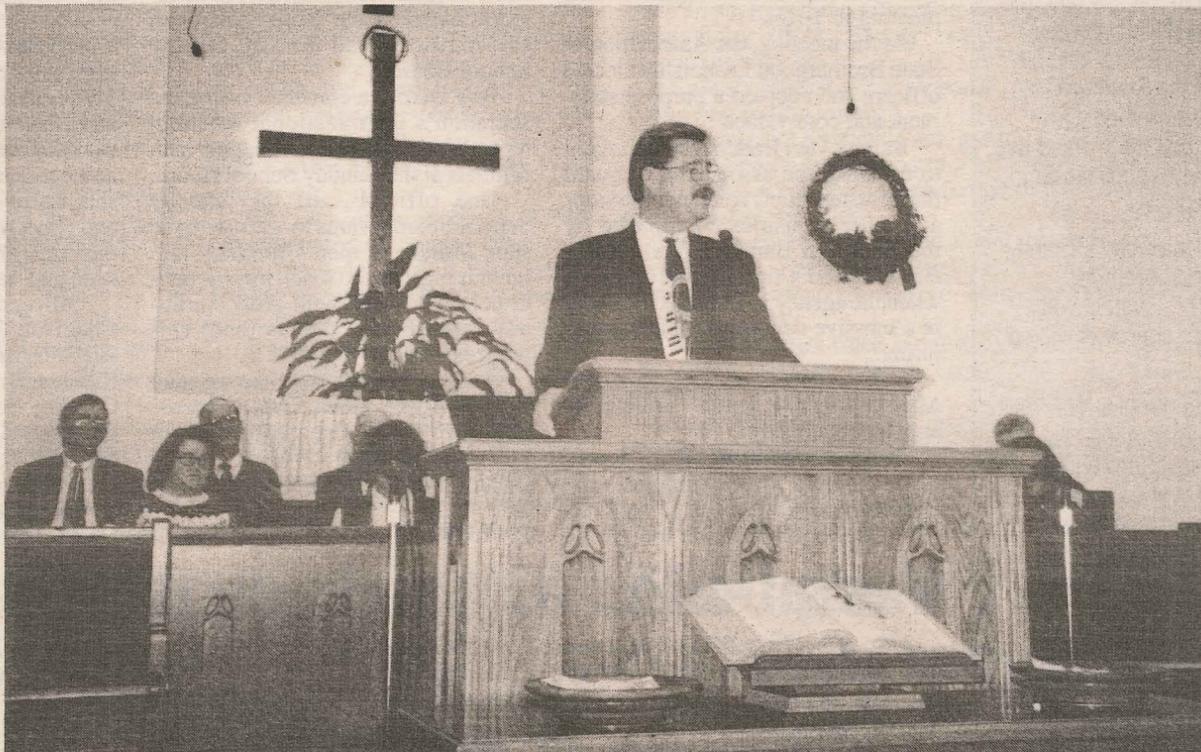




WESTERN RECORDER

February 4, 1997
Vol. 171, No. 5**FOR THE RECORD****Brotherhood**A network of state Brotherhood leaders elected officers recently. *Page 2.***Shut-in, not shut-out**At age 78, Velma Sissom continues to lead the mail outreach ministry of Grant's Lick Baptist Church. *Page 3.***Till death?**Family Forum's Diana Garland asks married couples how long they're willing to love each other. *Page 4.***Editorial**Why chose a Kentucky Baptist school. *Page 5.***Still active?**Though Madalyn Murray O'Hair has been missing more than a year, a credit card of her granddaughter, who disappeared with her, remains active. *Page 7.***Landlord's rights**An Alaskan judge has ruled landlords don't have to rent residential property to unmarried couples. *Page 7.***World**The Red Cross is considering assigning armed troops to protect relief workers. *Page 13.***Groundbreaking**Campbellsville University breaks ground for a new fine arts center. *Page 14.***SUNDAY MORNING** Pastor Everett Priddy said Hyattsville Baptist Church strives to imitate Jesus by being an example of 1 Corinthians 13, also known as the "love chapter."

Hyattsville Baptist seeks to embody love

By Pat Cole
Staff Writer

LANCASTER—At Hyattsville Baptist Church, people receive spiritual nutrition through the fruits of service.

"We take the preaching beyond the church walls and the parking lot," said Bob Hammons, who leads the Lancaster congregation's Brotherhood group. "We have volunteers for just about everything."

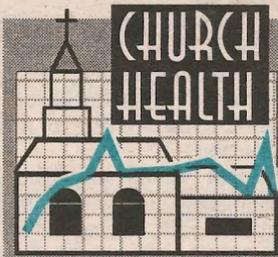
At any given time, Hyattsville members can be seen preparing food baskets for needy people, repairing

homes for poor or disabled people, volunteering for Habitat for Humanity or visiting a homeless shelter an hour's drive away in Lexington.

Hammons, who also serves as moderator of South District Baptist Association, said a maturing Christian is one who senses a need to help others.

The Hyattsville congregation is one of many identified as a healthy congregation in a

study by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church growth and administration division. The study found Hyattsville ranked high in Christ-like maturity and in its ability to make congregational decisions.

Among Southern Baptists, church health typically is monitored in terms of attendance statistics. Yet measuring church vitality solely by tracking
□ See Hyattsville Baptist ..., page 8

Kentuckian recalls integration of Little Rock Central High

LOUISVILLE (BP)—In 1957, the country watched as nine black teenagers, accompanied by armed federal troops, crossed a historic racial barrier to attend Central High School in Little Rock, Ark.

The troops were ordered to protect the students from physical harm. But guns couldn't shelter the youths from heckling, taunting and racial epithets.

Almost 40 years later, however, one of the "Little Rock Nine," Elizabeth Eckford, still recalls vividly two classmates who extended a Christlike attitude amid the hatred she endured her senior year.

"There were two people in my speech class who treated me like an ordinary person, who were always friendly and cordial to me," Eckford told National Public Radio last year.

"This was unique because, of the people who were not actively harassing us, the rest of them ignored us," she recounted. "Ken Reinhardt and Ann Williams in that class are very memorable to me, very meaningful to

me."

Reinhardt is now a banking executive in Louisville, a longtime member of St. Matthews Baptist Church and a trustee of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Sunday, Feb. 9 is Race Relations Sunday among Southern Baptists.

Reinhardt said his first recollection of his senior year was looking out a third-floor window as a mob jeered the black students. A boy beside him turned away from the window, voicing disgust that blacks were entering Central High.

Reinhardt decided to speak to the students whenever he saw them. One day he talked to Jefferson Thomas, a shy black student who was eating alone in the cafeteria. The next day, Reinhardt was shoved to the ground by an angry white student who yelled a racial slur at him. On the last day of school, a white student in gym class punched Reinhardt in the face.

The treatment was the same the

blacks faced daily from many of school's 1,500 students, Reinhardt said.

"The National Guardsmen followed the black students every day. But every day they were body-slammed into the lockers."

Reinhardt said he responded as he did because he was raised in a Christian home. "I didn't grow up in a home with prejudice," he said. "The value of people was a given."

He quoted Galatians 3:28: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

"I couldn't have given you that Scripture at that time, but I knew that prejudice was wrong," Reinhardt recounted. "I knew that God created all of us."

His father, who still lives in Little Rock, said he often got calls from angry whites calling him names and saying, "I guess you're proud of your son."

The elder Reinhardt would respond, "Yes, I am," and hang up.

The younger Reinhardt said his

Trend spotter: Churches face 10-year window of opportunity

NEW YORK—Christian churches have a 10-year window of opportunity to reach baby boomers and a broader culture that's giving the church a second look, according to one of marketing's leading futurists.

Faith Popcorn told Leadership Journal, a quarterly publication for pastors, that people are giving churches another chance because they are desperate.

"I think there's a universal consciousness that the planet is in trouble ecologically—which I think is spiritual," said Popcorn, a leading adviser to Fortune 500 companies and author of "The Popcorn Report" and "Clicking," both on trends.

"I do think people are really looking again for a more gentle spirituality and more understanding," she said.

Popcorn told the journal's writers she is "100 percent Jewish," and doesn't "believe in Jesus Christ the way Christians do." Nevertheless, Popcorn said the church can be important to baby boomers who are looking for a second chance as they age.

"If you're going to have a successful religious organization, this would be the next 10 years to do it," she said. "If in the church it became OK to be more aware of what was going on with your consumer—your parishioner, whatever you call them—you would have an ongoing in-

□ See Popcorn ..., page 10



Ken Reinhardt

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Smith moves to Southern.** James A. Smith Sr. has been named director of news and information at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, moving from a similar post at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., where he has been pursuing the master of divinity degree. Smith, who will continue his studies at Southern, previously was the first Washington staff member of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, where he served as director of government relations. Prior to that, he worked two years as director of communications at the Republican Study Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives.

■ **Scholarships offered.** Gardner-Webb University's divinity school has announced a new scholarship program for Kentucky students. The Boiling Springs, N.C., school will match dollar-for-dollar what each student's church is willing to pay toward tuition, up to \$3,600.

■ **Civil War conference set.** "Baptists and the Civil War" will be the theme of a June 5-7 conference in Richmond, Va., sponsored by the Southern Baptist Historical Society. The event will include tours of significant Civil War collections and sites, with emphasis on the theological and social impact of the war on Baptists. For information, call (800) 966-2278.

■ **Texas conservatives on hold.** Members of a conservative Baptist group in Texas polled about forming a new convention said they plan to stay within the Baptist General Convention of Texas at least through the state convention's annual meeting in November. After last fall's meeting of the state convention, which was dominated by moderates, 350 members of Southern Baptists of Texas were asked if they preferred a new convention for conservatives or to stay aligned with the existing convention. The "overriding response" to the poll was to remain a part of the state convention, Ronnie Yarber, the group's executive director, told about 25 members at a recent meeting in Fort Worth.

■ **Layoffs to cost \$2.5 million.** The committee coordinating merger of three Southern Baptist Convention agencies into the new North American Mission Board has announced the agency will employ no more than 350 people. That's 165 fewer employees than the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission currently have. Severance benefits for the impending layoffs will be about \$2.5 million, according to the implementation task force, an oversight group appointed by the SBC Executive Committee.

■ **Evangelists hurt, Texan says.** A loss of trust in the Southern Baptist Convention has contributed to lean times for evangelists, according to Frank Harber, new president of the Conference of Texas Baptist Evangelists. Nearly two decades of controversy between conservatives and moderates has eroded trust in evangelists, Harber said. "The evangelist who is going to last will learn to be a bridge-builder," he said, noting that pastors will black-ball an evangelist who fosters division.

■ **US-2 goes online.** Information and applications for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's US-2 missionary program now is available on-line at www.namsbc.org. US-2 missionaries are college graduates age 30 or younger who serve two-year terms.

■ **State to buy Baptist campus.** The state of Mississippi intends to purchase the former Clarke College campus in Newton, Miss. An appropriations bill currently before the state legislature earmarks \$9 million for purchase and renovation of the campus into a residential psychiatric hospital. The Baptist-affiliated college closed in 1992.

■ **A rocky conversion.** The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has asked its customers to be patient as the publishing house shifts from a 20-year-old mainframe computer to a new computer system for processing and tracking orders. Some orders are running about a week behind, officials said, but order-processing should be back to normal sometime in February.

New Brotherhood network moves ahead

DALLAS (ABP)—An association of state-convention directors of Baptist men's ministries formed last spring recently held its organizational meeting in Texas.

At the meeting, the Association of State Brotherhood Leaders elected officers and adopted a purpose statement and core values.

Baptist Men leaders voted in April to establish the association to guard that disaster-relief, volunteer missions and other ministries coordinated by the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission continue when the agency is dissolved this year in a massive denominational restructuring.

SBC leaders issued a statement in May calling the action "unilateral" and "not necessary."

In the restructuring plan adopted last summer, three agencies—the Brotherhood Commission, Radio & Television Commission and Home

Mission Board will be replaced by a new North American Mission Board.

The plan calls for current Brotherhood Commission ministries to be divided between the North American Mission Board and the SBC Sunday School Board.

Bob Dixon, a convener of the association's organizational meeting, reported a constructive meeting with officials at the Sunday School Board.

One official said the Sunday School Board "wants to walk with the state leaders in men's ministry and build it together, to reach men as never before, to help them grow spiritually as husbands, fathers (and) employees," Dixon reported.

Another official said the Sunday School Board views Baptist men's ministries not as a new program, but as a strengthening of work already going on in Baptist churches, Dixon said.

No meeting has been scheduled

with the North American Mission Board, Dixon said. He said a meeting is planned in March with leaders of the Foreign Mission Board.

The two dozen leaders adopted as a purpose statement for the Association of State Brotherhood Leadership: "We exist to encourage mission action and education among Southern Baptist churches through an autonomous and cooperative environment for the sharing of ideas, concepts, projects and concerns. We seek to accomplish this task through networking with state and national bodies."

Officers of the new association are Chairman Tommy Puckett, director of Alabama Baptist Men; Vice Chairman Richard Brunson, director of North Carolina Baptist Men; and Recording Secretary Gary Floyd, director of Baptist Men for the Northwest Baptist Convention.

The groups plans to meet again Dec. 4-6 in Kentucky.

Vestal cited as hands-on mission leader

HOUSTON (ABP)—Five years ago, Daniel Vestal spent his first Monday night as pastor of Houston's Tallowood Baptist Church in a rundown apartment complex with a church visitation team preparing to survey prospects.

It sent the church a strong message about Vestal's missions commitment—a commitment that coworkers predict will carry over into his role as coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a post he assumed Dec. 1.

Bud Hudgens, who volunteers full time to direct the church's mission ministries, said he "wouldn't have dreamed" of asking his new pastor to come to the briefing for missions volunteers.

But Vestal surprised the team, Hudgens said, by showing up at the apartments, sitting down with the group, listening and then asking what he could do.

Hudgens assigned Vestal some apartments to call on. "He did it, and that night became one of us," Hudgens recalled. "He walks the talk. He showed us where his heart is."

Vestal spelled out his missions vision in a sermon three years ago, calling Tallowood "a metropolitan church with a world vision" and a "gift-based" ministry that seeks to help members and staffers "discover their spiritual gifts and serve God."

