



WESTERN RECORDER

January 28, 1997
Vol. 171, No. 4**FOR THE RECORD**

Record offering
Southern Baptist Churches collected a record amount for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions. *Page 2.*

Joint venture
Southern Baptist leaders are considering working with Campus Crusade for Christ to reach students. *Page 2.*

Ordination debate
An attempt to expel a church from an association fell short despite a majority of votes. *Page 3.*

New president
Former missionary David Jester has been hired to lead Mid-Continent Bible College. *Page 3.*

Editorial
What does the Bible teach about ordination? *Page 5.*

Faith Matters
How we live in the present while anticipating the future God has for us. *Page 5.*

Concern in Russia
Religious freedoms are under increasing threat in Russia, an observer there claims. *Page 7.*

School vouchers
A Wisconsin judge has ruled state vouchers for private schools can't be used for religious schools. *Page 8.*

Families share true meaning of Christmas with internationals

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—The first time Pat Reaves was asked to invite an international student into her California home to spend the Christmas holidays, she said no.

"I thought we couldn't let a stranger in our home at Christmastime," she said. So, instead she threw a party for the 20 students her church hosted that year through Friendship International House.

She and her husband, Dudley, enjoyed the experience so much that the next Christmas, they readily opened their home to an international student.

Almost 20 years later, the Reaveses are still at it.

When they and their three children moved to Louisville about 15 years ago, they continued their commitment to international students through the Friendship International House ministry of Long Run Baptist Association.

Sharing home and holiday with international students has been an integral part of the Reaveses' Christmas celebration for most of the past 20 years, Mrs. Reaves said.

Coordinated by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministry, Friendship International House assists associations, churches or Baptist Student Unions who wish to host international students for 10 days during the Christmas holidays.

National Student Ministry assigns students to a local Friendship International House. The local organization places the students in Christian homes.

In 1996, Kentucky Baptist associations in Louisville and Murray hosted students.

In Louisville, 10 families from eight Long Run Baptist Association churches hosted 12 students from Korea, Japan, China and Taiwan, according to Shirley Taliaferro, chairperson of the Long Run Association Friendship International House.

In Murray, 10 families hosted 16 students from Japan, Germany, South Africa, Korea, Taiwan and China, according to Gracie Erwin, who directs the Friendship International House in Blood River Baptist Association.

Many international students have nowhere to go during the holidays. "By hosting students in Christian homes, we take the burden off the universities and also gain the opportunity to let these students understand what our

See Families share ..., page 6



DARED TO CARE Angela Alford first became involved in United Crescent Hill Ministries as a volunteer. Now she coordinates the organization's Dare to Care food ministry.

Community ministries blanket Louisville

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—An outreach to "latch key" kids in the Highlands neighborhood 30 years ago has mushroomed into a network of community ministries stretching across Jefferson County.

These organizations act as the body of Christ's social work arm—and include the efforts of many Kentucky Baptists. Outlets range from a clothes closet at East Audubon Baptist Church to a day care center at Broadway Baptist Church.

Community ministries handle a multitude of tasks, from Meals on Wheels to juvenile court diversion programs to marriage and family therapy. A consortium of three ministries formed a housing development corporation that has built 10 homes for families with incomes of less than \$21,000.

Composed of Protestant and Catholic churches, their strength comes from tailoring programs to fit commu-

nities' needs, said Tony Aja, director of Ministries United South Central Louisville.

Because of the lower economic makeup in his area, aid to working poor and others in financial crisis with rent, utilities and medicine is important. But other areas emphasize different ministries, he explained.

These interfaith efforts make Louisville unique, he said, a fact spotlighted by the city hosting the annual meeting of the Interfaith Community Ministry Network in April.

"We claim to be the only metropolitan area where the whole county is covered by community ministries," said Aja, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a board member of the nationwide network.

"Usually, a ministry emerges from a crisis. Churches come together to meet the crisis, and from there they go on to do other things."

That describes the origins of Highland Community Ministries, the oldest of Jefferson County's 15 groups. It began through the efforts of six churches along Bardstown Road, including Deer Park Baptist Church.

About 30 years ago, members noticed many elementary children lacked supervision after school because both parents worked. Members combined their efforts to sponsor a weekly tutoring and recreation program.

In 1970 they received a three-year, \$15,000 grant from the Presbytery of Louisville to expand their efforts. Those funds helped hire a director, Stan Esterlee.

Today, Esterlee manages an organization with a \$2.4 million budget, a 103-member staff and nearly 850 volunteers. Twenty-six churches support the ministry, including four Kentucky

See Community ministries ..., page 6



Poll: Students less supportive of casual sex

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—College students are becoming more involved in community service and are showing less support for legal abortion and casual sex, according to a survey of more than 250,000 freshmen entering U.S. colleges and universities last fall.

The survey, released this month, was conducted by the Higher Education Research Institute at UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information.

According to the survey, 72 percent of college freshmen performed volunteer work in the past year, compared to 70 percent in 1995 and a low of 62 percent in 1989.

In addition, 38 percent of freshmen spend one or more hours per week

volunteering, a record high. That compares to 37 percent in 1995 and a low of 27 percent in 1987, the first time the question was asked.

"Local and national efforts to encourage community service involvement appear to have had an effect as young people today are voluntarily taking action to help others in their communities," said Linda Sax, associate director of the survey and an assistant professor of education at UCLA.

"These trends are especially encouraging given recent studies showing that volunteer work has positive effects on students' personal and academic development."

For the fourth year in a row, sup-

port declined among college freshmen for keeping abortion legal. Just 56 percent said they support legal abortion, compared to 65 percent in 1990 and a low of 53 percent in 1979.

Meanwhile, support for casual sex by college freshmen is at an all-time low. In the current survey, 42 percent agreed with the statement, "If two people like each other, it's all right for them to have sex even if they've known each other for a very short time." In 1995, 43 percent agreed with the statement. In 1987, a high of 52 percent agreed with it.

The survey, which included students at almost 500 institutions, has a margin of error of less than plus or minus .1 percent.

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Woman's Missionary Union** has awarded \$85,000 in grants from its Second Century Fund. Of 32 grants awarded this year, 18 went to international projects and 13 to domestic projects.

■ **Robert Hastings**, editor of the Illinois Baptist from 1967-1984, died unexpectedly Jan. 17. He was 72. Before being named editor of the state Baptist paper in Illinois, Hastings led the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department. He is survived by his wife, Bessie; two daughters; one son; and three grandchildren.

■ **Former Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry** was named "Floridian of the Year" by the editorial board of the Orlando Sentinel. Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, was described in a Jan. 5 article as a "man of reason in trying times" and a "consummate conciliator." Henry is a former Kentuckian and graduate of Georgetown College.

Campus Crusade eyes venture with SBC

ATLANTA (BP)—Twenty-five leaders of Campus Crusade for Christ and the Southern Baptist Convention met Jan. 17 to discuss working together in evangelistic projects focusing on America's young people.

The all-day meeting, called at the invitation of Bill Bright, Campus Crusade president, concluded with plans for creating a task force to recommend ways the SBC and Campus Crusade could work together in reaching middle school through college students.

The group will report its progress to Morris Chapman, president of the SBC Executive Committee; Jimmy Draper, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board; and Bright.

Bright had sought a meeting with SBC leaders in a Jan. 6 letter, in which he told of experiencing a "growing awareness of the moral and spiritual decline of our country, and a growing burden to fast and pray for a mighty revival from heaven for the believers of our country."

Bright said the only agenda for the meeting was to discuss the possibility of "joining hands to complete the task of helping to fulfill the Great Commission, especially in this country."

Campus Crusade for Christ, based in Orlando, Fla., is a para-church organization best known for its evangelistic ministries on college and high school campuses.

Jay Strack, a Southern Baptist evangelist based in Orlando, moderated the meeting, held near Atlanta.

Participants in the meeting included Chapman; Draper; Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.; O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas; Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark., and chairman of the SBC Executive Committee; James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga., and Executive Committee vice chairman; Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas; Claude

Thomas, pastor of First Baptist Church in Euless, Texas; and Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga.

SBC President Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., was out of the country, Strack said, but was enthusiastic about the gathering.

"It was a time of prayer, a time to explore, to bring common concerns and burdens, as well as strengths, to the table," Strack said. "By no means did we speak for all Southern Baptists. The focus was on what we can do, and not concern ourselves with what we can't do."

Chapman said youth evangelism is a worthy goal for Southern Baptists and Campus Crusade to work together toward.

"Bill Bright shares with Southern Baptists a common burden for the soul of America," he said. "We have every reason to pursue the possibility of working together to fulfill the Great Commission."

WMU to trademark Lottie & Annie offerings

TALLADEGA, Ala.—Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong soon will become trademarked names of Woman's Missionary Union.

The national WMU organization has been working with the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board to officially trademark the names of the annual offerings WMU promotes in their behalf. The names to be trademarked would be "Lottie Moon Christmas Offering" and "Annie Armstrong Easter Offering."

WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien told WMU executive board members Jan. 11 the action results from collaboration with FMB and HMB leaders. The original intent was for each mission agency to jointly hold the trademark with WMU. However, such a dual ownership was not legally possible, she explained.

The process that has evolved since then, she said, calls for WMU to hold the trademarks on the two offerings,

while providing exclusive license agreements with the respective boards.

O'Brien said WMU and the FMB have finalized their agreement, but negotiations with the HMB are still under way. O'Brien said the agreements ensure "WMU will do what we have always done" in promoting the offerings.

Two years ago, the FMB attempted to register a trademark for the name "Lottie Moon Christmas Offering" without consulting WMU. A firestorm of protest erupted when the issue was made public.

Rankin called the new arrangement a "win-win situation."

"WMU is registering it (the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering), but the agreement assures that it will be used exclusively by the Foreign Mission Board ... I think all of it reflects what our relationship is—probably stronger than ever."

In other action during the WMU

executive board meeting, a new vision statement was adopted upon recommendation by a committee. Kentucky WMU President Peggy Hicks serves on the seven-member consultation committee.

The new vision statement is "Woman's Missionary Union challenges Christian believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God."

The consultation committee also recommended, and the executive board approved:

■ Changing the way WMU does national training events, moving away from week-long annual conferences at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorietta (N.M.) conference centers in favor of shorter conferences more accessible.

■ Investigating the feasibility of a nationally coordinated project with Habitat for Humanity that includes ministry and witnessing projects.

Based on a Baptist Press report

Annie offering gets record \$39.5 million

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—For the fourth year in a row, Southern Baptists gave a record amount to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions. The year-end total for the 1996 offering was \$39.51 million, according to Ernest Kelley, HMB interim president.

Kelley announced the record offering to the executive board of Woman's Missionary Union during their annual meeting, which began Jan. 11 in Birmingham, Ala. WMU, in conjunction with the Brotherhood Commission and the HMB, promotes the offering in Southern Baptist churches.

"Home missions has no greater friend than Woman's Missionary Union," Kelley said. "On behalf of our missionaries and those whom they serve across the country, thank you and God bless your dedication to missions."

