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FOR THE RECORD

Kentucky Baptists to help Carter house building blitz



Marshall retirement
This week's Recorder features some parting thoughts in an interview with Bill Marshall upon his retirement as executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Pages 6-7.

SBC restructuring
The Christian Life Commission and the seminaries got a bigger slice of the funding pie in the revised budget. Page 2.

Dry vote
Georgetown residents who defeated a measure for alcohol sales in the city credit hard work and a positive focus. Page 3.

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Religious rights
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Religious Right
Jerry Falwell says he's getting back into politics. Page 11.

By David Winfrey
News Director

LOUISVILLE—When Jimmy Carter brings volunteers and resources to Appalachia this summer to build 50 houses, Kentucky Baptists will be among those helping low-income families construct new places to live.

Kentucky Brotherhood, working with Baptist associations in Appalachia, is coordinating the construction of five homes for the Jimmy Carter Work Project.

Titled "Hammering in the Hills," the annual Habitat for Humanity event is expected to draw more than 4,000 volunteers from around the



Carter

world to help Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, build homes, said Rick Lucas, construction coordinator for Kentucky Brotherhood. In addition to the construction, officials said the event helps draw attention to Habitat's cause: affordable housing for low-income families.

Building five houses, costing \$39,000 each, will require \$195,000 from Kentucky Baptists, Lucas said. An initial \$60,000 has been provided by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The remaining \$135,000 is being sought from churches, associations and individual donors, Lucas said. "We just feel that as Baptists understand the need, the Lord will move

their hearts to respond to it."

While many Baptists have participated in Habitat for Humanity, Lucas said the work project will serve as a springboard event to raise more attention to the subject.

"By and large, we have not accessed the resources that we have available to us as Kentucky Baptists," he said. "There are just so many hurting people across our state and as Christians we have an obligation to respond to our Lord's commission to meet those needs."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau:

- 52 percent of Appalachian households live in poverty, earning, on average, less than \$13,000 a year.
- The number of children living in

poverty in Appalachian Kentucky is as high as 64 percent. (Nationally, the child poverty rate is 20 percent.)

■ As many as 16.8 percent of Appalachian households have no plumbing facilities. (Nationally: 1.1 percent.)

"So oftentimes we think of missions as something we do way off in a distant land across the seas," Lucas said. "We see this as an opportunity to broaden and deepen our involvement in needy families like these" in Kentucky.

Speaking in Louisville last week, Carter said working through Habitat has given him a greater opportunity to express some aspects of his Christian faith than he had while president.

"It's not a complete accident that
□ See Baptists to assist ..., page 3

Pastor: Many Christians act like rich people don't need God

By David Winfrey
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Some Christians have too shallow a view of their faith to believe a relationship with Jesus could help the wealthy, according to a Boston minister visiting Kentucky.

"We forget that indeed there is power in the gospel," said David Draper, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church.

The Beacon Hill community is one of America's richest neighborhoods. The community of less than a square mile has more than 11,000 residents. Draper estimates less than 300 attend church. Only about 30 of those attend his.

Draper, who was in Kentucky to talk about his work among the "up and out," said Christians often think the gospel has nothing to offer someone who is financially well off.

"We really don't believe that it will add to their lives," he said. "Since they are well-to-do in the pocketbook, we don't recognize them as being poor in their relationship to God."

But a genuine relationship with God should motivate Christians to share their faith with anyone, he added.

"If it's true, if it's real to us, people have got to know about it," he said. "What we have to share is the realest, the greatest thing on earth."

Many Christians are intimidated by wealthy people, he noted. "It's true that there are barriers that we face with any group, ... but for some reason, I think, money has scared us more than anything."

Although by no means wealthy,
□ See Boston pastor ..., page 13



MISSION CENTER Cumberland College graduates Steve and Karen Scudder fill a grocery bag at the Baptist Concern Center in Salt Lake City. The Scudders are among the Southern Baptist missionaries featured during this year's week of prayer for home missions. (Photo by Don Rutledge)

Mission vision helps 'Start Something New'

ALPHARETTA, Ga.—Church growth and church starting are the emphasis of this year's Southern Baptist season of home missions.

With the theme "Start Something New," promoters are encouraging every church and mission congregation to launch a new unit that will reach more people, said Charles Chaney, director of the Home Mission Board's church starting division.

New units could be as simple as another Sunday school class or a Bible study outside the church building. It could be as ambitious as starting another church or sponsoring an ethnic congregation, Chaney said.

"The possibilities are endless,"

he said. "Every congregation, no matter how large or small, ... can start at least one new growth unit."

Southern Baptists have been a growing denomination because they started new congregations, Chaney said.

However, "Southern Baptists continue to fall behind population growth in every metropolitan county in the South and in rapidly growing counties of the North and West," he said.

Currently, 67 percent of SBC churches are plateaued or declining, Chaney noted.

"A primary reason is that when they reach new people they do not create new cells to keep them and reach others," he said. "The multiplication of new cells causes every

living thing to grow. Churches are living things. If new cells are not created, churches plateau and then die."

The season for home missions lasts from mid-February through early March. It includes the week of prayer for home missions, March 2-9, when Southern Baptists pray for eight missionaries in America.

The season also includes a home missions study, which highlights a variety of innovative church starts across America. Among them are churches in mobile home communities and a congregation meeting in a New Orleans funeral home.

Southern Baptist Sunday school material also is focused on home missions March 9. And the season includes the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, with a national goal of \$50 million for home missions.

■ More stories on page 8



Moving? See page 4 (0211)

BAPTISTS

CLC, seminaries get more in restructured budget

Through the NAMB merger and elimination of four other small entities, a total of 2.5 percent of annual Cooperative Program receipts—about \$3.7 million—was put up for grabs.

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

NASHVILLE—The first budget for a restructured Southern Baptist Convention proposes increased spending for seminaries, the Christian Life Commission and the SBC Executive Committee while leaving funding levels for foreign missions unchanged.

A new North American Mission Board will receive less than the combined current allocations of the three current agencies it replaces, but planners say cost savings from the merger will result in more dollars being freed up for missions.

During its Feb. 17-18 meeting in Nashville, the Executive Committee handled its customary task of proposing annual allocations from the Cooperative Program unified budget. That task took on unusual significance this time, however, because a denominational restructuring plan to take effect in June will reduce from 18 to 11 the number of agencies vying for Cooperative Program funding.

Advocates of the denominational restructuring plan repeatedly have said it will allow the SBC to shift additional funding to "front-line" missions and ministries and away from administrative overhead.

A primary source of savings in the restructuring is the creation of a new North American Mission

Board, to be formed by merging the existing Home Mission Board, Radio & Television Commission and Brotherhood Commission. Under the budget plan approved by the Executive Committee, NAMB will receive 22.79 percent of Cooperative Program receipts. That's 1.36 percentage points less than the 24.15 percent the three agencies to be merged currently receive.

Through the NAMB merger and elimination of four other small entities, a total of about 2.5 percent of annual Cooperative Program receipts was put up for grabs. For the 1997-98 fiscal year, with a budget of \$148.19 million, that amounts to about \$3.7 million.

For several months prior to the Executive Committee's annual budgeting session, SBC entities had been lobbying for increased shares of the Cooperative Program pie. The boards of all six seminaries passed resolutions requesting increases, and the Christian Life Commission held a news conference where it appealed for a 300 percent increase.

The CLC, which will be renamed the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, turned out to be the biggest winner in the budget realignment. The CLC will receive 50 percent more in the 1997-98 budget than in the current year's budget—1.49 percent of all Cooperative Program receipts rather than 0.99 percent.

Combined with an across-the-board 3 percent increase in CP funding, that will create a \$770,503 increase in the CLC's budget—from \$1.44 million to \$2.21 million.

Over the last decade, the CLC has received the largest percentage increases in funding of any SBC agency. That has been due in part to the SBC's defunding of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and subsequent assignment of religious liberty issues to the CLC.

With the adoption of the 1997-98 budget, the CLC will have realized nearly a threefold increase in its Cooperative Program allocation, which will have grown from 0.6 percent of all Cooperative Program receipts to 1.49 percent.

CLC President Richard Land said his agency urgently needs the additional funds to expand its influence in Washington and beyond. Since the SBC pulled out of the Baptist Joint Committee, the CLC has operated two offices, one in Nashville and one in Washington.

Land said final decisions about how the new money will be allocated must be made by his board of trustees. However, he identified three priority projects already approved by trustees:

■ Adding a staff person to serve as a child advocacy expert from a "biblical and conservative perspective."

■ Producing a weekly radio program for national distribution to give Southern Baptist perspectives on public policy issues.

■ Hiring an additional media representative in Washington.

The SBC's six seminaries collectively will receive 1 percent more of Cooperative Program allocations in the budget shuffle. The basic allocation for theological education will increase from 20.4 percent to 21.4 percent. With the across-the-board 3 percent increase, the seminaries will receive \$31.7 million in 1997-98, up from \$29.58 million this year.

The council of seminary presidents also will receive an additional 0.24 percent of Cooperative Program receipts (\$359,244) to administer the convention's historical library and archives, a function previously handled by the Historical Commission, which is being closed.

Due to the complex formula by which the six seminaries divide Cooperative Program money, the schools will not share the wealth equally. Both Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., will have their percentages reduced. The seminary funding formula considers a three-year rolling average of full-time equivalent enrollment.

Both Southern and Midwestern have experienced declining enrollments in recent years, while the other four schools have held relatively steady or increased. For example, Southern's full-time equivalent declined from 1,685 in 1993-94 to 1,255 in 1995-96. Midwestern's equivalent declined from 420 to 325 in the same period.

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary experienced a significant gain in enrollment during the same period, and therefore has earned a greater portion of the Cooperative Program allocation. Southeastern's full-time equivalent increased from 695 in 1993-94 to 993 in 1995-96.

The other recipient of new Cooperative Program funds in the redistribution is the SBC Executive Committee, which administers the SBC's operating budget.

In the new budget, the Executive Committee will receive 3.32 percent of Cooperative Program gifts. That includes an additional 0.2 percent slice of the pie to manage the Southern Baptist Foundation, which no longer will be a separate entity after restructuring and an additional 0.25 percent slice for Cooperative Program advancement which previously has been handled by the Stewardship Commission.

All told, the Executive Committee will receive an additional 0.84 percent of the Cooperative Program distribution. About half that increase is directly attributed to shifting responsibilities for the Foundation and Cooperative Program promotion. The other half apparently is intended to help cover costs of the restructuring, which already have totaled about \$825,000.

The Executive Committee has ended the past two fiscal years with a deficit of income over expenditures and has drawn from reserve funds to make up the difference. The 1996 deficit was \$258,720; the 1995 deficit was \$239,830.

Decisions about Cooperative Program distribution normally originate with the Executive Committee's program and budget subcommittee. However, in a departure from protocol, Executive Committee officers convened a Jan. 21 meeting in Dallas with the heads of SBC agencies and representatives of the task force overseeing denominational restructuring. Out of that six-hour meeting, a budget proposal was crafted for presentation to the program and budget subcommittee.

Those present in the Dallas meeting, which was closed to the press, described the unanimous agreement on the budget proposal as "historic" and "miraculous." Members of the program and budget subcommittee, most of whom knew nothing about the Dallas meeting until they arrived in Nashville Feb. 17, expressed appreciation for the groundwork laid but concern about the precedent that had been set.

Members of the program and budget subcommittee quickly adopted the budget proposed by the ad hoc Dallas group, but then spent more than an hour discussing how best to convey that they were not "rubber stamps" but rather endorsed the Dallas document of their own free will and because they believed it the best proposal possible.

Executive Committee officials repeatedly emphasized that the 1997-98 budget should be considered "transitional" and that all allocations will be up for serious reconsideration next year.

Cooperative Program allocations after restructuring 1997-98 SBC budget allocations

Entity	Dollar amount	Percent of total	Previous percentage
International Mission Board	\$74,092,539	50%	50%
North American Mission Board	\$33,771,379	22.79%	24.15%*
Theological Education	\$31,711,606	21.4%	20.4%
<i>Southwestern Seminary</i>	\$8,981,873	6.06%	5.73%
<i>Southern Seminary</i>	\$6,414,596	4.33%	4.34%
<i>New Orleans Seminary</i>	\$5,939,579	4.01%	3.73%
<i>Southeastern Seminary</i>	\$4,731,511	3.19%	2.77%
<i>Golden Gate Seminary</i>	\$2,914,433	1.97%	1.80%
<i>Midwestern Seminary</i>	\$2,729,615	1.84%	1.88%
Historical Library & Archives (Administered by seminaries)	\$359,244	0.24%	0.34%**
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission	\$2,207,958	1.49%	0.99%
Annuity Board	\$1,126,207	0.76%	0.76%
SBC Operating Budget (includes \$417,838 for Baptist World Alliance)	\$4,916,144	3.32%	2.48%
Total Budget:	\$148,185,077		

* In the previous year's budget, the three agencies being merged to create the North American Mission Board received this combined amount

** This percentage previously was allocated to the SBC Historical Commission, which previously managed the archives but is being closed

NOTE: This chart represents allocations from the 1997-98 Cooperative Program budget of the Southern Baptist Convention. Cooperative Program contributions from Kentucky churches sent to the Kentucky Baptist Convention are divided, with 65 percent applied to the Kentucky Cooperative Program and 35 percent applied to the national Cooperative Program. This chart represents the distribution only of the portion forwarded to the national Cooperative Program. The KBC has its own formula for allocating in-state funds.