Behind Vestal's leadership, Tallowood strengthened its emphasis on ethnic ministries to respond to his vision of a "multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-social" church.

Vestal envisioned a church content not just to give—no matter how generously—or pray—no matter how much. He wanted a church that would get personally involved and "go out in the Holy Spirit's power."

Vestal distinguishes between "centrifugal" and "centripetal" forces in Jesus' Great Commission. Jesus commanded Christians to be an outward-moving force—a centrifugal force—to reach the world, not an inward-moving centripetal force that results in the self-absorbed life characteristic of so many churches, he said.

Drawing on that concept, the church ministers to as many people each week outside the church—more than 2,000—as it does inside its walls.

"He saw a new paradigm for us—the going and doing, as well as the giving and sending," Hudgens said. "It revolutionized our work."

Tallowood sponsors ministries in nursing homes, apartments and mission centers, along with projects including urban alliances, inner city ethnic youth rehab and scholarship aid, mission projects, English-language training, neighborhood witnessing, Bible clubs, prayer walks and retreats, and many others.

"Our goal ought not to be for everybody to come to our building," Vestal told his people. "We must go where the people are."

Church growth will result, Vestal said, "but our responsibility is far greater than the growth of (our) church. Our responsibility is to those who will never reach (our) membership roles."

"That's what I call missions," he said.

Co-workers and church members use words like "supporter," "listener," "innovator," "enabler," "peacemaker" and "integrator" to describe him. "They say they respect Vestal's integ-

rity, spirituality, personal security, openness to ideas, intelligence and willingness to roll up his sleeves and work alongside them.

Those characteristics, they say, have opened doors for ministries to soar, such as the Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Hispanic congregations that meet at the church.

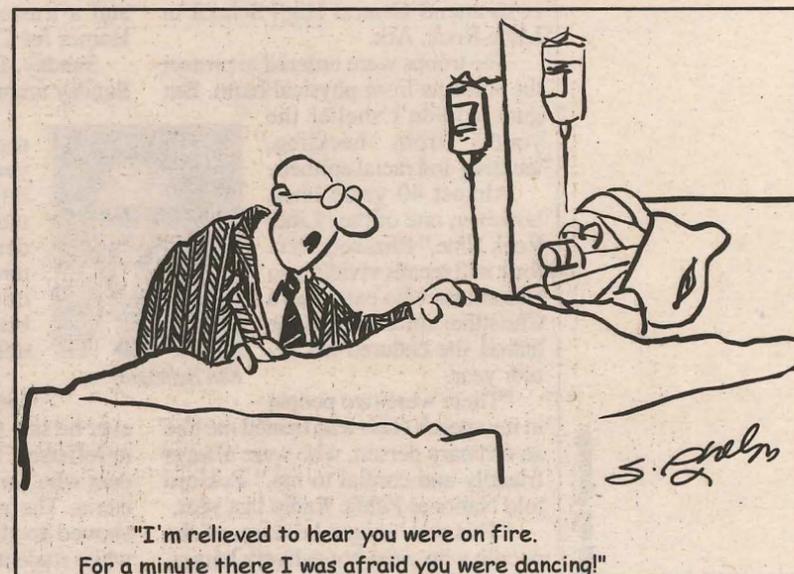
Internationals look at Tallowood and recognize "these 'Gringos' are different," said Roberto Armendariz, associate director of missions ministries.

He pointed to a rest room and an oven as tangible symbols.

Standing proudly in the men's rest room of an international congregation, he gestured toward floor tiles and fixtures and exclaimed: "See, there! Tallowood renovated this area. They didn't treat us like second-class citizens. This is as good and maybe better than rest rooms the Anglo congregation uses."

Then he broke into a huge smile. He'd thought about the oven Tallowood members sent to a small congregation in Mexico.

"Tallowood bought a new one of the same quality as the 10-year-old one in its own kitchen," he explained. "Then they sent the new one to Mexico."



Fast adapting churches meet migrant workers' needs

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

PRINCETON—Many churches in this area have a broader understanding of missions after a summer migrant ministry in Caldwell/Lyon Baptist Association, according to a co-director for the work.

Missions no longer is just "something that takes place in a foreign country," said Charles Woody. Now, "the foreign country is in their back door."

Since last March, Woody and his wife, Cheryl, have directed the association's ministry to Mexican migrant workers.

Churches in the association have participated in several partnership mission trips abroad, but this past year "let the people in the pew get a vision of doing world missions right here at

home," Woody said.

Area Baptists quickly caught the vision, Woody said. They also swiftly adapted plans at the last minute when necessary, he said.

Originally, farmers planned to house the migrants, starting at the end of August, in a motel across the road from Calvary Baptist Church in Princeton.

That way, migrants simply would cross the street on Sunday afternoons to participate in worship, Bible study, English lessons and meals. About 50 migrants were expected to participate.

Instead, 118 migrants arrived almost a month early, and they were housed on the farms where they worked—not in the motel.

"We had 11 days (notice) to put the entire ministry together," Woody said. But churches rallied for the effort, and the ministry was launched Aug. 1.

During the season, more than 250 people from at least 26 of the association's 38 congregations worked in the cooperative effort, Woody said. Among their input:

■ Calvary Baptist Church opened its building for the ministry.

■ Six churches provided vans, gasoline and drivers for transporting an average 64 workers from seven farms to the Sunday activities.

■ Eleven churches provided Sunday afternoon meals. Each week, as many as 20 volunteers cooked and served.

■ Nine churches filled more than 118 personal toiletry packets valued at \$13 each.

■ Eight churches donated cash to buy Bibles, discipleship materials and other supplies.

■ Furloughing missionaries to Honduras Ken and Tammy Cummins

led several Sunday services and spent much time discipling men who made professions of faith.

"Not only have we seen men trust our Lord as Savior, but we also have seen many men come to recommit their lives to his lordship," Woody said. "We are sending people back all over Mexico who have received Christ and have been discipled."

■ Volunteers taught basic English lessons.

■ Ministry leaders Hank Cayce, Stan Smith, Pete Lax and Cheryl Woody served as translators and visited the farms each Thursday evening to invite the men to the Sunday activities.

■ Churches provided so much clothing that "we had to ask them to quit bringing it," Woody said. Migrant workers took much of it back to Mexico for their families.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **New England Baptist churches need construction workers for 13 church construction jobs.** Projects range from full construction to renovation, including roofing, painting and carpeting. For more information, contact the KBC's partnership missions office, (502) 244-6236.

■ **Correction: A November story about refugee missions misidentified a family receiving relocation assistance from Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville.** The Dragosevic family is not Muslim, according to Kathy Springs, refugee ministries coordinator for the church.

Whitesburg church starter witnessing while training members to do the same

By Joe Westbury
SBC Home Mission Board

WHITESBURG—Backed-up water gutters overflowed into the building, allowing a steady stream of water to run through the decaying structure.

Residents of Whitesburg didn't see much in this former bowling alley sitting in the shadow of their courthouse.

But Keith Joseph saw more. He envisioned a church start that would reach out into the Appalachian towns and hollows of Letcher County and bring individuals to faith in Christ. That would come, in time—after the handful of members spent three months renovating the building before it could be used.

Four years later, North Fork Baptist Church has grown from 12 to 100 members and has a new sanctuary that seats 300. Last year it ranked second in baptisms in the association and has baptized 60 people since its founding.

Such growth is no surprise to the congregation. Founded on a strong commitment to evangelism, the church has outgrown meeting places three times—a member's home, a conference room at an oil company and the cramped room it first renovated at its current location.

Now that the church is occupying its first sanctuary, members already have their eyes set on another location across town.

North Fork is the first church Joseph has ever started. Whitesburg wasn't his choice of location, though. "I didn't want to come here because of the community's resistance to anything new. But I believe that it's always easier to start a new work than raise the dead," he says.

Joseph links the church's growth to a steady diet of evangelism. He's not shy about his faith and doesn't expect the members of his church to be coy, either. "There are 27,000 people in our county, and in three years we have visited at least two-

thirds of them. We go door to door up and down the hollows, people sharing Jesus. You wear out a lot of shoes in that amount of time.

"The only mission we have is to be evangelistic. That's why God leaves us here after salvation, to tell others about him. We don't have any pew warmers in our church."

One reason for no pew warmers is because of the emphasis on teaching members how to have an evangelistic lifestyle. Joseph credits People Sharing Jesus, a process for personal evangelism from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, with much of the success for the church's growth.

Lisa Collins, a member for barely a year, helped lead another woman to faith in Christ after completing the course. That has been a life-changing experience, she says.

"I never had a feeling like I had after helping lead that woman to the Lord. It's something that touches your heart like nothing else."

Vera Hale agrees. "Before the class I would have been scared to ask someone about their relationship to Christ, but now I don't mind," she says.

Joseph says people come to church because they have a need and are searching for answers to life's questions. "You'll find them everywhere calling out for help," he says. "If you give them enough meat, they'll come and eat and return for more."

Joseph plans on sharing Christ's message with any resident who will listen. And he plans to do it with laypeople who have been trained to witness.

"We've just begun an emphasis to visit every home in our county within a year. We want to be part of Celebrate Jesus 2000 with the goal of reaching our world for Christ. It's a big goal, but we won't reach it if we don't try."

This story originally appeared in the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee's publication SBC Life.

KBHC given \$100,000 grant for wilderness camp lodge

SOMERSET—Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation to help build a new lodge for the agency's wilderness camping program near Lake Cumberland.

The gift boosts the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Building a Brighter Future campaign to just more than \$2 million. The total goal is \$2.65 million.

Established in 1995, the camping program is designed to build team-working skills and self-esteem in young men who come from backgrounds of abuse and neglect.

Depending on each boy's treatment goals, participants can progress through levels in the program to develop opportunities for job placement, vocational training or higher education.

"This program is a new concept and one that allows these young people to experience nature in a way that maybe they've never experienced it before," said Oscar Hornsby, chairman of the Building a Brighter Future campaign.

Currently, the program operates from a building in Somerset. Construction on the new 24-bed lodge should begin this spring.

Shut-in helps church get word out to members and visitors

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

ALEXANDRIA—Velma Sissom's health may be failing, but her desire to reach out and touch people in need is as strong as ever.

Every week for almost half a century, the 78-year-old member of Grant's Lick Baptist Church has sent 30 to 40 cards and letters to church members, friends and even strangers on behalf of the church, said Pastor Paul Broyles. Most who receive cards are ill or have lost a loved one, he said.

Mrs. Sissom's records show she has mailed more than 60,000 cards and made more than 15,000 phone calls since she began the ministry in 1948, Broyles said.

She has an "amazing information network," Broyles said. Many people have lived in the area for 70 to 80 years and "she knows them all."

A move to the Baptist Convalescent Center in Newport three years ago didn't stop her. Although confined to a wheelchair because of complications from diabetes and no longer able to write, she continues with the help of family and friends.

Each Monday, her three children take turns bringing Mrs. Sissom the



Grant Lick church bulletin, Sunday order of worship, and weekly praise and prayer list.

Each Tuesday, Betty Steele, a longtime friend and member of First Baptist Church in Newport, spends about two hours helping Mrs. Sissom prepare the cards for mailing.

"God loves you, and so do we. Grant's Lick Baptist Church" is the message Mrs. Sissom wants on most of the cards, Steele said. Despite physical limitations, Mrs. Sissom stuffs each envelope with a card, a church bulletin and a gospel tract.

"More than anything else she helps keep people connected to the church," Broyles said.

RECOGNITION Grant's Lick Baptist Church Pastor Paul Broyles presents Velma Sissom with a certificate of recognition for her service to the church.

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

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I am a Baptist

In regard to the Dec. 24 article "Ordination disturbs two associations," Paul recognized women as the weaker sex. In Genesis 3:16, God said the husband shall rule over the woman. 1 Timothy 3:11-12 gives the qualifications for a deacon's wife. I say unto women who say the Bible is outdated: times have changed; the Bible never changes.

I know women play a great part in the church. They do labor for the Lord, and without the women we would lose over half our church attendance. But ladies, if God says it, that's it.

The Jehovah's Witnesses explained away hell. The Mormons gave another book called the Book of Mormon. Now you say that God has changed his mind.

I know that some churches recognize women in an ordained position, but these women are church-called and self-called.

We have read in the paper where a church sent its members home to pray about whether they should marry two men. And to beat all, the church married those two men. Does that make it right?

Ladies across this land are wonderful, but any time a lady goes contrary to the word of God, she belittles the word of God and is a non-believer to the word of God.

Alonzo Dixon
Beattyville

A voice for God

I am but one voice, but I would like to take a stand for God's word. His word tells us to correct and rebuke when needed and encourage to do right. The Bible also tells us there is coming a time when people won't listen to what the Bible tells us, but will follow their own misguided ideas.

This is what has happened in Muhlberg Association, when a woman was ordained a Baptist minister. Many pastors would not stand for God's

Finale

My office is almost barren now, bereft of anything "personal"—books, artifacts, etc. Nail holes, once covered by pictures, remind me, once again, it's time to move on. Soon, other pictures and artifacts will reflect the personal preferences of a new occupant.

The last "artifact" I removed was a framed, needlepoint picture which reads: "Daddy can do all things through Christ who strengthens him." Our oldest daughter, Sharon, presented this to me soon after I began this job 14 years ago. The work of her hands, it symbolizes the love of a child beyond what any father can deserve. To be loved, is, in itself, a touch of heaven. It will remind me just as well in the study at home.

I glance through my calendar and note more "white spaces" than I can ever remember. Only those who have

word and went against his teachings as not to cause trouble or hurt others' feelings, not caring if they hurt God's purpose. I wonder what God's judgment will be against these pastors.

1 Timothy 3:1-16 and Titus 1:5-9 give us rules to follow in selecting pastors, and these same rules apply to deacons. At least nine words in this Scripture pertain to it being men only. It says he, he and he, but nowhere does it say she, she or she. And can a woman have only one wife unless you are going to accept the homosexuals, and then how can they have children to be obedient to their parents?

I am a woman, and we are servants and have our places of service, but the Bible is plain that we are not to be pastors or deacons. When one person is allowed to change the word of God to suit self, soon others will be

affected and be doing the same thing. Then God's word is not going to be truth anymore (1 Corinthians 5:6). A woman who is ordained a minister is setting a bad example for others.