Kelley singled out the efforts of several state conventions which led in increasing their offerings over the previous year, including Alaska with a 10 percent increase followed by Canada and Iowa with 9 percent gains. He also congratulated those states which led in dollar increases including Alabama, where Southern Baptists gave \$167,000 more in 1996 than 1995. Georgia, Mississippi, and North and South Carolina also increased their giving more than \$100,000.

According to Kelley, the annual home missions offering has grown 214 percent since 1978, more than any other aspect of Southern Baptist financial life, including local church income.

Although the 1996 offering set a new record, it fell short of the \$50 million goal set by WMU.

MissionsUSA, Missions Today and Beam to end publication

NASHVILLE (BP)—Three Southern Baptist Convention publications—MissionsUSA, Missions Today and Beam—will cease publication in mid-1997 to be replaced in September by a new magazine of the North American Mission Board.

MissionsUSA is the magazine of the Home Mission Board; Missions Today is published by the Brotherhood Commission; Beam is published by the Radio & Television Commission. All three SBC agencies will be merged in June to form the new North American Mission Board.

News about the publication merger comes from a transition task force assigned to oversee all aspects of the merger. Since task force meetings are closed to anyone not on the task force, the only news available about such changes comes through periodic

newsletters produced by the task force and distributed to employees of the three agencies.

According to a Jan. 16 bulletin published by the task force, a team of employees from HMB, Brotherhood and RTVC will be named to design the new publication, which has not yet been named. A feasibility study also will be conducted about producing a video magazine, the bulletin said.

The bulletin also said a logistics transition team has been given approval to produce a unified products and resources catalog for the new entity by June 1997.

The bulletin said work is continuing on a logo design for the new missions agency, under the leadership of HMB mass evangelism director Richard Harris.



"And I thought I'd heard every version of Amazing Grace."

Association short on votes to oust church despite majority

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

CENTRAL CITY—A motion to expel from Muhlenberg County Baptist Association a church with an ordained woman among its membership failed to receive the two-thirds vote required for adoption Jan. 21, even though a majority of the association's executive board members voted for the expulsion.

First Baptist Church of Drakesboro has been under fire in the association because the pastor's wife, Angie Flack, is an ordained pastoral counselor. Although she holds no office in the Drakesboro church and was ordained by a church in another state, critics charge the Drakesboro church should not have called her husband as pastor knowing his wife was ordained and knowing the association historically has opposed the ordination of women to any role.

Both supporters and opponents of the Drakesboro church called the Jan. 21 vote a "mixed message" and said they were not certain what fall-out will result in coming weeks. One church already has voted to "withdraw fellowship" from the Drakesboro Church, although both churches remain members of the association.

James Shutt, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Central City and leader of the effort to oust the Drakesboro church from the association, confirmed that his church has voted no longer to recognize the Drakesboro church as being of "like faith and order." Calvary Baptist Church will not receive or grant transfers of membership from or to the Drakesboro church.

Shutt said he does not know what further action his church or others

opposed to the ordination of women will take. However, he predicted the association "in all probability is going to lose some finances and perhaps some churches."

On the other side of the aisle, Second Baptist Church of Greenville, which has opposed Shutt's effort to oust the Drakesboro church, has scheduled a Feb. 5 vote on whether to withdraw from the association. According to a Jan. 17 letter from deacon chairman Thomas Stovall to the association's executive board members, Second Baptist Church has concerns about the way the Drakesboro inquiry has been handled and the fact that the association continues to deny women the opportunity to serve as messengers to the association.

The Drakesboro incident has drawn attention to a matter that is "long overdue for evaluation," Stovall wrote. "That issue is the role women may assume in a given church and whether that is to be regulated by that church or an association of churches. Theoretically, if a church is autonomous and chooses to elect women as messengers to the association, those female messengers should be granted all the rights and privileges of any messenger."

Formal concern about Angie Flack's ordination first surfaced in the association's Nov. 19 executive board meeting. She was ordained by a North Carolina church in 1993. Her husband, David, was called as pastor of the Drakesboro church last April. Last fall, the Drakesboro church dutifully listed Angie Flack's name on its associational report under the category of "other ordained ministers."

That prompted Shutt to offer a motion at the Nov. 19 executive

board meeting to form a credentials committee to investigate the Drakesboro church's standing in the association.

A three-man committee was appointed, with Scott Bennett, pastor of New Harmony Baptist Church in Bremen, serving as chair. The other committee members were J.D. Hunt of First Baptist Church in Greenville and E.W. Greenwalt of Woodland Baptist Church in Greenville.

The credentials committee reported Jan. 21 that "there is no way this committee can carry out the intent" of its assignment. While recognizing that many churches in the association strongly oppose the ordination of women, the association's executive board has no authority to expel a church because one of its members happens to be ordained, the committee reported, citing the association's constitution and the Baptist doctrine of the autonomy of the local church.

Further, the credentials committee declared that the Drakesboro church was found to be "in essential doctrinal unity with our association."

The committee urged executive board members to accept the recommendation and "work together for the common good." Bennett reminded the gathering that "a lost world is watching us tonight."

After lengthy debate, the committee's recommendation to take no action was rejected on a 31-41 vote.

Shutt was the first to speak against the committee report.

"All of us know we are against the ordination of women. That's a foregone conclusion," he said. "To position ourselves against the ordination of women and then do nothing about this situation at Drakes-

boro First is hypocritical."

Shutt urged executive board members not to sacrifice their beliefs in hopes of maintaining unity. The association is likely to lose churches regardless of which way the matter is settled, he said. "We need to decide which churches we want to lose."

Shutt accused the Drakesboro church of orchestrating "a concerted effort to gain sympathy" for the ordination of women and of exhibiting "an attitude of defiance" by allowing an ordained woman to join its membership.

He rebuffed those who have accused him of disregarding the doctrine of the autonomy of the local church. "I did not create this problem. Those who have worked with me did not create this problem," he said.

"If there has been any threat to autonomy, it has been to the autonomy of the association."

Charles Gresham, pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Central City, also spoke against the committee report, while noting that "my best friend in the whole world served on this committee."

The issue at hand, Gresham said, is not one of local church autonomy but of biblical authority and the right of an association to have self-determination.

"The Bible is the message we carry around the world. If we do not stand for the Bible, there is no reason to carry the message," he explained.

Gresham said he realizes some people claim Christians may interpret the Bible differently on the issue of women's ordination. And he realizes the Bible originally was

Patton closer to backing video slots

FRANKFORT—Gov. Paul Patton has moved a step closer to endorsing the push to legalize video slot machines at Kentucky's horse tracks.

A front-page story in the Jan. 22 Louisville Courier-Journal reported Patton is warming to the idea as a way to protect the state's horse industry against competition from riverboat casinos in adjoining states.

The article also said Sen. David Karem, D-Louisville, hopes to draft a video gaming bill by mid-March. Karem said his bill would limit video lottery terminals to the current owners of Kentucky racetracks.

The Courier-Journal quoted Patton as saying he would not put the issue on the agenda for a special legislative session this spring unless he gets "an indication of strong support."

Kentucky Baptists have spoken several times against any expansion of legalized gambling in the state.

Jester chosen to lead Mid-Continent College

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

MAYFIELD—David Jester, former foreign missionary and former president of Wayland Baptist University, has been named president-elect of Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College.

Jester, 66, will become the sixth president of the West Kentucky college May 9, upon the retirement of LaVerne Butler.

Mid-Continent is owned by 15 Baptist associations in four states: Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri and Tennessee. Although not directly affiliated with any state Baptist convention, the college has been formally recognized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Jester comes to Mid-Continent from McAllen, Texas, where he has been director of the adult continuing education division of South Texas Community College since 1991. Since 1988, he has helped develop new public educational systems in several locations across Texas.

From 1981-87, Jester served as president of Wayland Baptist University, a school affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Prior to that, he served two KBC-affiliated schools: Georgetown College as professor of education and director of the graduate program and Campbellsville College as vice president for advancement and professor of education and as academic vice president.

Jester and his wife, Marie, were Southern Baptist missionaries to Africa from 1957 to 1970. There, he helped launch Baptist education efforts in Nigeria.

Jester's parents, William and Daisy Jester, were pioneer Southern Baptist missionaries in Tanzania and Kenya. David Jester was born on the mission field in Tanzania.

Both he and his wife are graduates of Georgetown College. Both also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where he earned the master of divinity degree and she the master of religious education degree. He also holds a master's degree and doctorate in education from Columbia University.

"Dr. Jester came to us as an answer to prayer," said Ray Provow,

chairman of Mid-Continent's trustee board. "Everything we were looking for we found in Dr. Jester."

Provow noted the college plans to begin a teacher certification program soon, and Jester's experience will be invaluable for that effort.

Jester said his vision is to develop Mid-Continent as a prominent Baptist college for America's heartland. With support from the trustees, he hopes to expand Mid-Continent's mission beyond training only ministers to training people who will be ministers wherever they work.

"We want to produce people who are thoroughly equipped to serve the Lord, whether they be ministers or missionaries or laymen," Jester explained. The college also will expand its role in preparing bivocational ministers, he said.

The college currently has an enrollment of about 140, most of whom are ministerial students. The college is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.



David Jester

Leaders say new Kentucky Baptist seminary incorporated

LOUISVILLE—Articles of incorporation have been filed for a new Baptist seminary in Kentucky, although details of the new venture apparently have not been finalized.

A January newsletter from the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship features a brief column by Paul Simmons, chair of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship's theological education venture committee. Simmons is a former professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"The Baptist Seminary of Kentucky is now a reality," Simmons wrote in the newsletter. "Articles of incorporation have been filed toward full recognition as a non-profit organization."

Simmons outlined two immediate goals: (1) creating a seminary "that will appeal to and be supported by the vast majority of Kentucky Baptists" and (2) locating the seminary on a college or university campus.

"The seminary will be autonomous, governed by its own board of trustees," he wrote.

A seminar on "The Future of Theological Education," to be held in early 1997 at Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown, will provide more information about the venture, Simmons said. No other details were available.

Greg Earwood, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, is listed as treasurer of the new corporation. Simmons also issued an appeal for tax-deductible contributions.

OPINION

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.

Help needed

Since March 1996, Unity Baptist Chapel has had 19 additions to its membership, 12 by baptism. This congregation is in need of a larger sanctuary to provide room for future growth.

Since July 1990, Unity Chapel has grown from eight members to 100 members, including 50 added by baptism.

The Home Mission Board has a team of construction workers available to come put a new sanctuary under roof if the church can provide the money for materials. At the present time, Unity has \$10,000 in a building fund, but another \$10,000 is still needed. The people are giving and trusting God to provide.

If you or your church would like to help Unity Baptist Chapel, contact Pastor Roger McGuffin, 42 Fife Lane, Cecilia, Ky. 42724, (502) 862-3427.

John Walker
Director of missions
Severns Valley Baptist Association

burning clothes. Her village had been bombed in error by a South Vietnamese plane in 1972.

