



WESTERN RECORDER

February 18, 1997
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SEAPORT MINISTRY Southern Baptist missionary Doug Chanco talks with a crew member from the ship Navios Pioneer in port in Savannah, Ga. Chanco, who directs language missions work in the area, offers ministry and friendship to the sailors. He is one of the home missionaries featured in the Southern Baptist Week of Prayer for Home Missions, March 2-9. (Photo by Don Rutledge)

True Love Waits rally draws 500 teens to Bowling Green

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

BOWLING GREEN—"True Love Waits" has grabbed national headlines, but the sexual-abstinence movement took on personal dimensions for more than 500 teenagers attending a Feb. 8 regional rally.

Nearly 300 participants signed commitment cards, pledging to remain sexually pure until marriage.

Students came from 26 schools in Kentucky and northern Tennessee. The rally featured seminars on dating, peer pressure and college preparation as well as featured Foster Christy, a youth speaker and consultant from Columbia, S.C.

The most popular sessions were titled "Why Guys are So Strange" and "Why Girls are So Weird."

After the sessions at Western Kentucky University's student center, students met that evening at Living Hope Baptist Church for pizza and a concert by "Church of Rhythm."

Among those signing commitment cards was Jordan Shoopman, a seventh-grade student and member of Living Hope. Christy's explanations of the damage premarital sex can cause made a powerful impact, she said.

"He told what he went through and read letters from other youth with sex-related problems. That made it real."

In frank discussions, Christy mixed humor with his message of abstinence.

"Sex is great, yeah!" said the former All-American football player, drawing hearty laughter from the au-

dience. "I want you to understand about sex—it's in his timing. God says, 'I want you to do it. I want you to enjoy it. But I want you to wait.'"

Christy outlined four consequences of premarital sex:

■ **Physical damage from sexually-transmitted diseases.** Christy told of a 16-year-old girl responsible for more than 650 cases of venereal disease. Her relationships with 16 men and their other relationships ultimately touched 1,660 people, he said.

"It was the biggest pyramid," Christy said, quoting the doctor who examined the woman. "What if the girl had AIDS instead? ... You probably would have had about 1,000 dead people right now."

■ **Emotional consequences.** Deep premarital attachments are particularly harmful to women, he said, because God created them with stronger emotions than men.

He recalled speaking once about such damage and a listener crumpling into a fetal-like position because of the pain of past relationships.

"It was the worst mistake I ever made," Christy said of losing his virginity before marriage. "I felt like I was exposing my insides because it was so personal."

■ **Damage to relationships.** Citing warnings against sex outside of marriage in Proverbs 5:15-18, Christy said the wedding night should be more exciting than unwrapping Christmas presents as a young child.

In today's society, however, many treat sex like they are trying on a pair

□ See Nearly 300 students ..., page 3

Christians divorcing at same rate as others

By Pamela Long
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Although traditional Christian teaching rejects divorce and stresses marital fidelity and family values, recent data show divorce strikes born-again Christians at about the same rate as those who don't profess a born-again experience.

The Barna Research Group, a California-based polling and marketing organization that specializes in religion, even found those who characterize themselves as "fundamentalist" had a slightly higher divorce rate than the general public.

But other research shows that the way Christians deal with divorce—the reasons they separate and how they handle the pain—might be different from the general population.

Tom Whiteman, a Philadelphia psychologist and counselor, was disturbed by the data showing Christians were no more immune to divorce than the general population, so 10 years ago he founded Fresh Start, a divorce recovery ministry.

Whiteman's doctoral research concurred with Barna's—devout Christians divorce at about the same

rate as others. But, he found, Christians divorce for reasons different than others.

He found the No. 1 reason cited in divorce proceedings for the general population was incompatibility, but Christians rarely use that as grounds for a divorce.

"In the Christian population, the reasons are adultery, abuse (including substance, physical and verbal abuse) and abandonment," Whiteman said.

And Christians tend to hang on to bad marriages longer than others, he said. "The good news is we are staying together longer and taking marriage seriously, but the bad news is we're putting up with a lot more pain, and ending up getting divorced anyway."

Whiteman said he believes Christians who stay in troubled marriages may sometimes be seeking revenge on their mates: "I have heard both men and women say, 'I'm going to be the instrument of pain in that person's life.'"

Other unhappy spouses hang on to the hope that their faithfulness in the marriage might actually lead to a change in their mates' hearts, but that hope is not always rewarded,

Whiteman said. "God never promises that he will bring your spouse back. He just promises that whatever happens, he'll be there."

The religious spouse may even find his or her faith to be a contributing factor in the break-up.

Whiteman said cases in which one spouse's religious conversion becomes a "bone of contention," happen occasionally, but the partners hardly ever admit that is the cause. "Usually the unbelieving spouse talks more in terms of jealousy—'You care more about that church than you do me.'"

It's usually the wife who becomes religious, Whiteman said, and her increased activity outside the home creates an off-limits topic of discussion, what he calls an "unsafe area."

"You get enough unsafe areas in the marriage and you've got trouble," Whiteman said.

Once the marriage is irretrievably broken, he said, Christians feel not only the anguish of rejection by their spouse, but a collapse of their belief system, compounded by overwhelming guilt.

"Your whole anchor comes

□ See Christians' divorce ..., page 7

Survey: Danish ministers can't recall the Ten Commandments

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Most of Denmark's ministers could use a refresher course in at least one aspect of Bible basics.

Ekstra Bladet newspaper reported that it telephoned more than 100 ministers in the Lutheran State Church of Denmark to learn if they could recite the commandments.

Eighty percent couldn't remember them all or recited them in the wrong order.

Three clergymen broke one of the commandments—you shall not bear false witness against your neighbor—by yelling to their wives to tell the reporters they were not at home.

Religious education is required in Danish schools, and for Christians memorizing the Ten Commandments is compulsory. About 87 percent of Denmark's citizens are members of the national church, although few attend worship services.

Task force to study reorganizing Foreign Mission Board

"We cannot afford to remain locked into organizational structures created for a different era."

Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin.

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)—Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees approved, during their winter meeting, a plan to reorganize comprehensively the agency.

A preliminary recommendation is expected in mid-April and the final report in early June, FMB President Jerry Rankin told trustees at the meeting, Feb. 10-12.

"We cannot afford to remain locked into organizational structures created for a different era," said Rankin, who gave few specific details of what will be proposed.

"It is essential that we create a structure that enables our total missionary force to be unified and mobilized to reap the harvest and penetrate the last frontier," he said.

Lewis Myers, FMB vice president for strategy among unreached groups, told trustees it would be possible to penetrate 2,000 of the remaining 2,161 unreached people groups, a segment of the world FMB leaders call "the last frontier."

Such penetration would give 99 percent of the world's people access to the gospel.

Access means each people group would have Christians and churches in their midst.

Instead of viewing the world as composed of 225 or so political units known as countries, the board already is refocusing on the 12,862-plus people groups who make up these countries.

Focusing on people groups instead of countries allows the board

to look deeper at—and gain a more accurate picture of—how the gospel is penetrating the world, FMB leaders said.

The region the board calls the last frontiers is referred to by many evangelists as the 10/40 Window, and by some Southern Baptists as World A. It encompasses an area sweeping from North Africa through the Middle East and most of Asia.

Myers said the region could be penetrated if Southern Baptists' 40,000 churches mobilize effectively during the next four years.

Such an effort would include "increased awareness, prayer partnerships (with individual people groups), personal involvement and sacrificial giving," he explained.

Myers presented a plan calling

for Southern Baptist churches to adopt 2,000 people groups, to minister to 2,000 international students from last frontier countries, to increase their Cooperative Program giving by 2 percent and to increase by 2,000 the number of conversion churches giving to the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

Also during the meeting, 37 career and associate missionaries were appointed.

And trustees elected FMB Executive Vice President Don Kammerdiener to the simultaneous role of vice president of the office of mission personnel.

Kammerdiener fills the role formerly held by Thurmon Bryant, who retired Jan. 31.

Sunday School Board gives good financial report

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board has enjoyed two years of positive financial results in a row, trustees were told during their Feb. 10-12 meeting.

The 1996-97 budget year appears to have gotten off to a good start as well, according to Jim Carter, vice president of the board's finance and business services group. The agency's revenues for the first quarter exceeded budget by \$1.5 million, he said.

Said President James Draper: "It's too early to break out the 'hallelujahs' yet (for 1997), but it is correct to say we're off to a good start."

Representatives of the board's Bible and book publishing arm, Broadman & Holman, reported on several recent developments, including a project with former Secretary of Education and best-selling author William Bennett.

Broadman & Holman also will publish "The Power of the Call," a new book by "Experiencing God" author Henry Blackaby and Henry Brandt, retired clinical psychologist from Palm Beach, Fla.

Also to be introduced soon is a line of inspirational gifts and a Portuguese Bible.

Baptist Book Stores and Life-

Way Christian Stores have moved from a "fix it" mode to a "growth" mode, said Mark Scott, vice president of the board's retail group. Now the second-largest Christian retail chain in America, new stores are currently under construction in Memphis; Morrow, Ga. (near Atlanta); Lewisville, Texas; and Springfield, Mo.

Vice President Gene Mims said the church growth group's goals this year include reducing the number of forced terminations of Southern Baptist ministers and more effectively merging evangelism with Sunday school.

Trustees also learned of changes for two board-produced magazines.

"The Sunday School Leader" magazine will be redesigned to provide Sunday school leaders with more practical information about all areas of a church's Bible teaching-reaching ministry.

Also "Student" magazine and the free "Student Teaching Helps" supplement will be discontinued after the May 1997 issues.

National Student Ministry director Bill Henry said sales of the magazine have declined sharply in the last several years.

Also during the meeting, trustees learned:

■ Resource kits for preschool Life & Work curriculum will be expanded.

■ "InSync," a monthly devotional magazine for young adults coordinated with Life and Work lesson Scriptures, will be discontinued after the May 1997 issue.

■ "Bible Reader's Guide," a quarterly resource listing daily Bible reading passages and the names of home and foreign missionaries on their birthday, will be discontinued after the January/February/March 1997 issue. The same information is included in the "Open Windows" devotional guide.

■ "Church Musician" will become a monthly magazine with a new name "Church Musician Today," effective September 1997.

Trustees affirmed a recommendation that the name of the 106-year-old agency be changed. Officials said the change is needed to reflect the agency's vision and diversity of ministries. A new name will be recommended at the September trustees meeting.

And trustees approved an average price increase of 3 percent for 1997-98 and a maximum 4 percent rate increase at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) conference centers from October 1999 through September 2000.

Kent Workman, pastor of New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville, Ky., was elected vice chairman of the Sunday School Board. Nick Garland, pastor of First Baptist Church of Broken Arrow, Okla., was re-elected trustee chairman; and Walter Sparks, controller for Southern Baptist Credit Union in Brea, Calif., was elected recording secretary.

Protests prompt Holiday Inn to pull ad featuring transsexual

ATLANTA (BP) Holiday Inn Worldwide has pulled an advertisement that drew protests from Southern Baptists and others.

The commercial, designed to introduce the hotel chain's renovation program, featured a transsexual surprising her former classmates with her sex change.

"We did everything we knew to test the commercial with all kinds of audiences but did not have any indication it would generate this negative reaction," said John Chandler, Holiday Inn's vice president of marketing.

Baptist representatives met with Holiday Inn officials recently to discuss their objections.

"I believe Holiday Inns understands more clearly now their responsibility as a family-friendly company and our concerns about the impact this type of perversion has on our culture," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

Library and archives to function after Historical Society closes

NASHVILLE (BP)—The agency that operated the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives will close in June, but the library and archives will continue to collect and preserve the denomination's history.

Formerly overseen by the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, the library and archives will be directed by the Council of Seminary Presidents starting in June. The changes are part of the denomination's restructuring.

Established in 1938, the archives and library has become a world center for the study of Baptist history. It will continue to function from its home facility in Nashville.

Bill Summers, director of the col-

lection since 1990, was named executive director of the library and archives.

By convention assignment, the library and archives serves as the central depository of selected Southern Baptist Convention records of current and former denominational agencies.

As a service to Southern Baptist churches, the library and archives will continue to microfilm historical records and will place a microfilmed copy of these records in its fireproof vault in Nashville. Churches wanting more information on this service or people interested in purchasing microfilmed copies of Baptist periodicals, annuals, pamphlets, or church, associational or state records should call (615) 244-0344.

Peruvian sues missionary after car accident

LIMA, Peru (BP)—A Peruvian businessman has sued the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's missionary organization in Peru, seeking payment for alleged damages related to an auto accident last year.

In the lawsuit, the plaintiff claims missionary Wade Watts and the Peru Baptist Mission should pay for losses—which the plaintiff placed at \$400,000—as a result of an auto accident on a mountain road outside of Huancayo, south of Lima.

Meanwhile, missionary officials were gathering reports and receipts related to the medical care of Watts and his family. A missionary spokesman estimated the cost of their care to be more than \$600,000.

The spokesman said police initially faulted no one, but a police report on record now blames Watts.

The February 1996 accident left the plaintiff with broken bones and injuries to his mid-section. Watts, 41, suffered injuries to the brain and internal organs. For some time, Watts was too unstable to be moved from Peru. In the United States, he lay in a coma until late last summer. His movement currently is limited almost to the point of total paralysis.

The mission spokesman said lawyers for the mission consider the plaintiff's claim exaggerated.

In the accident, Watts' wife, Nancy, 36, and their two sons, Joshua and Marcus, also sustained injuries.

Mrs. Watts and Joshua, 8, are fully recovered now. Marcus—like Watts—underwent brain surgery in Peru before being airlifted to Memphis, Tenn.