We should all be careful that we handle the Bible with great respect so that we do not distort its message, even unintentionally or as it states in Revelation 22:18-19 the plagues will be added to us and his share of the tree of life will be taken away from the ones who do.

Wanda Howard
Penrod

Headship

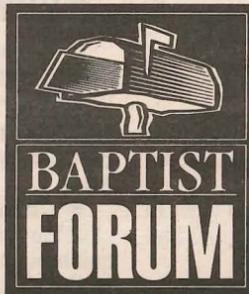
In the body of Christ, there is only one office of headship or authority, and that is the position of pastor. The words pastor, elder, shepherd and bishop are all synonymous.

This matter of women serving as pastor is simply one of headship. 1 Corinthians 11:3 states, "Now I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God." This is God's perfect and ordained order. Anything beyond that leads to confusion and that is from the

let their calendar become a "cage" can know the exhilaration of seeing multiple days without a commitment. I could never have imagined that the color white could be so beautiful!

I envision, however optimistically, life at home with Alice minus the concerns of this job; extended stays in Nashville with Marshall and Sarah (and their parents, of course); being more available to our two other couples whose lives enrich our own when we're together; hoping with none of them to become a nuisance or burden.

Those who say I smile more these days need not question its truth. It is real—joyfully real! I am as ready for this as I know how to be, and if I go with any sadness, it is only the regret that these years have passed so quickly and that, suddenly, most of my years lie behind me.



More letters on page 6

evil one.

Question: How can I go to church and submit myself to the headship of a female pastor and then go home to be the loving head of my wife when the model is reversed? In Christ, does the cat now become the dog? Does the husband become the wife? Some would twist the Scripture "In Christ there is neither male nor female" to imply this.

I love the word of God. I do not love the world view of increasingly being forced to conform to.

Chuck Estridge
Williamstown

Good choice

I wish to commend the administrative committee of the KBC Executive Board for its selection of James Hawkins as acting executive secretary-treasurer during the interim between my departure Feb. 28 and the board's election of my successor.

The respect and trust he has earned here assures a confident stability among all Executive Board employees. The positive relationships he has developed with KBC committees, institutional and agency leadership, through his 13-year history with us and hundreds of former board members who experienced his helpful leadership, should assure a strong sense of "at-ease-ness" during this transition.

This highly competent administrator often has been the unselfish servant, standing in the background while others of us have enjoyed and benefited from his efforts.

No one on our staff loves and cares for the well-being of our Kentucky Baptist Convention any more than Jim Hawkins. And no one could possibly be more grateful than I that this gifted layman said "yes" to becoming a team member 13 years ago.

Bill Marshall
Louisville

Correction: A letter to the editor in the Jan. 28 issue from John Walker contained a typographical error. Unity Baptist Chapel in Cecilia needs another \$100,000 for a building, not \$10,000 as printed.

I hope I have said "thank you" to those who have made this part of the journey so meaningful; those without whose help I could not have done what I was asked to do. Their names are legion, their contributions immeasurable. I leave a good ship with some great people on board to journey onward. I intend to stay engaged in this family with whom I have been "on mission, together."

In closing, I share these words from the poet Tagore:

"I have got my leave. Bid me farewell, my brothers! I bow to you all and take my departure. Here I give back the keys of my door—and I give up all claims to my house. I ask only for last kind words from you.

"We were neighbors for long, but I received more than I could give. Now the day has dawned and the lamp that lit my dark corner is out. A summons has come and I am ready for my journey."

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

MARRIAGE

Will you love one another?

By Diana Garland

In his book "A Community of Character," Stanley Hauerwas writes that we always marry the wrong person. The person may have been the "right one" when

we got married, but then he or she changes. Each of us wakes up one day and realizes the person next to us is not the person we committed our lives to one year or 20 years ago.

Of course, we have changed too. None would choose a partner who becomes addicted to alcohol or television or can't keep a job or struggles with depression or snores like a freight train. The partner may not have been "that way" when we married.

William Willimon said we need to find a way to turn our fate into our destiny, and that way is faith. Faith gives us the way to live in a marriage. We learn to love, and much of that takes place when the new has worn off and we don't really feel like loving in quite the same way as when we started. Jesus defined love as the commitment we make, not the feelings we have. Who would feel like giving up life, even for a friend? (John 15:13)

This way of thinking about love reverses the thinking of our world. Most people think the most critical marital decision is choosing a partner. Wrong! The most critical marital decision is to love that partner, no matter what, through all the ups and downs and changes of life.

At a wedding, the minister doesn't ask us to be careful to choose the right person; the minister doesn't ask, "Do you love one another?" Instead, the minister asks us to decide whether we commit ourselves to a lifetime of loving: "Will you love one another so long as you both shall live?"

Marital love is not the attraction or infatuation that brings us together; it is the commitment we make to one another to keep on loving even when the attraction is sometimes replaced by disappointment or disgust. In marriage, we may not give our lives over to death for our partners so much as we give ourselves to learning to love in and through a lifetime of circumstances.

What a gift to offer one's partner to say that all my life, I will love. All my life, I will strive to be my best for you, and to nurture the best in you.

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



HE SAID/SHE SAID

Old habits keep percolating while new habits are brewing

SHESAI



Alison Wingfield

Never say never. I have had to learn that lesson time and time again.

I said I would never want to live in Atlanta. We moved there the next year. And I loved it.

I said I never wanted to move again without using professional movers. And you know what we just did a few weeks ago. I didn't love it.

I said I would never drink coffee. And now, at age 34, when you'd think I would know better than to pick up a

new habit that isn't good for me, I have become a coffee drinker.

Of course, my dad would say I'm not a true aficionado, because I have a little coffee with my sugar and cream (usually skim milk). And I don't really like the plain old garden variety of coffee. I like the dessert flavors.

It started innocently enough. I would have a cup with dessert at a friend's house "just to be sociable." And then during those really cold spells in the winter, a cup of decaf Christmas blend warmed me up.

But I haven't completely given in. I still don't drink it at breakfast.

Mark just shakes his head when he sees me with a cup of java.

Of course, he is not faultless in the habit category.

But his are rather mundane. The fact that he chews on his mustache and bites his nails is so trivial it is hardly worth mentioning, right?

Whether you're hot or cold on the coffee issue, just remember, never say never.

HESAI



Mark Wingfield

Alison's switch to the coffee side of the table actually has been percolating for some time. I've watched this new habit develop slowly, at first hoping it was a passing indiscretion and then sadly realizing her heart had been stolen by Juan Valdez.

To comprehend the magnitude of this new development, you've got to understand that up until a few months ago, we were coffee insensitive. We would have friends over for dinner and

wonder why they lingered at the table before eating dessert, as though something else should be coming. It seldom occurred to us to break out the coffee pot our parents bought and left here for their own use when visiting.

We've been married long enough, however, that I am certain it is easier to pick up a new habit than to kick an old one. I've been subtly working on some of Alison's other habits for 11 years now to no avail. She hasn't made much progress with me either—although I have learned to put the toilet seat down, but only after I was threatened with being flushed down myself.

The habits I most want Alison and others to adopt are antidotes to habits they already have.

For example, I have been trying in vain to help Alison develop a habit of putting things away after she gets them out and uses them. This would create a reversal of her morning habit of pulling 10 outfits out of the closet in a quest for just the right one and then leaving the unlucky nine sprawled all over our bed. If I ever show up somewhere wearing an article of women's clothing, it will be because I slept on it unknowingly and it stuck to me.

Maybe in time I'll prevail and Alison will wake up and smell the coffee—just as long as she doesn't drink it.

Why choose a Kentucky Baptist school?

Across Kentucky, it's college application time for high school seniors. Campuses are buzzing with visits from prospective students; mailbags are bulging with applications coming in and notices of acceptance going out. Parents' heads are spinning.

As difficult as it is for parents to think about sending their children off to college, it may be even more difficult for parent and child to sort out all the choices and come to a decision.

Before the final decision is made, take time to check out Kentucky Baptists' three liberal arts schools—even if you think you can't afford a private school.

Kentucky is blessed with many excellent state universities which serve a good purpose. But Kentucky also is blessed with three outstanding Baptist schools that offer some things no state university can. Don't overlook the opportunities at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Georgetown College in Georgetown and Campbellsville University in Campbellsville.

Here's why:

■ **Kentucky Baptist schools teach faith and values.** Polls conducted over the last two decades show Americans continue to identify with religious values but fails to put those values into practice. What we say we believe, we have trouble integrating into our lives.

The climate on our three Baptist campuses helps students bridge that gap between faith and practice. Students are prepared to live in the real world. But they are prepared in a context that fosters the connection of biblical faith to real-world living.

This happens through the modeling of faith-filled professors, through an integrated curriculum that connects the Bible to other academic disciplines and through close interaction with other students.

■ **Relationships are built that last a lifetime.** Because of their size and mission, Baptist schools create a sense of community you'll never find at a state university.

Entry-level courses are not taught by graduate assistants, and they don't have 200 or 300 students stuffed into a classroom. Almost all classes at our Baptist

schools are taught by real professors—professors who know the names of their students, know where they're from and genuinely care about how they're doing.

Both inside and outside the classroom, students at our Baptist schools develop friendships that stick. The climate fosters relationship-building among students that transcends academics alone.

■ **Academic quality is second-to-none.** Our three

Baptist schools educate some of the brightest minds in the commonwealth—students who go on to become tops in their classes in medical school, law school and other graduate programs; students who become outstanding teachers in our state's elementary and secondary schools; students who receive national and international academic honors; students who head some of the nation's most prestigious companies.

■ **Kentucky Baptist schools are more affordable than you think.** Many parents automatically assume they cannot afford to send their children to a Baptist school because of the cost. Don't get caught in this false notion.

While it is true that published fee schedules for a Baptist school are much higher than for state universities, those schedules don't tell the true story. Due to the generosity of Kentucky Baptists and others, significant financial aid is available.

Despite all these reasons to attend a Kentucky Baptist school, perhaps the greatest barrier to most prospective students is that they aren't challenged to consider Georgetown, Campbellsville or Cumberland. Pastors and youth leaders, please talk to high school students about our Baptist schools. High school teachers, let your students know about the outstanding opportunities at these Kentucky Baptist schools.

Parents, take time to consider Campbellsville, Georgetown and Cumberland. You'll be pleased with what you see. Take my word as a fellow parent: I would be delighted for my own children to attend any of these three schools—if only they admitted exceptionally bright 4-year-olds.

— Mark Wingfield

The one and only

By Carey Newman

My friend was perplexed. The most recent Kiwanis meeting was chaired by a well-respected high school principal who led the group in the "Pledge of Allegiance," a pledge which contains the words "one nation under God." The invocation was given by a noted physicist in the community. She concluded her prayer with the words "we ask these things in the name of God."

The poignancy of the moment was not lost on my friend. The high school principal is Islamic, the physicist Jewish. He looked at me and asked the natural question: "Why is it that I admire and respect the strong religious commitment of both my Jewish and Islamic friends—even delighting in the kinship between us—and yet feel so resolute about my own faith?"

Christianity is unapologetically monotheistic. That is, Christians believe in one, and only one God. Christianity thus stands over against all other forms of theism: pantheism, which understands the entirety of the universe as divine; deism, which envisions a rationale, remote and dispa-

sionate god; ditheism, which features two equal but opposing gods; polytheism, which believes there are many divine beings, sometimes arranged in a hierarchy; and even atheism, the belief that there is no supreme deity at all.

Similar to other monotheistic faiths (like Judaism and Islam), Christians believe that the God they worship is the God who made the world, that this one true God seeks to form a special relationship with his creation and that this one true God purposefully seeks the ultimate well-being of creation.

What separates Christianity from Judaism and Islam is that Christians believe that the one true God was fully manifested in the Son, Jesus. Jesus is God in the flesh. Consequently, Jesus is the complete, final and unique revelation of God. Christian monotheism entails enormous implications.

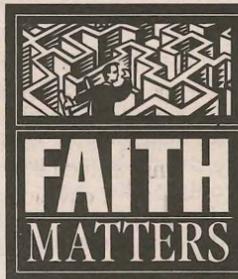
I watched as a former student signed the papers. This was a solemn event, not only because many months of soul-searching had preceded it, but also because the affixing of his signature carried a complete, exclusive and irrevocable commitment. From that

moment on, the Air Force was going to be in control of his life. No longer could he make a decision (especially a major decision) without the Air Force entering into the equation. The signature obligated him to the Air Force and the Air Force alone—not to the Navy, Army or Marines, and certainly not to IBM or Johnson & Johnson. Once made, the decision could not be changed or altered. There was no going back.

Through confession and baptism into the name of Jesus, Christians publicly proclaim their devotion to the one true God. We willingly, joyfully and, most importantly, totally commit ourselves to a specific direction: to follow this God as revealed in Jesus. Discipleship is thus no small matter. We are exclusively and forevermore beholden to the one true God.

While Christians should never be rude or demeaning to practitioners of other faiths—especially to those with whom we share so much history, common cause and even portions of Scripture—Christians should never waver in their devotion to God.

I told my friend to sleep well and live decisively, because our claims about God and radical discipleship go hand-in-hand. Monotheism demands that Christians match belief in the creating, covenanting and purposeful God—the God who has revealed himself fully in Jesus—with a total, irrevocable and exclusive commitment.



Not the same

Regarding the ordination of women, see 1 Corinthians 14:34-38 and 1 Timothy 2:8-15. I do not believe Paul would have written these words if women were then, as they are now. The ladies were no less intelligent than the ladies of today; they were not given the chance for elementary or for higher education as are women given today. Some words of those women of the past may not have been worthwhile, but not so today. I do not think Paul meant for them to remain silent simply because they were female.

My mother taught a Bible class for 65 years. Can you imagine her asking my father what the preacher's sermon was about? Unbelievable! 1 Corinthians 14:35.

Bryce VanLandingham
Erlanger

'Whomper-jawed'

Years ago, on our family farm in Arkansas, my dad was known as a good farmer. Neighbors commented on how straight a cotton row he could plant. Although I never reached the level of my father, he taught me the secret. It applies to many areas of our lives. It is especially apropos to our current state of affairs as a denomination.

