

March 4, 1997
Vol. 171, No. 9

Kentucky Notes
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FOR THE RECORD

Evangelism Conference

This week's Recorder features coverage of the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. Pages 1, 6 & 7.

FMB numbers up

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board sent a record number of missionaries in 1996. Page 2.

Doctors on mission

Owensboro physician Marilyn Sanders will preside this weekend over the annual meeting of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship, concluding her term as president of the ministry group. Page 3.

Editorial

Will you and your church "get it?" Page 5.

Cloning

Christian ethicists sound words of caution as scientists move closer to cloning humans. Page 9.

Moving? See page 4 (3304)

Strobel: Get out and meet unchurched Harry or Mary

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

LOUISVILLE—If you want to learn what changes your church needs to make to reach non-Christians with the gospel, make friends with a non-Christian.

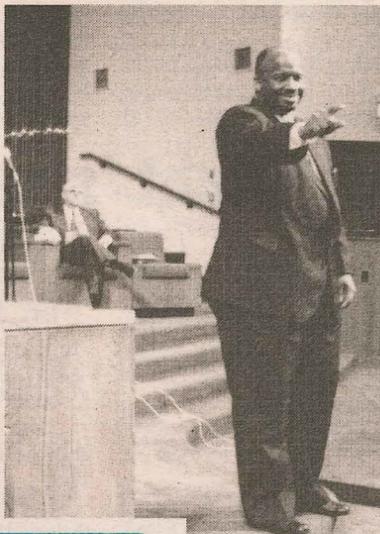
That's the advice of Lee Strobel, a former atheist who became a Christian through the ministry of Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago, where he now serves as teaching pastor.

Strobel, a former reporter with the Chicago Tribune, told his own story Feb. 24 during the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Strobel said his wife, Leslie, became a Christian first, through the gentle but persistent witness of a friend who lived in the same apartment building. That friend wanted to invite Leslie Strobel to her church, but she knew the culture would be completely foreign to a non-Christian.

"She intuitively knew she couldn't take Leslie to her church," Strobel explained. "She would have run away," he said, citing a "300-year time warp" in music styles and sermons geared toward mature believers as examples of immediate turn-offs.

When the friend heard about Willow Creek Community Church and its weekend services designed especially for "seekers," she felt comfortable asking Leslie Strobel to go there with her. Mrs. Strobel consented, and after



Evangelism Conference

a period of time became a Christian.

Her husband didn't want to have anything to do with her newfound religion. He scoffed at her, telling her she must not ask him to go with her and she must not give the church any money.

Finally, after seeing "subtle ways" in which his wife was changing, Lee



LEADERS A diversity of speakers led the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference last week at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. ■ Above Jeff Eaton, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg, shares his experience working with a Boston congregation as part of the Kentucky-New England partnership. ■ Above left Mark Acuff, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Hudson, Mass., leads a small group discussion on creative ways to reach unchurched people. ■ Left Darryl Starnes, evangelism director for the AME Zion denomination, talks about how Christians bear fruit.

Strobel agreed to attend a seeker service at Willow Creek. He approached it, however, with an eye toward doing an investigation. He wanted to find out what was wrong with Christianity.

At that first Willow Creek service, "the music grabbed me by the heart and wouldn't let go," he said. "The drama presented a real slice of life."

That first exposure to Willow Creek set him on a 21-month inves-

tigation of Christianity. Finally, "I realized it would require more faith to maintain my atheism than to trust Christ," he said.

Strobel described himself as a ruthless and self-centered person before giving his life to Christ. He told how he hadn't even flinched when his college girlfriend got pregnant and he sent her for an abortion and how he

□ See *Meet unchurched ...*, page 6

Abortion backer's admission refuels debate

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A revelation last week from an abortion rights supporter has re-ignited the smoldering debate over a controversial late-term abortion procedure.

In an article to be published this week, prominent abortion rights supporter Ron Fitzsimmons, executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, admits he "lied" when he said "partial-birth" abortions were rare and only performed in "the most extreme" cases.

In the March 3 edition of American Medical News, a publication of the American Medical Association, Fitzsimmons calls on the abortion rights movement to stop "half-truths" in debate over the procedure.

"The pro-choice movement has lost a lot of credibility during this debate, not just with the general public, but with our pro-choice friends in Congress," Fitzsimmons said. "Even the White House is now questioning the accuracy of some of the information given to it on this issue."

Last year, President Clinton vetoed a bill that would have outlawed the procedure, called "Partial-birth" abortion. It involves partially extracting a fetus, feet first, and then collapsing the skull in the birth canal by suctioning out the brain.

White House spokeswoman Pat

Lewis said Clinton doesn't support the procedure's use on an elective basis, but believed it was sometimes necessary to save a woman's life or her ability to bear children.

Fitzsimmons said that based on conversations with doctors who perform abortions, he knows the procedure is being done "for the most part" on healthy fetuses and healthy mothers. "The abortion rights folks know it, the anti-abortion folks know it, and so, probably, does everyone else," he said.

In an interview with the New York Times, Fitzsimmons said he "lied through my teeth" about the subject during a November 1995 appearance on "Nightline" because he was worried the truth would damage the abortion cause.

Now, he said, he believes the best strategy for abortion rights supporters is to "tell (Congress and the public) the truth, let them vote and move on."

Many anti-abortion groups who have long accused the media of being biased in favor of abortion said the article bolsters their argument.

"We hope that these revelations cause the American public to take a second look at partial-birth abortions," said National Right to Life spokeswoman Maureen Malloy Ferguson.

Kristi Hamrick, spokeswoman

for the Family Research Council, said Fitzsimmons' comments highlight the need for more monitoring and regulation of the abortion industry.

"Despite their claims that they want safe abortions, the abortion industry has fought tooth and nail every effort to have abortion treated like any other surgical procedure or to have abortion facilities regulated like other out-patient medical facilities," Hamrick said.

Abortion supporters, however, argued that Fitzsimmons' comments only further confuse debate on abortion and the late-term procedure.

Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion Rights Action League, said 99 percent of the estimated 1.3 million annual abortions in America are performed before a woman is 20 weeks pregnant—before the fetus is considered "viable," usually between 23 and 28 weeks.

"Confusion around this issue has arisen because abortions are not generally reported by the specific method used," said Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood of America.

Debate over a new effort to ban the procedure is likely to begin soon in the new Congress.

■ FDA says birth control pills safe for 'morning after' use. Page 8.

Churches often an easy target for burglars

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

DRAFFENVILLE—Gary Cruse said he never will forget the burning emotions he felt last May when he discovered his church had been burglarized.

"At first I felt terribly invaded, hurt and angered," said Cruse, pastor of Zion's Cause Baptist Church. "I couldn't sleep for three months afterward. I felt violated and afraid they would come back."

Two suspects were arrested and are awaiting trial. But the church may never recover \$280 in cash, two speakers and a mini-television cassette player it lost that Sunday night.

The burglary was one of 11 in Marshall County churches last year.

That is a major problem for a county of less than 30,000, according to Sheriff Brian Roy, who said the statistics show

□ See *Smaller churches...*, page 3

BAPTISTS

FMB sent record numbers in 1996

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Three and a half years ago, Alan Bell said goodbye to his girlfriend and boarded a plane for a two-year term of mission work in Hong Kong. It was the hardest thing he'd ever done.

Last fall, he and his girlfriend, who now is his wife, were named two of 590 overseas mission workers appointed in 1996 by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board for assignments of two years or more.

That's a record number of new workers in a year's time for the agency, which now assigns about 4,200 missionaries to work with 336 people groups in 126 countries. The annual number of new workers has been rising steadily for several years. In 1992

it stood at 414.

The Bells fit the profile of a growing number of Southern Baptists who served shorter assignments overseas before committing themselves as career missionaries. While Alan Bell was in Hong Kong, Melissa Bell worked in China for more than a year as part of the FMB's International Service Corps program.

FMB leaders say an increasing number of missionaries are being sent to what they call "The Last Frontier"—those unreached, inaccessible areas where traditional mission methods cannot be used.

"We can't even put into print where some of these people go. They're tough, tough places," said

Lloyd Atkinson, director of FMB personnel selection.

New workers also are being sent to what the FMB calls "harvest fields"—those areas where people are professing faith in Jesus Christ at such a pace mission workers struggle to train enough new leaders for the congregations springing up.

The high number of new workers in 1996 appears to be part of a trend, FMB officials said. Since 1989, when 185 missionaries were appointed, the annual number of new career appointees has risen fairly steadily to 262, the highest number in nine years. In addition, an increasing number of two-year International Service Corps workers are being appointed.

Elliff warns of church debt 'stranglehold'

NASHVILLE (ABP)—While confronted by an urgency to proclaim the gospel, Southern Baptists are hindered by inactive church members and crippling debt, Southern Baptist Convention President Tom Elliff said.

"I am thoroughly convinced we live in one of the most critical times in the history of the world, if not the most critical time," Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., told members of the SBC Executive Committee.

To respond to that urgency, Elliff said, Southern Baptists need to reclaim people whose names are on church rolls but who don't demonstrate any faith.

The SBC president urged every Southern Baptist to "certify his or her experience with Christ" by revisiting

basic Christian beliefs.

On any given Sunday, he said, most of the 16 million Southern Baptists are not in church. "By what right do we assume these people know Christ as Savior and never call them to account?" he asked.

Elliff also urged Southern Baptists to emerge from what he termed "a stranglehold of debt."

Twenty years ago, Elliff said, debt in Southern Baptist churches totaled \$986 million. Churches paid \$65 million toward debt in 1975, he said, about half as much as they gave that year to the SBC and state Baptist conventions through the Cooperative Program unified budget.

By 1995, church debt grew to more than \$2.3 billion, he said. Churches spent \$525 million on loan payments,

more than they gave to the Cooperative Program and the SBC's two major missions offerings combined.

Interest costs have eroded Southern Baptist missions giving, he said. "One dollar to missions, a dollar and 25 cents to the world."

"We ought to consider making debt not popular but unpopular," he said.

Elliff also urged Southern Baptists to "crucify our egos" and lend support to enterprises they cannot control.

"We are not reaching this nation," Elliff said. He cited one estimate that churches reached 4 percent of the most recent generation. "We have got to have an awakening in this nation and it will not happen as long as any of us believe we have to be the captains of it," he said.

Chapel speaker: Predestination not 'foboding'

LOUISVILLE—Predestination is a "Baptist word" and a "Bible word," Georgia pastor Tim McCoy told students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in a recent chapel service.

Predestination "describes what the Father did in eternity past when he set his affection upon those whom he would redeem," said McCoy, pastor of Ingleside Baptist Church in Macon, Ga. "He chose us, in Christ, before the foundation of the world."

McCoy said Southern Baptists have strayed from preaching honestly about the doctrines of predestination and election.

Some have "preached these doctrines in dark, black, foboding, imbalanced ways" that have created an improper understanding of the doctrines, he said.

"The eternal choice of God of his people is not a foreboding doctrine," he said. "But it's one that gives tensile strength to the life of a believer—to know that the affections of God have been set upon you and me in eternity past."

McCoy reminded the seminarians of their school's founding faculty of James Pettigru Boyce, John Albert Broadus, William Williams and Basil Manly Jr. and their affirmation of the seminary's "Abstract of Principles," which continues today as the school's confession of faith.

Quoting from Article V of the Abstract, McCoy said, "Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life—not because of foreseen merit in them, but of his mere mercy in Christ."

"I don't know about you. I'm willing to take my stand there, because God has chosen us in Christ," McCoy declared.

The believer's assurance of being chosen by God is verified in God's calling, McCoy added.

He declared that the calling of God must precede the election of God. "We must experience the calling of God before we can have certainty about our election of God."

"Whenever God's Holy Spirit, through the preaching of the gospel ... comes to our heart and effectually, powerfully, movingly woos us to faith in Christ; when he calls us by his Spirit to faith in Christ, guess what that calling is evidence of? The choice of God that preceded it in eternity past."

Based on a Baptist Press report

Many ministers not converted, seminary chapel speaker says

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Huge numbers of ministers of all denominations in America are unconverted, author and speaker Richard Owens Roberts told students at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Feb. 13.

These unconverted ministers have focused their churches on "accepting Jesus," which is nothing more than giving mental assent and is not true conversion, Roberts said.

Roberts based his message on the first 13 verses of the New Testament Book of Jude. Just as "certain persons" who were ungodly had crept unnoticed into the church of Jude's day, so they have crept into the Southern Baptist pulpit, Roberts insisted.

"It's hard for me to believe that a denomination could have such high percentages of its members who could tell you the day and the hour they accepted Christ but do not have the life of God in them, without having a parallel problem among the clergy," Roberts reasoned.

Roberts noted Jude, in his letter to the early church, drew parallels between such men and various natural phenomena. In verse 12, for example, these men are compared to clouds driven along by the wind which promise rain but do not deliver. In such cases, Roberts said, it is the congregation that suffers.

"In this world there are millions and millions of people who are dying for want of the water of life," Roberts said. "And millions of them will be in the house of God yearning for a refreshing drink, but they will sit under the ministries of dry clouds."

Roberts encouraged students to examine themselves to determine whether they are truly converted. Seminary life is the time to face such questions squarely, he said.



Kentuckian leads medical missions group

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

OWENSBORO—Marilyn Sanders has worked in hospitals in China, cared for the sick in Nigeria and volunteered at a medical clinic for the homeless in Owensboro.

But the medical doctor said her toughest duty as outgoing president of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship will be presiding over its annual convention March 6-9 in Charlotte, N.C.

"Standing up and chairing this meeting for four days is not my cup of tea," said Sanders, an internist and a member of Lewis Lane Baptist Church.

About 350 of the organization's 1,700 members are expected to attend. "I'm not a speech maker," she said.

But Sanders is a history maker as the first woman to preside over the 22-year-old organization.

Sanders is the third Kentuckian to serve as president. The others are William Snowden of Winchester, a retired dentist who now heads the Foreign Mission Board's medical volunteer office; and Merrill Winchester, a family doctor from Whitley City.

Sanders and her husband, John, a surgeon, have been members of the fellowship 18 years. It began

when several doctors and dentists who had assisted overseas hospitals and evangelism teams saw a need for ongoing relationships.

Originally, nurses were part of this group, but growth in their numbers led to the formation of a separate fellowship.

During its existence, the fellowship's purpose has extended far beyond camaraderie. It maintains an informal network that responds to medical crises worldwide and actively promotes medical missions. Among its activities:

- **Maintaining an endowment to provide scholarships for medical students who plan to go into missions.** Repayment is not required if the person completes at least one term in the field.

- **Assisting medical missionaries with continuing education expenses.** Such expenses include books, journals and travel to learning retreats.

- **Helping locate volunteers for medical mission needs and directing volunteers to opportunities.**

- **Maintaining a prayer partnership to intercede for medical projects and other needs.**

Despite its network, Sanders emphasized the fellowship is not a sending organization. Doctors and dentists usually fulfill mission calls on their

own, she said.

Last year, she and her husband visited China to work at a Red Cross hospital and teach small clinics. They also visited several towns to form relationships that will open doors for other medical personnel and teachers. The couple will return in April for another two-week stay.

After this weekend, Sanders will hand the reigns of leadership over to president-elect Benny Norton, a retired dentist from Georgia.

She, however, will remain on the executive committee. In that position she will help guide the fellowship through some key changes.

In June the group loses its ties with the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, which is being absorbed into the new North American Mission Board. Brotherhood had served as a facilitator for national fellowships that link people from 16 professions and special interests.

Despite offers of office space from other convention agencies, the Medical Dental Fellowship decided to remain independent. It recently moved to Baptist Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., and Sanders said she expects it to remain strong in the future.

"One of the things we have found about being in the fellowship is it's free of convention politics," she said.

Smaller churches a popular target for theft

Continued from page 1

criminals find churches easy targets. They are looking for personal computers, VCRs and small amounts of cash, he said.