Doctors say Marcus, 10, has recovered 90 percent of his physical and mental capacity.

Campbellsville professor finds eager students in Siberia

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

IRKUTSK, Russia—Time was when people who traveled to Siberia didn't come back. Not anymore.

Campbellsville University music professor Kenneth Martin recently returned from a 13-day mission trip in the Siberian city of Irkutsk. There, he taught in the newly-formed Siberia Bible School.

For centuries, Siberia was a perfect place for Soviet political and religious dissidents precisely because of its remoteness, he said. "It was so difficult to reach—and even more difficult to return from," he said.

Now, a few years after the breakup of the Soviet Union, improved transportation and communication systems link Siberians with the out-

side world, Martin said.

Still, in order to get to Irkutsk, Martin had to cross five time zones on a six-hour flight from Moscow.

But four of his students outdid him, crossing six time zones on a 5,000-mile trip from Ukraine and Moldova via the Transiberian Railroad, he said.

The Siberia Bible School, which opened September 1996, with 29 students, meets at First Baptist Church of Irkutsk. The school is sponsored by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in partnership with the Russian Baptist Union. It draws teachers from the United States, Russia, the Czech Republic and Europe, Martin said. CBF missionaries Don and Helen McNeely in Berlin are responsible for staffing the school, he said.

Most of the students in the one-year program already serve as pastors,

Martin said. Most receive a stipend for living expenses from the CBF, which enables them to focus on their studies while in the program, he said. A few commute daily by train to their homes. Most live in nearby apartments or in the homes of church members.

Martin taught two courses: Christian ethics, and fundamentals of music and introduction to worship.

"I was moved by the eagerness of the students," Martin said. "They were quite capable. They listened well, asked relevant questions, made perceptive comments and took good notes."

One ethical issue—judgmentalism—produced especially lively discussions, he said.

Martin used the Sermon on the Mount to address the students' judgmental attitudes toward other religious

groups as well as their "being hard on each other for various kinds of personal behavior," he said.

Russian Baptists are not caught up in the "worship wars," between contemporary and traditional services, now sweeping the States. They do face tensions, however, related to the use of indigenous hymns and western religious music, he said.

Indigenous Russian hymns tend to be written with slower tempos and in minor keys while translations of American sacred music tend to have livelier tempos and be written in major keys, he said.

The churches he visited used a mix of the two styles, he said. They had choirs which sang Russian hymns with organ and piano accompaniment and ensembles which sang livelier tunes with guitar accompaniment.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Cumberland College's** music department will sponsor a visitation day for prospective music students Saturday, March 1. For more information, call (606) 539-4332.

■ **Kentucky Brotherhood** now has a home page with information about its fishing tournaments. The address for the home page, which features rules, schedules and fishing tips is at "www.public.usit.net/johnreed/index.html".

■ **Georgetown College** will host a series of monthly forums for students and community residents who want to broaden their knowledge of current issues in American and world politics. For a schedule and more information, call professor Keon Chi at (502) 863-8083.

Franklin Crossroads' members catch missions excitement

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

CECILIA—Sosnovi Bor Russia; Zimbabwe; Calcutta, India; and Duncan, Jamaica, may sound like an exotic travelogue of faraway places. But for a rural church near Elizabethtown, such locations represent a missions outreach mandate.

Franklin Crossroads Baptist Church, located on a narrow two-lane road in Western Hardin County, thinks big when it comes to missions.

The church is involved in a number of ministries around the world. Those ministries, in turn, are affecting how members reach their own community, said Associate Pastor Eddie McDonald.

Members sponsor two overseas missions trips a year to put feet and hands to their money and prayer, he said.

"Even though we do give ... I'd rather take a team of 10 to 15 people for three weeks and preach the gospel

around the world," McDonald said. "The team will do a whole lot more than the money alone."

The church supports two Russian and African pastor. Members send contributions to support Indian children.

The church also purchased a tent for a new church in Zimbabwe and a vehicle for the pastor.

Three years ago, McDonald and members Russell Priddy and Tim Testerman joined a medical and evangelistic team put together from several countries. Workers drove to villages, set up medical clinics, treated common ailments in the mornings and held crusades in the afternoons.

Hundreds professed faith in Christ, and Testerman has gone back every year since.

Pastor Ron Davis has taken a team of doctors and nurses to Zimbabwe to do evangelism and medical work at the behest of an African pastor with whom Davis and McDonald attended Boyce Bible School.

This past summer, a team of seven youth and seven adults led a discipleship study in two Jamaican churches. In one church alone, 230 youngsters showed up. The Jamaican churches had a few workers to help, but no one expected such large turnouts.

When groups return from mission trips, the whole church is encouraged, McDonald said. "We see what God is doing whenever we go out," he said. "Those 14 people (on the summer youth trip) will never be the same again."

Such trips make people more aware of the needs around them, McDonald added. "We realize just how blessed we are. Ninety-five percent of India is lost. There's a lot of disease, cancer, sickness."

Volunteers' reports spark a sense of excitement, he added. "When you hear a report that 300-400 got saved and you gave some money or prayed, you had a small part in that."

McDonald is planning a youth summer mission trip to an American

Indian reservation this summer. He's taken youth to Pennsylvania, eastern Kentucky and inner-city Chicago, where he said 126 gangs roamed near where they stayed.

McDonald also said he wants to take youth back to Jamaica next summer. More churches exist there per square mile than anywhere in the world, he said. But while many people there know about God, few have a personal relationship with God, McDonald said.

He noted that international missions involvement incites members to work in their own communities because of the awareness God moves in lives and still works in the world.

All seven adults who went to Jamaica, for example, are involved in either the youth ministry or the church's visitation program.

But recent growth, McDonald said, comes more from enthusiastic church members bringing friends than from visitation. "Whenever you're obedient to God, he blesses."

Nearly 300 students sign commitment cards

Continued from page 1

of Nikes, he said. Sexual affairs also leave participants with memories that harm the marital relationship, he added.

■ **Spiritual consequences.** It is easy for Christians to tell God, "I blew it; forgive me," said Christy, then take for granted the high price Christ paid to obtain that forgiveness.

Failing to wait for marriage can lead to other problems, such as involvement with pornography, he added.

"Without waiting, you run the risk of addiction," he said. "Pornography is just as bad as any drug you will take. It rots a person from the inside out."

The rally was organized by youth pastors from Eastwood, Living Hope, Smith's Grove Baptist Church and Resurrection Church, part of the Christian & Missionary Alliance.

Jeff Maxey, youth pastor at Eastwood, said the cooperative venture has resulted in the formation of Master Plan Ministries. The inter-denominational group plans to sponsor similar events in the future.

"Within the church we feel a strong movement of God in this generation," he said. "We feel a need to come together to minister more effectively."

Maxey said the project allowed students at their church to see they are not alone in their Christian commitment.

"They gathered last Saturday with Methodist students, Catholic students, Assemblies of God students, other Baptist students," Maxey said. "They realized that in their schools they could have a major impact for Christ."

The most positive reaction to the rally has come from parents, he added.

"They told me how excited their children were, how they couldn't quit talking about it and how much fun they had."

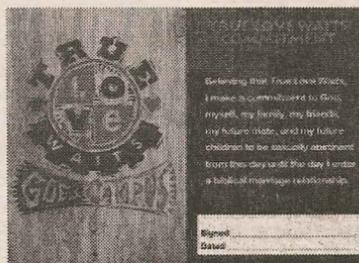
Said junior Brad Bieber, a member of Eastwood Baptist Church's youth advisory council: "There was a lot of excitement. It was like a mountaintop experience."

Caroline Mitchell, an eighth grader on Eastwood's youth council, said True Love Waits is getting popular, but it's also still new to many students.

"You feel sometimes like you have to change to fit in and this reminded me that you don't," she said.

Mitchell said she hopes signers will remember their promise for years to come. "I hope people stick with the commitments they made," she said. "The diseases that can happen and the guilt are devastating. There's no reason you have to go through that."

The rally also helped the emphasis for "True Love Waits Goes Campus," Feb. 14. Students displayed more than 1,000 pledge cards at Warren County's nine secondary schools last Friday, Maxey said.



True Love Waits commitment card

Brotherhood committee named

Members of a committee to study the future of Kentucky Brotherhood were named recently.

Kentucky Baptist Convention President Floyd Price appointed the special committee to consider a proposal that the KBC Brotherhood department become an affiliate of the convention.

Bob Simpkins, director of the KBC Brotherhood department, has said the proposed move would allow Kentucky Brotherhood greater freedom in fundraising to support missions.

Jim Holladay, chairman of the KBC Executive Board's missions and evangelism committee, will chair the study committee. An initial meeting is scheduled for March 6, he said.

Simpkins said some Kentucky Baptists mistakenly have reported that the proposal will be approved and in place by June. He suggested the issue could be confused with the national Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, which will cease to exist after June and will have its duties assigned to the new North American Mission Board.

In addition to Holladay, others assigned to the committee are: J. Chester Badgett of Campbellsville, Arnold Caddell of Burlington, Shirley Taliaferro of Louisville, James Doyel of Bowling Green, Robert Lowery of Central City, Mary Pat Price of Paducah and Jay Robison of Lexington.

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

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Touched by the hand of God

Editor's note: The following comments are an abridged version of the eulogy delivered by Kathryn Ayers at the funeral for Katherine Elizabeth Hooks at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green Dec. 16, 1996. While the Recorder does not routinely publish eulogies, we offer these excerpts because of the unique portrait they paint of one Kentucky Baptist woman's selfless contribution to God's work through a lifetime of service.

On a cold day in November 1907, Katherine Elizabeth Hooks was born, the third child in a family of three boys, three girls. As a youngster, she preferred outdoor tasks with her father rather than indoor chores.

She graduated from Bethel College where, of her own choosing, she daily recorded her expenses and later repaid her father for any funds he had advanced her.

Upon graduation, she taught in a one-room schoolhouse for one year. From there she went to Cobb, Ky., to teach math and Latin, and coach girls' basketball. On Dec. 24, 1929, she finished her day of teaching and that night married R.B. Hooks.

R.B. Hooks was soon to prepare for the ministry. As the years came, two boys and two girls were born. Hooks graduated from seminary, held several pastorates and returned to Louisville to work under the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The Hooks family was active in Crescent Hill Baptist Church. Mrs. Hooks poured her energies into intermediate training union.

One day she noticed a stack of Cradle Roll Sunday school literature in the corner of the church. A few days later she saw the literature still there. Inquiring, she learned no one had been found interested enough to reach out to mothers of young babies.

To her, each piece of literature meant an unreached mother. The challenge was sparked. With rolled up sleeves, Mrs. Hooks set to work.

A "Find the Baby" program was developed. She and her team began surveying the community. Families were converted, and for two years these efforts were spawning a revival.

Other states took note of her work. She continued to educate herself until

she earned every diploma the Baptist Sunday School Board offered. Mrs. Hooks became an approved Sunday school worker for Kentucky and the Southern Baptist Convention, leading conferences at Cedarmore, Ridgecrest and in five or six states.

My path crossed with Mrs. Hooks shortly after we moved to Bowling Green. Harold Lee, education director, asked if I would help in vacation Bible school. I was assigned to the junior department where Mrs. Hooks was the director.

What a revelation. It was June, hot summertime, on the third floor of Building A with no air conditioning and 25-30 children exploding with energy. No discipline problems here. Each hour

was well planned. Seated on the sidelines was Mrs. Hooks' 2-year-old granddaughter for whom she was caring. Babysitting did not deter Mrs. Hooks. Today, that granddaughter teaches preschoolers at her church.

Not only did Mrs. Hooks teach VBS at her church. Her husband was director of missions. After teaching 3-year-olds at her church, she led another VBS in the afternoon and another VBS at night. Three Bible schools in one day at different churches.

Mrs. Hooks entered the hospital Nov. 3. Several days later she suffered a stroke. I was by to see her. As I tried to reach through her eyes, I stepped back, looked at her, saw her tired, frail body. Her arms were over the sheet. I looked at her hands—so thin, so fragile—and thought what work, what service, what worship those hands have known.

Work hands. She worked with her hands gardening, canning, serving, quilting, caring for her family. Mrs. Hooks was the only person who gave me greens from the garden washed and ready to cook.

Hands of service. Teaching preschoolers in Sunday school and VBS, making popsicles for VBS children and raspberry jelly for her VBS teachers, caring for elderly Sunday school and community friends.

Hands of worship. She told me she liked to get up early each day, go to the kitchen table and read her Bible. No devotional books, no helps, no commentaries, just the Bible.

FIRST PERSON

Hands of appreciation. She had the old-fashioned trait of expressing appreciation. If I left something at her door, she would be calling before I reached home to express appreciation. She was appreciative of the Kentucky Baptist Convention assisting children of Kentucky Baptist pastors with their college education. When her children graduated from Cumberland College, she in years to come paid back every penny (though not required to do so) so another deserving youth could receive an education.

Hands of love. Mrs. Hooks had an upright piano where she loved playing hymns. She wanted her young friends who could not afford private lessons to love music. She taught the basics of piano for 50 cents a lesson so these little ones would have a head start in band, chorus or glee club.

Perhaps her hands enjoyed most and were challenged most by the little hands of innocence. In her beautiful worn Bible she carried and in all her preschool conferences she used these words written by James Barry:

*She placed her hand in mine
Pudgy, tender and small*

*Expecting that the size of my
hand*

Might prevent a serious fall.

*She yielded her life to my
guidance*

Trusting, depending and sure

*That whatever the plight or
danger*

With me she would be secure

*The responsibility, O Lord, is
frightening!*

To have a task so divine!

*For assurance of the right
direction*

Let me place my hand in thine.