Hard work, focus help dry vote win, advocates say

GEORGETOWN—Hard work and a positive focus on quality of life helped keep alcohol sales out of Georgetown, according to leaders of a coalition that recently prevailed in a local option election.

"The issue was not, 'Do you drink or not?' but do you want it sold in Georgetown?" explained Greg Earwood, pastor of Faith Baptist Church and co-chairman of Citizens to Keep Georgetown Dry.

"It was a pro-family, pro-health, pro-safety message," he said. "We gained some supporters that way. There are a number of people who drink but don't want it sold here."

In the special mid-January election, residents voted against legalizing alcohol sales by 62 percent to 38 percent.

This was the fifth successful effort to keep alcohol out of Kentucky counties in the past year. Voters in Owsley County rejected liquor sales by a 53 percent to 47 percent margin last December, and preliminary measures in Pineville, Mayfield and Radcliff failed to make it to the ballot in 1996.

The request for the special election in Georgetown was spearheaded by attorney John Cornett, who said he was tired of driving 25 to 30 minutes to the south side of Lexington to go out for dinner.

He, too, preached a quality-of-life theme.

"The dry forces were right; it is a

quality-of-life issue," Cornett said. "But it depends on how you define quality of life. I think going to a restaurant for a meal and having a glass of wine with dinner is a plus."

Other Georgetown residents agree with his position but were unwilling to take a chance on changing the nature of this small central Kentucky town of 13,000, he said. Georgetown has been dry since 1946.

"More than 50 percent of people here drink," Cornett said. "But a lot of them told me, 'It's a nice place. Why take a chance and rock the boat?'"

Cornett and his supporters contended allowing alcohol sales in Georgetown would result in an economic boom, with more restaurants and other entertainment moving in.

The dry forces countered that this kind of economic gain wasn't worth the price.

"Increased revenue means increased problems," Earwood said. "The revenue in general is offset by alcohol-related problems. Not only loss of life, which is significant, but injuries, counseling, police costs and damage to families. The list goes on and on."

Earwood, who came to Georgetown in 1995 from First Baptist Church of Murray, teamed up with Tommy Simpson, pastor of Northside Christian Church, to lead the anti-alcohol coalition.

They found a solid base of support with Georgetown's religious community. "The ministers of most churches all had the same basic conviction as far as pulling together," Simpson explained.

And those ministers and their church members were willing to work hard for the cause, he added.

That included making calls to registered voters, stuffing envelopes with brochures, placing advertisements and distributing literature. Workers also placed a flock of "vote no" yard signs throughout Scott County and printed 2,000 buttons with the same message.

Media coverage from the Georgetown and Lexington newspapers helped too, he said, especially a feature the local paper ran two days before the election.

It told the story of a member of Simpson's church who lost her husband in a drunk-driving accident. The woman's son sustained severe head injuries in the accident and is still in a wheelchair.

The coalition also received help from Claude Witt, director of the Kentucky Temperance League. Witt said organization and accurate information were the cornerstones of the Georgetown victory.

"The wets are going to hit you with half-truths and pound home the economic issue," he said. "To counter that you have to pound home accurate information about alcohol."

However, citizens facing a move to legalize liquor in their city or county must organize the same as for any political issue, Witt said. A wealth of information won't help if the campaign fails to get supporters to the polls, he explained.

Cornett charged Citizens to Keep Georgetown Dry with using scare tactics and misinformation. For example, he took exception with an ad stating the 10 Kentucky counties with the fewest drunk-driving offenses are dry. The flip side is that six of the 10 worst counties for drunk driving also are dry, he said.

Despite disagreements, he complimented the dry forces for running an issue-oriented campaign.

"They didn't change it so much to a religious thing but kept it on an intellectual level," he said. "They let the issue be discussed and decided. I applaud them on that."

Despite the outcome of the vote, the issue will not go away, Cornett predicted.

Residents are kidding themselves if they think there isn't a drinking problem in Georgetown, he said, noting that nine of the city's 10 police officers signed his petition calling for the election. Those officers said Georgetown has all the problems associated with alcohol and none of the benefits, he said.

Reported by State Correspondent Ken Walker

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Oklahoma City's** mayor and fire chief will discuss at Georgetown College their city's recovery from the 1995 federal building bombing. The event, which is free, will be March 6 at 11 a.m. in John Hill Chapel.

■ **The Air Force Band of Flight's Wright Brass** will perform a free concert at Cumberland College Monday, March 3. Although admission to the concert is free, tickets are required. Call (606) 539-4332.

■ **Georgetown College** will present the music of Franz Schubert and Johannes Brahms March 2, at 3 p.m. in John Hill Chapel. Admission is free. Poet Ellen Bryant Voight will read selections of her work Monday, March 3, at 8 p.m. in the Georgetown College student center's hall of fame room. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$5 for students.

Habitat builds on spiritual renewal and personal mission

LOUISVILLE—Since its founding in 1976, Habitat for Humanity has helped build more than 50,000 houses around the world.

An outgrowth of spiritual renewal in the lives of its founders, Habitat has grown to be one of America's best-known Christian ministries.

The annual Jimmy Carter Work Project draws attention to both Habitat and its cause: simple, decent, affordable housing for low-income people.

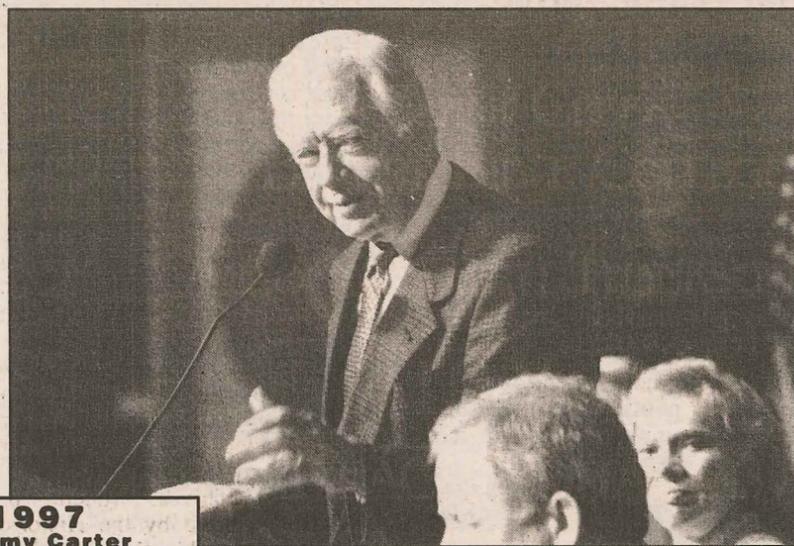
Co-founder Millard Fuller developed the idea after a crisis in his own life, according to promotional material from Habitat's headquarters in Americus, Ga.

A successful marketing career made Fuller a millionaire before age 30, but his business grew at the expense of his health and marriage. Under the threat of divorce, Fuller re-evaluated his life.

Believing their marital problems had a spiritual basis, Fuller and his wife, Linda, recommitted their lives to God, sold their possessions, gave the proceeds to the poor and looked for a new venture in which to invest their lives.

Habitat uses volunteer labor and donations to build and rehabilitate houses. Families buy the homes on no-profit, no-interest terms.

Habitat houses in America cost an average \$38,000 each. With a 20-year mortgage, such a house costs less than \$160 a month. "Which is almost al-



PRESIDENTIAL PROMOTION Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, who were in Louisville last week to promote Habitat's work project in Appalachia, have become high-profile spokespeople for the ministry.

ways much less than the families have been paying to rent an inferior home," Carter said last week.

Habitat home owners also give "sweat equity," or several hundred hours working on their home and other Habitat houses.

With 1,400 affiliates in America and a presence in 45 other countries, Habitat volunteers build an average of 30 houses every day, Carter said.

Kentucky has 75 Habitat affiliates. Mindy Phelps, coordinator of this year's work camp, said Kentucky

Habitat for Humanity has a goal of having an affiliate in each of the state's 120 counties by the year 2000.

Fuller credits God for the growth of the ministry, but he recently told *Prisim* magazine—an evangelical monthly—that the "theology of the hammer" does not cater to a specific denomination. "Habitat for Humanity is openly and unashamedly a Christian ministry, but we are neither denominational or doctrinal," he said.

"We just say, 'Pick up the hammer.' ... I say that the only doctrine that we have is if you don't have a Habitat for Humanity bumper sticker on your car, you're living in sin."

Baptists to assist building blitz

Continued from page 1

Jesus Christ and his family were carpenters," Carter said at a fund-raising event for the work project. "Habitat is the best way I know to break down the chasm between those of us who have everything in life and many of our next-door neighbors who have practically nothing that we take for granted."

In addition to Brotherhood involvement, Kentucky Baptists also will work on homes through host Habitat affiliates.

Don Mantooth, pastor of First Baptist Church of Morehead, also is president of the Morehead County affiliate of Habitat for Humanity. He said the local affiliate will build six homes during the project, including a home sponsored by Morehead area churches.

"This gives a face to what we're trying to do in the church," he said. "Before this is over nearly every member will be involved in it one way or another."

Mark Johnson, pastor of Midway Baptist Church, agreed. "It's a powerful way that people can put their faith into practice," he said. Joy Arnold, a member of that church, chairs the Habitat affiliate in Woodford.

The \$4.5 million work project will build 50 homes in six Appalachian communities—five in Kentucky and one in Tennessee.

In addition, other Habitat affiliates are building 40 more homes at the same time to "piggyback" on some of the excitement and interest generated by the Carter work project. The Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia will be building 60 homes as well.

In addition to funding and prayer support, Kentucky Brotherhood still needs a limited number of workers. Registration to volunteer, which includes food, housing and ground transportation at the site, costs \$225. More information is available from Kentucky Brotherhood at (502) 244-6489.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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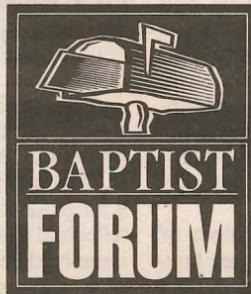
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Loved by us

When we lost our son with cancer eight years ago, we asked Bill Marshall if he would speak at his funeral. George, our son, was a missionary kid and grew up in Brazil. Marshall had worked with the Foreign Mission Board for so many years, and we felt he was the one to bring the message.

He and Alice visited the hospital two or three times. At the funeral, his words were so appropriate and so comforting. He gave us a copy which we filed away in the photo album of George. We will always remember him as he "wrapped his arms" around us during the worst tragedy of our lives. Bill and Alice Marshall will always be loved by us.

*Fred and Hazel
Halbrooks
Louisville*



Divine orders

Bill Marshall exemplifies for us a person focused on God, carrying out divine orders. We have been with him since 1954 in different settings overseas and "at home."

We've shared treasured time with him alone, with the four of us and with large crowds where he was the program personality. He is the same person. The fruit of the Spirit, God's character, is reflected from deep within.

We see him as one who has given Kentucky Baptists and others a model of servant leadership with a clear mission statement. We respond with deep love, respect and affirmation to the man who chooses to take up his cross and follow Christ without reserve.

We see Bill and Alice reflecting the relationship of Jesus to the church and the church to Jesus. We thank God upon every remembrance of the Marshalls.

*Bob and Eddie Fields
Mount Vernon*

Blessed years

Kentucky Baptists have indeed been blessed to have Bill Marshall as executive secretary-treasurer. His gracious, wise leadership is evident in the fact that, despite our differences, Kentucky Baptists are still united. Our Lord prayed that this would be so (John 17:20-21).

Marshall's column has been a highlight of the Western Recorder for me. He is a gifted writer, and I encourage him to continue his writing in whatever capacity the Lord leads him.

*Wilma Beatty
Murray*

Marshall a blessing

As a member of the search committee that recommended Bill Marshall to be executive secretary-treasurer of our convention, I want to share something of how the Holy Spirit led us to that decision.

His background in Kentucky Baptist life, his experience in missions, his executive ability and his desire to follow the will of God more than met our expectations. One of the most exciting spiritual moments of my life came

in our last meeting with him and Alice. He "walked us through" (a favorite expression of Bill's) how the Holy Spirit led him to accept our offer.

Among other things, he said it was a family decision. He and Alice in prayer had found assurance about it. He took his youngest daughter in the backyard to share with her, and with a precious response she too was in agreement with the will of God.

The one thing I remember most about that meeting was the spirit of the moment, when he said, "Yes." Everyone of us was in tears and praising God at the same time.

Through these years it has been a blessing to work with Bill Marshall. First, as a pastor and member of the Executive Board and then for 10 years as a church starter strategist in Mission Kentucky, his vision to reach all of Kentucky for Christ. Women's Missionary Union would say, "He did missions."

From our personal feelings, Ginny and I will always treasure our friendship with Alice and Bill. It began years ago at Ridgecrest during the foreign mission weeks and became more meaningful during our pastorate at First Baptist Church in London where they fellowshipped with former missionaries to Israel at Cleft Rock, a missionary retreat nearby.

My prayer is that the present search committee will be as directed of the spirit of God as we were.

*J. Bill Jones
Princeton*

Christian grace

Although I have not been closely associated with Bill Marshall, I am moved to add my personal appreciation for him with many others.

Marshall exemplifies Christian grace, integrity and understanding in his administration, qualities which are too often rare in the Baptist ministry. He shows friendship for all, in a time when doctrinal disputes are dividing the Baptist constituency. Even so, he maintains his honesty and integrity even when political manipulations impose various pressures on him. It is a privilege to know him.