"Sometimes they'll leave alcohol in the pews, but we haven't had any major vandalism in the break-ins," he noted.

Before last spring, Zion's Cause never had been the victim of a break-in. The crime served as a wake-up call for the Kentucky Baptist congregation, which averages 145 in Sunday school.

Since then it has installed a burglar alarm system, an intercom between the church and parsonage, and dead-bolt locks on three doors.

There are tighter controls on keys for the dead bolts, Cruse added. With no sign of forced entry, he said he wonders if an extra key to the old locks found its way into the culprits' hands.

The church changed its money-handling policy. Offering receipts are immediately deposited in the bank now.

In addition, Zion's Cause established an eight-member security patrol for Sundays and Wednesday night. During each worship service, one person monitors the hallways and grounds.

Despite the western Kentucky church's experience, the acting director of the National Crime Prevention Institute in Louisville said such break-ins generally aren't getting worse statewide.

But that doesn't mean churches can relax, said Jeff Fryrear. He said most churches are notoriously lax when it comes to security.

"Churches aren't immune from the

crime everyone experiences," said Fryrear, who also is a member of the Louisville Police Department. "They need to establish procedural safeguards."

He noted a woman in his congregation had her purse stolen recently during a week-night committee meeting.

Among the safeguards he suggested: designate a person to lock doors after services or during meetings when few people are in the building.

To discourage would-be thieves, Fryrear's church now rotates rooms for counting offerings.

Keys are another problem, said Roy, whose department is working with Marshall County churches to establish better security. Deputies often find many sets of keys in circulation, locks unchanged for a long time and doors left unlocked.

Among tips listed in a brochure his department distributes to churches:

- **Exterior lighting should flood outside areas.** Illuminate all points of entry, such as doors, windows and skylights. Connect motion detectors to exterior lights.

- **Install an adequate burglar alarm system.**

- **Cut shrubbery, trees and vines to prevent intruders from hiding.**

- **Participate in a neighborhood watch program.**

- **Check daily for unlocked doors.** Employees or members should check the grounds in pairs at random times.

- **Educate employees, members and family on dealing with telephone threats, and contact police to conduct property searches.** Staff or members should never challenge or chase intruders.

- **Maintain duplicates of comput-**

er disks and other records. Roy recommends churches engrave computers, TVs and other items with their name or a tax number so, if stolen, the property can be identified. A video inventory is a good way to maintain current records in case of a fire or other calamity, he said.

Copies of the church security brochure are available by contacting the Marshall County Sheriff's Office at (800) 264-6820.

Churches with less than 200 members seem to be a favorite target, the sheriff said. That means they should maintain the same security precautions as a larger body, he said.

"After a Sunday night service, a smaller church that doesn't have an office or a secretary may not have anyone inside until Wednesday. A business would know about a break-in the next morning."

Though church burglaries aren't on the upswing, Fryrear said church robberies seem to be increasing around the nation. In January, a masked gunman robbed members attending a Wednesday night service at Liberty Baptist Church near Corbin, in southeastern Kentucky.

Fryrear said that, short of armed resistance, there isn't much members can do to deter this type of crime. A portable alarm can help report it faster, he said, but that requires procedures regarding who will carry and maintain the device.

Churches always risk unsavory people coming in, he noted.

"We can't do the same things we would do in a business site. It's a tough balance. I could tell someone how to prevent break-ins and robberies, but then who would want to go church there?"

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

- **Estate protection seminar to be held.** Erlanger Baptist Church will host a family estate protection seminar, Saturday, March 16 at 5:30 p.m. The free seminar will feature Richard Carlton, of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and Warren Nash III of Georgetown College. For more information, call (606) 727-2588.

- **Campbellsville enrollment up.** Campbellsville University reported a 12 percent increase in total enrollment this spring compared to last spring. The school has 1,352 students enrolled currently.

- **Free health screenings offered.** Medical, dental and eye screenings will be offered March 13-14 at Oneida Baptist Institute in Clay County. The services will be offered from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. March 13 and 14, and from 9 a.m. to noon March 15 by Baptist Healthcare System, Oneida Baptist Institute and the Booneville-Irvine Baptist Association.

- **Senior housing complex renovated.** Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville recently finished a \$1.3 million renovation project for its 17-story apartment building for senior citizens. Improvements include a new sprinkler system, laundry facility, security cameras in the parking lot, handicap entrances and renovated first floor offices and public areas. Built in 1973, Baptist Towers has 197 apartments.

WMU names Denise Jones as Women on Mission associate

Denise Jones has been named Women on Mission associate with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

Jones most recently has been manager of human development for Trans Financial Strategic and Human Development Co. in Bowling Green. There she managed educational programs for 1,000 employees in Kentucky and Tennessee.



Jones

Previously, she was director of education and assistant director of conferences for the Kentucky Bankers Association. She also was executive director of Kentucky Schools of Banking.

Jones also has experience as program director for the Professional Women's Society of the Center for Women and Families in Louisville and as assistant program coordinator for the Leadership Louisville Foundation.

She was a US-2 missionary in Anchorage, Alaska, from 1980-1983 under appointment by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Jones earned the master of arts in Christian education degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1989 and the bachelor of arts degree in elementary education, religion and sociology from Union University in 1980.

She and her husband, Dennis, are members of Fern Creek Baptist Church in Louisville. They have a 5-month-old son, William Paul.

Jones assumes a position previously held by Anna Mary Byrdwell, who recently was named to another associate position with Kentucky WMU. In her new role, Jones will give leadership and support to the adult WMU groups known as Women on Mission.

"As we look at the changing needs of women today and the challenges they meet as they try to balance ministry and profession, we feel the person in this position must be able to identify with those women and offer encouragement that it can be done," said Kay Trisler, Kentucky WMU executive director. "As a mother with a young child, Denise can identify with the difficulties young mothers face as they try to use their gifts in service."

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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'Gave 100 percent'

As a friend from Western Kentucky, I add my words of thanks and appreciation for Bill (and Alice) Marshall, who gave unselfishly to Kentucky Baptists. He truly had and continues to have the best interest of Kentuckians and the world in his heart.

When I first knew Bill as an intermediate boy at First Baptist in Frankfort, I would have picked him as the least likely to be one who could be effectively led positively! He was a normal teenager, full of fun, mischief and life with a godly mother who kept him "going to church" even when he was pulling the other way.

God did a miraculous work on Bill, and his commitment to Jesus Christ led him to give a missionary, a leader through the Foreign Mission Board, with a heart full of compassion and concern. Baptists in Kentucky have a much wider view of God's world and our place in that world because of his leadership. We thank God for this man (and his wife) who allowed God to work in and through their lives. We are the better because they did.

Mrs. J. Brandon Price
Paducah

Thanks for editorial

Thanks for the article concerning alcohol (Feb. 18, page 5) because it is the most destructive drug in America, resulting in about 100,000 deaths per year, but even more importantly, punching holes in the fabric of society with divorce, rape, drownings, mental illness, fires, robberies, murders, pre-marital sex and high insurance rates. (In addition to the troubles you mentioned.) Also, wife and child abuse.

We temperance leaguers speak against alcohol use, not abuse, at churches and civic groups most Sunday and are effective in keeping most Kentucky counties dry. Police records show less crime, fewer DUIs and fewer alcohol-related deaths in dry counties. Our survey in 1992 found one legal liquor license per 2,000 people in wet counties and one bootlegger per 4,000 people in dry counties. Which one sells only part time?

Please mention the \$346 cost of alcohol-related problems per Kentuckian in 1990. Total alcohol sales were \$500 million, but problems cost \$1.5 billion to Kentuckians. Alcohol

Bulletin: Disaster crews respond to flooding

As of the Western Recorder's press time Monday, disaster relief units from the Kentucky Baptist Brotherhood department already had served 2,500 meals for victims of weekend flooding.

Fifty volunteers were serving through a unit stationed at Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville. Another unit was on its way to Falmouth.

Also in Louisville, Highview

taxes are only 7.5 percent of the \$500,000 million sales.

In the Bible, there are at least 69 verses against it. The Temperance League also works against gambling (extremely seductive and destructive) and pornography.

Joseph Armstrong
Bardstown

Editor's note: The editorial on alcohol incorrectly called alcohol an anti-depressant to the central nervous system. It actually is a depressant.

Out of line

The article "Former Methodist minister settles suit with wife's family" (Feb. 18, page 6) was in poor taste. The space would have been better left blank or inserted with a clever cartoon.

The church-state issue of Judge Moore in Alabama, frivolous lawsuits of prisoners, same-sex marriages, the value of public T.V. broadcasts, audits of political activity of tax-exempt organizations, the wisdom or constitutionality of private school vouchers—all represent reasonable national Christian concerns. However, a story of this sort about our own denomination would not be productive. This story about another faith was way out of line.

Hubert Moore
California

Mistaken entropy

John Lepper's column "People need negative entropy" (Feb. 18, page 4) not only made this physical chemist grimace at the misconceptions presented but also made me want to show how God transcends this concept of thermodynamics.

Strictly speaking, entropy does not state that "over time there will be a gradual loss of energy." This statement violates one other major statement of thermodynamics—that the total energy of the universe must be constant. Rather, entropy is defined as a measure of disorder of a system of study, whether that system is a chemical reaction, a room or our own bodies.

To that extent, the statement "negative entropy is the opposite of entropy" seems to be misleading. We can have disorder, such as when a room is a mess, or we can clean the room, creating order and decreasing the entropy.

Baptist Church established a collection site for items to be used in Red Cross shelters and Baptist disaster relief sites. Anyone desiring to contribute items should go to Highview Baptist Church, 7711 Fegenbush Lane, (502) 239-7711.

The Brotherhood department requests prayer and financial support at this point. Additional supplies may be requested later, said Brotherhood associate John Lott.

Trained disaster relief volunteers are asked to call the Brotherhood office at (502) 244-6489 for additional information.

Rather, this law of thermodynamics states that the amount of disorder will constantly increase with every life process. The world will stop functioning due to an excess in disorder.

There is another concept that Lepper seems not to be aware of but actually describes in his column—the concept of "free energy." Free energy is the energy available to do a task, and it has a relationship to disorder. If the entropy factor is too big, then the available energy to do a task decreases. Our bodies need to contribute energy to cause a task to proceed; thus, in the words of Jackson Browne, we're "running on empty" when this happens.

But exactly how does God transcend the concept of entropy? Mark 4:39 (NIV) says: "He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, 'Quiet! Be still!' Then the wind died down and it was completely calm." No disorder. What a concept! But it doesn't happen unless we let God do it.

To sum it up, any process which goes against the natural tendency of man must be of God. The only way we can go against natural tendencies is to "let God do it."

Wheeler Conover
Cumberland

Savior and Lord

Contrary to Cary Newman (Jan. 14, page 5), we don't automatically accept Jesus as Lord when we accept Jesus as Savior. I didn't!

I grew up active in the church and I made professions of faith and was baptized. Then for 23 years, I lived my way. Why not, I thought, if salvation is by God's grace through faith? Isn't faith agreeing with the gospel? Doesn't grace mean that nothing else is required? Maybe I wasn't the best Christian, I thought, but I satisfied the minimum qualifications for salvation.

I didn't understand the ABCs of salvation. Repentance requires a sincere willingness to change our life toward God. Billy Graham says, "(Christ) must have first place in everything you do or think or say." Saving faith includes trust and obedience (John 8:31-32). If repentance and faith are genuine, we are supernaturally changed by the Holy Spirit (John 3:5). Then we can and want to obey Jesus as our Lord and Master.

Obedience is necessary evidence of salvation (Matthew 7:21-23). God can't be mocked. If we live for ourselves, we die without God.

Every day is risky when you are deceived about your salvation. I came within a split-second of hell in a serious 1981 auto wreck. Finally, God's grace of prolonged unemployment got me back to church. In 1991, I was born again the moment I first genuinely surrendered my life to Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

I have experienced the difference between an unsaved "professing believer" and a Christian. "Grace" had been an excuse to live my way and obedience seemed an imposition. Now, grace gives the privilege of imperfectly serving a friend.

What about you? Who rules your life? Surrender to serve Christ! Trust me, this is an invitation to a far better life. But it is also a serious warning.

James Browning
Louisville

TEENS

Teens need help handling divorce

By Wade Rowatt

Q How can I help my two teenagers accept the fact that their father and I will never get back together? We divorced eight months ago, and they are still trying to push us to be reunited.

A Your teens are not all that unusual in their interest in restoring their parents' marriage. Divorce shatters their

world of parental safety and support.

Teens hurt, grieve and adjust just like you. Their attempts perhaps are misguided, but they are expressions of care for you and concern for their own well-being.

First, tell them clearly that the marriage is over. Let them ask questions that may be bothering them. Explain that there is no way you and their father will get back into marriage with each other. If that is not the case, tell them you and their father, not them, will work out any plans for reconciliation.

Second, let them discuss their dreams about the family. They are looking for something they do not have. Perhaps they fantasize that all problems would disappear if you reconciled. They may have more personal reasons for their wish, like getting to move back into the old neighborhood and seeing old friends.

Third, explain that you are still their mother and their father is still their father. You did not divorce them. Set clear guidelines for how they are to relate to both of you apart and together.

Fourth, deal with any guilt that might be lingering in their minds. Often, offspring will blame themselves for the divorce. They might think things like, "If I had not caused so many problems, they might still be together." They borrow and make guilt around themselves. The truth will set them free. If they were to have contributed to the divorce, that is a matter for forgiveness. When they are free from guilt, then they can stop manipulating you two.

Finally, work to maintain a working friendship with their father so that you two can cooperate in the task of parenting. You still share the responsibility for guiding them into maturity and launching them into adulthood. Ephesians 6:4 applies to all parents—divorce does not set one free from the commitment of parenting by grace.

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



HE SAID/SHE SAID

'Lord, lift us up and let us stand on higher ground'



Mark Wingfield

As the old saying goes, when it rains it pours—and then sometimes it pours and pours and pours.

We thought we gained some distinction by experiencing the great Blizzard of 1993, but now we know we're true Kentucky weather veterans by having lived through both a blizzard and a flood.

There's a lot of weather irony in this flood for us, however. It was the fear of tornadoes, in part, that drove us to seek out a new house this fall

that had a basement. We were weary from huddling in a small hallway every time tornadoes threatened. About the time of the Bullitt County tornadoes last spring, I emerged from the hallway swearing we would not endure another spring without a basement.

Meanwhile, our old house, which everyone around surely would hold in a matter of days because of its desirable location and charm, has now been on the market longer than we ever dreamed possible or would like to admit. The biggest drawback: No basement.

The irony is now we have a house with a basement, and after Louisville got 11.4 inches of rain in about 28 hours last weekend, that basement flooded. The old house, of course, remained perfectly dry.

So in the final analysis, we weren't any safer from tornadoes in the house we wanted because we couldn't get in the basement for the water while the house no one else seems to want because it doesn't have a basement stayed dry.

Maybe it's time for a new headline on our real estate ad: "No basement. No flooding."



Alison Wingfield

Watching the fate of other houses and communities in Kentucky makes me ashamed to complain about our measly 4 inches of water in the basement. We can't even begin to compete in the "can you top this" stories.

While news outlets were flashing pictures of daring rescues and stranded cars, I couldn't help picturing Mark's brave trek to our old house.

The night of the Flood of '97 we had been out on a rare date and decided we should check on our other house (that makes us sound like real estate moguls, rather than in debt to our ears). We drove past about 7:30 and everything looked fine. After watching the rain pour down during dinner and watching part of the ceiling of the Pizza Hut fall in, we went back to check the inside of the house and make sure there were no leaks.

In the hour we had been gone, the street had flooded, and we couldn't even get in the driveway. Mark parked several houses away and prepared to brave the elements. Of course, no one but us would be out in a terrible downpour with nothing more than a broken umbrella and one inadequate rain coat.

