hard work and commitment to Christ-like ministry.

He compares the church to pro retired basketball player Larry Bird in contrast to the more flashy former NBA star Magic Johnson. While Johnson scored with razzmatazz and showmanship, Bird accomplished just as much in a low-key manner by showing up for work every day and sticking to the task.

"We're not real flashy, but we get the job done day after day," Crosby explained. "We try our best to do as much as we can to infiltrate the community."

CHURCHES

'A traditional church with a bit of a contemporary edge'

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

ERLANGER—"We're a traditional church with a bit of a contemporary edge."

That's how Bill Crosby describes Northern Kentucky's Erlanger Baptist Church, where he has been pastor during a 14-year period of steady growth.

While the church offers most of the traditional programs likely to be found in a Kentucky Baptist church, it also adds a few unusual twists. The most obvious is an alternative worship service at 5 p.m.

on Saturdays, followed by a 6 p.m. Bible study option.

On the Saturday before Thanksgiving, the service began with a video clip from a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving special. The whole Peanuts gang is gathered around a big table for a Thanksgiving feast when Peppermint Patty stops the festivities to ask "Shouldn't we say grace?" Linus, the resident theologian, then gives a brief lesson on the history of the holiday.

That video clip launched a service

built around choruses, a drama and a message all related to giving thanks.

The room is the same sanctuary used on Sundays for two traditional worship services, and the message is roughly the same, but the feel and format are entirely different.

The service attracts about 80 people most weeks, including some church members who prefer the more casual atmosphere and less-traditional format. But about half those who attend the Saturday service are people who never would come to a traditional Sunday morning service, Crosby said. Some of those people have made professions of faith and been baptized; others have reunited with a Christian church after years of absence.

Although many people search to identify new strategies employed by healthy churches, Erlanger Baptist Church has no secret formula to explain its growth.

"We just do the regular old stuff," Crosby said. "There's nothing new in our church. It's a new twist to old stuff."

The church has a traditional looking staff organization as well: Minister of Education and Administration David Wallace, Minister of Music Phil Quinn, Minister of Youth Todd Smith and Minister of Activities Andy Mays. The church also sponsors a deaf mission, with Rocky Shifflett as pastor.

Ask church members what they like about their church or what they think draws others into the church, and they'll offer a wide range of answers: Bustling youth ministry, opportunities for involvement in missions, good music program, Living Christmas Tree performances, Mother's Day Out program, small-group experiences in Bible study.

All these things are true.

A recent Wednesday night prayer and share meeting drew 175 youth.

Church members have built homes for underprivileged families through Habitat for Humanity.

Homeless people who live in the area spend the night at the church every sixth weekend, and church members not only serve them but sleep there with them.

On Thanksgiving Day, church members took over for the local Meals on Wheels program and provided Thanksgiving meals for 200 people.



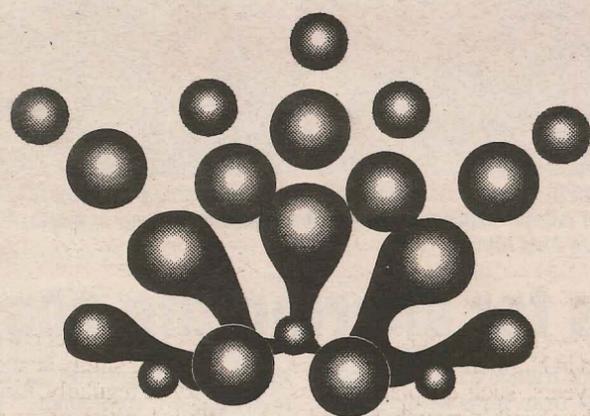
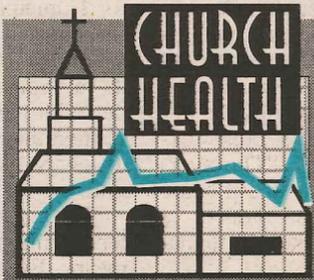
Several thousand people will attend performances of the church's Living Christmas Tree in December, many of them people who never attend a church any other time of the year.

All of these things combine to create "a progressive, growing church on the move," said member Jeff Barbour.

"This is an exciting time to be at this church," added Peggy Sorrell, who grew up in the church and has witnessed its gradual transformation from small community church to large regional church.

That transition may be a key to the contemporary edge Erlanger Baptist Church has kept, Crosby suggested. "As the community has changed, the church has adapted."

PRAISE HYMN A trio leads the music for Erlanger Baptist Church's contemporary service, which attracts about 80 people each week.



Hey Youth Leaders
Splashing News for You!

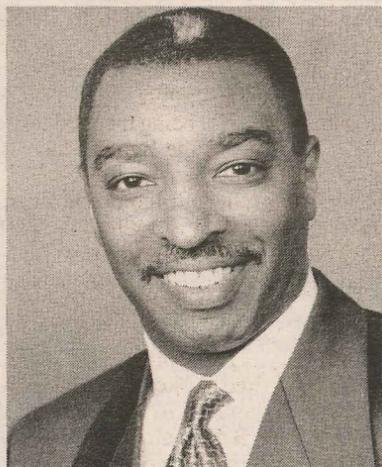
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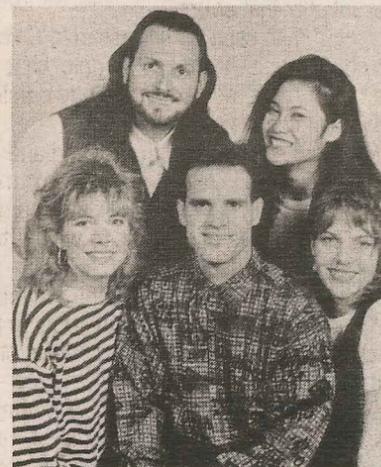
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MISSIONS

Missionaries see impact of prayers during death threats

SBC Foreign Mission Board facts

■ Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal for 1996: \$100 million.

■ Foreign Mission Board's total 1997 budget: \$205.5 million, an increase of \$4.89 million.

■ Amount contributed to Christmas offering last year: \$89.02 million.

■ Last time goal was met: 1981, when the goal was \$50 million.

■ Amount Kentucky Baptists contributed last year: \$2.99 million, up 3.5 percent from \$2.89 million in 1994.

By Dana Williamson
Oklahoma Baptist Messenger

DEL CITY, Okla.—Southern Baptists in the United States prayed for Paul Stevens on his birthday last Dec. 12. That's precisely when he and his wife, Ruth, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries in the Philippines, needed prayer the most.

That day, the couple was Christmas shopping in Davao City when they received a message of a letter delivered to their home in Malita, threatening to kill their entire family and helpers unless a great sum of money was paid.

The entire family—including Cheri, 12, Sam, 10, Angela, 7, and Katrina, 2—stayed away from Malita for 10 days, then returned to see if there was further word about the threat.

Two days after Christmas, a pastor's wife in Malita told the Stevenses she had heard their children were going to be kidnapped.

They immediately packed up the children and left to celebrate New Year's with another missionary family. Missionary administrator Sam Stallings advised the family to relocate. "It was a hard decision to leave," said Stevens. "We had invested so much time in the area."

Besides, the Stevenses weren't sure the threat was real. They had lived for the past three years with the problem of heavily armed bandits raiding villages in the area.

"But it's a little different when your name is on the targeted letter," admitted Mrs. Stevens.

On Jan. 2, the couple was praying

for specific instructions from God.

"I was reading about Joseph being warned in a dream not to return to his home because of a threat to the young Jesus," Stevens remembered.

"We realized even Jesus had to evacuate," added Mrs. Stevens.

So in January the family left the coastal town where they had invested 12 years and moved into an apartment in the Chinese district in Davao City. Stevens started a new job researching Filipino language groups.

The couple were appointed missionaries in 1982 and, after

language study, began serving in Malita, an isolated spot with no electricity, no phones and no medical service. They visited the 40 churches in the area by boat, horseback or on foot.

With their relocation, Stevens's job now is to establish viable church bases with every ethnic group in the southern Philippines. "That way, people could continue if missionaries had to leave," he explained.

The Stevenses have been very aware of support from churches in the United States. "When we received the death threat letter, I told Paul that all those people were praying for him on his birthday," said Mrs. Stevens. "I knew the Lord hadn't abandoned us."

Stevens said his mother thought the family should come back and live in his hometown of Oklahoma City "where it is safe." A few weeks later, a terrorist's bomb tore off the front of the federal building in Oklahoma City.

The danger and sacrifice of following God sometimes threatens physical safety, Stevens observed. "You can't say the safest place in the world is in God's will, because the cross wasn't a safe place. But if you're in God's will, whatever happens is OK."



MISSIONARIES

From Churches with Love



PRAYER HELPS Missionaries Paul and Ruth Stevens credit the prayers of Southern Baptists with helping them endure death threats while serving in Malita, Philippines. (FMB photo by Kent Harville)

Sorrells finds sports opens doors for sharing the gospel

By Mary Speidel
SBC Foreign Mission Board

ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP)—Fred Sorrells' narrow notebook is full of business cards tucked into clear plastic holders.

The cards say a lot about Sorrells,

who has developed an amazing network of contacts as a Southern Baptist missionary sports consultant in Africa. Though appointed in 1980 as an agriculturalist, God so blessed a 1990 foray into sports evangelism that Sorrells has taken up that ministry full time and transferred to Zimbabwe.

He's made friends with sports stars and coaches from parts of the globe where people have little access to the gospel. He's met with government officials in several Muslim countries. He knows Olympic athletes from all over the world.

"Sports helps build bridges to people," Sorrells said during a recent interview at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Cauthen Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va. "I've seen the Lord open a lot of doors."

Sorrells marvels that he's the one walking through those open doors. "I'm just a country boy. I don't have a background in athletics," he said.

But he added that on Madagascar—an island nation off Africa's eastern coast—God showed him a lack of athletic training didn't matter. More than 650 people accepted Christ as Savior through the first sports evangelism project Sorrells coordinated during the 1990 Indian Ocean Island Games on Madagascar. Malagasy Baptists, Southern Baptist volunteers and missionaries participated in the evangelistic outreach.

The project was a turning point for Sorrells and his wife, Samilee.

"God showed us he was doing

something through us for which we really had no 'credentials,'" said Sorrells. "Once we make the adjustments God requires of us, it's like stepping onto a moving escalator."

A big adjustment was the family's 1995 move to Zimbabwe.

"I fought (going there) for a number of months," Mrs. Sorrells admitted. "I didn't want to leave Madagascar. But God just wouldn't let the idea go away."