*Joseph Estes
Louisville*

Foundation praised

As a denomination there are so many issues that we allow to rise up that have the potential of dividing or even destroying the things we cherish.

We give more attention to being politically correct instead of being empowered by the Spirit of the living God. We need something that all of us as Baptists can rally around. I'm glad to say that we have something here in our state that all Baptists can take pride in.

Take a few moments to look at the excellent work of our Kentucky Baptist Foundation. The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is a wonderful tribute and legacy to the vision and insight of Baptists from all across our great state.

When you come to know the peo-

ple working inside the Foundation, you will discover that Barry Allen and Laurie Valentine are committed to the task the Lord has assigned to them.

I recently had Barry and Laurie in our church for a Christian estate and will planning seminar. It was a helpful and informative meeting for all who could be present. I strongly recommend this program to pastors all across the state.

Barry and Laurie can provide information to the churches that will help us teach the importance of being good stewards now and to make preparation for the future.

If we need something as Kentucky Baptists to be proud of, we only have to look at the terrific work of our Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

*Curtis Eidson
Albany*

Amazing letters

I continue to be amazed at the responses to the Muhlenberg County situation. Week after week, I read letters to the Recorder attacking those who, as in the words of one letter writer, call for "doctrinal purity over soul freedom and personal autonomy."

First, according to the Recorder's own rules, personal attacks are not welcomed. This somehow doesn't apply to letters (or editorials at times) I suppose.

Second, if we are to jettison doctrinal purity, on what grounds do we have support for personal autonomy and soul freedom as truths? If personal autonomy and soul freedom, not doctrinal purity, are the measuring sticks, what difference does it make anyway about what some so-called "Fundamentalists" believe? Such attacks are circular in reasoning and totally void of Christ-likeness.

These attacks also result in nothing more than division and disunity among the body of Christ, which is clearly an unscriptural goal. But then again, if "doctrinal purity" doesn't matter anymore, what differences does that make?

*Tom Campbell
Louisville*

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

A glimpse of God

When he was 6 years old, Joe Sardler lost his sight. But 26 years later, he stumbled over a dog's dish, fell down the steps and hit his head against a wall. Coming to, he yelled, "I can see!"

The prophet Isaiah was going through dark days. Then he got an awful jolt, and he saw!

He said, "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord." No one is anything until he gets a glimpse of the glory and greatness of the Lord. But sometimes it takes a jolt. Think of Paul. He was knocked to the ground. But he saw the Lord.

Have you experienced a jolt? Have faith in God. He'll turn your tumble into triumph.

*David Livingston
Gethsemane Baptist Church
Louisville*

CHILDREN

Is a 4-year-old ready for baptism?

By Jewell Nelson

Q. My 4-year-old wants to be baptized. How do I know when he is ready?

A. Ask your son why he wants to be baptized.

To be baptized, one needs to have an understanding of more than baptism. To find out if a child is ready to make a commitment to Christ, ask

questions that cannot be answered with yes or no. Questions answered with a yes or no may be answered according to what the child thinks the adult wants. Can a 4-year-old answer satisfactorily questions such as the following:

■ Why do you want to become a Christian?

■ If your friend asked you, "How do I become a Christian?" what would you say?

■ What is sin?

■ What is faith?

■ What does it mean to repent?

■ What does baptism mean?

■ What does following Jesus as your Savior mean?

"Do you want Jesus to come into your heart?" or "Do you want to give your heart to Jesus?" are inappropriate questions to ask. Children can see human hearts removed on national television. Is this the way you "give your heart to Jesus?" Or, if Jesus is in your heart, what happens to Jesus during these surgeries? Children are concrete thinkers. Talk in concrete language.

The Bible does not offer one way of salvation for adults and one for children. We all must go the same route to reach an understanding of what it means to be a Christian.

Each person must understand the meaning of sin against God.

Each person must understand what it means to repent, and ask God for forgiveness of sins.

Each person must realize the significance of Jesus as Savior, and be willing to follow his teachings.

Getting ahead of the Holy Spirit is as dangerous as missing an opportunity when a person is under conviction by the Holy Spirit.

See that your son gets age-appropriate Bible teaching at home and church. When the Holy Spirit deals with your son, the Spirit will know your son is ready, and so will you.

Jewell Nelson is associate director of the KBC's Sunday school department.



HE SAID/SHE SAID

Even Eve probably had more fig leaves to choose from than Adam

HESAIID



Mark Wingfield

If the world really wants to create equal rights for men and women, somebody ought to do something about clothes. Clothing is not designed for equal-opportunity employment.

If you doubt this, just visit your local department store. There you'll find about five full floors of women's clothing for sale and one small corner of men's clothing for sale.

Is it any wonder that women take up five times as much closet space as men? Of course, this also could be due to the fact that men more easily part with clothes when they have no hope of ever fitting into them again or when they would no longer be caught dead in them. Case in point: Do you know a man anywhere in America who still has a leisure suit in his closet?

Women, on the other hand, hang on to clothes forever, either in hopes their bodies miraculously will be reduced to the size they were in high school or because they just know double-knit pantsuits will come back in style some day.

I'll admit that limiting the options in men's clothing makes life easier for men, many of whom could benefit from a grown-ups version of "Garanimals." Remember that line of children's clothing they used to sell that had certain animal symbols on every piece which a child could use to match appropriate colors? We need all the help we can get. And for us, simpler is better.

Levi Strauss Co. has sewn up the men's casual-wear market by understanding this need. While waiting for a table in a restaurant recently, I started counting the number of men walking by wearing Dockers. I lost count somewhere near 5 zillion. These pants—once described by Lewis Grizzard as pants designed to look good on middle-age men with big rears—have become the official uniform of the American male.

If Levis had been around in Adam and Eve's day, I'm sure Dockers fig leaves would have been all the rage. Of course, Adam probably had one little tree to pick leaves from and Eve had a whole forest.

SHESAIID



Alison Wingfield

I hate to tell you this, Mark, but polyester is back in, and so are those delightful colors of the '70s. And no, I didn't save any of my clothes from that era, and I hope this fad passes before I actually succumb and buy something.

Guys don't know how easy they have it. They can go into their closets and come out with a shirt and coordinating pants in no time at all. OK, maybe a shirt and pants.

No matter how hard I try, it is difficult to keep everything coordinated from season to season. The fashion industry conspires to keep us ever needing to buy new clothes so that this top will coordinate with those pants or skirt by changing the colors and styles. Do you know how many shades of navy inhabit the world?

Sometimes I feel like I have a closet full of nothing to wear.

And if men think it is easy to shop with all the choices available, think again. Just because a store has a huge women's department, it doesn't mean they have my size or anything that actually looks good on me—and is on sale, which is the only way I will buy something. I am not 5 feet 8 inches tall and pencil thin.

The Bible admonishes us to "consider the lillies," which don't worry about what they are going to wear or eat. God takes care of them.

Maybe if I spent as much time preparing spiritually for the day as I do deciding on what to wear I wouldn't be so worried about how I look on the outside. And God could help me "dress up" the inside.

Bill Marshall's ministry has touched all

Bill Marshall retires this week as executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Those who have been personally involved in the KBC's work understand the significance of this transition.

But what about the average person in the pew? What difference does Marshall's retirement make for the vast majority of Kentucky Baptists?

In this age of declining interest in denominational affairs, it would be easy to write off this retirement as another far-away shift in a bureaucratic structure that doesn't really affect the local church or the individual Baptist. But that's not the case at all.

Although you may have known Bill Marshall only by reading the Western Recorder or by seeing him at KBC events, his faithfulness to the task may have impacted you more than you realize.

If your church has participated in a partnership missions trip to Kenya, Brazil, Russia, Utah-Idaho, Ohio or New England, Bill Marshall has touched your life. It was his passion for missions that breathed life into the vast opportunities in hands-on missions Kentucky Baptists have enjoyed.

If you or someone in your family has attended any of our five KBC schools, your life has been touched by Bill Marshall. He not only has been a friend to these educational institutions, he has been an advocate and supporter who has helped each of them advance and excel.

If you are a member of a new church that has been started in the last 14 years, or if your church has helped sponsor a new church during that time, Bill Marshall has touched your life. His commitment to reaching all Kentucky with the gospel has helped make possible funding and other forms of support for hundreds of

new congregations across the state.

If your church has called a new pastor or staff member in the last 14 years, your life probably has been silently touched by Bill Marshall. Through his emphasis on creating the KBC's minister/church support division, hundreds of search committees have gained resources to do their work better.

If you've ever given money through your church to the Kentucky Cooperative Program, your life has been touched by Bill Marshall's leadership. He has helped generate the enthusiasm we share for our cooperative ministries across Kentucky and has helped us maintain trust as a convention in what we do together.

If you've ever wondered why Kentucky Baptists have been spared from the same level of division that has wracked the Southern Baptist Convention in recent years, Bill Marshall has touched your life. Although many people have worked overtime to maintain our fragile unity, he has been a steady hand at the wheel during a time of turbulent sailing. His calm, reasoned leadership has kept people cooperating on the state level who have gone their separate ways on the national level.

Sound like an important job? It is. And even though much of Bill Marshall's work has been done away from the public platform, what he has done—and not done—has helped keep the Kentucky Baptist Convention healthy.

So whether you knew it before or not, this is a pivotal week in the corporate life of Kentucky Baptists. Let us join together in thanking God for the blessings he has given us through Bill Marshall over the last 14 years and pray that we will be equally blessed with a new leader for the start of the next millennium.

— Mark Wingfield

EDITORIAL

A shot in the dark

By Carey Newman

My friend was disturbed. The team leader of one of his division's best work groups recently had been diagnosed with cancer. An energetic and outgoing woman in her late 40s, she is happily married, the mother of three, involved in local politics and sings in the choir of First United Methodist Church.

Nothing could have been more unexpected nor more tragic than this dark news. Precisely because my friend was a well-respected Christian, she scheduled an appointment with him and asked, "Why do you think this is happening to me?" My friend, in turn, put the same question to me.

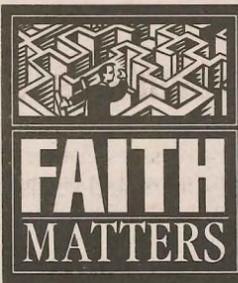
Two answers typically are given to the question of suffering.

The first explanation is that we suffer because we have sinned. Some Christians live the whole of their lives under the dark cloud of some previously committed sin. A tragic event means God is continuing his punishment.

While the Bible does affirm that there are consequences for sin, it also

teaches that it is wrong to draw a one-to-one correspondence. Not all suffering can be attributed to sin.

A second explanation for suffering says God inflicts suffering upon us to teach us (or others through us) "lessons." God either allows (passively) or orchestrates (actively) these events to further our discipleship. God permits/gives us cancer to make us a better Christians.



Aside from a few notable exceptions, the Bible does not present God in this light. The role of God's Spirit in our lives is to protect, help and rescue. God is for life, not against it.

Last Saturday's detour reminded me of the difficulty of interpreting suffering. On my way out to lead a Bible conference, I opened up a one-inch gash on my forehead. The cut required a visit to the hospital and 10 stitches.

The emergency room afforded a more than ample opportunity to ponder (and stew). Besides fretting over whether I could still make it to the conference on time (a five-hour drive), two questions kept circling: did this occur because I was slothful in preparation (thus justly receiving the

punishment of God), or was it because God was trying to tell me something?

Actually neither. As those who know me will testify, the gash in my head had less to do with God's punishment or revelation and more to do with the absence of an essential motor skill. Since I lack coordination and since I live in a world of sharp objects, cuts are bound to happen—sooner or later. It's part of life. I'm just grateful that it doesn't happen more often.

It is natural to try and make sense of suffering, especially when faced with life-ending or life-disabling events. While we are tempted to pawn them off on God, the best explanation may just be this: since human beings are susceptible to suffering and since we live in a fallen world, suffering is bound to happen—sooner or later.

Why catastrophe happens to me and not to you (or vice-versa) is due to the illogical way in which the dark powers of this world operate.

I told my friend to live in sympathy with those who suffer, knowing that God identifies with our suffering, having suffered himself in and through his Son. I also told him to pray earnestly for those who suffer, knowing that God is for life, not against it.

Suffering in this life stems from the chaotic, random and unpredictable nature of this fallen world and not from a God who has wished it upon us.

Q & A: Our parting conversation with Bill Marshall

Bill Marshall retires this week after 14 years as executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The Western Recorder asked him to share some parting thoughts in this question-and-answer interview.

Q: *What changes have you seen among Kentucky Baptists in your lifetime and particularly in the last 14 years you have served as executive secretary-treasurer?*

Marshall: First, KBC agencies and institutions are significantly stronger and increasingly innovative in fulfilling their mission(s).

Second, women play a more prominent role in KBC life as trustees, Executive Board members and on convention committees. For example, there had been no women named to the Executive Board's administrative committee until 1983. Women have since been named to this 13-member committee each year. Several of the few associations which had previously excluded women as nominees to the KBC Executive Board have amended their rules to include women.

That Peggy Hicks was named to chair the KBC executive-secretary search committee is a significant affirmation of the leadership this Baptist woman has provided through Kentucky WMU as well as her years as a foreign missionary. It seems likely that women increasingly will be elected and/or named in KBC leadership roles.

Q: *What is the accomplishment you are most proud of during your tenure as executive secretary-treasurer?*

Marshall: My No. 1 objective, derived from the search committee and from listening to Kentucky Baptist

tist pastors and leaders when I came, was to "increase the awareness of and involvement by Kentucky Baptists in the total world mission of God."