There was Mark, wearing my bright yellow rain coat that was too small for him, hood pulled over his head as best he could, holding a dilapidated black umbrella that drooped on one side, and sloshing through ankle-deep water with his pants rolled up (which he stopped to do outside in the middle of the downpour). Though it wasn't a pretty sight, my hero made it to the house, discovered it to be fine and slosh back.

The greatest lesson we learned from this flood is to not get too cocky. Just when we thought we were safe (we had called the babysitters, and the basement was dry), the water began seeping into the house.

Whether it is a few inches of irritation or a destructive flood, we all have to deal with rain. I'm glad God's umbrella never breaks as he guides us through the downpours of life.

Would you take non-Christian to church?

The Christian community is divided into two groups today, according to futurist and theologian Leonard Sweet: Those who get it and those who don't.

"It" is the need to re-evaluate traditions and find new ways of making the gospel presentation relevant to those who most need to hear it, the unchurched.

Needless to say, those who don't get it far outnumber those who do.

This became readily apparent at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference. Lee Stroble, teaching pastor at Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago, one of the nation's most innovative and successful churches in reaching the unchurched, gave a moving account of his progression from atheist to Christian.

Everyone in the audience appeared to be with him, shouting, laughing and crying as he told the incredible story of how God changed his life. But when he got around to giving the practical application from his testimony, it was harder for us to shout "Amen."

His application was that most churches need to re-evaluate what they're doing and realize they have become so irrelevant to the culture that most non-Christians wouldn't understand what in the world was going on if by some miracle they did drop in for a service.

For example, they probably would hear a style of music not used anywhere else in American culture today. Not that there's anything wrong with hymns and organ music. The point is that someone who never has been in church, or who has been away from the church for a long time, has no appreciation for this type of music. It does not communicate.

Also, they would hear language for which they have no definitions. Those of us inside the church have grown so accustomed to our own church talk that we don't realize other people don't talk that way. It would be like a classical musician walking into a convention of computer techies, or a computer techie walking into a convention of classical musicians. The vocabulary is unique to each group.

None of this is intended to denigrate church music or the fellowship mature Christians share in our churches. There is a place for all that.

But who will create a place for those who don't understand or appreciate our church culture to find Christ?

The traditions followed in our churches today were begun at some point in the past because they were relevant to the culture of that day. They communicated. They helped people connect.

Few of these traditions date back to Jesus or the early church. The early church did not sing out of the Baptist Hymnal. They didn't have organs or stained-glass windows. They didn't meet at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

Stroble gave an excellent illustration of this point in a breakfast meeting. He told about visiting London, where the Salvation Army was founded in 1865 to create a more culturally relevant way of reaching people with the gospel. The Salvation Army adapted the popular music form of the day, a brass band, as a means to convey the gospel in London's slums.

On his trip to London, Stroble was awakened in his hotel room one morning by the sound of a Salvation Army band on the street below. The sight and sounds were startlingly out of context in modern London, he explained.

Although the Salvation Army does much excellent ministry across the world today without the aid of a band, in that one demonstration beneath Stroble's hotel room, the Salvation Army appeared "frozen in time," he said. While a marching band once was the right idea to be culturally relevant, it was nothing but clanging brass on the modern street corner.

Sadly, the church finds itself in the same predicament. We're faithfully banging the drum as our once-relevant band marches down the street. While the tunes may make us happy, those we want to reach can't hear the message for the music.

Do you get it?

— Mark Wingfield

EDITORIAL

Practice makes ...

By Carey Newman

My friend was troubled. His childhood best friend and his family had left after a weekend visit. Despite the years and miles, they had remained close.

The weekend, however, had exposed an unexpected difference. After the two families had returned from worship, his friend confided that Christianity had lost its attraction for him and his wife. They had simply become bored with it all. They still went to church fairly regularly, but did so only for the kids and to see friends.

He explained, "It's not that we've abandoned Christianity; it's just that we've learned to fill our lives with other things." My friend looked at me and asked a foundational question for Christianity: "Can any other form of commitment be mixed with or replace Christian devotion?"

The Bible clearly outlines Christianity's exclusive pattern of participation: (1) Christian experience begins by giving oneself in complete loyalty and faith to the God who raised Jesus from the grave; and (2)

Christian experience continues the same way—by giving oneself in complete loyalty and faith to the God who raised Jesus from the grave.

That is, just as the cross (death to our old way of life) and resurrection (being reborn and remade in the image of God) structure the beginning of Christian experience, so too the cross (repeatedly dying to self) and resurrection (repeatedly undergoing transformation) structure subsequent Christian experience.

Christianity's power lies in its simplicity: to live and re-live the cross and resurrection day after day after day.

Most children are addicted to games, and our 17-month-old daughter is no exception. Her discovery of books has grown into something of an obsession. She loves having us read to her the same stories over and over again. As her attention span increased, we sought to expand her vocabulary by associating various objects on the page with their names.

She quickly learned to copy us and can name many of the objects without our prompting. She next began to fill in the last word of the

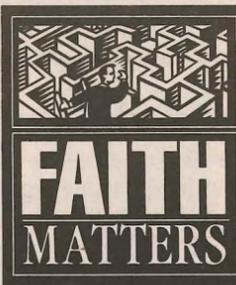
rhyme. We can barely turn a page before she cries out the appropriate word. (I know, truly a wonder-child.) She now enjoys these books all by herself.

While we marvel at her progression, there is nothing mysterious about how it happened. It has occurred through countless readings of the same books.

Admittedly, the pattern of Christian experience looks surprisingly superficial: we grow through repetition of the cross and resurrection. However, like many other aspects of Christianity, its simplicity is deceptively effective. Repetition awakens us to the presence of God in our lives; repetition enables us to imitate Jesus in a clear and convincing way; repetition heightens our sense of expectancy about what might be next; and repetition causes us to be faithful stewards.

While we might marvel at it from time to time, there is no mystery as to how this transformation occurs.

I told my friend to sleep well and not grow weary in well-doing, knowing that repetition of the cross and resurrection leads to competence, maturity and a full and unparalleled joy. *While the pattern of Christianity is repetitive—the way you get in (cross and resurrection) is the way you go on (the cross and resurrection)—it is this repetition, and this repetition alone, which leads to progressive growth and deep spirituality.*



Churches will either change or die, futurist says

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

Serve them 'breakfast in bed'

By David Winfrey
News Director

LOUISVILLE—When the world throws eggs and tomatoes at Christians, Christians must be able to serve breakfast in bed if they hope to make a positive impact, Leonard Sweet told the annual evangelism conference for Kentucky Baptists.

Sweet, dean of Drew University's Theological Seminary in Madison, N.J., said Christians are suspect in society today.

"We're not living in the world I grew up in. I grew up in a world that actually had blue laws," he said. "We're living in a culture that now looks on us the same way we used to look at Mormons."

Sweet recounted a Christmas 1995 commentary on National Public Radio by writer Andrei Codrescu. He derided Christian views of the rapture and said, "The evaporation of 4 million who believe this crap would leave the world an instantly better place."

"The only thing worse (than his comments) is what we as Christians did to Andrei Codrescu after his commentary," Sweet said, citing hate mail and death threats.

Rather than call society "post-Christian" or "anti-Christian," Sweet said he prefers the term "pre-Christian."

"You and I have John the Baptist ministries because John came before Christ," Sweet said. "We need to teach this culture who Jesus really is."

The best way to do that is to serve with love and kindness in the face of skepticism and contempt, he said.

"We have a culture out there that has no idea what we do in here," he said, adding that many Christians haven't helped their cause. "You go to churches all across the country and the (stained glass) windows go which way?"

By serving, Christians will have to put the needs of others before their own needs to reach the new culture.

Too many churches and Christians are putting their own tastes and preferences above the preferences of the world they're supposed to be trying to reach, Sweet said.

He asked grandparents if they really want to reach their grandkids for Christ, even if it means replacing their hymns with songs by contemporary Christian musicians.

"How do you know you're doing well in reaching another generation for Christ?" Sweet asked. "You know you're doing well if you're paying for things you really don't understand."

LOUISVILLE—Three frogs sat on a log, and one decided to jump. Then how many frogs sat on the log?

Three, according to Leonard Sweet, futurist, theologian and speaker at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Just because the frog decided to jump doesn't mean he actually did, Sweet explained. And the same is true of pastors and laypeople who say they intend to make changes to help their churches reach current generations with the gospel. Saying you'll change and actually changing are not the same, he noted.

Sweet, dean of Drew University's divinity school in New Jersey, challenged Kentucky Baptists Feb. 25 to change from saying the seven last words of the church to saying the seven first words of the church.

The seven last words of the church, he explained, are: "We never did it that way before." The seven first words of the church, he said after reading from Philippians 4, are: "I can do all things through Christ."

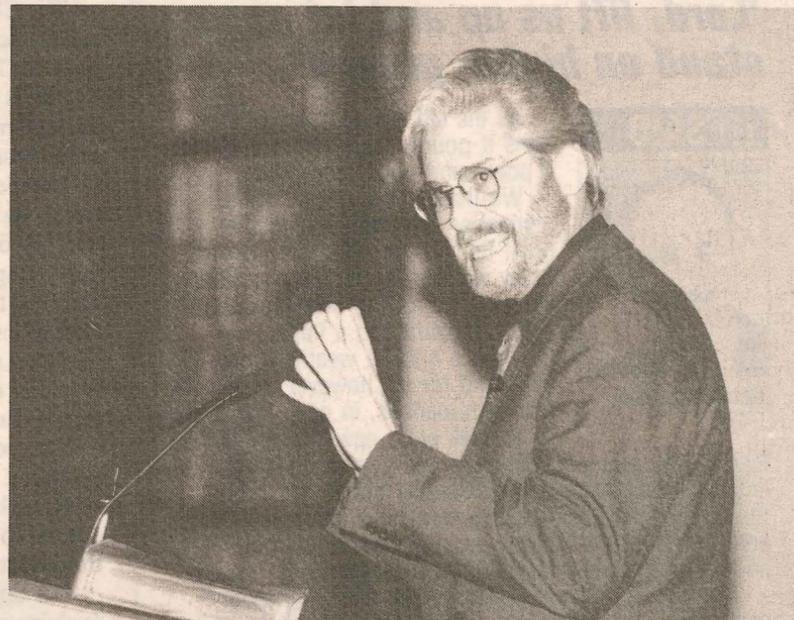
While painful, change is necessary to sustain life, Sweet said. "A medical definition of death is a body that does not change."

"So how do you know you're alive?" he asked. "Stagnancy is death; change is life."

Changing from the seven last words of the church to the seven first words requires passing through three "consciousness thresholds," Sweet said:

■ *Get it and get over it.* "The church of Jesus Christ is basically divided today between those who get it and those who don't," he said.

Those who "get it" are the new reformers of the church, moving in mindset and methodology from the industrial age through the informa-



SWEET IDEAS Christians must respond to skepticism with kindness, said Leonard Sweet. "We have a culture out there that has no idea what we do in here."

tion age and into the DNA age, he suggested.

Christians may not like the world in which they live, but they must realize God has placed them in this time, not in another time. "You've got to get over it," he said.

■ *Get a witness.* Get a mission for a world you've got, not a world you wish you had.

■ *Get into it and get on with it.* The oldest symbol of the Christian church is a ship, said Sweet, a church historian by training.

Using that symbol, he said he used to think his task was getting people to leave the safety of the harbor for the waves of the high seas. But in reality, the harbor is not the safer place, he said, he now understands.

"In a storm, where is the most dangerous place for a ship? In the harbor. The safest place is in the

sea."

Likewise, Christians and the church may feel safest in their own harbors but in reality are safest when they follow God's call to ministry away from the harbor and into the seas of life, Sweet said.

■ *Get ahead of it.* The church is so far behind in making itself relevant to contemporary culture that moving even one step ahead will still leave the church behind where society is moving, he explained. The challenge, he said, is to get ahead and be prepared to address modern society head on with the claims of Christ.

It may sound impossible, but modern Christians face a situation no worse than the Apostle Paul, Sweet said, again referring to Philippians 4. "In the midst of death and destruction he could say, 'I can do all things through Christ.'"

Meet unchurched Harry and Mary, Strobel suggests

Continued from page 1

had callously destroyed the career of an employee standing in the way of his own promotion at the newspaper.

But on the day of his conversion, "God began a process ... and I began to change," he said.

The change was so noticeable that the Strobel's 5-year-old daughter one day announced to Leslie Strobel: "Mommy, I want God to do for me what he's doing for Daddy."

Thus an entire family became followers of Christ because of the witness of one friend who was able to team up with a concerned church.

But the results might not have been the same without the help of a sensitive church like Willow Creek, he suggested.

"Often, the most effective way of reaching the lost is through relationships," Strobel explained. "Eight out of 10 people who are unchurched go to church because a friend asked them."

Also, one of the best ways for Christians to be effective in evangelism is to team up with their churches, he added. But that cannot happen unless the church is willing to make changes necessary to reach the unchurched, he said.

He quoted former Southern Baptist foreign missionary Winston Crawley to say that any church's decision to stick with tradition is a decision to exclude from their reach part of the pop-

ulation. "I will not someday stand before Jesus Christ and say, 'I cared more about the traditions of my denomination than I did about lost people,'" Strobel declared.

He gave one primary bit of advice for learning how to make a church more sensitive to reaching non-Christians: "Build one authentic, loving relationship with a headed-for-hell Harry or Mary."

This should not be just a surface relationship but one in which a deep friendship develops and the Christian develops such a love for his friend that he cannot stand the thought of that person being separated from Christ for eternity.

Then the Christian should ask, "What do I need to do on a regular basis to reach my friend Harry?" Strobel said. "When you do that, you'll reach all the other unchurched Harrys and Marys."

Not every church should become like Willow Creek, he said. And not every church may need to begin a seeker service, he added. But every church ought to do something to make itself relevant to unchurched Harrys and Marys.

Some churches might adopt "seeker-sensitive" worship, others might offer monthly seeker services, while others might develop quarterly events or small groups for seekers.

"The question is: What is your church going to do?" Strobel said.

Strobel: Six evangelism styles offer something for everyone

By David Winfrey
News Director

LOUISVILLE—A church can involve all its members in evangelism if it will free each person to witness in a way that is consistent with who she or he is, Lee Strobel said.

"Just a word to pastors: Don't try to make everybody into a clone of yourself," said Strobel, teaching minister of Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago.

While many pastors are outgoing, other Christians feel uncomfortable sharing their faith with complete or relative strangers, Strobel said.

Strobel suggested six biblical styles of evangelism people can plug into:

■ *Confrontational.* Peter is a good example of a confrontational evangelist, Strobel said. In Acts 2, Peter addressed a crowd and 3,000 people accepted Christ as their personal Savior, Strobel noted.

■ *Intellectual.* The Apostle Paul is an example of an intellectual wit-

ness when he reasoned with people in the synagogue, described in Acts 17, Strobel said.

■ *Testimonial.* The blind man who Jesus healed in John 9 is an example of someone who can witness through his or her testimony, Strobel said.

"It doesn't have to be an incredible story," he noted. "Sometimes the most simple testimony can be the most effective because people can relate to them."

■ *Relational.* After becoming a disciple of Jesus, Matthew threw a party for his tax collecting buddies to meet the Savior, Strobel noted.

"There are some folks who are adept at inviting people to evangelistic-type events," he said, citing Ruth Graham as an example.

■ *Service.* Strobel cited Dorcas from Acts 9 as someone who represented service-style evangelism. He added that after Dorcas died, Peter raised her from the dead. "Obviously, there's some advantage to having this type of style," he quipped.

Starnes: Christians should be bearing fruit for God

By David Winfrey
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Christians should remember that their purpose is to bear fruit, according to the director of evangelism for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion denomination.