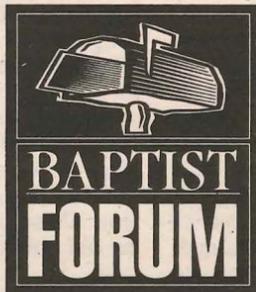
The picture was made by Nick Ut. Charles Colson tells us this photographer saved her life; and after years of treatment she was sent to Cuba where she met her husband, a Christian. Kim surrendered her life to Christ.

She spoke at a Veteran's Day program at the Washington Vietnam Veteran's Memorial. She said, "I have suffered much physical and emotional pain, but I forgave the pilot that dropped the bomb." She and her husband, Bui Huy Toan, are looking forward to attending school and then returning to Vietnam as missionaries.

I didn't know I would ever hear of that pathetic little girl. Thank you, Chuck Colson.

I know I have repeated much of his commentary, but I just had to write it, in case someone missed it. I'm so overwhelmed by such good news.

Lola Smith
Burgin



Voluntary response

Last summer, after the Southern Baptist Convention resolution about the renewal of Jewish evangelism became public, a letter from an irate Jew appeared on the New York Times editorial page. I was moved by that letter for some reason. I wrote to its author, praying that, if my letter reached

him, (I did not have a street address) it might be used by the Holy Spirit to appeal to him.

The writer, a medical doctor, did receive my letter and wrote back. Further correspondence followed. As a result of his words, and reading other protests from Jewish and interfaith organizations, I write to you with the hope that the Western Recorder might use its invaluable contacts to emphasize strongly a vital but seemingly obscured aspect of the gospel.

Our gospel is an appeal for a completely voluntary response: "Whosoever will, let him come." Anything that calls for an involuntary act is a corruption of the Christian message. The tragic but historic efforts to compel Jews to submit to baptism, and eras such as the Spanish Inquisition, which encouraged anti-Semitism and contributed to a prevailing hatred of anything Christian by many Jews, should be disavowed as absolutely contrary to the New Testament. I am glad they are not part of Baptist history.

Efforts to minister the gospel of Jesus Christ that are nothing more than an earnest invitation to "come and see" cannot and do not contribute to anti-Semitism. While we must declare that "there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved," and we must repeat what Jesus said, "No man comes to the Father but by me," our evangelistic efforts must be understood to mean a warm-hearted desire to share with Jews as well as Gentiles what we have found in Jesus Christ.

Donald MacDonald
Louisville

Good news

I was sure blessed by Charles Colson's commentary on the transforming power of forgiveness (Dec. 24, page 5).

I have the picture of Kim Phuc, the Vietnamese child, running naked down the street after tearing off her

A journey back 'home'

On a hot, late-August day in 1950, I hitchhiked from Frankfort and found my way to the practice field of the Georgetown College Tigers.

Flunking out and losing my football scholarship at Eastern Kentucky, my father had rightfully indicated that any further college was to be completely on my own. He had arranged for me to work with Southern Bell telephone company thinking I might find a career with them.

In those days, one started at the bottom. The "bottom" for me happened to be as a lineman—climbing telephone poles and stringing wire. Soon I was the quickest up and down the poles with the exception of our foreman, a wiry, experienced old-timer.

Showing off for him one morning, moving carelessly fast down the pole after hanging a cross-arm, my hooks missed the pole and I slid down several feet, hugging a pole full of splinters created by the spikes of previous climbers. Because one of the splinters was nearly the size of a pencil and was lodged deep in my forearm, the foreman rushed me to the doctor in Frankfort who surgically removed the large one.

As I lay there, my arm held by the foreman while the doctor did his work, I asked myself: "Is this what I want to do for the rest of my life?"

It was the answer to that which got me to the Georgetown practice field on that hot August day ... to ask the

coach if I enrolled at Georgetown, could I go out for the team. The following Monday I was practicing with the team. His positive answer would begin a process which would change the course of my wayward and self-destructive lifestyle.

Through the influence of Christian athletes, faculty who expressed personal interest in me, and other Christian students, although it took several years and a stint in the Marine Corps, I accepted the call of Christ to follow him and to become a minister of the gospel.

It was at Georgetown that I met and fell in love with Alice; it was here that a missions-minded president, Leo Eddleman, himself a former missionary to the Middle East, created an opportunity for student couples to serve a year with career missionaries in Israel. Alice and I taught at Nazareth Baptist school and lived on a Jewish kibbutz.

This opened our eyes and hearts to a much broader world than we had known. It became the seed-bed for 19 years of service with the Foreign Mission Board.

When we returned to Kentucky in 1983 to serve as executive secretary-treasurer, an old friend whom I had not seen in years said, "Moose, I still find it hard to believe that you are a preacher!" He was one of those who knew me before the "miracle."

Georgetown College is for me, indeed, a place of miracles ... a place

ON MISSION TOGETHER



William W. Marshall

TEENS

Home alone

By Wade Rowatt

Q. After 14 years of staying home with our two children (ages 12 and 14), I have taken a full-time job as a church secretary. My teens complain about my not being there to fix snacks after school, serving supper late and being too tired to help with homework. The oldest "smarted off"



to a neighbor when she called to request they turn down the radio. Their father works late most nights. I just feel

trapped. What can I do?

A. Inform your family of how you feel and ask when you can all talk together about it (perhaps on Sunday afternoon). Tell them a period of adjustment is normal after any major change. Ask how they feel and listen for hints about what they really want (maybe more special attention or praise from you both).

Make a list of the difficulties, pressures and problems from each family member's point of view. Stay on one subject at a time. Don't get defensive, just list the trouble as stated.

Review the list together and look for common frustrations and patterns. Perhaps you all feel the pain of less time together. Possibly you see both sides of the same concern.

Generate suggestions from each person as to what the whole family can do to reduce the adjustment stress of this change. Of course, some will expect the other person to do all the fixing of the problems, but try to make this a team effort.

Other counsel:

■ Give each teenager a list of chores for each day that assigns specific jobs.

■ They are old enough to be alone, if they behave. Reward them if they can solve their disputes themselves.

■ Help, guide and supervise them as they fix snacks the night before.

■ Unplug the TV and games until all homework is finished. Have separate places for them to study. Use a homework hotline.

■ Have very clear rules and guidelines about after-school behavior. For example, no visitors in the house, stay at home unless given specific permission, be responsible for yourself and do not tattle on each other, no long distance call, etc.

Do something about this stressful situation. The after-school hours are a prime time for problems with teens. Be creative and do not ignore their pain.

Wade Rowatt is director of the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville.

HE SAID/SHE SAID

The family that prays together may have trouble sitting still

HESAIID



Mark Wingfield

Bedtime prayers with our children turned into a shouting match the other night. And I'm not talking about shouting hallelujahs.

I'm sorry to confess I was the one doing the shouting. But in my defense, the boys were not the ones doing the praying.

The episode went something like this:

Alison: "OK, boys, it's time to say our prayer together. Thank you, God, for ..."

Mark: "Luke, please sit down and be quiet."

Alison: "Thank you, God, for ..."

Mark: "Luke, stop climbing over your brother's head! Sit still and help Mommy pray!"

Alison: "Thank you, God, for ..."

Mark: "LUKE, SIT STILL AND BE QUIET; WE'RE TALKING TO GOD!"

Suddenly I had a flashback to my freshman year of college, when I held a lowly position as music intern on the staff of my home church. To get the business manager to approve the position, the music minister had to agree to loan me out to wrangle the children of adult choir members during Wednesday night choir rehearsal. What a deal.

One Wednesday night, some of the rowdiest of the young boys were acting just as Luke had been during our bedtime prayers. And I painfully remember how in my frustration I attempted to shout them into a season of prayer.

Surely you've seen the bumper sticker that says "Prayer Changes Things." Well, in this case it didn't.

And it would have been hard for our bedtime prayer last week to change things too, because we could hardly get any praying done for all the squirming and shouting.

SHE SAID



Alison Wingfield

We aren't exactly a poster family to go with the popular bumper sticker "The family that prays together, stays together." There is a time to pray and a time to play. Unfortunately, our children have not learned to distinguish between the two.

Every time is playtime to them. Expecting them to sit still for any length of time is practically impossible.

Luke thinks eating means taking a bite from his plate as he rounds the table for the 20th time. As much as we try not to make dinner a time of conflict, our conversations often sound something like this:

Mark: "So, how was your day?"

Alison: "Get back in your chair, Luke. Fine, how was yours?"

Mark: "OK. Garrett, stop tilting your chair. You're going to fall over."

Alison: "I read something interesting. ... Boys, you need to stay in your seats until you have finished your dinner."

Our two perpetual motion machines also create quite a challenge during Sunday morning worship. Our church has the 4-year-olds come in for about half of the service, and then they go to children's church. I quickly find myself wondering, along with the boys, when it will be time for them to go to children's church.

They actually have improved greatly since we started taking them to "big church" in the fall. The first Sunday, Luke rolled under the pews and Garrett dropped pencils into the hymnal rack. The pencils clattered loudly before they fell through the small opening and onto the floor.

But we always can learn something from our wiggle warts. Even though they can't sit still to pray or worship, their enthusiasm reminds me that if we come to God like a child, we should be running toward him, not walking.

Culture influences Baptist ordinations

What does the Bible teach about ordination? Contrary to what most Baptists have been taught, the Bible teaches little about the practice we today commonly call ordination.

Although there was a formal service of ordination to the priesthood in the Old Testament, the verb to "ordain" and the noun "ordination" do not appear in the New Testament. (These words do appear eight times in the King James version as a result of poor translation or with a different meaning.)

The only way to find ordination taught in the New Testament is to identify it with the laying on of hands, a practice that is taught. But in the New Testament, the laying on of hands is used as a means of commissioning someone for a particular task in a particular place. (See Acts 6:6 and 13:13.)

Whether we'll admit it or not, most of what Baptists have made the practice of ordination to be is based in culture rather than Scripture. That's not to say the church shouldn't set apart individuals for special tasks such as the pastorate or the diaconate. But when we talk about ordination, we should be honest.

Though treated as such, ordination is not a biblically mandated ordinance of the church. The only two ordinances are the Lord's Supper and baptism.

Baptists have varied in their understanding and practices of ordination through the years. In 17th century England, Baptists ordained pastors each time they arrived at a new congregation.

At one time, Baptist associations rather than local churches ordained ministers.

The great British pulpiteer Charles Haddon Spurgeon rejected the idea of ordination when it was suggested to him in 1854.

In the 20th century, Southern Baptists in particular have codified ordination practices and established somewhat uniform cultural standards. Any time a local church deviates from these cultural standards, eyebrows are raised.

More recently, some have straddled the fence of pastoral ordination controversies by declaring a distinction between ordination to the office of "senior pastor" and ordination to other pastoral ministries. In reality, the Bible makes no such distinction. The whole notion of a "senior pastor" is a late-20th century phenomenon influenced more by the corporate boardroom than the Bible.

On top of that, the church's practice of ordination has been co-opted by the state as a means of determining who is eligible for certain tax benefits. That's nowhere to be found in the Bible.

