



PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

January 7, 1997
Vol. 171, No. 1

FOR THE RECORD

In their own words
The Western Recorder recalls various quotes from 1996. *Page 2.*

Cooperative Program
Kentucky Baptists' first quarter giving to the Cooperative Program is up compared to last year, but below the budget. *Page 3.*

Family Forum
for single parenting. *Page 4.*

Editorial
Content labels won't protect kids from TV. *Page 5.*

Choir tours Kentucky
The Temuco Baptist Academy faculty choir from Chile will tour the bluegrass state Jan. 11-27. *Page 6.*

Ruling stands
The U.S. Supreme Court stands a decision that allows a school Bible club to have only Christian officers. *Page 7.*

No dice
An anti-gambling lobbyist says more states are defeating referendums to allow gambling. *Page 9.*

Flag flap
More than 100 South Carolina pastors supported their governor after he proposed removing the confederate battle flag from the capital dome. *Page 10.*

1996 a year of Olympic efforts, departures & ministry

In addition to bowl games and overcoats, January is ideal for remembering the events and experiences of 1996. Among the stories of last year, in no particular order:

■ **Olympic volunteers.** Kentuckians from 30 churches, campus ministries and youth teams were among the 8,000 volunteers for Atlanta International Ministries '96, Baptists' coordinating missions body for the Summer Olympics and the Paralympics games.

■ **The Marshalls' plan.** KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Marshall announced his intention to retire in February 1997. By then, Marshall will have completed 14 years as KBC executive secretary-treasurer. In re-

irement, Marshall and his wife, Alice, will serve as coordinators of the new Marshall Center for Ministry at Georgetown College.

■ **New funding approved.** Messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting voted to revise the way money is divided between KBC and Southern Baptist Convention causes. The state convention will retain 2 percent more for missions work in Kentucky beginning September 1997.

■ **"Experiencing God" in Kentucky.** Chaplains at four Kentucky

prisons conducted weekend conferences on the popular Bible study. More than 300 college students from

Kentucky and surrounding states gathered in January for the first "Experiencing God" collegiate weekend; more than double the expectations of the event's organizers. More than 1,500 people attended

"Experiencing God" weekends in Graves County Association in the spring. A "Religion in Life" class at Campbellsville University is the nation's first to use "Experiencing God" as a textbook.



FRESH START Southern Baptist missionary Ben Williams chats with a resident of a Madagascar village. When a cyclone struck, missionaries responded with ministries aimed at helping the people become self-sufficient. About 40 residents made professions of faith in Christ as a result of the ministry. (BP photo by Tim Cummins)

New column begins this week

With this first issue of 1997, the Western Recorder launches a new feature that will appear in all 50 issues this year. Faith Matters is a series of reader-friendly columns that will present basic issues of Christian theology in a fresh context with easily understood illustrations.

This feature was developed as a direct result of listening sessions the Recorder staff and board of directors has begun holding with pastors across the state. In these sessions, we frequently hear comments like this: "Many of the people in my congregation do not have a Baptist background or even a Christian

background. What can the Recorder do to help educate and inform church members about Christian theology and Baptist doctrine?"

Our goal in developing Faith Matters has been not only to present sound doctrine but to present it in such a way that it will be read. We believe we have found an excellent way to accomplish this goal, and we welcome your comments to help us make the column an even better resource.

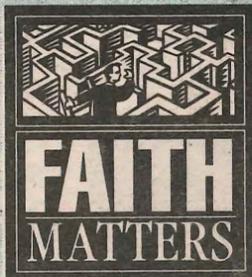
The author of Faith Matters is Kentucky New Testament scholar Carey Newman.

In writing the columns, Newman employs the same down-to-earth

techniques that have made him a popular teacher of New Testament and theology classes in the past at Baylor University, Palm Beach Atlantic College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He taught at Baylor from 1984-89, at Palm Beach Atlantic from 1989-93 and at Southern Seminary from 1993-96.

Newman earned the doctor of philosophy degree in religion from Baylor in 1989; the master of theology degree from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1985; the master of divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1983; and the bachelor of arts degree from the University of South Florida in 1980.

We hope you'll find Faith Matters to be a practical resource for Christian living—and something you'll want to clip out and save or share with others. For the first column, see page 5. — Editor



■ **Seminary schism.** Review & Expositor, the theological journal associated with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary for 93 years, broke ties with the school.

■ **Hospitals break ties.** Trustees of Baptist Healthcare System unanimously voted in March to break formal ties with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and name their own successors to the agency's board. In October, leadership of the healthcare system said the board would remain 75 percent Baptist. The leadership also said that if the hospital system were sold, the KBC would be reimbursed for its contributions.

■ **Name upgrade.** Campbellsville □ See 1996 was a year for ..., page 3

Doctors: Faith helps patients get healthy

NORWALK, Conn. (RNS)—A national survey of U.S. family physicians found 99 percent of those polled believe religious belief contributes to the healing of their patients.

An equally high percentage also said spiritual or religious practices, such as personal prayer and meditation, can speed or help the medical treatment of those who are ill.

The survey was taken by Yankelovich Partners of Norwalk, Conn., and was released last month during a continuing education course on spirituality and medicine at Harvard Medical School.

"Through the ages physicians have witnessed recoveries they can't attribute solely to medical procedures," said Herbert Benson, president of the Mind/Body Medical Institute at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

"Now many physicians are beginning to hold that belief can have a profound influence on health and well-being and they see it as an integral part of their traditional treatment plan."

In the survey, 95 percent of respondents said they've had patients who believed prayer or meditation helped improve their medical condition. Sixty-eight percent said they had prayed or meditated while treating themselves for an illness.

When the doctors were asked if, at a patient's request, they would join a patient in prayer that seeks spiritual assistance for medical treatment, 71 percent said yes, 26 percent said no and 3 percent said they were not sure or did not know.

Asked if God or a higher power sometimes intervenes to improve a seriously ill person's medical condition, 79 percent said yes and 21 percent said no.

In another finding, 44 percent of the doctors surveyed said they were taught relaxation or meditation techniques during their formal medical training, and 80 percent said such techniques should be a standard part of medical training.

BAPTISTS

Notable quotes: The year in their own words

"We were meeting needs in the real world, instead of just putting money in the plate on Sunday morning and hoping it would be used."

Rich Crowe, a layperson from Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort who spent a weekend on a mission trip to Memphis, Tenn., ministering through the Mississippi River Ministry (Jan. 2.)

"We believe the unreached peoples of the 10-40 window and elsewhere will never be reached without God's miraculous intervention in their lives, which may include signs and wonders that have not been a normal part of Southern Baptist life in the United States."

Charles and Sharon Carroll, Southern Baptist foreign missionaries who were fired because they allowed certain charismatic practices in Community of Praise Baptist Church in Singapore, where Carroll was pastor (Jan. 2)

"We could see paratroopers dropping behind our house ... and roving bands with machetes ... in the streets."

Missionary Cathy Brandon, describing her family's experience in Burundi (Jan. 23)

"God has sounded the alarm, and we dare not touch the snooze button. The nation that was born in 1776 must be born again, or it will join the graveyard of the nations."

Adrian Rogers at the National Affairs Briefing in Memphis, Tenn. (Jan. 23)

"We just simply didn't feel that, based upon the in-your-face tone of the statement, we would be good stewards of CBF money or relationships to continue funding of Baptist Peace Fellowship."

Joel Snider, chair of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship ethics and public policy committee after the Baptist Peace Fellowship declared itself a "welcoming place" of anyone regardless of sexual orientation (Jan. 30)

"An evangelical is a fundamentalist who's not mad at anybody."

Leon McBeth of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Jan. 16)

"He couldn't believe we weren't going to charge him anything. We had eight men that day and he said it would have taken him a month to do that work. Before we left we had prayer, and he had tears streaming down his face."

Mike Klein, on-site disaster relief coordinator for Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood mud-out work after flooding in West Virginia (Feb. 13)

"What we need in America is not more government programs that don't work. What we need in America is more religious programs that do work."

Dan Quayle speaking to the National Religious Broadcasters convention in Indianapolis (Feb. 13)



"If I were a betting person, I would bet on the fact that we are going to see massive moral anarchy take over our country."

Evangelical Christian researcher George Barna (Feb. 27)

"We may not do things the way we always have, but we are looking to do missions in a way that more and more people will get involved."

Kay Trisler, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union (Feb. 27)

"If we were to take all the non-Christian people in America and put them in a country of their own, it would be the fifth-largest nation in the world."

Evangelical Christian researcher George Barna (Feb. 27)

"Racism is an insidious monster. You can't say you love God and not love your brother."

Bill McCartney, founder of Promise Keepers (March 5)



"We've got enough hell-raisers. We need some hell-busters. Hell-busters have a certain odor, what I call holy smoke. Their lives have been singed by those fires."

Theologian and futurist Leonard Sweet at the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference (March 5)

"Many people—mainline Protestants, Catholics and evangelicals—are looking for a new place to stand. They are not happy with the polarities of the right and left."

Tom Sine, author of "Cease Fire: Searching for Sanity in America's Culture Wars" (March 19)

"The way we die has changed."

Mark Hanson, associate for religious ethics at the Hastings Center, a medical ethics think-tank, talking about changing technologies that prolong life and consequently bring a potential loss of control for patients and create more decision points related to dying (March 19)

"I see my ministry and my teaching connected. My calling includes being honest and fair with kids. I want them to know I love them, I care about them, and I'm going to let them know if something they do is not good."

Beth Dunn, Kentucky's teacher of the year, and minister of music at Finchville Baptist Church in Finchville (April 2)

"It's almost like a death has occurred. I really grieve for the older members."