"I wonder tonight if you have ever noticed that everything that is living has been commanded by its creator to be fruitful?" Darryl Starnes asked at the Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Conference, held at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Fruit-bearing is the essence of Christian discipleship, he said, explaining that "the essence" is "that part of a thing which if taken away makes that thing no longer that thing."

Using the analogy of the vine and branches in John 15, Starnes said Christians must understand three roles portrayed in that passage.

■ *God fills the role of gardener.* "He is the owner of the tree," Starnes said. "He looks at the tree and he decides what branches are bearing fruit."

■ *Christians serve as branches.* After people have established the vital connection to Jesus and become Christians, they must make sure the connection remains, Starnes said.

■ *Jesus' role is the vine.* Jesus "makes it possible for us to have vital connection with the Father," Starnes said. "Without me, Jesus says, you can't bear nothing."

After people have established the vital connection to Jesus and become Christians, they must make sure the connection remains, Starnes said.

"You know what God's greatest competition is? It's not worldliness; it's religious business," Starnes said, adding that some Christians get so busy they neglect prayer and Bible study.

"Beloved, nothing is more im-

portant," he said. "We can control the world on our knees."

Among the fruit God wants Christians to bear is to reproduce Christ in others, Starnes said, calling that the greatest show of appreciation for salvation. "It would be a shame to make it to heaven ... without bringing anyone along."

Yet the service God wants should not be done out of obligation but out of fellowship with God, Starnes said.

"Jesus wants us to be more than just servants. ... He wants more than our service. He wants our friendship. Isn't that a mind blower—that the God of the universe wants us to be his friend?"

Harris: Theology intact; get out and witness

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Richard Harris believes Southern Baptists have all the methodology and theology they need to do evangelism.

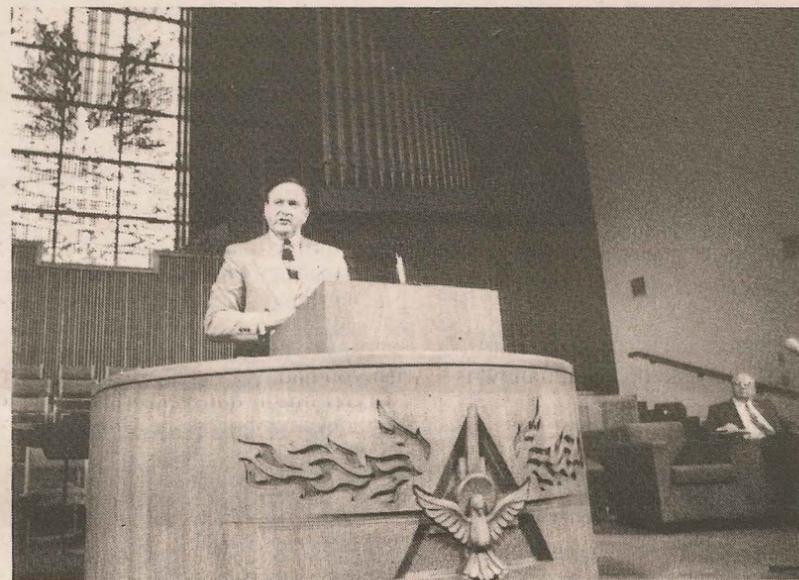
What's missing is the motivation that comes from a clear understanding of the nature of God, Harris told the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference Feb. 25.

Harris, a Somerset native, is director of mass evangelism with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

He spoke about the doctrines of predestination and election, explaining that he believes election refers to people and predestination refers to the purposes of God.

Predestination means that "forgiveness was in the heart of God before sin was in the heart of man," he said.

While God has given humans free will, God has marked out a boundary, Harris said. "That boundary, that fence, is Jesus Christ. God determined



RICHARD HARRIS "You've got all the tools in your tool box."

before the foundation of the world that all who would be in the family are those who are in Christ Jesus.

"Our job in the church," he said, "is to help get people inside the

boundary, inside the fence."

That should be a motivator for evangelism, Harris said. "You've got all the tools in your tool box. Let's get them out and use them."



IN CHAINS Evangelist Jim McNeil presents an interpretation of the Apostle Paul during the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference last week.

Acuff: Don't write someone off from hearing about the gospel

LOUISVILLE—Christians shouldn't ignore someone they think never would respond to the gospel, said Boston Pastor Mark Acuff.

"Grace Baptist Church is made up of people who had something wrong with them. That is the only qualification for them," said Acuff, who started the church in Boston.

Acuff told last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference that the leader of his churches' Sunday school class for "seekers" was a man he initially thought never would become a Christian.

"I don't know why we expect people to be holy instead of broken and in need of a shepherd," he said. "The greatest evangelists in your community are out there waiting to be reached."

Acuff offered a checklist of three issues churches should consider before trying to reach the unchurched:

■ *Vision.* Is the church's vision worth someone's total commitment?

■ *Vitality.* Is there anything hap-



CHURCH PLANTER "Why would anybody go to your church?" asked Mark Acuff, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Boston.

pening in your church worth going to?

■ *Values.* "Are acceptance, compassion and transformation key values in your church?" Acuff asked. "Not necessarily by what you say, but what you demonstrate."

CONFERENCE QUOTES

"Before we go around talking to people about God, we need to go around talking to God about people."

Lee Strobel, teaching pastor at Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago

"It's the same distance to hell from your church pew as from a barstool. It's the same distance to hell from your church pew as from a house of prostitution."

Richard Harris, Home Mission Board director of mass evangelism

"I used to think that I should pray for my ministry, and then I found out prayer is my ministry. God does amazing things when we pray with expecting, even when we see no signs of progress."

Lee Strobel

"When we keep our eyes focused on Jesus, it's easier to avoid the distractions of the world."

Gary Griesser, vocational evangelist and president of the Kentucky Baptist Vocational Evangelists Association

"We will never reach Kentucky or America for Christ until we understand that anyone without Christ is totally dead spiritually and has no hope of heaven."

Richard Harris

"It's been a hard year, but God has been with me all the way. ... I am a Christian. I am a soldier of the Lord."

Miss Kentucky Veronica Duka

"I'm mindful that I might be the only Bible people ever see."

Sylvia Hill, who shines shoes in Boston's Logan Airport and uses her job as an opportunity to share her faith.

"My trip to Boston changed me. It made me realize that what they are is what I needed to become."

Jeff Eaton, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg, who worked with a Haitian congregation as part of the Kentucky-New England partnership.

"My greatest challenge in being an effective evangelist is I am not enough like Jesus Christ."

Mark Acuff, pastor of Boston's Grace Baptist Church.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Mississippi bans same-sex marriages.** Mississippi Gov. Kurt Fordice signed a law last month banning same-sex marriage in the state, calling such relationships "perverse." Mississippi is the 17th state in the past year to pass a law barring same-sex marriage. Fordice said the law would ensure that gay couples do not enjoy such benefits of marriage as health insurance.

■ **Anti-Semitic incidents down for 1996.** For the second straight year, 1996 saw a decline in reported instances of anti-Semitism in the United States, according to a report by the Anti-Defamation League. Abraham Foxman, ADL national director, said the two-year drop represents the first multi-year decline of anti-Semitic incidents in a decade.

■ **Bill would allow Commandments in courts.** In the latest installment of the ongoing controversy over an Alabama judge's refusal to remove a replica of the Ten Commandments from his courtroom, a state senator has introduced legislation that would allow all schools and courtrooms in the state to have such displays. The Alabama Civil Liberties Union called the bills unconstitutional and "a publicity gimmick."

■ **Denominations enter energy industry.** Christians have long sung about the energy of their faith. Now five black church denominations are combining to put some of their faith in power. Revelation Energy Resources announced it will partner with the Los Angeles Department of Water

and Power to provide energy on a nationwide, wholesale basis.

■ **AIDS ads dropped.** An eye-catching ad campaign meant to call for more research dollars for AIDS was dropped because of complaints about how it addressed religion. The campaign was a series of statements about what won't cure AIDS, followed by the slogan, "Research Will." The third slogan in the campaign read "Prayer won't cure AIDS." "If you believe in the power of prayer, you don't want to see it discredited in a public way," said Mary Herring of the Fort Worth (Texas) Transportation Authority, explaining why they pulled the ads from city buses.

■ **Nominations sought for ABP award.** Directors of Associated Baptist Press are accepting nominations for the 1997 Religious Freedom Award. The award, established in 1993 to recognize outstanding contributions in the areas of religious liberty and journalistic freedom, will be presented this fall. Nominations will be accepted through March 31.

■ **Christian Reformed Church losing members.** Membership in the Christian Reformed Church dropped by 6,000 members—more than 2 percent—this year as individual members and several entire congregations seceded from the denomination. Much of the decline in membership can be attributed to denominational infighting, according to General Secretary David Engelhard.

FDA unveils 'morning after' dosage for contraceptives

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Food and Drug Administration said last week specific doses of oral contraceptives can be used as "morning-after" birth-control pills.

The agency said that based on scientific evidence, certain oral contraceptives approved for daily use are "safe and effective" as emergency contraceptive pills.

"Although emergency contraception is not as effective as proper use of a regular contraceptive method, it substantially reduces the chances of becoming pregnant after unprotected sexual intercourse," the FDA said.

Critics call the procedure a form of abortion. "We consider life to begin from the very first moments," said Serrin Foster, president of Feminists for Life in America.

Judie Brown, president of American Life League, said in a prepared statement: "Emergency contraception is a euphemism for abortion, and abortion is killing."

Last week the FDA released a prescription guide describing four regimens for using pills designed to prevent pregnancy as "morning-after" pills.

It calls for doses of two-to-four contraceptive pills up to 72 hours after intercourse, followed by the same dose 12 hours later.

The method is 75 percent effective in blocking a pregnancy.

The pills work by blocking a fertilized egg from entering the uterus and won't work after the embryo is attached to the uterus.

The main side effects are nausea and vomiting.

While doctors have long known that oral contraceptives could be administered in high doses to block pregnancies, few had access to specific information about manufacturers and dosage.

In a highly unusual move, the FDA issued its report independently and not at the request of drug manufacturers.

The agency said it would encourage pharmaceutical companies to include dosage information on their labels but would not require them to do so.

A spokeswoman for one of two U.S. manufacturers of the pills said her company would not provide the information because of fear of lawsuits.

David Gushee, an ethics professor at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., said a morning-after pill represents a possible "transition on the part of the abortion industry" by making it possible for women to end crisis pregnancies with "little or no medical consultation."

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Hebron Baptist Church seeks part-time minister of music. For information please call the church at (606) 689-7282 or Robert Byrns at (606) 525-7045, or send resumé to: Hebron Baptist Church, P.O. Box 92, Hebron, KY 41048.

SEEKING: Part-time position for a youth minister at a small church in rural Franklin County for a group of approximately 12 to 15 youth. Duties would include a weekly Bible study, a monthly youth assembly, a summer retreat. Send resumé to: Dale Gatewood, 2126 Lucas Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Somerset, Ky., is prayerfully accepting resumés (until March 15) for a full-time music/youth minister. Resumés to: Personnel Committee, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 1815 Clifty Road, Somerset, KY 42501.

CONVENTION: Dallas convention arrangements—affordable hotel packages, some walking distance. Discount fares. Sunday afternoon-Thursday non-stop flights from Louisville: \$206. Alamo rentals start \$23/day. Christian Travellers, (800) 972-8952.

SEEKING: Growing church in south central Kentucky seeks part-time minister of youth to coordinate, administer and evaluate all youth ministries. Must be able to relate to youth and work with youth ministry team. 10-12 hours weekly is minimum expectation. Send biographical information to: YM Search Committee, P.O. Box 393 Franklin, KY 42135, or call (502) 586-6211 for more information.

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

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth (possibility of combination position). Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, P.O. Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Youth and Personnel committees. For more information, please contact Linda Barnes at (502) 239-0316.

SEEKING: Pleasant Hill Baptist Church of Campbellsville is currently receiving resumés for part-time minister of youth. Send to: Minister of Youth Search Committee, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 6380 Old Lebanon Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718. No phone inquires please.

SEEKING: Progressive 1100-member church seeks full-time minister of youth and students. 3-5 years experience preferred. Application deadline: March 31. Resumés to: Youth Minister Search, Crescent Hill Baptist Church, 2800 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, KY 40206.

SEEKING: Enthusiastic part-time minister of music for a growing rural Baptist church. Send resumé to: Music Search Committee, Burgin Baptist Church, P.O. Box 266, Burgin, KY 40310.

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

SEEKING: FBC Junction City is seeking a part-time youth minister to work with a growing and dynamic youth group; experience preferred. Send resumé to: Youth Search Committee, P.O. Box 246, Junction City, KY 40440. (606) 854-3253.

WANTED: Minister of education and youth. Lancaster Baptist Church in Lancaster, Ky., has an immediate opening for a minister of education and youth. Seminary training is required. All interested applicants should forward their resumés to: Personnel Committee, Lancaster Baptist Church, 201 Richmond St., Lancaster, KY 40444.

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.

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.

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

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: 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: Kentucky 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: 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 resumés is March 1, 1997.

WOMEN'S NEWS

Kentucky Woman's
Missionary Union
P.O. Box 436569
Louisville KY
40253-6569
(502) 244-6485
Fax: (502) 244-6486

Kentucky for KIDS Day

Become an advocate for our children

**Come to the Capitol in Frankfort
Saturday, May 31,
1-4 p.m.**

Join with other Kentuckians as we celebrate "Kentucky for Kids Day." During the 1996-97 Project HELP: Child Advocacy emphasis, individuals and churches are encouraged to speak out and stand for children.

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is spearheading an effort to better the lives of children. Join us and other child advocates as we demonstrate our conviction that we can make a difference in the lives of children.

Saturday, May 31, from 1-4 p.m., on the lawn of the Capitol in Frankfort, we invite you to be a part of our "Kentucky for Kids Day." We will hear a national child advocacy speaker, present awards to outstanding child advocates, enjoy music from children and youth choirs, as well as view exhibits from religious denominations and child advocacy organizations. This effort has been enthusiastically endorsed by Gov. Paul Patton.

Each individual can make a difference, but together hand in hand, we can make a profound impact that will last a lifetime for children in Kentucky.

◆ More about Project HELP: Child Advocacy

The purpose of "Project Help: Child Advocacy," the 1996-97 Woman's Missionary Union national ministry project, is to focus on ways to educate and involve Christians in responding to needs of children (birth - 18 years), and to affirm the church's role as their advocate within the church, the community and the world.

Has your WMU gotten involved in "Project HELP: Child Advocacy?" Many churches had a child advocacy emphasis during "Focus on WMU" in February. The child advocacy emphasis lasts through September, so you still have time to get involved in being an advocate for children. Here are ways to plug into Project HELP: Child Advocacy:

◆ Attend the "Kentucky for Kids Day" on Saturday, May 31, at the Capitol in Frankfort.

- ◆ Tell a child he or she is loved and worthy just as he or she is.
- ◆ Donate needed items to local children's organizations.
- ◆ Worship with a child—not just your own.
- ◆ Stand with every child who meet every day with respect.
- ◆ Stand with one child who now stands alone.

Each church is asked to report activities for "Project HELP: Child Advocacy." Mail church report forms to the associational WMU Director by Aug. 22.



Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville April 18-19

Friday Morning, 8:50 a.m.: ◆ Music for Worship (Don Hustad) ◆ Call to Order & Prayer (Peggy Hicks) ◆ Missionary Prayer Moment (Pat Bellinger) ◆ Prayer for Cote d'Ivoire & Liberia (Crystal Rose) ◆ Introductions (Peggy Hicks) ◆ Welcome to Louisville (Dale Turner) ◆ Welcome to St. Matthews Baptist (Leslie Hollon) ◆ Recognition of Local Committees (Jan Shockley) ◆ Announcements (Kay Trisler) ◆ Missions ... *Bigger Than Human Activity* 1 Corinthians 3:5-9 (Travis Collins) ◆ Appreciation for Years of Service (Peggy Hicks) ◆ Recognition of New Staff (Peggy Hicks) ◆ Special Recognitions (Peggy Hicks) ◆ Heritage Fund (Maribeth Hambrick) ◆ Special Music (The Earnest Family) ◆ *Hand in Hand in WMU* (Wanda Lee) ◆ Benediction (Jennifer Atherton)

Friday noon: Luncheons by invitation for DOM/Associational WMU Directors, Missionaries, Missionary Parents and Program Personnel

Friday Afternoon, 1:15 p.m.: ◆ Music for Worship (Ruth Thomas) ◆ Missionary Prayer Moment (Anne Windus) ◆ Prayer for Korea (Megan Holbrook) ◆ Announcements (Kay Trisler) ◆ Business: Recognition of Retiring Board; Nominating Committee (Louis Lewis); Election of Board and Officers; Installation of the Board (Sara Billups) ◆ Introductions (Peggy Hicks) ◆ *Hand in Hand with Activators* (Julie Keith) ◆ Missions ... *Bigger Than Human Self-Interest* Acts 5:41-42 (Travis Collins) ◆ Special Music (Jeff and Debbie Earnest) ◆ *Hand in Hand in Nigeria* (Keri and Travis Collins) ◆ Afternoon Adventures (Anna Mary Byrdwell and Denise Jones) ◆ Benediction (Anna Mary Byrdwell)

Friday, 3:45-4:45: Meet the Missionaries (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, 5 p.m.: Dinners by reservation for Acteens and Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Friday Evening, 6:45 p.m.: ◆ Music for Worship (St. Matthews Choir & Orchestra) ◆ Prayer Calendar (Crystal Rose, Nicole Ray, Autumn Alcott) ◆ Introductions (Peggy Hicks) ◆ Greetings from KBC (Floyd Price) ◆ Executive Director-Treasurer's Report (Kay Trisler) ◆ 1996-97 State Acteens Panelists (Julie Keith) ◆ Announcements (Kay Trisler) ◆ Special Music (Orchestra and/or Choir) ◆ *Missions ... Bigger Than Human Boundaries* Acts 1:8 (Travis Collins) ◆ *Hand in Hand—Reaching Kentucky* (Tony Hough) ◆ Thank You from a Missionary (Judith Lawrence) ◆ Offertory/Offering (St. Matthews Children's Choir) ◆ *Hand in Hand in Multi-Housing* (Dottie Williamson) ◆ Benediction (Leslie Hollon)

Saturday Morning, 9 a.m.-noon: GA Mission Event (Christian Life Center)

Saturday Morning, 8:50 a.m.: Music for Worship (The Earnest Family) ◆ Prayer Calendar (Megan Holbrook) ◆ *Missions ... Bigger Than Human Differences* Galatians 3:28 (Travis Collins) ◆ Announcements (Kay Trisler) ◆ Introductions (Peggy Hicks) ◆ Annual Meeting Invitation (Westport Road Church) ◆ The Camping Experience (Kim Davis) ◆ *Hand in Hand in GA Adventures* (Brenda Price) ◆ Special Music (Glendale Children's Home Choir) ◆ *Hand in Hand with New England* (Calvin Wilkins) ◆ Eliza Broadus Offering/Season of Prayer for State Missions emphasis ◆ Thank You from an MK (Stefana Dan) ◆ Offertory/Offering (Don Hustad) ◆ Project HELP: Child Advocacy (Julie Keith) ◆ *Hand in Hand for Children* (Diana Garland) ◆ Benediction (Peggy Hicks)

* Registration will be in the foyer of the St. Matthews Baptist Church sanctuary from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Thursday, April 17; and at 8 a.m. Friday, April 18, and Saturday, April 19.

A personal word



Kay Trisler
Executive Director
Kentucky WMU

For several months, we have been preparing for a wedding in our family. Our daughter, Amy, will marry Tim Adkins April 5 at Harrodsburg Baptist Church. This is also the church where she was baptized.

These have been happy days for us and days of reflection as well. How grateful I am for women in my church in Lexington who influenced me as a newlywed. They helped me find my place in service as a young woman and modeled what it means to be a servant.

When I was a young woman, my moved to Harrodsburg, and again I am so thankful for missions leaders there

who influenced my life.

It is my prayer that Amy and her family will be blessed as we were by Christian friends who are older and wiser and who model a missions lifestyle.

You will not want to miss the annual meeting this year. It is always a wonderful time of fellowship and inspiration. The meeting will begin Friday morning and end at noon Saturday. The work of committees at St. Matthews in preparation for the meeting has been outstanding. The program is filled with missions education, mission support and reports of mis-

sion action.

Older Women on Mission members will want to come "hand in hand" with younger members of Women on Mission.

This year's meeting will be especially meaningful as we focus on children and youth. Don't forget, we have a coed option now, so we will be looking for Adults on Mission members as well.

We have a place for everyone in WMU. Have you found your place?

Perhaps you have been a member for many years and have never taken a place of leadership and now would like to use your leadership skills. Per-

haps you have been leading adults in missions education and would like to work with children or youth.

Now is the time to think about where you really want to serve. The nominating committee already is at work in some churches to choose leaders for next year. After you pray and determine where you need to serve, call the nominating committee and surprise them by volunteering.

Your WMU director, associational WMU director and our state age-level leaders will keep you informed about training opportunities.

It is my pleasure to serve with you.

Become a role model for younger women in your church

IDEAS THAT WORK

Women on Mission

The personnel committee of the Kentucky WMU Executive Board interviewed several fine applicants for the position of Women on Mission Associate. Denise Jones of Louisville was chosen and began her work with Kentucky WMU on March 3.

Denise has the gifts and experience that best match the needs of Kentucky WMU as we work with adult women. She has demonstrated a strong commitment to missions as US-2 missionary in Alaska, and with her husband, Dennis, worked diligently as a home missionary in the Georgetown area of our state. She has lived in Kentucky several years. Her first-hand missions experience and her work in her church will be very valuable as she comes to encourage women in Kentucky to be on mission.

Those who know Denise well describe her as a visionary, a great leader, a very enthusiastic communicator and one who brings joy to any situation.

The changing needs of women today and the challenges they face as they try to balance missions involvement and a career, are many. We know Denise will be able to identify with and offer en-

couragement to those women. As the mother of a 5-month-old son, she can identify with the challenges faced by mothers of young children. She can help them as they seek to use their gifts for service. She will be able to provide new ideas to those who are experienced Women on Mission leaders.

Missions education is a central focus of Kentucky WMU. Denise has many years of experience in determining educational needs and developing programs to meet those needs. We are excited about the future of Kentucky WMU as Denise joins those on our staff who continue to provide excellent support to missions leaders in every age-level in Kentucky Baptist churches.

Plan to meet and welcome Denise to our staff at our Kentucky WMU annual meeting. Begin making your plans now for fall retreats and other events for which she will be responsible.

Denise, her husband and son, Will, live in southeastern Jefferson County. Her husband is an ordained minister and works for American Airlines.—*Kay Trisler*



Acteens

By Julie Keith

◆ **People Get Ready** is the theme for the 1997 State Acteens Conference to be held April 4-5 at First Baptist Church in Murray. A registration brochure and State Acteens Conference poster were mailed to every Acteens advisor in a February Acteens mailing. Registration must be received by March 27, 1997. No refunds will be given after that date.

◆ **Acteens Dinner** at the WMU Annual Meeting. Make plans to attend a special dinner for all Acteens and advisors on Friday, April 18, during the WMU Annual Meeting. You will be introduced to the Kentucky State Panelists and the three Top Teens from Kentucky. Use the registration form on page 3-A to make your reservations.

◆ **National Top Teens.** Jennifer Atherton, Crystal Rose and Kelley Travis have been selected as National Top Teens. See pictures on page 4-A.

Jennifer is a 12th-grader from Paducah and is a member of Lone Oak First Baptist Church. She is a 1996-97 State Acteens Panelist. Jennifer has been a member of Acteens for six years and has completed the "Queen Regent in Service" level of StudiAct.

Crystal is a 12th-grader from Benton and is a member of Bethel Missionary Baptist

Church. She is a 1996-97 State Acteens Panelist. Crystal has been a member of Acteens for five years and has completed the "Service Aide" level of StudiAct.

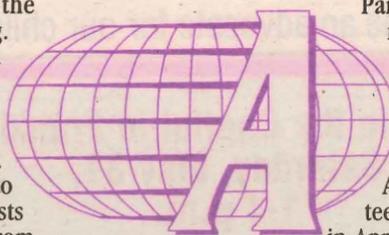
Kelley is an 11th-grader from Murray and is a member of First Baptist Church. She was a 1995-96 State Acteens Panelist. Kelley has been a member of Acteens for five years and has completed the "Service Aide" level of StudiAct.

◆ **Project HELP: Child Advocacy.** At the State Acteens Conference in Murray in April, we will work with Life

House Ministry as one of our three ministry projects. Acteens groups are encouraged to bring the following items to support this ministry: baby clothes (preemie to 3 toddler), pink and blue Bibles, pacifiers, diapers, crib sheets and canned goods.

As an Acteens advisor, you are an advocate for children. Begin now to make plans to participate in the "Kentucky for Kids Day," Saturday, May 31, at the state capitol in Frankfort. See page 1-A for more details.

◆ **State Acteens Panelists.** See the photo of Kentucky's State Acteens Panelists on page 4-A.



Mission Friends/Girls in Action

By Brenda Price

Mission Friends

◆ **Be on the lookout!** They may be in your church, sleeping in beds, crawling around on the floor or making strange squealing sounds! Who, you ask? Babies, creepers and toddlers! Preschoolers from birth through one year old probably are the most ignored age group as potential members of Mission Friends.

Teaching younger preschoolers (babies and ones) is a difficult concept for some adults to understand and accept. When young preschoolers come to church, they need a teacher who understands them as learners and who will provide positive experiences on their learning level. While teachers do not overtly teach missions to young preschoolers, they do teach, and their love for missions will be reflected in their teaching. A foundation is laid for later concepts about missions.

When and where can you have Younger Mission Friends? Any time preschoolers are present and parents agree, you can have Mission Friends. Examples: Women on Mission meetings, revival services, Wednesday evening prayer service, visitation programs, daycare, etc.

How do you begin? Talk with the WMU director in your church about the need for organizing Younger Mission Friends. Enlist someone who will become the teacher and not just a "baby-sitter." Use the curriculum section in *Start* magazine which is especially written for Younger Mission Friends.

Girls in Action

◆ **GA Missions Event.** Come "Hand in Hand" to the GA Missions Event Saturday, April 19, at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.

Because Girls in Action is a part of WMU, each year this special event is held during the WMU annual meeting. The event will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude around noon (EDST).

While the general WMU meeting is in session, GAs and their leaders will have their own event with opportunities to meet missionaries, sing and have all kinds of GA fun. The event will be held in the church's Christian Life Center. (See the map in this insert and use Macon Avenue entrance.)

No pre-registration for the event is required. However, the cost is \$1 per person, to be paid on arrival.

GAs and leaders can be involved in "Project HELP: Child Advocacy" by bringing one of the following items to the GA Missions Event: baby shampoo, baby lotion, gentle laundry detergent (Dreft, Ivory Snow), clothes for newborns, construction paper, crayons, scissors, glue. The items will be distributed to Louisville-area children's ministries.

◆ **Don't miss the opportunity** to stand for children at the "big event" in Frankfort Saturday, May 31. See information on page 1-A of this *Kentucky Notes* and watch for news in the weeks ahead.



WMU Directors

By Anna Mary Byrdwell

◆ **I have, in a sense, changed hats,** and now my opportunity is to think and plan with you as you serve as the top WMU leader in your church. The future is loaded with exciting possibilities. You can increase opportunities at home as well as around the world.

◆ **Are you getting *Dimension* magazine and the *WMU Leadership Team Resource Kit*?** (They are quarterly publications.) You will find materials in the April-May-June issues helpful and motivating.

There is a great "Cooperative Program Day" poster as well as promotion materials, other stewardship promotion items and Mission Supper Group ideas.

◆ **Associational Emphasis in May.** What is happening in your association? Foreign, home and state missions get our attention, but do we look seriously at what we are doing right where we live? The first article in April-May-June *Dimension* challenges us to examine our involvement in the association.

◆ **Training makes a difference.** WMU Conference at Ridgecrest is Monday-Friday, June 29-July 4. Reservations can be made now. Call (800) 588-7222.

◆ **This Season of Prayer** for Home Missions is a time when you can motivate your church to pray and give sacrificially to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home

Missions.

◆ **Travel to Louisville** to the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, April 18-19. Plan to attend both days. Encourage your Acteens leaders and Acteens to attend the Acteens dinner on Friday evening. Encourage your GA leaders to bring their GAs to the Saturday morning GA Event.

◆ **Coed organizations.** Would beginning Youth on Mission, Children in Action or Adults on Mission groups involve people in your church who are not participating in mission work? *Adults on Mission* and *The Source* could provide structure and resources for groups who may be doing missions projects on their own. Get a starter kit by calling (800) 968-7301.

◆ **Encourage camp attendance.** Even if your church does not have GAs and Acteens, your girls would benefit from a week at Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek. Remember, first, second and third graders AND their mothers go to overnight camp. Need information? See page 3-A or call (502) 244-6485.

◆ **Think ahead.** *Let Your Heart Be Broken* is the theme for the Season of Prayer for State Missions in September. The hymn is in the latest *Baptist Hymnal*. Ask your minister of music to teach it to your congregation.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Acteens Dinner

Kentucky Acteens/Advisors Dinner

Friday, April 18, 5 p.m. (EDT)
St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville

All Kentucky Acteens and advisors are invited. Cost: \$7 per person.
Use this form to make reservations:

Please make reservations for _____ people.
Total amount enclosed: \$ _____
Person sending reservation: _____
Home address: _____
Church: _____
Association: _____
Daytime phone number: _____

Reservations must be in the Kentucky WMU office by April 4. No refunds after April 11. Make checks payable to Kentucky WMU. Mail to: Acteens Dinner, WMU Office, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, Ky. 40253-6569.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Baptist Nursing Fellowship Dinner

Judy Lawrence, missionary nurse in Thailand, will talk with RNs, LPNs, missionary and student nurses at a 5 p.m. dinner April 18 at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. Judy's ministry in Thailand will benefit from the Child Advocacy Offering sponsored by WMU. Make reservations by sending \$7 per person with this reservation form.

Please make reservations for _____ people.
Total amount enclosed: \$ _____
Person sending reservation: _____
Home address: _____
Church: _____
Association: _____
Daytime phone number: _____

Reservations must be in the Kentucky WMU office by April 4. No refunds after April 11. Make checks payable to Kentucky WMU. Mail to: BNF Dinner, WMU Office, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, Ky. 40253-6569.

Summer camps



Girls in Action* and Acteens* camps

◆ **GA or Acteens camp:** \$80 per person
GA (completed grades 4-6)
Acteens (completed grades 7-12)

◆ **Mother-daughter overnight camp:**
\$20 per person (Girls who have completed grades 1-3 and their mothers)

◆ **Cedar Crest 1997**
June 16-June 22 Staff training
June 23-June 27 GA camp
July 7-July 11 GA camp
July 14-July 18 GA/Acteens camp
July 21-July 25 Acteens camp
July 28-Aug. 1 GA camp
Aug. 4-Aug. 8 GA camp

◆ **Mother-daughter overnight camp:**
Cedar Crest
July 11-July 12
July 18-July 19
July 25-July 26
Aug. 1-Aug. 2

◆ **Jonathan Creek 1997**
May 16-May 17 Staff training
June 16-June 20 GA/Acteens camp
June 23-June 27 GA camp
July 7-July 11 GA camp

◆ **Mother-daughter overnight camp:**
Jonathan Creek
June 20-June 21
June 27-June 28

* Girls do not have to be members of Girls in Action or Acteens to attend camp. For applications, write to Kentucky WMU, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, Ky. 40253-6569. For staff information, see page 3-A.