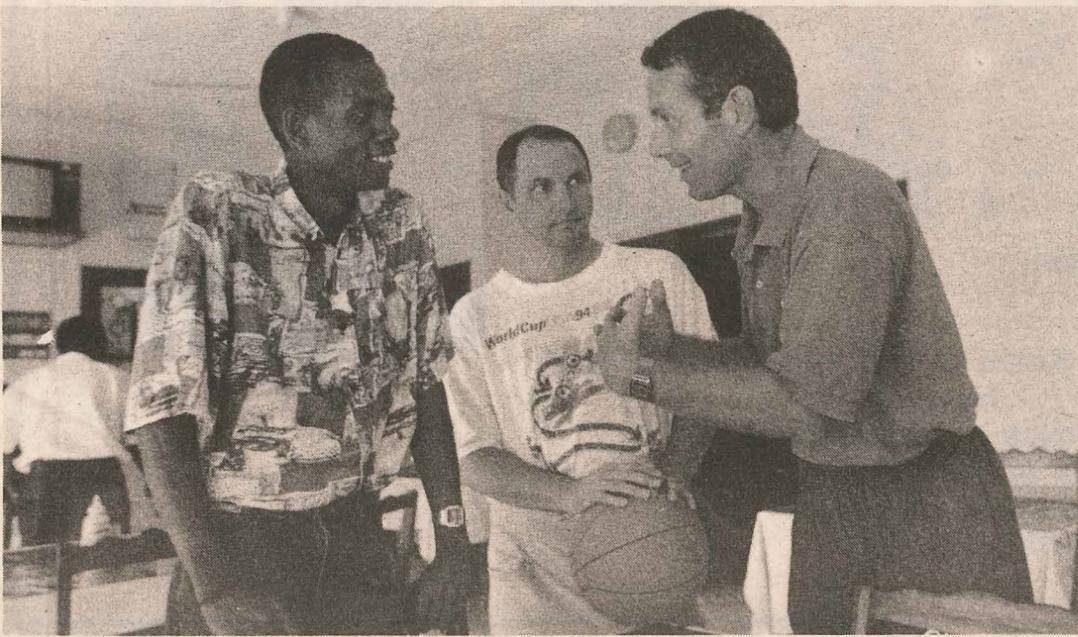
The couple and their four children moved to Zimbabwe in April 1995, so Sorrells could help with the All Africa Games held there later that year. The games—a preliminary for the 1996 Olympics—drew 6,000 athletes from 49 countries. As an administrative officer for the games, Sorrells established ministry contacts across Africa.

"Isaiah 55:5 says that 'nations that do not know you will run to you, because of the Lord your God,'" he said. "We're seeing that happen through these mega-sporting events."

"Being on mission with God means we must constantly adjust our lives to his plans," Sorrells added. "God wants us to get in step—by faith—with what he's already doing."

SPORTS RELATIONSHIPS

Fred Sorrells (right) a missionary with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, visits with a lieutenant with a national guard unit in Madagascar. The man prayed to accept Jesus as his personal Savior. (BP photo by Roy Burroughs)



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NOTICES

How to plug in

The purpose of **Project HELP: Child Advocacy**, the 1996-97 Woman's Missionary Union national ministry project, is to focus on ways to educate and involve Christians in responding to needs of children (birth-18 years), and to affirm the church's role as their advocate within the church, the community and the world.

What is child advocacy? Diana Garland, author of "Precious in His Sight," says: "An advocate is one who stands up and speaks out for another. An advocate confronts injustice and supports ways in which people can live together."

Here are some ways you and your church can plug into Project HELP: Child Advocacy:

- ◆ Pray for our children and youth.
- ◆ Tutor a child who needs special help.
- ◆ Serve as a friend or offer your home as a place for a child who lives in a foster home, residential treatment facility or children's home.
- ◆ Provide a camp scholarship.
- ◆ Write letters to a child who never gets a letter.
- ◆ Involve children in your congregation in worship by letting the children design bulletin covers, collect the offering, play musical instruments or utilize other musical gifts.

During Focus on WMU, Feb. 9-15, 1997, we encourage your church to get involved in Project HELP: Child Advocacy by:

- ◆ Pledging the number of hours you will work with children.
- ◆ Collecting an offering for either a local child advocacy agency, a state child advocacy ministry or to the national WMU child advocacy project.

- ◆ Invite a member of the Kentucky WMU child advocacy task force to speak.
- ◆ Participate in a book study of "Precious In His Sight" by Diana Garland.

All WMU directors and pastors will receive a resource booklet in a January mailing.



"Hand in Hand"

Kentucky WMU annual meeting

April 18-19, 1997

Sessions at 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. Friday
8:50 a.m.-noon Saturday

St. Matthews Baptist Church
3515 Grandview Avenue
Louisville

More on page 3



Featured Speakers



Wanda Lee
National WMU President



Diana Garland
"Precious in His Sight"

Missionaries



Travis Collins
Nigeria



Keri Collins
Nigeria



Dottie Williamson
Mississippi

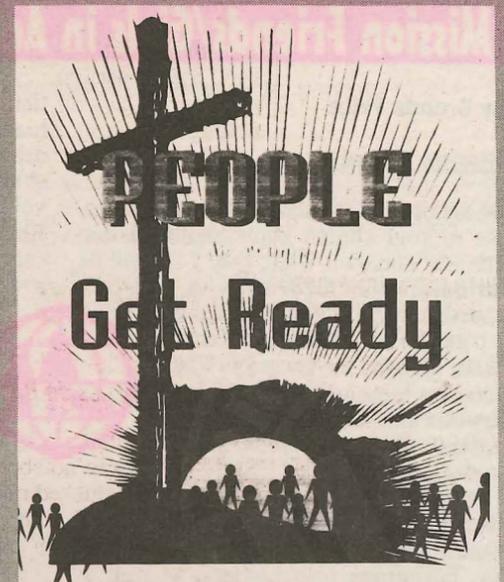


Pat Bellinger
Liberia

Kentucky State Acteens Conference

April 4-5, 1997
First Baptist Church
Murray

- ◆ Gather with more than 1,000 girls like yourself from Kentucky!
- ◆ Meet exciting missionaries and hear their stories!
- ◆ Take part in great music!
- ◆ Be challenged to allow God to use you!
- ◆ Attend special interest sessions!
- ◆ And much, MUCH MORE



Details on page 3

A personal word

Holy Spirit's movement in missions is no coincidence



Kay Trisler
Executive Director
Kentucky WMU

Is it coincidental when missionaries feel unexplainable joy and peace on their birthdays at the same time thousands of Christians across the United States are praying for them? Is it coincidental that WMU has chosen to promote child advocacy at a time when our nation has reached an all-time high in child abuse and neglect? No, it is not coincidental. It is the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit.

Today we are seeing folks involved in missions as never before. John and I have been visiting churches in the Louisville area and each is involved in

a missions project. Some projects are through the efforts of WMU; others, through Sunday school; others are being carried out by individuals.

For years we have been praying that our men and boys would be more involved in missions. As I travel throughout our state, I see wonderful participation by men, women, boys and girls in missions efforts.

The Eliza Broadus Offering benefits all areas of our state. It is great that some churches can support their own missions efforts, but in remote areas, the inner city and areas where there

are few workers, we need to share our resources. Please give generously throughout this year to this offering, because as we give cooperatively, all parts of our state can benefit.

In just a few weeks, we will be turning over the calendar to 1997 and moving on to the year 2000. Have you made a commitment to what you want to do for your Lord in the area of missions between now and the year 2000? If you have not, could it be you need to commit to be an advocate for children who will be our future?

In the past, we may have concen-

trated on adult work and missed the opportunity to nurture children who are now adults. Those children are now adults who could be using their gifts in ministry, but have chosen a life of unhappiness without Christ.

Look around you in church, in the community and next door and find ways to minister to children.

It is not coincidental that you made a commitment to use your gifts as a missions encourager and we are seeing the results of your efforts. Worship is the foundation of missions. I will be praying with you in the year ahead.

IDEAS THAT WORK

Women on Mission

By Anna Mary Byrdwell

◆ "Let's go to Ridgecrest in June." "June?" you say. "That's six months away." Sure, June is six months away, but Ridgecrest reservation and travel plans need to be made far ahead.

All women are invited to the "Women's Weekender," June 27-29, a new Friday-Sunday meeting featuring Bible study, music, special interest WMU break-out sessions and more.

The WMU conference will be Monday-Friday, June 30-July 4. This will equip leaders for the 1997-98 year.

Barbara Joiner of Columbiana, Ala., and Karla Worley of Franklin, Tenn., will be leaders during both sessions. Need more information? Call us at (502) 244-6485 or fax us at (502) 244-6486.

◆ **Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship** is an organization for those who are RNs, LPNs, student nurses or retired nurses. Our mailing list has more than 350 names and addresses. Many have served as volunteers for camp and in missions overseas. There will be a dinner for nurses April 18 during the Kentucky WMU annual meeting. If you are in this category, and not on our mailing list, send your name and address.

The national meeting of Baptist Nursing Fellowship will be March 6-9 at the Westin

Hotel in Charlotte, N.C. Kentucky chapter officers will be going. Interested? Let us know, we might travel together.

◆ **Freida Tackett** of Cynthiana Baptist Church reported on a Women on Mission celebration that was "FANTastic." Place-mats were cut from wallpaper in the shape of FANS, table decorations were made with folded FANS mounted on styrofoam bases that were decorated with Spanish moss and ivy. Names of missionaries who had birthdays were printed on a tongue depressor handle of a miniature FAN. The program included FANTastic food, singing, testimony, prayer.

◆ **We would like to share with others what you have done.** Send us a brief description of your event or activity.

◆ **January is "Make Your Will" month.** Have you considered including missions causes in your will? Write or call for a brochure on further information.

◆ **Event for women:** Feb. 25, 1997. WMU directors have received reservation information about this event to be held in Louisville during the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.



Acteens

By Julie Keith

◆ "People Get Ready" is the theme for the 1997 State Acteens Conference to be held April 4-5 at First Baptist Church in Murray. See pages 1-A and 3-A for information about this conference. A registration form is on page 3-A. Registration must be received by March 27, 1997. No refunds will be received after the same date. In January, you will receive a State Acteens Conference poster.

◆ **Are you looking for some new and exciting ways to involve your Acteens and youth group in ministry?** Come to the 1997 Creative Ministries Festival March 7-8 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. This event is sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention student department and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. This is excellent training for Acteens Activators and youth groups preparing for mission trips. A brochure about this conference will be mailed to Acteens advisors in January.

◆ **Project HELP: Child Advocacy and Acteens VENTURE '97.** Acteens are a special part of the WMU organization so they should be a part of Focus on WMU, Feb. 9-15, 1997.

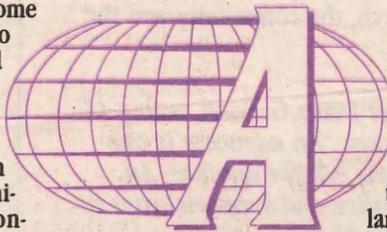
A great way to link Project HELP: Child Advocacy and Focus on WMU is for Acteens to participate in VENTURE '97. VENTURE '97 will take place Feb. 8. That day, national

WMU is encouraging thousands of teenage girls across the country to participate in a ministry related to Project HELP: Child Advocacy. Another way Acteens can get involved in Project HELP: Child Advocacy is to give money to the offering for the Nimit Mai Nan Dormitory in Naan, Thailand.