Saturday afternoon I stopped by the hospital to see Mrs. Hooks. She was calm, resting so comfortably.

I leaned on the bed rail very close, looked deep into her eyes, smiled my biggest smile and said: "Mrs. Hooks, I'm Kathryn Ayers. I'm so tired. You look so comfortable. Could I just lie down beside you and rest?"

She nodded her head, pulled her hand out from under the sheet and reached for mine. I held her soft, warm, tired, fragile, weak hand.

At 10:50 Monday morning, Mrs. Hooks placed her tired, weak, fragile hand in the strong, nail-scarred hand of Jesus. Safe and secure and rejoicing is she.

In the stillness of the minutes prior to opening his office, a husband gently leans over his desk with spiritual intensity as he calls to heaven for the Lord to lift the burdens his wife has been carrying for some time. He seeks to explode God's love in her life for a special day of freedom in Christ.

The battles we fight for God are of a spiritual nature. How much time do you spend each day involving God in your life and needs? Do you take a day and pray for someone off and on all the day long? Do you have a prayer list that you faithfully consult each day?

We shall never know this side of heaven just how much power has been released on this world's problems due to the gracious prayers of God's people.

Greg Burton, pastor
South Jefferson Baptist Church
Louisville

AGING

People need negative entropy

By John Lepper

Entropy, a major concept in thermodynamics, states that over time there will be a gradual loss of energy.

This concept can point to a similar experience in life. We must continually work at life or

we increasingly become disorganized, chaotic and lose energy.

Negative entropy is the opposite of entropy.

We as human beings can secure energy through various exchanges with our environment.

We are spiritual beings who need spiritual nourishment in order to thrive and grow.

As Christians, we are in a process of being made right with God, others and ourselves. Spiritual growth occurs as we interact with God through prayer and the study of God's word.

Something outside ourselves must enter into us or we begin the process of spiritual entropy. God mysteriously has provided the Holy Spirit to empower and guide us. He also uses other people as ministers of his grace.

We are relational beings who gain energy from being with people. We have the ability to "bear one another's burdens" and thereby lighten the load of another. We have the ability to listen to the heartache of another, providing a shelter in times of storm.

On the other extreme, we have the ability to celebrate with one another.

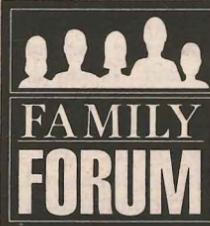
Whether in difficult times or times of rejoicing, growing in relationships brings stimulation to life.

Human beings are given rational powers. We can expand our ability to think by engaging in stimulating activities such as reading. The popular commercial is correct, "a mind is a terrible thing to waste."

In all these realms, entropy will occur naturally unless we introduce outside energies into ourselves. It is not possible to reverse the aging process, but it is possible to continue growing spiritually, mentally and relationally and to become like "trees planted by rivers of water" (Psalm 3:1).

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

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



Unleash the power of prayer

During World War II, our president faced a difficult decision. He watched a world at war and witnessed the daily death toll of American soldiers in foreign lands. He saw other armies oppress weaker nations with their brute oppression and spit in the face of the rest of the planet who stood by undecided over the next course of action.

Finally, the choice was made. A large bomber flew across half the Pacific Ocean under cover of darkness to deliver a stunning package to Hiroshima, Japan. That modest-sized device unleashed a destructive force unrivaled by anything mankind had experienced. The mushroom cloud bore testimony to the unbelievable power released from the detonation of

the atomic bomb. And the war ended soon.

Most families and communities have their own "wars." Satan attacks us at our weakest point with relentless assaults. Sometimes we forget who the enemy really is and we turn on one another. We need to find a way to bring peace to this conflict.

What weapon do we have to unleash the power of God?

Under cover of darkness, in the quiet of the early morning hours, a grandmother kneels on aged knees to pray for her grandson, who has been running with a rough crowd at school. His grades have been slipping severely and he has turned very disrespectful to nearly all adults. She seeks to detonate the grace of God in his life.

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Impressions of basketball stars holding court in an airport

SHE SAID



Alison Wingfield

We experienced close encounters of the sports kind during recent travels.

It started when we arrived at our airport gate in Louisville to discover the entire University of Louisville men's basketball team also waiting to board the same flight. I've never seen so many long legs sticking into the aisles of the waiting area. I didn't get to see how they fold themselves into tiny airline seats. Our flight was delayed, and we took a different plane.

But we did get to observe their behavior at the gate. Headphones in place, with chins propped on hands and looking as bored as possible was the typical stance of these college athletes. The phone banks were full the whole time, and one player spent his time with a cell phone attached to his ear.

I can't begin to imagine how a 20-year-old handles all the hoopla surrounding college basketball. A reporter roamed through the gate, interviewing players. Everyone, including yours truly, was staring at them. Autograph seekers wandered through the maze, amazed at their good fortune.

In the midst of all this commotion, we almost missed the other sports team scheduled for our flight. I didn't even notice them, until several of the group stood up at the same time. There were too many tall women together. Sure enough, the U of L women's team also was waiting at the gate.

Although women's sports have come a long way in gaining visibility, the contrast between the two teams was striking. Even though the women had their share of headphones, they weren't sleeping or signing autographs or granting interviews. These college women were studying.

Maybe it's a good thing most women's sports aren't yet at the idolization stage. Women athletes realize preparing for the future means more than just looking toward the pros.

HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

I'm not about to try to defend males and their behavior related to sports. That's an impossible task.

It's important to point out, however, that women carry their share of the blame for making superheroes out of male athletes. Except for one or two children, every person collecting autographs from the University of Louisville men's basketball players was a middle-aged female.

I could discount one of those because she was gathering the autographs for someone else. Yet I can't really thank her out because the other person was her elderly mother, who was coming to Louisville on an incoming flight. When the mother entered the terminal waiting area, the daughter pointed out all the players where they were seated.

The mother looked like a child at Disney World. Her eyes lit up in amazement as she scanned the scene—and then she cupped her fingers near her face in an innocent little wave.

Some social scientist should study what motivates women to idolize young male athletes. It's clearly a different force than the vicarious quest for victory that drives men.

Maybe for some women it's a maternal instinct that wants to nurture and encourage. Or maybe for others it's just unresolved cheerleader urges.

The truth is we all need both parental figures and cheerleaders to urge us on in life. Fortunately, for most of us that can be experienced without the hassle of autograph seekers.

Even the Apostle Paul described our journey of faith as a race, which he urged believers to keep on running with confidence. And he reminded us that we, too, have a fan club, a cloud of witnesses urging us on to victory through Christ Jesus.

Alcohol dangerous on the road and off

Kentuckians know something about drinking and driving. Not just because our commonwealth is one of the best-known producers of bourbon, but because we have lived through the nation's worst drunk-driving incident in history.

Larry Mahoney, the drunken driver who caused the Carrollton bus crash and killed 27 people in May 1988, will be eligible for parole this July. Meanwhile, those passengers on the Radcliff-bound church bus who were fortunate enough to survive the crash have no parole from their emotional and physical torment.

Could it happen to you? Unless current trends are changed, about two out of every five Kentuckians will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives.

As much as we ought to know about the perils of drinking and driving, Kentuckians still don't know enough. When the General Assembly convenes in regular session in 1998, legislators will be presented with several proposals to crack down further on drunk drivers.

Kentucky Baptists ought to be among those urging the General Assembly to do everything possible to slam the brakes on drunk drivers. Here's why:

■ In 1995, alcohol-related highway crashes caused an estimated 278 fatal injuries in Kentucky, according to the National Public Services Research Institute.

■ The same year, another 2,286 people sustained incapacitating injuries due to alcohol-related crashes.

■ Drunk driving accounts for an estimated 17 percent of auto insurance liability payments in our state.

■ Alcohol-related highway crashes in Kentucky in 1995 cost insurers an estimated \$50 million in health and life claims and \$226 million in property and ca-

sualty claims.

Clearly, the crusade against drinking and driving is one bandwagon every responsible citizen ought to get on. The physical and fiscal costs to society are enormous.

But that shouldn't be the end of the road for this crusade. It's time for us to be honest about the dangers of alcohol, both on the road and off.

While it's easy for most of us to muster righteous indignation over drunk driving, few of us will speak honestly about the real root of the problem.

We have allowed alcohol use to become so prevalent in our society that it seems old-fashioned and naive to suggest abstinence as a reasonable lifestyle. Yet that's the message that needs to be sent to children, teenagers and adults, not only in words but in actions.

I'll be the first to admit we don't need Prohibition-era tactics and sermons to effectively tackle this issue. And I'll even admit that abstaining from alcohol isn't one of the Ten Commandments.

There are plenty of good reasons not to drink, but the best one is this: Alcohol is a drug. In fact alcohol, an anti-depressant to the central nervous system, is perhaps the most commonly used drug in America.

That's a fact that has escaped our children, who with each generation are becoming more open to alcohol use and less aware of the dangerous side effects, such as traffic tragedies, birth defects, liver disease, cancer and more.

The most potent key we have to ending drunk driving and the abuse of alcohol by youth and adults alike is our personal example. It's a sobering thought.

— Mark Wingfield

Is it a dot or it Disney World?

By Carey Newman

My friend sat wringing his hands. The family was happy; the kids were doing well in school and church; his wife's career was beginning to pick up; his work was challenging; after a year or two of risk and struggle, they finally had friends they could count on. The family, however, faced a critical decision. Because of my friend's hard work, a job offer, an offer to end all offers, had been made to him. It would require moving to a new city. The regret of leaving was matched only by the sense of adventure and excitement. He looked at me and asked the question I had hoped he wouldn't: "Should we go or should we stay?"

The "will of God" is one of the most used and least understood biblical concepts. Surprisingly, the exact phrase is rare in the Bible (used only about 16 times in the New Testament). When it does occur, the phrase does not refer to specific events in the lives of Christians, but to the larger, more general purposes of God.

While we all long for a chapter in the Bible titled "A Detailed, Step-by-

Step Guide on How to Find God's Will for My Life," our wishes are in vain. To be sure, God has a "will" for each of us individually? And if God does, does this will extend to every aspect of our lives?

There are two camps on this issue. Camp one understands God's will as a series of dots. God has a "perfect will" for each of us, and it is our job through earnest prayer and Bible readings to discover it. Like the children's games "Mother May I?" or "Hot and Cold" we look to God for guidance about the specifics in our lives.

This model of God's will encourages dependence (we rely upon God and God alone to tell us what to do), devotion (we must keep the lines of communication open to hear God clearly) and resolve (once convinced, we can persevere despite all odds). However, this model also paralyzes because we can't make decisions until we've heard from God.

A second camp sees God's will more like a playground (or, should I risk it, Disney World). God turns us loose in the park of life and says, "Go

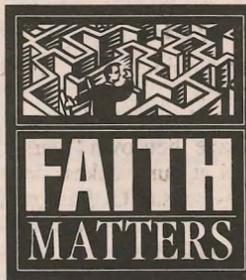
ride any ride you want, as often as you want." The only restriction is that we cannot go outside the fence (into sin).

This model of God's will encourages freedom (as long as we are growing spiritually, any specific decision is OK with God), responsibility (we are the ones doing the choosing) and inner joy (life is seen as a series of choices among many good opportunities).

However, this model also has a danger: freedom can be confused with license and decision-making can thus become egocentric and self-serving.

So which image is correct? I think both are. The collective witness of Christians across the ages is that God does occasionally impress us with specific directions for our lives. Given the emphasis of Scripture, it also is true that God is more concerned with our spiritual transformation (changing who we are, how we behave and what we give ourselves to) than with any specific decision in our lives.

Maybe the mystery is how God can make dots out of our playground experiences. I told my friend to seek earnestly God's specific instruction; then, having made a decision, sleep well, knowing that God works everything together for good. *God's will is the way in which God takes all the specific decisions of our lives and transforms them, weaving them into the larger tapestry of his purposes.*



Governor promises to fight in Ten Commandments case

By Gene Owens and Sean Reilly
Religion News Service

"The only way those Ten Commandments and that prayer will be stripped from that court is with the force of arms."

Alabama Gov. Fob James

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (RNS)—Gov. Fob James says he is ready to take on the federal government if the federal courts tell a state judge he can't keep a wooden replica of the Ten Commandments in his courtroom.

If the federal courts remove the replica from the courtroom of Circuit Judge Roy Moore of Gadsden, Ala., they'll have to "run over the state troopers and the National Guard," James told a group of Southern Baptist leaders Feb. 5.

Later, in an interview in his Capitol office, James said his objective would be to force the president and Congress to take a stand on the issue, which got a negative ruling last week in state court.

Moore has been opening his court with prayer by a Protestant minister, and has posted a hand-carved replica of the Ten Commandments in his courtroom. The American Civil Liberties Union sued to

eliminate the prayer and to remove the commandments.

Judge Charles Price of Montgomery County Circuit Court ruled Nov. 22 that Moore must stop the prayers. Price ruled last week the Ten Commandments must come down unless it is made part of a larger display with non-religious items.

Moore, meanwhile, has said he will not stop the prayers. The next session of his court is Feb. 24.

Moore's attorneys are appealing to the Alabama Supreme Court, and the case later could go to federal court.

Robert Segall, attorney for the ACLU of Alabama, called Gov. James' comments "contrary to his oath of office."

"I think they're un-American. I think he is advocating a dictatorship and I would hope he would rethink his un-American, unconstitutional position," Segall said.

James pledged his "maximum effort" to keep the Ten Commandments in the courtroom should the case reach the federal courts and

should they rule against Moore.

"This would force the executive branch, and later the legislative branch, into addressing the issue," James said in the interview.