Pastor Chris Platt, after arsonists set fire to Cash Creek Baptist Church in Henderson County during the early morning hours of April 10, completely destroying the church's facilities (April 16)

"I've heard missionaries say, 'When WMU quits praying for me, I'm coming home.'"

Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union, speaking to the Kentucky WMU annual meeting in Murray (April 30)



"Well, am I the enemy of women? No more than the person who is standing before the bridge that is out up the road saying: 'Stop! Stop! Stop! There's a chasm there.' And I submit to you that the person who in the name of affirmation and friendliness and sensitivity is encouraging the woman to be the pastor is the one who is up the road from the chasm saying, 'Come on honey, come on. Hit the accelerator.'"

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Mark Coppenger, speaking in chapel on the role of women in the church (May 7)

"Effectiveness is getting the right things done; efficiency is doing things right. Jesus was effective; Hitler was efficient."

Bob Buford, author and Christian entrepreneur, speaking to a Baptist Center for Ethics conference in San Antonio, Texas (May 14)

"Fathers are more than sperm banks and automatic teller machines."

Diane Knippers, president of the Institute on Religion and Democracy, a conservative advocacy group, speaking at an "Interfaith Summit on Fatherhood" in Herndon, Va. (May 28)

"We have made Christianity into easy believism. Are you going to have a polite version of Christianity that doesn't cost you anything, or are you ready to sell out for Jesus?"

Author and professor Tony Campolo speaking at Youth Fest '96 (June 25)



"In the 21st century, a Southern Baptist church with men-only deacons will be the exception. A church or denomination that rejects women from leadership roles will forfeit the future."

Church historian Leon McBeth (Aug. 20)

"I have a very, very strong and spiritually deliberate feeling that the time is right."

Bill Marshall, explaining his decision to retire as executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention effective Feb. 28, 1997 (Aug. 27)

"Things happen around here that are miraculous."

Greg Whitetree, director of the Freeda Harris Baptist Center in Marrowbone (Sept. 10)

"In the 20th century we've lost more Christians dying for their faith than in any previous century."

Brad Winkler of Voice of the Martyrs, which monitors persecution of believers, including the murder of an estimated 159,000 annually in recent years (Sept. 24)

"They beat my brains out in Christian love."

John Buchanan, an ordained Baptist minister and former U.S. representative who credits his 1980 political defeat to the Moral Majority (Oct. 15)

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

Kentucky Baptist Convention President Bill Tichenor, addressing the KBC annual meeting (Nov. 19)

"Suppose for a moment that the New Testament is true. If it is, then the most anti-Semitic stand we could take would be to not share the gospel with Jewish people."

Phil Roberts, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board director of interfaith witness (Dec. 3)

Nationally, '96 featured burning, building

WASHINGTON (RNS)—In the world of religion and ethics, 1996 was a time of mending ties and breaking them, of bridges built and churches burned.

Looking at the year's events through the lens of faith and morality, 1996 was a blending of themes, discordant and harmonious, daunting and hopeful. Here is a rundown of the country's major developments:

■ **Churches burned and rebuilt.** No event symbolized the theme of breaking and mending more than the dozens of church arsons that captured the nation's attention in late spring, many of them targeting African-American congregations in the rural South.

But an outpouring of concern, compassion, cash and construction from the nation's religious, business and political leaders helped douse the flames of hatred.

The call for racial reconciliation became a prominent theme of such diverse groups as the evangelical Promise Keepers, the fast-growing Christian men's movement, and the National Council of Churches, composed of 33 Protestant and Orthodox denominations.

■ **Islam.** American Muslims continued to find a place in the mainstream of American religious and political life in 1996. For the first time, the White House hosted a

reception in February marking Eid al-fitr, the Muslim feast that signals the end of the holy month of Ramadan. At the reception, Hillary Rodham Clinton pronounced Islam a member of the nation's family of religions.

■ **Homosexuality.** The volatile issue of gays and lesbians in church and society divided religious bodies as much as it did the wider society.

In the most dramatic symbol of the division, retired Episcopal Bishop Walter Righter was tried—and ultimately acquitted—on charges of heresy for ordaining a non-celibate gay man to the church's diaconate.

Four congregations in the American Baptist Churches of the U.S.A. denomination were expelled from the church because of their pro-gay stands.

Homosexuality dominated the United Methodist Church's General Conference in April. The 8.6 million-member denomination maintained its stand opposing homosexuality, but a group of 15 United Methodist bishops called on the church to admit gays and lesbians into the church's ordained ministry.

In the secular arena, prompted by fears that Hawaii would legalize same-sex marriage, Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act after impassioned debate. At the same time, it narrowly defeated a proposal to ex-

tend employment anti-bias laws to gays and lesbians.

On Dec. 4, Honolulu Circuit Court Judge Kevin S.C. Chang ordered Hawaii officials to stop denying marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Chang's ruling and the promise by state officials to appeal ensures that the issue will remain in the forefront of religious and secular advocacy groups as well as the nation's legislatures and courts.

■ **Abortion.** The decades-long debate over abortion continued to tear at church and society. But there were fewer violent confrontations over abortion in 1996 than in previous years and the Supreme Court continued to reject challenges to the Freedom of Access to Clinics law.

Most prominent in the year's abortion battles was the effort, led by Protestant religious conservatives and Roman Catholic bishops, to outlaw a controversial late-term abortion procedure called by its opponents "partial-birth abortion." President Clinton vetoed the measure, and efforts to overturn the veto failed.

■ **Religious activists.** The conservative Christian Coalition, founded by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, solidified its influence on the Republican Party in 1996, shaping the GOP platform and forming an uneasy alliance with Republican Presidential candidate Bob Dole.

But beset by a negative public image and challenged by new groups on the religious left such as the evangelical-led Call to Renewal and the in-

Cooperative Program up during last quarter but below budget

Gifts to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program are up over last year but were running 7.7 percent below budget at the end of the fiscal year's first quarter.

A total of \$4.33 million in Cooperative Program contributions was received from the churches in September, October and November. That's an increase of \$72,059 or 1.7 percent over the same quarter last year but still falls \$360,648 below the budget goal of \$4.69 million.

Cooperative Program gifts are divided, with 63 percent staying in Kentucky and 37 percent forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program. Of the \$4.33 million given in Kentucky during the first quarter, \$1.6 million was forwarded to the SBC.

"Kentucky only" receipts designated for use in Kentucky without any portion forwarded to the SBC also are up over last year but not enough to meet KBC budget goals. A total of \$82,513 in "Kentucky only" funds was given during the quarter. That's a 26 percent increase over the same quarter last year but 11 percent under the budget goal for this year.

When the Kentucky portion of Cooperative Program gifts and "Kentucky only" contributions for the quarter are combined, the KBC received \$2.81 million. That's a 2.3 percent increase over the same period last year but \$237,195 or 7.8 percent below budget.



terreligious Interfaith Alliance, the Christian Coalition did not fully deliver in the general election.

Meanwhile, Clinton alienated many of his strongest religious supporters in the mainline Protestant, progressive evangelical, Roman Catholic and Jewish communities by signing welfare reform legislation these groups said will harm the poorest of the poor in American society.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Georgetown College** has received a \$132,500 grant from the Teagle Foundation of New York to use toward expenses for a capital fundraising campaign.

■ **In the Western** Recorder's Dec. 10 story about the clothing room ministry operated by Elkhorn Baptist Association, Calvary Baptist should have been included among the list of volunteers. Calvary's Bonnie Hibbs is volunteer director on one of two days the store is open.

1996 was a year for Olympic efforts, goodbyes & ministry

Continued from page 1

College became Campbellsville University.

■ **Training camp trials.** Georgetown College announced it would build a football stadium with local governments to be used by its team, the local high school and the Cincinnati Bengals training camp. A lawsuit derailed local government involvement, so the college announced it would build the facility on its own.

■ **Volunteers storm in.** Spring tornadoes devastated northern Bullitt County, and Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers arrived within five hours to help feed, clear debris and rebuild.

■ **Mickey Mouse resolution.** Messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a resolution calling for Southern Baptists to boycott Walt Disney Co., saying Disney had abandoned its wholesome image for an "anti-Christian, anti-family" agenda.

■ **Putting money where its mouth is.** A year after adopting a resolution asking forgiveness for past racism by the SBC, messengers to the 1996 annual meeting raised more than \$281,000 to rebuild African-American churches destroyed by arson.

■ **Ready for a change?** SBC messengers also gave final approval for a massive restructuring of SBC agencies. The Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and the Radio & Television Commission will be combined into one agency, and five

smaller agencies were eliminated. Leaders estimated the changes would save \$35 million during the first five years.

■ **When is a Jew not a Jew?** SBC messengers adopted a resolution encouraging greater evangelism efforts among Jews. The move, however, outraged several Jewish groups, who claimed Jews who believed Christ to be the Messiah no longer were Jews.

■ **Hammering at bad housing.** Kentucky Baptist youth volunteers in "Kentucky Changers" worked two weeks painting and repairing homes in Covington and Pike County. A record 265 volunteers were involved.

■ **YouthFest '96.** A record 7,500 people braved heat and humidity in June to attend the Kentucky Baptist youth evangelism festival at Louisville's Cardinal Stadium.

■ **Still Southern Baptist?** The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship voted overwhelmingly not to break ties with the SBC and declare itself a new convention.

■ **Martyrdom continues.** A worldwide day of prayer for the persecuted church underscored the problem of Christian persecution. Also, President Clinton appointed an advisory panel on religious persecution, which included former SBC President Jim Henry.