I have not been one to stir up the "dust" too much concerning our almost two decade-long theological and church political issues. I have seen spiritual giants on both sides become embittered, beaten down and shattered as a result. I have often pondered why such good men and women get sidetracked from being and doing the very thing they set out to do and become.

My own ministry of 23 years has been placed on a different plot of ground, farming with a different set

of tools and generally affecting how I manage the "farm," but I believe God has sustained me and blessed me through a simple yet profound lesson from my dad.

The secret my father taught me about planting a straight row is this: Before you start the tractor down the field, pick out a reference point beyond the other end and keep your eyes fixed on it until you reach your destination. You can't look back to check your equipment or to see how your row looks behind you. You can't glance off to one side or the other.

The lesson in life I have learned from this is: Choose Jesus Christ as your reference point and keep your eyes on him until you come to the end. If you start right, you will end right.

My father would often come along and inspect the work I was doing. And sometimes his only remark would be, "Son, your rows are a little "whomper-jawed."

Leo George
Louisville

Shed some light

Although the article "Sweet offers architectural commandments" (Oct. 29, page 8) provides several well-founded commandments for church facility planners, a few are out-of-date, have no economic, energy or environmental responsibility and are poor examples of stewardship of God's resources. When Leonard Sweet denounces fluorescent light, does he favor old incandescent technology invented by Thomas Edison in 1879, which converts 90 percent of electrical energy to heat energy and only 10 percent to visible light energy, lasts only 750-1,000 hours and thus requires frequent replacement in sometimes difficult, dangerous-to-reach locations in churches?

Joyce Rasdall
Smiths Grove

How to prepare for a new pastor

By Herb Miller

"Our church has an excellent interim minister," the board chairperson said on the phone. "We expect to select a permanent pastor within nine months. I am calling to ask for some advice: How can we prepare well for the new pastor?"

"Six factors are important," the consultant replied. The following outline summarizes the suggestions he gave.

■ **Pick your new pastor very carefully.** Three qualities are essential: (a) consistently effective preaching—since many of your people will judge the pastor's ability from this one trait; (b) warm and caring pastoral skill in crisis situations—since people evaluate a pastor's ability most critically from personal interactions; and (c) effective administrative leadership—since a pastor must accomplish much of his or her ministry through staff members and lay volunteers. No amount of advance preparation can make up for a skill deficiency in one of those three areas.

■ **Deal with any leftover conflict from past years or the previ-**

ous pastor. Do not expect the new pastor to fix old problems. If you let them lap over into the next chapter, emotional feelings from past conflicts can damage the new ministry. People from both sides of the issue will urge the new pastor to become their knight in shining armor who fixes the problem. Translation: Fixing the problem means fixing the problem the way I want it fixed. In most instances, some people are less than perfectly satisfied. The new pastor gets the blame for an old conflict.

■ **In leftover conflicts of an extreme nature, obtain the services of a congregational conflict consultant.** The Alban Institute has a network of these specialists across the country. Contact the Alban Institute, 4550 Montgomery Ave, Suite 433 North, Bethesda, Md. 20814; phone (800) 486-1318, ext. 229, or (301) 718-4407, ext. 229. (The Kentucky Baptist Convention's minister-church relations office also offers help in this area.) If conflict is not the issue, the church often benefits from an outside consultant to assist with strategic plan-

Call for letters

In February, the Western Recorder will mark the retirement of Bill Marshall as executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The Recorder will print brief letters from anyone who wishes to offer a public word of commendation or recall a fond memory of his tenure. Send letters by Feb. 17 to Baptist Forum, Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253.

Is Sweet opposed to fluorescent lamps which last 10 times longer, are four to five times more energy efficient when converting electricity to light energy, and are produced in people-friendly "warm white deluxe" and other supportive colors labeled in English on the end of each tube? Perhaps Sweet is a typical purchaser of tubes labeled "cool white" or "daylight," emitting greenish or bluish light and neutralizing warm colors of wood, food and people, thus making for too-cool appearances in people-oriented environments.

How can Sweet deny the versatile fluorescent lamp technology available with threaded bases for traditional light sources and life expectancies of 10,000 hours? With the thousands of lamp types manufactured today, churches need not be saddled with inefficient, wasteful lamps while ignoring user- and color-friendly fluorescent forms. Christians should enjoy worshipping in (and paying for) beautiful, environmental/energy/economically responsible lighting from current and emerging technology.

Baptist churches should be credible decision-making leaders of a population adopting energy/environmentally responsible practices including sound, light, window and other technology as much as Sweet embraces computer technology.

For that kind of consultation, schedule someone with a strong reputation in the field three to six months after the new pastor begins.

■ **Dismiss any ineffective or problem-producing employees.** Examples: secretaries, custodians or program staff members. If they were a pain during the previous pastor's tenure, that pattern will probably continue. You need to remove them now, not later. Even the most incompetent staff members have friends who believe they are wonderful.

Handing the new pastor a hatchet distracts numerous members into a side alley of emotional turmoil—away from the church's central mission of changing lives and helping hurting people.

■ **Establish a system by which laypersons contact first-time worship visitors within the first 36 hours.** Two resources are available for accomplishing that: (a) the video training session and leader's guide titled "Energizing Your Congregation's Ministry—Evangelism Action Pac," by Herb Miller, available by calling (800) 672-1789; (b) the article titled "Organized Friendliness: How to Visit Your

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

A genuine church

People are longing for spiritual fulfillment, and the fields are ready for harvest. There are churches with a vision that still lack laborers. They focus on existing Christians at the exclusion of recognizing the harvest. Churches that target the unchurched have their roots in the New Testament tradition. They love lost people and are committed to the Great Commission.

Churches must learn the language and culture of the unchurched and design appropriate ministries. The message must be relevant across generational lines. They must address "life concerns." Today's New Testament churches emphasize lay ministry according to giftedness. Their members are well equipped for ministry. They are convinced that shepherds do not make new sheep; sheep make new sheep.

Today's genuine church shares a common goal for outreach and it is expressed in its mission statement. The church is not content on swelling the ranks with nominal Christians.

Remember, it is always harvest time for those willing to reap. While an outreach-focused church soon finds that people bring their problems with them, the church also discovers on a deeper level just how sufficient the grace of God is.

Participants in evangelism find that they grow in their understanding of their own faith as they explain it regularly to unbelievers. Let's face the challenges ahead of us without losing the effectiveness of our salt and light.

Bill Carter
Memorial Baptist Church
Frankfort

Visitors" available from Net Results at (806) 762-8094.

■ **Plan for an inactive-member recovery program during the first Christmas or Easter season after the new pastor arrives.** The article "Coming Home for Christmas," also available from Net Results, describes one such program. Three powerful factors give you an "edge" with inactive members at this stage: (a) curiosity regarding the new pastor; (b) deletion of emotional barriers that some inactives erected with the previous pastor; and (c) the urge to make a new spiritual start at the Easter or Christmas season.

The caption on a poster picturing a playful kitten says, "Things are always at their best in their beginnings." That is true of many life experiences, such as marriage, presidencies and sunrises. If you prepare in the six ways outlined above, your congregation will be at its best during your new pastor's first month and years of ministry.

Herb Miller is a church consultant and editor of Net Results, a monthly newsletter of ideas for church vitality and leadership. This article is reprinted with permission from the February 1997 issue of Net Results. For subscription information, call (800) 672-1789.

"Even the most incompetent staff members have friends who believe they are wonderful. Handing the new pastor a hatchet distracts numerous members into a side alley of emotional turmoil."

Herb Miller

COMMENTARY

Court: Landlords can refuse rental to unwed couples

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (RNS)—A federal court in Alaska has ruled that landlords who believe sex outside of marriage is a sin may refuse to rent their properties to unmarried couples.

In a case involving three landlords who argued that renting to unmarried couples would violate their religious beliefs, U.S. District Court Judge Russell Holland said city and state laws banning rental discrimination on the basis of marital status are unconstitutional.

Holland's 30-page opinion, re-

leased Jan. 25, said protecting religious beliefs under the First Amendment outweighed the government's interests in preventing rental discrimination.

The judge said that under the legal codes, religious landlords were being forced to choose between complying with the law or following their religious beliefs.

The case was brought by three landlords who argued that the government should not force them to rent to people who engage in activities they consider sinful.

The Anchorage Equal Rights Commission and the Alaska Human Rights Commission were defendants in the case.

Under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act passed by Congress in 1993, governments must demonstrate a strong or "compelling" reason for adopting general laws that may place burdens on some religious believers.

Defendants argued that civil rights concerns outweigh religious concerns because a ruling in favor of the landlords could prompt a flood of new rental discriminations.

In a similar case in 1994, the Alaska Supreme Court ruled in favor of unmarried tenants. The U.S. Supreme Court declined to review that ruling, but lawyers said they also expect this case to reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

The issue has been a controversial one across the nation. A California Supreme Court decision forbidding landlords to discriminate on the basis of marital status is being appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Courts in Massachusetts and other jurisdictions have ruled in favor of landlords in similar cases.

Promise Keepers announces date for D.C. gathering

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (RNS) Promise Keepers has announced the date for its long-planned evangelical "mass gathering of men" in Washington, D.C.

The event will be held from noon to sundown Oct. 4 on the Mall between the U.S. Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial.

The event aims to include a variety of denominations, races and socio-economic groups.

Promise Keepers' Phillip Phillips said the event is not intended to be a political one.

Ruling allows pornography sales back on military bases

NEW YORK (ABP)—A federal judge has struck down a law banning the sale of sexually explicit magazines on military bases.

The Military Honor and Decency Act of 1996 is unconstitutional because it violates the First Amendment's free-speech guarantee, Judge Shira Scheindlin of the U.S. District Court for the Southern district of New York ruled Jan. 22.

The law, which forbids the sale or rental of sexual material at military

facilities, was added to a new defense budget and was to take effect in December. The law was passed by Congress without debate and was signed in September by President Clinton.

"Society is better served by protecting our cherished right to free speech, even at the cost of tolerating speech that is outrageous, offensive and demeaning," the judge wrote. The opinion came in a lawsuit brought by Bob Guccione, publisher of Penthouse magazine.

The legislation's author, Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md., said he was "dismayed and distressed" by the decision.

"Our government and military cannot maintain a professional command climate that includes respect for our women serving in the enlisted ranks and as officers while simultaneously promoting the distribution of this kind of material. This garbage clearly demeans women. It makes episodes like Tailhook and Aberdeen Proving

Grounds more likely and detracts from the military's ability to maintain good order and discipline," he said.

Bartlett's office quoted an Army and Air Force Exchange Service spokesperson as saying adult magazines comprise \$12.6 million in sales—more than 20 percent of all magazine sales—at Army and Air Force stores.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press.

Credit card of O'Hair's granddaughter active

SEATTLE (RNS)—Someone has been using and paying the bills on a credit card belonging to the missing granddaughter of Madelyn Murray O'Hair, the famous atheist who also has been missing for more than a year.

O'Hair disappeared with her granddaughter, Robin Murray, and her son, Jon Garth Murray, in September 1995. O'Hair is famous for her lawsuit that led to the landmark 1963 Supreme Court decision outlawing organized prayer in public schools.

An officer for Nationwide Credit Corp. of Seattle confirmed that since August 1996 as much as \$1,000 a month has been charged to an American Express card belonging to Robin Murray, the Associated Press reported.

The unidentified officer, whose corporation handles bill collections for American Express, said the monthly balances have been paid in full. The last bill, paid in December, was for \$401.78.

Bill Murray, O'Hair's estranged son, sent a letter to Texas Gov.

George W. Bush, asking that Bush assign the case to the Texas Rangers, a special investigative arm of the state's public safety department.

Bill Murray, who has said he believes his relatives are dead, is trying to become guardian of the trio's estates.

Murray was 14 years old when he was named as a plaintiff in the landmark lawsuit. He grew alienated from his mother after he became an active Christian in 1980, and his mother later adopted his daughter Robin.

Parental rights amendment suffers latest defeat

RICHMOND, Va. (RNS)—A proposed parental rights amendment to the Virginia Constitution has been defeated narrowly in the state's Senate.

Christian conservatives had pushed for the amendment, which was defeated 21-19. The vote split along party lines, with one Republican siding with the Democrats to tip the scale against the measure.

Supporters vowed to introduce the amendment again next year and make it a gubernatorial election issue in November.

The defeated measure held that "the right of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their chil-

dren is a fundamental right." It was supported by the Christian Coalition, which is based in Virginia.

Parental rights measures have been introduced in about 28 states across the nation, but the legislation has yet to gain approval in any of them.

In Washington, Rep. Steve Largent (R-Okla.) is directing the effort to get a national parental rights bill approved.

Supporters of the measures say passage would ensure that parents and not government officials have the last word on a host of issues involving children.

They argue that the measures

would guarantee them access to their children's school, library or health records and would prevent state employees from administering any psychological or physical tests without parental permission.

Critics say the measures amount to a stealth campaign on the part of religious conservatives to influence school curriculums and textbooks and to end such controversial programs as the distribution of condoms in schools.

They also maintain that parental rights amendments could prevent authorities from fully investigating child abuse cases or dealing with outbreaks of disease.

Hawaii's House votes to ban same-sex marriages

HONOLULU (RNS) Hawaii's state House approved a proposed constitutional amendment Jan. 23 to ban same-sex marriages, an issue that has been fought in the state's judicial system for several years.

The effort by the state legislators is a speedy attempt to undo Hawaiian court rulings supporting same-sex marriage.

By a 44-7 vote, the House sent the expedited legislation to the state Senate. If approved, voters would consider the proposed amendment in November 1998.

There are mixed opinions about whether the Senate will approve the measure. While some say it is expected to be approved, Dan Foley, an attorney who represented three

same-sex couples in their lawsuit against Hawaii, said legal flaws exist in the House's amendment. He said the current language of the amendment will not likely be passed by the Senate.

"They may eventually come up with a constitutional amendment, but it won't be this one," Foley predicted. "It was just rushed through."

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Seminary relaxes sexual rules.** The Episcopal Church's Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Va., has relaxed its policy barring students and faculty from sex outside of marriage and homosexual behavior. The board of trustees voted to tuck their expectations about what goes on in seminarian bedrooms into a document that stresses individual responsibility rather than specific behavior.