Kentucky Baptists have exceeded my hopes in accomplishing that objective, particularly through the multiple partnerships initiated since 1984. No one thing gives me more satisfaction.

Probably less obvious to many but of equal long-term value was the developing of covenants with our KBC agencies, institutions and with

Marshall: In KBC life, my greatest disappointment is that during my tenure not one layperson was elected as president of our convention. This will continue to be a burden to me, realizing that only two laypersons in more than 50 years have been elected to that office, the last one, Henry Huff, in 1976. I hope the preachers in this state will awaken to the implications of that.

On the Southern Baptist Convention level, it has been to experience the devastating breakdown of relationships within our SBC family. Those who may assume that our

later they misunderstood the motion.

5. Love is a far greater power than authority.

Q: *Where do you see God leading Kentucky Baptists for the future? What are the challenges ahead? What are the opportunities?*

Marshall: The future holds continuing changes in the way Baptist churches and institutions fulfill their mission. Innovation and networking will become primary in methodology. New "partners" previously not accepted in the "family" will reshape the Southern Baptist future.

The Cooperative Program, as the denomination's primary financial vehicle, will become increasingly inadequate to meet the growing needs and opportunities, leading to further fragmentation and competition for financial resources. Volunteerism will replace "careerism" as the primary mission vehicle of missionary work.

The opportunities for ministry, while more demanding, are no less promising than they have ever been, and those church leaders who help congregants discover and activate their place as "ministers" both in the church and in the public arena will be the models most likely to help the institutional church renew its effectiveness in the world.

Q: *What's the glue that holds Kentucky Baptists together?*

Marshall: Trust, plain and simple. For the most part, Kentucky Baptists trust their convention, Executive Board, and the institutions and agencies.

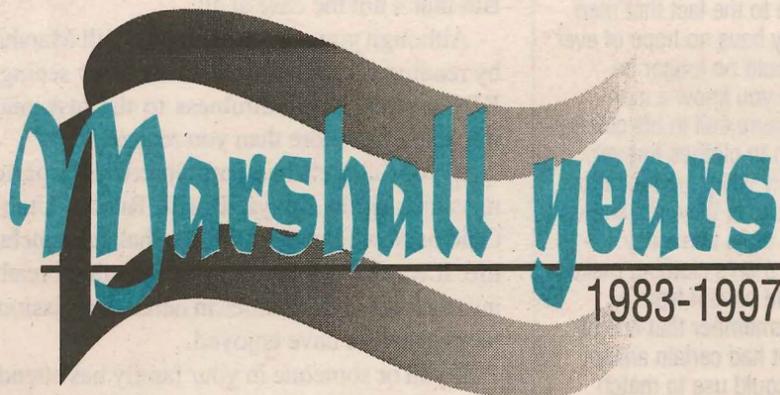
Once in awhile, one or more will create a ripple or two—sometimes even a big wave—but most Kentucky Baptists feel generally OK about their KBC "family," partly because so many have experienced something positive through one or more of them.

Unfortunately, the controversy related to the SBC has resulted in a tension here between some who favor either the SBC or the KBC. There is some distrust among pastors of differing political persuasions. I hope the "Kentucky tent" will stay large enough for the whole family, even if some of the family do not "like" everybody in it.

Q: *Any parting comments or admonitions to Kentucky Baptists?*

Marshall: The Lord has been gracious to me in leading me back home to work together with this family of Baptists whom, I believe, are among the most forthright, generous and mission-minded Baptists anywhere to be found. I am proud to be a Kentucky Baptist!

I leave with the hope that this Kentucky Baptist family will "not grow weary in well-doing for you shall reap in due season, if you faint not. And as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, especially those who are our brothers and sisters in Christ." (Galatians 6:9-10)



Kentucky WMU. These "documents of trust" have greatly reduced the potential for conflict which existed within our earlier, undefined relationships. These covenants have increased our mutual trust and contributed to a stronger likelihood of our "staying together" as a family.

Q: *What has been your greatest disappointment as executive secretary?*

SBC has now been "cleansed" and "made whole" are out of touch with nearly half the family.

The controversy continues to eat away at the foundations of Baptist "togetherness," be it national convention, state convention or local association. Our own state convention and more than a few associations in this state have difficulty because of the controversy.

When the old guard of the "old SBC" and the leaders of the "new SBC" retire and diminish, will there be a new generation of Baptists who can and will want to lead to new togetherness? Or will we, by then, have become an even larger number of smaller entities of what were once Southern Baptists, each with a mission but no longer needing or wanting fellowship with each other as we once did on such a grand scale?

As for me, I am a Baptist by conviction. And I expect to find my place among Baptists who are most like what I believe Baptists should be. And as a Baptist, I claim freedom under God to make that decision for myself.

Q: *What are two or three significant lessons you've learned after 14 years in this role? In what ways are you wiser?*

Marshall: I suppose I've learned a few lessons worth sharing:

1. Patience is a good medicine for ministry.

2. A good marriage and a few good friends will make hard times easier and good times even more joyful.

3. Never assume you really understand Baptists.

4. Never assume you can speak for any Baptist group unless you have a 100 percent vote. Even then, a few will change their minds or say

Highlights of the Marshall years

- Helped Kentucky Baptists start 600 traditional churches, new missions, Bible study fellowships and ministry points through Mission Kentucky II.
- Focused Kentucky Baptists' attention on foreign and home missions through creation of a partnership missions office and partnership projects with Baptists in Utah-Idaho, Ohio, New England, Kenya, Brazil and Russia.
- Elevated the office for evangelism to cross divisional lines.
- Provided financial resources for Kentucky Baptist participation in the national "Here's Hope" evangelistic campaigns.
- Led Kentucky Baptists to make better provisions for retirement benefits for ministers.
- Created the KBC's minister/church support division.
- Provided support for terminated ministers through emergency funds and counseling.
- Created the KBC's family ministry department.
- Supported growth of Kentucky Brotherhood's nationally renowned disaster relief work.
- Helped Kentucky Baptists form a first-ever partnership with Habitat for Humanity.
- Shepherded the process of creating and adopting covenant agreements with each KBC agency and institution.
- Guided Kentucky Baptist Foundation to achieve agency status and greatly expand its services.
- Enabled construction of Kentucky Baptist Building West as a new home for Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and Western Recorder.



THE MARSHALL YEARS

■ **Above:** Bill Marshall introduces furloughing foreign missionaries during the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 1995 annual meeting in Owensboro. Marshall made a habit of connecting Kentuckians with their furloughing missionaries both at annual meetings and at Executive Board meetings.

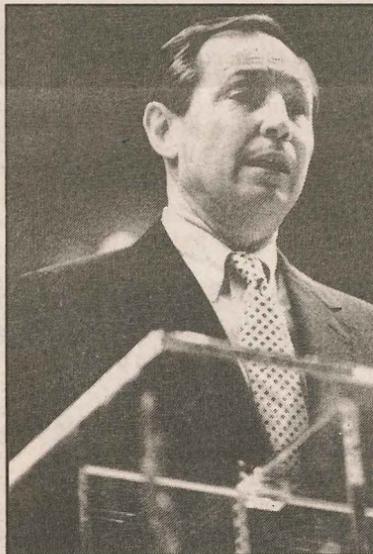
■ **Top right:** In a 1985 video promoting partnership missions, Marshall speaks from an inner-city neighborhood of Columbus, Ohio, encouraging Kentucky Baptists to cross the Ohio River for the sake of missions.

■ **Far right:** Marshall welcomes thousands of Kentucky Baptists to Rupp Arena in Lexington for a 1987 Foreign Mission Board commissioning service for new missionaries.

■ **Center:** Marshall joins hands with other messengers in a show of unity at the conclusion of the KBC's 1991 annual meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

■ **Bottom right:** Marshall receives a replica of a Russian church in 1993 from Vasily Logveninko, head of the Russian Baptist group with which Kentucky Baptists currently have a partnership mission agreement.

■ **Below:** Marshall and KBC President Charles Stewart receive a plaque of appreciation from Baptists in Espirito Santo, Brazil in 1993.



MISSIONS

Missionary: 'We work hard, and that's the way we minister'



ALASKA Dean Blankenship (left) helps build a house for a new pastor. (Photo by Don Rutledge)

THORNE BAY, Alaska—Southern Baptist church planter Dean Blankenship and his wife, Nadine, live on an island. They walk country roads, visit small communities and hold worship services in a small cafe accompanied by bluegrass music.

Sounds like an ideal place to serve the Lord, doesn't it?

Now consider that the country roads are unpaved logging trails, and the small communities are construction or logging camps populated by transient workers.

As a young Christian, Blankenship gave a report to his training union class about a missionary couple in Alaska. What really stood out to him was their dedication.

"This man and his wife hiked through the woods and waded across creeks and flew in planes just to spread the gospel. And I thought, 'I'd

like to do that.'"

When he got to Alaska, he met Lewis McClendon, then director of missions for the Tongass Baptist Association. Blankenship shared how the story of the Alaskan missionary had been used in his call to home missions. With tears streaming down his face, McClendon told Blankenship, "I'm that missionary."

Blankenship describes the region as a place where people either "love it right away and stay, or hate it right away and leave."

It offers a wide range of ministry opportunities, he adds. "The people come here looking for work, looking to make their fortune," says Blankenship. "It's rugged here, which is very tough on families, especially the teenage girls."

Families fall apart. Alcoholism, teenage pregnancy and drug addiction

are very common. The Blankenships find their ministry is more than just evangelizing the lost. It's building relationships with people and helping heal their hurts.

To support themselves, the Blankenships run a cedar mill. The work is hard. In their eight years in Alaska, they have had to rebuild the mill twice.

But being bivocational is also a blessing. "I can talk to the hardest, meanest, worldliest man in any logging camp. We work hard and that's the way we minister."

As tough as it is in Alaska, the Blankenships never feel alone. "I'll never forget the day I stopped on a bridge and said to the Lord, 'I can't go any farther. I can't see any way that this is going to work.' And in the quiet, he said to me, 'You just keep doing what you do, and I'll take care of the impossible.'"

Home missionaries' requests for Week of Prayer, March 2-9

By Lynne Jones
SBC Home Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga.—Of the nearly 5,000 Southern Baptists serving as home missionaries, eight individuals or families are selected each year for the Week of Prayer for Home Missions. Those selected for this March 2-9, and their prayer requests, are:

March 2, Church planters Dean and Nadine Blankenship in Thorne Bay, Alaska. Pray for Alaskans to realize their need for Christ; victory over demonic oppression; finances to build a church in Thorne Bay; Coffman Cove mission to constitute as a church; protection for the Blankenships; and finances for them to build a house.

March 3, Lora Smith, director for ministries in Cleveland. Pray for the Ministry Training Institute as a resource for locating God's servants; doors to open for sharing the gospel; new ways for the churches to evangelize and teach new believers; and boldness of lay leaders.

March 4, Ignatius Meimaris, director of missions in Boston, and his wife, Nena. Pray for God to provide an associational youth ministries coordinator; new work starting among Hispanics, Asian Indians and Southeast Asians; volunteers for church development; the new laity training institute; the goal of 25 college ministries by 2001; and a new 24-hour prayer network among churches.

March 5, Church planter Joe Todd and his wife, Ermarine, in Milwaukee. Pray for continued growth for Ephesians Missionary Baptist Church and its ministries.

March 6, Steve Scudder, director of the Baptist Concern Center in Salt Lake City, and his wife, Karen. Pray for their role as parents to Benjamin and Joel; to continue to win Mormons to Christ; new ministry starts; three needed literacy missions sites; and volunteers for children/youth work.

March 7, Doug Chanco, director of language missions in Savannah, Ga. Pray for pastors for new Laotian and Asian Indian missions; Filipino missions to begin in Brunswick and Milledgeville, Ga.; and Chanco as he greets the world on Savannah's shores as a seaman's minister.

March 8, National medical missionaries Fred and Lavada Loper, based in Oklahoma City. Pray for time for the Lopers to learn Spanish; resources to reconstruct their older home; and continued interest in medical needs among Baptists.

March 9, Campus ministers Wes and Charlean Hayes Hughes in Newberg, Ore. Pray for student led ministries at George Fox University; stronger worship and education ministries at Chehalem Valley Baptist Church; and students who will choose God-ordained vocations.

Former Bluegrass students minister in Utah

By Teresa Dickens
Woman's Missionary Union

SALT LAKE CITY—"Start Something New" is not just a theme to Cumberland College graduates Steve and Karen Scudder; it's their philosophy for ministry.

Steve Scudder is ministry consultant with the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention and director of the Baptist Concern Center on the west side of downtown Salt Lake City.

The couple are among the missionaries featured in this year's week of prayer for home missions, March 2-9.

"Start Something New" is the theme for the season of home missions.