Just as indignation over violation of minority rights forced Congress to pass sweeping civil rights legislation during the 1960s, so indignation over the removal of religion from public life could force Congress to act on issues such as prayer in the schools and the Ten Commandments in court, the governor said.

James said Americans acquiesced too readily in the Supreme Court's 1962 and 1963 decisions that ruled state-mandated school prayers to be in violation of the First Amendment to the Constitution.

"We complained about it," he told reporters after his prayer-lunch address, "but there was no real action taken, and I would not want to see the same mistakes made again."

Addressing the Baptist group, James accused the federal government of having "a demonstrated

hostility toward God."

"It is not often in our lifetime that you can heed a lesson of history," James said, "but I say to my fellow Alabamians at this moment, the only way those Ten Commandments and that prayer will be stripped from that court is with the force of arms. Make no mistake about that statement."

Joseph Conn, a spokesman for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a religious-liberty group based in Washington, called James' remarks "shades of George Wallace standing in the schoolhouse door."

"I can't believe the governor is seriously considering that," Conn said.

During the 1963 showdown over the integration of the University of Alabama, President Kennedy took over the Alabama National Guard to maintain order on the Tuscaloosa campus and keep it out of Gov. Wallace's control.

It was during this showdown that Wallace stood in a doorway to block federal agents from escorting black students to register at the university.

Former Methodist minister settles suit with wife's family

LOS ANGELES (RNS) A once-prominent United Methodist minister who was accused of trying to kill his wife has settled a civil suit with the wife's family.

Walker Railey, a former Dallas minister, was acquitted of attempted murder charges, but the family of his wife, Peggy Railey, won an \$18-million civil judgment against him that found him responsible for the attack on his wife. Walker Railey, now 49 and living in California, never paid any of the judgment.

In December, a Los Angeles bankruptcy judge excused Walker Railey from paying the judgment. Instead of paying damages to the family, Walker Railey agreed to write alimony checks for \$168.50 twice each month to his wife, who remains in a permanent vegetative state in a Texas nursing home.

In exchange, he will get the divorce he has sought for at least seven years.

The agreement ends a long, litigious battle that began with the mysterious strangling of Peggy Railey on the evening of April 22, 1987, in the garage of their East Dallas home. At the time, Walker Railey was pastor of First United Methodist Church in Dallas, one of the largest Methodist congregations in the country, and considered a likely candidate for bishop someday.

After dealing with six courts on issues surrounding the case, both Railey and his wife's family seem relieved to have the legalities behind them.

"It will be some small satisfaction that he will have to remember Peggy at least twice a month," said Ted Nicolai, brother and legal guardian of Peggy Railey.

Walker Railey's lawyer, Michael Pezzulli, said, "We offered to pay what the California divorce schedules say we should. As part of the settlement, we also agreed to give them 25 percent of any net proceeds from book or movie deals—but I doubt there will be any after this much time."

Soon after the attack, Walker Railey attempted to commit suicide, writing a note saying he was being influenced by "demons." A few months later, he admitted an affair with Lucy Papillon, the daughter of another Methodist clergyman.

Walker Railey relinquished his United Methodist clergy credentials after his wife was attacked. He and Papillon moved to California in late 1987.

Bill would limit prisoners' religious freedom

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A bill introduced in the U.S. Senate would deny prisoners protections guaranteed by a 1993 law that reduced government's power to restrict the practice of religion.

Saying prisoners have abused protections in the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., introduced an amendment to the bill to prohibit its application to any prisoner of a "federal, state or local correctional, detention or penal facility."

The bill, introduced Jan. 28, faces an uphill battle because Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who heads the Senate Judiciary Committee, opposes removing prisoners from the scope of the act.

Reid introduced the same bill last Congress, but stopped pushing for its passage after striking a deal with Hatch.

Reid accepted a less-stringent compromise last term that prevents prisoners from filing frivolous claims in court, a Reid spokeswoman said. But that deal was just for the last Congress, she said.

A spokeswoman for Hatch, meanwhile, said the senator "continues to believe that the Religious Freedom

Restoration Act should apply to prisoners."

Congress passed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act after a 1990 Supreme Court decision changed significantly the way courts view religious-liberty claims. In *Employment Division vs. Smith*, the court ruled government no longer needed to show a compelling interest to enact broadly applied laws that happen to interfere with the free exercise of religion.

The act restored the requirement for government to show a compelling interest in laws restricting religious practices.

Reid claimed prisoners should be exempt from the law's protections.

"Criminals should not enjoy the same rights and privileges as law-abiding citizens," he said. "The sad commentary in our present system ... is they enjoy more rights than many people who are outside prisons." Prisoners, he added, should not have the ability "to file these lawsuits with an unending array of ideas at the expense of the taxpayers."

He called the application of the act to inmates "a disaster" and said courts now are wading through ridiculous lawsuits, including one filed by a Ne-

braska inmate who "thinks he is a woman trapped in a man's body and strip searches by male prison officials are not allowed by his religion."

Deborah Phillips, director of federal affairs at Justice Fellowship, opposes Reid's proposal. Justice Fellowship is the public-policy arm of the Christian Ministry Prison Fellowship.

Phillips said most prison examples being used by those who want to exempt prisoners from the act are examples of "prison officials who have not become familiar with RFRA."

Prisoners are "still humans," Phillips said. "Religion, above all else, should be the last thing you strip from a prisoner." From a Christian perspective, she said, "if Christianity transforms character, what sense does it make to deny Christ to people who need their character transformed?"

Phillips noted that prisoners use whatever means legally available to aid their circumstances and the act is just one of many such provisions.

"For Reid to want to deny the light of Christ in the darkest places on Earth—prisons—is baffling. Religious freedom is not a privilege, it's a constitutional right as is life," Phillips said.

2 same-sex marriage bills conflict in Hawaii

HONOLULU (RNS)—Hawaii's Senate passed two conflicting bills Feb. 6 dealing with the continuing controversy about same-sex marriages.

The Senate called for a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex unions but also approved a new law that would give gay and lesbian couples many of the benefits enjoyed by married homosexuals.

The two pieces of legislation differ markedly from measures approved by the state House two weeks ago. House Speaker Joseph Souki predicted difficult negotiations before the controversy is resolved.

The first bill would put before state voters in 1998 a constitutional amendment giving Hawaii the power to approve only marriages of people of the opposite sex, as long as the marriage laws do not discriminate on the basis of gender.

Supporters of the proposed amendment say it will preserve traditional marriages and will not sacrifice anyone's rights. But critics say the proposal was ill-conceived and hasty. They argue it could backfire and eventually legalize same-sex marriages.

Sen. Matt Matsunaga, who supports the amendment, said the anti-discrimination qualification would be

satisfied by the second bill which spells out marriage-like benefits for which same-sex couples would be eligible.

But House Judiciary Committee Chairman Terrance Tom said the Senate measure would make permitting only opposite-sex marriages unconstitutional if the courts find any gender discrimination in any marriage-related law.

Legislators have wrangled over the issue since the 1993 state Supreme Court ruling that it is unconstitutional to deny marriage licenses to same-sex couples without a compelling public interest.

Public TV to air news show on religion, ethics

NEW YORK (RNS)—With \$5 million in grants from the Lilly Endowment, WNET, the public television station in New York, and NBC veteran journalist Bob Abernethy have joined forces to produce a weekly news program on religion and ethics to be offered on the Public Broadcasting Service this summer.

WNET described "Religion Newsweek" as "a first-of-its-kind weekly news program on religion and ethics."

Some secular television news-oriented programs have focused on religion in the past, but most have been specials or occasional reports.

"There's an enormous amount of interest in this part of life," said Abernethy, who will serve as host and executive editor of the program.

"I think it shows up ... in the way people are searching for religious and spiritual experience, in what's happening to book sales," he said. "There's not enough being done to cover this part of life, given the interest, and we hope to fill that niche."

The program is scheduled to include breaking news through live and taped reports from a team of correspondents. It also will feature interviews with well-known newsmakers; profiles of people who have led interesting lives motivated by faith; and reviews of books, movies and music related to religion.

The first season is scheduled to have 39 half-hour programs. Public television in Kentucky said they will not be making summer programming decisions until this spring.

The Lilly Foundation is one of the nation's largest funder of religion research and scholarship.

Abernethy stressed that the new program would be an unbiased journalistic effort.

"It's not televangelism," he said. "We see televangelism, reporters, journalists, storytellers, not preachers."

IRS will increase audits of non-profits

NEW YORK (RNS)—The Internal Revenue Service has announced it plans to increase its audits of nonprofit groups based on media reports of a number of organizations' political activities.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the IRS plan says: "During the election cycle of 1994-96, numerous news articles were published concerning exempt organizations' intervention in political activities and their increased electioneering efforts."

The IRS has instructed its offices to begin local audits that will focus on "specific situations of potential non-

compliance" by nonprofits that news articles indicated were participating in political activity.

"Organizations that are exempt in activities either in support of or in opposition to a candidate for elected public office," said IRS spokesman Frank Keith. Asked to define what "political activity" might prompt an audit, Keith responded, "It's a facts-and-circumstances issue that's decided on a case-by-case basis."

Conservative organizations have questioned whether certain groups are being singled out for audits by a Dem-

ocratic administration.

Last year, the Federal Election Commission charged the Christian Coalition had engaged in political activity that could threaten its tax-exempt status as "social welfare" organization.

The IRS said its audits of tax-exempt groups—which are uncommon—are not politically motivated but rather are merely dealing with allegations about noncompliance with tax law. The Journal said conservative organizations including the Heritage Foundation and the National Rifle Association are being audited.

Prayer chain causes stir at Muslim center

TULSA, Okla. (RNS)—Oral Roberts University has decided not to discipline more than two-dozen students who surrounded the Islamic Society of Tulsa during the recently completed Muslim holy month of Ramadan and prayed for the conversion of Muslims to Christianity.

Jesse Pisor, a spokesman for the conservative evangelical university, told the New York Times that although the students trespassed on Islamic Society property they did not

intend to intimidate or overtly proselytize.

On Feb. 5, students surrounded the mosque on three sides, placed their hands on walls and doors and prayed for the conversion of Muslims. The students left without incident after police were called to the scene.

Bill Shuler, who heads religious services at Oral Roberts, sent a letter of apology to the mosque.

"I assure you that the actions of these students were neither sanctioned by the university nor do their actions

represent the spirit of the university's mission," he wrote.

Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations based in Washington, said Oklahoma Muslims are particularly sensitive to such incidents "because of the anti-Muslim hysteria following the tragic bombing two years ago (of the federal building) in Oklahoma City."

Awad was referring to initial reports after the bombing that said Middle East or Islamic terrorists were probably responsible.

Group says school vouchers plan likely to draw lawsuit

LINCOLN PARK, N.J. (RNS)—A New Jersey school district's proposed voucher plan to aid parents who send their children to religious and other private schools is likely to lead to a lawsuit, Americans United for Separation of Church and State said.

On Jan. 30, the Lincoln Park, N.J., school board voted 7-2 to approve a voucher system allocation of up to \$1,000 in public funds for tuition for ninth-graders who want to attend private schools, including parochial schools.

In a Feb. 5 letter to the board, Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United, urged the officials to drop the voucher plan.

Lynn charged that the plan violates both the United States and New Jersey constitutions.

"Religious schools are ministries of the churches that sponsor them," Lynn said.

"Thus taxpayers must not be required to support such schools," he said.

Lynn said if the Lincoln School Board approves the voucher plan, "a lawsuit is certain."

The plan was scheduled for second vote necessary for final approval.

The state education department also must approve the plan before it could be implemented.

Voucher programs are under fire from Americans United and other civil liberties groups in three states—Wisconsin, Ohio and Vermont—where voucher programs that aid religious and other private schools have been adopted.

Christians' divorce rate equals others, different reasons given

Continued from page 1

undone. You think there's nothing left to believe in."

Steve Grissom, president of Divorce Care, a Wake Forest, N.C.-based divorce recovery program used in churches, agrees. "Christians have inside of them a spiritual presence in the form of the Holy Spirit guiding them in right and wrong. When they don't follow that leading by God, there is a stronger internal conflict than otherwise."

Divorce leaves a Christian in a vulnerable spiritual state. Whiteman, who suffered a divorce 15 years ago, said he was susceptible to anything—including cult involvement—that might have offered him affection or hope.

When he looked to the church for help, Whiteman said there were no help groups and no ministries devoted to victims of divorce.

Now, he said, there are numerous programs that churches employ to help heal the wounds of divorce, while still stressing the importance of marriage and preaching family values.

But Whiteman said the moral stigma attached to divorce has caused many churches to drag their feet in setting up ministries for divorced members. "I tell them I don't condone child abuse either, but if there's someone hurting from that, I want to provide help for them."

Johnny Bursleson, one of the counselors at Divorce Care headquarters, said churches have to be careful to nurture the divorced Christian while condemning the practice of divorce. His ministry's weekly programs don't take a victimization approach: "It's not a support group. It's a recovery and healing ministry," he said.

Fresh Start's Whiteman said churches need to serve those wounded by divorce with the same compassion they have for the sick and the poor. "I think the church should be there to offer healing. The alternatives—singles' bars and looking for love in promiscuous sex—are much, much worse."

Coalition questions America's will to fight hunger

By Sonya Jongsma
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Leaders from a coalition of religious and secular anti-hunger groups said last week that Americans have the resources but lack the will to end hunger in the United States.

Leaders also warned that while churches and other charitable groups will do all they can to aid the poor and hungry, they alone cannot solve the problem.

The coalition unveiled a national campaign—"Hunger Has a Cure"—designed to increase public awareness of hunger problems, influence public policy and urge Americans to support

hunger relief organizations.

The coalition has developed print, radio and television ads to make the hunger issue more visible.