■ **TV boycott urged.** Don Wildmon's American Family Association has announced it will call for boycotts of sponsors for programs rated TV-14 and TV-M. Critics of the new rating system charge it fails to provide information on show content. TV-14 programs contain strong sexual content, profane language and/or intense violence. TV-M programs contain extremely profane language, graphic violence and/or explicit sexual content, according to the American Family Association.

■ **New York Senate rejects casino measure.** The New York State Senate voted down a measure that would have opened the way for casino gambling in the state. Had the Senate passed the bill, the issue would have gone before voters statewide in a November referendum. After four hours of debate, state senators voted 41-19 against the plan. Opponents claimed the potential revenue generated through casinos would not justify the social ills and crime they said accompany gambling.

■ **Methodist pastors launch gay rights campaign.** Supporters of the ordination of gays to the ministry in the United Methodist Church are asking pastors to sign a "statement of conscience" saying they disagree with the denomination's ban on gay ordinations and same-sex unions. The statement, "In All Things Charity," has been sent to an initial 2,000 of the 38,000 ministers in the nation's second largest Protestant denomination.

■ **Church worker gets probation.** A Catholic church worker in Brooklyn, N.Y., was given five years' probation after admitting she stole more than \$1 million from a diocesan pension fund. Vincenza Bologna, the Brooklyn diocese's former pension office manager, pleaded guilty to stealing \$1.2 million in a plea bargain that avoided her serving prison time. Prosecutors said Bologna, 53, used the money for boats, cars, college for her sons and vacations to Las Vegas and other places.

CHURCHES

Hyattsville Baptist Church seeks to embody love



"Everything we do, we try to tie it to a mission or ministry opportunity."
Everett Priddy, pastor of Hyattsville Baptist Church

Continued from page 1

numerical growth is a mistake, said Vernon Cole, director of the church growth and administration division.

"Some will say, 'Let's keep it simple and just look at numbers.' But if I am to be true to the Scripture, then I must look at the numbers and more."

Scripture, he said, teaches that God's people should mature in their faith, provide ministry to others and make sound congregational decisions.

Hyattsville's resident membership has grown an average of a little more than 1 percent a year for the past five years. It now exceeds 330 members. Sunday morning attendance averages about 175.

While Hyattsville's membership numbers show some growth, its inclusion on the list of healthy churches was based mostly on more subjective accomplishments. These successes were measured by polling the perceptions of church leaders.

Hyattsville members point to Pastor Everett Priddy as a primary motivating force behind the church's progress.

"When Everett came, it changed the tenor of the church," Hammons said. "I believe God prepared the pastor who would lead us in the direction we needed to go."

Priddy came to the church eight years ago, stressing participatory leadership and open communication. "He's a hands-on pastor," Hammons said. "He knows the people in the community and he's out there working every day."

Hyattsville Baptist sits about three miles from the corporate city limits of Lancaster, a town of about 3,400. Mirroring national patterns, fewer residents in the rural areas surrounding Lancaster are full-time farmers. Most Hyattsville members commute to jobs in Lexington, Danville and other nearby cities.

For Priddy, even the smallest gestures of goodwill can lead to a ministry opportunity. For instance, he and other members visit a senior citizens home every month to fry cornbread.

"A lot of churches are looking for the big thing, but I don't think Christ did it that way," Priddy explained. "I don't think he said 'I'm going to fo-

cus on what's on down the road.' He went down the road and he focused on what was to the right and to the left and in front of him."

Recently, a resident at the senior citizens home was facing death and had no pastor. Family members, however, knew they could count on the pastor who cared enough to fry cornbread.

"Everything we do we try to tie it to a mission or ministry opportunity," Priddy said.

Around Hyattsville, people call their pastor "Brother E," a moniker that embodies Priddy's informal style. Before Sunday school, Priddy doesn't have to seek out members to greet. Sitting in his study with the door open, members stop by to tell him "Good morning." After worship, Priddy and his wife, Linda, stand by an exit chatting with everyone who passes. Linda, he said, is his ministry supporter, partner and "sounding board."

Priddy said his favorite passage of

the Bible is 1 Corinthians 13, known commonly as the "love chapter." His focus in ministry is to embody the passage's teaching, he said.

Rita Rogers, chair of the congregation's finance committee, agreed that Hyattsville's approach to ministry revolves around the theme of love.

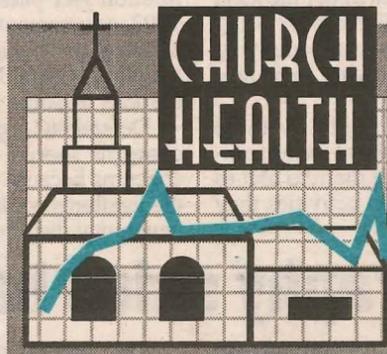
That love, she noted, was expressed to her in profound ways as she coped with an adult daughter trying to beat drug addiction.

"These people will let you share your joys and sorrows with them. They will laugh with you, and they will cry with you. My cup was running over because of the love that was shown to me."

The congregation also helped teach Rogers total dependence on God, she said. "You can give everything to God and know that God will give you the strength and courage to face it."

Hyattsville's reputation as a helping church is well known in the community, said Bill Willham, director of missions for South District Baptist Association.

Willham added that the church is an inclusive fellowship. "It is one of the best churches, and the total congregation has an opportunity to participate. It is not pastor-dominated, but they love him."



Trust and attitude two keys to healthy decision making

By David Winfrey
News Director

Attitude and trust are the most important keys to a church making healthy decisions, said a church growth specialist with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Healthy churches are "now and future oriented" in their decision making, said Vernon Cole, who oversaw a study of the characteristics of healthy churches in the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

When a church's attitude is to make decisions based on the future, members sense a freshness in constantly looking for new ways to demonstrate God's love outside the congregation, Cole said.

"That church is going to allow the creativity and giftedness to flow," he said. "If a church is dominantly guided by the decision making patterns of the past—'We've always done it this way...'—I can tell you that church is not going to be growing in a lot of ways."

Too often, Cole said, church members focus on issues related to themselves rather than others. "One of the quickest ways for a church to do a turnaround is to major on the people who are outside the church."

An outward focused attitude will be evident in a church's financial planning as well as church programs and worship style, Cole said.

Just as important as attitude, trust in leadership will determine whether a decision is fully adopted by the congregation, Cole said. "It's the age-old principle of ownership."

Ideas and decisions, regardless of their origin, must be adopted by the

congregation to be enacted, Cole said. Otherwise, leaders charge up hills with no army following. "When you have ownership, then you have commitment and follow-through."

At Hyattsville Baptist Church in Lancaster, Pastor Everett Priddy does a good job of discerning what the church should be doing and sharing those concerns with key church leaders, Cole said. "The church leaders pick the ball up and run from there."

Even in less-democratic, pastor-controlled churches, healthy decision making still exists as long as members have confidence in the pastor.

While some pastors make the most of a congregation's trust by sharing an idea for others to run with, other pastors will use that trust to get permission from the congregation to do what he sees needs to be done, Cole said.

New pastors find churches require varying lengths of time to earn a congregation's trust, Cole said.

"If a church is very, very healthy, it'll take three to four years for the pastor to gain the trust," he said. Among churches with past difficulties or tensions, gaining trust could take a pastor seven to eight years or longer.

A church's decision making structure is usually irrelevant to whether members have a healthy decision-making process.

"Churches use organizational structure (either) to free or constrain," Cole said. "Here's a church (Hyattsville Baptist) that is in an enabling mode—'What can we do to make this happen?'"

Results of the KBC research on healthy churches will be the focus of a statewide church health summit Oct. 10-11 in Bowling Green.

Decision-making skills were one of four areas analyzed in the church health study. The other three were numerical growth, incarnational growth (how a congregation shares Christ's ministry to those in need) and maturational growth (how a congregation matures in disciple-making).

Dialogue Luncheons

during the

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St. Matthews Baptist Church

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Check one and return with your luncheon reservation form:

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- 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*
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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.

CHURCHES

Priddy: Open dialogue motivates church to minister

By Pat Cole
Staff Writer

LANCASTER—Pastor Everett Priddy credits open communication and trust for the way decisions are made at Hyattsville Baptist Church.

"We are an open congregation," Priddy said. "If there is anything that motivates us or that opens us up to ministry, it is that we dialogue."

At the Lancaster church, both the pastor and church members contribute ideas about the congregation's direction. While Priddy takes a leadership role, he does not dominate the church's decision-making process.

"I am not a dictator," he explained. "I am shepherd and spiritual leader. I don't think pastors have a right to be a dictator. That's why I believe when you elect a committee you should trust that committee."

Priddy said he usually does not attend committee meetings, though he provides input for the committee members and they often seek his opinion. Yet he emphasized that committees' decisions reflect the judgments and feelings of committee members.

Priddy's trust of the congregation

is reciprocated by the church's confidence in the pastor's leadership, said David White, Hyattsville's chair of deacons.

Church members began to trust Priddy immediately, White said. Such quick building of trust was remarkable, White added, considering the church had experienced a major controversy prior to Priddy's arrival. The disagreement surrounded the termination of a part-time staff member.

Bill Willham, South District Baptist Association's director of missions, served as interim pastor in the aftermath of the controversy. White credited Willham's tireless work to bring healing to the congregation and to prepare the congregation for a pastor.

"When I came, the church healing had already begun. The people

were ready to move on," Priddy said.

White recalled that a spontaneous moment of reconciliation occurred the day Priddy preached in view of a call eight years ago. During the evening service, Priddy shared his

Christian testimony, and during the invitation he urged members to resolve their differences.

"I thought we were going to stand there like boards because of what had gone on," White said. "But as soon as we started singing that invitation song, I thought the church was going to explode."

When making congregational decisions, Hyattsville members and the pastor often see the same needs and priorities, Priddy said. "If you are in tune spiritually, you are often going to be in tune with the material things and the structural changes."

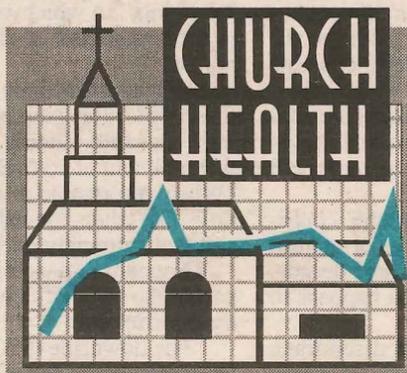
The congregation's smooth decision-making process recently was demonstrated by its vote to construct a new parsonage. The vote to build the parsonage, which the pastor and his family now occupy, took less than 30 minutes.

"The seeds had been planted," Priddy said. "People knew the need was there."

The parsonage was on a list of capital items and ministry needs that has been developed by the congregation's projection committee. After the committee finished its work, the church gave suggestions and prioritized the projects. In the future, Hyattsville hopes to build a Christian life center, expand its parking lot, purchase a mini bus and increase its ministry to senior adults.

Yet for all the congregational input and committee work, Hyattsville members still place much confidence in Priddy's pastoral leadership.

"He has led us not to be afraid to do things differently," said Rita Rogers, chair of the finance committee. "He really depends on the Lord and he really prays before we do anything."



CLASSIFIED ADS

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.

SEEKING: Experienced full-time youth and singles minister. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 804 West Fifth Street, London, KY 40741.

FOR SALE: 40 16-foot pews, two 5-foot pews, one pulpit, one communion table in light oak. Please contact: Crittenden Drive Church of Christ, P.O. Box 262, Russellville, KY 42276; phone: (502) 726-6583.

NEEDED: Pulpit chairs and office desk with chair for young church—donated or reasonably priced. Can transport. (502) 885-2088.

SEEKING: Valley Creek Baptist Church is currently accepting resúmes for the positions of (1) full-time associate pastor, and (2) part-time youth director. Please submit resumé to: Valley Creek Baptist Church, 4685 Springfield Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

NEEDED: Fern Creek Baptist Church has an immediate opening for a preschool and/or parents day out teacher. Hours are MWF, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for preschool and TT, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. for parents day out. We offer competitive wages, a friendly environment and other benefits. Please contact Debbie Gorbandt or Linda Barnes at (502) 239-0316.

FOR SALE: 20 12-foot and two 6-foot matching padded church pews; 12 years old, excellent condition. Call: (606) 262-5651.

SEEKING: A full-time minister of music & education. The position will require the ability to provide strong leadership, direction and train-

ing for our music and education programs, plus assist the pastor with the overall ministries of the church. Send resumé to: Morganfield First Baptist Church, 200 North Morgan, Morganfield, KY 42437, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Small LINY congregation searching for full-time/bivocational pastor. College and seminary required; age 35 and older with strong Bible-based preaching, outreach background and administrative skills. Send resumé to: Trinity Baptist Church, (Attn: Pastoral Search Committee), 1368 William Floyd Parkway, Shirley, NY 11967.

SEEKING: In need of pastor at Lucas Grove Baptist Church, Upton, Ky. Call: Roger Dennis, (502) 369-7676 (day), 369-7915 (night).

WANTED: Part-time music director for small Baptist church; approx. five hours weekly for Sunday a.m. and p.m. services—Wednesdays possible. Send resumé to: Elsie Brading, Search Committee, c/o Penile Baptist Church, 2302 Blevins Gap Road, Louisville, KY 40272.

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: 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: 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: Part-time youth minister. 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.

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.

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: Cynthiana Baptist Church is seeking applicants for a full-time minister of youth and a part-time minister of music. Resúmes may be sent to Cynthiana Baptist Church,

P.O. Box 355, Cynthiana, 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 resúmes is March 1, 1997.

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: 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 resúmes (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.

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

About this series

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

LEADERSHIP

Researcher tracks America's religious pulse in latest book

OXNARD, Calif. (RNS)—George Barna, president of the Barna Research Group and author of more than 20 books, has been polling Americans on their spiritual beliefs for more than a decade.

In his latest book, "The Index of Leading Spiritual Indicators," Barna offers a statistical report on the state of religion in America.