■ **Home missions bye.** Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis announced in September he would resign. Jan. 2 he began work with Mission America, a network of about 100

denominational and para-church evangelical groups, promoting prayer, evangelism and discipleship.

■ **"Hello and goodbye."** A national survey found 22.8 percent of Protestant clergy said they have been either fired or forced to resign their pastorates at some point in their career.

■ **"Goodbye and hello."** Trustees of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas voted in October to break from state Baptist convention control and appoint their own successors. In November, however, the school and convention agreed on a plan for joint appointments.

■ **"Goodbye and goodbye."** Conservative Southern Baptists in Virginia formed a new state convention, separating from the 173-year-old Baptist General Association of Virginia.

■ **Lots of goodbyes.** By the end of the year, 46 full-time faculty members had resigned, retired or been dismissed in a three-year period at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, evidence of the seminary's shift to the right and of struggles between the faculty and seminary president. The seminary did get good news in February, however, when the Association of Theological Schools concluded an investigation of the seminary's accreditation status by giving a notation rather than any form of probation.

■ **Did he or didn't he?** Jerry Falwell, a pillar of the independent Baptist movement, led his Lynchburg, Va., congregation to send money to

the new conservative Virginia Baptist convention. The move was viewed as joining the group and the Southern Baptist Convention, but Falwell later told the congregation he had no intention of Thomas Road Baptist Church joining the SBC.

■ **Who's in?** Florida Baptists set doctrinal and procedural guidelines for churches wanting to affiliate with the Florida Baptist Convention. New Florida Baptist churches must affirm teachings of the "Baptist Faith and Message" doctrinal statement and meet other requirements.

■ **God and me at Yale.** After decades of rebellion, apathy and often outright hostility toward religion, reports from media and ministers indicate a renewed interest in spiritual matters at American colleges and universities.

■ **"The buses will wait."** In April, evangelist Billy Graham preached to more people on a single day than anyone in history. Graham's Global Television Series was broadcast during prime time in 42 languages on national TV networks in more than 160 countries. Also, Graham and his wife, Ruth, were honored in May with the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award Congress can bestow on a citizen.

■ **True Love Waits.** More than 350,000 "True Love Waits" commitment cards for sexual purity were stacked to the roof of the Georgia Dome football stadium during a February national youth conference.

WESTERN RECORDER

P.O. Box 43969
Louisville, Ky. 40253
(ISSN 0043-4132)

MARK WINGFIELD
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

C.R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Send e-mail to CompuServe 102667,1300, and the Internet, wesrec@ntr.net. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$10.60 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$8.50 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 244-6471, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length.

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors: Bill Thurman, Lexington, chairman; Rusty Ellison, Louisville, vice chairman; Jim Abernathy, Covington, secretary; Laura Beville, Bowling Green; Mark Boes, Cecilia; Tom Curry, Louisville; Mike Harmon, Princeton; Frank Hatfield, Shepherdsville; Barry Howard, Corbin; June B. Rice, Paintsville; Kenneth Wells, Somerset; Charles Midkiff, Greenville.

'Little Boys Club'

I cannot believe James Shutt, the Little Bethel and Muhlenberg associations are saying they want Angie Flack to turn away from God calling her into service. (Dec. 24, page 3)

What is wrong with this picture?

Do they think Flack is lying, that God would never call a woman to serve in any capacity other than minister of music or teaching Sunday school?

I do agree with Shutt about this not being a personal vendetta against Flack. But I do think it a personal vendetta against all women who listen when God calls them to be a minister or deacon.

Do the associations really see this matter as a "problem" needing to be addressed, or are they simply afraid this "problem" will ruin The Little Boy's Club?

I earnestly commend Angie and David Flack for their commitment to their faith and to the work God has called them to perform. They will certainly be in my prayers.

*Connie Pruitt
Louisville*

God uses all

Several years ago while serving as pastor in another part of the state, we had an interesting experience.

A number of young people were attending the church. The members suggested we get a college youth team to lead in a weekend spiritual emphasis. Some members suggested we contact the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Western Kentucky University.

The team, two boys and two girls,

arrived on Friday afternoon and we began a weekend of activities which continued through Sunday morning worship. During the morning service, the main message was delivered by a fine young lady with a genuine love for Jesus and genuine Christian spirit. She gave an authentic message about being saved, trusting Christ and making him Lord of life. At the invitation, handled by her and others on the team, some young people responded and accepted Christ as Savior. One of those was my daughter.

It was not until the team was about to return to college that I talked with them about their particular churches. There was a Baptist, a Methodist, a Presbyterian and the young lady who had preached was a Catholic! Can you picture that? A Catholic college girl preaching a Sunday morning service at a Baptist church?

My heart rejoices over the sermon she delivered and the fact that my daughter, who is active in church today and has my two grandsons in church today, accepted Christ that day.

God uses all of us to accomplish his tasks and get his message heard. And some of those he uses and will continue to use are women, some ordained and others not ordained. The freedom we have in Christ is for everyone, male or female. May it ever be so!

*Donald Cole
Brandenburg*

Image of God

Because I believe in the priesthood of the believer, no gender specified, I must express concern about the proposed action by Muhlenberg County

Association against the Drakesboro church (Dec. 24, page 3) because of the presence of Angie Flack, ordained minister.

The words of Jesus and the writings of the Apostle Paul provide criteria for Christian service and ministry. Deborah was a prophetess who became a judge in Israel, also a war leader. (Judges 4-5)

Miriam the sister of Moses was a prophetess.

Huldah, the wife of King Josiah's wardrobe keeper, was a prophetess. She was of such high repute that the king sought her advice when the book of the law was found in the temple.

Phoebe played an important role in the early Christian church. In Romans 16:1-2 Paul referred to her as a deaconess and helper. The inference in context seems to place Phoebe in the position as church planter.

Priscilla and Aquila: Luke twice placed her name before that of her husband and by this may have been implying that she was a more active minister than her husband.

The prophetess Anna (Luke 2:38) had spent most of her life in prayer and fasting. She witnessed the presentation of the infant Jesus in the temple. She gave a prayer of dedication and carried the news of the child "to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem."

New Testament churches had deaconesses. Should we live by different standards? I would hope the status of women would be elevated to voting delegates of all associations. I support my pastor in the belief that each member of the executive committee of the local association will support the autonomy of the local church.

May we continue to work and pray, win the lost and advance the cause of Christ.

*Gwen Nimohay
Greenville*

Mistletoe, crows and a new year

It would be a longer walk than I had set forth to take on New Year's Day morning. Instead of the usual neighborhood, two-mile evening circuit with a dog, for something within urged me to "go for it!" And I did.

Turning left on Barbour Lane, I would ultimately intersect US 42 and head home from there, clocking it later in the car to discover it had been a 5.1 mile outing in 1.5 hours—not bad for a guy with a tricky football-knee and could-be-worse arthritis!

With most of the local population still in bed or having their morning coffee, I encountered only a handful of cars on the early leg of the journey. It was the kind of quiet some folks pay good money for, free today for the taking. Quietness has a healing sound to those who listen for it. In recent months, I have not listened closely enough and have paid the price in stress, much of it my own making.

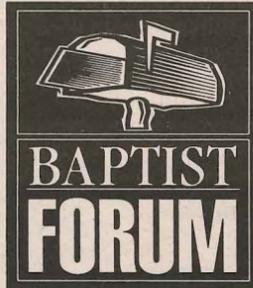
Two crows were working over the carcass of a possum whose New Year's Eve was its last. Sounding their disgust at my interruption, they chose higher ground until I had passed well

on down the road.

Fences are appropriate for many reasons but on this day, I despised them. How I wanted in one place to walk across the acres of pasture where cattle grazed. I started innocently up a lane only to be warned by two black dogs that I wasn't wanted there. I turned back and strode the asphalt strip to which I was to be confined.

Several large, old trees beside the trickling creek bore sprigs of mistletoe, precisely the size we long ago shot down with a .22 caliber rifle to use at Christmas. Does anyone use real mistletoe anymore? Is anyone still quaint enough to need it as an excuse to kiss someone who stands beneath it? One of my first kisses came as a gift of mistletoe, and I remember walking home as on a magic carpet.

Stretches of the road, on both sides, bore the scars of those who would rather throw out their trash than take it home; discourteous people who litter; people who throw away the evidence of their drinking habits: beer cans and whiskey bottles. When I let myself multiply the litter beside the



SINGLES

Single parenting: Going alone?

By James Stillwell

Q: Single parenting has got to be the hardest job on earth. How can I be successful in raising kids alone?

A: None of us need face the task of parenting as Lone Ranger—and even he had Tonto! There are a variety of strategies that can be joined together to help you face this

daunting assignment.

If your singleness is by way of divorce, it may be possible to have your ex-spouse as a cooperating co-parent. Work to keep the lines of communication open. An excellent though difficult goal would be to meet on a monthly basis with your ex to discuss your child's progress. While this may feel more like a business relationship, remember that it is worth the trouble in talking about the business of working together in the task of positive parenting.

The second partner in this process can be a relative, neighbor or friend with whom you can meet each month for a five-facet review and feedback time. This involves discussing how your child is doing physically, mentally, socially, emotionally and spiritually. Confidence in the decisions you have to make as a single parent can be strengthened through this process.

Your church can be a source of strength for you as well, and a guide for navigating through the journeys of the single-parent life. The multiplicity of parenting tasks can be networked with other parents who have complementary skills. Other positive role models often are available. Parenting classes, parents' day out programs and other resources may be provided.

It is in the midst of relationships within the community of faith that spiritual resources are often best tapped. Within the framework of strong Christian support, the truth of the Scriptures are "made flesh." There we understand and live the truth of such biblical affirmations as "I can do all things through him who gives me strength."