◆ **Home missions.** Welcome aboard Mission Air, the official airline of home missions, winging you and your teenagers on a simulated flight through America's heartland to see how new churches are planned, started, established. This fun drama gets everyone in the act, while the entertaining in-flight video adds a touch of humor and realism.

◆ **Meet your 1997 state Acteens panelists:** Autumn Alcott, First Church, Murray; Jennifer Atherton, Lone Oak First Church, Paducah; Chrissy Byrd, Harrodsburg Church, Harrodsburg; Megan Holbrook, First Church, Mt. Vernon; Nicole Ray, First Church, Lawrenceburg; Crystal Rose, Bethel Church, Gilbertsville.

◆ **Acteens dinner at WMU meeting:** Friday night, April 18, 5 p.m. EST.



Mission Friends/Girls in Action

By Brenda Price

Mission Friends

◆ **Recognize Mission Friends:** Do people in your church know about Mission Friends? Focus on WMU, Feb. 9-15, will be an opportunity for leaders to help the church recognize Mission Friends as a part of WMU. Plan with the church WMU director for Focus on WMU. Ideas for this emphasis are in January-February-March *Start* and the 1996-97 *WMU Year Book*, pages 26 and 27.

◆ **As an advocate for children,** lead your church in Project HELP: Child Advocacy. Encourage preschoolers, as well as adults, to give an offering during Focus on WMU to the national WMU overseas project to help children in Thailand. Become aware of opportunities within your own community where you can help provide resources for children in need. Encourage adults to donate books, toys and other materials needed in your own preschool room.

◆ **Don't forget the home mission study this quarter.** The home mission unit focuses on multi-family housing in St. Louis, Mo. The unit of study for all ages of preschoolers is available in the 1996-97 *Foreign and Home Mission Studies Teaching Guide for Preschoolers*.

Girls in Action

◆ **Get involved.** Hand in hand Girls in Ac-

tion members and leaders can lead others in your church to be involved in "Project HELP: Child Advocacy." How? Here are some ideas:

☆ **Create an awareness** of children in your community who have special needs. Plan to collect food, clothing, school supplies, craft items and other materials for day care centers, shelters, missions and children's homes. Be sure to check with the appropriate person to see what items are needed.

☆ **During "Focus on WMU,"** Feb. 9-15, encourage children and adults to give an offering to the overseas ministry project to help children in Thailand.

☆ **Ask adults** in your church to give a book to the church library in honor of children in your church. Ideal books would be those from the reading lists for Buffy Bookworm Reading Club and GinA and Friends Reading Club.

☆ **Bring girls** to the "GA Missions Event," Saturday, April 19 during the WMU annual meeting at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. The cost is \$1.00 per person attending. No pre-registration for the event is required. Further information will be in the next *Kentucky Notes*.

☆ **Encourage adults** to provide camp scholarships for girls attending Cedar Crest or Jonathan Creek. Note dates and cost in the camp section of this issue of "Kentucky Notes." Church GA directors will receive complete camp information in January.



WMU leadership

By Anne Hitt

◆ **Your WMU has a wonderful opportunity** for ministry this year through Project Help: Child Advocacy.

A resource kit which can guide you through the entire process—from researching your community to reporting the outcome of your work—is available from WMU. A video, "Time for Children," is available for loan from our office.

This project is not limited to just one day or week but can be done throughout this year and will hopefully be continued into the future.

◆ **Focus on WMU** is scheduled for Feb. 9-15. This would be a great time to have a study of the 1996-97 emphasis book, *Hand in Hand: Partners Working Together with God*. In your worship service that Sunday, you might want to use the choral reading in the January-February-March *Dimension*. Other suggestions can be found on pages 26 and 27 of the 1996-97 *Year Book*.

Plan some activities which will help the entire church to know what WMU is doing in your church and how others can be involved.

◆ **"Start Something New"** is the theme for the Season of Home Missions, which will be observed March 2-9, 1997. In preparation for this observance, lead your church in the home mission study of church planting as a way to motivate them to reach out beyond the walls of your church to start new ministries and reach those who otherwise are not being reached. Excellent suggestions are

available in the *Year Book and Dimension*.

Educate your people about Annie Armstrong—who she was, why the offering is named for her and what the offering is used for. People are more likely to give when they know what their money is supporting. Set a goal which is reachable, yet requires some commitment and sacrifice.

◆ **Make plans now** to attend WMU week at Ridgecrest June 28-July 4, 1997. This year there will be two sessions: one on the weekend and the other Monday through Friday.

◆ **Thank you** for giving me the opportunity to work with you this semester. I have met many wonderful and committed WMU ladies. You are fortunate to have such an excellent, committed staff, president and Executive Board. I have been blessed richly by all the experiences and opportunities. As I return to my home in South Carolina, you will all have a special place in my heart, and I will pray for you.

NOTE: It has been our privilege to have Anne Hitt serve as an intern in our office during the fall semester. She will graduate from Southern Seminary in December with a degree in Christian education, and she has special interest in work with WMU on the state level.



UPCOMING EVENTS

State Acteens Conference

- ◆ Registration begins at 4:00 p.m. (C.S.T.) Friday; the first session will begin at 7:00 p.m. (C.S.T.). The conference concludes at 4:30 p.m. (C.S.T.) Saturday.
- ◆ A confirmation letter and map will be sent once your registration is received.
- ◆ An offering will be taken to help with expenses for the 1997 Kentucky State Activator team to New England.
- ◆ Three ministry projects will be offered Saturday. One project will help Lighthouse Ministry and they have requested that we bring the following items: Baby clothes (preemie to 3Toddler), pink and blue Bibles, pacifiers, diapers, crib sheets and canned goods.

HOTELS IN THE WESTERN KENTUCKY AREA

(Ask for a room in the Kentucky State Acteens Conference block of rooms.)
You are responsible for making hotel arrangements for your group.

DAYS INN

Andrew, Manager
Highway 641 South
Murray, KY 42071
(502)753-6706

\$50 single (refrigerator, microwave, breakfast)
\$55 double (refrigerator, microwave, breakfast)
Deadline March 15, 1997

SHONEY'S INN

Melinda Edwards, Manager
Highway 641 North
Murray, KY 42071
(502)753-5353

\$46 double
\$5 each additional occupant (up to four)
Deadline March 1, 1997

AMERI-HOST HOTEL

1210 N. 12th St.
Murray, KY 42071
(502)759-5910
\$45 (1-4 people)
Deadline March 28, 1997

HOLIDAY INN

Highway 45
Mayfield, KY 42066 (30 minutes to Murray)
(502) 247-3700
\$47 double (1-4 people)
\$44 king
Deadline February 22, 1997

RAMADA INN RESORT (Kentucky Dam)

Tim Hawkins, Manager
2184 U.S. Highway 62 East

Gilbertsville, KY 42044

(502)362-4278
\$57 (4 people) Ask for Acteens Group
Rooms must be secured with a credit card
Deadline March 21, 1997

BEL AIR MOTEL

Highway 641
Gilbertsville, KY 42044
(502)362-4254
\$41 double (queen beds)
\$5 for each additional occupant
Deadline March 1, 1997

KENBAR INN

Highway 641
Gilbertsville, KY 42044
(502)362-8652

\$50 double

KENTUCKY DAM VILLAGE STATE RESORT PARK

Chryll Miller, Manager
P.O. Box 69
Gilbertsville, KY 42044
(502)362-4271

\$57.54 double

KENLAKE STATE RESORT PARK

Gloria Peck-Hargrove, Contact Person
542 Kenlake Rd.
Hardin, KY 42048 (20 minutes from Murray)
(502)474-2211
(800)658-0143, Reservations

\$40.40 single
\$51.31 double

Deadline March 1, 1997

WMU annual meeting

HOTELS FOR WMU ANNUAL MEETING

1. Best Western

\$60.00 double
(502) 267-8100
1301 Kentucky Mills Dr.
Deadline: April 19, 1997
Exit 17

2. Microtel Inn

Exit 17
(To open December 1, 1996)

3. Doubletree Club

(formerly Hurstbourne Center)
\$60.00 double
(502) 491-4830
9700 Bluegrass Pkwy.
Deadline: March 28, 1997
Exit 15

4. Wilson Inn

\$44.95 double
\$54.00 suite
(502) 499-0000
9802 Bunsen Way
Deadline: March 18, 1997
Exit 15

5. Marriott East

\$69.00 double
(502) 499-6220
(800)228-9290
1903 Embassy Square Blvd.
Deadline April 4, 1997
Exit 15

6. Days Inn Hurstbourne Area

\$52.95 double
(502) 591-1040
1850 Embassy Square Blvd.
Deadline March 28, 1997
Exit 15

7. Hampton Inn

\$60.00 double
(502) 491-2577
1902 Embassy Square Blvd.
Deadline April 4, 1997
Exit 15

8. Travel Lodge

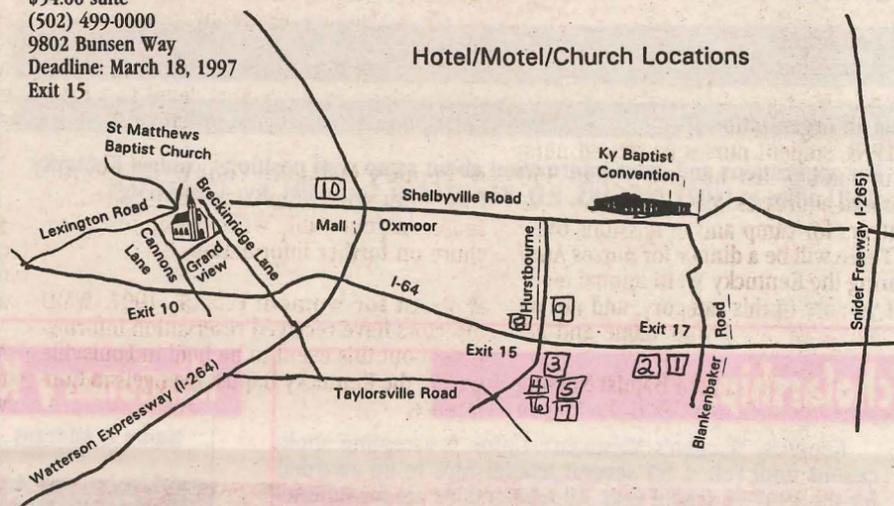
\$54.00 double
(502) 425-8010
9340 Blairwood Rd.
Deadline March 18, 1997
Exit 15

9. Holiday Inn Hurstbourne

\$73.00 double
(502) 426-2600
1325 Hurstbourne Ln.
Deadline April 3, 1997
Exit 15

10. Days Inn East

\$58.00 double
(502) 896-8871
4621 Shelbyville Rd.
Deadline March 18, 1997



To the church: From Watterson Expressway, exit 18 Breckinridge Lane, north to Grandview, left on Grandview; From I-64, exit 10 Cannons Lane, north to Grandview, right on Grandview.