Among his findings:

- Three out of four Americans say having a close relationship with God is very desirable.
- Thirty percent strongly believe they have a personal responsibility to tell others about their faith.
- Half of all adults believe it is very desirable to belong to a local congregation.
- Just 9 percent say the clergy is doing an excellent job.
- In any given week, one out of four Americans is exposed to Christian media, either through television, radio, books or magazines.
- Six percent chant at least once a month. Non-Christians are twice as likely as Christians to chant.
- In a typical month, one out of three adults reads their horoscope.
- Three percent consult a medium or a spiritual adviser.
- Six in 10 believe Satan is a symbol of evil and not a real being.
- One in 10 believe Noah's wife was Joan of Arc.
- One in four believe Jesus never married because he was a priest and priests do not marry.

Popcorn: Churches have 10-year window

Continued from page 1
stitution that would be healthy and vital and connected."

Among her other observations that relate to the church:

■ People are seeking a community, not just a church. Popcorn said people are finding community either in mega-churches ("It's like a village") or in small congregations. She compared it to retailing, where superstores and specialty boutiques are popular at the same time. "The middle will probably fall out. The extremes will grow."

■ In the area of charitable contributions, Popcorn said donor control will affect giving in the next decade. "People want to see what happens to their money."

■ Two trends might discourage volunteerism: "cocooning," in which

people retreat from the world, and "99 lives," a sense of busyness.

However, "people have time to do whatever they want to do," countered Popcorn.

She suggested churches associate volunteer work with two other trends: "clanning," in which volunteer work is done as a team or club, and "egonomics."

"Helping somebody through a difficult time, for example, is rewarding," she said, adding people today feel more out of control of their lives. "When you're able to control even a little, like when you help out a friend, you feel extremely good."

■ Popcorn said virtual reality is one part of the trend of fantasy adventure that worries her.

"The downside is if virtual reality becomes more manageable than life,"

she said. "Ralph Nader once said early on that if we watch more than three or four hours of television a week, we'll not be paying attention to our environment, our cities, our government. Our average viewership is 36 hours a week, and he was right."

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KENTUCKY CHANGERS 1997 is your youth group's opportunity to have a God-sized mission experience. Kentucky Changers is a coeducational mission project sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood. Students become personally involved in an intensive week of hands on home repair for families in low-income communities who could not otherwise afford much-needed repairs. Work will be supervised by Baptist Builder volunteers at each work site. The goal is for Baptist youth to repair 20+ homes in high need areas of Frankfort and Pike County, KY. Dates are listed below.

1997 KENTUCKY CHANGERS THEME: EXTENDING THE CARPENTER'S HAND.

Pictures of Jesus extending his hand to reach out to the needy are seen throughout the Gospels. It is this example that Kentucky Changers seeks to learn from and model in 1997. Participants will learn what it means to become the hands of Jesus extended to people in need. The wealth of experience that students will encounter as they meet, learn, and work with homeowners on their project site guarantees to teach them lessons applicable to all of life.

1997 Kentucky Changers Dates and Locations:
Project Frankfort, June 28-July 5 - Project Pike Co. July 19-26

Kentucky Changers Participants: Kentucky Changers is for high school youth who have completed grades 9-12. Each participating church must supply 1 counselor for every 5 participants of the same gender.

Cost: \$140 per participant. This amount covers a T-shirt, nail apron, cap, lodging, meals, insurance, program materials and construction-related expenses.

Registration: You will need to register your church by April 1, 1997. When your reservation is received you will be sent the information for the six weeks of preparation. Reservations are made on a first-come, first-served basis. Space is limited, so mail yours early! Before going on the project, youth must complete six sessions of a preparatory missions education study and a local mission project in their community. (Study guides will be mailed after receipt of the registration form and fee.)

RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY APRIL !!!!

For more information call or write:

Brotherhood Department, KBC
P. O. Box 43433
Louisville, KY 40252-0433
502.244.6489



ISSUES

Poll: Americans favor Israel 2-to-1 over Palestine

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

PRINCETON, N.J. (ABP)—While Israelis and Palestinians pursue their tenuous trek toward peace, the largest bloc of Americans cast their sympathies with Israelis, the Gallup Poll discovered.

More than twice as many Amer-

icans said they sympathize with the Israelis over against the Palestinians, according to the January edition of "Emerging Trends," a newsletter produced by the Gallup organization's Princeton Religion Research Center.

The Israelis receive sympathy from 38 percent of Americans, the Gallup survey revealed. That com-

pared to only 15 percent sympathetic support for the Palestinians.

In addition, 6 percent claimed they sympathize with both sides, 14 percent do not sympathize with either group and 27 percent expressed no opinion.

The latest feelings toward the Middle Eastern groups mirror U.S. public opinion in 1988, when 37

percent were sympathetic with the Israelis, and 15 percent favored the Palestinians.

That 15 percent sympathy ranking is the best the Palestinians ever have received, the pollsters reported.

The Persian Gulf War in 1991 caused U.S. opinion to be the most sharply divided on the Israelis and the Palestinians, they added.

That winter, when Israel was threatened by Iraq's scud missiles, 64 percent of Americans said they felt sympathy for Israelis.

Conversely, only 7 percent expressed sympathy for Palestinians that year.

The latest Gallup survey found adherents of the Religious Right "in some respects show a stronger support for Jewish traditions than do many other Americans," Gallup reported.

For example, almost three out of four (72 percent) people who identified with the Religious Right said Jews have a right to the land occupied by Israel, "since it was promised to them by God."

Asked directly about their sympathies in the Middle East, 61 percent of Religious Right respondents said they favor Israel, compared to just 5 percent for Palestinians.

And people involved with the Religious Right are almost twice as likely as other Americans (53 percent to 28 percent) to think Jews are "God's chosen people."

People involved with the Religious Right are almost twice as likely as other Americans to think Jews are "God's chosen people."

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?
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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.

Two special friends

By Robert Dunston

During our chapel service on Monday, Jan. 27, Cumberland College recognized two special friends who have honored our institution through their lives and commitment.

John Sullivan, of WKYT Channel 27 in Lexington was honored with a doctor of humane letters degree. Sullivan was born in Stearns and began his journalism career while still in high school writing sports stories for the McCreary County Record.

After serving in the Air Force, Sullivan attended Cumberland College and then began working as a disc jockey for WEKY in Richmond.

As he worked he completed his degree at Eastern Kentucky University in speech and drama. In 1977 Sullivan moved to Pueblo, Colo., where he worked as a disc jockey and appeared in the films "Black Beauty" and "Centennial."

Returning to Kentucky in 1980 Dr. Sullivan began his television career. Since 1982, he has been the host of "Sullivan's Travels," a part of WKYT Channel 27 news. In addition to his many activities, Sullivan serves as a member of the Cumberland College communications council.

Robert Williams, a native of Henderson County, received the doctor of divinity degree. Williams is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Seminary and has invested his life in Christian ministry.

For two years Williams served as a chaplain on active duty in the Air Force. It was during his service as a chaplain that he became im-

pressed with the symbolism of the cross for Christians throughout the world. Beginning with the lapel cross he wore as a chaplain, he collected crosses of all styles from around the world. In 1988, Williams retired from full-time ministry with his last pastorate being 25 years at Clifton Baptist Church in Louis-

ville.

In 1992 Williams donated his collection to Cumberland College in memory of his son Carl, a 1980 graduate of Cumberland College. His collection of more than 6,500 crosses is on permanent display in the Cumberland Museum where it provides inspiration and education.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



The value of thoughtful giving

By Bret Robbe

Just a few short weeks ago, we celebrated the start of another year. It seems that each January, many of us take time to look again at who we are, where we are going and how we plan to get there.

As Christians, we live by faith and trust the Lord to guide our lives through each victory and every challenge. Even as people of faith, we understand that thoughtful planning can help make life more rewarding for ourselves, our families and the organizations we love.

It is important to remember that responsible estate planning should be a task of any Christian desiring to be an effective steward.

Unfortunately, six out of 10 Americans die without a personal will. Such lack of planning may result in considerable frustration and unnecessary heartache for a person's family, loved ones and cherished ministries.

In the absence of a will, the state in which you live will decide how your estate will be distributed and who will care for your dependent children. With a will, you decide these matters of vital importance.

The first and most important step in estate planning is the decision to have a will. That is why Baptist Healthcare Foundation has produced several easy-to-understand

brochures and other helpful material about the need to have an effective estate plan that will honor your wishes after your death.

I have found the Baptist Healthcare Foundation staff ready to answer questions and able to discuss estate planning or other matters related to Christian stewardship. The Baptist Healthcare Foundation staff will be happy to assist you and your advisers as you consider the importance of estate planning. Their services are offered confidentially without cost or obligation to you.

Getting the most out of every asset, planning properly to achieve maximum impact today and tomorrow for your family, friends, church and other worthwhile charitable organizations—this is the essence of effective planning and stewardship.

The result of your planning today will leave an immeasurable impact tomorrow.

Bret Robbe is pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro and a member of Baptist Healthcare Foundation's board of directors.

Any questions or comments concerning this article, Baptist Healthcare System or Baptist Healthcare Foundation should be directed to Charles W. Cox Jr., president of Baptist Healthcare Foundation, 4007 Kresge Way, Louisville, Ky. 40207; (502) 896-5003 or (800) 224-4745.

BOOKS

Best-selling Christian books

- 1 The Jesus I Never Knew, Philip Yancey
- 2 Mere Christianity, C.S. Lewis
- 3 Matthew Henry Commentary (1-volume, abridged), Matthew Henry
- 4 Deliver Us from Evil, Ravi Zacharias
- 5 Matthew Henry Commentary (6-volume), Matthew Henry
- 6 Slouching Toward Gomorrah, Richard Bork
- 7 Evidence That Demands a Verdict, Josh McDowell
- 8 Beyond the Cosmos, Hugh Ross
- 9 Knowing God, J.I. Packer
- 10 Serpent of Paradise, Erwin Lutzer
- 11 Knowledge of the Holy, A.W. Tozer
- 12 Christ Among Other Gods, Erwin Lutzer

Source: Evangelical Christian Publishers Association. Based on sales in Christian retail stores in the United States and Canada during November, the latest month for which information is available.

■ **Meditations for Mondays.** Gwen Lam. Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1996. 120 pages. \$7.99. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

The subtitle of this book is "52 Personal Devotions to Help Senior Adults Start Fresh Each Week." Lam's purpose is to offer devotions and activities to start the week which will help the senior adult move forward with a spiritual purpose.

The inspiration for this book is a weekly devotion time given by Lam in the retirement community where she lives. Each devotion is written from a senior adult to a senior adult. After a suggested Scripture, Lam proceeds with the devotion. Each devotion is short, taking only a couple of minutes at the most to read. In her devotions she shares personal experiences, insights from books and exposition of Scripture. Each devotion focuses on an issue of importance to seniors, which most often are issues of importance to anyone.

Following each devotion she models a brief prayer intended to serve as the focus for the reader's own prayer. She provides a suggested goal for the week with follow-up activities to help the person obtain the goal.

Lam's book is particularly useful for those who have never had a daily devotion time and are overwhelmed by books of 365 devotions. Her suggested activities move the individual to the awareness of the importance of time spent working on spiritual matters. All the activities encourage spiritual attention all during the week. Many activities encourage development of personal relationships along the theme of the devotion. — Wayne Hager

■ **Five Challenges for the Once and Future Church.** Loren B. Mead. The Alban Institute, 1996. 100 pages. \$12.25. ♦♦♦♦♦

Beginning with The Once and Future Church, Loren Mead has attempted to help

pastors and other church leaders come to terms with a seismic shift in the context for mission and ministry. He has argued that we no longer live in a church culture, but in a mission field. If the church is going to minister effectively in this new world, we must change our patterns of thinking and acting.

In Five Challenges, Mead discusses the "obstacles we need to address in building the church of the future."

This he does by laying out five challenges we will have to meet if the church is going to survive: (1) to transfer ownership of the church from the control of the clergy; (2) to discover new structures for the church; (3) to discover a passionate spirituality; (4) to make the church a new community and source of community; and (5) to become an apostolic people.

These challenges must be met, he argues, if we are to "pass on an even stronger heritage of faith to the next generation."

In this brief book, Mead gives us a lot to think about. His chapter on clericalism is perhaps the most difficult with which to grapple, for it challenges most of the assumptions that clergy and laity alike have about our respective roles in the church. He argues that we must free ourselves from an unhealthy cycle of clergy over-functioning and lay under-functioning. His chapter on church as community points to some glaring weaknesses in the way we relate to one another. At the same time, Mead offers suggestions on how churches can move toward becoming genuine centers of community. — Jim Holladay

■ **The Fibers of Our Faith, Volume I.** Ed. by Dick Allen Rader. Providence House Publishers, 1996. 224 pages. No price given. ♦♦♦♦♦

"Herschel Hobbs has been the major spokesman for Southern Baptist distinctives since 1950," contends church historian Walter Shurden. Shurden also asserts that Hobbs and E.Y. Mullins have been the "two Southern Baptist leaders (who) have been primarily responsible for the formulation and articulation of widely accepted Southern Baptist distinctives."

In 1980, Oklahoma Baptist University, with funds from First Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, established "The Herschel H. and Frances J. Hobbs Lectureship in Baptist Faith and Heritage." This book contains the lectures presented in the series from 1980 to 1994.

The essays reflect the diversity of thought within the Southern Baptist community; from Presnell Wood's scathing attack on the secrecy surrounding the Peace Committee's deliberations to Hobbs' defense of the same; from Shurden's dire warnings about the future of the Southern Baptist Convention to Hobbs' optimistic assessment of the prospects for peace and healing.

The authors did not always agree with one another on matters of polity, mission or doctrine, yet they all shared one central conviction. Central to Baptist life and identity is the conviction that "each person is competent to stand before God for himself and no need of an intermediary," and that "every person is responsible to God for his/her faith or lack of it."

Reading through this book, I was reminded of the turbulent vitality that characterizes Baptist life. Baptists are truly a work in progress. Churches could use the material in this book to spur a necessary dialogue within their membership. — Jim Holladay

■ **Voices of Our Sisters.** Kathy Manis Findley. Peake Road, 1996. 96 pages. \$9.95. ♦♦♦♦♦

As a pastor and chaplain, Kathy Manis Findley is familiar with situations in which people respond with mourning. Yet in the midst of this mourning, Findley has seen hope in God exhibited time after time. This hope is not vain, but finds fulfillment in the lives of those who hurt.