Upcoming Events

March 2-9	Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Offering
April 4-5	State Acteens Conference, Murray First Baptist Church
April 17	Kentucky WMU Executive Board Meeting, Baptist Building West
April 18-19	Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, St. Matthews Baptist Church
April 25-26	Associational Officers Briefing, Jonathan Creek
May 17	Associational Officers Briefing, Winchester First Baptist Church
May 31	Kentucky for Kids Day, Frankfort
June 15-16	WMU, SBC Annual Meeting
June 30-July 4	WMU Week, Ridgecrest

Staff Directory

Peggy Hicks—President
Kay Trisler—Executive Director-Treasurer

Associates: Anna Mary Byrdwell, WMU; Julie Keith, Acteens/Campus Women on Mission; Brenda Price, Mission Friends/Girls in Action; Denise Jones, Women on Mission
Camp specialist: Kim Davis
Professional support staff: Donna Dye, financial/office manager; Doris Riddle, secretary/receptionist; Leigh Anne Alexander, administrative assistant; Gregg Bingham, secretary/data specialist

President's perspective

WMU challenges women to radical discipleship for Christ



Peggy Hicks
President
Kentucky WMU

Woman's Missionary Union challenges Christian believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God. This radical involvement issues out of a radical commitment to Jesus Christ and his mission. Jesus calls us to an unconditional life of service and witness.

In his words, "If anyone wants to follow me, he must renounce himself, take up his cross, and come with me (Matthew 16:24). This is not a call to casual involvement, but a summons to a focused life of ministry and witness. This is our call to missions, a call addressed to every disciple of Christ.

The word "radical" is derived from

the Latin word radix which means "root." This reflects the nature of our commitment and involvement: we are claimed by Christ at the very roots of our existence.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer in "The Company of the Committed" understood this. He wrote, "When Jesus calls a person he bids him come and die." This is a far cry from living within our comfort zones. We are to pour out our whole lives as fragrant offerings on the altar of service for Christ. This is why WMU calls us to a missions lifestyle.

One reason we must make this kind of commitment is that there are people in our own communities and

in many nations around the world who will respond to Christ through the witness, ministry and love of faithful Christians.

The Foreign Mission Board has identified numerous people groups who are eagerly responding to presentations of the gospel. In Thailand, for instance, more than 300 inmates attended a Christmas program in Ralchburi Prison, and after a gospel presentation, 200 prisoners made professions of faith and enrolled in correspondence Bible study courses.

There are places like this all over the world where people will respond gladly. But for this to happen some-

one must go and live among them, love them and share Christ with them.

Will your radical commitment to missions move you to offer yourself to go? Will it lead you to teach others about missions, pray for missions, give sacrificially and be involved in mission action where you live?

The loving Christ who made a radical commitment to us on the cross calls us to a radical commitment to him and his mission.

Annual meeting will focus our attention on many parts of the world as our missionaries share with us. You will be blessed by them and our national WMU President, Wanda Lee.

MISSIONS INFORMATION

Summer camps

Top 10 reasons to be a summer camp staffer

10. Where else is swimming every day part of your job description?
9. No polyester uniforms required.
8. Could use the exercise.
7. Add to your T-shirt collection.
6. Get to be part of nature and the great outdoors.
5. Cool theme: "The Language of Love"
4. A great way to grow and develop love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.
3. Meet new people and missionaries, and learn about different cultures.
2. Love children and want to make a difference in their lives.
1. Desire to serve out of love and devotion to God.

One to three-week paid and volunteer positions are open at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly, located near Hardin, Ky., on Kentucky Lake. Eight-week paid staff positions are available at Cedar Crest, located in Shelby County. For camp dates, see page 3-A.

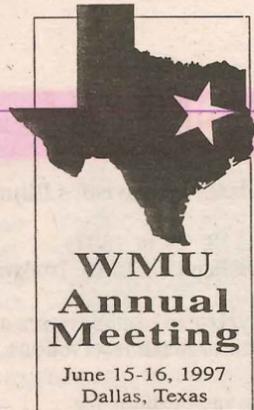
Positions: ♦ Assistant counselor ♦ Counselor ♦ Unit leader/program coordinator ♦ Kitchen coordinator/counselor ♦ Lifeguard ♦ Volunteer nurse (usually a one week commitment)

For more information about camp staff positions, contact: Kim Davis, Camp Specialist, Kentucky WMU, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, Ky. 40253-6569, (502)244-6485.

National WMU Meeting

Going to Dallas in June?

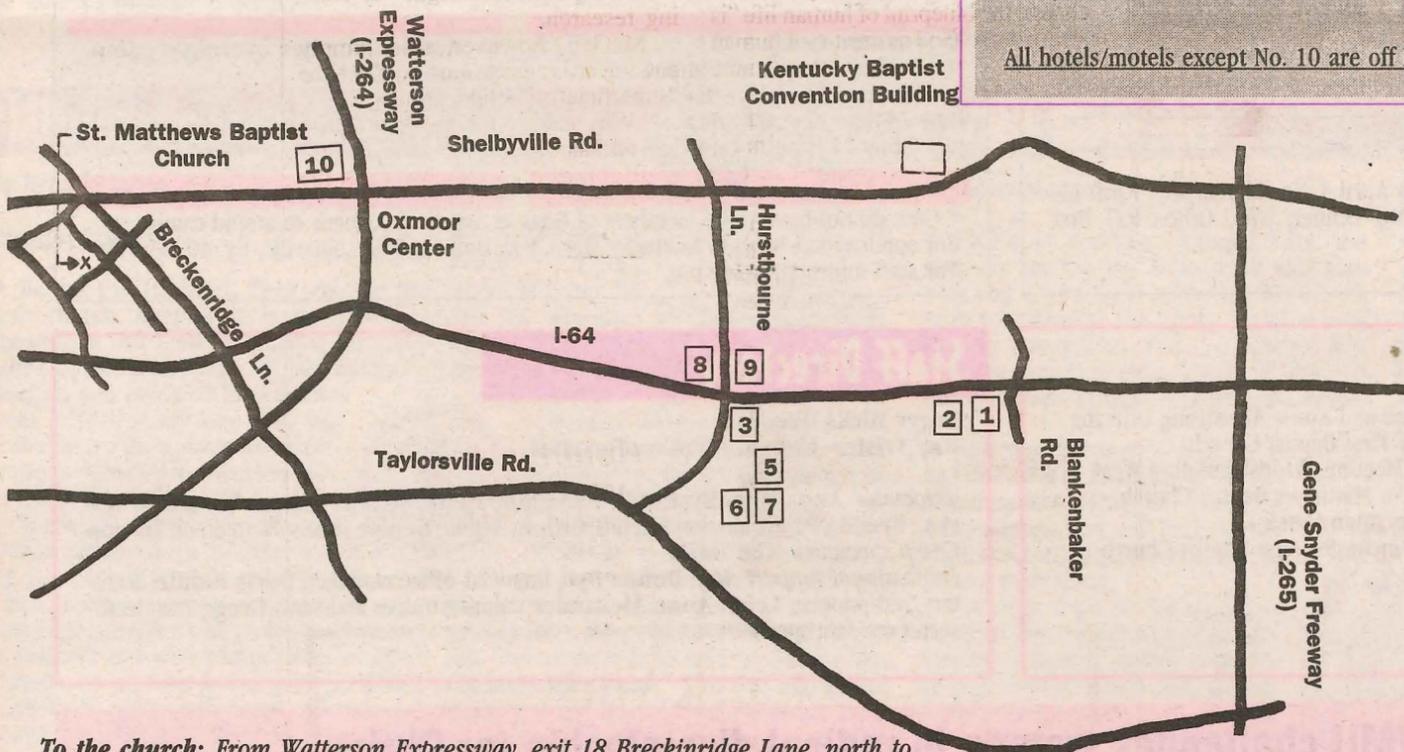
Don't miss the national annual WMU meeting, June 15-16. There will be two sessions on Sunday and three on Monday. Sessions will be held in the arena of the Dallas Convention Center, across the hall from the site of the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference meeting.



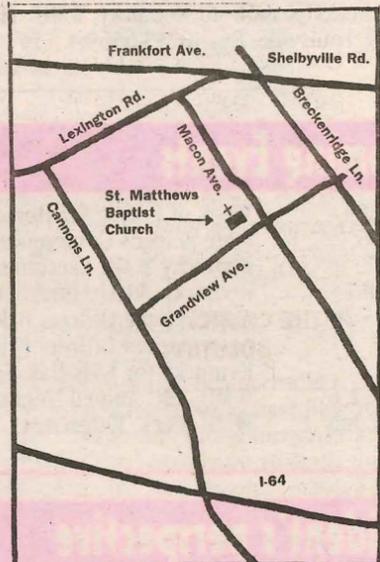
Kentucky Annual Meeting

HOTELS FOR KENTUCKY WMU ANNUAL MEETING

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>1. Best Western
\$60.00 double
(502) 267-8100
1301 Kentucky Mills Dr.
Deadline: April 19, 1997
Exit 17</p> | <p>4. Wilson Inn
\$44.95 double
\$54.00 suite
(502) 499-0000
9802 Bunsen Way
Deadline: March 18, 1997
Exit 15</p> | <p>7. Hampton Inn
\$60.00 double
(502) 491-2577
1902 Embassy Square Blvd.
Deadline April 4, 1997
Exit 15</p> | |
| <p>2. Microtel Inn
Exit 17
\$37.95 single
\$47.95 double
(502) 266-6590
(888) 333-8188
1221 Kentucky Mills Ln.
Deadline: March 27, 1997</p> | <p>5. Marriott East
\$69.00 double
(502) 499-6220
(800)228-9290
1903 Embassy Square Blvd.
Deadline April 4, 1997
Exit 15</p> | <p>8. Travel Lodge
\$54.00 double
(502) 425-8010
9340 Blairwood Rd.
Deadline March 18, 1997
Exit 15</p> | |
| <p>3. Doubletree Club
(formerly Hurstbourne Center)
\$60.00 double
(502) 491-4830
9700 Bluegrass Pkwy.
Deadline: March 28, 1997
Exit 15</p> | <p>6. Days Inn Hurstbourne Area
\$52.95 double
(502) 591-1040
1850 Embassy Square Blvd.
Deadline March 28, 1997
Exit 15</p> | <p>9. Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
\$73.00 double
(502) 426-2600
1325 Hurstbourne Ln.
Deadline April 3, 1997
Exit 15</p> | |
| <p>All hotels/motels except No. 10 are off Interstate 64</p> | | | <p>10. Days Inn East
\$58.00 double
(502) 896-8871
4621 Shelbyville Rd.
Deadline March 18, 1997</p> |



To the church: From Watterson Expressway, exit 18 Breckinridge Lane, north to Grandview, left on Grandview; From I-64, exit 10 Cannons Lane, north to Grandview, right on Grandview.



1996-97 State Acteens Panelists From left to right: Crystal Rose, Nicole Ray, Jennifer Atherson, Chrissy Byrd, Megan Holbrook, Autumn Alcott, with Julie Keith, Kentucky Acteens associate.

Kentucky's National Top Teens



Jennifer Atherson Paducah



Crystal Rose Benton



Kelley Travis Murray

Does cloning like sheep mean science has gone astray?

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—Hello, Dolly.

Scientists hailed news of a 7-month-old lamb, named Dolly, conceived by cloning as a new threshold for promising research.

Ethicists, meanwhile, were left pondering scary scenarios that the process which produced the genetic duplicate of a 6-year-old ewe could be used on humans.

To clone the sheep, scientists altered cells from an adult ewe and fused them with 277 unfertilized sheep eggs from which the nuclei, which contain genes, had been removed. Only 29 fused eggs survived. They were implanted in surrogate mothers. One of the sheep became pregnant and gave birth to a lamb that was an exact duplicate of the adult donor.

Experts say the ability to clone animals will be of great benefit for livestock production and medical research. The down side: if cloning works with one mammal, which many scientists thought impossible, it likely will work with humans.

Such discoveries create an ethical gray area, into which some argue science should not encroach.

In a poll taken for ABC News' "Nightline," 53 percent of Americans accepted the cloning of animals for medical research. Eighty-seven percent, however, said cloning of humans should not be allowed.

"It is clear to me from a Christian perspective that under no circumstances of any kind would it ever be morally permissible to clone a human being," said ethicist David Gushee.

Gushee, a professor at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., said he is less certain about whether even such research on animals represents a kind of "forbidden knowledge" that lies beyond the proper realm of science. "It's an open question of whether human beings can be trusted with this kind of power."

But Glenn McGee, professor of bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania and author of a book on cloning and genetic engineering, said cloning livestock is "obviously not" immoral.

"Hybridization and agricultural modification have been around as long as wheat," McGee said. "We wouldn't have corn if it weren't for

hybridization." Livestock cloning, he claimed, falls into the same category.

Cloning could be used to produce hundreds of identical animals for use in cancer research, making the tests more efficient and thereby requiring fewer test animals, he said. It could help fight world hunger by producing more efficient animals at lower cost.

The technology already exists to "engineer" cattle so they produce human insulin. With the new discovery, whole herds of animals could be cloned to produce insulin for use by diabetics, McGee said.

Applying the process to humans, however, "is obviously immoral," McGee said.

The procedure is also inefficient. To get one cloned human, you'd have to go through thousands of embryos, McGee noted.

Daniel Heimbach, associate professor of ethics at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, classified cloning animals as falling within God's "creation mandate" to rule over and subdue the earth.

Cloning humans, however, would be a "real serious moral problem," Heimbach said.

"Dealing with the genetic code seriously impacts the whole meaning of what it means to be in the image of God," Heimbach said.

Tinkering with the power to change the blueprint of human life "is an affront to God as creator of human life," Heimbach said. "It tempts men to become gods."

Paul Simmons, a former ethics professor at Southern Seminary, said cloning "offers the ultimate ego trip for the narcissists in our midst."

He added, however, that such research should not be banned. "Where health concerns are involved, I think cloning offers some potential bene-



CLONING QUESTIONS
Dolly, the first genetically reproduced sheep, meets the press last week at the Roslin Institute near Edinburgh. (Reuters Photos)

fits," Simmons added.

Simmons said the Christian community should be involved in questions new research raises about the nature and meaning of life but should not resist efforts to find cures for genetic diseases and disabilities.

"We cannot claim to love people if we are indifferent to or try to erect barriers to scientific breakthroughs for therapeutic knowledge," Simmons said.

President Clinton asked a national ethics board to review "troubling" implications of cloning.

Gushee applauded the president's "rapid action" and called for "serious public oversight" of cloning research.

McGee, however, said simply passing laws against cloning would be "superficial and mindless."

"Why not pass a law against living on Mars?" McGee said.

Right or wrong, now that the technique exists, it likely will be used by someone on humans, Simmons said. "I think it will happen, no matter what the rules or laws are."

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Thank You

The family of Helen Holland Prickett would like to thank Kentucky Baptists, and specifically the Baptists of Daviess-McLean Association, for your support, encouragement, prayers, cards, phone calls and good will shown to us on the occasion of the death of our loved one. We would especially like to thank those who came to the funeral in Alabama and to the memorial service in Owensboro.

You have strengthened us by your support. You have stood beside us and prayed for us. We have been strong because you have given us strength. God has used you to bless us and we thank him and we thank you.

*T.A. Prickett and
Panda Prickett Krouse*

Black leather Boone gets the boot from gospel music show

TUSTIN, Calif. (RNS)—Trinity Broadcasting Network has pulled Pat Boone's gospel music show after receiving hundreds of calls from opponents of his involvement with making and promoting a record using heavy-metal lyrics.

Colby May, a spokesman for the network, said "Gospel America" would be "discontinued for the next several weeks." The half-hour program has aired weekly for more than four years.