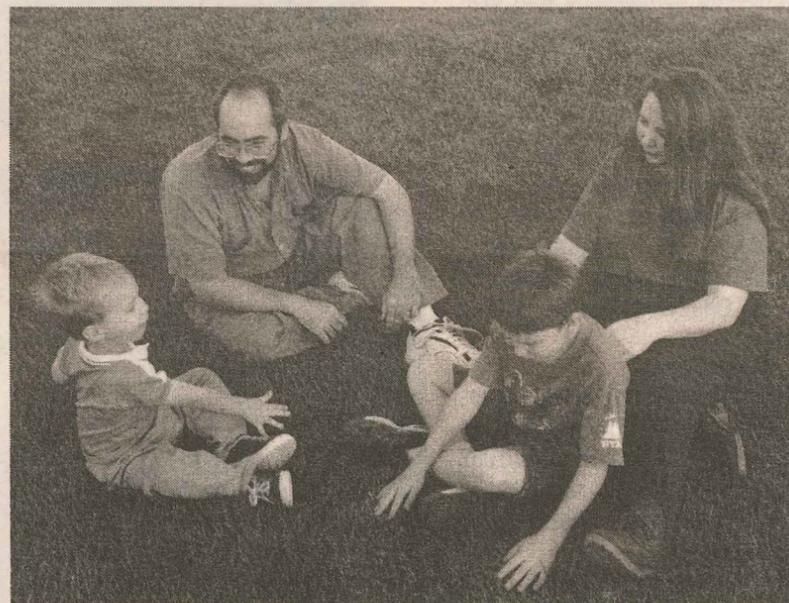
The Scudders have been ministering together since their days at Cumberland College, where they met and married. Upon graduation, the couple moved to Louisville to study at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Steve Scudder also served as youth counselor at Baptist Fellowship Center in Louisville.

His ministry in the Utah-Idaho state convention involves helping churches and associations develop and implement ministries that meet human needs and lead the lost to Christ. "We help the churches and associations look at their communities and see where people are hurting and where those needs are not being met," he said.

The couple's philosophy of starting new things is most evident in their ministry at the Baptist Concern Center.

When the couple moved on the field in September 1990, the center was touching only a handful of lives. In 1995, the center served 6,000 people and 25 people made professions of faith in Jesus as their personal Savior.

"A lot of people have argued about whether you should do evangelism or Christian social ministries, like they are two separate things," Steve Scudder said. "Well, I believe they are the



FAMILY TIME Cumberland College graduates Steve and Karen Scudder enjoy a family outing. They are Southern Baptist missionaries to Salt Lake City. (Photo by Don Rutledge)

same thing. That is what Jesus did. He touched people where they were hurting and led them to God's kingdom. That's what we're trying to do."

One of the center's most successful ministries is the infant and family support service, started in 1992 as an outgrowth of the center's feeding ministry.

Scudder explained it occurred to him one day that many of the families who came through the center had young children. If they needed food, they likely needed diapers and other necessities for babies as well.

He knew the families could not buy these items with food stamps and did not know any place they could get them.

After talking with his wife about his idea, they agreed to pray about such a ministry. The following morning Diane Geiger came by the center to tell Scudder that she was about to finish her degree in family and consumer economics and wanted to use her degree at the ministry center. He shared his idea with her. She agreed to start the program.

The program requires clients to attend a workshop offered by the center before getting help again. Workshops

are offered twice a month and cover such topics as safety, parenting, cooking, budgeting and health care.

"What we try to do in the midst of all of this is to build relationships and that takes time," Scudder shared. "We try to build relationships in which we do not just say, 'Jesus loves you,' but we demonstrate visibly how much God cares for people through Jesus Christ."

The chance to build these relationships is the motive behind the Scudders' flexibility in starting new ministries.

"The work in Utah has taught us patience," he said. "We came thinking we would make a difference 'today,' but you don't do that in Utah and Idaho. It takes a long time."

"We have come to understand that we are here to fulfill our calling in Christ, which is to share the good news with everyone we meet regardless of who they are or what religion they represent. If they have a human need, we will meet it. If we cannot, we will attempt to find a place where the need can be met. In the process, we are going to tell the person about the love of God and Jesus Christ and show it in our lives."



BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Horton dies in South Carolina.** Greg Horton, 60, a man whose faith stretched from his local church in South Carolina to the reshaping of the Southern Baptist Convention, died Feb. 18 after surgery for cancer of the esophagus. One of three original partners of the Quincy's Family Steak House chain, Horton later started the Ryan's Family Steak House chain. A well-known Baptist layman, he previously served as a trustee of Southeastern Baptist Theological in Wake Forest, N.C., and was one of seven men on the SBC's recent program and structure study committee that crafted a denominational restructuring plan.

■ **Recording secretary to end service.** David Atchison, recording secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention the past seven years, will resign that post after the June SBC annual meeting in Dallas. Atchison said Feb. 10 he needs to focus more energy on a new ministry he has launched, Disciple's Call, which will assist churches in equipping men and women "to discover their unique calling and develop a disciple-making lifestyle." Atchison won election in 1990 by defeating Martin Bradley of Nashville, who had held the post 12 years.

■ **Fruitland President dies.** Randy Kilby, president of Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute in North Carolina since 1994, died suddenly Feb. 11 of an apparent heart attack at age 42. He had spoken earlier in the evening during a Bible conference at West Lenoir (N.C.) Baptist Church. Before assuming the

Fruitland presidency in 1994, he had been a vice president at Georgetown College.

■ **McCullough to lead editors.** Michael McCullough, editor of the Nevada Baptist, is the new president of the Association of State Baptist Papers. At the group's annual meeting in San Francisco Feb. 11-13, former Western Recorder Editor Marv Knox, now associate editor of the Texas Baptist Standard, was named president-elect. The organization also passed a resolution urging the Southern Baptist Convention's implementation task force to open its meetings. The task force, which is overseeing denominational restructuring, has been at work nearly two years and has held all its meeting behind closed doors.

■ **Norton Hall to be renovated.** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Al Mohler announced plans for a \$1.4 million renovation of the northeast wing of Norton Hall, which houses many of the seminary's classrooms. Renovation is to begin this summer.

■ **Self to lecture at Mercer.** Atlanta pastor Bill Self will deliver the first in a lecture series established in his name at Mercer University's theology school. The March 17-19 lectures will focus on preaching. Self is pastor of Johns Creek Baptist Church in Alpharetta, Ga.

■ **SBC schedule to be studied.** The Southern Baptist Convention's annual

meeting schedule will be scrutinized by a special committee to be appointed next year. The review was requested by this year's SBC committee on order of business. The SBC Executive Committee voted Feb. 18 to approve the request. Among issues to be studied: the feasibility of cutting the three-day annual meeting to two days.

■ **Investment strategy under study.** Christian Life Commission head Richard Land reported to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee Feb. 18 that it is "feasible and doable" to set up a proxy voting system to help SBC entities exert moral influence on companies in which they own stock. Land had been asked by the Executive Committee to provide a feasibility study of this concept, which was presented by a messenger to last year's SBC annual meeting in New Orleans. The Executive Committee did not feel Land had provided a thorough enough study, however, and asked him to return to their June meeting with more information.

■ **New journal planned.** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will launch a new publication next month called "The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology." The journal will replace "Review and Expositor," whose independent editorial board decided to leave the seminary last year for new sponsors more in line with its moderate heritage. A statement from the seminary said the new journal will

encourage pastors, students and others "to stand for theological truth in a relativistic age" and will "present an orthodox definition of God in a confused world."

■ **McCarty returns to SBC.** Barry McCarty will return as chief parliamentarian for this year's SBC annual meeting. At the request of SBC President Tom Elliff, an \$8,000 contract has been signed with McCarty, a Church of Christ minister. McCarty had been employed by several recent SBC presidents during years of tumultuous annual meetings. For the last two years, former president Jim Henry appointed a panel of Southern Baptist parliamentarians and did not use McCarty's services.

■ **Three are likely NAMB trustees.** Three Kentuckians are among the first potential trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention's new North American Mission Board. The new agency's board is to be officially constituted in June, drawing from second-term trustees of the Home Mission Board, Radio & Television Commission and Brotherhood Commission. Other trustee slots will be filled by convention action based upon the recommendation of the committee on nominations. Kentuckians scheduled to serve on the NAMB board are Mark Bond, pastor of First Baptist Church of LaCenter; Emma Day, a layperson from Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown; and Gary Southard, associate pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Minister to students. McCarthy Baptist Church, a growing, conservative SBC church in St. Joseph, Mo., is seeking candidates for considerations as full-time associate pastor/minister to students. Responsibilities will primarily include youth and collegiates. Send resumé to: Search Committee, McCarthy Baptist Church, 2710 South Belt Highway. St. Joseph, MO 64503.

WANTED: Church secretary, full-time, computer skills required. Apply or send resumé to: Chairman, Personnel Committee, Chevy Chase Baptist Church, 200 Colony Blvd., Lexington, KY 40502. (606) 266-2601.

SEEKING: Minister of youth. Approximately 20 hours per week, but may vary. Send resumé to: Ballardsville Baptist Church, 4901 S. Highway 53, Crestwood, KY 40014, Attn: Tom Pigram.

ANNIVERSARY: First Baptist Church, Los Alamos, N.M., will celebrate its 50th anniversary Aug. 8-10. The Historical Committee seeks addresses of all interested former members and/or associates. Please contact the church at (505) 662-3712 to register your address and interest in further information.

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

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

WANTED: Weekday Early Education director for Shively Baptist Church. Previous experience and/or familiarity with the administration of a child care program, including state licensing regulations. Ability to plan, organize, train and supervise the program and teachers. Contact Sharon Zachery, (502) 367-9155.

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

SEEKING: A dually-aligned church (Southern Baptist Convention 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: 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 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.

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: Experienced full-time youth and singles minister. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 804 West Fifth St., 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: Minister of music/youth. Salary negotiable. Send resumé to: New Bethel Baptist Church, P.O. Box 100, Verona, KY 41092.

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

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

Court hears arguments in key religious rights case

"Religious freedom is threatened in America. People aren't going to concentration camps, but religious practices are being stopped or being interfered with or burdened repeatedly."

Attorney Douglas Laycock, who is representing St. Peter's Catholic Church

By Kim Lawton
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments last week in a landmark church-state case that religious groups across the theological spectrum say could have far-reaching implications for freedom of religion.

At issue is the constitutionality of the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which mandates that governments show a strong or "compelling" reason before enacting laws that "substantially burden" some religious believers.

The case, *City of Boerne vs. Flores*, centers around St. Peter the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Boerne, Texas. The church was denied permission to expand its facilities to better accommodate its growing congregation. City officials said because St. Peter's is in a historic district, renovations would violate local preservation laws.

St. Peter's sued the city, arguing the code violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act by hindering the church's ability to freely exercise its religion.

But in Wednesday's arguments, attorney Marci Hamilton, representing the city, said Congress went beyond

its constitutional authority when it adopted the act.

The law was passed in the wake of the Supreme Court's controversial 1990 *Oregon Employment vs. Smith* decision. In that ruling, the justices said state anti-drug rules could be applied to religious use of peyote, a hallucinogenic drug, in American Indian religious ceremonies.

Religious groups claimed the High Court had "gutted" First Amendment guarantees of the free exercise of religion. After aggressive lobbying from the religious community, Congress passed RFRA by a near unanimous margin in 1993.

But Hamilton said that with RFRA, Congress inappropriately attempted to "reinterpret the meaning of the Constitution" on religious freedom cases.

Hamilton claimed RFRA "dramatically" shifted the balance of power to favor churches.

Also arguing against RFRA was Jeffrey Sutton, state solicitor of Ohio, who said the law violates "an etiquette of federalism" by calling every state law and action into question. "It's totally global in nature."

However, attorney Douglas Laycock, representing St. Peter's, argued RFRA is entirely consistent with such congressional civil rights legislation as the Voting Rights Act.

"This is not such a dramatic power grab," Laycock told the justices.

The Clinton administration also urged the justices to uphold RFRA. Acting U.S. Solicitor General Walter Dellinger told the court that without RFRA the practices of small, minority religions would be especially vulnerable to legislative discrimination by the majority.

Both sides were questioned vigorously on a variety of issues.

At a news conference after the arguments, attorneys and religious leaders highlighted their concerns about the implications of the case.

"Religious freedom is threatened in America. People aren't going to concentration camps, but religious practices are being stopped or being interfered with or burdened repeatedly," Laycock told reporters.

Laycock said historical landmark and zoning cases are among the most frequent ways religious groups are burdened by the state. "Churches are 42 times more likely to be landmarked than any other kind of building."

But Hamilton said RFRA would always give churches a leg up in disputes with governmental bodies.

Baptist Joint Committee General Counsel Brent Walker, however, disputed that notion.

Churches do not always win, he

said, claiming RFRA merely "tipped the playing field back to the way it was before Smith."

Several observers said they were surprised at the aggressive questioning by the justices.

"It was a slugfest at times," said Steve McFarland, director of the Christian Legal Society's Center for Law and Religious Freedom.

Throughout the 70-minute session, comments and questions raised by justices reflected a degree of skepticism at arguments made by both sides.

Currently, religious organizations are exempt from following some laws that violate their beliefs. For example, churches that believe homosexuality is a sin may not be forced to hire gay pastors, even in jurisdictions prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"All of that is at stake," McFarland said.

Some observers consider this an important term for religious freedom issues. Later, the Court will hear a case that questions the parameters of what constitutes government "establishment" of religion.

A decision in the RFRA case is expected by the end of June.

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press.

Ten Commandments, pre-trial prayer get reprieve in Alabama

By Laurie Lattimore
Alabama Baptist

GADSDEN, Ala. (BP)—With a reprieve from the Alabama Supreme Court, County Circuit Judge Roy Moore does not have to worry about violating a February court order to take down the Ten Commandments—yet.

Moore had been ordered, in separate rulings, to remove a hand-carved copy of the decalogue from his courtroom and to cease opening jury selection with prayer. In separate appeals, the Alabama Supreme Court granted stays that allow him to continue with both the display and prayer.

"I'm not going to take them down," Moore said Feb. 14. "This is not just stubbornness. I think it is the first duty of every Christian to acknowledge God."