The anti-hunger group, which includes Second Harvest, the Christian grassroots lobbying group Bread for the World and several other organizations, support a legislative agenda that would give the federal government a more active role in treating poverty and hunger.

The group recommend expanding and increasing funding for nutrition programs, especially the federal food stamp program and the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children.

Coalition leaders claimed Ameri-

ca's "safety net" was damaged by last year's welfare reform act. The new law cut \$4.5 billion from the food stamp program.

But all of America's food banks combined provide just \$1 billion worth of food each year, according to Robert Fersh, president of the Washington-based Food Research and Action Center.

"None of us believe for a minute that the church and charities will be able to fill the gap that's created by bad public policy," said David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World. He said many charities are overwhelmed by the additional financial burdens they are expected to absorb from the new welfare bill.

Teen pregnancy down worldwide; up in United States

In the United States 14 percent of American girls between the ages of 15 and 19 gave birth in 1996; double that of Britain, which had the next highest teen birth rate.

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The rate of young women who become pregnant before the age of 20 is down in many parts of the world compared to 20 years ago, according to a recently released report.

But of all the industrialized nations, the United States has the highest rate of teen pregnancy.

"We see encouraging signs that young women are more likely to delay childbearing," said Jeannie Rosoff, president of the Alan Guttmacher Institute, the nonprofit research group that released the report.

"Although this progress is uneven, much change has taken place within a short time period, indicating enormous potential for swifter change if more is done to support adolescents and their life-altering

decisions."

As examples of the decline, the report said that in the Dominican Republic, teen childbearing is down to 33 percent among women now in their 20s compared to 52 percent for women aged 40-44 who had given birth as adolescents. In Morocco, the figure dropped to 19 percent from 39 percent, the Associated Press reported.

In the United States, according to the report, 14 percent of American girls between the ages of 15 and 19 gave birth in 1996; double that of Britain, which had the next highest teen birth rate. The report said 73 percent of the U.S. pregnancies were unplanned.

The report was released on the eve of a vote in the House of Repre-

sentatives on Thursday allowing President Clinton to spend \$385 million for international family planning programs.

The vote was the first on an abortion-related issue in the new Congress. Abortion opponents, led by the National Right to Life Committee and the U.S. Catholic Conference, had called on Congress to reject Clinton's request on grounds that some of the family planning money goes to groups such as the International Planned Parenthood Federation that support abortion rights.

Relief groups, such as World Vision, which opposes abortion, as well as groups such as the National Council of Churches, CARE and Save the Children, who do not take

a stand on the abortion issue, argue that cuts in family planning funds "constitute a serious health threat to women, children and families across the world."

By law, the money cannot be used to provide abortions.

The House approved letting Clinton spend the money by a 220-209 vote. But in a second vote on a separate bill, the House voted 231-194 to tie release of the funds to tighter restrictions on abortion by forbidding it to go to groups that support abortion.

The first bill is considered likely to pass the Senate but the second, sponsored by Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., is given little chance of surviving the Senate and would face a presidential veto if it does.

Missionaries, relief crews fleeing war zones

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Conflict in two African countries is forcing relief workers and missionaries to leave the war-torn areas.

Amid spiraling violence in Rwanda, several international agencies are scaling back aid work in the beleaguered Central African nation.

The International Federal of Red Cross and Red Crescent announced it was suspending its relief efforts in Rwanda after five United Nations staff workers were killed in an ambush Feb. 4.

International Federal spokeswoman Marie-Francoise Borel said her organization has ordered 25 staff members to leave Rwanda. Borel said the group would consider returning if security in the region improved.

The United Nations also has suspended all operations in western Rwanda and urged other foreign agen-

cies to follow suit.

CARE is one of the few agencies staying on for the time being.

"Now is not the time to abandon the Rwandan people. Now is the time they need our help," said CARE spokeswoman Wendy Driscoll.

Several foreigners have been killed in Rwanda in recent weeks. Guy Pinaud, a Canadian Roman Catholic missionary, was gunned down Feb. 2 as he was celebrating Mass in a northwestern Rwandan village.

Three Spanish charity workers were murdered three weeks ago during an attack on their compound. An American also was wounded in the attack.

Meanwhile, ongoing civil war in eastern Zaire has forced the United Methodist Church to evacuate its last 19 missionaries and aid workers from the country.

Officials with the Methodist Board of Global Ministries said last week that the U.S. State Department had recommended the evacuation.

Board officials said "several" missionary pilots and their planes had already left Zaire because of threats the Zairean army would confiscate the planes and force the pilots to fly for the army.

The war in Zaire erupted in October, when ethnic Tutsis, who had lived in Zaire for decades, were threatened with expulsion. It has since grown into a general rebellion against Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko.

On Feb. 13, the rebels said they had captured another town in the region and were considering attacking a huge refugee camp at Tingi-Tingi. The rebels claim the camp shelters Hutu militants responsible for the genocide of Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994.

Offer upped for killing Rushdie

TEHRAN, Iran (RNS)—An Iranian charitable foundation has increased the reward offered to anyone who kills Salman Rushdie, the British author accused of blasphemy in Iran because of his novel "The Satanic Verses."

A Tehran newspaper reported the 15th Khordad Foundation increased the bounty on Rushdie from \$2 million to \$2.5 million.

In 1989, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a fatwa, or religious edict, imposing a death sentence on Rushdie for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel. The foundation then offered a reward to anyone carrying out the edict against Rushdie.

Dreadlocks keep Rastafarians out of military in Bermuda

(RNS) Two Rastafarians have been excused from serving in Bermuda's part-time army after their religious faith was held to be incompatible with military life.

Rastafarians often wear their hair in long, matted "dreadlocks." One of the two Bermuda Rastafarians, Brian Harvey, was jailed for several hours last month when he refused to allow his hair to be cut after he was conscripted into the army.

Last week, Bermuda's governor, Lord Waddington, exempted Harvey and Juvaughan Sampson from military service one day after Bermuda's army court did likewise.

The Rastafarian movement originated in Jamaica in 1930 following the coronation of Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie, who was known as Crown Prince Ras Tafari.

Believers held Selassie to be the fulfillment of a prophecy made by black nationalist Marcus Garvey that a king would be crowned in Africa who would redeem blacks. Rastafarians believe Selassie—whose titles included "King of Kings"—is God.

They grow their hair to resemble a lion's mane because of another of Selassie's traditional titles, "Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah."

There are estimated to be tens of thousands of Rastafarians living primarily in the Caribbean, the United States, Great Britain and Canada.

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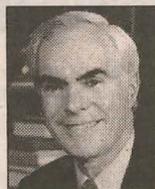
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Professor hopes to retrace Magi's steps to Bethlehem

By Elaine Fletcher
Religion News Service

JERUSALEM—He has hiked the Rocky Mountains and has guided inner-city youth in Outward Bound-style adventures. But for decades, Robin Wainwright's big dream has been to make a camel trek through the desert steppes of Iraq and Jordan—guided by the stars that led the biblical Magi from the east to the infant Jesus in Bethlehem.

Wainwright, a visiting professor of church history at the University of California in Berkeley, hopes to retrace the Wise Men's mystical journey on the eve of the new millennium, leading a camel train that will embark from southern Iraq in August 1999 and arrive in Bethlehem on Christmas Day 1999.

Wainwright has been dreaming about making this journey across the Middle East ever since 1963.

Then a young wilderness explorer and college philosophy student, Wainwright said his spirit of adventure was

ticked by a reading of the account of the Wise Men in the New Testament:

"Now, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the King, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying 'Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him'" (Matthew 2:1-2).

"When I read about the Magi, my first reaction, coming out of my wilderness experience was, 'Gee, that would be a heck of a trip,'" recalls the 55-year-old Wainwright.

The lure of the desert drew him to Jordan to spend a year studying biblical history and archaeology in 1967—just prior to the Six Day War. He later founded a wilderness challenge program for Southern California's inner-city youth, and set out on a career as a seminary teacher and manager of private foundations.

Five years ago, in the aftermath of the trauma of the Gulf War, Wainwright read the story of the Magi once more and, together with his wife, de-

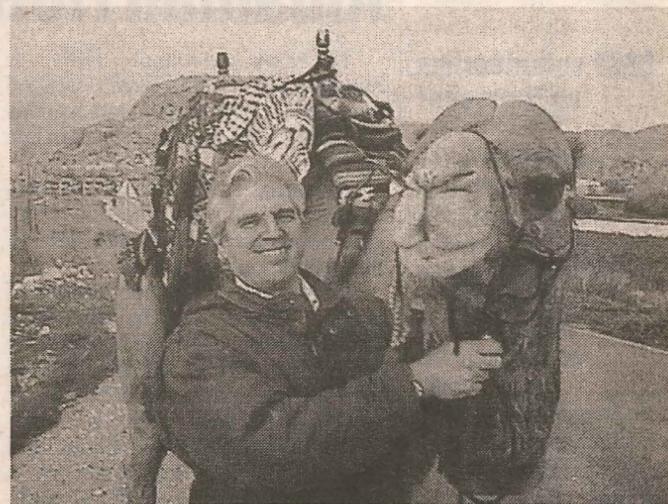
cidated to take his fantasy and transform it into reality—the reality of a peace mission to the strife-torn Middle East.

The Magi, today and in antiquity, he says, symbolize the universal human longing for peace. "The Magi were from a powerful priestly caste of individuals who came to Jerusalem and Bethlehem in search of peace and in search of the king of peace."

According to Ernest Martin, a biblical historian and an authority on the Star of Bethlehem, the Magi probably began their journey to Palestine in August, 3 B.C., shortly before Jesus' birth, and arrived in Bethlehem Dec. 25, 2 B.C., when Jesus was a toddler.

The biblical "star in the east," which guided the journey, was probably a series of extraordinary astronomical events linked in astrological lore to the Jewish tribe of Judah, said Martin, whose latest book on the subject is titled, "The Star that Astonished the World."

"There were eight major astronomical conjunctions that took place between August of 3 B.C. and Decem-



ber of 2 B.C., involving the planet Jupiter, which was known to the astrologers as the King Planet," Martin says.

"During the conjunctions of 3 B.C., Jupiter ... came into contact with the King Star, Leo the Lion, which was also a sign for the Jewish tribe of Judah, from which the messiah was supposed to be born.

"The Magi would have known about these prophesies. And with all of these magnificent celestial displays taking place in the heavens, they came to Jerusalem following this star," Martin argues.

In Martin's theory, this star was once more the planet Jupiter, which during the winter solstice of 2 B.C. would have stopped midway in its celestial trajectory across the sky on Dec. 25, planted in the "bosom" of the constellation Virgo, the virgin.

While the ancient Magi faced both political and natural obstacles in their search for the newborn "king," Wainwright says his modern re-creation of the journey is likely to be even more complicated.

Winning both U.S. and Iraqi permission to make the trip will be complicated, given U.S. and United Nations sanctions that have been in place since the Gulf War. As a U.S. citizen, Wainwright faces a \$50,000 fine if he travels to Iraq without obtaining special permission.

Meanwhile, the regime in Baghdad must also be convinced of the American promoter's peaceful intentions. And scouts must be sent to the dozens of villages along the route to win the confidence and support necessary for the caravan's day-to-day safety.

Wainwright estimates it will take \$500,000 to make the actual journey—funds which he has already raised. But he also hopes to raise some \$2 million more in pledges for development aid to the poverty-stricken villages the camel train will pass through.

He believes offering concrete development aid will soften official suspicions about the trip and help make it a real peace mission through the politically and religiously divided region.

"Most of what you hear about in the news in the Middle East is the violence," Wainwright says. "But there are also people working at the grassroots level for reconciliation and peace, people you never hear about usually. I'd like to put a face on some of those people."

CHRISTMAS CARAVAN
Robin Wainwright hopes to fulfill a lifelong dream of following the route the wise men took to see Jesus.
(RNS Photo)

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MISSIONS

Missionary unharmed as Albanian rioters attack car

TIRANA, Albania (BP)—A Southern Baptist missionary escaped injury when 20 to 30 men attacked his car during violence that erupted in late January.

Albanians rioted for several days after the government shut down illegal investment schemes and much of the population lost money.

Missionary Lawrence Duhon of Eules, Texas, was driving alone through Zhame, a village between the capital city, Tirana, and his home in Fier when a mob surrounded his car and began beating it with steel rods.

The windshield was shattered, a side handle was broken out and a door window was ripped off by attackers who tried to forcibly enter the car. But the car window beside Duhon somehow withstood the heavy blows.

Duhon was unhurt. "I was personally untouched, thanks to God's hand of protection." After several long seconds, the road cleared and Duhon was able to drive his battered car free.

Duhon, who works with a new Baptist church in Fier, said he believes his car was attacked because it was mistaken for a government official's vehicle.

Louisville native Suzanne Lacy also is a Southern Baptist missionary in Albania.

Citizens of nearby Bulgaria also are taking to the streets to protest economic woes. Missionaries Paul and Judy Ridgway are unable to venture far from home because residents are blockading roads to protest spiraling inflation.

On Jan. 23, the Foreign Mission Board released \$100,000 for heating fuel and food packets to Bulgaria.

Bulgaria overthrew its communist government several years ago, but disgruntled citizens soon returned to the status quo. The country has lagged far behind more progressive Eastern European countries in economic gains.

In recent years the government has teamed up with the Bulgarian Orthodox Church and waged a bitter media campaign against Baptists and other evangelicals.

Baptists have struggled to maintain an identity as leaders have lumped together Baptists, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Krishna followers and Eastern religions under the category of "foreign cults."

Sponsors needed for Kurdish refugees

ATLANTA (ABP)—A wave of Kurdish refugees fleeing Iraq soon will hit U.S. shores and will need sponsors to help them, says a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionary who formerly worked with the people group in northern Iraq.