Southern Baptists also have placed a cultural spin on the role of deacons by making them the church equivalent of a city council. That's also not in the Bible, although clearly the church needs some governing group. In the New Testament, when individuals are set apart as deacons they are commissioned as servants, not as legislators.

So what does the Bible teach about ordination? Not much. A better question, then, is to ask what the Bible teaches about setting apart individuals for special ministry roles.

The answer to that question is much clearer: The Bible gives several examples of laying hands on individuals as a means of commissioning them or blessing them for specific ministries in specific places.

If Baptists really want to get back to the Bible, we need to re-examine the practice of ordination and stop reading the New Testament through the eyes of our own cultural traditions.

— Mark Wingfield

■ Correction: Last week's editorial contained a misplaced word that changed the intended meaning of a sentence. Abortions performed for reasons of rape or incest represent a slim minority of all U.S. abortions, not a "slim majority" as the editorial incorrectly stated.

Here in the light of not yet

By Carey Newman

My friend looked pensive. He had just returned from a two-day seminar on "Developing Your Personal Mission Statement." The seminar had forced him to state his future goals and

to see how his current situation related to these goals. As invigorating as this process had been professionally, something else was eating at him. He looked at me asked a very profound question: "How does my present experience in Christ fit in with the future God has for us?"

While the Bible is not silent about the future, it certainly does not tell us all the specific details we really want to know—What will our existence be like? Will we know each other? Will we remember the past? What the Bible does affirm is that the future will be a place of joy, of the final putting right of all things and of unparalleled peace and well-being.

Most remarkably, the best piece of information about the future often is overlooked. God has not left us to our own imaginations. He has given us a

taste of what the future is like. He has given us his Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, the Spirit of resurrection life. The Spirit is the best commentary on what the future will be like and how our lives here and now fit into that future.

My wife is pregnant with our second child. The rush of emotions on learning this bit of good news was just as profound as it was the first time around. While we don't know everything we would like—Is it a boy or a girl? What sort of temperament will the child have?—the simple fact that my wife is carrying our next child

has transformed how we do life. We currently live in the wonderful grip of that power called anticipation. While there is a temptation to go on with business as usual, we cannot deny the fact that our lives are "really going to change" (as our friends who already have two children quickly and somewhat gleefully inform us).

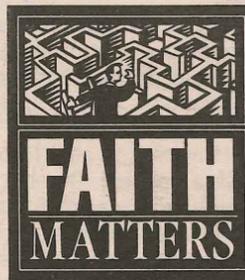
This child is coming. No ignoring it. We must make preparations today in light of tomorrow. Even though the child is still some weeks away, we already think and speak in "four-ish"

sort of ways. Just hearing the heartbeat has caused us to be a new and different family.

There is a strong temptation to disassociate our lives here and now from what the Bible tells is yet to unfold. We live from day to day, and for each day, functionally ignoring the future. For all of us who struggle to connect the present with the future there is good news. Our link to the future is made by the Holy Spirit, who not only creates a sense of anticipation and excitement inside of us about the future, but actually draws us into it. The Holy Spirit prods that we can and should make preparations for the future—now and today. To do otherwise would be foolish.

Our progressive experience of the Holy Spirit also causes us to re-evaluate and re-vision everything we know about ourselves. Our lives are continually transformed by the light which shines from the future.

I told my friend to sleep well and dream great dreams, knowing that the liberating powers of the future have already intruded into the present in the person of the Holy Spirit. *The Spirit of the resurrected Jesus, the Spirit which breathes the breath of life into our lives here and now, is a foretaste, a down-payment and guarantee of future life in the great Kingdom of God.*



MINISTRY

Lexington, Williamsburg ministries offer resources & hope

"This is not something you can come in and expect a lot of results in a few years. There are no short-term results, only long term."

Mike Schwerin, director of Irishtown Community Ministry in Lexington.

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LEXINGTON—In Lexington and Williamsburg, community ministries sponsored by several churches perform social ministries with an evangelistic flavor.

"The purpose of it all is to grow a church," said Mike Schwerin, director of Irishtown Community Ministry and pastor of Irishtown Baptist Mission. "But part of the call of the church is to feed the poor, the widows and children. A lot of the work of our church is made up of that."

The mission attracts between 20 and 35 people to the Sunday afternoon services.

Located in the poorest section of Lexington, the ministry began in 1985 with strong backing from Baptist churches. Calvary Baptist Church and First Baptist Church were primary supporters for a decade. Central Baptist Church now is the main sponsor,

with assistance from Rosemont Baptist.

However, others have played a role in serving Irishtown's 140 families. Such groups as Catholics, Presbyterians, Methodists and Jews have helped with projects like purchasing school supplies and Christmas baskets.

One of the inner-city organization's primary projects is a food bank supplying groceries to approximately 130 families each month.

With help from teenagers from Immanuel Baptist Church and several adults, the ministry began an after-school tutoring program.

Several women and Baptist Student Union volunteers staff a Wednesday night fellowship of games, videos and dramas that also appeals to local children.

While community ministries often gather support from senior citizens

who don't work during the day, Schwerin said more young people and families—including couples working as a team—are wanting to get involved.

This prospect encourages the director, who said the work can get discouraging.

"This is not something you can come in and expect a lot of results in a few years," he said. "There are no short-term results, only long term."

About two hours south of Lexington, an effort to help the needy in Williamsburg has expanded to a six-county region.

Cedaridge Ministries grew out of a fund raiser for Mount Zion Baptist Association's youth ministry. Director Keith Decker said that sparked a spiritual renewal, creating a desire among church members to do more outreach.

For three years the ministry has

provided building supplies, furniture, food, clothing and educational materials to people and small congregations that otherwise couldn't afford such things as vacation Bible school supplies.

Eight churches, seven of them Baptist, provide financial backing. Central Baptist Church in Corbin and Oak Grove Baptist Church, 15 miles from Corbin, distribute donations.

The ministry has received several grants to buy food for the homeless. Summer building teams renovate substandard housing in the region.

Though noted for its social ministry, the director said there is no mistaking Cedaridge's Christian base. The ministry hosts a weekly gospel singing at its headquarters, and volunteers always are ready to share the gospel, he added.

"I don't know how many we've seen saved, but I know we've had a lot more people going to church," said Decker, pastor of Corn Creek Baptist Church.



Families share Christmas with international student guests

Continued from page 1

faith is all about," said Brad Gray, national student ministry consultant for the Sunday School Board.

Since 80 percent of international students studying in the United States become leaders in their professional fields when they return home, programs such as Friendship International House give Southern Baptists "a strategic way to reach world leaders with the gospel," Gray said.

In addition to spending time with their host families, students in Louisville for Christmas last month toured several Louisville attractions, including the Kentucky Derby Museum, Hillerich and Bradsby bat museum, American Printing House for the Blind and River Falls Museum, Taliaferro said.

Among the activities students in Murray enjoyed were Opryland in Nashville, Tenn., Kentucky Dam, the Quilt Museum in Paducah and horseback riding provided by Murray State University, Erwin said.

Across the nation, Friendship International House drew 214 students from 30 countries, Gray said.

Students pay their own transportation costs and a small registration fee. The sponsoring group pays for all meals, housing and, in some cases, entertainment fees, Gray said.

While hosting a student at such a busy time of the year can be hectic, Mrs. Reaves said there is no better way to celebrate Christ's birth than to show students what a Christian family is all about.

"We don't do anything different than we normally do," she said. But, normal activities open the door to share the love of God, she added. Simple things like a nativity scene or attending a church service can open up all kinds of conversation, she said.

Not only does Friendship International House give students opportunity to see a Christian family in action, but it enhances their grasp of American life and culture, Reaves said.

"You could spend four years in a dorm and not learn as much as you could spending two weeks with this program," Reaves said.

Without fail, Mrs. Reaves said, students ask her why she opens her home to them.

Her answer? "We are trying to share God's love."

For more information about sponsoring a "house" for Christmas, call National Student Ministries at (515) 251-2397 or (615) 251-2777. A free plan book is available.

For information on Louisville-area Friendship International House, call Long Run Baptist Association, (502) 635-2601. In the Murray area, call Gracie Erwin, (502) 489-2174.

With additional reporting through Baptist Press.

Community ministries blanket Louisville area

Continued from page 1

Baptist congregations.

The Highlands group runs nine primary programs, such as low-income assistance, senior citizens services and a youth recreation league that this fall had 750 children playing soccer.

Kentucky Baptists are supportive of the efforts, Esterlee said. Jack Oliver of Vine Street Baptist Church chairs the steering committee that oversees assistance to low-income families.

Board members and volunteers regularly express their fondness of its ecumenical nature, said Esterlee, who is Catholic.

"We've kept the Highlands a stable community and brought unity among our churches," he said.

That unity includes a "Faith Covenant Statement." It took two years of negotiations about the language because of disagreements over Communion, he said. Still, members believe Highlands is the nation's only faith community with such a statement.

Such a divergent base allows these community organizations to receive government grants and tax-deductible contributions as recognized non-profit organizations, Aja said.

However, it also forces them to walk a fine line. Because of government funding and their makeup, ministries cannot encourage one denomination over another, Aja said.

"We concentrate on social services," he said. "But that doesn't detract from the fact that a client called me the other day who wanted to attend church, and I referred her to a couple of our supporting churches. But the request has to come from the client."

However, Dan Lane, director of St. Matthews Area Ministries, said the interdenominational makeup should not inhibit anyone from sharing their faith in Christ.

"It's not our role to replace the work of the church," said Lane, a member of Broadway Baptist and former pastor of Ridgewood Baptist

Louisville community ministries

■ East Louisville, Director Caroline Jackson, 219 E. Broadway; (502) 561-0722.

■ Eastern Area, Director Judy Sutherland, P.O. Box 43049, Louisville, Ky. 40253; (502) 244-6141.

■ Fairdale Area, Director Polly Mayer, P.O. Box 270, Fairdale, Ky. 40118; (502) 367-9519.

■ Fern Creek/Highview, Director Kay Sanders, 7502 Tangelo Dr.; (502) 493-9100.

■ Central Louisville, Director Rebecca Case, 219 W. Ormsby Ave.; (502) 637-6141.

■ Highlands, Director Stan Esterlee, 1140 Cherokee Rd.; (502) 451-3695.

■ Jeffersontown, Director Marlon Cummings, 10416 Watterson Trail; (502) 267-1055.

■ South Central Louisville, Director Tony Aja, 1207 Hart Ave.;

(502) 363-9087.

■ Shively Area, Director Roxanna Trivett, 1867 Farnsley Rd.; (502) 447-4330.

■ South East, Director Mary Beth Helton, 6500 Six Mile Lane, Suite A; (502) 499-2059.

■ South Louisville, Director Michael Jupin, 204 Seneca Trail; (502) 367-6445.

■ Southwest, Director John Smith, 10926 Dixie Highway; (502) 935-9957.

■ St. Matthews, Director Dan Lane, 201 Biltmore Rd.; (502) 893-0205.

■ Crescent Hill, Director Sue Gentry, 1860 Frankfort Ave.; (502) 893-0346.