It is for you, the single parent and your children, that the church can most beautifully live out its function as the family of God.

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

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

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Christmas journeys create adventures in togetherness

HESAI



Mark Wingfield

This year our family got back to basics by partaking in one of the oldest traditions of Christmas—a long journey. You remember: Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem via donkey and foot; the shepherds beat a path to the door of Baby Jesus after the visit by the angels; the wise men traveled for many months to see Jesus after his birth.

After flying to Albuquerque, N.M., where most of our immediate families live, we hooked up with Alison's dad for an eight-hour drive to Denver, where Alison's brother and sister-in-law live. Alison's dad took us in his prized possession: his Lexus sedan. (Incidentally, I didn't score too many points by noting out loud that the trunk of his fine automobile had less space than the Kentucky-made Camry that had taken us to the airport in Louisville.)

You learn a lot about your family on an eight-hour drive through the hinterlands in a crowded car. You also learn a lot about the hinterlands, like the fact that not only are rest areas few and far between but soap is not to be found in rest area restrooms.

Alison, her dad and I each took turns driving. I've got more firsthand evidence now that men and women drive differently. It's a good thing Alison didn't drive the entire way or it might have taken us twice as long. She was at the wheel when we finally got to the town with a McDonald's—after the boys had been begging for Happy Meals for 100 miles. It seemed like we sat at the exit ramp intersection 20 minutes while she waited for every car and truck within eyesite to pass by. I guess that's the hazard of driving in a fancy car, especially when it's your dad's.

SHESAI



Alison Wingfield

Although there was room at the inn for us this Christmas (at my brother and sister-in-law's house), there wasn't any room in the car.

Flying to Albuquerque and then driving up to Denver for Christmas sounded like a good idea in September. But we discovered there is a big difference between traveling with kids on a plane for two hours at a time and driving in a gift-packed car for eight hours. I'll never complain about the cramped seats on an airplane again.

We thought it would be a fairly comfortable ride. But we forgot about the luggage and the gifts we were hauling with us. Daddy quickly assessed the situation (based on the amount of luggage we had brought with us) and threw his overnight bag in the car first, to make sure it got in. The trunk was so packed that everything stayed in exactly the same place—the coats on top took the form of the trunk molding.

The boys and I had to crawl into the back seat, since both wheel wells were full. I managed to find a place for my feet on either side of the hump in the middle, but whenever we stopped and got out, everything seemed to shift, so whoever was sitting in the middle had to dig out a place for their feet each time.

We even had to put a few things in the back window, the final indignity for my dad and his classy car.

And for the record, I didn't take that long to cross the intersection to get to McDonald's. There was just a lot of traffic at the time.

I wonder if Joseph ever criticized Mary on her handling of the donkey. Probably. Some things never change.

Content labels won't protect kids from TV

The television industry has hauled out a new set of content labels for their programming, aimed at helping parents make better choices about what to allow their children to watch.

These content labels, structured much like the Motion Picture Association of America's ratings for movies, have been denounced as too little and too late by many child advocacy experts and religious leaders. Critics contend the labels offer too little information for parents to make informed decisions. They also note a conflict of interest because television executives themselves will determine which shows get which labels.

The critics are right. What the television industry has agreed to do isn't nearly enough, even though it is a baby step in the right direction.

But that's only part of the story. While plenty of blame should be heaped on television executives for the stream of violent rubbish they pipe into our homes, parents must bear an equal measure of guilt for letting their children watch it.

The best television content labeling efforts imaginable would do nothing to make parents take responsibility for their children's viewing habits.

Yes, Hollywood needs to clean up its act. Yes, modern television programs are full of filth and violence and mind-numbing stupidity. Yes, there's a lack of quality programming for children.

Even so, the bottom line is parents must take responsibility for what their children's minds ingest in video form.

The point is not that Hollywood should only produce G-rated fare. Obviously, there is a place for many levels of intensity and types of content. Rather, the point is this: What's appropriate for a mature teenager to watch is not appropriate for a preschooler to watch, and what's appropriate for a mature adult to watch may not be appropriate for a teenager to watch.

As adults, we have become insensitive to many of the undesirable things portrayed and said on TV. For

just one week, really pay attention to what comes into your home through the TV, keeping in mind what you want your children to view, and you'll have a better measure of what changes you need to make.

Here are some additional suggestions for parents (and grandparents):

■ *Take responsibility for your children's viewing habits.* Parents, your children will love you more for standing up for what's right for them than for letting them watch whatever they want on TV or movies. Your child's emotional and spiritual development can be scarred far more seriously by inappropriate viewing than by your denying them the privilege of watching whatever they want.

■ *Set a time limit and then turn the TV off.* Kids (and adults) can even get too much of non-offensive TV, according to numerous authorities in child development. By age 18, the average American child has spent more time watching TV than engaging in any other activity except sleep.

According to research by psychologist Leonard Jason, children who are heavy viewers of television and videos develop reading and language skills later than other children and they achieve lower academically. They also are more prone to hold common cultural stereotypes. Watching so much TV leaves these children insufficient time to develop their minds in play and nurture interpersonal relationships.

■ *Stop using the television as a babysitter.* Sure, there are times when even young children can watch alone while parents do other chores. But the TV or video must not become a quick-fix for overextended parents.

■ *Make personal sacrifices.* Some television fare that may be entirely appropriate for you to watch as an adult may be entirely inappropriate for your child to watch with you or even overhear from the next room. Being a parent requires personal sacrifice.

— Mark Wingfield

To have and to hold

By Carey Newman

My friend was frustrated. Three weeks ago he attended a conference on spiritual growth. The main speaker had challenged the conferees to "exercise their faith." The speaker scolded: "The reason things don't go well in your life is because you just don't believe God enough. The victory you experience is in proportion to your faith. More belief, more victory."

My friend spent the next three weeks trying to believe God more. Yet nothing happened. The more he tried, the more things stayed the same. He looked at me and asked the question I had hoped he wouldn't: "Isn't success in my Christian life tied directly to my 'faith'?"

The popular slogan "saved by faith alone" is as theologically accurate as it is historically important. Theologically, the phrase highlights a theme that runs throughout the entire Bible. As opposed to earning and maintaining our relationship with God through works or good deeds, salvation and subsequent Christian experience come

by faith alone. Historically, "justification by faith alone" formed the key plank in the Protestant Reformation.

No denying it, "faith" is how we begin our experience with God; and "faith" is also how we continue that relationship.

However, the "faith" which the Bible lionizes is a "faith" in "something," and it is this "something" which actually breathes life into our act of believing. We believe in a God who created the world; we believe in a God who desires to bless the world, even though it has gone astray; we believe in a God who sent Jesus to (re)create a people so he might bless the world through them;

we believe in a God whose decisive faithful act was to raise Jesus out of the grave. We discover that the bedrock of our "faith" is God's "faithfulness."

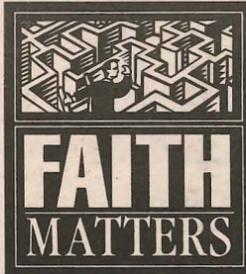
My 15-month-old daughter loves to go for walks. She loves to toddle along, holding on to my finger. Having hold of my finger prevents her from falling. Even when she does stumble, the finger is there to steady. Moreover, having hold of my finger

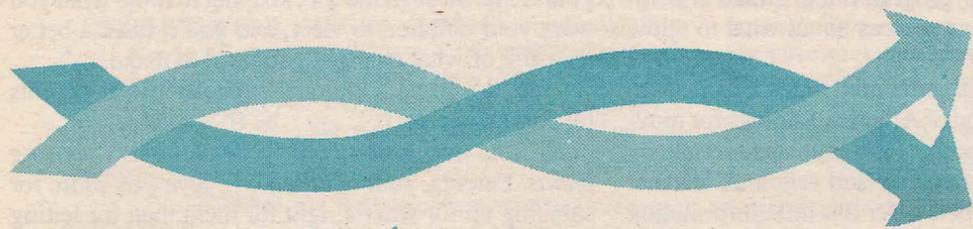
guides and paces her. She does not lose her way, nor does she lag behind. I would like to think that the finger even provides a sense of psychological-emotional security for her.

But her hold of me is only part of the story. As her father—the one who cares for her well-being—I know all too well of her propensity to fall, of the temptations to become diverted and of the danger inherent in lagging behind or running ahead. While she has effectively grasped me, it is my grasp of her that really counts.

We should resist the temptation of reducing Christian experience into a series of activities (going to church, singing in the choir, giving our money). We should also resist the temptation of turning Christian experience into some sort of mental gymnastics ("If only I could just believe God more, then ..."). The mystery here is how our act of believing is elicited and shaped by God's activity of saving, keeping and nurturing.

I told my friend to sleep well and live boldly, knowing that his "faith" does not rest in his ability to believe but in the faithful deeds of God. *Genuine "faith" is our confidence that, in and through the cross and resurrection of Jesus, God has resolutely gripped us.*





Friends Forever

"Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends."

Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference February 24-25, 1997

St. Matthews Baptist Church
3515 Grandview Ave.
Louisville, Kentucky



Leonard Sweet



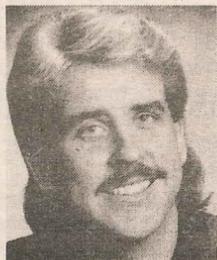
Darryl Starnes



Richard Harris



Lee Strobel



Tim Coldiron



Veronica Duka
Miss Kentucky
1996



Jim McNiel

Office for Evangelism
Bill Jagers, Director
(502) 245-4101

Choir from Temuco, Chile, to tour Kentucky this month

The Temuco Baptist Academy's faculty choir from South Chile will tour Kentucky Jan. 11-27.