ACTEENS REGISTRATION FORM

Church: _____
Association: _____
Advisor: _____
Complete Address: _____
Daytime Phone Number: _____
Number Attending: _____

Total Number of Acteens and Advisors (One chaperone per seven Acteens): _____
(Number Attending) X \$14.00 = Total Enclosed: \$ _____
(\$14 conference fee covers registration, one T-shirt, and other gifts. Make checks payable to Kentucky WMU.)

STUDIACT: During the opening session on Friday evening we will be recognizing those Acteens who have completed a StudiAct Level this past year. They will be asked to: wear regalia, line up and walk in with others who have completed the same level and sit together during the evening session. Please mark how many will be recognized in each level. (Write "NONE" if appropriate.)

Queen: _____
Queen with Scepter: _____
Queen Regent: _____
Queen Regent in Service: _____
Service Aide: _____

Mail form with payment to: State Acteens Conference, Kentucky WMU, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569. Questions? Call (502) 244-6485 Due before March 27, 1997!

President's perspective



Peggy Hicks
President
Kentucky WMU

Hand in hand we have worked together for the cause of missions. How very important is our task!

Creating awareness, sharing information that helps our churches to know what missions is all about and helping them become involved is what you do so well. We need to continue to urge giving for state missions needs and the Lottie Moon Offering for foreign missions.

"Focus on WMU" in February gives you another opportunity to make your church aware of all WMU organizations and their missions commitment. You can help church members become participants in "Project Help:

Child Advocacy." Make the focus on WMU a time to involve people as advocates for children. Children need people who will touch them, hold their hands and be their voices. If you haven't read Diana Garland's book, you will want to see what insights she shares. "Precious in His Sight" will open the hearts and minds of your church family.

February, the heart month, brings us to the heart of church growth in our home mission study. "Start Something New" is the theme. This might be just the motivation your church needs to reach new people, start new ministries and possibly plant new

churches.

March will blow in with the home mission week of prayer continuing the emphasis on new church starts. Why don't you depict the areas in your community that have needs that could be met through a ministry of your church. People in multi-family housing, those in manufactured home parks and members of people groups may never come to your church, so there is a need to take church to them. What a challenge! Pray for ministries like these and become involved.

Annual meeting, April 18-19, will be held at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. Preparation and plan-

ning are being done. Wanda Lee, our new national WMU president will be with us Friday morning. Travis and Keri Collins, missionaries to Nigeria, will bring our theme focus—"Hand in Hand." You will not want to miss any session. Our program people are outstanding. April is a busy month, so be sure to mark your calendar.

When you see any of the Kentucky WMU Executive Board, express to them your gratitude for all they do for missions in Kentucky. The quality of leadership and commitment is seen in our board meetings. You elected them to serve and they serve so faithfully. Pray for them and your staff.

MISSIONS INFORMATION

Summer camps

Be part of something beyond yourself this summer.
Be a camp staffer.

Positions *Length of service* *Qualifications* *Application Deadline*

Cedar Crest

Unit Leaders Lifeguard Counselors Kitchen coord.	8 weeks	College age	Feb. 13
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Assist. counselor	5 - 7 weeks	High School Junior or Senior	Feb. 13
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Volunteer Nurses	1 week		May 1
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Jonathan Creek

Unit leader Recreation director	3 weeks	College age	March 14
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Volunteer counselor	1 - 3 weeks		April 24
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For applications and more information about camp staff positions, contact Kentucky WMU office at (502) 244-6485, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, Ky. 40253-6569.

Plan now for 1997 summer camp

◆ **GA or Acteens camp:** \$80 per person
GA (completed grades 4-6)
Acteens (completed grades 7-12)

◆ **Mother-daughter overnight camp:** \$20 per person
(Girls who have completed grades 1-3 and their mothers)

◆ Cedar Crest 1997

June 16-June 22	Staff training
June 23-June 27	GA camp
July 7-July 11	GA camp
July 14-July 18	GA/Acteens camp
July 21-July 25	Acteens camp
July 28-Aug. 1	GA camp
Aug. 4-Aug. 8	GA camp

◆ Mother/daughter overnight camp: Cedar Crest

July 11-July 12
July 18-July 19
July 25-July 26
Aug. 1-Aug. 2

◆ Jonathan Creek 1997

May 16-May 17	Staff training
June 16-June 20	GA/Acteens camp
June 23-June 27	GA camp
July 7-July 11	GA camp

◆ Mother/daughter overnight camp: Jonathan Creek

June 20-June 21
June 27-June 28

Scholarships

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is accepting applications until Feb. 1 for several scholarships to be awarded for the 1997-98 school year. All scholarships are for fulltime students who have a minimum 2.7 grade point average.

◆ **Snider-Creal Acteens scholarships.** Seniors who have completed Queen Regent level in Studiact are eligible for one of eight \$600 scholarships. One scholarship is available for each of the eight geographical areas of Kentucky.

◆ **Anniversary scholarships.** Students at Campbellsville University, Cumberland College, Georgetown College, Boyce Bible School, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College and Oneida High School receive these scholarships. Recipients are selected by the school presidents. Recipients must be Kentucky natives. Scholarships are based on financial need. Students make application at the president's office at their school.

◆ **State missionaries' children scholarships.** Daughters/sons of state missionaries who want to attend Georgetown College, Cumberland College, Campbellsville University or a collegiate program of nursing receive \$500 scholarships.

◆ **Scholarships for seminary students.** Amount: \$500-\$750.

Rubye D. Wetterer scholarship: The only seminary scholarship for which either men or women are eligible. It is given to a seminary student who is a native of Kentucky, has completed a minimum of 9 hours of seminary work before application and is preparing for a vocational career in missions or WMU work.

Mrs. George B. Eater Scholarship: Given to women from Kentucky who have completed a minimum of 9 hours of seminary work and who are preparing for missions, social work or WMU leadership.

Janie Cree Bose Anderson scholarship: Given to women attending college or seminary in preparation for Christian service.

The total amount awarded and the amount of each scholarship is determined by interest income from money set aside by women more than 40 years ago. Applicants should call or write the Kentucky WMU office for a scholarship brochure and official application. All applications must be post-marked no later than Feb. 1.

Missionary Kids

Sons and daughters of Southern Baptist foreign missionaries attending Kentucky schools

Name & Address	Birthdate	School and Year	Parents	Country
Atkinson, Amy L. 3099 Kirklevinston Dr. Apt. 30 Lexington, KY 40517	02/10/75 Junior	University of Kentucky	Howard/Libby Atkinson	Colombia
Atkinson, Susan R. 3099 Kirklevinston Dr. Apt. 30 Lexington, KY 40517	12/01/76 Sophomore	University of Kentucky	Howard/Libby Atkinson	Colombia
Dan, Stefana D. SBTS Box 8-1632 2825 Lexington Rd. Louisville, KY 40280	12/09/71	Southern Seminary Graduate Student	E. Titus/Fulga Dan	Australia
Dillard, Brandon J. 14 Greenbriar Manor, Apt. F-3 Campbellsville, KY 42718	02/01/76	Campbellsville University Sophomore	Jim/Janet Dillard	Kenya
Graham, Brian L. CPO Box 618 200 West College St. Campbellsville, KY 42718	01/30/78	Campbellsville University Sophomore	David/Melody Graham	Winward Islands
Harris, Christopher L. P.O. Box 73025 Bellevue, KY 41073	03/21/76	Northern KY University Sophomore	Larry/Marie Harris	CSI-E. Asia
Hicks, Sommer M. Box 640 200 W. College St. Campbellsville, KY 42718	10/05/77	Campbellsville University Sophomore	Raymond/Bev Hicks	Assoc. To CPO A.D.- Mid-East
Rock, Jonathan C. (Jon) 1346 Village Dr., Apt. D-25 Lexington, KY 40504	02/20/74	University of Kentucky Senior	Clayton/Charolette Rock	Argentina
Wakefield, Mark CPO Box 1022 200 W. College St. Campbellsville, KY 42718	11/08/74	Campbellsville University Senior	Larry/Peggy Wakefield	Mexico
Wakefield, Wendy D. 305 12th St., Apt. 3 Bowling Green, KY 42101	03/13/77	Western KY University Sophomore	Larry/Peggy Wakefield	Mexico
Walker, Amy E. CPO Box 431 200 W. College St. Campbellsville, KY 42718	01/08/77	Campbellsville University Sophomore	Michael/Wanda Walker	Ghana

CHRISTMAS

Christmas programs and events across Kentucky

North Central Region

- BURLINGTON—Bellevue Baptist Church, Christmas cantata, "Because It's Christmas," Dec. 22, 7 p.m.; Christmas Day service at 4 p.m.
- CRESCENT SPRINGS—Crescent Springs Baptist Church, children's musical, "Twas the Night Before Christmas," Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.; live nativity, Dec. 18-22, 6:30-9 p.m. nightly; Christmas cantata, "An Old Fashioned Christmas," Dec. 22 at 10:55 a.m.
- ERLANGER—Erlanger Baptist Church, Living Christmas Tree, Dec. 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15. All performances at 5:30 and 8 p.m. except Dec. 6 and 13, which will only have 7:30 p.m. performances.
- FLORENCE—Florence Baptist Church, musical drama, "A Time for Christmas," Dec. 6-9, 8 p.m. nightly. (See ad below)
- MAYSVILLE—Central Baptist Church, musical program, "Promise of Peace," Dec. 22 at 7 p.m.
- WILLIAMSTOWN—Williamstown Baptist Church, Christmas cantata "Joy Came Down," Dec. 15 at 7 p.m.

Northeastern Region

- ASHLAND—First Baptist Church, musical program "A Thrill of Hope," Dec. 15.

Central Region

- FRANKFORT—First Baptist Church, Christmas Store Outreach for needy families, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. -1 p.m.
- LEXINGTON—Chevy Chase Baptist Church, musical program, "A Thrill of Hope," Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m.
- LEXINGTON—Trinity Baptist Church, a revival, "Keeping Christ in Christmas," Dec. 8-11 at 7:30 p.m. with Charlie Rice as preacher and David Soden as musician.
- LOUISVILLE—Rockford Lane Baptist Church, Christmas concert featuring David Pitt and Jennifer Lauletta, Dec. 22 at 6:30 p.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Deer Park Baptist Church, Service of Lessons and Carols, Dec. 15 at 4 p.m.
- LOUISVILLE—St. Matthews Baptist Church and Latin American Mission of St. Matthews, Live Nativity Scene and Open House, Dec. 8 from 6-9 p.m.; Original Christmas pageant, "The Jesus Gift," Dec. 15, 10:45 a.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Audubon Baptist Church, Christmas cantata, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Vilvaldi's Gloria, Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Clifton Baptist Church, Christmas cantata, Dec. 22.
- LOUISVILLE—Gethsemane Baptist

Church, Christmas cantata, 10:55 a.m.