Gov. Fob James put Alabama in the national spotlight with his bold promise to guard the Ten Commandments plaque in Moore's courtroom with force if necessary.

Alabama Attorney General Bill Pryor, who filed Moore's original case in state court in 1995, said he does not anticipate any confrontation between the National Guard and Judge Price's order because he does not expect the Alabama Supreme Court to rule against Judge Moore.

Charles Cole, professor of constitutional law and civil procedure at Samford University's Cumberland Law School in Birmingham, Ala., said he considers the display of the Ten Commandments to be a violation of the First Amendment because the nation is pluralistic and tolerant of all religious beliefs.

"I think persons going into Judge Moore's court would feel compelled to bend to his beliefs," he said.

Moore, however, said he is not establishing a religion but rather upholding his duty to acknowledge God. In fact, by not acknowledging God, he said he would be establishing a religion—atheism.

"Society in the 1700s defined religion in one way—as duties to God," Moore said, noting the Supreme Court opens its sessions with "God save this honorable court" and Congress begins with prayer. "To say a circuit judge cannot acknowledge God doesn't make sense."

'Floating bubble zone' struck down in abortion protest case

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last week that abortion protesters may be kept outside a 15-foot "bubble zone" protecting clinic entrances and driveways, but may approach clients and workers on public property outside the zone.

In a split opinion, the justices upheld two of three provisions in a federal judge's order against abortion protesters in western New York.

However, the justices struck down the idea of a 15-foot "floating bubble zone" around all people entering and leaving abortion clinics.

In the majority opinion, Chief Justice William Rehnquist said the floating zones "burden more speech than is necessary to serve the relevant government interests."

The case, *Schenck vs. Pro-Choice Network*, began in 1990, when opponents of abortion organized a series of protests against clinics in Buffalo and Rochester. Abortion clinics asked local judges to clarify the limits on protest activities in front of the clinics.

U.S. District Judge Richard Arcara set several limits including:

- Banning demonstrations within 15 feet of clinic entrances, parking lots and driveways (a fixed bubble or buffer zone).

- Banning protests within 15 feet "of any person or vehicle seeking access to or leaving" abortion clinics (a "floating" bubble zone).

- Requiring protesters to "cease and desist" any communication or attempts to "counsel" potential clinic clients if the clients so request.

The Feb 19 ruling, the justices said the fixed bubble zone and the "cease

and desist" provision both were constitutional.

The justices emphasized that "counselors remain free to espouse their message outside the 15-foot zone" and "the condition (set) on their freedom to espouse it within the zone is the result of their own previous harassment and intimidation of patients."

Both advocates and opponents of abortion claimed at least partial victory in the ruling.

"This decision clearly means that the First Amendment applies to the pro-life message and there is no longer an exception to the free speech clause when the issue deals with abortion," said Jay Sekulow, chief counsel for the American Center for Law and Justice. Sekulow argued on behalf of the protesters.

In a statement, the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League said the justices "largely reaffirmed the need for protection against anti-choice violence and harassment." But the group said it was disappointed that the floating zone was struck down.

John Whitehead, president of the Rutherford Institute, a conservative religious legal group, said the Supreme Court was correct to strike down the floating bubble zone. "Suppressing everyone's fundamental rights in reaction to the unlawful acts of a few is never justified," he said.

Will Dodson, the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission's director of government relations, called the decision "a victory for anyone who believes in the right to free speech and the right to be able to advocate your beliefs on any issue."

Abortion pill may soon be sold in America

WASHINGTON (RNS) The Population Council, holder of U.S. rights to the French abortion pill known as RU486, says it has settled a suit with a California businessman over selling the pill and the controversial drug could be on the market by the end of the year.

The council also said it had set up a new company to sell the drug—Advances for Choice—which will be headed by Jack Van Hulst, a Dutch-born U.S. citizen and former pharmaceutical executive.

The drug, known as mifepristone, induces abortion if taken in the early weeks of pregnancy.

The Food and Drug Administration said last September that mifepristone was "approvable," meaning that it considered the drug safe and effective. But it also asked for more information on manufacturing and labeling.

RU486 has been the object of fierce debate in the United States.

Some supporters of legal abortion hail it as a "do-it-yourself" abortion that is less intrusive than other procedures. Abortion opponents argue that the safety of the drug has not been adequately tested and they have threatened to boycott any drug company that seeks to bring it to market.

Ambassador to Vatican should go, says Helms

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., citing "serious allegations of ethical misconduct," has called for the ouster of U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Raymond Flynn.

Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a longtime critic of the former Democratic mayor of Boston, called for Flynn's ouster in a letter to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Flynn has been reprimanded twice by former Secretary of State Warren Christopher, first for what was considered inappropriate criticism of Republican domestic priorities, and second for permitting his campaign committee to pay his expenses as ambassador.

The State Department had no immediate comment.

In recent months, Flynn has expressed repeatedly a desire to leave the Vatican post soon.

Falwell says he's getting back into political activity

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Jerry Falwell, whose Moral Majority helped establish the Religious Right as a political force in the 1980s, says the movement was "asleep against the switch" in the 1996 election and he's making some tentative moves to reinsert himself in the country's political dialogue.

Falwell moderated a "National Pastors' Policy Briefing" Feb. 13 for 450 evangelical ministers and their wives, urging them to raise the political awareness of members of their congregations.

Falwell, who disbanded the Moral Majority in 1988, said he had not planned to hit the road again for political causes.

But he said the Religious Right needs a jump start.

"I had no intention ever again of being up here," Falwell said. "I never planned to be giving a day or two a week of my life to these kinds of things, but the so-called Religious Right, somehow following Reagan and Bush, fell asleep against the switch."

He said "38 percent of our people voted for Bill Clinton Nov. 5. That can only be explained by lack of information, lack of knowledge."

The briefing was sponsored by the National Committee for the Restoration of the Judeo-Christian Ethic, a group created last summer to encourage conservative pastors to be involved in voter registration efforts. Falwell co-chairs the committee, which is based in Lynchburg, Va., the site of his Thomas Road Baptist Church and Liberty University, of which he is chancellor.

Falwell spokesman Mark DeMoss said the national briefing is "not a ... reincarnation of Moral Majority."

The Washington meeting comes about six months after Falwell began holding regional meetings across the country as part of his "God Save America" campaign.

"It's just encouraging pastors to stay involved in the (political) process and ... it's also, quite frankly, a promotional tool for Liberty University," DeMoss said.

Panel wants religious freedom to be key foreign policy factor

WASHINGTON—Members of the State Department's new panel on religious freedom abroad urged the government last week to take steps to ensure support for religious freedom is a "paramount factor" in U.S. foreign policy.

At its first official meeting, the advisory committee began identifying priorities and organizing logistics as it sets out to study the problem of global religious persecution and recommend U.S. policy responses. One panel member is former Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla.

In a statement released at the conclusion of the meeting, committee members condemned religious persecution and intolerance as "assaults on religion's true role as a source of human dignity and an affirmation of life."

Committee members pledged to be an "instrument to help the U.S. government secure respect for freedom of religion and human rights abroad" by providing information and developing policy recommendations.

In a brief appearance before the panel, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright stressed the importance of the committee's work to U.S. foreign policy. Albright also noted she had "learned only recently of the role religious persecution has played in my own life," a reference to revelations that her family had concealed its Jewish identity after fleeing Eastern Europe just before World War II and that family members had died in Nazi concentration camps.

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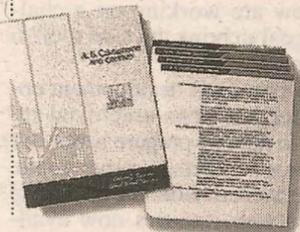
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Advocacy group for dying to be led by Rosalynn Carter

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Former first lady Rosalynn Carter has been named honorary chairwoman of a new coalition aimed at improving the care of dying Americans.

The coalition, called Last Acts, is made up of organizations representing religious groups, the medical community, consumer groups, hospice caretakers and volunteers.

In announcing the formation of the new group, Carter said it would help insure that "fewer people die alone, in pain and attached to machines, with the result that more people and their loved ones can experience dying for what it ought to be—the last act in the journey of life."

The group was launched following the Supreme Court's decision to rule on two cases involving doctor-assisted suicide. It also was founded to address problems outlined in a recent medical journal article report-

ing most Americans experience pain, breathlessness or confusion in their last days.

The coalition is being funded by a \$1.7 million grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Carter said the money will be used to push for reforms that would change the way care providers, hospitals, nursing homes and ordinary Americans view death.

The group said it will lobby for measures to provide comprehensive health insurance plans to cover end-of-life care and to require medical residents and nursing students to have some hospice training. It also plans to provide counseling for the dying and their families and to educate clergy to better minister to them.

Among the 72 organizations in the coalition are the National Council of Catholic Women and two religion-based think tanks, the Hastings Center and the Park Ridge Center for the Study of Health, Faith and Ethics.

IRS seizes missing atheist's house in Austin for back taxes

AUSTIN, Texas (RNS)—The Internal Revenue Service on Feb. 18 seized the \$231,000 Austin home of missing atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair for back taxes.

An IRS spokesman said O'Hair, who has been missing for 18 months, owed \$250,000 in taxes for 1986, 1987 and 1988.

The house and its contents will be auctioned off within 45 days to cover the debt unless O'Hair emerges to make settlement, the spokesman said.

O'Hair, who won the landmark

1963 Supreme Court case banning school-sponsored prayer in public schools, disappeared in August 1995 along with her son, Jon Murray, and her granddaughter, Robin Murray-O'Hair.

William Murray, O'Hair's estranged son and the father of Robin, had filed a missing person's report with Austin police and earlier this year abandoned court attempts to seize control of his mother's assets.

Police said there is no evidence of foul play in connection with the trio's disappearance.

The coalition, called Last Acts, is made up of organizations representing religious groups, the medical community, consumer groups, hospice caretakers and volunteers.

BOOKS

Best-selling religious mass-market paperback books

- 1 **God's Promises for Your Every Need**, A.L. Gill
- 2 **Touchpoints**
- 3 **More Than a Carpenter**, Josh McDowell
- 4 **God's Answers for Your Life**, Kay Wheeler
- 5 **Inspirational Romance Reader—contemporary collection**, various writers
- 6 **Inspirational Romance Reader—historical collection**, various writers
- 7 **Hind's Feet on High Places**, Hannah Hurnard
- 8 **Good Grief**, Granger Westberg
- 9 **Mere Christianity**, C.S. Lewis
- 10 **The Bible Promise Book**, Toni Sortor, editor

The Parable of the Lily. Liz Higgs. Tommy Nelson Publishers, 1997. 30 pages. No price given. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Have you ever looked forward to a gift, only to be disappointed because it was not what you wanted or expected?

Have you ever hurt someone who gave you a gift because you expressed your disappointment in their gift, or because you treated their gift with neglect?

Have you ever gotten mad because the unwanted gift got in your way? Have you ever been surprised to discover that the gift was not all that it appeared to be at first glance?

Have you ever had to ask forgiveness for spurning a gift given in love? Yes? Then you will identify with Maggie and what happens to her.

No? Think again, because, young or old, Maggie's story is our story in a multitude of ways. *Jim Holladay*

Understanding and Facilitating Forgiveness. Robert Harvey and David Benner. Baker Books, 1996. 160 pages. No price given. ♦♦♦♦

"For if you forgive others... your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matthew 6:14-15, NRSN).

With those words Jesus describes the heart of a Christian's relationship with God and with others. Forgiveness of sin is central to the gospel. Yet no teaching of Jesus causes us more difficulty than the necessity of forgiving those who do us wrong. Like the disciples we ask, "What does it mean to forgive? How many times must I forgive someone? Does forgiving mean forgetting? Are

there some sins that are so bad that I need not worry about forgiving the perpetrator?"

Robert Harvey, senior pastor of Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Chicago, and David Benner, clinical psychologist at Redeemer College of the University of Toronto, argue that not only is forgiving those who wrong us an indispensable part of the Christian life, it is the most difficult work we do. In fact, they contend that, on our own, we are quite incapable of the type of forgiveness Jesus intends. Forgiveness is always a miracle of grace.

That does not mean we cannot facilitate the process of forgiveness in our own lives and in the lives of others. Written primarily for pastors—who are charged: "See to it that no one misses the grace of God, and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many" (Hebrews 12:15)—this book pulls together a wealth of biblical examples and teachings on forgiveness. It describes the consequences of unforgiven sin and outlines a pastoral counseling method for helping people forgive themselves and others. I was impressed with the breadth of their insight on the nature of sin and guilt, as well as their insights on how to deal with this difficult issue. *Jim Holladay*

Give and Take: The Secret to Marital Compatibility. Willard Harley Jr. Fleming H. Revell Books, 1996. 303 pages. \$16.99. ♦♦♦♦

Harley's basic contention is each

marriage must meet the emotional needs of each partner or it soon will be in trouble. In order for these needs to be met, the couple must learn how to give and take. This is not just a negotiation style but elements of each person's personality, the "giver" and the "taker." Harley helps each partner learn how to identify what the other person needs most and how to take what is needed most in return.

Harley approaches his subject from 25 years of marriage counseling. At some points he may be accused of presenting mainly the male side of a need and giving short attention to the related female need. Mostly, however, Harley gives a balanced assessment of male and female emotional needs in a marriage. Much of the ground has been covered before, but Harley writes in a clear and simple manner that moves quickly through the need and on to possible solutions.