The 24-member choir will offer their testimonies with two styles of concerts.

Career missionaries Grundy and Jean Janes will travel with the troupe. The Janeses are on furlough and living in the missionary residence of Georgetown College.

The 75-year-old Temuco Baptist Academy has 1,060 students. Many of the school's buildings were funded through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions.

The choir's concert schedule includes:

■ Sunday, Jan. 12, at 10 a.m. at Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green, and at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Franklin.

■ Monday, Jan. 13, at 7 p.m. at Henderson Memorial Baptist Church in Hopkinsville.

■ Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m. at Beaver Dam Baptist Church in Beaver Dam.

■ Wednesday, Jan. 15, at 6:15 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Owensboro.

■ Thursday, Jan. 16, at 6:30 p.m.

at First Baptist Church in Leitchfield.

■ Friday, Jan. 17, at 7 p.m. at Calvary Baptist Church in Glasgow.

■ Saturday, Jan. 18, at a 7 p.m. youth rally.

■ Sunday, Jan. 19, at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Somerset, and at 6:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church in London.

■ Monday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Hazard.

■ Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 11 a.m. at Oneida Baptist Institute, and at 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. at Georgetown College.

■ Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown.

■ Thursday, Jan. 23, at 7:30 p.m. at Central Baptist Church in Lexington.

■ Friday, Jan. 24, at 6 p.m. at Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

■ Sunday, Jan. 26, at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood, and at 6:30 p.m. at Valley Station Baptist Church in Louisville.

More information is available from Jim Cordell of the KBC at (502) 245-4101.

Dialogue Luncheons

during the

Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference

St. Matthews Baptist Church
3515 Grandview Avenue, Louisville
February 25, 11:45 a.m. (EST)

Check one and return with your luncheon reservation form:

- Jim Coldiron: *ABC's of Revival Planning & Preparation*
- Mark Acuff: *Creatively Reaching Non-Christians*
- Leonard Sweet: *Evangelism & the Third Millennium*
- Darryl Starnes: *Evangelistic Preaching*
- Bill Probus: *Legal Issues in the Church*
- Mauri Smith: *Promoting Your Church*
- Jewell Nelson: *Reaching Children & Their Families*
- Richard Harris: *Reaching People Through Special Evangelistic Events*
- Stuart Perkins: *Reaching the Lost Living in Multi-Housing*
- Ann Carter & Yoshiya Togami: *Stress & Ministry*
- Jim McNiel: *Using Drama in Worship*

Luncheon Reservations Form

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

()
Day Phone _____

Please complete above form and send together with a check for \$6.50 (made payable to KY Baptist Convention) to: Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, by February 14.

Court lets school Bible club ruling stand

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court has declined to review a lower court's decision allowing a Long Island, N.Y., high school Bible club to have only Christian officers.

The justices without comment Dec. 16 rejected an appeal of the policy by the Roslyn Union Free School District, which had argued that the club discriminated against students of other religious backgrounds.

The case began in 1993, when senior Emily Hsu tried to begin a student-led, after-school Christian fellowship club. In the proposal she submitted to school officials, Hsu stated all club officers would be Christians.

But school officials told her such a provision violated the school district's non-discrimination policy mandating that all student clubs be open to students of all religious beliefs.

In 1994, Hsu and her younger brother filed suit arguing that the school district was restricting their freedom of religious rights. They argued that a Christian club must have Christian officers to preserve its purpose and identity.

A federal district court ruled in favor of the school district, but that decision was overturned by the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals, which ordered the school to exempt the Christian club from the non-discrimination policy.

The leadership requirement was permissible because it was "made purely for expressive purposes—to guarantee that meetings include the desired worship and observance—rather than for the sake of exclusion itself."

The club's religion-based leadership eligibility requirement is similar to a chess club's eligibility requirement based on chess, the appeals court said.

The Supreme Court's action Monday upheld the circuit court's ruling, but did not address any merits of either side's arguments.

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Muslim wins harassment case.** A Massachusetts security company has been ordered to pay a former employee \$300,000 for emotional distress suffered from religious harassment. The Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination ruled the company failed to redress harassment by a co-worker and retaliated against the Muslim employee after he complained. Among the complaints was that a co-worker kicked and wiped his feet on the worker's prayer rug.

■ **Group denied protest of Clinton sues.** The Christian Defense Coalition, an anti-abortion group, has filed suit claiming its free speech rights are being violated because it was denied permission to demonstrate along the route of President Clinton's inauguration. A hearing in the case is expected after Jan. 1. The inauguration is scheduled for Jan. 20.

■ **Assisted-suicide case dropped.** A Newton County, Mo., prosecutor has dropped voluntary manslaughter charges against the 77-year-old husband and the 50-year-old son of a terminally ill Illinois woman who died in a motel room in 1995 with a plastic bag over her head. The two men were the first to be charged under Missouri's 13-year-old law against assisted suicide.

■ **Mormon survey: American families happy but anxious.** According to a survey commissioned by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and conducted by the Gallup Organization, 73 percent of the American respondents described their own family life as either "extremely" or "very" happy. But 76 percent said they believe the nation's moral direction is worse now than when they were children.

Christmas '97 memo: Change song's wording

ENCINITAS, Calif. (RNS)—Composer Hugh Martin wants you to "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" with an extra blessing.

Martin has changed the lyrics to the Christmas classic he wrote for "Meet Me in St. Louis," the 1943 movie starring Judy Garland.

Instead of "Have yourself a merry little Christmas," the chorus now reads "Have yourself a blessed little Christmas."

"My faith means everything to me now," Martin said shortly before Christmas. "I wasn't even a Christian when I wrote it."

Martin is now an 82-year-old Seventh-day Adventist living in Encinitas, Calif. He started thinking about changing the words to his tune in 1974 after he had a spiritual rebirth.

"Have Yourself a Blessed Little Christmas" will be published in time for the next holiday season.

In 1990, Martin's original tune was placed on the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers' list of Most Performed ASCAP Standards.

While Martin has updated his Christmas tune, he's not thrilled when others wish to do so. He recently refused to grant permission to a Nashville artist who wanted to sing: "Have yourself a Willie Nelson Christmas. Let your hair grow long."

Special Event for Women "Reach Out and Touch"



Luncheon Speaker
Mamie McCullough



Musician
Miss Kentucky
Veronica Duka



Luncheon Speaker
Sylvia E. Hill

**Galt House West,
4th & River Rd Louisville KY
February 25, 1997
11:00 A.M. - 1:15 P.M. (EST)
Luncheon Meeting for
Kentucky Baptist Women
and their friends (especially
the unchurched)
PLUS Eight Break-out
Sessions Especially for
Women
1:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M. (EST)
2:45 P.M. - 3:45 P.M. (EST)**

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Cost: \$12 per person

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____
STATE: _____ ZIP _____
PHONE: _____

Mail To: (Sponsor) Office for Evangelism,
Kentucky Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 43433,
Louisville, KY 40253-0433; or for more
information call (502) 245-4101, ext. 330

Break-out Sessions

Reach Out to:

Children.. (*Precious in His Sight*) Diana Garland
The Lost "in Your Marketplace" Sylvia E. Hill
The Lonely/Nurturing Creative Aloneness .. Jane Kendrick-Lites
Hurting Humanity (*Faith Works*) Joyce Martin

Touch Thru:

Prayer - *A Ministry of Compassion* Nell Bruce
Timely Choices (*Battling Overcommitment*) .. Debbie Lloyd
Encouragement Mamie McCullough
Your Spiritual Gifts Jill Menser

Court strikes down Utah ban on abortions after 20 weeks

DENVER(RNS)—Utah's law banning abortions after the 20th week of gestation has been struck down as unconstitutional by a federal appeals court.

The 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, based in Denver, acting Dec. 23, said the provision was unconstitutional because it infringed on a woman's right to choose.

The provision was part of a 1991 Utah law that banned all abortions after 20 weeks, with narrow exceptions.

The law's provision banning abortions during the first 20 weeks of pregnancy already had been struck down as unconstitutional.

A spokesman for state Attorney General Jan Graham said lawyers were reviewing the decision and it was unclear if the state now had any restrictions on abortion.

In its ruling on the post-20-weeks provision of the law, the appellate court noted that the U.S. Supreme Court has said that a doctor, not legislation, should determine the viability of a fetus and "until viability is actually present the state may not prevent a woman from choosing to abort."

Black & Anglo evangelical groups push racial reconciliation

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The National Association of Evangelicals and the National Black Evangelical Association continued reconciliation efforts by calling for a second annual Reconciliation Sunday on Jan. 19.

The two groups are in the midst of an admittedly slow process toward improved understanding.

The efforts come after decades in which black evangelicals viewed the National Association of Evangelicals as an organization that did not consider racial issues a high priority.

In addition to urging observance of Reconciliation Sunday, the two groups continue to urge churches and their members to take practical steps to build relations, such as forming racial reconciliation task forces, starting friendships with individuals of other races and adopting a "sister church" of a different race.

Scientologist might not get cult watchdog

BELLEVUE, Wash. (RNS)—A man whose lawsuit pushed the Cult Awareness Network into bankruptcy and led to a virtual takeover of the organization by its longtime foe, the Church of Scientology, has reportedly changed his mind about helping Scientology dismantle the network.

Jason Scott, 24, of Bellevue, Wash., has fired his Scientology-linked attorney and has hired another attorney, who in the past assisted Cult Awareness Network.