■ West Louisville, Director James Smith, P.O. Box 2676, Louisville, Ky. 40201; (502) 778-2815.

Church. "But that doesn't mean we have to be shackled.

"We feel free to express the gospel in many and diverse ways. We sat down with a woman recently, and one of her goals was to find a church home. She was very interested in family values for her and her son, and in socialization."

The area's second-oldest community ministry, St. Matthews has been on the cutting edge of many outreaches, Lane said.

For example, it founded a seniors program that has since relocated to Jeffersontown, a drug-intervention effort now operated by Baptist East Hospital and juvenile diversion, which grew to county-wide status.

Its latest ground-breaking effort is Faith in Action, a family-mentoring program. Now in its third year, it matches struggling families with a group of seven or eight people.

Two volunteers make weekly contacts with the family as part of the group's effort to help the family set personal, career, social and financial

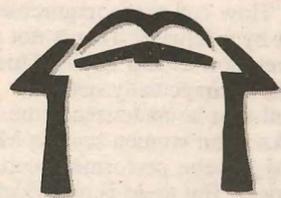
goals.

This perspective helps eliminate barriers, said Lane, who stressed that the help is social, not financial. St. Matthews has eight groups operating and Lane said he hopes the concept spreads to other community organizations.

Assistance comes in simpler ways, too. In the Crescent Hill area, the homes of nine elderly residents recently received fresh paint and other facelifts as part of a "fall blitz."

The spring and fall clean-ups began two years ago, said social services coordinator Suzanne Kiser. The efforts help elderly residents remain in their homes as long as possible, she said.

"I still get excited about watching a huge range of people come together," added Sue Gentry, director of United Crescent Hill Ministries and a member of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, "whether it's people transforming our first floor in four hours or a group from the community helping children."



Georgetown Pastor's Conference Georgetown College

April 14-16, 1997

Theme:
*Baptist Tradition
and the
Contemporary
Situation*

Keynote Speaker:
Walter Shurden

Other Speakers:

Anne Davis
John Porter
Frank Tupper
Ron Higdon
Robert Baker
Craig Loscalzo
William Crouch
Kenneth Chafin

Enrollment limited
Registration fee: \$50

**For information or
invitation contact:**

Judy Rush
Office of the President,
(502) 863-8030

Sponsored by:

Georgetown College
400 East College Street
Georgetown, Kentucky
40324-1696
William H. Crouch Jr.
President

Expert: Religious rights waning in Russia

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Freedom of worship in Russia is under increasing threat at both the federal and regional levels, according to a Moscow-based human rights observer.

"Russians have less religious freedom today than they did three years ago. Unless current trends are reversed, I predict that they will have still less religious freedom at the end of 1997 than they have now," said Lawrence Uzzell, Moscow representative of the London-based Keston Institute, which monitors religious life in communist and formerly communist countries.

In 1993, Russia adopted a new constitution that guarantees the free exercise of religion and the equality of all religions.

But Uzzell said these provisions have become "largely meaningless in practice" in the predominantly Orthodox Christian nation.

Within the next few weeks, Uzzell said he expects the Russian Duma (lower House of Parliament) to approve proposed constitutional revisions that would place new regulations on religious organizations. The amendments could particularly single out non-Orthodox groups for restrictions, he said.

Uzzell said it is unclear whether Russian President Boris Yeltsin would sign any new religious restrictions. Three years ago, under strong pressure from the West, Yeltsin vetoed a similar measure.

"Everything is up for grabs," Uzzell said.

According to Uzzell, more than one-fourth of Russia's provincial governments already have adopted laws regulating religious activities.

"At the provincial level, Russia is now restoring one of the most virulent institutions of the Soviet era, the council for religious affairs," Uzzell said. During the communist years, council officials often worked "closely with the secret police, who punished priests" and religious believers, he added.

Under a new law in the Ural Mountains province of Sverdlovsk, the reconstructed religious affairs council is explicitly authorized to assess a religious group's doctrinal beliefs and to evaluate the "social-psychological consequences" of its activities, Uzzell said.

The Sverdlovsk law also imposes detailed requirements on "missionary" activities, but specifically exempts the Russian Orthodox Church

and five other groups—although not Baptists or Pentecostals, two of the largest Protestant groups in Russia.

Another new law in the province of Udmurtia, about 400 miles east of Moscow, requires all "missionaries" to get special accreditation from the local government. The law defines the term "missionary" so broadly that anyone—including domestic clergy and lay believers—who talks about their religion would be included.

"The new laws give provincial authorities wide discretion to ban religious activities which are inconvenient to themselves or their political allies," Uzzell said.

However, Uzzell conceded that the restrictive laws are not being enforced consistently in Russia's "lawless" society.

"Not only are laws that supposedly protect human rights often ignored in practice, laws that assault human rights are also sometimes ignored in practice," he said.

In Washington, D.C. to express his concerns, Uzzell urged members of Congress and the Clinton administration to protest more vigorously the decline of Russian religious freedom.

"I think the West should be making it clear that this issue matters to the U.S.," he said.

WORLD VIEW

■ **Mother Teresa**, citing health reasons, will step down as leader of the Missionaries of Charity religious order. The 86-year-old nun continues to suffer spinal pain due to arthritis and osteoporosis. Missionaries of Charity operates homes for the poor, AIDS hospices, orphanages and other charity centers across the globe.

■ **Vietnam's communist** government has stepped up its pressure on the state-recognized Vietnam Buddhist Church, ordering it to strive for "closer Buddhist solidarity and national unity" and to cease "causing disorder and disunity." The latest government action follows reports of resignations by top Buddhist church officials upset with Hanoi's attempts to interfere in church affairs.

■ **Scotland's mainstream** churches have launched a "Year of Faith" to honor two saints who played special roles in Scottish history. The observance is scheduled to climax in November with a Scottish Christian Gathering in Glasgow that will bring together representatives of all the major churches in Scotland.

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 McNeil: *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.

Let's not let
children go
hungry any
longer!



Help the Children

P.O. Box 1511
Pikeville, KY 41502

\$20 will feed a family
for one month

Survivor's Benefits

Looking for all possible benefits due survivors after a loved one has passed away?

Survivor's Assurance, Inc. can provide investigative and administrative services to locate and claim benefits such as life, veterans, pension, credit life and more.

Why choose Survivor's Assurance?

- Transfer administrative burdens to a professional
- Speed up the claim process
- Reduce the risk of missing any benefits

Call
Allen Bartlett
at 452- 9918



Wisconsin judge rules against vouchers for religious schools

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (RNS)—Supporters of Wisconsin's first-in-the-nation school voucher program vowed to appeal a judge's ruling preventing the state from expanding the plan to include private religious schools.

Pete Hutchison, an attorney with the Landmark Legal Defense Foundation, a public interest law firm based in Kansas City, Mo., argued that not extending the program to religious schools was discriminatory.

"While the state is not required to fund private schools, if it does—as is the case in Wisconsin—you can't discriminate against private religious schools because of their beliefs," he said.

With legislators in as many as a dozen states considering voucher systems—which use tax dollars to pay educational costs of students who choose private over public school—Wisconsin is being closely watched by advocates on both sides of the school-choice issue.

On Jan. 15, Dane County Circuit Court Judge Paul Higginbotham ruled that expanding the program—which is limited to low-income families in Milwaukee—to include religious schools would violate the state constitution's church-state separation guidelines.

"School choice," the judge wrote, "may in fact be sound public policy, especially considering the sad plight of the Milwaukee Public Schools system, but it compels Wisconsin citizens of varying religious faiths to support schools with their tax dollars that proselytize students and attempt to inculcate them with beliefs contrary to their own."

Opponents of school vouchers hailed the judge's decision as a big win for taxpayers. Hutchison said he would ask the Wisconsin Court of Appeals to accelerate its handling of the case. "This will end up in the Wisconsin Supreme Court. We want that court to be able to decide this case prior to the start of the next school year."

Association's direction unknown after vote

Continued from page 3
written in the Greek, Aramaic and Hebrew languages.

Nevertheless, the English translations of the Bible clearly use male pronouns in every reference to the role of pastor and deacon, he noted. "If our English Bibles aren't accurate, we for all practical purposes have no Bible."

The debate over women's ordination "is not a matter of scholarship and interpretation," he said. "It's a matter of what the Bible has to say."

Speaking in favor of the committee's report were Todd Gaddis, pastor of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in Bremen, and Allen Black, pastor of Martwick Baptist Church in Central City.

Gaddis called the committee's recommendation an excellent way to "put this behind us" and focus on more important matters like partnership missions in Russia.

Black, a former director of missions for the association, called the issue "the most divisive thing I've ever seen in this or any other association."

Black said he did not want to defend the doctrinal position of ordaining women but to speak in defense of the association's constitution, which is silent on the subject. "There is nothing in that document that binds us together doctrinally," he said.

The executive board is "attempting to exercise authority we don't

possess," Black asserted. "When we pull out and stop abiding by our constitution, then we are in deep, dark trouble."

He also charged that the executive board "is attempting to tell a Baptist church whom it can call to be its pastor or whom it can accept as a member. ... This is the most extraordinary language ever to come from the lips of a Baptist," he said.

Tim Adcock, pastor of New Paradise Baptist Church in Powderly, countered Black's appeal to the association's constitution.

"Constitutions are good. Bylaws are good. But the best constitution I know is the word of God," Adcock declared while holding up his Bible. He then read a passage from 1 Timothy 3—often cited as giving requirements for pastors and deacons—giving emphasis to every male pronoun.

"Anything that goes against the word is wrong," Adcock concluded.

After the vote on the committee's report, when the time for new business was announced, Shutt rose to offer a motion to withdraw fellowship from the Drakesboro church, "meaning we expel them from the association."

"The association has the inherent right to make and enforce its own regulations," he said. "We are witnessing a concerted effort on the part of those who support ordination of women to force us to change our traditional beliefs."

Shutt also read from 1 Timothy 3, giving emphasis to every male pro-

noun. "How can these requirements be met by a female? This is not my interpretation of the Bible. This is what the Bible actually states."

Shutt said he understands the Bible talks about women such as Miriam and Phoebe performing certain ministries. "But there is no evidence they were ordained," he said. "Ordination is for the male and the male alone."

After some parliamentary wrangling, the question was called. Moderator Leroy Reardon ruled that Shutt's motion would need a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

The final vote was 40 in favor of expelling the Drakesboro church and 31 against. To meet the two-thirds requirement, the motion needed to get 47 favorable votes.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Director of Missions Ken Abbott commended executive board members for acting in a civil way despite their strong differences of opinion. "I want to work with all of you," he said. "My tent is big enough to work with all of you."

Both Shutt and David Flack said they do not know what will happen next.

"We'll just have to wait and see," David Flack said. "I am pleased with the struggle the credentials committee went through."

Angie Flack likewise said she was pleased with the support she had received but would have to spend some time evaluating all that had happened before commenting on the outcome.