One helpful chapter is devoted exclusively to guidelines to help a couple negotiate for compatibility. Harley reintroduces his concept of "love busters" from a previous book and offers help in overcoming each "love buster."

Other helpful chapters address emotional needs for conversation, sexual fulfillment, affection and recreational companionship.

Particularly useful for the couple is an appendix of questionnaires that provide something concrete to work with in evaluating marriage needs and then planning to meet those needs. *Wayne Hager*

Read Aloud Bible Stories, Vols. 1, 2, 3. Ella Lindvall, illustrations by Kent Puckett and Ken Renczenski. Moody Press. About 160 pages each. \$18.99 each. ♦♦♦♦♦

Parents of preschoolers and children struggle to find books that will convey the importance of biblical stories in a way the child can understand and be entertained. This experience is even more frustrating for the parent of a young preschooler.

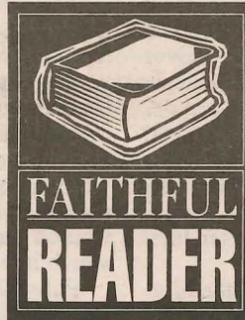
Look no further: check out the "Read Aloud Bible Stories" series.

Written by a mother and elementary teacher, the stories lend themselves to years of reading to your children. The stories are simple and straightforward and use plenty of action words and sounds. Repetition effectively draws the young child into the action of the book. When the child is able to read, large, bold, simple words convey the story. There is little like the look on a child's face when he or she is able to read a favorite book without help.

The illustrations alone are worth the purchase of the book. Very young children will be delighted by the 8 1/2 inch by 11 inch pages full of bright, colorful images and backgrounds. The characters are large and bold and easy on young eyes.

While only five stories comprise each volume, hours of reading enjoyment await adult and child readers. Your child will request the books night after night.

Following each story, the "What did you learn?" page offers some brief statements and/or questions that help children understand how each story applies to them. *Wayne Hager*



Thanks, Brother Bill

By Robert Dunston

In Galatians Paul describes the person who is committed to Christ in the following words, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" (NIV).

Those words describe Bill Marshall, our Kentucky Baptist executive secretary/treasurer. We at Cumberland College would like to join our voices to the chorus of people from around Kentucky who are thanking Bill for his work among us. Through his leadership, Bill has inspired and challenged us all to minister with gentleness, love and a firm commitment to Christ.

All of us at Kentucky Baptist institutions of higher education have been blessed both by the example Bill has set of Christian behavior and leadership and by the words he has spoken in our chapel services. When Bill entered our pulpit, students, faculty and administrators realized that here was a friend who had come to talk with us and encourage us on our journey. With a quiet, sincere voice he opened up the Bible to us and challenged us to

bring its words to life in our lives. We knew we sat in the presence of a man who treasured the words of the Scripture and loved the God who gave them.

I remember one instance in particular when Bill came to speak. In the spring of 1992 Cumberland College was granted a charter for its chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the national religion honor society. We planned a banquet to celebrate. As we discussed possible speakers, Bill was at the top of the list. We knew he was busy and might not be able to come, but we called anyway. He was delighted to be asked and was delighted to come. He made us feel

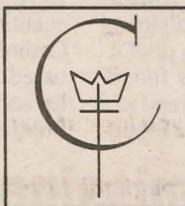
that we had extended to him a great honor. Of course, that is how he makes everyone around him feel.

That night as he spoke, our students and our faculty encountered a role model for Christian service.

Bill, all of us at Cumberland thank you for your friendship and encouragement. God bless you as you continue to serve and live for him.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Southern region update

God is doing great things in southern Kentucky. Here are just a few of them:

■ The new southern region shelter, now under construction, is nearly complete. The building will increase our capacity from 12 to 16. Construction on a lodge for the wilderness camping treatment program will begin soon.

■ The new construction is being made possible by the many individuals who have been a part of the Building A Brighter Future capital campaign in southern Kentucky.

Campaign volunteers have reached their primary goal of \$1.8 million to go toward facilities and programs in southern Kentucky and now are working on a challenge goal to bring the total to \$2.6 million.

■ A new staff development coordinator has been employed recently to help us prepare better our child care workers to serve youth. We are excited about the beefed up training opportunities now available.

■ Our southern region foster care program now has 14 families with 20 children in care. More families are needed.

■ Dedicated staff members in the family preservation program and family reunification demonstration project are having great success in helping families solve problems so children do not have to be removed or can return home if they have been in out-of-home care.

■ The wilderness camping treatment program is helping young men learn to appreciate God's beautiful world and the importance of teamwork. The boys have been very busy this fall with camping trips and work projects at the new building sites.

■ A number of young people in our care have recently made professions of faith. Please pray for their spiritual growth and that other youth will come to know Christ as well.

Thank you for all you do to support the ministries of KBHC across our state. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve children and our Lord.

George Page is administrator for the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's southern region programs. Call KBHC at (800) 456-1386. World Wide Web address is: <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>

HOMES FOR CHILDREN

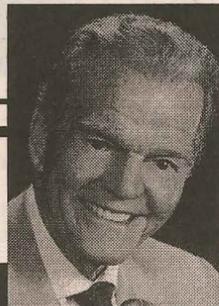


George Page

LEADERSHIP

Senior 1997 Adult Celebrations!

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Boston pastor offers guide to sharing God with 'up and out'

Continued from page 1

Draper said he has made friends with many of his neighbors by casual contacts.



Draper

The church also has sought to meet needs in the community, including sponsoring a parents' night out and coordinating a boat trip to watch whales.

Draper, with the help of a Christian businessman, started a weekly breakfast for businessmen who don't attend church.

Draper offered several suggestions for non-wealthy Christians trying to discuss their beliefs with the well-to-do.

Christians should remember that just because a person doesn't attend church now, it doesn't mean he or she doesn't have a religious background, Draper said. "What they may need is someone to remind them of the faith which they once held dear."

Non-wealthy Christians should not try to impress someone who is wealthy, Draper added.

"It reflects on your personal witness if, on an initial contact, you can't be who you are," he said. "Who wants a faith that isn't personal and deep and genuine?"

Draper said he makes a point of sharing his interests with neighbors and friends. "Give people a bigger picture of who we are, what we enjoy and also let them know that Christianity enhances every aspect of our lives, including self."

When it comes to sharing Jesus, many of us get wet feet.

We want to share Jesus, but we don't know how.

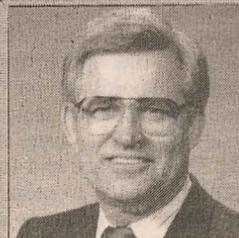
That's why every pastor in Kentucky should bring 10 church leaders to the

People Sharing Jesus Seminar

April 21, 1997, 5-9 p.m. EDT, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, KY

April 22, 1997, 5-9 p.m. CDT, First Baptist Church, Madisonville, KY

Dwight Ashley, Soloist,
April 21



Dr. Darrell Robinson,
Vice President for Evangelism
Home Mission Bd, April 21, 22

Alma Randolph, Soloist,
April 22



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- Innovative approach that grows naturally out of overflow of the Christian life.
- The centerpiece of evangelistic emphasis of the Southern Baptist Convention through the turn of the century.
- Listen to others and share Christ at the point of their need.
- Turn everyday conversations into sharing opportunities.

People Sharing Jesus Registration Form (Light Meal Included)

Name: _____ Day Phone #: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ St.: _____ Zip: _____

Church: _____

Check one: Attending April 21 Session Attending April 22 Session Total # attending _____ Total \$ Encl _____

Please complete above form and send together with a check for \$5 per person per session (made payable to KY Baptist Convention) to: Office for Evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433, BY APRIL 11.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Beulah Peoples, Baptist Convention of New England director of mission ministries and Woman's Missionary Union, as she prepares to retire June 30.

■ Mission Service Corps volunteers Allen and Clara Marshall as they manage the missions guest house of New Colony Baptist Church in Billerica, Mass.

■ Church planters Mel and Nancy Skinner and the new church in Stupino, Russia. The church has not been able to secure official recognition from the city, so the congregation is not allowed to meet publicly.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ CLAY CITY—Marion Brewer celebrated 30 years as pastor at Powells Valley Church Jan. 12.

■ COLUMBIA—Steve Lewis, pastor of New Victory Church, was ordained to the gospel ministry Jan. 19.

■ DYCUSBURG—Dycusburg Church called Bill Gross as pastor.

■ FRANKFORT—Millville Church called George Pennington as pastor. He began his new ministry Feb. 23. Earl Bell was interim pastor.

■ GRAND RIVERS—Tim Porter resigned as pastor of Sugar Creek

Church.

■ LOUISVILLE—Bethlehem Church ordained Robert Starks as deacon. Jon Bishop is pastor.

Green Acres Church called William Purnell as minister of music. Dan Powell is pastor.

Baptist Tabernacle called Mark Erion as pastor. He began his new ministry Feb. 16.

Ridgewood Church recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of its child development center. Lowell Abney is pastor.

Louisville Baptist Deaf Church,

which meets at Bethlehem Church, licensed Richard Noble to the gospel ministry Feb. 16. Tim Bender is pastor.

■ PRESTONSBURG—Steve Green, a contemporary Christian singer, will present a concert March 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mountain Arts Center. Call (606) 886-2623 for ticket information.

■ SALEM—Old Salem Church called Tim Porter as pastor.

■ STANFORD—Calvary Hill Church observed Race Relations Day Feb. 9. A potluck lunch was served and Floyd Raglin, pastor of First Church, was guest speaker. Special music was presented by choirs from both churches. Eddie Miller is pastor.

Mid-Continent to host March evangelism conference

MAYFIELD—Bobby Moore of Olive Branch, Miss., will be the keynote speaker for Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College's annual evangelism conference March 6.

Moore, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Olive Branch, will speak in both the afternoon and evening sessions, to be held at First Baptist Church of Mayfield. The afternoon session begins at 2 p.m.; the evening session begins at 6:10 p.m.

Other speakers include Larry Lindsey, who recently has returned to Kentucky from service as an on-site coordinator with the Kentucky-Russia partnership, and C.C. Brasher, pastor of Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton.

Mid-Continent has sponsored the annual evangelism conference for 47 years. All sessions are open to the public.

For more information, call Mid-Continent at (800) 232-4662.

Ex-Baptist pastor gets prison time in porn case

By Dave Parker
Oklahoma Baptist Messenger

OKLAHOMA CITY (ABP)—A former Southern Baptist pastor has been sentenced to 15 months in federal prison for possession of child pornography.

Charles Sherrill Lloyd, 52, pleaded guilty this month to knowingly keeping child pornography on his church computer, according to a front-page story in the Daily Oklahoman.

Lloyd had been pastor of First Baptist Church of Bethany for four years before resigning in October 1995 when church leaders discovered the photographs.

Lloyd, who now lives in Brandon, Miss., had previous prosecutions

dating back to 1972 for indecent exposure.

He was prosecuted in Georgia for exposing himself to minors in the 1980s. Under Georgia law, that is considered child molestation.

Lloyd's attorney asked U.S. District Judge Wayne Alley to put Lloyd on probation, but Alley said Lloyd's criminal history shows an "episodic" problem.

The single count to which Lloyd pleaded guilty carries a maximum sentence of five years. Under federal sentencing guidelines, Alley could have chosen between 15 and 21 months.

After the prison term, Lloyd must serve three years of supervised release, including community service the first year.

Charles Womack, current pastor of the Bethany church, said the congregation grieves for the Lloyd family but also supports the actions taken to prosecute Lloyd.

"The church is strongly opposed to pornography," he said. "We do not see this as a victimless crime. It ruins the lives of children, voluntary and involuntary participants in making pornography, and leads to rape, violent crimes and abortions.

"We ask for prayers for the wife and children of Lloyd, who are suffering tremendously because of his failure," Womack said.

He said that since the incident, the church has initiated new employment guidelines that include background checks for all employees.

The winter of 1922 and the summer of 1923 (Part I)

The winter of 75 years ago was a very trying time for this school. Oneida had been struggling 23 years to make ends meet. The war years only added to the difficulty and frustration of keeping the school open. Surviving the war years by no means meant Oneida was out of the woods; quite the opposite was true. Debts kept mounting while financial support lessened. James Burns, founder of Oneida, was in poor health and was getting worse. He had traveled from coast to coast trying to raise sufficient funds to keep this much-needed mountain school open. In 1917 Burns had turned the day-to-day operations over to professor T.L. Adams, who became associate president. In April 1921, Adams became president of the school when Burns' health completely failed. Burns was forced to take a long leave of absence in order to try to regain his health.

Debt was high and getting worse. Burns had been our primary fund raiser. With no one able to promote the ministry and needs of Oneida, her future did not look good.

Adams resigned as president in January, 1922, and moved away from Oneida with his family. The faculty and president had worked nearly a year with no salary. Now faced with a heavy debt, no president and Burns seriously ill, Oneida's darkest hour had come.

The trustees were desperate to find a man to succeed Adams. Few were considered qualified to serve, and those who were qualified saw no promise of keeping the school open. At one point in 1922, most of the trustees decided it would be best to close the school. Only a few felt there was any chance of keeping the school

going. Green Garrett was one trustee who had some glimmer of hope. After returning to his home and telling his family of the grave situation, his daughter said, "Pap, why don't you get Mrs. Russell? She can solve your problem if it can be solved." Desperate but hopeful, the trustees offered Sylvia Russell the job. By this time the school was \$28,000 in debt—not a small amount in 1922. After much thought and prayer, she accepted the job to be Oneida's third and only woman president.