- LOUISVILLE—Midlane Park Baptist Church, "From the Realms of Glory," a music drama by the sanctuary choir, Dec. 22, at 10:45 a.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Lyndon Baptist Church, guest speaker Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, Dec. 15 at 10:45 a.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Walnut Street Baptist Church, Living Christmas Tree, Dec. 6 and 13 at 6 and 9 p.m. and Dec. 7, 8 and 14 at 5 and 8 p.m. (Admission free, but tickets required). Neighborhood Christmas Store Party for people in need, Dec. 14 at 9:30 a.m.-12 noon.
- LOUISVILLE—Fern Creek Baptist Church, musical program, "City of Light," Dec. 22 at 10:45 a.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, music drama, "The Gift," Dec. 22 at 6:30 p.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Highland Baptist Church, Vilvaldi's Gloria, Dec. 8 at 11 a.m.; Youth drama, "Best Christmas Pageant Ever" Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.
- LOUISVILLE—Parkland Baptist Church, music drama, "Two from Galilee," Dec. 13, 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. (Free but tickets required)
- LOUISVILLE—Parkwood Baptist Church, Handel's "Messiah," Dec. 15 at 6:30 p.m.
- LOUISVILLE—West Broadway Baptist Church, Christmas cantata, Dec. 15 at 10:45 a.m.
- MAGNOLIA—Magnolia Baptist Church, Christmas cantata, "Come Home for Christmas, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 15 at 11 a.m.

Southeastern Region

- HAZARD—Petrey Memorial Baptist Church, youth presentation, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.; children's presentation, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m.; Christmas Day, candlelight service at 8 p.m.
- LONDON—First Baptist Church, Vilvaldi's "Gloria," presented by choirs from First Baptist and First Christian churches Dec. 15 at 3 p.m.

Western Region

- MADISONVILLE—First Baptist Church, "Return to Bethlehem," Dec. 14, 16 and 17 at 5-8 p.m. and Dec. 16 at 2-6 p.m.
- OWENSBORO—Walnut Memorial Baptist Church, "The Majesty of Christmas," a music drama Dec. 14, 15 and 17 at 7 p.m. (Admission free, but tickets required)
- OWENSBORO—Bellevue Baptist Church, music and drama program, "A Bellevue Christmas," Dec. 15 at 4 and 7 p.m. and Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.

South Central Region

- BERE A—Berea Baptist Church, Christmas cantata, Dec. 15 at 10:45 a.m.

Southwestern Region

- HOPKINSVILLE—First Baptist Church, A Service of Lessons and Carols, Dec. 15 at 10:45 a.m.; Keys of Praise II, a service led by three pianists, Dec. 15 at 6 p.m.

One more chance

If your church's program or ministry isn't listed, you have one more chance. Next week's Recorder will carry another listing, for events for Dec. 12 and later. Fax information to (502) 244-6474 or call the Recorder office at (502) 244-6470.

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George Frederick Handel's

Messiah

Performed by the 100-voice Campbellsville University
Concert Chorus and University Chamber Orchestra

Thursday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.
Westport Road Baptist Church
Louisville

Special feature: Bring your own score of *Messiah* and sing along on the choruses: "And the Glory," "O, Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion," "Glory to God" and "Hallelujah."

The Western Recorder is proud to sponsor this free public concert of Handel's *Messiah* as part of our commitment to the religious arts and in recognition of the upcoming groundbreaking for Campbellsville University's Gosser Fine Arts Center Jan. 28, 1997.



A Time for
Christmas

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for the 1996 Holiday Season!**

This moving drama will carry you through time to unveil that the true meaning of Christmas is still very much alive. With a 200-voice choir and cast you will be dazzled, as well as blessed!

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December 6 - 9, 8:00 PM**
Doors will open at 7:15 PM

The presentation is free, however a love offering will be received. A nursery will not be provided.

Florence Baptist Church is conveniently located at 283 Main Street just 1 mile east of exit #180 off I-75 in Florence, Kentucky.

For more information, please call
371-7141

WORLD VIEW

■ **Bishop upsets some with dial-in confessions.** Bishop Michael Cox has ruffled the feathers of the church's hierarchy by offering "telephone confessions" to Catholics as a means of raising money to restore his church in Birr, Ireland. Irish Roman Catholic hierarchy warned that Cox's service has no value in the eyes of the church.

■ **China church ordains 50 priests.** The state-controlled Catholic Church in China has ordained as priests 50 graduates of one of the nation's biggest seminaries. Catholics in communist China are allowed to worship publicly only if they belong to the state-sponsored Catholic Patriotic Association, which appoints its own bishops and does not recognize the pope as spiritual leader.

■ **Nigerian oil boycott urged.** The joint overseas mission board of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) called for a worldwide boycott of oil produced in Nigeria. Nigeria has been a target of religious and human rights groups since 1993 when strongman Gen. Sani Abacha arrested Moshood Abiola, the apparent winner of an election for president.

■ **French leader urges resistance against racism.** The president of the French Protestant Federation is urging churches to lead a new "resistance movement" against rising racism in France. In a letter written to the 16 Reformed, Lutheran and evangelical churches affiliated with his organization, Jacques Stewart called for a new spiritual and theological study of racism. Stewart said racism "is a way of negating the biblical foundations of Judaism and Christianity."

Report claims U.K.'s Christian identity in peril

ROCHESTER, England (RNS)—A new report by a committee jointly sponsored by the Church of England and the Council of Churches for Britain and Ireland warns that at some time in the not-too-distant future, Britain may no longer be a recognizably Christian country.

The report, by the Mission Theological Advisory Group, found that while people still express a belief in God, there is a "drift" away from belonging to a Christian church and an increasing reliance on such things as horoscopes and soothsayers.

"A very large number of people still claim to believe in God, to pray, to believe reasonably traditional things about the person of Christ," said Church of England Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali of the diocese of Rochester. Such believing would remain recognizably Christian only for so long, the bishop said.

"There will come a time when people loose their moorings altogether and orthodox Christian belief in the population at large will become much more diffuse and much more mixed with other things that people are picking up.

"Drifting belief, without belonging to any particular institution, is bound to get more and more mixed, pick-and-mix, and further and further away from orthodox Christianity," he said.

Former French head of Scientology found guilty of manslaughter & fraud

LYON, France (RNS)—The former head of the Church of Scientology in Lyon, France, has been convicted of manslaughter and fraud in connection with the suicide of a 31-year-old industrial designer who prosecutors said was desperate because he did not have the money to pay for church counseling courses.

Jean-Jacques Mazier was sentenced Nov. 22 to 18 months in jail and fined \$100,000. He also was sentenced to an additional 18 months of probation.

Fourteen other Scientology officials or supporters also were convicted of fraud, attempted fraud or aiding and abetting fraud, while another eight Scientologists were acquitted. Among those convicted was Louis-Michel Brolles, a Roman Catholic priest, found guilty of abetting fraud. All 14 convicted received suspended sentences.

Mazier was accused of pressuring Patrice Vic, who jumped to his death from his 12th floor apartment in March 1988, to come up

with \$6,000 to pay for a church "purification" course. The day previous to his suicide, Vic was accompanied by Mazier when the victim went to ask his wife to lend him the money.

Mazier's harsher than expected sentence was hailed by Marie Geneve, president of the Paris-based Center Against Mental Manipulation, which views Scientology as a cult and business masquerading as a bona fide religion. "It's proof that the magistrates are beginning to grasp the importance of the problem," she said.

Heber Jentzsch, president of the Los Angeles-based Church of Scientology International, said he was "pleased" the church's national leaders in France were among the eight acquitted Scientologists.

Both French and German officials have launched fierce attacks against Scientology in recent months. Church officials have labeled the attacks politically motivated and violations of freedom of religion.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

SEEKING: Minister of youth and children who is good at planning and organizing. Approx. 20 hours a week, but may vary. Send resumé to: Ballardville Baptist Church, 4901 S. Hwy. 53, Crestwood, KY 40014, Attn: Search Committee Chairperson.

HIRING: Part-time church secretary. Salary negotiable. Send resumé to: Calvary Baptist Church, 36 School House Road, Frankfort, KY 40601, Attn: Personnel Committee.

WANTED: Part-time children's/music minister for small growing church in Georgetown area. For more information, call (502) 867-0356.

NEEDED: Used church pews. Call: (502) 867-0356.

WANTED: Permanent, part-time director/minister of youth. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Oak Ridge Baptist Church, 6056 Taylor Mill Road, Covington, KY 41015. Resumé should include applicant's experience and/or education for the position.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education/youth. Our church's average Sunday school attendance is in the 180s. Please send resumé to: David Prather, Pastor, P.O. Box 161, Amelia, OH 45102.

SEEKING: Northeast Park Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind., is accepting applications for the position of part-time youth minister. Please send resumé to: 1215 N. Boeke Road, Evansville, IN 47711.

SEEKING: Minister of music (part-time) for a Louisville congregation and choir who really loves to sing. Interested applicants should call Green Acres Baptist Church at (502) 964-8165, or send resumé to same at 5189 Poplar Level Road, Louisville, KY 40219.

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

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

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

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

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.

Christmas 1996



Help us make good things happen

- ... a crackling fire on a snowy night
- ... a candle-light service at church
- ... Christmas Eve with family and friends from near and far

For most of us, the Christmas season is a wonderful time of year. Some of our most treasured memories are associated with cherished holiday traditions.

Unfortunately, a difficult illness, accident, or unexpected medical expense, could cloud Christmas for some people this year... perhaps someone you know.

Thankfully, you can help make Christmas brighter for needy patients and their families this year.

Your special Christmas gift to Baptist Healthcare Foundation will provide financial assistance to needy patients or it may be used to fund other important projects at a Kentucky Baptist hospital. To find out more about specific needs and how you can help, please contact:

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Warren: Pastors should work smarter, not harder

Continued from page 1

people to be saved, they want believers to be built up in the faith, they want to send people out in ministry."

The key to growth is learning, he said. "All leaders are learners. The moment you stop learning you are no longer a leader. I have discovered that everybody is ignorant, just on different subjects. If we get together, we'll both go away sharper."

He said the idea is "iron sharpens iron. That's why I like to be with pastors. It's wise to learn from experience, but it's wiser to learn from the experience of others."

Busy pastors may not think they have time to meet with other pastors, he noted. "But you're never wasting your time when you're sharpening your ax. ... You've got to have the right tools, and that's where it takes learning."

Warren said his ministry has benefited from a wide variety of people.

"I've learned from people who were succeeding. I've learned from people who were failing. I've learned from Baptists; I've learned from non-

Baptists. I've learned from my enemies, I've learned from my critics, I've learned from people I didn't even agree with. I've learned from non-believers," he said.