A celebration

By Robert Dunston

On Monday, Jan. 20, 1997, we celebrated Founders Day in our first chapel program of the spring semester. The entire service helped us remember our past and challenged us to work for a greater future.

We began the service by presenting the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award and the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award. Criteria for these include academic ability, leadership, involvement in helping others and, most importantly, demonstration of outstanding spiritual qualities in living.

Carol York, an English major with an emphasis in secondary education and a minor in communication arts from Monticello, received the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award. Carol has been a reporter and newscaster for our college television news and has helped freshmen adjust to college life through our Insights program. Last summer Carol was one of six Kentucky students serving with Atlanta Expressions, an outreach ministry at the Summer Olympic Games.

Ryan Tucker, a movement and leisure studies major and religion minor from Lexington, received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award. Ryan has served in Insights and has

worked during the summer as a resident assistant for campus housing. Ryan has conducted chapel services for fellow football teammates and has worked faithfully with youth and children at First Baptist Church in Williamsburg.

Greg Kitzmiller, a senior majoring in art and minoring in theater from Buckhannon, W. Va., received the Alumni Association Student Service Award. Greg has been active in art club, theater productions, Insights and Campus Crusade for Christ.

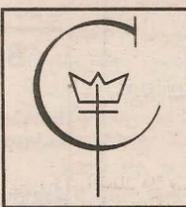
After a beautiful solo by Wendy Miller, whose husband is our men's soccer coach, Mark Wingfield, editor of the Western Recorder, preached. Mark used

Cumberland College's history and the life of King David to challenge us to find God's purpose in our lives and make a difference in the world.

The service reminded us what makes Kentucky Baptist higher education different. Students are recognized for excellence in faith and Christian service as well as in academics and athletics. With God's help, that educational method can change the world.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



"I was a stranger and you took me in."

Matthew 25:35

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children needs foster parents to care for children who have been abused and neglected. Training, ongoing support and a stipend are provided.

Call the office nearest you for more information!

Central Kentucky - (502) 266-0139
Eastern Kentucky - (606) 478-3200
Southern Kentucky - (606) 677-1008
Western Kentucky - (502) 825-2191

or call 1-800-456-1386 toll free!

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
Internet - <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>



Are you looking for your place in GOD'S plan?
Are you a missions minded CHRISTIAN, looking for a church that feels the same way?
Do you want to make a difference for the LORD in the lives of youth and young adults?

Maybe you haven't looked in the right area yet.
Maybe Stony Point Baptist Church, Stony Point, North Carolina is where the LORD wants you.

Stony Point Baptist Church is prayerfully searching for a full time

ASSOCIATE PASTOR / YOUTH DIRECTOR

to join our present staff consisting of our Pastor, Music Dir. and Secretary.

If you feel the LORD is leading you to learn more about our position, please contact Dr. Ken Walters, Pastor, at 704-585-6521 or Carol Moody, chairman, Personnel Committee at 704-872-0559. You are also welcome to mail a resume to Carol Moody 4290 Taylorsville Hwy. Statesville, NC 28677 or fax to 704-873-6112.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: A small church in central Kentucky seeks a pastor. For more information, please send resumé to the Pulpit Committee, Liberty Baptist Church, c/o Danny Blankenship, 810 Wallace Ave., Leitchfield, KY 42754.

SEEKING: Resumés. Tates Creek Baptist Association is accepting resumés for the position of director of missions—Richmond/Berea area, 44 churches. Deadline: Feb. 28, 1997. Send to: Search Committee, P.O. Box 130, Waco, KY 40385, Attn: Fred Livingood.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: Moreland First Baptist Church, 501 Old Danville Pike, Hustonville, KY 40437.

FOR SALE: Gestetner 5305 Printstation. A digital printing system combining the convenience of a copier with the speed of a duplicator. Bought new in June 1991. Excellent condition. Asking \$400. Call Dry Ridge Baptist Church, Dry Ridge, Ky., at (606) 824-5501, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. The Owingsville Baptist Church, a small church with a fledgling youth group, is seeing a part-time youth minister to develop and implement a ministry to middle-school-aged youth. The candidate may be male or female and should have a clear Christian testimony. He or she must be a Baptist with active local church involvement. BSU involvement helpful. This position requires a time commitment of one day per week (Sunday), and one activity per month. Position will be for the academic year and the church prefers someone willing to commit for two semesters. Compensation: \$960 per semester. Contact Bruce E. Truman, pastor, at P.O. Box 662, Owingsville, KY 40360, or call (606) 674-2055.

FOR SALE: Yamaha keyboard (PSR70), midi compatible, rhythm presets, \$800. Conn organ (model 430), \$400. Antique dishes. Prices negotiable. (502) 233-4376.

SEEKING: Hill Grove Baptist Church, Guston, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music and youth. Weekend housing is available. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, 55 Ammons Lane, Guston, KY 40142.

SEEKING: Minister of music/youth. Salary negotiable. Send resumé to: New Bethel Baptist Church, P.O. Box 100, Verona, KY 41092.

SEEKING: A full-time minister of youth and music. Send resumé to: Watson Lane Baptist Church, 233 Watson Lane, Henderson, KY 42420.

SEEKING: Minister of music. Ridgewood Baptist Church, Louisville (CBF-affiliated), is seeking a part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: Ridgewood Baptist Church, 6209 Greenwood Road, Louisville, KY 40258.

FOR SALE: Burton Memorial Baptist Church in Bowling Green has four pews varying in size from 6 feet to 10 feet with walnut finish and green cushions for sale. If interested, contact Tim Miles, pastor, at (502) 842-1931.

SEEKING: Cynthia Baptist Church is seeking applicants for a full-time minister of youth and a part-time minister of music. Resumés may be sent to Cynthia Baptist Church, P.O. Box 355, Cynthia, KY 41031, Attn: Personnel Committee Chairman, or contact the church office at (606) 234-1575.

SEEKING: Metro Peoria Baptist Association in Peoria, Ill., is seeking a director of missions who meets Home Mission Board guidelines. If interested, send resumé to: Charles Hargrave, 907 N. Maplewood, Peoria, IL 61606. Deadline for resumés is March 1, 1997.

FOR SALE: Navy blue choir robes, clean, excellent condition. (606) 623-1771.

SEEKING: Centerfield Church in Oldham County is seeking a volunteer praise and worship band. Auditions will be held through the month of February. For more information, call (502) 241-9345.

SEEKING: Minister of youth. Ridgewood Baptist Church, Louisville (CBF-affiliated), is seeking a part-time minister of youth. Send resumé to: Ridgewood Baptist Church, 6209 Greenwood Road, Louisville, KY 40258.

FOR SALE: Four lots in section 11, Resthaven Cemetery, \$1,600. Call S. Harold Smith, (502) 845-4010.

SEEKING: A multiple-staff, seeker-sensitive, purpose-driven church is looking for a full-time youth and children's minister to provide vision, direction, training and leadership to a team of volunteers. Individual must be gifted in teaching and must have management skills, a high energy level, fresh ideas and the ability to function in a team approach to ministry. Interested? Experienced? Challenged? Send resumé to: Search Committee, Springfield Baptist Church, P.O. Box 286, Springfield, KY 40069. Phone: (606) 336-3544.

SEEKING: Central Baptist Church of Eureka, Mo., is prayerfully accepting resumés (until March 15, 1997) for a dynamic, full-time youth/music minister to serve in a rapidly growing community. Send resumé to: Central Baptist Church, P.O. Box 66, Eureka, MO 63025, Attn: Search Committee.

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: 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: 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 Highway., Pikeville, KY 41501.

U.S. Supreme Court refuses to consider 3 church-state cases

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court refused to consider three church-state disputes Jan. 21, including the appeal of judgment against a Colorado Methodist conference for negligent hiring and supervision of a minister accused of sexual harassment.

The high court also sidestepped an Indiana man's claim that he was fired because of his religious beliefs and a Baptist church's appeal of a court order stopping members from picketing against homosexuality near an Episcopal church in Topeka, Kan.

Left standing in the Colorado dispute were jury verdicts totaling more than \$100,000 against the Rocky Mountain Conference of the United Methodist Church.

In 1992, Dianne Winkler sued the conference, Grace United Methodist Church and minister Glenn Chambers over allegations of sexual harassment by Chambers.

In 1994, a jury awarded Winkler \$95,853 from the conference for negligence in the hiring and supervision of Chambers and \$10,651 for breach of fiduciary duty.

A Colorado appeals court upheld the judgments and the state's Supreme Court refused to review the case. Lawyers for the conference argued before the Supreme Court that the First Amendment shields the church from governmental interference with a church's free exercise of religion in hiring, supervising and disciplining clergy.

In the Indiana dispute, Peter Helland filed claims alleging he was unlawfully dismissed as a substitute teacher by South Bend school officials because of his religious beliefs. A federal district court, in a ruling later affirmed by the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, rejected Helland's claims.

School officials said Helland was dismissed because of his job performance. The appeals court concluded that school officials "gave Helland ample opportunity to practice his religion, so long as he did not use his classes for religious indoctrination."

In the Kansas dispute, justices refused to consider lifting a temporary restraining order preventing picketers from Westboro Baptist Church from conveying anti-homosexual messages in a buffer zone near St. David's Episcopal Church.

Western Kentucky Evangelism Conference

February 3, 1997

Theme:
"Back to the Cross"

Southside Baptist Church
205 Nichols St. - Princeton, Ky.

10:00 a.m.

Dr. Don Mathis
Baptist Sunday School Board

Dr. Lincoln Bingham
St. Paul Baptist Church
Louisville, Kentucky

Noon Dialogue Luncheon
Contact Associational office for
reservations...365-9919

2:00 p.m.

Dr. Lincoln Bingham
Dr. Jimmy Draper
Baptist Sunday School Board

7:00 p.m.

Dr. Don Mathis
Dr. Jimmy Draper
CONFERENCE MUSIC
BUD & BARBARA LEE
BLUE SPRINGS, MISSOURI
CONCERT AT 6:30 P.M.



Dr. Don Mathis



Dr. Lincoln Bingham



Dr. Jimmy Draper



Bud & Barbara Lee

ALL SESSIONS
TELEVISED "LIVE" ON
PRINCETON CABLE
CHANNEL 28.

SPONSORED BY
CALDWELL/LYON
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

- Vicky Parrott, Greater Boston Baptist Association administrative assistant and partnership director, as she gives of herself in ministry.
- Kentucky and New England partnership leaders as they pair churches for continuing mission endeavors.
- Leaders of Vermont's Green Mountain Baptist Association, in their search for a director of missions.
- Assistant partnership coordinator Alexey Nikitkov, who works with career missionary Joe De Leon in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- St. Petersburg partnership coordinators Lee and Sarah Bivins, as they conclude their three-year term of service and return to Kentucky Feb. 12.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ COLUMBIA—Charity Church will ordain **Shirl Darnell** and **Ronnie Karnes** as deacons Feb. 16.

■ DANVILLE—Calvary Church called Campbellville native **Matt Flanagan** Jan. 26 as part-time minister of youth. He previously was minister of youth at First Church in Junction City. Also, **Doug Wesley**, who served as minister of youth, will become part-time assistant pastor.