May said the decision was made last month after the network was inundated with calls and after Boone had "very sincere conversations" with Trinity President Paul Crouch.

"We've received a number of calls and the preponderance of the calls have been in support of the discontinuance of the program and in complaint of some of the changes that people have observed in Pat Boone," May told RNS.

The 62-year-old Christian singer provoked controversy when he appeared on the Grammy Awards Jan. 27 in black leather biker gear—including a studded dog collar—to promote his new recording, "Pat Boone in a Metal Mood: No More Mr. Nice Guy."

Boone is scheduled to appear on Trinity's flagship program "Praise" with Crouch April 15 to discuss the change in his musical emphasis. Boone's pastor, Jack Hayford of Church on the Way in Van Nuys, Calif., also has been invited to appear on the show.

May could not say if Boone's program would return to the air after his April 15 "Praise" appearance. "I think that all remains to be seen," May said.

Boone, in an interview with the Los Angeles Times, said some of his fans don't think the heavy-metal lyrics and the hard-rock attire fit the entertainer they know. "They didn't get the joke."

With information from Associated Baptist Press.

Gospel musicians among Grammy winners

NEW YORK (RNS)—Gospel music was recognized in its usual six categories at the 39th annual Grammy Awards last week, but three Nashville songwriters well known in Christian circles also walked away with the Song of the Year.

Gordon Kennedy, Wayne Kirkpatrick and Tommy Sims co-wrote "Change the World," the song featured in the movie "Phenomenon." The Grammy-winning version was sung by Eric Clapton.

Kennedy, one half of the Christian pop group Dogs of Peace, has written songs for such Christian artists as Susan Ashton, Kim Hill, Wes King and PFR.

Kirkpatrick has written songs and produced albums for such Christian artists as Ashton, Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith.

Sims, along with Kennedy, is a former member of White Heart, a Christian rock band, and also has written songs for Grant and Hill.

During the televised portion of the Grammy Awards, contemporary gospel singer CeCe Winans performed "Count on Me" from the film "Waiting to Exhale" with featured Aretha Franklin, Mary J. Blige and Brandy.

Winners in gospel categories included dc Talk's "Jesus Freak," honored as Best Rock Gospel Album.

"A Grammy Award is like 'the shot heard 'round the world' when it comes to musical recognition,"



DC TALK February was a good month for the trio. In addition to winning a Grammy, leader Toby McKeehan collected a record 13 Dove nominations.

said Toby McKeehan, of the Christian rock trio. "We are elated, yet, in a strange way, humbled."

Other winners in gospel categories are:

■ **Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album:** "Tribute: The Songs of Andrea Crouch," performed by various artists.

■ **Best Southern Gospel, Country Gospel or Bluegrass Gospel Album:** "I Love to Tell the Story: 25 Timeless Hymns," by Andy Griffith.

■ **Best Traditional Soul Gospel Album:** "Face to Face," by Cissy Houston.

■ **Best Contemporary Soul Gospel Album:** "Whatcha Lookin' 4," by Kirk Franklin and the Family.

■ **Best Gospel Album by a Choir or Chorus:** "Just a Word," by Shirley Caesar's Outreach Convention Choir.

Dove nominees

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Toby McKeehan, leader of the Christian rock group dc Talk, has received a record-breaking 13 nominations for the Gospel Music Association's 1997 Dove Awards.

The Doves will be awarded April 24 in a ceremony to air live on the Nashville Network.

McKeehan was nominated in performer, songwriter, illustrator and producer categories. Other nominees among the 37 categories are:

■ **Artist of the year:** 4Him, Steven Curtis Chapman, dc Talk, Jars of Clay, Point of Grace.

■ **Male vocalist of the year:** Bob Carlisle, Steven Curtis Chapman, Gary Chapman, Bryan Duncan, Jonathan Pierce.

■ **Female vocalist of the year:** Crystal Lewis, Rebecca St. James, Kathy Troccoli, Jaci Velasquez, CeCe Winans.

■ **Group of the year:** 4Him, Anointed, dc Talk, Jars of Clay, Point of Grace.

■ **Song of the year:** "Between You and Me," "Butterfly Kisses," "Crucified With Christ," "Flood," "Healing Hands," "I'll Lead You Home," "In the Light," "Keep the Candle Burning," "Lord of the Dance," and "People Get Ready ... Jesus Is Comin'."

Will it really make a difference?

By Charles Cox Jr.

Being sure we are prepared for death is not something most of us spend a great deal of time thinking about.

As Christians, we already have the assurance of eternal life through our Savior Jesus Christ. Yet, the welfare of loved ones who will be left behind must be considered also.

Of equal importance is the wonderful opportunity we have to be found faithful by making provisions for our ongoing favorite ministries.

At Baptist Healthcare Foundation, we seek to make everyone aware of the need for a Christian will. Preparing a will assures that your family's needs will be met. Additionally, a will affords you the opportunity to create an eternal testimony of your commitment to thoughtful stewardship.

Effective planning and responsible stewardship may be accomplished in a number of ways. Everyone needs a will. Other planned giving considerations may include such options as a charitable gift annuity, charitable remainder trust or others.

After all distributions to your family and friends have been determined, an endowment could be established for charities you hold dear such as your church, other ministries or charitable organizations such as Baptist Healthcare Foundation.

All it takes to begin the planning process or to receive information about responsible Christian stewardship is one simple phone call to Baptist Healthcare Foundation. Please keep in mind that the services of Baptist Healthcare Foundation are free. You are under no obligation to Baptist Healthcare Foundation. We provide our services to others as part of our Christian mission.

Will it really make a difference if you plan? I think you can see that it will.

Decide today to provide for your family and future kingdom causes.

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

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Charles W. Cox Jr.

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MUSIC



AMAZING GRACE The contemporary vocal group Point of Grace (above) and Stephen Curtis Chapman are among the 30 artists on WOW 1997.

Artists try to 'WOW' more fans with combined effort

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (RNS)—Terry Jones of the contemporary Christian music group Point of Grace lives one state west from the charged musical environment of Nashville. From her perspective in Little Rock, she believes the gospel music industry can benefit from cooperation as well as competition.

Jones and other artists were in New York City's Madison Square Garden last week for the 39th annual Grammy Awards, where competition is the name of the game, and where Christian performers competed in six gospel music categories.

But Point of Grace also is an example of how the industry is learning to work together to promote the whole of Christian music through the use of compilation albums.

Point of Grace and 29 other groups and performers, for example, have joined together on the latest such effort—"WOW 1997." The album is on its way to selling a million copies.

The female quartet's pop single "Keep the Candle Burning" is featured on "WOW 1997" along with Christian songs with a rock edge, a taste of rhythm-and-blues gospel and a mix of country and bluegrass.

"I think we all feel that we have one goal, one purpose and that's to encourage people in Christ," said Jones, 26. "I think it's wonderful that the different record companies can come together and allow their artists to be on with other artists from different labels."

Point of Grace, which formed in 1991 while the members were in Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas, received the Gospel Music Association's 1994 Dove Award for New Artist of the Year. But the group is still thrilled with the exposure it receives when coupled with bigger names in Christian music.

"It's always fun to get to be on projects with people like Steven Curtis Chapman and Carman," she said. "It really helps broaden the audience that we have."

And that audience—including buyers of music in Christian retail settings and secular stores—is opening its collective wallet.

According to the Feb. 17 issue of CCM Update, a weekly trade publication about the contemporary Christian music industry, "WOW 1997" is the second highest-selling Christian album in both Christian and secular markets.

Retailers like Brian Ehline, a buyer for a chain of Christian bookstores in the Pacific Northwest, call "WOW 1997" a boost for individual business and the industry as a whole.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for us as retailers ... to introduce people to Christian music because it has the very best in Christian music on that CD," said Ehline.

Among those on "WOW 1997" are winners of the Gospel Music Association's 1996 Dove Awards for Artist (dc Talk); Group (Point of Grace); Female Vocalist (CeCe Winans); Male Vocalist (Gary Chapman); and New Artist (Jars of Clay) of the Year.

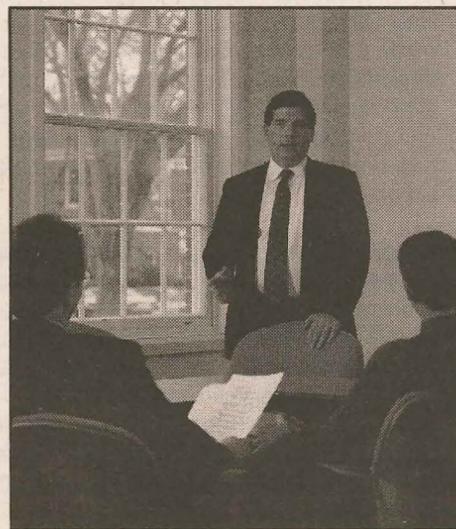
Nine "WOW" artists also were nominated for Grammy Awards: Audio Adrenaline, Gary Chapman, Steven Curtis Chapman, dc Talk, 4Him, Kirk Franklin and the Family, Newsboys, Point of Grace and Rebecca St. James.

The producers of "WOW" hope the project will increase sales of Christian music among those unfamiliar with the genre. With about 3 percent of sales in the entire music market, leaders in the Christian music industry consider education one of their top priorities.

"There are still many people who are not familiar with the style of music ... and 'WOW '97' is really the definitive collection of what contemporary Christian music is all about," said Bruce Koblisch, president of the Gospel Music Association, which is receiving some proceeds from the project.

"I think we all realize that united we stand, divided we fall," said Scott Hughes, an executive at EMI Christian Music Group. "We need each other."

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WORLD VIEW

■ **Famed cathedral in women controversy.** The controversy over the ordination of women as priests in the Anglican Church has hit famed St. Paul's Cathedral in London with the appointment of the first woman priest to its staff. Lucy Winkett was named one of the cathedral's minor canons with responsibilities for some of the music at the church, but Canon John Halliburton, chancellor of the cathedral, announced he would refuse to attend any celebration of Holy Communion at which Winkett presided.

■ **Appeal issued for Kenyan famine victims.** Church World Service, the relief and aid arm of the National Council of Churches, has issued an appeal for aid to 16,000 families facing famine in Kenya because of drought. "Some 2.5 million people are affected and face starvation with drought conditions worsening," the agency said.

■ **UK bill bans taped confessions.** In the wake of uproar in the United States over the taping by authorities of a sacramental confession in prison, the British government announced it will exempt religious confessions from a new law giving police wider power to use concealed microphones.

■ **Lutheran numbers up around the world.** The number of Lutherans around the world edged up slightly in the past year, with about 800,000 new members and a worldwide total of nearly 61 million, the Lutheran World Federation announced. The Church of Sweden remains the world's largest Lutheran body, with 7.6 million members. Germany, where the Lutheran

movement began, has the largest number of Lutherans—14.2 million in its various Lutheran denominations.

■ **Berry wine banned from Finnish Communion.** The eight bishops of Finland's Evangelical Lutheran Church say they have nothing against berries, nor even against good berry wine. But they don't want it used for Holy Communion. "It's because the wine is not made from grapes like in the Bible," church spokesman Mikko Oinonen said. The bishops' synod unanimously approved the ban, acting on complaints that some churches were breaking tradition by serving berry wine at Communion.

■ **Italian Catholic bishops ask forgiveness.** Roman Catholic bishops in Italy have asked Protestants for forgiveness for the "suffering and injury" inflicted on them by the Catholic majority throughout the centuries. Archbishop Giuseppe Chiarelli of Perugia told a Protestant congregation that Italian bishops wanted "to begin in earnest to work for the reconciliation of memories ... and salve the wounds of memory by recognizing their existence and, when necessary, by forgiveness asked and given."

■ **Christian-Muslim strife erupts in Pakistan.** About 4,000 Christians protested in Karachi, Pakistan, last month in response to recent attacks by Muslims that have left 1,000 Christians homeless. The vast majority of Pakistan's 131 million people are Muslims. Only a small minority are Christian.

Observers say Deng's death won't bring religious rights

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The death of Chinese communist leader Deng Xiaoping is unlikely to open the way for immediate improvements in China's record on human rights and religious freedom, say U.S. human rights activists.

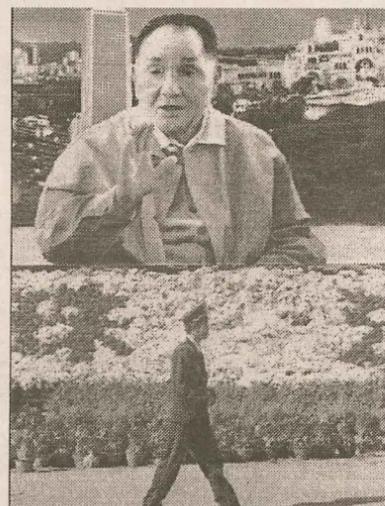
China's news agency reported Deng died Feb. 19 at age 92 from "complications from lung infections."

Deng, who is credited with liberalizing China's economy, also kept a firm hand against dissent. In June 1989, he ordered the army to use deadly force against pro-democracy student protesters in Tiananmen Square.

"Deng set the overall framework" on human rights that other Chinese leaders continue to follow, said Mike Jendrzeczyk, Washington director of Human Rights Watch/Asia.

Nina Shea, director of Freedom House's Puebla Program on Religious Freedom, a human rights group, agreed. "These policies of oppression are entrenched in the laws now. It has become ingrained in the party ethos," she said. In fact, Shea said, she expects the human rights situation to worsen in the short term for religious groups, particularly Christians.

"This is a time of great political instability ... and I fear they are going to scapegoat the Christians, whom they've already pronounced to be the biggest threat to China's stability," Shea said.



LASTING IMPRESSION A security guard walks past a mural of Deng Xiaoping. (Reuters file photo)

Religious groups, and particularly those who operate outside official government channels, are kept under a tight reign in China. For example, Catholics who remain loyal to the Vatican and Protestant Christians who meet in unauthorized "underground" or "house" churches encounter persecution, including fines, arrest and imprisonment.

In 1996, Freedom House documented 200 Chinese Christian clergy who under some form of detention because of religious activities—more than in any other nation in the world.

Summer missions 1997

By Robert Dunston

With spring not quite here yet, some of our students already are thinking about summer and how they will be ministering in Christ's name. Eleven Cumberland College students were selected recently by a Kentucky Baptist Student Union committee to serve in the United States and in Australia.

Four of Cumberland's students will serve on Kentucky Baptist Son teams. Matt Norton, a junior, will be on Son Bound, a sports ministry team. Norton is the son of Larry Newport of Stephensport and Rebecca Berry of Irvington. Sophomore Jennifer Van Camp and senior Chris Wilder will serve on Son Celebration, a vocal ensemble. Van Camp is the daughter of Ray and Barbara Van Camp of Lexington, and Wilder is the son of Doyle and Doris Wilder of Waynesburg. Aaron Austin, a freshman, will serve as part of Son Share, a drama troupe. Austin's parents are James and Sheila Austin of Richmond.

Senior Gail Rector will be ministering in California. Rector is the daughter of Larry and Alice Rector of Campbellsville. Freshman Ryan Stelk and sophomore Julie Long will be engaged in vacation Bible

school and backyard Bible club work in Arizona. Stelk is the son of Warren and Terri Stelk of McMinnville, Tenn., and Long is the daughter of Larry and Margaret Long of Stanford.

Monica Haydon, a sophomore, will serve on a traveling team in Vermont. Haydon's parents are Jessie and Betty Haydon of Springfield. Junior Gina Roy will be involved in neighborhood evangelism in Baton Rouge, La. Roy is the daughter of Delbert and Marie Roy of Fayetteville, Ohio. Teddy Hardy, a junior, will participate on one of the Florida Reach Teams. Hardy's parents are Samuel and Barbara Hardy of Shepherdsville.

Chris Jones will travel to Australia for his assignment as part of a sports ministry team. Jones is a junior and the son of Gervis and Carol Jones of Cawood.