About 4,900 Kurds are undergoing security screening on Guam after a December evacuation from Iraq. They will begin arriving in the United States in mid-February and continue through March, officials estimate.

The total includes 27 Kurdish employees and 100 family members of Concern for Kids—an organization through which Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries Robert and Roni Anderson provided humanitarian aid to Kurds.

Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein reportedly has targeted Kurds for death, especially those who cooperated with Americans.

Since leaving Iraq last September, the Andersons have been working stateside to get the Kurds evacuated and to build a network of churches and others to help relocate Kurdish families.

They have found places for most Concern For Kids personnel, which

include teachers and medical personnel.

The Andersons also are working with World Relief and others to find places for Kurds who worked for other Christian and humanitarian aid agencies.

The Kurds—mostly Muslim and descendants of the Biblical Medes—have faced generations of hardship and scorn, Robert Anderson said. "But through it all, God has performed one miracle after another to save them," he said.

"Our goal is to show Kurds, who believe they're friendless, that we really care," he said. "We want to show our faith by showing them the love of Jesus Christ. We need churches and others to step forward and help."

Anderson first ministered to the Kurds in Kurdistan in 1992 as a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board volunteer. He and his wife worked three years as independent missionaries before being appointed by the Fellowship in 1995.

For more information, the Andersons may be reached by phone (770) 271-4921, fax (770) 271-3730 or e-mail 73410.765@compuserve.com.

HMB volunteerism up 5 percent

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—The number of volunteers serving through the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board increased 5 percent in 1996 compared to the previous year. An estimated 85,386 volunteers served in Christian ministries through the agency last year.

Youth volunteers comprised the largest category, with 38,351 individuals. College volunteers increased to 5,185 individuals, up 1,440 compared to 1995. Mission Service Corps volunteers grew by 90 to a total 2,283. More than 28,500 adults served last year in short-term volunteer projects coordinated through the Home Mission Board. Volunteers coordinated through the agency's evangelism section and language church starting division totaled approximately 11,000.

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'Late Great Planet Earth' author undaunted by 2000 A.D.

By Steve Rabey
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Hal Lindsey, who predicted the end of the world as we know it in his 1970s best seller, "The Late Great Planet Earth," is undaunted by the year 2000.

"I don't think there's anything special about the changing of the millennium," he says.

Lindsey's message—that God is still in charge, even though the world seems to be spinning wildly out of control—zeroed in on the anxiety at the heart of late 20th-century Zeitgeist.

"The Late Great Planet Earth," published first by Zondervan and then by Bantam, has sold 28 million copies and is still in print. It was a huge hit in both Christian and secular bookstores, leading some to call it the world's most popular book about religion after the Bible.



Lindsey

Now, 13 books later, Lindsey continues to preach the same basic message he's been preaching for a quarter of a century.

"I believe this generation is going to see the climax of history as predicted by the prophets, ending with a war so great that only the personal return of Jesus Christ will be able to stop it," he says.

For Lindsey and other students of Christian prophecy, the mother of all modern events was the creation of the state of Israel in 1948. Looking primarily to the Hebrew Bible's book of Daniel and the New Testament's Revelation, Lindsey predicted the second coming of Jesus would occur within a generation of 1948. At one time, he strongly indicated the end would begin no later than 1988, although he now says a generation can last from 35 years to a century.

Over the years, current events have forced Lindsey to revise other details

of his grand scheme.

At first silent about Iran, he made room in later works for that country's version of radical Islam.

Surprised by the Gulf War, he began talking about a literal Babylon, which he had only seen as figurative before.

Skeptical at first about the long-term prospects of the Soviet Union's Glasnost, Lindsey later said Russia would do just fine in the role he had originally scripted out for the U.S.S.R.

Lindsey simultaneously says he isn't perfect and that he hasn't made any significant mistakes yet. And he insists he hasn't changed his basic message.

"That hasn't changed, but it has continued to develop," he says.

In the 1980s, Lindsey's life and career took more twists and turns than even he could have foreseen. After two failed marriages and Bantam's rejection of the third manuscript of a three-book deal, Lindsey was stalled.

"I was dead in the water," said the 67-year-old author.

Today, through his Torrance, Calif.-based Hal Lindsey Ministries he publishes two newsletters; leads regular trips to the Holy Land; and hosts "The International Intelligence Digest," a weekly 30-minute TV program on the Trinity Broadcasting Network, and "Week in Review," a 90-minute live call-in show airing on more than 70 Christian radio stations.

But the 1990s have also brought Lindsey new-found fame and fortune as an author and co-founder of Western Front Publishing, which bought out Lindsey's Bantam contract and has published four new Lindsey best sellers in the past three years, including his first effort at fiction.

The six-year-old company plans to release three more Lindsey titles this

year.

Lindsey, a former evangelist for Campus Crusade for Christ, never planned to be an author. He credits his deep faith in his message and in God with enabling him to produce "The Late Great Planet Earth."

Lindsey maintained his confidence even after Moody Press passed on the project. When an editor at Zondervan told Lindsey they hoped to sell as many as 35,000 copies, Lindsey chided them for the smallness of their vision.

Historian Timothy Weber says 1970 was a perfect time for Lindsey's "pop-premillennialism."

"It was an apocalyptic book for apocalyptic times," says Weber, who is revising his study of American premillennialism, "Living in the Shadow of the Second Coming."

"No one has ever had a bigger audience for prophecy teachings," says Weber.

Lindsey's books helped evangelical Christians cope with the anxieties provoked by Vietnam, Watergate, the youth revolt, the Cold War and global famine; they gave a distinctive end-times flavor to both the Jesus movement and the religious right and they frightened untold thousands into faith in God.

"It scared the hell out of them," says Weber.

That's fine with Lindsey, a former bartender and tug boat captain who still has a soft spot for the rough-and-tumble people he hung out with before he converted to Christianity.

"I've always wanted to talk to the people who wouldn't darken the door of a church," he says. "I hope my books would lead them to a curiosity that would drive them to search out these things more carefully, and as a result, come to faith."

Lindsey's books helped evangelical Christians cope with the anxieties provoked by Vietnam, Watergate, the youth revolt, the Cold War and global famine; they gave a distinctive end-times flavor to both the Jesus movement and the religious right; and they frightened untold thousands into faith in God.

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Bill Marshall ... Servant Leader

Bill Marshall is the fifth executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention to serve since the Kentucky Baptist Foundation was established in 1945. He is the only one to have served as an ex-officio member of the foundation board.

In anticipation of his retirement I wanted to pay tribute to him on behalf of the Kentucky Baptist

Foundation board, staff and clients because the fruits of the harvest under his leadership and through his collegialship will continue to be reaped until our Lord returns. He led the way for the foundation to move from a program unit of the KBC Executive Board to full agency status in the KBC. He also led the KBC Executive Board to use the

foundation's investment management services more. That provided the foundation with a solid footing to enhance our role in the future of Kentucky Baptist life, providing an example for the rest of our family of churches, associations, institutions and agencies. He also led the KBC Executive Board to provide new and enlarged office space for the foundation and others, which heightens our visibility before Kentucky Baptists and helps us serve them more effectively.

Great leaders are seen as servants first. Leadership is bestowed upon one who by nature, deep-down inside, is a servant. Leadership is something given or assumed and can be taken away.

The servant in turn is the real person. That characteristic cannot be bestowed or assumed and cannot be taken away. Bill has been a

servant first, then a leader. He understands the grace of God and what it means to be forgiven and to have hope.

As a result, he is able to give others grace, forgiveness and hope. He is a model we all should emulate.

Bill and I have enjoyed a relationship of mutual respect and trust. My gratitude to him is indescribable. My sense

of grief about his retirement is consoled by the knowledge our collegialship in the gospel will continue in new and exciting ways.

Bill and Alice, may you go out in joy and be led forth in peace; may the mountains and hills burst into song before you, and may all the trees of the field clap their hands.

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

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Trek to celebrate English conversion

CANTERBURY, England (RNS)—A group of British clerics and lay people will make an ecumenical pilgrimage from Rome to Canterbury in May to mark the 1,400th anniversary of Pope Gregory the Great's sending missionaries to convert the heathen English. About 50 pilgrims will set out from Rome May 18, or Pentecost, and make their way via various important Christian sites such as Assisi in Italy and Taize in France, arriving in Canterbury May 26. That is the day the Church of England celebrates the feast of St. Augustine of Canterbury, the missionary sent by Gregory in 597 A.D. to convert the English and who later became the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

SEEKING: Full-time church pastor for Gordonsville Baptist Church, Va. Requirements: M.Div. degree from accredited Baptist seminary, training in counseling, full-time church pastor experience. Call: (540) 832-2075 or fax: (540) 832-5597 for application. Deadline: March 7, 1997.

SEEKING: The Longs Peak Association of Southern Baptist Churches is accepting resumés for the position of director of missions/church starter strategist through March 31, 1997. For further information you may call: (970) 330-2130 or 352-7001 (Frank). Resumé may be faxed to: (970) 330-2762 or 352-7006.

NEEDED: Interim music leader to begin March 1 or ASAP. Sunday and Wednesday, lead worship music and sanctuary choir, possible youth. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 488, Brandenburg, KY 40108, Attn: Pastor.

NEEDED: Youth minister, part-time. \$22,000 beginning salary. Send information to: Glenn Mollette, Gateway Baptist Church, 7564 State Rd. 66, Newburgh, IN 47630.

SEEKING: A dually-aligned church (Southern Baptist Fellowship and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship) seeks a half-time minister to children. Located 20 miles south of Louisville. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, FBC Shepherdsville, P.O. Box 26, Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

SEEKING: Church now accepting names/resumés for full-time pastor position. Send inquires to: Pulpit Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 616, Salyersville, KY 41465. Office hours: 9-12, (606) 349-6276.

SEEKING: Full-time director and assistant director for child care and Weekday Education program. Send complete resumé to: His care Administrative Team, c/o Burlington Baptist Church, P.O. Box 48, Burlington, KY 41009 or fax to: (606) 586-6599.

SEEKING: Full-time bookkeeper for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Position requires 3-5 years of computer, spreadsheet and word processing experience. College with accounting background preferred. Attractive benefit package. Send resumé and references to: Director of Accounting Services Department, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433. No phone calls please.

NEEDED: Live-in senior lady companion for senior lady with Alzheimers. Transportation a plus. Shively, Jim, (502) 968-2761.

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SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Southern Heights Baptist Church. Please submit resumé to: Robert Pike, chairman, Pulpit Committee, Southern Heights Baptist Church, 550 Roy Arnold Ave., Danville, KY 40422.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth, children and education for First Baptist Church of Mt. Sterling, Ky. Applicants must enjoy working with young people and their parents. Send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 324, Mt. Sterling, KY 40353.

NEEDED: Youth groups for week-long summer missions work helping urban church reach children and youth. Programs will be in place for each group. Have eight 1-week slots left to be filled. Contact: Tim Knight, First Baptist Church, Dayton, KY, (606) 431-7105. Guaranteed to be an exciting, spiritually building time for your group.

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

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

SEEKING: A full-time minister of music and education. The position will require the ability to provide strong leadership, direction and training 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: 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: Metro Peoria Baptist Association in Peoria, Ill., is seeking a director of missions who meets Home Mission Board guidelines. If interested, send resumé to: Charles Hargrave, 907 N. Maplewood, Peoria, IL 61606. Deadline for resumés is March 1, 1997.

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

A mixed multitude

By Robert Dunston

Last week I presented Cumberland College's mission statement and began to reflect on what that statement means to us. Allow me to continue to help you understand what makes our college unique.

Our mission statement begins, "Cumberland offers promising students of all backgrounds a broad-based liberal arts program enriched with Christian values."

Our students come from all parts of America and from all economic and ethnic backgrounds. Students from inner-city neighborhoods sit beside students from rural areas. Students who have been raised in different economic and cultural circumstances play intramural sports together and study together. In chapel programs, students from various Christian traditions sit beside and encourage students who do not know Christ as Savior.

Added to this are 32 international students representing 21 other nations. These students bring their unique cultural backgrounds and traditions and help the rest of us learn more about our world and be better prepared to live in it.

This past fall, Cumberland opened an office of international

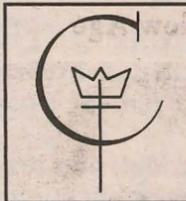
student relations to serve these students better and ease their transition into American culture and studies. Becky Adkins, who served with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's Cooperative Services International, and Nancy Bowden, assistant professor of English, serve as co-directors. Through their efforts and the warmth of our American students, our international students are welcomed and supported as they live and work in a place far from home.

Our mixed multitude provides Cumberland College with a global perspective and presence. We realize our work goes far beyond Kentucky's boundaries.

Such a diverse student body makes our teaching and sharing Christian values all the more important. To accomplish this mission, Cumberland College does not rely solely on the religion and philosophy department and the Baptist Student Union. Christian values are modeled and taught by faculty, administrators and staff. We are not always perfect, but we seek to live and educate following the example of Jesus Christ.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



God is working

When I left as director of Spring Meadows Children's Home 10 months ago to take on a new role as director of religious life for your children's ministry, I was excited about the ways I would witness God working in the lives of our children and staff. Little did I know how dramatic he would be.

From September through December of last year, 44 children made professions of faith in Christ as their personal Savior. That's an average of 11 decisions each month. Nine other youth rededicated their lives to Christ.

God is at work in the lives of our children and staff. He was there last June at Glen Dale's camp.

God was there at YouthFest in Louisville's Cardinal Stadium later that summer when more than 135 staff and young people attended. He was there during the Experiencing God weekend at Spring Meadows in September and with the male staff who attended Promise Keepers in Memphis the following month.