"Growing churches require growing pastors. The moment you stop growing, your church stops growing. And you don't have to agree with everything I say. I don't agree with everything we do at Saddleback. But my philosophy is that it takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people. That's why we need diversity."

Warren said the second most important lesson in growing a church is to withstand the impulse to compare one ministry to another. "You can learn from other people, but don't compare yourself to other people."

Comparison breeds sin, he stressed.

"You're always going to find somebody who's doing a better job than you, and you get discouraged," he said. "And you'll always find somebody you're doing a better job than, and you'll get full of pride. Ei-

ther way, you're dead in the water."

Prior to starting Saddleback, Warren served as a youth minister in an inner-city church. "What I did there would not have worked where I am now, and what I do now would not work there. That's why it takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people, and there's more than one way to grow a church."

He noted God is pleased with a variety of styles in worship.

"God loves to do things in different ways. Sometimes he'll put mud in their eye to heal them, sometimes he'll spit in their eye, sometimes he'll touch them, sometimes he'll just say, 'See.' He didn't use the same formula every time to heal a blind man."

Warren concluded by noting the New Testament mandates the purpose of the church. "We are to worship, to evangelize, to fellowship, to minister and to disciple or nurture. We don't get to change the purpose, but we do get to change the style."

"There are a lot of good things out there, and we can learn from everybody. The competition is not other churches. The competition is not even other denominations. The competition is the world, the flesh and the devil."

Poll: Parents want a detailed rating for TV program content

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Parents want a TV rating system to tell them the content of a program rather than advice on whether the program is suitable for specific age groups, according to a survey released by the National PTA.

The survey was undertaken to let a special panel of the television industry currently trying to devise a rating system know what parents want from them.

Earlier this year, under pressure from Congress and President Clinton, the television industry agreed to set up a ratings system that would be in place by the beginning of the year. The industry panel is headed by Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America.

According to the survey, 80 percent of the randomly selected sample of 679 parents from every state in the country wanted a content-based rating system rather than an age-group suitability system as is currently used for rating movies.

The Department of Communication Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, along with the Institute for Mental Health Initiative, collaborated with the 5.6 million-member PTA in the survey.

Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., a leading television reformer in Congress, called the survey results welcome but not surprising. "In an era of 100 TV channels, the Internet, shock radio, and Gansta rap, parents are desperate for family-friendly filters for restoring order in the home," he said. "The more they know about what is about to come around the corner, the better job they can do to keep their children safe."

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Such gifts may allow you to give with minimum impact on your level of spendable income. You also can enjoy the dual tax incentives Congress has provided for this type of gift.

By giving stocks, bonds or real estate which you have owned for more than a year and a day and which has increased in value since you bought them, you will likely be entitled to an income tax deduction for the full current value of the asset, not just for what you paid to buy the asset.

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Generally such assets are deductible in an amount up to 30

percent of your adjusted gross income. Any excess deductions can be carried over into as many as the next five tax years.

This is a great time to establish your own endowment fund with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation with a gift of appreciated assets for the benefit of one or more of your favorite Baptist causes.

Experience the joy that comes to those who establish endowments and contribute to them throughout their lifetimes, and even at the end of their lifetimes. It's not only an effective way to make a lasting difference until the Lord returns, but it's

also a tax-smart way to do it. Laurie Valentine and I would love to assist you in facilitating a 1996 tax-smart gift of appreciated property to establish an endowment fund, or give to an existing one. Please call us at (502) 244-6466.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

A gift of timeless Christmas music

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Western Recorder & Campbellsville University

George Frederick Handel's

messiah

Performed by the 100-voice Campbellsville University Concert Chorus and University Chamber Orchestra

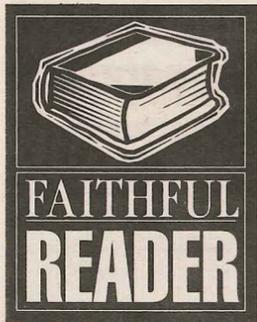
Thursday, December 12, 7:30 p.m.
Westport Road Baptist Church
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Special feature: Bring your own score of *Messiah* and sing along on the choruses: "And the Glory," "O, Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion," "Glory to God" and "Hallelujah."

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WESTERN RECORDER
PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING





By Wayne Hager, pastor of Midlane Park Baptist Church in Louisville, and Jim Holladay, pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ **Revitalizing the Sunday Morning Dinosaur: A Sunday School Strategy for the 21st Century.** Ken Hemphill. Broadman and Holman Publishers. \$12.99. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Hemphill is the current Baptist guru of Sunday school. Few speakers and/or authors are more emphatic about the importance of Sunday school for the growth of churches. One is tempted to think that no matter what question Hemphill is asked his answer is "Sunday school."

After indicating his understanding of why Sunday school is in decline, Hemphill makes a good case for why Sunday school is the perfect program to provide every church the foundation it needs for facing the future. Hemphill draws widely on his past books and the work of others to lay out a strategy for bringing new life to the Sunday school. The foundation of the strategy is establishing a "Great Commission" vision for the church. In this vision, the Sunday school provides a method for Bible study, evangelizing, assimilating and teaching.

Little of what Hemphill says is new to anyone who has studied church growth or Sunday school. Many of his suggestions, though tried and true, simply have been forgotten or ignored. Hemphill's contribution is to bring new organization to familiar material and to give voice to the need for dynamic Sunday schools for effectiveness in all aspects of the ministry of the church. If pastors or lay leaders are tempted to write off another effort at reviving the Sunday school, they need only read this book to garner the encouragement to try it one more time. — Wayne Hager

■ **AIDS and the Sleeping Church.** Patricia L. Hoffman. Eerdmans. \$13. ♦♦♦♦

Many books are published about AIDS. Few approach the subject of church ministry to people and families with AIDS. "AIDS and the Sleeping Church" fills an even smaller category, a book of reflections on the spiritual effect of ministry with AIDS patients.

This book is not a "technique book" for AIDS ministry. But in reading her journal, Hoffman demonstrates what is, after all, the most effective technique: presence. In her one-year journal of reflections as she immersed herself in the lives of those with AIDS and their families, Hoffman brings the reader face to face with what it is like to deal with AIDS, both as a patient and as a caregiver. In the course of her "journal," we hear the words of AIDS patients and learn how they live in the face of death.

This book is not an easy read. Each page forces the reader to come face-to-face with prejudices and other emotions which are part of AIDS ministry. Each page potentially holds moments of extreme discomfort and pain, as well as triumph. From joy to fear, from hope to disappointment, from judgment to grace, it is all here.

People who have not been touched personally by AIDS will find this journal helpful in getting an honest expression of the emotional and spiritual impact of AIDS. Those who are acquainted with AIDS no doubt will relive some of their own experiences through Hoffman's story. Mostly, Hoffman forces the church to confront the need to work out what compassion and love means in the face of the suffering of those whom God loves. — Wayne Hager

■ **Christian Worship, Second Edition.** Franklin M. Segler, Revised by Randall Bradley. Broadman & Holman Publishers. 307 pages. No price given. ♦♦♦♦♦

"What kind of worship service does your church have? Traditional? Contemporary? Blended?" How many times have you asked or been asked that question? Worship is a hot topic these days. With fewer people making first contact with a church through Sunday school and more through the worship service, many of us are asking how we can make the worship service more attractive to the unchurched. Much of the discussion about worship takes place in the context of numerical church growth and centers on the tools and techniques of worship.

Segler and Bradley remind us that worship is far more than a tool to accomplish the mission of the church. Worship is the heartbeat, the defining experience for the church. "The church must always be what the early church was ... a group of redeemed people, gathered to pray and to wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit. ... The church is born today, as it was in the beginning, by a miracle of grace in the hearts of believers. In the midst of all its activities, the church is primarily a worshipping congregation."

Randall Bradley, professor of church music at Oklahoma Baptist University, and the late Franklin Segler, former professor of pastoral ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, present a thorough and thought-provoking look at the what, why and how of worship. Anyone responsible for planning and leading worship will benefit from their presentation. — Jim Holladay

■ **The Book of Uncommon Prayer.** Editors Constance and Daniel Pollock. Word Publishing. 198 pages. No price given. ♦♦♦♦♦

What makes prayer uncommon? Is it the content of the prayer? The form of the prayer? The one praying? Constance and Daniel Pollock went looking for special prayers to use at the baptism of their daughter. They did not look in prayer books or for words of priests. Rather, they searched through the words of poets, novelists and philosophers. In doing so, they have compiled a fascinating, moving and useful book of prayers. This uncommon book reminds us that prayer need not follow a set form for it is, after all, conversation with God.

This collection contains familiar poems and words, such as Tennyson's "Crossing the Bar" and Joyce Kilmer's "Trees." Yet, it also lets us hear the little known "Hymn" by Edgar Allan Poe. Most of the prayers express the deep faith of their authors. Elizabeth Barret Browning writes: "I praise thee while my days go on/I love thee while my days go on/through dark and dearth, ... with emptied treasure lost/I thank thee while my days go on."

In addition to the uncommon prayers, the book contains biographical information on the writers as well as a topical index. I will find myself using this little volume for private and public worship experiences.

"Give us grace, Almighty Father, so to pray, as to deserve to be heard, to address thee with our hearts, as with our lips," Jane Austen. — Jim Holladay

Views expressed are the authors' only

Christmas at Cumberland

By Robert Dunston

As the semester winds down and students and faculty become involved with tests, papers and final exams, we are tempted to forget the beautiful season which is upon us.

As a Kentucky Baptist institution of higher education, we make time in the midst of all our academic activities to celebrate Christ's birth.

Music adds so much to our Christian worship and faith all through the year, but during Christmas, music seems especially beautiful and powerful.

On Tuesday, Dec. 3, Cumberland will have its annual "Hanging of the Green" service at 7:30 p.m. in Gatliff Chapel. The program will feature our chorale, women's chorus and Cumberland Singers lifting our hearts with the joy of Christ's birth. For us at Cumberland, this event begins the Christmas season.

Our madrigal dinners are held later this week on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings. For more than 25 years, the Cumberland College music department has offered this program of music and fellowship, carrying us back in our imaginations to a medieval world's celebration of Christmas in food, song

and drama. This year's programs feature our chamber choir and a brass quartet. College and community all turn out for these grand occasions.

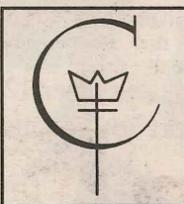
As we celebrate God's great gift to us, we also encourage each other to give. Appalachian Ministries sponsors an "Angel Tree" project through which individuals can select a child and help make that child's dreams come true at Christmas. This year, both individuals and churches are involved, and close to 200 children will have a bright, joyous Christmas.

Mountain Outreach will open their warehouse Saturday, Dec. 14, for families and individuals to select items that meet their physical needs. Clothes, toys, furniture, appliances and other items will be available. Both Appalachian Ministries and Mountain Outreach make Christ the focus of their projects.