Russell wasted no time in getting to work. Every penny had to be used to its fullest. Oneida's credit had been cut off. Every bag of beans and cornmeal would have to be paid for in cash. Burns' health had improved, but he was still a rather frail man compared to the towering giant he once was. Little by little, debts were reduced. The faculty again was being paid a modest salary. By the end of 1922, after Russell had been president only nine months, the debt had been reduced to about \$16,000. The financial report showed all current bills paid, \$16,000 unpaid old debt and "63 cents cash on hand."

Russell quickly gained the respect of faculty, students and supporters. There was no doubt in anyone's mind about her determination. With God's help, financial support from many friends and Russell's fiscal management, the debt was further reduced. By the end of November 1923, the old debts were paid in full with "30 cents cash on hand." Something else happened in 1923.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

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BY THE

ACCREDITING ASSOCIATION OF BIBLE COLLEGES

FEBRUARY 13, 1997

Church brings peaceful times to tough communities

KEARNEYSVILLE, W.Va. (ABP)—Fellowship Baptist Church in Kearneysville, W.Va., began six years ago as a storefront church in an area known for prostitution and drug trafficking.

Teenagers sold crack cocaine on the sidewalk in front of the church, said Pastor Joe Burwell. Some of the dealers drew chalk drawings of his body in front of the church.

"Is this a dangerous neighborhood?" Burwell asked rhetorically. "It used to be."

Some would say it still is, but since the church moved into the low-income area called Fox Glen, drug arrests and police calls have been cut almost in half.

"This community was a government project that was left alone for 20 years," said Burwell, who lives behind the church's 3-year-old building in a mobile home with his wife and two children. "The first year we were here, agents arrested 90 in a drug bust; the next year they arrested 40."

The church started a homeowner's association in the neighborhood of

about 400 families, most headed by single parents. Property values immediately rose. The church also began a neighborhood watch and a community newspaper, which residents adopted as their own.

"We found this was a bedroom community," Burwell said. "People locked their gates at night, unlocked them to drive to work in the morning, came back after dark, drove in and locked the gates behind them. We found people who'd been living here 12-13 years and didn't know the people on their left or their right."

The church, which now has 75 members, has adopted an open-door, outreach approach. The multi-purpose church building is used seven days a week for community activities, most of them geared toward children and youth—Girl Scouts, high school girls' volleyball, 4-H Clubs, after-school tutoring, after-school youth basketball, beauty pageants.

"This area is part of a major drug triangle," Burwell said. He said he received threats from some of the drug

dealers when he began his ministry in Kearneysville, located in extreme eastern West Virginia about five miles from the Maryland state line.

"When we came, no church in this county would touch this community," he said. "They didn't send their vans in here to pick up kids for vacation Bible school. They didn't want anything to do with it. Nobody did. The local community centers wouldn't have these kids. We would."

Despite the neighborhood's high crime rate, the church doors remain open 24 hours a day. Nothing has been stolen or vandalized.

"Sometimes we come in here late at night and find people in the sanctuary praying," Burwell said. "Sometimes when deputies are on duty in our area they stop by the church for coffee and a break, because their offices are so far away. One who stopped by during our New Year's Eve watch said, 'This place is the only sanity in this community.'"

Fellowship Baptist Church began in 1990 as a home Bible study. It soon moved into a shopping center—sev-

eral doors from a strip joint—where it remained for two-and-a-half years. It was at the storefront location where Burwell experienced most of the threats and harassment from drug dealers, he said.

In 1993, the church was offered 10 acres of land at a bargain price. The property was mostly a mosquito-infested tire pile. The federal government cleared the dump as part of the Environmental Protection Agency's "super fund" clean-up program.

The two-story church building looks more like a gymnasium than a traditional church. A carpeted floor with gym markings serves as a sanctuary on Sundays. A balcony overlooks the athletic court area on four sides.

Burwell, who also works as a paramedic, has not drawn a salary from the church in two years. He also serves as chaplain for the fire department and a local hospital, describing himself as "the closest thing to a parish priest there is."

"When someone gets sick or dies, I'm expected to be there," he said.

TRUE LOVE WAITS Kristin Gardner (left) and Chris Maloney stake True Love Waits pledge cards in front of their school in Mt. Juliet, Tenn., during the early morning hours of Valentine's Day. They were among many students participating in high school displays of commitment to abstain from sex until marriage. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Pastor keeps sense of humor despite tragic circumstances

By Jim Jones
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

AUSTIN, Texas (ABP)—Surprises come to everyone. Some are delightful. Others are horrendous.

No one knows that better than Ralph Smith, a highly successful Texas Baptist minister for many years.

What most remember about Smith, a former president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, is his irrepressible sense of humor. He still has it. It's a wonder, though.

Nothing funny has happened to Smith lately.

Smith was the pastor of the 10,500-member Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin two years ago. Life was good. Then came the surprise.

"I had been watching a national championship basketball game on television," Smith said recently. "I got up from my chair, then slumped to the floor of my living room. I started to get up. I couldn't do it."

Emergency attendants took him to a hospital.

He was diagnosed with a rare disease called Guillain-Barre syndrome which usually is caused by a virus and damages the myelin sheath of nerves that control the body. It can be fatal.

"I'd never heard of it," Smith said. "Doctors in Austin told me it was the worst case they had seen."

"The world became a blur for four or five months," he said. "My mind was active. But I couldn't talk. I couldn't move a finger."

Smith gave up his pastorate. Deacons immediately named him pastor emeritus.

"It was really a tough thing," he said. "Without the Lord and the good doctors and my loving wife, Beth, I wouldn't be here. I'm very grateful to be alive."

He was in intensive care and on a respirator for seven months, fed

through tubes.

"My heart stopped once," Smith said. "I got pneumonia four times."

Not a happy position for a highly active man and former college cheerleader who hadn't been sick a week during his adult life.

His muscles atrophied. But Smith, through six months in a rehabilitation hospital, has recovered some of his movement. His muscles were stimulated electronically. Now he can move around on a walker.

"I won't do much until I get where I can walk, and dress myself," Smith said.

He made his first major address since his illness in January at the Texas Baptist Evangelism Conference in Fort Worth. His sermon topic: "Faithful in Suffering." Smith talked about Joseph, who was thrown in Pharaoh's prison 14 years, then emerged to become an Egyptian ruler.

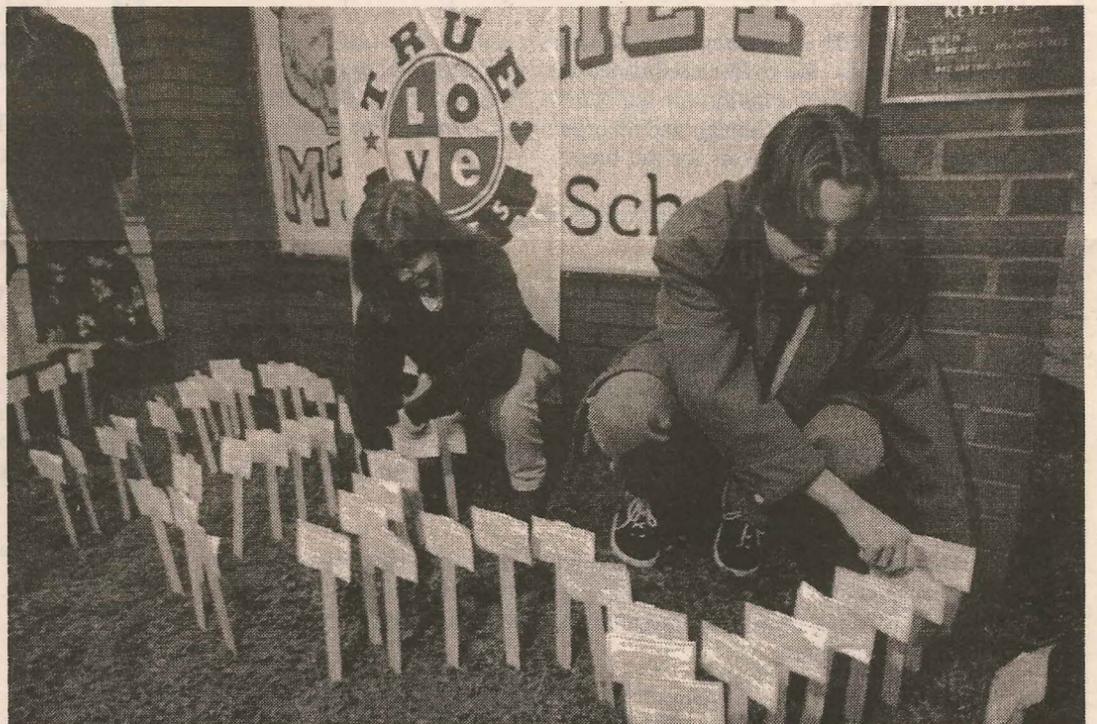
Smith said he felt imprisoned in his own body. He will continue struggling to be set free, he said. "I believe I will get it (body movement) back, but it's taking longer than I hoped."

Smith has served in high positions among Southern Baptists. When stricken, he was chairman of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board. He is a past president of the Southern Baptist Pastors Conference and a former chairman of trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

None of that seemed too important when he was lying on the floor paralyzed, he said.

Smith is praying for a full recovery, and he wants it to happen sooner than later. "I'm the kind of guy who prays, 'Lord, give me patience—now,'" he said.

Smith credited his sense of humor with helping him survive. "I've lost everything but my mind," he said, "and sometimes I wonder about that."



Missions volunteer didn't expect to lead a funeral

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Missions volunteers are warned to be flexible. But a Baptist volunteer to Panama never imagined he would be at the head of a funeral procession.

Phil Duckett, a retired pastor and director of missions, volunteered to lead an evangelistic campaign among the Guymi Indians in Tole, Panama, a mountainous area in western Panama's Chiriqui region.

On his second day in the country, Duckett and his team visited residents among the thatched-roofed huts and led a workshop on personal evangelism.

That night they held their first evangelistic service. Duckett preached in English, Southern Baptist missionary Allison Holman translated into Spanish and Martin Gonzales, the Guymis' pastor, translated the message into the Indian language.

The next morning Duckett found Gonzales weeping. The Guymi pastor had learned his mother had died. Gonzales asked Duckett to preach his mother's funeral, the missionary to translate and another team member from Virginia, Donna Hughes, to sing.

Twenty-four hours later, the team traveled to the Indian village for the funeral. Duckett said about 200 people attended the "orderly and somber" service in a tin shed in the village.

After the service, the family and friends gathered for "a feast," which Duckett said consisted of "the biggest black pot of rice I have ever seen." As guests, Duckett and the Virginia volunteers were served on plates, while others were served on banana leaves.

During the week the team led a dedication for a new church in the area, worked with children during the day and held evangelistic services each night. Fourteen decisions for Christ were recorded.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Helping Kentucky Baptists Make A Lasting Difference

As fund managers for all Baptists, the Foundation's objective is to encourage, assist, and make it possible for everyone, regardless of the size of their resources, to be better stewards of what God has entrusted to them.

These are examples of giving in Christ's spirit. Funds may be established to benefit a local church, missions, or a Baptist institution or agency. The Kentucky Baptist Foundation exists to serve all Kentucky Baptists; at your request, we will assist you with your planning.

A Baptist couple in Louisville asked the Foundation how they might create a fund as a memorial to their daughter who was killed in an automobile accident. They expressed a desire to create a college scholarship fund and hoped the fund could be structured so others could give to it.

With \$16,000 of life insurance proceeds received as a result of the daughter's death, the couple established a scholarship fund with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for the benefit of students at Campbellsville College, Cumberland College and Georgetown College. The donors selected the following terms for the fund:

1. Scholarships of \$750 per year would be paid from the income of the fund.
2. Eligible applicants would be students at Campbellsville College, Cumberland College or Georgetown College who are Kentucky residents, members in good standing of a Southern Baptist church and needy as determined by the colleges' financial aid officers.
3. A committee composed of the President of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, the pastor of the couple's church and a long-time pastor friend of the couple will select the recipients.

This fund has grown through the gifts of this couple and many others and now provides 7 scholarships each year to worthy Kentucky Baptist students; allowing them to secure a quality college education in a Christian atmosphere.

A Baptist man in Somerset contacted the Foundation because he wanted to establish a perpetual fund to provide income for maintenance of his church's buildings.

In addition to his limited resources, he envisioned others giving to the fund. With his initial investment of \$1000, the Foundation staff enabled this man to realize his dream of establishing an endowment fund with the following provisions:

1. The fund would accept gifts either outright or by Will from other contributors.
2. Earned income was to be re-invested until the principal had a value of \$5000.
3. When the principal had a value of \$5000, the income was to be distributed annually to the church for building maintenance.

After eight years through additional contributions from this donor and others, the fund had grown to \$10,000 and the Foundation now sends approximately \$400 each year to the church; allowing the church to direct more of its budget to missions and other ministries.

A Baptist lady in Bowling Green contacted the Foundation to guide her in making her estate plans for the future.

She already had a Will, which provided for transfer of stock, at her death, to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for support of foreign missions.

She was currently receiving 2% annual income from this stock, which she felt she could not give up, but she asked the question: "Is there a way I can give it now?" The Foundation staff's affirmative answer led to the creation of a Charitable Remainder Trust. The result for her was a large charitable income tax deduction, no capital gains tax, and her income tripled!

After her death there would be unending annual income gifts to the Foreign Mission Board. Her estate plan was thus adapted to accommodate her growing enjoyment in giving for missions causes.

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