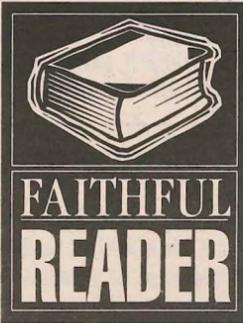
Findley weaves her re-telling of the biblical story of selected women, some of whom are all but forgotten to most people, with her life and the lives of people she has known. Her re-telling of the story is not a boring plowing of the same ground, but is full of dynamic insights which bring the stories off the page and into the world of pain and suffering faced today by both women and men. The stories no longer reside in the dark recesses of biblical history, but serve as instruments to deliver God's grace to another generation—ours.

After reading the 12 "songs of mourning" (her chapter titles) one is struck by the powerful witness of biblical women which is so often overlooked. Just as in our life, all the stories do not have fairytale endings. Tragedy and despair must be faced, and sometimes one must live and die with their reality.

Each chapter concludes with prayers which read (and sound) like poems written from deep within the soul. The prayers bring us face to face with expressing the deep emotions of the biblical story in our own lives. When the stories themselves leave us with the overwhelming feeling of mourning, the prayers serve as songs of hope that help us rise from the ashes of human anguish and pain.

Get this book and use it for Bible study, devotion and worship. — Wayne Hager

Wayne Hager is pastor of Midlane Park Baptist Church in Louisville. Jim Holladay is pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville.



Christian education ... Salt of the Earth

February is the month on our Kentucky Baptist denominational calendar during which we give emphasis to our educational institutions affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown offer students a quality college education so they

can make a living in this world while equipping them in the ways of faith so they can live their faith through their vocations. Clear Creek is our adult-oriented Bible college which exists for the purpose of training adults called of God to Christian service in and through our churches and church-related organizations.

Oneida, our academy, provides 6th through 12th grade students a climate conducive to development as morally responsible individuals and to being educated in a Christian environment.

When I think of what these institutions are doing in our behalf, I think of Jesus' challenge to be "the salt of the earth." Those who are being educated by our five institutions are being equipped (a) to be Christ's preservative agents in a world bent on decay and (b) to add the flavor of the gospel to what is

otherwise a common existence.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is pleased to hold endowment and trust funds that are providing long-term financial strength and stability to these institutions, including scholarship endowment funds for students.

Although my wife and I are not graduates of any of these institutions, we have high regard for the leadership of each, and we appreciate the way in which each institution is carrying out its mission. We are pleased to be among the financial supporters of each.

I strongly encourage you to demonstrate your appreciation for what these institutions do for Christ's name. They deserve our affection, our financial support—and they deserve our students.

Call me at (502) 244-6466 to show you how you can make a lasting difference through supporting one or more of these outstanding communities of salt we call "our Christian education institutions."

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Get involved!

Many people ask me what a typical day is like for the boys and girls in the care of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

As those of you who are parents know, there is really no such thing as "typical" when taking care of children. Every season brings change, transition and challenge.

School projects, practice for team sports, art classes, music lessons, 4-H projects, after-school jobs, homework, devotional time, church activities, doctor visits and counseling sessions are all a part of day-to-day life for KBHC.

Right now the boys and girls are enjoying many various winter activities. Next week, many will be busy making valentine cards. The youth at Glen Dale and Spring Meadows in particular will be waiting anxiously to see who will be this year's king and queen at the valentine's party.

Providing these opportunities for our children is very challenging. As we face the complexity of the pain these children are dealing with, we are confronted with the enormous responsibility before us.

Each day we are called on again and again to offer refuge, guidance, support, encouragement and love to

the many children and families who walk through our doors.

There are many ways for you and your congregation to be involved in caring for these boys and girls. Special parties and events are always welcome treats for our young people. We would welcome your church sponsoring a Bible

study and visiting with our boys and girls. Many of our children need tutors.

There are also always buildings to paint, barns to fix, storage buildings to build or picnic tables to make.

Maybe you would like to help forge some of the new trails at our wilderness camping treatment program.

When you care for more than 3,200 children and families in a year there is never a lack of need.

Call us at the number below to find out more about ways you can help.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Brenda Gray

British Catholics look to aid priests' lovers

PLYMOUTH, England (RNS)—The Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales is looking at ways it might aid women—including giving financial assistance—who have had affairs with priests.

Bishop Christopher Budd of Plymouth, England, said a team of two bishops and an unspecified number of lay people has been set up to meet with representatives of women who have been involved with priests. Some of the women have had children fathered by priests.

The new committee comes in the wake of several public revelations of

clandestine sexual affairs among the clergy, most notably last fall's celebrated case involving Bishop Roderick Wright of Argyll and the Isles. Wright, it was disclosed, had not only run off with a divorcee but also was the father of a 15-year-old boy by another woman.

Women involved in affairs with priests have formed at least two national support groups and the bishops' newly established panel will meet with representatives of the groups to listen to their concerns.

"We'll certainly see what can be done with regard to funding," Budd

told the BBC. "After all, if a priest has fathered a child by a woman, in some ways he is personally responsible, and that means he may have to leave the ministry and earn sufficient (money) to support the child and the mother."

Budd said it was important that the truth of such affairs come out and that the priests involved face the consequences of their actions.

"The priest concerned must actually accept the truth and move out of the ministry and do what he can to support either the woman or the woman and children," he said.

Trances, pierced bodies all part of annual Hindu ceremony

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (RNS)—Piercing their bodies with skewers and hooks, hundreds of thousands of Malaysian Hindus joined an annual procession to a holy cave Jan. 23.

The Thaipusam festival is celebrated throughout the country by Indians, but the grandest festivities are at the Batu (Stone) Caves, a limestone outcrop near the capital of Kuala Lumpur.

The centuries-old tradition of Hindus of Southern Indian descent is celebrated in Malaysia far more than it is in India.

During the month leading up to the festival, devotees follow a strict spiritual regimen, including a vegetarian diet and a fast from dawn to dusk. They also abstain from smoking, alcohol and sex.

The big day begins with a dip in the river by thousands. These days, authorities urge devotees to use large tanks of fresh water to avoid river pollution.

After a prayer session, many devotees go into a trance.

They later carry "kavadis," elaborate frames mounted on their heads and shoulders that usually contain a Hindu deity, up the 272 steps that lead to the temple inside the cave. They leave them in a heap before the Lord Murugan, the god celebrated in the festival.

Some kavadi carriers walk in a deep trance, with glazed eyes, while others screech unnervingly, a manifestation of the Hindu spirits they believe have taken over their bodies.

Red Cross may protest workers with armed guards

GENEVA (RNS)—The International Committee of the Red Cross is considering using armed guards to protect its foreign field workers after nine were killed in attacks last year.

If approved, the plan would be a major departure from the Red Cross' long tradition of using only its neutral emblem and its impartiality to prevent attacks.

Red Cross security chief Philippe Dind said the Swiss-run relief agency is responding to the changing

nature of world conflicts and the declining respect for the organization's emblem.

"We will reinforce physical, passive protection measures," said Dind.

"We wish to use armed guards in proportion to the external danger to protect our people in their residences and offices," he added.

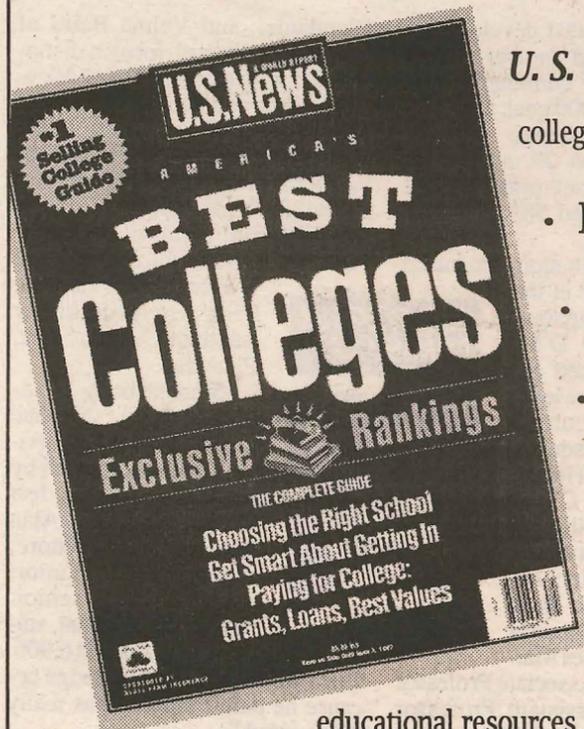
The nine Red Cross employees killed in conflict zones last year is the most casualties sustained by the agency in its 133-year history.

In December, six medical staffers were shot to death as they slept in a hospital compound in Chechnya.

In June, three Swiss staff members were killed when they were ambushed in Burundi.

More recently, three Spanish aid workers from Doctors of the World, another international relief group, were killed Jan. 18 in what appeared to be a deliberate attack against aid agencies working in northeastern Rwanda.

Here's Why U.S. News Calls Union University A Top Five "Best Value" in the South



U. S. News & World Report ranks Union University as one of the five best values among Southern liberal arts colleges. Why is Union such a remarkable value?

- low 13:1 student/faculty ratio
- outstanding faculty and facilities
- tuition far below most comparable private universities
- commitment to Christian values and academic excellence

No wonder *U.S. News* ranks Union in the top tier of regional liberal arts colleges in the South and third in the South for most efficient use of

educational resources. And it's little wonder Union is one of the few schools ranked in both

Peterson's Competitive Colleges and *Peterson's Choose a Christian College*. Want to know more about the South's most remarkable educational value? Give us a call at (901) 661-5000 or 1-800-33UNION, and we'll tell you the full story.

Here's how Union costs for tuition, room & board compare:

UNION	\$ 9,780
Samford	\$13,000
Belmont	\$13,390
Georgetown	\$13,740
Transylvania	\$17,450
Wheaton	\$17,650

(Figures from 1996-97 *Money* magazine)

UNION UNIVERSITY

2447 HIGHWAY 45 BYPASS · JACKSON, TN 38305 · (901)661-5000 · 1-800-33UNION · <http://www.uu.edu>

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Carol Spann, prayer coordinator in Moscow, as she is the States for chemotherapy.

■ Nancy and Bob Walden in Moscow as they deal with the government regarding visas for 1997 Kentucky mission teams.

■ Retired Georgetown College professors Ruth and Jim Heizer as they resume teaching duties at the seminary in Moscow.

■ Church planters Bob and Sandy Lawler at North Shore Baptist Church in Peabody, Mass.

■ Kentuckians Ken and Sandy Hale in Hanover, N.H. Ken is pastor of Trinity Baptist Church. Sandy is campus minister at Dartmouth College.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **CADIZ**—Bill Rogers resigned as pastor at Rock Front Church.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Salem Church called Jerry Kibbons as interim pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood Church called Todd Beasley as part-time minister of education and outreach. He began his new ministry Jan. 26.

■ **HORSE CAVE**—Horse Cave Church called Andrew Craddock as minister of music and youth.

■ **KEVIL**—Kevil Church ordained Earl Davis as deacon Jan. 12.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Crescent Hill Church began its 16th annual divorce recovery workshop Feb. 2. Sessions continue Feb. 9, 16 and 23 from 5-7:30 p.m. For additional information, call (502) 896-4425 or (502) 426-9794.

Ninth & O Church's women's ministry will host a fashion show and luncheon March 1, from 12-2 p.m.

Wayne Hart, former meteorologist at WLKY TV, will be master of ceremonies. Cost is \$10. For reservations, call the church at (502) 636-5576 by Feb. 24.

■ **ONEIDA**—Oneida Church called Steve Crumpler as pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Immanuel Church ordained Bob Felker and Mark McClure as deacons Jan. 26.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—E.C. Dockery, 83, longtime retired director of missions in Gasper River Association, died Jan. 22. Survivors include his

wife, Mabel; one son; four grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

■ **SOMERSET**—Buck Creek Church will ordain Eddie Russell as deacon March 2. Roger Weddle is pastor. Sunnyside Church ordained Travis Ard as deacon Dec. 29. Rick Lawson is pastor.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **Greg and Shelly Bruckert**, missionaries to Indonesia, are in the States. Address is: 301 Brock Rd., Rineyville, Ky. 40162. He is a native of Louisville.

■ **Charles and Carrie Hedrick**, missionaries to Nigeria, are in the States. Address is: 103 University Drive, CPO 1292, Campbellsville, Ky. 42718. He considers Mount Vernon his hometown. She is from Maysville.

■ **Jeff and Kathy Deasy**, missionaries to Brazil, have completed language study and arrived at their place of service. Address is: Rua Luis Barbalho, Apt. 60, 50001-970 Recife, PE, Brazil. He is a native of Franklin.

■ **Charles and Becky Hood**, missionaries to Colombia, are on the field. Address is: Apartado Aereo 50418, Bogota, Colombia. She was born in Louisville.

■ **Ruth McConnell**, Baptist representative to Yemen, is in the States. Address is: 318 Adams Ave., Hopkinsville, Ky. 42240.



INDOOR GROUNDBREAKING Officials of Campbellsville University break ground for the Gosser Fine Arts Center renovation project. The 18,000-square-foot addition will include a band room, a choir and handbell rehearsal room, recital hall and practice rooms.

Smart, 103, believed to be oldest Kentucky Baptist deacon at his death

HARDINSBURG—When Scott Smart died last October, his friends were pretty certain Kentucky Baptists had lost their oldest active deacon.

"I've not run across a lot of 103-year-old deacons—certainly not one that was serving actively," said Paul Moore, former pastor of New Clover Creek Baptist Church in Hardinsburg.

Smart originally was ordained at Hites Run Baptist Church in Hardinsburg in February 1923, said friend Perry Ryan. When he moved his church membership to New Clo-

ver Creek in April 1947, records show he was elected as deacon on the same Sunday, Ryan said.

Ryan said he was impressed by Smart's commitment to God. "He had a dignity and a deep sense of Christian devotion and a sense of spirituality about him that I've really not seen in any other human being."

Moore called Smart a committed churchman and pastor's friend. "I'm sure the church will severely miss him," he said. "He's the kind of person you can't replace."