All who benefit from the programs realize they have encountered the love of Christ through the lives of our students who serve.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Christmas help for children

It happens every year to many of us. In October we can almost hear the holidays approaching like a distant train. The calendar fills. We close our eyes and sprint past the decorations in the stores. Then we vow not to do too much or spend too much this year and to focus on the Christ child.

But the fact is it isn't always easy to be a faithful Christian during Christmas. We get caught up in the parties, shopping and vacation plans just like everyone else.

And with all these distractions, it isn't surprising that our giving might be a little bit distracted too.

Now is a good time to review your gifts to God this year and to consider prayerfully your Christmas gift to him. At Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, we still need Christmas sponsorships for some of the children in our care.

A gift of \$75 is suggested for a single boy or girl. Tickets for Christmas events, gift certificates for local restaurants or filled Christmas stockings also are needed.

Please also consider KBHC in your year-end charitable gifts of cash and other assets. Donating

stocks, bonds and mutual funds that have increased in value can yield tax benefits.

A gift of appreciated assets to KBHC enables a donor to take a tax deduction of the full fair-market value of the stock, and the donor will not have to pay any capital gains taxes as a result of the transaction. Therefore, the charity receives the benefit of the full fair-market value of the gift and the donor maximizes tax savings.

It is much less favorable to the donor if stock is sold first and the cash given to charity. The donor must pay capital gains tax on the transaction and can only take a deduction on the actual cash gift to charity.

Please contact us using the toll-free number below if you would like information on planned giving or Christmas sponsorships.

I pray that your Christmas season this year is filled with peace and love.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Brenda Gray

LEADERSHIP

Local church to drive missions next century, study says

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—Local churches are retaking the initiative for missions, according to Bill O'Brien, executive director of the Global Center at Samford University.

The traditional mission partnership—in which churches send money to missionary-sending agencies who send personnel to work in the field—is undergoing monumental change, O'Brien said.

Younger generations of Christians, who learn by doing and who are less trusting of institutional Christianity, are getting involved in hands-on mission work—a task traditionally left to the "professionals."

As they travel the globe on short-term mission projects, they become more competent to evaluate Christian mission work, and less willing to turn over that duty to a third party, O'Brien told a church-growth conference.

For these and other reasons, he said, local churches "will drive missions in the 21st century," much as they did in the first century.

The shift in focus from the mission agency to the local church was "the single strongest commonality" that emerged from a 10-month, nation-

wide study of evangelical mission agencies and churches, O'Brien said.

The research project was conducted by the Evangelical Foreign Missions Agencies, an umbrella group representing about 90 missionary-sending agencies affiliated with the National Association of Evangelicals; the Global Center, a missions think tank housed at Samford in Birmingham, Ala.; and Woman's Missionary Union, the women's mission auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention, also based in Birmingham.

The group held "listening sessions" in nine cities with leaders of local churches and mission agencies, including the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Their findings documented a "growing gap between agencies and churches." Although mission agencies are struggling to cope with shrinking financial resources, most are in a "survival mode" and not facing up to the future, O'Brien reported.

More church members are getting involved in short-term missions, he said, but they see missions merely as one option rather than the primary purpose for the church's creation.

O'Brien said the current missions system in North America "is not sustainable" without spiritual renewal.

"There was a recognition from every segment of the Great Commission mission community that if renewal did not come to the church, the missions system in North America would collapse under its own weight," he said.

Mission strategies that work in the next century will not be bound by traditional lines of denomination and geography, he said.

The world's 23,000 denominations will not simply pass away, he predicted, but those that survive will do so "because they have learned to resource the local church." Churches will group themselves not by geography, but by other commonalities, what he termed "intentional associationalism."

He called for mission strategies that combine the different gifts of diverse and scattered Christians.

O'Brien also prescribed three commitments to guide local churches through 21st century missions:

- A sense of covenant community with the larger body of Christ.

- Unity within a diversity of gifts.

- Listening.

"The arrogance in one-way communication of the gospel ultimately creates a deafness to what the Spirit is saying through other parts of the body," he said.

The future of missions

Among findings of a 10-month study by the Evangelical Foreign Missions Agencies:

- Churches in Africa, South America, the Pacific Rim and the Eastern bloc are "much more dynamic than the troubled churches in the West."

- A "passion for missions" which once drove the mighty Western mission movement is on the wane, in part because of a "compassion depletion" among church leaders.

- Immigration and other social changes have brought missions to the church's doorstep, blurring the line between home and foreign missions.

- Churches must recover a "parish" mentality, in which they take responsibility for missions in their community.

- Younger generations want to be involved in missions but are not inclined toward long-term or "career" commitments.

- Short-term mission involvement "breaks the guilt block" by putting Christians to work, but this approach is too often not part of a coordinated long-term strategy.

- Anger exists under the surface at churches that struggle to keep up with the demands on them.

- Financial pressures likely will force churches and mission agencies to opt for "business as usual" rather than creative approaches to missions.

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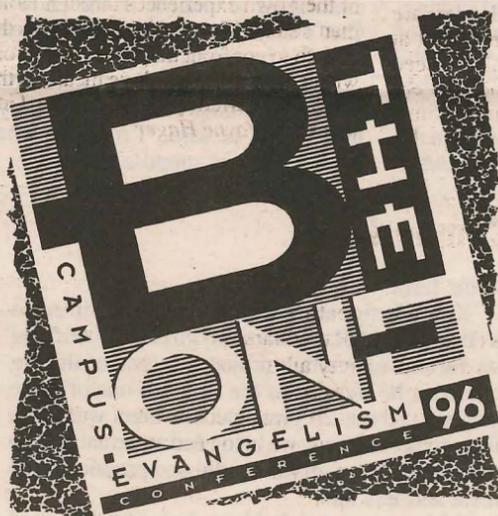
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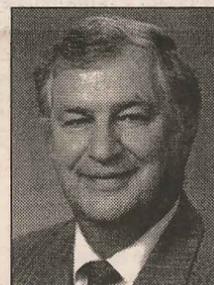
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PRAYER PARTNERS

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

- Kentucky partnership associate director, Ken Murphy.

- Continued growth in Christlikeness for Russians with whom Kentucky volunteers have ministered.

- Kentuckian Bill Poff as he teaches in the pastors' school in Tambov, Russia, Dec. 2-20.

- Murray Wheeler, New England's Mission Service Corps volunteer coordinator, who is seriously ill.

- An Asian Indian Festival sponsored by Boston Baptist student ministry to be held at Northeastern University in Boston Dec. 7.

- Oral Lewis, as he works to start a church with West Indians in Boston.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

- ELIZABETHTOWN—Severns Valley Association is sponsoring a youth rally Dec. 8 at 8:30 p.m. at Gilead Church in Glendale. For more information, call (502) 765-4023.

- LOUISVILLE—Beechwood Church called Associate Pastor **Robert Blackburn** as pastor. He began his new ministry Dec. 1.

Gethsemane Church recently held revival services. **Ronnie Owens** of Clinton, Tenn. was guest speaker. There were 15 professions of faith.

- RICHMOND—First Church called **Bill Fort** as pastor. Fort previously

was pastor of Rich Pond Church in Bowling Green. He will begin his new ministry Jan. 19.

- UPTON—**John Routh** resigned as pastor of Lucas Grove Church, effective Dec. 31. Routh and his wife, Alvine, will be going to Israel as volunteers with the Foreign Mission Board.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

- **Brad and Sally Womble**, missionaries to Niger Republic, are on the field. The address is: B.P. 10038, Niamey, Niger Republic. She considers Hopkinsville her hometown.

Wright marks time for 50 years as music director at Cox's Creek

COX'S CREEK—Franklin Wright has heisted many a tune in his day. For 50 years, Wright has served as volunteer music director at Cox's Creek Baptist Church.

There's no special secret to his longevity, he said. He's stuck with it because he "just likes doing it."

His role hasn't changed much since he returned in 1945 after five years in the Army band and started leading music in his home church, he said. He leads congregational singing, often accompanying a verse or two of a song on his trombone. He directs the church choir, which now numbers about 15 people.

His wife, Emogene, has sung in the choir for half a century. "We always

had a good choir," he said. "Nothing fancy, but good for a country church."

For many years, he directed an instrumental ensemble. Some years, he pulls together a Christmas cantata.

During Christmas and Easter seasons, he plays his trombone in the orchestra at Memorial Baptist Church in Frankfort where his son, Gene, is minister of music.

There have been "ups and downs," times when people have been more committed to singing in the choir at Cox's Creek than at others, but Wright said that hasn't phased him.

"My job isn't different from those who teach Sunday school or do anything else," he said. "I'm doing what I thought I was supposed to do."

Magazine story prompts Billy Graham clarification

MINNEAPOLIS (BP)—A cover story on Billy Graham in the Oct. 20 Parade magazine prompted the evangelist to clarify a statement in the article that could be interpreted as equating other religions with Christianity.

Parade writer Colin Greer quoted Graham as saying: "I fully adhere to the fundamental tenets of Christian faith for myself and my ministry. But, as an American, I respect other paths to God—and, as a Christian, I am called on to love them."

Larry Ross, director of media/public relations for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, wrote in a letter to Parade's editor, Walter Anderson: "While Mr. Graham re-

spects other religions and has often met with leaders of other religious faiths, as a Christian clergyman he believes there is only one path to God—through repentance and faith in the atoning death of Jesus Christ, who provides redemption from sin and the promise of eternal life. That message hasn't changed."

That message "has been the foundation of the evangelist's worldwide preaching ministry," Ross stated. "Mr. Graham does recognize that there are many religions represented in our increasingly pluralistic, multi-ethnic society, and that we are to love every individual—regardless of their beliefs—as the article suggests."

Stopher honored by children's homes

LOUISVILLE—Attorney Joe Stopher was honored by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children with its V.V. Cooke Award, given to those who show exceptional interest and support for the agency.

Stopher served on the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's board of trustees for 19 years. Stopher said he became involved in local Baptist child care by encouraging people to donate one day's pay near Thanksgiving to help the Louisville Baptist Orphan's Home, then located in downtown Louisville.

The award's namesake encour-

aged Stopher to join the board of trustees in 1944. During his tenure, the orphans home was moved to a new campus in Middletown and renamed Spring Meadows Children's Home.

Stopher said he was honored to receive the award, established in memory of Cooke — "the greatest friend I ever had."

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children provides care for children who have been abused, neglected or whose families are in crisis. The agency annually assists more than 3,000 children and adults.

Up and on the road at 4 a.m.

I am not sure there is ever a time when we are not busy. However, sometimes we are extremely busy. Let me tell you about a very busy Saturday two weeks ago.

It began about 4 a.m. in Scottsville, Ky., where four men left to come to Oneida for a day of volunteer work. Two or three times a year several men come from the Scottsville area to volunteer. We encouraged them to come Friday evening this time so they would not have to get up so early. However, we were not able to provide lodging because we were housing several pastors, missionaries, directors of missions and some of their wives as part of a World Mission Conference. Virtually every available bed was taken. So the men had to leave about 4 a.m. in order to get a day's work in.