Scott's new attorney, Graham Berry, said he will seek a cash settlement

with Scientology that would allow Cult Awareness Network to keep its files and re-establish itself as a clearinghouse for information about controversial religious movements that many regard as destructive cults.

Cult Awareness Network declared bankruptcy earlier this year after Scott won a \$1.8 million judgment against the 22-year-old organization.

The judgment stemmed from a suit in which Scott claimed he had been kidnapped at his mother's request in 1991 by a deprogrammer, who sought to convince him to renounce member-

ship in a conservative Pentecostal group. The suit claimed the programmer was recommended by a network volunteer.

"Scott has no interest in being part of Scientology's campaign against Cult Awareness Network," Berry said. "His only concern is to be compensated for what happened to him."

CAN and Scientology have a long history of legal and rhetorical conflict. Last month, the network's name, logo and telephone number were sold in U.S. Bankruptcy Court to a member of the Church of Scientology.

Million-dollar estate benefiting little-known evangelicals

WASHINGTON (RNS) The grandson and sole executor of Armand Hammer's million-dollar fortune has reportedly directed the money away from the art and educational institutions Hammer long supported to a host of little-known Christian groups.

Under Michael Hammer's direction, Armand Hammer's fortune is now supporting such groups as Italy

for Christ, Don Dennis Ministries, Marty Goetz Ministries, Mike Barber Ministries and the Douglas L. Mobley Foundation. The only well-known organization Michael Hammer has reportedly aided financially is Jews for Jesus.

Armand Hammer often identified himself as a Unitarian, but the Washington Post reported that he underwent a death bed conversion to Chris-

tianity.

Armand Hammer, who first made his fortune as a middle-man involved in business deals that linked the former Soviet Union with Western companies and nations, died at age 92 in 1990. According to the Post, more than 100 claims and lawsuits have been filed against the Hammer estate by charities, relatives and former mistresses.

Magnum Transportation



"Bus Sales, Service, & Refurbishments"

1228 Lakeview Dr.
Franklin, TN 37067
(615) 790-8990 FAX (615) 790-8989
"Your Transportation Solution"

What will you leave behind?

By Steve Hadden

Footprints. Everyone leaves footprints. Our prints are made by the impression of our lives on the sands of time. A person is remembered for the effectiveness of his or her character—for values, personal warmth, compassion, generosity.

Thoughtful estate planning is one means we have to make a lasting impression on the lives of individuals and ministries we love. Such planning can remind others of our most cherished values.

Each January, many people take time to review their personal goals and objectives and to look once again at their estate plans. Certainly, responsible people want to ensure that their family members and perhaps other loved ones are remembered in any estate plan. Additionally, many include provisions for their church, mission organizations or other ministries such as Baptist Healthcare Foundation, which supports the outreach of five Baptist hospitals in Kentucky.

■ *An estate gift makes a positive statement.* When you include your church, Baptist Healthcare Foundation or other ministry in your plans, you declare your belief in and care about such ministries. Your gift becomes a clear and lasting declaration of your values.

■ *An estate gift provides needed funding.* Estate gifts are valuable for many reasons. They may provide that extra boost to the budget that can make the difference between program advancement and a delay. They may be designated for a specific purpose, or they may be unrestricted for use where needed most. They may fund endowments that

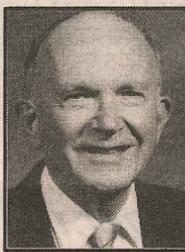
perpetually provide a witness to others that you believe in the mission and vision of your church or other ministry.

■ *An estate gift encourages others.* As friends and family members plan their own estates, they may recall and be inspired by your generosity and thoughtfulness. Your gift may unlock resources for your church, Baptist Healthcare or other important causes.

If you have questions or concerns about your personal estate plan, please contact Baptist Healthcare Foundation. Staff members have information and materials designed to help you in the estate planning process. Their services are offered confidentially, without cost or obligation to you.

Steve Hadden is pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church and a member of Baptist Healthcare Foundation board of directors.

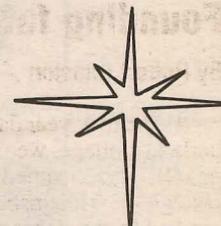
BAPTIST HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION



McNeelys Host Spain Tour

This August 7-16, June and I would like to introduce you to the land where we were missionaries for many years. Dehoney Travel has arranged a fascinating tour. Some Baptist work will be included. Write now for brochure if you think you might be interested: Dr. Gerald McNeely, 10605 Ledbury Ct., Louisville, KY 40243, or call (502) 244-3759. **Important discount for early deposit by Feb. 7**

Thank You Kentucky Baptists!



The children and staff of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children want to thank Kentucky Baptists for the many gifts, visits and expressions of love during the Christmas season.

Your gifts are deeply appreciated not only for their substance but for the spirit of Christian compassion in which they were given. Thank you for modeling for the children the true meaning of Christmas gift-giving as a reflection of God giving us the greatest gift of all -- His Son!



Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
1-800-456-1386 * <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>



Odds improving to beat gambling, lobbyist says

WASHINGTON (BP)—Bernie Horn is not a betting man.

Since November elections, however, the political director of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling said odds are improving in the group's fight against the gaming industry.

During the last two years, efforts to legalize gambling failed in nearly two dozen states.

In November, bids to legalize gambling were turned back in Arkansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Ohio, Washington state, Iowa, Virginia and Guam and 33 parishes in Louisiana.

Anti-gambling groups were not as successful in Alabama, New Orleans, Michigan and West Virginia. Still, Horn is not complaining. "I doubt that there is any interest group in America that can claim a better record."

"In Ohio we were outspent 15-1, and there we had the governor on our side raising money," Horn said.

"In Arkansas we were probably out-fundraised 20-1, but in both those states we clobbered them," he continued.

Horn said anti-gambling groups

don't have to match spending with the gaming industry's multi-million dollar campaigns.

"If we can just get our message to the voter, it doesn't matter how much the other side spends," he said.

Despite gambling opponents' successes, industry promoters have not surrendered, Horn said.

"If they spend \$10 million, it's a small investment compared to the profits they would get in just one month," he said. "We're going to have this battle over and over again for the next few years until there is a clear trend."

CLASSIFIED ADS

NEEDED: Full-time secretary. Computer experience required. Salary and benefits. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Beechmont Baptist Church, 4574 South Third St., Louisville, KY 40214.

SEEKING: Minister of childhood education. 2,000-member suburban church seeks experienced seminary graduate to lead ministry to 500 preschoolers, children and their families. Send resumé to: Brian Lee, Bon Air Baptist Church, 2531 Buford Road, Richmond, VA 23235.

WANTED: Youth to audition for 1997 Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra. Must be in grades 9-12, active in music ministry of a Kentucky Baptist church. Information, call Church Music Department (502) 245-4101.

NEEDED: Youth groups for summer missions. For information, cities, dates, costs call (800) 299-0385. Youth on Mission, Box 2095, Rocky Mount, NC 27802.

FOR SALE: 1987 Ford 40-passenger bus. 379 gas engine, PS/PB/AC, excellent condition. \$8,500. Central Baptist Church, Corbin. (606) 528-6650.

FOR SALE: First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Ky., is accepting bids on 11 pews, 13 feet, eight inches long with cushions. Please fax your bid to (502) 683-8067 or call the church administrator for details at (502) 683-3505.

FOR SALE: 22 12' pews, blue cloth; one pulpit; two clergy benches; one altar bench; excellent condition, call (502) 866-2089.

WANTED: Full-time minister to children (grades 1 through 6) and their families. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Immanuel Baptist Church, 3100 Bates Creek Road, Lexington, KY 40502. Resumé should include applicant's experience and education for the position.

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

SEEKING: 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.

TV rating plan gets bad review from many religious groups

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Television's proposed new rating system for programming, which the major networks began using Jan. 1, generally flopped with the religious community, drawing responses ranging from harsh condemnation to cautious concern.

The plan will use a system of rating programs based on the program's appropriateness for six age levels.

Gary Bauer, president of the conservative Family Research Council, called the rating system "an insult to parents everywhere and a clear sign that Hollywood has no intention of curbing sex, violence and foul language on television."

Andrea Sheldon, director of government affairs for the Anaheim, Calif.-based conservative Traditional Values Coalition, called the new rating system "shallow and of no help to parents or Americans who want to know exactly how bad a program is."

Other critics were less harsh, but still dissatisfied with the industry's proposal to regulate itself.

Don Argue, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, said the industry should provide a rating system that would identify shows by their content—sex, violence and language—rather than the age-appropriate standard.

Thom White Wolf Fassett, general secretary of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society, agreed. "Instead of the proposed broad, vague categories, we strongly suggest that the proposed rating system identify content with symbols, such as 'V' for violence, 'S' for sex or 'L' for language."

Arthur Cribbs Jr., a former television news reporter in San Francisco who now heads the office of communications of the United Church of Christ, praised broadcasters for grappling with the issue of mature programming, but he said the industry seems to be "wanting to answer the question in a way that allows it to do what it feels is in its own best interests."

Founding fathers

By Robert Dunston

As the new year dawns at Cumberland College, we remember the people who dreamed of a Baptist college in Williamsburg, and who worked to make that dream a reality. Two of Cumberland College's founders were Gen. Green Clay Smith and pastor R.C. Medaris.

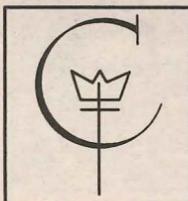
Smith held a variety of important positions in his life. Born in 1832, he first distinguished himself in the war with Mexico. After his service in that conflict, he completed his education, studied law and became a member of the Kentucky legislature. When the Civil War broke out, he joined the Union forces and raised a regiment of cavalry. In 1862, he was made a brigadier general and in 1863 was sent to Congress. When Abraham Lincoln was nominated by the Republican convention as their presidential candidate in 1864, Smith fell one vote short of being nominated as the vice presidential candidate.