■ FRANKFORT—North Benson Church called **Tyre Denney** Jan. 19 as pastor. He previously was interim pastor.

■ GEORGETOWN—**Ronald Wilburn**, minister of music at Gano Avenue Church will celebrate his 40th anniversary in music ministry by presenting a series of concerts in churches where he has served. Concert dates include: Ninth & O Church in Louisville, Feb. 16; Crestwood Church, Frankfort, April 27; Clifton Church in Louisville, June 8; Crestview Church in Dayton, Ohio, July 20; and Gano Avenue Church in Georgetown, Oct. 26. For more information, call (606) 299-7336.

■ GRADYVILLE—Gradyville Church called **Terry Edwards** as pastor. He will be ordained to the gospel ministry Feb. 9.

■ LEXINGTON—Boones Creek Church called **Chris Dale** as minister of music.

■ LOUISVILLE—**Edward Boyd** celebrated his 26th anniversary as pastor at Chapel Park Church Jan. 12. **Greg Pearson** resigned as pastor

of Bashford Manor Church, effective Jan. 31.

Auburndale Church called **Harry Mills** as pastor. He began his new ministry Dec. 15.

■ MIDDLESBORO—Binghamtown Church held a surprise 75th birthday party honoring Pastor **W.B. Bingham II** Jan. 26.

■ MORGANFIELD—**Dan Carr** resigned as minister of music and education at First Church Jan. 12. Carr will pursue a new ministry working with Hispanic students at Job Corp.

■ MYRA—Faith Church recently presented Pastor **Dave Hammond** and wife, **Kay**, a 10-day trip to Israel.

■ RICHMOND—Union City Church will celebrate its 185th anniversary April 13. Former pastors and members are invited, and may contact the church for more information by calling (606) 623-2845.

■ SHEPHERDSVILLE—**Ron**

Shaver celebrated his 10th anniversary as pastor at Little Flock Church Jan. 12.

■ STANFORD—**Timothy Boschen**, pastor of Stanford Church, received a certificate of appreciation from the chaplaincy division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Jan. 5 upon his retirement as an active-duty army chaplain.

■ WILLIAMSBURG—**Robert Williams**, curator of the Carl Williams Cross and Crucifix Collection housed at the Cumberland Museum, and **John Sullivan**, feature reporter and outdoor writer for WKYT-TV, received honorary doctorates from Cumberland College during convocation Jan. 27.

■ WINCHESTER—Central Church called **Bill Whittaker** as interim pastor.

■ WINDSOR—**Eric Reynolds** recently resigned as pastor at First Church.



NEW LIBRARY Georgetown College leaders and supporters break ground Jan. 14 for the Anna Ashcraft Ensor Learning Resource Center.

EXPERIENCE ALASKA!

Join Eldred & Helen Taylor on a 12-day Princess Cruise Tour
May 26 - June 6, 1997

Cruise the inside passage. Visit: Ketchikan, Juneau, Skagway, Anchorage, Denali National Park and Fairbanks.

Experience Alaska by Luxury Ship, Dome Train, Motor Coach and Air.

For brochure of itinerary and costs, write or call Eldred & Helen Taylor, 408 Village Lake Drive, Louisville, KY 40245

(502) 254-5085



Every interruption is an opportunity

Free, unsolicited advice is one of the benefits of my job. Many well-meaning friends often will share some treasured words of wisdom. I must confess that when I was younger, let's say in my 20s and 30s, I often did not listen to those unwanted bits of advice. Fortunately for my family, those I work with and me, in my 40s I began to pay a little more attention to those folks. I pay special attention to those who are several years my senior.

Those who have heard me speak during the past two years may have heard me say, "I don't like interruptions." In all honesty, this is a selfish statement. I usually try to excuse myself by saying I have so many responsibilities each day I do not have much time for unexpected interruptions. After all, there are many things I must get done every day that no one else can do. When I awaken in the morning, while getting my shower, getting dressed and making my way to the office, I am mentally putting my day together. If I have guests coming, have a meeting, must make a trip or have a speaking engagement, etc., I plan my day accordingly.

This past spring one of my peers, a teacher and the pianist for our school choir, came into my office and put a little piece of paper, folded one time, on my desk. Frankly, I was not too pleased when she came into my office. Even though my door was open, I was in a conference with one of my staff. I am sure the intrusive staff member did not see the expression on my face as she placed the paper on my desk, but the person seated in my office easily could see my frustration. I did take a moment to glance down at the folded piece of paper. She had written on the side that faced me

these words: "Every interruption is an opportunity." I tried to focus on my conversation with the staff member, but kept finding myself reading those words, "Every interruption is an opportunity."

I often have referred to that little piece of paper, which still faces me on my desk. It is a constant reminder, which I really need, that the most important responsibility I have is to meet the needs of others. There may be a student who is homesick or is having trouble with a roommate. It could be a staff member who wants to thank me for some need that has been met, or to complain about a housing or classroom need. Then there are those guests who visit our campus. Who are they? I have never seen them before. Surely someone else can help them. But no, they want to see me. I look down at the sign on my desk. (Thanks—I needed that.) I put on my best smile and introduce myself to the guests. They respond by saying "I hope we have not interrupted you." Still smiling and thinking of those words, I

respond, "Oh, no. It's no interruption at all." I can honestly say I have found those words of wisdom to be true; every interruption is an opportunity. An opportunity to meet the needs of others and not focus on my priorities. Time and time again, I have discovered that I was the only one who could solve the problem for my staff, meet the need of a student or receive the words of thanks and encouragement from a guest who was not in my schedule. I am truly grateful for this co-worker who interrupted her schedule to share these words of wisdom.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Good news from campus alumni

A report of baptisms among Kentucky Baptist churches indicates Clear Creek pastors lead 10 of the 100 churches that baptized the most people in 1995. Four Clear Creek graduates are in the top 25.

Reaching people for Christ and bringing them into the fellowship of a local church is the priority of Christ's mission. We train our students in evangelism and church growth. The following have helped lead churches in reaching others (baptisms in parenthesis): Binghamtown, W.B. Bingham II (66); Walnut Memorial, Odell Beauchamp (53); Pleasant View, Vola Brown (51); Hopewell, Barry Harmon (50); Ninth & O, Rodney Burnette (43); Kelly, Donnie Blick (34); Watts Chapel, Dan Gutenson (29); Harlan, John Ditty (27); Horse Creek, Scottie Sumner (26); Trinity, Dan Newton (25).

Marvin Lloyd, of the class of 1976, celebrates the second anniversary of a new church in Roanoke, Va. Attendance at Open Bible Baptist has climbed to 30. "Nick Rady helped me build a portable baptistry, and then was the first to be baptized," Lloyd wrote. Lloyd participated in a mission trip to Costa Rica and this month goes

to India for evangelistic crusades.

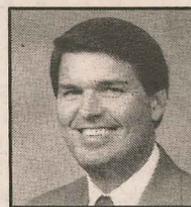
1974 graduate David Kaczmariski has provided needed support for pastors in Mozambique. Monthly assistance has come from his church in Coolville, Ohio, and interested friends. The church has prepared 17,000 items, mostly clothes, which fill 530 apple boxes. They expect to have a shipping container (620 boxes) ready to send by summer. He asks us to pray for a manufacturing company to provide the container and cost of shipping.

I know you also rejoice that our 1996-97 enrollment increased 10.2 percent. Eighty-five percent of applicants for the January term arrived on campus for enrollment. Our completion rate for 1995 was 87 percent, based on students who enrolled five years ago. Campus housing is almost full. The Lord continues to meet our financial needs. In early December, receipts were below expenses. But on the day we wanted to write checks for faculty and staff Christmas bonuses, we received an estate gift that put us back in the black.

The Lord is good.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Cowboys attending 'Boots and Jeans' Bible class

By Dana Williamson
Oklahoma Baptist Messenger

BEAVER, Okla. (BP)—“... and Lord, be with us during this haying time and cattle shipping season.”

Maybe not your typical prayer for opening a Sunday school class, but it's at the heart of a Thursday night Bible study class in the wide-open spaces of Oklahoma's Panhandle.

There are no horses tied to hitching posts, but a myriad of pickup trucks and horse trailers are parked outside First Baptist Church of Beaver, Okla. Just inside the door, cowboy hats are tossed askew around the coat rack.

It's the “Boots and Jeans” cowboy Bible class, where 30-35 cowboys gather weekly to study the Bible and share Christian experiences.

The class resulted from a burden on the heart of saddle shop owner Shawn Campbell, who witnessed to cowboys coming into his shop.

“I was talking to some guys one day and gave them cowboy Bibles (New Testaments with a bucking horse on front) and told them we were having a Bible study in the shop,” said Campbell, who surprised himself by mentioning a Bible study.

At about the same time, unbeknownst to Campbell, Sunday school director Jim Hilton talked to a friend about a cowboy Bible study.

The Bible study in the saddle shop started with two or three people, and grew to seven, Campbell said.

But children were coming, and there was no clean place for them to play. Campbell started looking for another place to hold the classes.

“I was a little skeptical about moving it to the church building because I didn't know if these people would be comfortable in a church setting,” said Campbell, a member of First Baptist Church.

But 10 cowboys came the first week in the church's fellowship hall. Attendance has grown to an average of 30, and that number can double “depending on the season.” There also are a nursery and Sunday school classes for children now.

“This is a ministry unlike any this church has been involved in,” said Pastor Bill Sherrill. “It has opened the church's eyes to see that you don't have to do things as they've always been done.”

The cowboys come from all over Beaver County and as far away as Liberal, Kan., 40 miles to the north.