When the men arrived, they met with another volunteer, Charles Vick. He is a full-time electrician for us. The Scottsville men spent the day working with Vick to complete the new daycare center.

There were also four basketball games that Saturday. Our middle school boys won one game and lost another. The ninth grade boys and the boys' junior varsity teams both won their games. We are off to a good start with our basketball season. The varsity boys and girls played their first games the evening before and won both games.

The swim team boarded a bus at 6 a.m. for a swim meet. Several members of the team did very well and continue to improve their personal best records.

In the afternoon, I had guests to show around, including one lady interested in working in this ministry. While on tour with my guests, we drove

to the farm.

Ken Martin, the farm manager, explained to us that several of the boys and girls were working on various agriculture projects. In one of the pig nurseries he showed us the result of one of these projects. About 20 pigs that had been weaned a few weeks before were being fed a special diet so they would grow more rapidly and produce more meat and less fat.

After my guests left, I joined several adults and about 20 students who work in our agriculture program. We enjoyed a "harvest supper" with baked potatoes, baked beans, fresh rolls, some mighty nice steaks from our own cattle and more dessert than we could eat. It was also a time for Ken to honor several students in our agriculture program.

Finally, it was time for the fall drama. The Oneida Players present a play every fall and spring. This was the third night they had performed "The Diary of Anne Frank." The cast of 11 gave a splendid performance. Several in the cast were veterans of many plays, but there were a few new stars. About 50 guests had come to see the play with our faculty and staff.

Debbie Winters has been our drama coach for 16 years, and has done a host of outstanding productions. Her husband, Mike, is a great help with the set, and they both work in our campus grill.

By the time our deans called "lights out" in the dorms, the men from Scottsville were on their way home. Our students did a lot that day, and I am sure some things did not get finished.

The choir left bright and early the next morning for the beginning of another busy day.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

At home in God's will

"God called me to a church," student Barin Bolin declared.

Bolin called it the most exciting happening for his family since coming to Clear Creek in 1995. During the summer, he became pastor of Pond Baptist Church in King's Mountain, a rural community near Standord. Barin and his wife, Martha, journey to the community each weekend and stay in a remodeled parsonage.

"They are good country people like we grew up with; they love us," Martha said. "The members are always bringing us something—garden vegetables or meat." The Bolins are excited about the church's ministry and believe God has plans for the congregation. We recently had a record Sunday school attendance of 50."

Barin recently had the first ordination service of his young ministry. A young man who grew up in the Pond Church was called to be pastor of a neighboring church before Barin came to Pond. "We had 90 folks attend the service from the two churches. It was a great time for both congregations." His first baptism awaits the baptistry repair at a sister church. "We usually go to the creek, but it's now too cold."

The first year on campus for the

Bolins included their share of stresses. Being out of school for 21 years brought a major adjustment to the discipline of intense study, which Barin pointed out was "hard at my age." Martha misses "the time Barin and I had together, I had done the same work for 27 years and thought I couldn't be happy doing anything else. Now, I love it here. The Lord has demonstrated I can be happy anywhere he wants us to be."

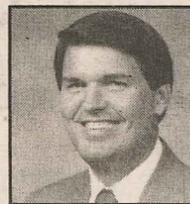
It wasn't easy moving two teenage daughters. Martha remembered that when Barin announced his call, the girls asked if they would have to move. "Emily and Hallie have adjusted really well. Coming to Clear Creek helped Emily make a big adjustment to college." She enrolled at Georgetown College in August.

The Bolins are one of four couples from Walnut Memorial Church in Owensboro, where alumnus Odell Beauchamp is pastor.

Martha recently attended Walnut Memorial for the first time since Barin's ordination in September. "The spirit of the church was great, but I knew I didn't need to be there. I missed my family at Pond Church."

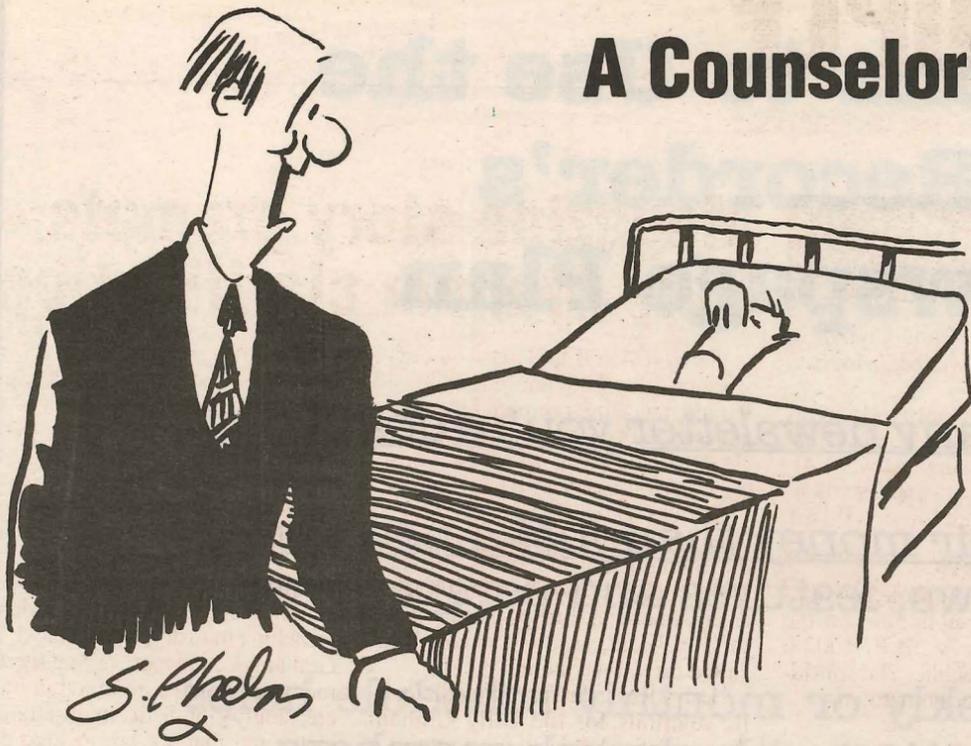
Bill Whittaker is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Pineville, Ky. 40977

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

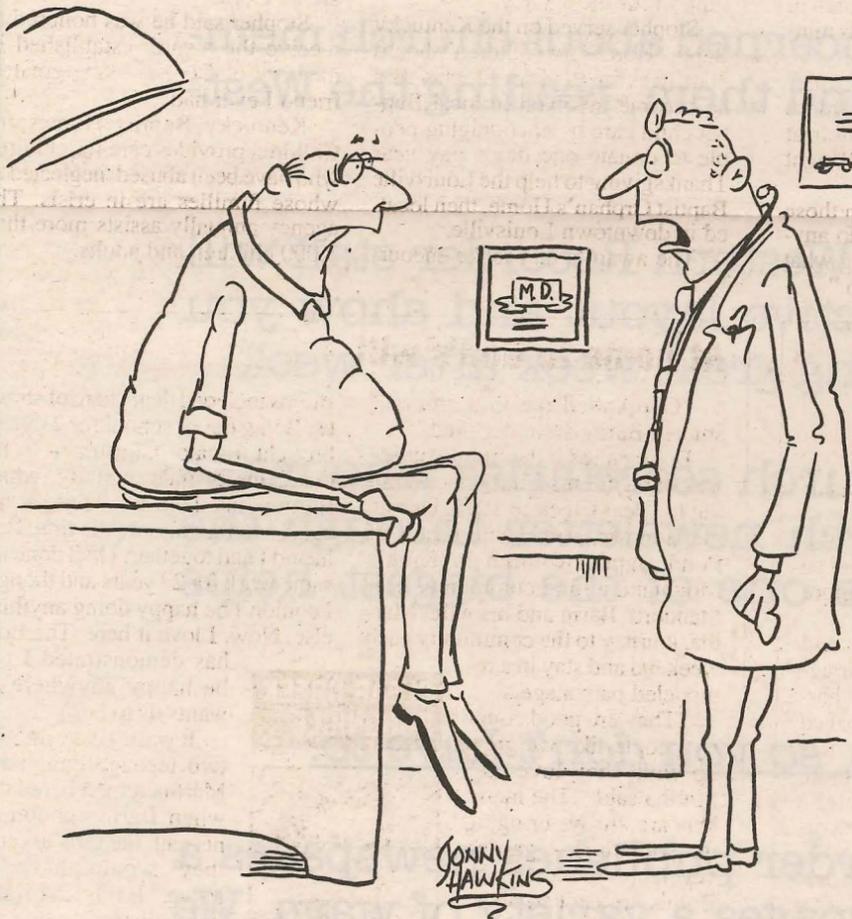
A Counselor's World



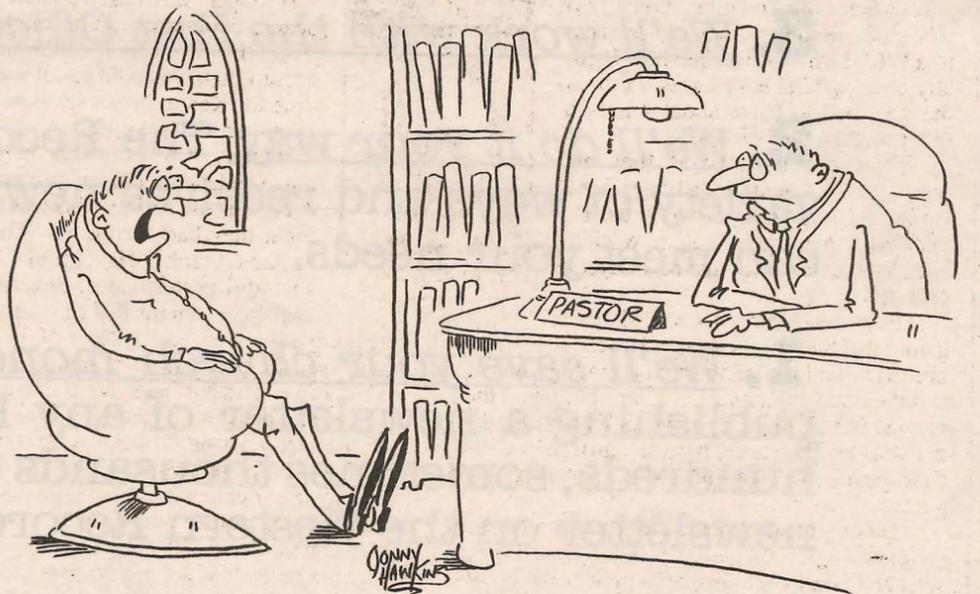
"Who would have ever thought your pain was physical, not relational?"



"I told Tom we need to improve our communication, so he enrolled in a public speaking course at the community college."



"Can you show me where the truth hurt?"



"Lies? I'm down to a pack a day."

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