Scott Smart

5-0, 5-0, 5-0, 5-0, 5-0

Oneida hosted a wrestling invitational tournament two weekends ago. For the past several years Oneida has had a rather impressive wrestling team in our division. Though we have a smaller team this year, we have several boys who are very good.

In the 112-pound class, Ryan was our star in the tournament. Ryan, now a junior, came to Oneida three years ago and has been on the wrestling team all three years.

When Ryan came to Oneida we were told he was not motivated, was not doing well in school and was failing most of his classes. While Ryan is not quite an honor roll student, his grades have greatly improved during the past three years. Ryan won the first place trophy with a 5-0 record in the 112-pound weight class. Ryan is an outstanding soccer player and also sings in the choir. He is a Baptist Student Union small group leader as well.

Bryan, Ryan's brother, also came to us three years ago. Like his brother, Bryan is a talented soccer player. When Bryan came to Oneida we were told that he was shy and had not been doing well in school. Now a senior, Bryan is making good grades and is a gifted wrestler. He was 5-0 in the 119-pound class.

Rex came to Oneida in 1990 while in the sixth grade. He was struggling academically, but was a fine young man. After a few months, Rex got homesick and decided to go home. Two years later, he returned to Oneida. He is a blessing to us and is respected by his peers and by adults.

While not on the current honor roll, he has made tremendous academic progress and plans a career in forestry. Rex currently works two periods a day in our print shop. He is also an out-

standing soccer player and is a Baptist Student Union small group leader. Rex plays tennis, runs track, is in drama, is a lifeguard and sings in the choir. Rex made his 5-0 record in the 130-pound weight class look easy.

A senior, Jack came to us in 1990 while in the sixth grade. His grades were very poor, and he needed a lot of academic help. Jack is a model student, polite and loved by everyone. Though Jack still struggles academically, his grades have improved. Very mature for his age, Jack is dependable and is respected by staff and students.

Jack not only was 5-0 in the 135-pound class in the tournament, but he is 12-0 for the year. Jack also has played soccer and baseball.

Brian is our man in the 215-pound class. We have had Brian since 1991, when he was in the seventh grade. We were told Brian was a little spoiled, but was outgoing and friendly.

In his senior year, Brian is a strong student academically and is on the honor roll. Please do not ask me to get on the mat with this young man. His 5-0 record in the tournament was no surprise to anyone. Brian is one of our baseball players as well.

Another young man we are proud of is Josh. We all were excited to see Josh win two matches in the heavyweight class. Josh is relatively new at Oneida, and had not won a match before his two wins in the tournament.

To my knowledge, none of these young men had been involved in wrestling before coming to Oneida. It is always exciting to see boys and girls experience the satisfaction of success.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Faculty and staff surpass campaign goal

The Beyond 2001 development campaign claimed another victory when the college community surpassed their \$50,000 goal, and went beyond the challenge goal of \$75,000. As of Jan. 29, current and former faculty/staff plus enrolled students committed \$83,274.98 in gifts and pledges.

A victory celebration recognized volunteer leaders in the community campaign. Campaign chair D.M. Aldridge expressed appreciation for these leaders among the current faculty/staff: Academic Dean Malcolm Hester, Administrative Chairman professor Bill Pfoff, current faculty/staff chairs; vice-chairs; Assistant Academic Dean Charles Rice; Director of Library Services Mar-

ge Cummings; Associate Professor Tim Searcy; Assistant Professor John Ditty. We had 100 percent participation from current faculty.

Chair of the former faculty/staff division was Tommy Holtzclaw, director of missions in Kingsport, Tenn. Holtzclaw taught missions and other courses and was admissions director for seven years. Assistant chairs for former faculty/staff included: 1988-91 Academic Dean Darlys Warren; 1956-74 professor and Academic Dean Ken

Clendaniel; and Velma Baird of London, spouse of former distinguished professor Ben Baird. Vice-chairs included former Professors Louis McCall, Spartanburg, S.C.; Earl Clark, London; Warren Robbins, Barbourville; Todd Spangler, Pineville; former Alumni Director Drew Martin, Paintsville; former Public Relations Director Eddie Overholt, New Tazwell, Tenn.; English instructor and tutor Georgia Mink, Pineville.

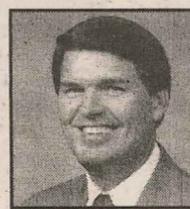
Student body President Arlis Seward chaired the student division and was assisted by these class chairs: Jeff Foster, freshman; Alan Moser, sophomore; Keith Sands, junior; Jerry Bailey, senior. With a \$5,000 goal, students pledged \$16,906.

One student increase his pledge because he didn't think it was really "God-sized."

Several of the college community responded in memory of Ben Baird to help meet a \$50,000 challenge from a family reached through the ministry of Ben and Velma Baird. That challenge response has climbed to \$53,000.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

St. James: 'In your face' and proud of it

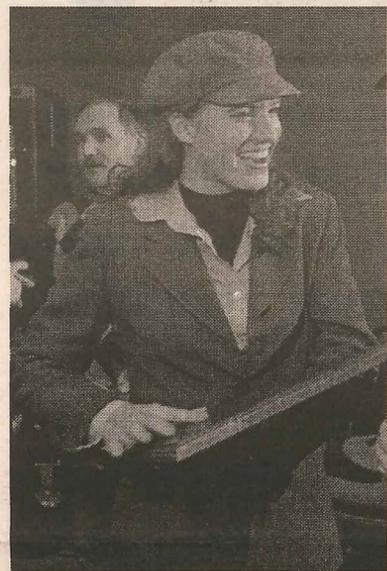
By Chip Alford
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE, (BP)—Rebecca St. James doesn't hesitate to describe herself as a "radical." She's proud of it.

But her "in your face" style of music doesn't steer teenagers toward drugs, sex or rock 'n roll. It points them to God.

"I've always had a focus on being very biblical in my music," the 19-year-old Australian native and current resident of Franklin, Tenn., said.

"It's very straight ahead, very 'in your face' about what the Bible says about how to live. And God has convicted me to stay that way, to always



RADICAL Singer Rebecca St. James calls living for God the most fulfilling adventure imaginable.

be challenging and encouraging others to live a radical Christian life."

St. James' direct nature even impacted the name of her current recording, boldly titled: "God." Only her second major musical release, it recently was nominated for a Grammy Award for best rock gospel album. She wrote eight of the 11 songs, addressing such themes as obedience, servanthood, prayer and sin.

She also was a major player in the Baptist Sunday School Board's newly revamped vacation Bible school materials for youth. She hosts the "Saddle Up! For the Adventure of Your Life" video, which supports the daily VBS Bible studies.

"I really appreciated the opportunity to be part of this ministry," said St. James, a member of First Baptist Church in Franklin. "Bible study is so important. I couldn't do anything that I do without having that daily time with God."

Richard Barnes, manager of the youth biblical studies section of the board's Bible teaching-reaching division, said he expects about 160,000 teens to use the new materials for small-group Bible study.

That's good news to St. James, who also has written a best-selling devotional book aimed at getting teens to "dig into the Bible."

"40 Days With God: A Devotional Journey" topped Bookstore Journal's Christian best-seller's list last year and includes Scripture passages, sections from St. James' personal journal, lyrics from her albums, "scrapbook photos" and a CD-ROM featuring three music videos, five songs and several short interviews.

"Someone asked me once, 'What does 40 days signify?' Well, they say it takes 30 days to make a habit, so if you make it for 40, you're doing pretty good," she said.

"But more than that, Jesus was tested for 40 days out in the desert before he really even started his ministry. So, it's there to help teenagers get into the Bible during times when they are tested themselves," she added.

St. James knows firsthand about tests. Born in Australia, she moved with her family to America in 1991 after her father, a concert promoter, was offered a job here. But shortly after arriving, the job fell through.

"We all had to pitch in, cleaning houses, mowing lawns, baby-sitting. It not only put food on the table, but it taught us the secret of life: It's all about giving of yourself."

And that's exactly what she's been doing in recent years—giving of herself to help reach her peers for Christ.

With her recent award nominations and media exposure—late last year Christianity Today named her one of the top 50 evangelical leaders age 40 and younger—St. James is aware of the temptations which may come her way. But she isn't worried about the pitfalls of fame.

"It's not a scary thing to me. I've had to trust God from the very beginning to even do this. It's in God's hands."

She'll just keep focusing on her No. 1 message to teens:

"The Christian life is the only way to go. To serve God and live for him is the most exciting, most fulfilling adventure anyone can imagine."

Horne discusses role as pastor & encourager to the president

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (ABP)—Being pastor to the president is not something you're ever ready for, says Rex Horne. "Who thinks about that happening?"

But those who know Horne say the experience has changed him and his church very little.

Horne is pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., where President Bill Clinton is a member. That distinction thrust Horne and the 4,300-member church into the national spotlight when Clinton was elected president in 1992.



Rex Horne

None of that attention was sought, and some of it—such as picketers who paraded in front of the church to protest some of Clinton's social policies—was downright undesirable.

"It was totally different from anything you would expect on Sunday morning," recalled Russ Weeks, one of the members assigned to maintain security during the height of the protests. But the congregation was unfazed, Weeks said. "We kept right on preaching the gospel, saving souls."

"While it would have blown a lot of churches apart, this church is as strong as ever," Horne said.

Fewer than a dozen members have left Immanuel over the Clinton controversy, he said. "I've known churches that have lost more people over the color of the carpet."

Things are a little calmer now around Immanuel. The protesters are gone, although many Christians—and many fellow Southern Baptists—remain adamantly opposed to Clinton and his policies on abortion and homosexuality. And the Little Rock church has continued to support its pastor and its most famous member.

Horne has developed a close relationship with Clinton, who joined the Little Rock church, located a few blocks from the state Capitol, in 1980 while still governor of Arkansas. Horne has been pastor for seven years.

Although the president spends little time in Little Rock these days, the two talk by telephone, and Clinton frequently invites Horne to White House events.

"Many times I'll talk to him weekly," Horne said. Or if Clinton is unavailable, Horne will leave him an encouraging message. They also talk about issues, Horne said. Plenty of people have suggested what he might say to the president, but Horne said he tries not to abuse that influence.

Church members and others in Little Rock credit Horne with setting a calm, forgiving tone for the church, even during the heat of the anti-Clinton protests in 1993.

"The thing that hurt us the most was the people who purported to be Christians who got up in our face and screamed at us," said church organist Lyndon Finney.

A telling comment came from Horne's young son, Truett, Finney said. As Christians protested loudly in front of the church, across the street pro-Clinton gays and lesbians gathered peacefully. Pointing to the gays, Truett asked, "Those are the Christians, aren't they, Daddy?"

"They were very respectful of the police, ... while those who purported to be Christian were so hateful and spiteful," Finney said. "I will always remember that."

Immanuel Baptist, long known for its conservative theology, was suddenly suspect after Clinton's election, Horne recalled.

"Immanuel had always prided itself in being a conservative, Bible-believing church," said Danny Thomason, a longtime member and personal friend of the Clintons. "Then we were told by people we thought were on the same side that we were not a Bible-believing church."

"It was shocking to see the hatred of people who were proclaiming they were followers of the Lord but acting like anything but that," Thomason said.

Author writes prescription to renew America

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (ABP)—Mature, caring Christians can bring healing to America's ailing families, businesses and politics, says a recent book by a Baptist lay minister.

By facilitating reconciliation, Christians can help restore the nation's fragmented relationships—from bedrooms to boardrooms, and even to the halls of Congress, Howard Butt writes in "Renewing America's Soul," a book published in 1996.

The key is living according to the relationship principle embodied by the Trinity, the three-in-one personal nature of God, insists Butt, a philanthropist, businessman and Christian leader.

Butt, of Kerrville, Texas, is president of the H.E. Butt Foundation, Laity Lodge Foundation and Christian Men Inc. He is also vice chairman of the H.E. Butt Grocery Co.

"There is no way spiritual renewal is going to come to our nation without reconciliation in our relationships permeating the lives of Christians," Butt said in an interview.

"We are to be agents, ambassadors of reconciliation. And yet there is so much estrangement within our families, our churches, our denomination and within the body politic. Obviously, revival has to address those es-

trangerments and alienations. They are a reproach on our faith."

Human relationships naturally revolve around issues of authority and submission, Butt explains in his book. Whether the relationship is between parent and child, husband and wife, boss and employee, or politician and citizen, it is torn by the tension between authority and submission.

"Why do we rebel against authority?" Butt asks. "Because we feel—rightly or wrongly—that authority has rejected us."

"Rejection—being thrown away or culled out or discarded as unsatisfactory—has to be one of the most painful things that ever happens. To feel ignored, left out, not good enough, somehow inferior hurts us all."

Unfortunately, submission to authority triggers those natural feelings, Butt reports.

Butt calls for a spiritually inspired reconciliation between the generations. Children of any age need to work out their relationships with their parents, affirming love and forgiveness, he says.

If Christians adopt Jesus' attitude of authoritative submission, they will change the nation, he predicted.

"Authoritative submission moves from the individual to the family," he said. "Then it moves to the people he works with on the job—the way he relates to his boss or supervisor, the way she supervises other people. It

becomes the secular life of the laity in our churches.

"It moves into our jobs, and that's one way our bureaucracy can be changed. ... As that begins to change, it will inevitably move into politics."

The results can be staggering, Butt added.

"You're going to have a group of Christians, millions of us, who exhibit love" and other Christian virtues, he noted. "As we exhibit that in our secular institutions and organizations, there is no way it will remain there. That is what Washington is tuned in to stay in touch with. There is no way it's not going to permeate into the life of ... the nation."

By living lives that reflect security found in Christ and explaining that sense of security to others, Christians can heal the nation's bedrooms, boardrooms and community gathering places, he writes.

They can do that by being the "secular church," Butt stresses. That's the church at work in the world.

"When Jesus tells us to go into the world and preach the gospel, he means it extensively: yes, into Europe, Africa or Japan. But he also means it intensively: embody God's message in your own world of business, law, architecture, medicine, education, ... art, entertainment, construction, communications, philanthropy and live out the gospel there. We are to go into all the worlds."

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Alice White, secretary, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville

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