God was at work in November at the Al Denson concert in London and at the Mark Lowery concert in Owensboro.

God was at work this past

Christmas as so many of you shared Christ's love in a special way with our young people. He was there with the female staff who attended the Joyful Journey conference in Cincinnati in January.

This month, God is at work in our Holy Sweat training in Morehead and Mayfield. He is at work preparing those who will attend the

Experiencing God weekend in April in our southern region.

God is working with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board to develop a Centrifuge camp for at-risk youth in July at Campbellsville University.

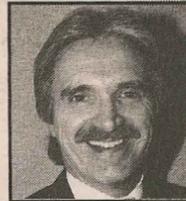
God is at work in many more ways, especially through the direct

care staff who reach out daily to our young people, despite the turmoil and stress that at times seem overwhelming.

God also works through you as you pray, volunteer and give financial support to his work. Thanks for being our co-workers with God.

Mike Dixon is director of religious life for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Rd., Middletown, Ky. 40243. Call (800) 456-1386. The World Wide Web address is: <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Mike Dixon

RELIGION

Let's not let children go hungry any longer!



Help the Children

P.O. Box 1511
Pikeville, KY 41502

\$20 will feed a family for one month

Group faces financial woes during evangelical shift

BIG SANDY, Texas (RNS)—The Worldwide Church of God has put its Ambassador University campus in Big Sandy, Texas, up for sale in another indication of the financial instability that has gripped the sect as it attempts to move into mainstream evangelical Christianity.

Church spokeswoman Jennifer McGraw said an asking price has yet to be determined. Sold or not, she added, the 50-year-old school will close at the end of the spring 1997 semester.

Church officials are attempting to place the school's 620 students—

down from a high of 1,380 in 1977—at other Christian colleges around the nation, McGraw said.

Since early 1995, the Pasadena, Calif.-based church founded in 1933 by the late Herbert Armstrong has slashed its staff and programs drastically. The changes were precipitated by a radical restatement of the sect's theology, which has moved it from the fringe of mainstream Christian thought to the evangelical center.

Along the way, the church ended its mandatory tithing, changed its Sabbath day from Saturday to Sunday, and ended its prohibitions on members' use of medical treatment and their celebration of birthdays and public holidays. The church also discarded the belief that Anglo-Saxons descended from the ancient lost tribes of Israel.

In the United States, church membership has dropped by half to about 50,000 and 140 of its 375 pastors have left. Even the church's Pasadena headquarters has been put up for sale. In its heyday, the church was active in about 100 nations. Church membership around the globe today is about 81,000.

First lady: Let humility guide actions in doing God's will

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Religious people should be careful about justifying their actions by presuming they are doing the will of God, First Lady Hillary Clinton told a recent prayer luncheon.

"People of faith, I think especially, have to be humble whenever we think that ... and always to be open to looking at it from a different perspective."

The Bible gives examples of people who were transformed from less-than-virtuous characters into heroes of the faith, she said. "But even after transformation, we have to be humble," she said, "and we have to work hard to make sure we don't elevate ourselves now that we've been transformed."

As she wrote her book, "It Takes A Village," she said she wanted to write about the role religion plays in raising children. Editors, however, said most people are not very religious and references such as names of biblical characters would take too long to explain. Eventually, she said, she was able to get the book to say what she wanted.

"But what struck me then, forcefully, is that if indeed we are living in a country where very few people even know who King Solomon or King David is, and don't know the story of Saul's transformation into Paul, then a lot of us who argue with one another over matters of faith or politics are really wasting a lot of time and energy, because there are millions and millions of people right here in America who have not heard the word and who have not even, more importantly, seen us act in such a way that opens their hearts to wanting to hear the word."



WOMEN AND STRESS

St. Matthews Baptist Church invites the community to a winter seminar with Joan Clagett, pastoral counselor at St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center

Thursday, February 27, 7-8:30 p.m.

St. Matthews Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
3515 Grandview Ave., between Macon & Nanz
896-8882

BRING A FRIEND!

Conference on Cults

March 17 & 18, 7:00 p.m. EST

Mon., Mar. 17 - Campbellsville Baptist Church, 420 N. Central Ave.

Tue., Mar. 18 - Berea Baptist Church, 310 Chestnut Street

Jehovah's Witnesses



Joe Kriesle

Mormonism



Patience Fort

New Age



Jack Oliver

Occult/Satanism



Mark Terry

Acteen Leaders' Note: This is a StudiAct requirement.

Sponsored by Office for Evangelism, KBC, Bill Jagers, Director

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ The March 15 concert of prayer and fellowship in the Greater Boston Baptist Association.

■ The New England evangelism and church growth conference, March 13-15.

■ Carol Spann, missionary in Russia, who is in the States for chemotherapy.

■ John and Laura Littleford, missionaries in Dubna, Russia, as they consider beginning a home Bible study for non-believers.

■ Missionary journeyman and Kentuckian LaRaine Dail as she organizes a retreat for college-age Russia students.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ BURLINGTON—Woodhaven Church celebrated its 11th anniversary Feb. 9.

■ CAMPTON—Campton Church ordained Byrl Rose and Edward Yeager as deacons Feb. 16.

■ CARROLLTON—First Church called Chris White as pastor. He will begin his new ministry Feb. 23.

■ Chuck McFarland resigned as pastor of Prestonville Church Feb. 2, to become pastor at First Church in Rising Sun, Ind.

■ FRANKFORT—Peaks Mill Church ordained Vernon Bailey and Roger Combs as deacons Jan. 17.

■ GHENT—Ghent Church called Robert Compere as pastor Jan. 5.

■ GILBERTSVILLE—Bethel Church is hosting a puppet jambo-ree, March 15 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. The event will feature puppeting and sharing ideas for puppeteers. Call Patty Lambert at (502) 362-4473 for more information.

■ HENDERSON—Community Church held dedication services for its first building Jan. 26. The \$1 million facility includes a family life center that doubles as a worship center, classrooms, offices and a day care center. John Dunaway is pastor.

■ LOUISVILLE—Cloverleaf Church will host The Anchormen of Goldsboro, N.C. in a gospel music concert March 3 at 6 p.m. Call (502)

367-0218 for more information.

Hazelwood Church ordained Youth Minister James Pritchard III to the gospel ministry. Pritchard is a student at Southern Seminary. Hilton Davis is pastor.

West Broadway Church's single adult ministry will present City of Refuge in concert Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call (502) 495-2489.

■ MARION—William Chase recently celebrated his 10th anniversary as minister of music and youth at Marion Church. Darrell Clarke is pastor.

■ PADUCAH—Willis Henson was honored Feb. 2 for serving 25 years as pastor of Lone Oak First Church.

■ SHEPHERDSVILLE—Bill Thomas recently celebrated his 5th anniversary as minister of music at First Church.

'Frugal Gourmet' religious series suspended

WASHINGTON (RNS)—United Methodist Communications has suspended production and distribution of its series, "The Frugal Gourmet Keeps the Feast," following allegations of sexual misconduct by its host.

Jeff Smith, the popular TV chef and ordained United Methodist minister, is being sued by George Heitman of Tacoma, Wash.

Heitman, 36, alleges that Smith, 58, sexually assaulted him when he was 15.

United Methodist Communications, known as UCom, produces the show for the Odyssey cable tele-

vision network. The program features Smith discussing foods from the Bible and the Holy Land. It has been one of the network's most popular shows.

The suit against Smith, filed Jan. 23, alleges that he "pursued a pattern and practice of grooming high school-age boy employees for sexual intercourse" while running a restaurant in Tacoma, Wash.

Smith, who has denied Heitman's charges, also is the host of the "Frugal Gourmet," the Public Broadcasting Show that is the highest-rated cooking program in history.

"We are saddened by the necessity to suspend the show," said Wil Bane, head of UCom's public media department. "We do not want to be seen as having made a decision about the case but neither can UCom act as though nothing has happened."

Bane added that Odyssey's policy has been to remove programs from its television lineup when someone involved in one of its shows has been charged with wrongdoing.

Smith is ordained, but he has not led a United Methodist congregation since 1973.

San Francisco, Catholics meet on domestic partner benefits

SAN FRANCISCO (RNS)—San Francisco's Roman Catholic archdiocese has agreed to provide employees with "spousal-equivalent" benefits to comply with a city ordinance requiring contractors to extend job benefits to domestic partners of gay and lesbian workers.

Archbishop William Levada had asked San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown for an exemption to the law and had threatened to sue the city under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act if no such exemption was made.

A compromise, reached in a meeting between Levada, Brown and other city officials, will allow employees of city contractors to designate someone in their household to receive "spousal-equivalent benefits." Designees could include a spouse, sibling, other relative or unmarried partner.

The changes in the language of the ordinance—which can be adopted by any contractor—permit the church to avoid officially sanctioning homosexual domestic-partner relationships.

Catholic Charities and Catholic Health Care West, hold city contracts.

It was a good chapel service

Most faculty and students agree our daily chapel service is a blessing. We know some students do not use this time to worship and praise God, but most do cherish this time. Our chapel service is in the middle of our school day. All our faculty and students attend the 35-minute service.

Our school chaplain, Michael Spencer, does a great job of providing a variety of ways for us to worship. We often have a faculty or staff person share from God's word, or a personal testimony may be given. We have come to appreciate greatly our Friday praise and worship time. We are blessed in many services to have guest speakers. We recently had a visiting group from Chile.

This week we had still another first. For the past two years, in our Baptist Student Union meetings, we have given our students an opportunity—we call it an open microphone—to give their testimonies or to share something that is heavy on their hearts. When you give a group of young people the opportunity to express whatever is on their hearts and minds, you'd better be prepared. I have attended some of those meetings when students poured their hearts out and were willing to reveal their deepest thoughts and concerns. I have been blessed and inspired at every one.

Even though this has been a time of blessing during the Baptist Student Union meetings, you must remember attendance there is voluntary. It is not quite the same as a required chapel service when all students are present. When Chaplain Spencer announced he was going to have an open mic for chapel, I must confess I got a lump in my throat. Had he lost his mind completely? I was a little relieved when he gave very detailed instruc-

tions. We were to sing a hymn or two, and then any faculty or student who wanted could come forward and share a word of testimony. Standing before 500 plus people in a chapel service is a little different than standing in front of a much smaller Baptist Student Union group. During the hymn I looked across the chapel and saw Spencer. He appeared to be praying silently—a good idea. Both Spencer and I were relieved when five students came forward. Each one took a turn.

The first young man expressed his thanks to God for leading him to Oneida, "a Christian school." He was happy to be able to share in prayer and testimony with other students. One student told of his happiness at being back on our campus. This young person had gotten into trouble on and off our campus this past summer. He had decided not to return in the fall. Things went from bad to worse as he got into some pretty serious trouble. He encouraged other students to have a greater appreciation for Oneida and the opportunities here.

Two other students talked about their spiritual growth on campus. They were grateful for the discipline and spiritual leadership they had received. Two more students came to share as we sang an additional hymn. One was a young lady in her first year at Oneida. It was hard to understand some of what she said because of her tears and quivering voice.

Finally, the last young man told how happy he was to be allowed to return after having been expelled. He also shared that he received Christ as his personal Savior the previous week.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

The Adams Family at Clear Creek

Second year student Stan Adams describes how he felt coming to Clear Creek: "I had an 'I know it all' attitude. After 17 years of youth work, teaching Sunday school and serving as a deacon, I thought I had a handle on the Bible. The first test I took opened my eyes. I've found Clear Creek to be a place of encouragement."

As a youth worker in Oakwood Church in Knoxville, Tenn., Adams answered God's call to ministry at a Ridgecrest conference. "My own disobedience kept me from fulfilling that call for 10 years," Adams admits. He sometimes wonders where he could now be if he had obeyed. "God even used those years to prepare me for ministry relationships with people." Faithful church involvement didn't satisfy the call of God. The turning point came with a rhetorical question in the pastor's sermon, "Stan, if God were to call you?" As Adams left the building the pastor's wife jokingly asked, "Are you ready to enter the ministry?"

The decision for ministry training came easier for Adams than other. "I prepared for three years as a machinist. Shouldn't I also

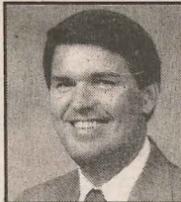
prepare for God's task? That was my defense when people said I didn't need any college." In one day, Adams signed to sell their home, resigned from his job and announced to the church his departure as youth minister. "I didn't blink an eye at the first two decisions, but it was difficult to leave the youth group."

The Adams family now works at Pine Flat Church in Harlan County. As youth minister, Adams teaches Sunday school and leads a Wednesday youth group. A highlight each week is the Sunday morning children's sermon. Kim teaches Sunday school and is a soloist. Beverly, 13, and Brad, 9, enjoy Clear Creek but "don't like being away from grandparents." Life in an apartment also brings continuing adjustments.

"There are days when I come home ready to rent a U-Haul. My level-headed wife helps me work through it," Adams says. "This is where God wants us. I love youth work and look forward to how he will use us in the future."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Unorthodox church growing despite skepticism

By John Fleming
Religion News Service

KINSHASA, Zaire (RNS)—At first the sprawling compound outside this giant African city has the look and feel of a free concert in Central Park: Families lounge beneath brightly colored umbrellas, quietly chatting while listening to one of four different choirs and two bands.

But then a hush falls over the choirs, the bands and the people as smartly dressed ushers ply the crowd of thousands, collecting money in washbuckets.

A priest from the Kimbanguist Church—the Church of Jesus Christ on Earth through the Prophet Simon Kimbangu—rises to pray. Twenty-five minutes later he finishes.