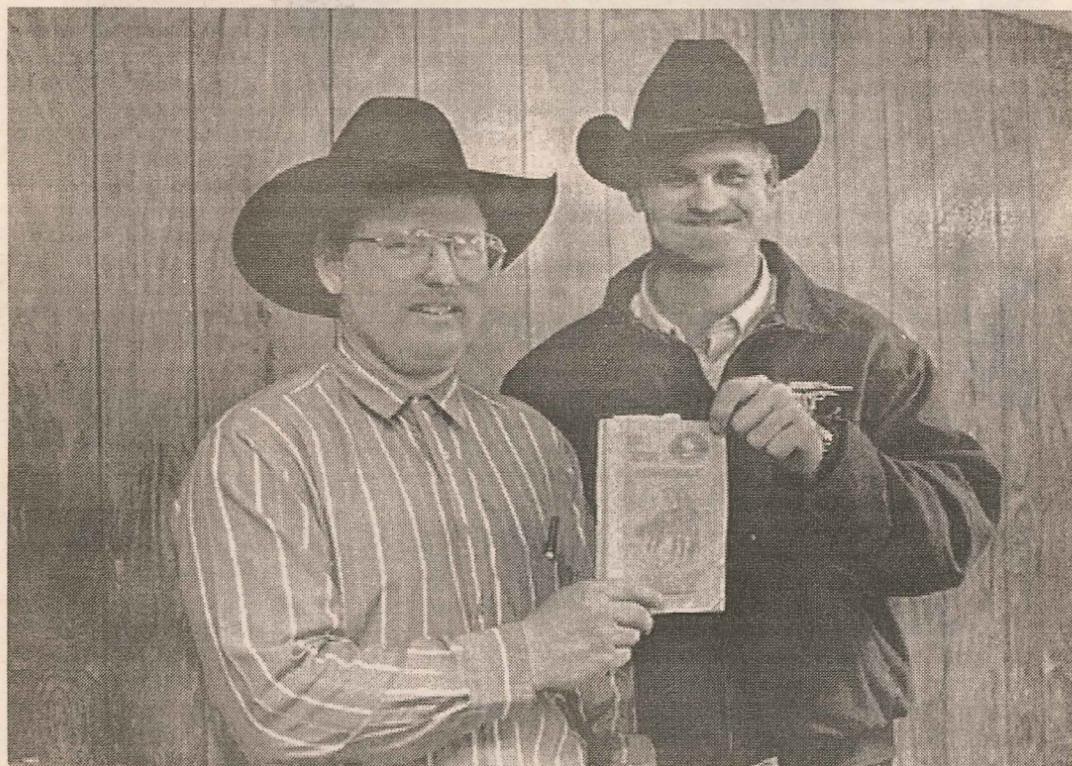
“On any given night, we probably will have at least five denominations represented,” Sherrill reported. “What church they end up in is less significant than leading them to the Lord.”

Sherrill, while supportive of the ministry, is not exactly the cowboy type. At a tent revival for the cowboys last summer, he was given a pair of cowboy boots and a hat.

“One of the cowboys walked up during the announcements and said, ‘We can't take it anymore,’ Sherrill said laughing. “They made me take off my red high-top tennis shoes and put on the boots and hat.”

The class is promoted mostly by word of mouth, but also by placing the cowboy Bibles, with cards about the Bible study inserted, in stores for people to take free of charge.

Even a lack of harsh language can



become a witnessing opportunity, said one cowboy at a recent Bible study.

When cowboys don't use profanity, others want to know what is going on in their lives. “Cowboys talk to cowboys,” he said, “and there are always opportunities to witness just by living the Christian life.”

Campbell, who has lived and worked on a ranch all his life, continues to be burdened for cowboys.

“There is no one evangelizing farmers and ranchers,” he lamented. “They just kind of live out there and

don't have anyone to share the gospel with them. It's a mission field.”

The group purchases cowboy Bibles from Fellowship of Christian Cowboys, but FCC ministers mostly to rodeo cowboys, Campbell said.

“I suspect that at least 30 percent of the population of Oklahoma is connected in some way with cowboys,” Hilton said. “And that would be higher in states such as Wyoming and Montana. It's a culture, and we have literature and programs for other cultures with less numbers than these.”

COWBOY BIBLE STUDY
Shawn Campbell (left) and Jim Hilton helped launch a Thursday night Bible study for cowboys. They are holding “The Bible for Cowboys.”

Scripture-based weight-loss programs gaining converts

By Pamela Long
Religion News Service

MOBILE, Ala. (RNS)—Debbie Golden avoided letting herself be included in family photographs for years because she was embarrassed at being overweight.

Now, thanks to her participation in a Christian weight-loss program, her son's friends are calling her “skinny” and she's ready to take her place in the family photos.

Christian weight-loss programs, which combine nutrition and Scripture, are growing as many of the more than 50 percent of Americans who are overweight try to bring their weight under control.

It's an approach that considers the whole person—not just his or her weight—in an effort to bring the body and soul into shape.

“It's like being born-again, again,” said Carolyn Bradley of Grand Bay, Ala. She has lost 21 pounds since joining a program five months ago.

First Place and Weigh Down are among the most popular Scripture-based weight-loss programs. These programs work, participants say, because they address what they call the underlying cause of obesity—not metabolism, not calories, but sin.

But the two programs are vastly different in their approach to weight loss. First Place gives participants a

specific food plan and exercise goals; Weigh Down avoids any kind of diet or exercise rules.

Both programs involve weekly meetings based on self-assessment, Bible study, encouragement and self-discipline. Neither program chides participants for failing to meet weight goals. Instead, they emphasize healthy eating and a closer relationship with God.

Pam Wehner, leader of a First Place group at a Baptist church in Mobile, Ala., said the new emphasis keeps overweight people from feeling left out of the good things in life.

“A lot of people get into the program for weight loss, but then you learn to discipline all areas of your life, and you don't feel like you're deprived,” she said.

First Place, which was started by a group at a Baptist church in Houston, has grown to 10,000 groups nationwide and meetings are held in 15 foreign countries.

First Place works because of the “spiritual difference,” said Kay Smith, the group's national associate director.

“Maybe I don't have enough desire to be thin; maybe I have more desire for food. But if I look in the Bible, I see that I can't do God's plan for my life if I don't take care of this body,” said Smith.

First Place participants make nine

commitments, including attending a one-hour meeting each week, reading the Bible and studying it, and living according to the program, which means following the food plan, keeping a “fact sheet” and recording exercise.

First Place's eating plan emphasizes a low-fat, low-sugar exchange program, similar to diets recommended by the American Diabetes Association and the American Heart Association, Smith said.

“We emphasize that you don't feel like you're dieting because you're just eating fresh foods, fresh meats, fresh vegetables—food in its basic state. On any plan you can lose weight a lot faster than with First Place. But for us the goal is not how fast you can lose, but whether you're healthy.”

Weekly meetings usually involve about 45 minutes of Bible study and prayer requests and a 15-minute discussion on diet and nutrition. They also include a Bible-based devotion by one of the members. Devotion topics vary and sometimes include talks about personal relationships.

“A lot of people's weight problems stem from relational insecurity,” said Linda Headrick, who led a devotion recently.

Lynn Matheny is a member of Weigh Down, another Christian weight-loss program. She blamed her weight problem on everything—her

mother, her kids, her lack of exercise.

“I kept seeing it in the Bible for years, but I just didn't accept that over-indulgence is a sin. When I finally was able to accept that, that's when I realized that if I eat and eat and eat more than I should, I'm sinning,” she said.

Weigh Down is not a diet, said Gwen Shamblin, the program's founder and a registered dietitian. “We believe dieting exacerbates the problem.”

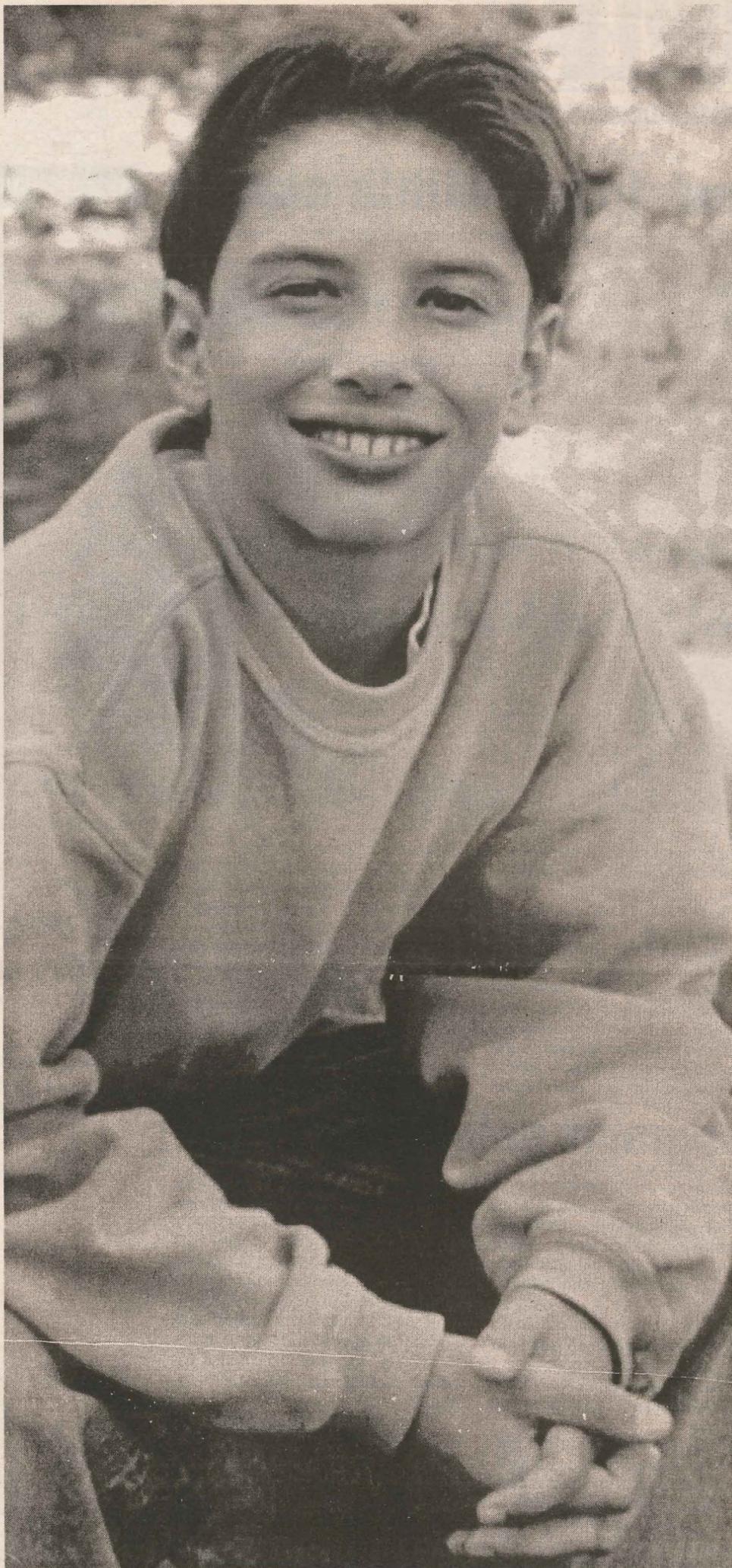
Participants in Weigh Down pay about \$100 for the first three-month program. They get a series of audio tapes for home listening, a Bible study manual and a journal. At meetings they watch a video of Shamblin and discuss the work they've done in the manual during the week. There are no weigh-ins, no exhortation to exercise.

The Nashville-based program claims about 8,000 participants nationwide. It teaches participants to recognize the difference between real, physiological hunger and spiritual hunger.

“True hunger is a burning sensation. Or it might be a sensation of weakness or you might get a headache,” Shamblin said.

But there is another kind of hunger that's deceptive, she said.

“‘Desire’ hunger may come on 20 or 30 times a day, but every time you feel that urge, it's really an urge for God.”



the eyes have it

Love...

Hope...

Joy...

That's what the eyes of children should see when they look at life. But too many children see only abuse, neglect and hopelessness.

At Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, we believe the eyes of a child should see the love of Jesus Christ. That's been our vision for more than 125 years. Call us to find out more about this special ministry.

1-800-456-1386

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

10801 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40243

Find us on the World Wide Web at <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>