He did run for the presidency in 1876 as the candidate of the Prohibitionist Party. When the 1876 political campaign ended, Smith answered a higher calling and became a minister. During the last years of his life (1890-1895), he was pastor

of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

Medaris (1858-1942) did not live in the limelight as did Smith, but Medaris' life made a tremendous impact in Tennessee and Kentucky. At the age of 17, he answered God's call to ministry and eventually came to Williamsburg as pastor of First Baptist Church.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



In September 1887, in a meeting of Mount Zion Baptist Association, these two men inspired participants to establish a Baptist school in Williamsburg. Medaris was appointed financial agent on education and asked to collect funds and search for a lot on which to build the school. In December of

that same year, \$4,005 was pledged, and articles of incorporation and a charter were prepared.

The vision and work of these two people continue to affect lives today. How fortunate we are as Kentucky Baptists to have had and to still have people of vision and determination. We at Cumberland College hope we are preparing even more such people for God to use in the years ahead.

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

Estate planning is about living, not dying

"Estate planning is not about death and dying, but about living, dreaming, creating and fulfilling an ideal of lasting social and personal impact," according to American Benefactor Magazine.

Christian estate planning expands this concept to making a lasting difference for the cause of Christ.

As you begin a new year, let it be a time when you consider your hopes and dreams for making a lasting difference in this world for Christ's sake, and for the sake of the world.

Let it also be a time when you codify those hopes and dreams in your own estate planning documents. Your last will and testament constitutes the cornerstone of your estate plan.

Financial columnist Jane Bryant Quinn gives these practical reasons why you should have a will: "You own stuff; you will die; someone will get your stuff." Through your will, you decide who will receive your assets and how assets will be received at your death.

Estate planning should be done while you are in full physical and mental health. Unfortunately

many people approach estate planning only when they become seriously ill or incapacitated.

Don't be among the estimated 67 percent who do not have a will. Regardless of your financial station in life, you should have a will. It is your estate and you are responsible as a steward for its use during your lifetime and after your lifetime.

Please contact our trust counsel, Laurie Valentine, to answer your questions about the need for a will or an updated will, the unified gift and estate tax, the role of charitable gifts in your estate plan, taxes and the surviving spouse, and trusts.

There is no cost or obligation for this estate planning consultation service. It is one of our service-ministries to all Kentucky Baptists.

Perhaps you also would like for us to lead an estate planning seminar in your church. Please call Laurie or me at (502) 244-6466.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Four young Russian couples in St. Petersburg who are in MasterLife discipleship training.

■ Joe and Gloria DeLeon as they coordinate the work in St. Petersburg.

■ Ken Lyle, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England.

■ Bob Brindle, missions team leader of the Baptist Convention of New England, as he completes treatment for a malignancy.

■ Beulah Peoples, Woman's Missionary Union and missions ministry team leader of the Baptist Convention of New England.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ CYNTHIANA—Beaver Church called **Lenard Woosley** as pastor.

■ ERLANGER—Northern Kentucky Association called **Rick Robbins** as director of missions, effective Jan. 1. He previously was director of missions in Blackford and Breckenridge associations.

■ HENDERSON—First Church ordained **Ron Osborne** to the gospel ministry Dec. 22. **Brad Vose** was licensed to the ministry Dec. 29.

■ LOUISVILLE—Broadway Church called **Todd Bishop** as minister to youth. He began his new ministry Jan. 2.

■ OWENSBORO—Walnut Memorial Church called **Eugene Howard** as full-time minister of education. He began his new ministry Jan. 1.

■ PADUCAH—Lone Oak First Church ordained **James Jones** and **Tim Hooker** as deacons Dec. 29.

Willis Henson is pastor.

■ RUSSELLVILLE—**Marshall Barnett** received the master of arts in religious education degree from Southwestern Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, during fall commencement ceremonies.

■ SMITHLAND—Good Hope Church called **Mitch Brown** as pastor. **Mint Springs Church** called **Eddie Osburn** as pastor.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **Roy and Diane Brent**, missionaries to Kenya, are in the States. Their address is: 161 Elkins Lake, Huntsville, Texas 77430. He is a native of Campbellsburg.

■ **Gary and Becky Threatt**, missionaries to Ethiopia, are in the States. Their address is: 107 A.P. Hill, Highland Springs, Va. 23075. She was born in Louisville.

Religious leaders on admired list

WASHINGTON(RNS)—Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II and Billy Graham have been cited as some of the most admired people in the nation, according to a USA Today/CNN/Gallup poll.

Mother Teresa topped the list of the most admired women for the third time, USA Today reported. Nearly 25 percent of those surveyed named Mother Teresa as the most admired woman. She ranked higher than first lady Hillary Clinton, who came in sec-

ond for the third time.

Pope John Paul II was chosen as the second most admired man, behind President Clinton. The last time someone other than the president was chosen as the most admired man was in 1980, when the pontiff ranked higher than Jimmy Carter.

Billy Graham came in fourth on the list of most admired men, after retired Gen. Colin Powell. The poll surveyed 813 adults and has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percent.

Spark plug award

Recently our students who work in the agriculture program were treated to a "harvest supper" and special recognition by farm manager Ken Martin.

Our agriculture program was expanded this year to include girls. For several years girls had asked to work on the farm like the boys. There were a few obstacles to overcome, but, little by little, we have made it possible for girls to be a part of our ever-expanding agriculture program.

Martin, his wife and several others helped prepare a tasty steak dinner for about 20 students and a dozen adults. Each student was recognized in a special way. The first award went to Zane, who received the "Cattleman" award for his dependable care of the cattle. Next was the "I Am Proud of You" award, given to Charles. Martin stated he was very proud of Charles' contribution to the total agriculture program. William received the "Most Energetic" award. He seems to have a lot of energy and is always wanting something to do. William was also given the "Spark Plug" award, to acknowledge that we always need someone to get things going.

Tommy received the "I Have to Have a Job" award. This is Tommy's second year with us. He was fired from nearly a dozen jobs in the work program before coming to the farm. Tommy told Martin he had transferred to the farm because "I have to have a job." The farm has been great for Tommy, and he is doing much better. Kerry was honored with the "Pigs' Best Friend" award because of her interest in and kindness to the pigs. Martin said Kerry always saw to their needs.

Kelly was given the "Best Speaker" award. She does not have the inhibitions some students have

when speaking before a group of peers. David received the "Fix-It" award. He loves to fix and repair things. Martin said when there was nothing to repair, David would ask permission to take something apart to look for something wrong.

A "Newcomer's" award was given to Leonard for being the newest agriculture student. Tony was given the "Best Equipment Operator" award. Tony comes from a farm background and is extremely good with equipment. Dustin received the "Most Potential" award for being dependable in every area of his work.

Henry blushed a little when he received the "Best Attitude" award for being "well balanced." Brandon was given the "Team Worker" award for getting along with his peers and being willing to work for the good of all. Mandy got the "On Time" award for always getting to work on time; something we try to teach all of our students. She also accepted the "Most Leadership" award. Scott was given the "Follow Instructions" award because of his ability to do every job assigned to him as instructed. Caleb earned the "Most Dependable" award for being a young man we can always depend on to get the job done. A "Thank You" award was given to David, in part, because of his attention to safety. Justin received the "Most Changed" award for improvement of his attitude.

Last, but not least, Tim was given the "Most Scholastic" award in recognition of his grades. Like many students who come to Oneida, Tim's grades once left a lot to be desired. He now is on the straight A honor roll and has contributed much to the agriculture program.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

S.C. pastors offer opinions about flying Confederate flag

By Don Kirkland
S.C. Baptist Courier

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)—While some are rallying around the flag, more than 100 South Carolina ministers are rallying behind Gov. David Beasley's "desire to bring about racial reconciliation."

At a Dec. 12 news conference at Trinity Cathedral, 127 ministers supported the governor, who has proposed removing the battle flag from the capital dome to another site on the statehouse grounds.

"It is our desire that divisions be lessened between the races of our state and between the sincerely held points of view regarding the place of this flag," their statement read.

"While the flag holds a position of high honor in the minds of many South Carolinians, it is a source of anguish for many others," read the statement, shaped, in part by the governor's pastor, Dick Lincoln of Shandon Baptist Church in Columbia.

Calling for the flag controversy to be approached by both sides as "first and foremost a spiritual matter," the pastors asked South Carolinians to "ask God to guide us to a place of reconciliation and a future of togetherness."

A day earlier in Columbia, 16 ministers said Beasley was "driving a wedge in the body of the church" by his efforts to remove the flag

from the capitol dome. Bobby Eubanks, pastor of Ridge Baptist Church in Summerville, S.C., urged the governor to get back to his agenda to "put families first" instead of "wasting his moral and his political capital on the Confederate battle flag."

Lincoln issued a plea for prayer and civil discourse. Referring to Romans 14 dealing with a conflict among Christians in Rome, Lincoln said, "There can be differences of opinion, but there should be civility and unity."

The Shandon pastor said the group was not meeting to say that there's a single solution to the controversy, but to promote "a spiritual level of discourse that will aid in racial reconciliation."

Mike Hamlet, pastor of First Baptist Church of North Spartanburg, and president of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, said the controversy should be dealt with.

"Today, we are appealing to people of faith to seek what is right and to grab the high ground together. Then we'll be victorious as a people and as a state."