Today's Kimbanguist service is typical, starting at mid-morning and lasting until late afternoon. Very few will leave before it is over, but many enter during the service. Some will join the church.

Some church experts express surprise that the controversial church—many of its members claim the founder, Simon Kimbangu, to be the Holy Spirit—remains so strong in Zaire.

Others, however, say the 6 million-member denomination, which combines traditional African beliefs and conventional Protestantism, is a portent of the way Christianity will develop in Africa.

They argue that the church's structure and organization; the fact that it is not financially dependent on Western churches; its stress on economic self-sufficiency; and its emphasis on community development make it more appropriate for Zaire and the rest of Africa than more conventional Protestant churches.

The church traces its history to the early decades of the 20th century.

Simon Kimbangu, a young student in the Baptist Missionary Society, founded the Kimbanguist Church in 1921. Followers believe Kimbangu was approached by the Holy Spirit and told to go about the countryside and heal the sick. Reportedly, he obeyed reluctantly. Soon word of his powers spread rapidly through the country, then known as the Belgian Congo.

Before he realized it, Kimbangu had created a religious and nationalist movement within the Belgian Congo with indigenous leaders calling for the new movement, now with thousands

of members, to rise up against Belgian colonial rulers.

The horrified Belgians issued a warrant for Kimbangu's arrest even though Kimbangu said he wanted no quarrel with the colonial rulers and opposed any separation with the mission churches in the Belgian Congo.

But the Belgian authorities arrested him anyway. In late 1921, Kimbangu was sent into internal exile where he spent most of the rest of his life in solitary confinement. He died in 1951. The Belgians granted the church official recognition in 1959.

Today the church has communities throughout Zaire and in the neighboring countries of the Central African Republic, the Congo, Zambia, Gabon, Burundi, Kenya and Uganda. It also has a large following among Zairian communities in Paris, Brussels and London.

Still, its theology is unsettling to conventional Protestants. The Kimbanguists argue, for example, that Kimbangu's life was remarkably similar to that of Jesus: He ministered for a very short time—less than a year; was 32 years old when arrested on his way to N'Kamba-Jerusalem, as his home village is now called; and sentenced to death (later commuted to life

imprisonment) by the rulers of the land. Kimbangu was even betrayed by a trusted village chieftain before his arrest.

The crux of Kimbanguist theology is that messiahs and prophets have appeared on Earth in the past—Moses, Jesus, Muhammad—to save different people groups. Simon Kimbangu is seen as the messianic prophet sent to save the Africans.

By most accounts, the church has moved toward mainstream Christian theology in recent years, a natural progression of African indigenous churches, argues Edward Antonio, a specialist in African churches and a professor of religion at Johannesburg's University of the Witwatersrand.

"Most African churches begin with a powerful charismatic figure," he said. "After his death or, in Kimbangu's case, imprisonment, the movement tends to go through a traumatic period with weak or splintered leadership. To draw the church back together the new leadership often makes the founder out to be the Messiah. When they get back on their feet again, the theology tends to moderate quite a bit. This is what happened in the case of the Kimbanguists."

Some church experts express surprise that the controversial church—many of its members claim the founder, Simon Kimbangu, to be the Holy Spirit—remains so strong in Zaire.

Filipino missionary discovers one call leads to new ministry

By Traci Muller
SBC Home Mission Board

SAVANNAH, Ga.—Sometimes one phone call can start something new.

At least that is true for Doug Chanco, director of language missions for Savannah Baptist Association and one of the missionaries featured by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board for this year's week of prayer for home missions, March 2-9.

As pastor of a Filipino mission congregation, Chanco gets phone calls at all hours of the day and night. But in 1991, he received a call that was different.

A church member working as a nurse at a local hospital called needing help. A Filipino sailor had a stomach tumor removed. He was alone, uncertain and spoke little English. She believed Chanco, a native of the Philippines, could be a comfort to the man.

Chanco gathered some magazines and a New Testament and went to visit the seaman, Rodrigo. When Chanco arrived, the sailor's eyes lit up and they talked of home.

Later, Rodrigo's doctor told Chanco the tumor was cancerous. The doctor didn't know how to explain this to the seaman in his language and asked Chanco if he would do it.

"I didn't know what to do," Chanco recalled. "Rodrigo had a three-year old daughter and a pregnant wife waiting for him at home. And I had to tell him he had cancer. I prayed about it, as did my church. And when I got to his room, God had beaten me there. I could feel his presence."

First, Rodrigo told the pastor that he had read the New Testament and had some questions. This naturally led to Chanco sharing the plan of salvation with him. With tears in his eyes,

Rodrigo prayed with Chanco, accepting Jesus as his personal Savior.

"I explained to him then that he had cancer," Chanco recalled. "I will never forget. He said, 'Pastor Doug, is Jesus Christ bigger than cancer?' I said, 'Cancer cannot touch your relationship with Christ, your relationship with your wife, our relationship. Cancer could not touch your heart nor your spirit unless you let it.' We prayed, committing his family to Christ."

Due to his illness, Rodrigo lost his job and had to return home. Chanco and other church members arranged to get him clothes and a plane ticket back to the Philippines. At the airport, Rodrigo asked Chanco how he could have helped him when he had only known him for two weeks. How could he ever repay him?

"There's one thing you can do," Chanco told him. "When you get back home, tell your wife what happened to you here in Savannah. Tell her what Jesus Christ means to you. Lead her to Christ. And when you do, write me, and we'll call it even."

Four months later, Rodrigo's wife wrote, asking what Chanco had done to change her husband. Rodrigo no longer went out drinking with friends or gambling at cockfights. He read the Bible and played with their daughter. She could see a change in him that was real. She, too, had become a Christian.

"I wrote back to Rodrigo and told him, 'We are even now, paid in full, brother,'" Chanco recounted.

"That is how the Seaman's Ministry began," Chanco said. Since that first call in 1991, he has worked with seamen who come into Savannah weekly from such countries as Germany, Bulgaria, Croatia, Vietnam, China and Korea.

There is no building dedicated to



the seamen's ministry, so Chanco takes the men to a local church, where they call home and eat a hot meal. He also takes them to shop in local stores.

But Chanco's focus is on sharing the gospel. He leads Bible studies for the men and goes aboard the ships inviting them to come. "I'm not the only one on the docks talking to them," he said, noting that prostitution, pornography, drugs and alcohol also are present.

What Chanco finds exciting is that the seamen who receive Christ are not only witnesses aboard ship, but to others in their native countries when they

return home.

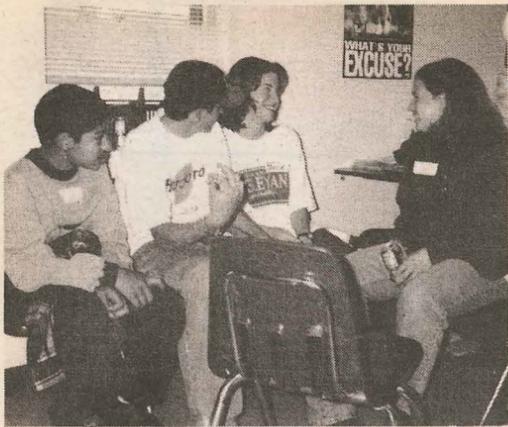
"Rodrigo has 13 brothers and sisters and he's lead seven family members to the Lord," he said.

Chanco said he prays the ministry will be able to use a building near the docks to increase the work being done.

He also hopes for more mission pastors to lead growing Laotian, Vietnamese, Hispanic, Chinese and Korean missions in Savannah. Some ethnic groups have no one to minister to them.

"If someone was here, (the people) would come," he said. "The Lord can do amazing things."

MINISTRY PLANNING
Doug Chanco, director of language missions for Savannah Baptist Association, is one of the missionaries featured during the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's week of prayer for home missions, March 2-9.



BSU Booming at OBI
Did you know Oneida Baptist Institute has had a Baptist Student Union since 1950? Campus Chaplain Michael Spencer has led the group for the past five years. Weekly meetings average 80-130 young people.

BSU at Oneida focuses on campus evangelism. We provide opportunities for students to minister to other students.

Weekly BSU meetings include a variety of activities. Students enjoy musical praise and worship, small group sharing and prayer, films, guest speakers, and student testimonies. Spencer tries to make every program appeal to both the Christian student and the unbeliever.

In addition to the weekly meetings, BSU offers a mid-week prayer time each Wednesday. The group also occasionally sponsors concerts and dramas by visiting ministry teams. Such guests are always welcome.

Each year, Spencer chooses a team of BSU small group leaders. These young people play a vital part in the campus ministry. They shepherd the small groups through prayer times at BSU meetings. Small group leaders also assist in counseling students who respond to the invitation during revival services.

To teach and support the small group leaders, Spencer takes them on two retreats each year. Leaders also meet weekly for planning and discipleship.

Leaders help in less traditional ways, too. They help with the Campus Ministry's annual discipleship retreat, and they host a yearly children's fall festival.

Living the Challenge

Though OBI is a Christian school, it is a unique mission field as well. Since many of our students are unbelievers, Christians face the challenge of living out the gospel in front of their peers.

In the classroom, at work or on the playing field, young people have a chance to make a difference in someone else's life.

Ryan is a junior who has been at OBI for three years. He is active in BSU and is a small group leader. Though he accepted Christ in 1988, he said, "I didn't really know how to act as a Christian until I came to Oneida." Here he has learned to have personal quiet time and realize the benefits of OBI chapel. "If you're having a bad day, it can help," he added.

Patricia, a senior, came to Oneida just before her sophomore year. She has found that "Christianity and the spiritual witness are a big part of this school." Patricia feels her Christian walk has grown by leaps and bounds since coming to Oneida. "You can't compare me to the same person I was before," she said. "I feel so secure in who I am in Christ. Before, I was so insecure and intimidated by everyone." A big part of this change in Patricia has been the opportunities she has had through BSU as a small group leader.



Briggs is a senior from Liberia. He felt God leading him to OBI. "I wanted an atmosphere where I could share the gifts I believe God has given me...to be an instrument to touch lives," he explained. Briggs has a very active ministry in his dormitory. He has started a Bible study group, and loves to pray with other students.

Christ in the Classroom

Ask our teachers what they enjoy about working at OBI, and they'll likely tell you it's the chance to share their faith.

Mr. Mike Waslewski is one of our middle school teachers. "Since I teach Bible quite a bit, I can share the gospel every day," he said. Waslewski has a daily devotion with each of his classes.

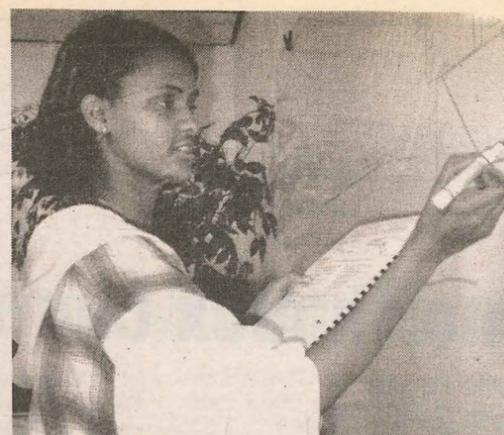
"Most of them have a desire for God to work in their lives and in the lives of their families," he stated. "It's a great privilege to be able to serve God and share the gospel."

Waslewski lets his students know that if they have questions, need help or want to receive Christ, they can come to him. One young lady this year has already talked with him before becoming a Christian.

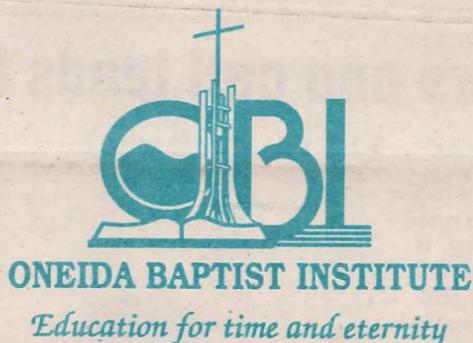
Even in science class, Waslewski points to God. "With God being the architect of the universe, I give Him the glory...every design has to have a designer."

Many of our teachers double as coaches. Miss Pamela Sexton teaches AP Biology and coaches our swim team. She has found that "in coaching you can spend more personal, one-on-one time. That's when you can do the acts of sharing and work with what someone may be dealing with."

Miss Sexton has a weekly prayer request time with her team. She has learned that ministry opportunities depend on her interactions with the students. She explained, "As I develop relationships with them, when they struggle, they come to me."



CHRISTIANITY ON CAMPUS AT



"The Most Unusual Worship Service in America"

The Oneida school has worshiped together since its beginning in 1900, and for most of our history we have held chapel services daily. OBI Chaplain Michael Spencer sees our chapel time as "the most unusual worship service in America."

Each school day our faculty and student body flock to our chapel.

This is not simply a convocation or a devotional moment. Chapel is a time of Biblically designed worship: singing hymns, reading the Bible, praying, and preaching. Because many Christian schools have chapel services only several times a week or month, Spencer finds our daily worship quite significant.

Spencer utilizes many different speakers for chapel, including OBI faculty and staff, area ministers, missionaries, and other guests. Messages tend to be evangelistic, as usually half our students at any one time may not be Christians.

"I'm not aware of any other Christian school that preaches the gospel to lost people on a daily basis to the extent we do," Spencer said. "In that context, we have worship and ongoing evangelism throughout the year."

Not only have many of our young people not made commitments to Christ, our student body often includes those of other world religions. This presents quite a challenge for any speaker.

Spencer is glad that "The Oneida school has committed itself to a daily worship service." His goal is "to keep that worship service at the center of school life."



Would you like to know more about Oneida? Write to us at P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972 or call us at (606)847-4111. We'd love to hear from you!