The same day as the news conference, the state Baptist convention's executive board approved a motion "encouraging South Carolina Baptists to pray for racial reconciliation and also for our state leaders as they deal with issues regarding the Confederate battle flag."

Adjusting in Tanzania

"Sometimes you dial the phone 50 times before you get through; then you may be cut off. We filter all our drinking water. Long lines await us when we pay our bills. Africa has many little shops rather than one big Wal-Mart. Dust, heat, non-road roads and insects. But we have adjusted and feel somewhat at home here." *Charles and Carolyn Dixon, Kentucky missionaries to Tanzania.*

They work with three weak associations. The number of churches has grown from five to eight, with four more church buildings under construction. Their biggest need is for equipped leaders. "Many of the leaders need training. We have hopes that with a few educated leaders, the work will prosper. Many of them are now teaching old wives tales rather than the word of God," Charles said. Carolyn worked with a national women's teacher in two seminars that focused on the Christian woman's role in the family, church and community.

Charles conducts theological education classes throughout the three associations. He asks our prayers for a proposal seeking funds to send a seminary graduate to the Ifakara Association to do survey work, begin a Bible school and

build a town church.

Carrollton volunteers, Pete Toole and Buford Dunavent, went to help in two cities and teach theological education classes in two associations. More than 200 people accepted Jesus as their personal Savior as a result of Toole's and Dunavent's personal evangelism.

A big change for the Dixons came in August, when their 13-year-old son, Paul, moved to the Baptist Hostel at Brackenhurst to attend Rosslyn Academy. Mom said, "He would appreciate any mail, so write him at: Box 32, Limuru, Kenya."

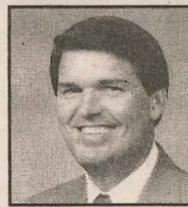
The Dixons are in the last year of their first term as Southern Baptist missionaries. The 1993 Clear Creek graduates came to us from Mortons Gap.

You can contact them at: Box 105, Morogoro, Tanzania or e-mail: Charles_Dixon@maf.org.

The Dixons have adjusted their life to do the will of God. Kentucky Baptists helped train them, and now we must support them through the Lottie Moon offering for foreign missions. One of God's best gifts to us at Christmas is to have a part in what he is doing in the world.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

MISSIONS

Cambodians risk danger to share Christ with others

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (BP)—In Cambodia, the desire to share Jesus' name is a tedious, dangerous and sometimes deadly struggle.

A Baptist volunteer who shared her Christian message with a group of Cambodian women learned that villagers had been told not to follow Jesus Christ. One woman said some Christians once lived in that village, but, one by one, they mysteriously disappeared.

In Cambodia, Christians do disappear. They are abandoned. They must work within boundaries set by district leaders and other government officials. They even still come face-to-face with dreaded Khmer Rouge rebels.

Whatever the threat may be, accepting Christianity often means stepping into danger. As a result, Christians are few but strong.

On a recent volunteer trip, Jamie Atkinson told how one Cambodian man prayed to receive Jesus Christ as Savior despite his perceived fears.

"We went to a little hut where this one man was staying, and we shared the gospel with him for about an hour and a half to two hours. ... He was really intently listening to us," Atkinson said. The man committed himself to Jesus then asked, "Now that I've accepted Christ, what am I going to do, because now they are going to come and kill me."

Shaw, a Christian woman who lives in southwestern Cambodia, is another such follower. (Due to concerns for her safety, Shaw's last name is not used.)

When Shaw announced plans to show the "Jesus" film, threats came

not from her predominantly Buddhist neighbors but from area police.

The police chief threatened to burn down Shaw's house and take her children, according to volunteer Danny Evans.

The threat came after Evans and two Khmer Christians traveled to Krong Kaoh Kong, the provincial capital, at the chief's insistence. The lengthy boat ride cost \$240 for the three passengers. The average annual income in Cambodia is \$300, Evans said.

Eight religious officials interrogated the men four hours. "These people had never seen a Bible. We had to show them a Bible. They had never heard the name Jesus, so we had to tell them who he was," Evans said. Eventually, permission was given to show the film. "We got all the paperwork to spread the gospel."

The area police chief still was not satisfied, but Shaw showed the film anyway, Evans said. "She said, 'I don't care. I know Jesus.'" Police officers with M-16s on their shoulders arrived, but they did not disturb the presentation. Fifteen of Shaw's neighbors accepted Jesus that night.

The story of Shaw and her Christian friends is just one example of the persecution leveled against Christians in Cambodia today. Attacks may come from government officials, police chiefs, even spouses.

Atkinson said she met a woman who was abandoned by her family when she decided to follow Christ two years ago. Now she harvests lotus nuts to support herself. The woman offers her house as a place of worship on Sundays and evenings. Her husband and two children live within a mile of her home but

never come to see her.

Cambodian pastor Leng Sovann oversees more than a dozen churches. Most meet in homes that are great distances apart. Each day Leng travels by motorbike to villages in the Battambang area where Christ's name often has not been heard. He spends hours visiting district officials and village leaders to ask permission to talk with area residents.

Although Leng and others serve

despite hardship, many Cambodians long to hear truth. Volunteer groups, invited to Cambodia by the Khmer Baptist Convention, have been reaching some of them.

One man's question posed to volunteer Mark Hopkins illuminates the need. Recalled Hopkins: "He asked, 'Did your God create every country, even Cambodia? Then why did it take so long for someone to come tell us?'"



Land mine victim leads ministry offering hope to amputees

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (BP)—Land mines are everywhere in Cambodia. So are their victims.

Stepping on a land mine usually means losing more than a limb. It often means losing job, home and family as well. It sometimes means losing hope.

"Because they are disabled, they think they are useless with a meaningless life," said Iv Rith. "They are concerned about their living every day."

Rith, executive secretary of the Khmer Baptist Convention, knows what it is to survive as a land mine victim. A small land mine took his lower left leg, just beneath the knee. Unable to support his wife, he lost her. But unlike many land mine victims, Rith did not lose hope.

Rith has been taking his Christian testimony to other disabled land mine victims in Phnom Penh, so they, too, might have hope.

A worker with Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist humanitarian aid agency, had prayed for a handicapped Christian who could share Christianity with land mine victims.

"Many have lost wives. They have no means of being able to support themselves. They have no house. They have no food," said the worker, who asked not to be identified. "Rith is able to identify with these people

and minister to them effectively."

Rith learned the Scriptures while living in a refugee camp at the border of Thailand from 1981-89. There he discovered the importance of prayer.

"I had nothing for food, nothing. When I was in starvation, I started to pray again to God. Two days after my prayer that we would have food, they brought food to the Thai border camp," he said.

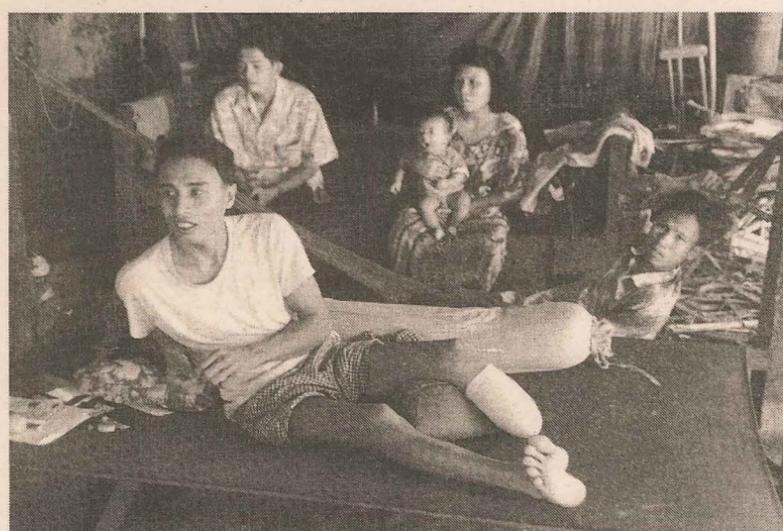
When Rith returned home to Phnom Penh, he brought nothing but his Thai Bible. He attended Russey Keo Baptist Church, and there he received his calling to the ministry and began to pray for God's direction.

In 1995 he accepted a job surveying the handicapped for Cooperative Services International.

As Rith surveyed amputees about their needs and background, 29 people made professions of faith in Jesus during a three-month period, the Cooperative Services worker said.

The base of a Buddhist temple was chosen as a worship place for these new believers because disabled people could access it easily. Rith preached his first sermon there in November 1995 to 31 amputees.

Since that first meeting, about 100 people have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior just as Rith did eight years ago. Rith bap-



tizes new Christians only after they understand the commitment to Christ that baptism symbolizes. He has baptized 11 physically handicapped Christians and one of their spouses.

"There were limbs. There were crutches, just everything along the river bank. They would take (their prosthetic devices) off and then swim out to be baptized," the worker said. "One man had both legs missing. We just picked him up and kind of set him in the water, and he made his way over to where he was

baptized. It was just awesome."

The "church" Rith started now meets in six groups throughout the city. Rith meets with each group about twice a week, once for discipleship training and once for worship.

Rith also administers a small loan program funded by Cooperative Services International to help handicapped people get established in small business. He said he sees his ministry as a gift from God. "As Jesus has given us hope, we want to give them hope," he said.

CAMBODIAN MINISTRIES

■ Above: A house church meets. In Cambodia, sharing Jesus' name is sometimes dangerous, but native Christians continue to grow in character and numbers. ■ Left: Amputees like this man are among those to whom Iv Rith ministers. Rith lost his own leg in a land mine accident. (BP photos by Warren Johnson)

Missing something?

You could be reading your church newsletter right now. Call (502) 244-6473 for information about the Western Recorder's money-saving church newspaper plan.