We are extremely proud of these students who will be dedicating their summer to God in an effort to touch people's lives with the gospel. Their commitment to use their talents and time for Christ is inspirational.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



A win, win, win situation

I recently received a call for help from a director of missions whose association had been the income beneficiary of a trust fund for 26 years.

The trustee, a local bank, had been acquired by a large regional bank, and the decision was made to exercise its prerogative under the law to distribute to the beneficiaries all trusts of \$25,000 or less. The director of missions had received such a notice from the bank.

How pleased I was the director of missions thought to call the Kentucky Baptist Foundation and seek our help. The association needed a "new trustee," and the Kentucky Baptist Foundation was ready, willing and able to become the permanent fiduciary of this fund.

The director of missions arranged for the bank trust officer and me to meet and work out the details. The bank petitioned the district court; the court authorized the bank to distribute the trust to the association; the association executed an endowment agreement with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation and transferred the funds to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to manage until the

Lord returns; the Kentucky Baptist Foundation is distributing the income to the association and the principal will remain intact just the way the deceased donor intended it to be.

Perhaps your church, cemetery, association or church-related organization is or will be in this same situation. If so, I hope you will call upon your Kentucky Baptist Foundation the way this director of missions did and give us the privilege of serving your needs.

The Foundation is Kentucky Baptist's only "trust agency," and no fund is too small for us if its purpose is mission and ministry for Christ's sake.

It's a win, win, win situation: the donor's original wishes will be carried out in perpetuity; the Baptist Foundation will have the privilege of serving a Baptist cause and the Baptist cause will receive the value added of the Foundation's superior investment performance at a reduced cost.

Please call me at (502) 244-6466 to receive additional information about this or similar circumstances.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Chemist claims Shroud is fake

LONDON(RNS) —Yet another expert has weighed in on the authenticity—or lack of it—of the famed Shroud of Turin, the linen cloth long claimed to be the fabric in which Jesus' body was wrapped after his crucifixion.

British microchemist Walter McCrone said the shroud is a fraud and that the image many see as the outline of a human body was created by daubing a male model with red ochre and wrapping him in a sheet.

McCrone, who has examined fibers and particles from the shroud, will publish his findings next month in a book, "Judgment Day for the Turin Shroud."

According to McCrone, after the model had been covered in red ochre, his forehead, cheekbones, and other parts of his head and body would have been pressed on the linen to create the image that now exists.

Tests using the carbon 14 method of dating have placed the cloth's origin sometime between 1260 and 1390 A.D.

Macedonian evangelicals fear law may exclude them

KOPJE, Macedonia (BP)—A proposed religious freedom law in Macedonia has caused Baptists and other evangelicals to question whether they will be recognized if the law is enacted, according to a European Baptist Press Service report.

A draft of the law was sent to specific religious groups in Macedonia, a republic in the former Yugoslavia, but it was not sent to any Protestant or evangelical representatives, EBPS reported.

When Baptists inquired about receiving a copy of the proposed law, officials said the government recognizes only three religious groups: Orthodox, Catholic and Muslim, the news agency stated.

When evangelicals did get to see a copy of the proposed law, they found it mirrors much of the wording and approach of the communist era, EBPS continued. Church activities would be confined to their buildings. Religious life would be subject to a government office of religious affairs. No missionaries from outside the country would be allowed to work in Macedonia.

The law would even restrict the use of the word "church" solely to the

Macedonian Orthodox Church.

Theo Angelov of Bulgaria, president of the European Baptist Federation, and Karl Heinz Walter, its general secretary, have appealed to the Republic of Macedonia that the government consider all its citizens in drafting a religious freedoms law.

Macedonia has a population of 2.5 million people, only 400 to 500 of whom are identified as born-again believers, according to Ivan Grozdanov, president of the Baptist Christians in the Republic of Macedonia and coordinator for evangelical and Protestant Christians in the Republic of Macedonia.

The Baptist union in Macedonia has applied for membership in the European Baptist Federation and is scheduled to become the federation's 50th member in September.

Appeals to the Macedonian government concerning religious freedoms may be sent to Prime Minister Branko Crvenkovski, Vlada na Republika Makedonija, 91000 Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. Minister Vladimir Naumovski, the principle author of the draft for religious groups, may be reached at the same address.

Seventh-day Adventists oppose European resolution on Sunday

LONDON (RNS)—British Seventh-day Adventists have voiced opposition to a European Parliament resolution calling on member states to respect Sunday as the day of rest.

"To try to legislate religion is dangerous," said Jonathan Gallagher, religious liberty director of the South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. "Just look back in history and you see what happened when states try to enforce religious observance."

"To make Sunday the official day of rest for the whole European community discriminates against many other minorities and will not solve society's problems."

Gallagher acknowledged, however, that the resolution also recognized the continent's multicultural society and the fact that alternative days of rest observed by some groups also need to be respected.

The "resolution of urgency," promoted by European Parliament member David Hallam urges that "the traditions and the cultural, social, religious and family needs of its citizens" should be supported by regarding Sunday as a special day, reported Adventist News Network.

The December 1996 passage of the resolution followed a European Court of Justice ruling that Sunday did not have any special significance in a case concerning work practices. That court decision angered those who support viewing Sunday as a day of rest.

The Keep Sunday Special campaign welcomed the parliament's vote on the resolution and viewed it as a sign of European politicians' support for maintaining family values.

LAST CHANCE!

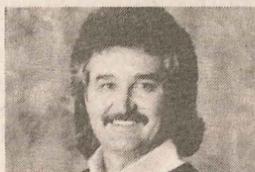


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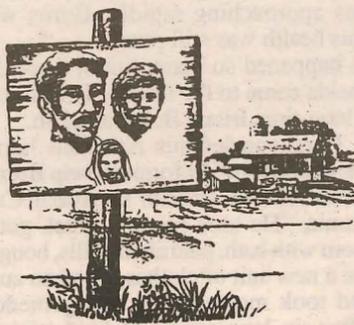
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Southside Baptist Church
Thursday, March 13,
1997 10:00am, CST

Stanford:

Lincoln/Casey Baptist Association Building
Friday, March 14, 1997
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Louisville:

Kentucky Baptist Building
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PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Former Louisville pastor Ed Tarleton, as he teaches at Moscow Seminary and writes 80 lessons for a theological education by extension program, which will be translated into Russian.

■ Marlene Roberts, in Penza, Russia, as she teaches in the public schools through International Service Corps.

■ Pastor Miles Crawford, his wife, Bennye, and members of Zion Community Baptist Church, a Southern Baptist African-American congregation in Springfield, Mass.

■ Ron Huffman, director of missions for Western Connecticut Baptist Association. Ron and his wife, Pam, are native Kentuckians.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ BENTON—Pleasant Valley Church called **Max Anderson** as pastor. He began his new ministry Feb. 16.

■ CADIZ—**Bob Sisk** resigned as music director at Liberty Point Church.

■ CYNTHIANA—Pleasant Green Church ordained **Richard Kendall** and **Timothy McNees** to the deacon ministry Feb. 16. **Mark Turner** is pastor.

■ DEXTER—Dexter Church called **Carl Butler** as associate pastor.

■ EDDYVILLE—Bethany Church called **Roger Waters** as pastor. He began his new ministry March 2.

■ FORT THOMAS—Highland Hills Church called **Rob Roy** as minister of youth. He previously was minister of youth and recreation at Westside Church in Murray.

■ FRANKLIN—Calvary Church ordained **Mike Carlile** and **Scott Poston** as deacons Jan. 19.

■ LOUISVILLE—South Jefferson Church called **Carl Souza** as volunteer associate pastor.

Highland Church called **Joseph Phelps** as pastor. Phelps previously was pastor at Church of the Savior in Austin, Texas. He will begin his new ministry in late March.

■ OWENSBORO—Buena Vista Church called **Howard Matthews** as interim pastor. Matthews began his new ministry Feb. 1.

■ SYMSONIA—Elva Church called **Mike Littrell** as pastor. He began

Jan. 19. Littrell previously was pastor of New Zion Church in Benton.

MISSIONARY UPDATE

■ **Danny and Mary Jane Crawley**, missionaries to Ghana, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service. The address is: P.O. Box 400, Accra, Ghana. He considers Frankfort his hometown.

■ **Rob and Julie Johnson**, missionaries to Singapore, are in the States. The address is: 103 Reservoir Heights, Russellville, Ky. 42276. He considers Russellville his hometown.

■ **John and Luanne Marshall**, missionaries to Brazil, have completed language study and arrived on the field. The address is: Caixa Postal 703, 79.002-970 Campo Grande, Brazil. She was born in Louisville.

■ **Stephen and Jane Milam**, representatives to Indonesia, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service. The address is: Jl. Jamuju 17, Bandung 40114, Indonesia. He was born in Louisville.

■ **Takahiro and Lana Oue**, missionaries to Japan, are on the field. The address is: Uehara Plaza 2C, 2-19-18 Uehara, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151, Japan. He lived in several Kentucky towns. She was born in Larue County and also lived in Meade County.

■ **Roger and Linda Rucker**, representatives to Egypt, are on the field. Address is: P.O. Box 258, Saraya 21411, Alexandria, Egypt. She is from Eddyville.



PRESIDENTIAL SERENADE The Georgetown College Chorale sings in Louisville at a dinner honoring President Carter and the work project with Habitat for Humanity this summer in Appalachia.



BLUEGRASS LEADER Kent Workman (right) pastor of New Work Fellowship in Hopkinsville, was elected vice chairman of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's trustees recently. He is pictured with Chairman Nick Garland (center), from Oklahoma, and Recording Secretary Walter Sparks, from California. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

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

Most everyone has experienced a time of severe trial and tribulation, as Oneida did in the winter of 1922.

During very difficult times, most of us are in a "daily" survival mode. When we are so overwhelmed with "today's" struggles, it normally does not occur to us that the Lord is not only providing for our daily needs, but has a special blessing for those who prevail. Such was the case during Oneida's very difficult winter of 1922.

With founder James Burns' health questionable, the future did not look very promising for him to raise additional funds. He had traveled from coast to coast trying to find financial support for this struggling mountain school. He spent a lot of time in New York and California.

One special friend in New York provided the money for Oneida to purchase our farm so we could raise most of our food. On the promise of support from potential friends in California, Burns made his way west. He arrived in Los Angeles with less than \$100. Burns later wrote, "I secured a dingy little room for seven dollar per week and tried to keep my eating expenses down to one dollar a day." This went on for five weeks with little to show for his efforts.

Then God did something totally unexpected. In the summer of 1923, Burns was introduced to M.C. Treat, who promised Burns \$50,000 for a building fund if Burns could raise an equal amount by April 1, 1924. Burns chose to spend most of his time in California trying to raise as much as possible, but instructed President Sylvia Russell and the Oneida staff to do all in their power to help raise the money.

It was very difficult to raise this much after so

many of Oneida's faithful friends had given so generously to pay off the heavy debts the year before. How could Russell honestly expect her friends to come up with such a large amount of money? Time was running out. The April 1924 deadline was approaching rapidly. Burns was broke, and his health was still poor.

As it has happened so many times, a special friend of Oneida came to the rescue. This time it was Burns' long-time friend Bob Carnahan.

Carnahan left his Arkansas home and headed for California to help Burns. Burns said of Carnahan's arrival in California, "He took me to a hotel, got a room with bath, paid all the bills, bought me a new suit of clothes, hired an auto and took me to every engagement." After six long weeks of fund raising, Burns was still short \$10,000 with the deadline only hours away.

Burns would gladly have given the money out of his own pocket, but he was broke. Carnahan again came to the rescue. He pledged \$5,000, and he underwrote Burns' pledge for an additional

\$5,000. The goal had been reached. Oneida for the first time in many years was not only debt free, but had \$100,000 for construction of a new girls dormitory, plus a much needed addition to Marvin Hall, the main school and administration building. The dorm had 26 rooms, a parlor and a dining room. The new addition to Marvin Hall included more classrooms, a library and an auditorium. For the first time, we had a stage for plays, and more importantly, seating capacity for a daily chapel program. All of these things happened in God's time.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Teaching in Russia

In college I took a course in Russian history. Now I have opportunity to affect Russia's future through the Kentucky-Russia partnership. To help meet the need for trained leaders, I am in Russia teaching at the pastor-church planter school of Tambov.

This is the third year for Clear Creek's participation in the partnership. A construction team helped a church on the Gulf of Finland in 1995. Last summer, a team did evangelism and discipleship work in Voronezh, and this May a team of six will return to the city. In 1995, Assistant Academic Dean Charles Rice taught in the pastor's school in Ufa. Professor Bill Pfoff taught Old Testament in Tambov last December.

Missionary Bob Walden met me at the Moscow airport. They hosted me for lunch and some sights of the city. That evening missionary Clay Cartwright and I made an all-night train trip to Tambov, where the Cartwrights reside. My room is in the second floor flat of Lita and her son.

Tambov Baptist Church is a mile walk from the apartment. I share lunch with the pastor and students. My assignment includes five classes in biblical preaching foundations

and Christian ethics. We begin the day with a devotion.

Students come from a wide area, often commuting for hours. Anatoly, converted at age 33, has preached and worked with a mobile Christian library for three years. He also directs the work of two Sunday schools. He said, "I need prayer for these schools; we have a big resistance from the Orthodox church."

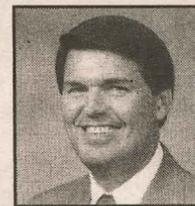
Katea, a mother of three, was baptized Aug. 4, 1996. Four months later the church "gave me a ministry by taking good news to children through the mail."

Dmitriv lives with his parents, neither Christian. "I pray for them to the Lord. In the future after I finish pastor's school I have plan to go to seminary in Moscow."

The school averages 30 in attendance. The goal of the school is "to prepare men for ministry." I've been asked to teach from my ministry experience and to give the students practical ways to preach, teach and minister in their setting. The potential impact on a lifelong ministry is similar to what we do at Clear Creek.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Students take gospel to New Orleans' rowdy Mardi Gras

By Chip Alford
SBC Sunday School Board

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Brenda Crimm claims this year's biggest party during Mardi Gras didn't occur in New Orleans' French Quarter.

"It happened in heaven because of the decisions for Christ that were made along these parade routes," said Crimm, director of the Baptist Student Union at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in Lafayette.

Crimm and a small group from her school joined more than 150 college students from Kentucky and Louisiana Feb. 7-11 for "Mardi GrasReach" in the heart of Louisiana's largest city.

Coordinated by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's National Student Ministry, the event was the first in a series of evangelistic projects known as "BreakOut '97," said student ministry consultant Bob Hartman. More than 1,000 students are expected to participate in upcoming "BreakOut '97" events planned in Florida and Arizona during spring break, March 8-28.

During five chilly days and nights of Mardi Gras parades, students formed a "Krewe of Christ," sharing the warmth of God's love with thousands of holiday revelers from around the world. The term "krewe" usually refers to the clubs that sponsor one of the 100-plus parades in New Orleans during Mardi Gras.

Student teams had their headquarters at First Baptist Church of New Orleans, strategically located near the start of many major parades.

Several teams took surveys of religious beliefs along streets filled with discarded beads, beer cans and crawfish shells. The surveys led to opportunities to talk about Christianity.

Others passed out free coffee and

"king cake"—a Mardi Gras staple—to parade watchers and vendors.

For two nights, an annex to the church was converted into "The College Coffeehouse." More than 270 people visited after parades to get warm in a large room filled with candle-lit tables, Christian music and conversation.

The students passed out "Krewe of Christ" Mardi Gras cups—25,000 of them to be exact—all imprinted with an explanation of Christianity.

"Even if people don't look at them when they first get them, chances are they will later on," explained Eric Pratt, minister to university students at First Baptist Church and on-site coordinator of the event.

Students counted 1,142 people who heard about Jesus Christ and 52 who made professions of faith.

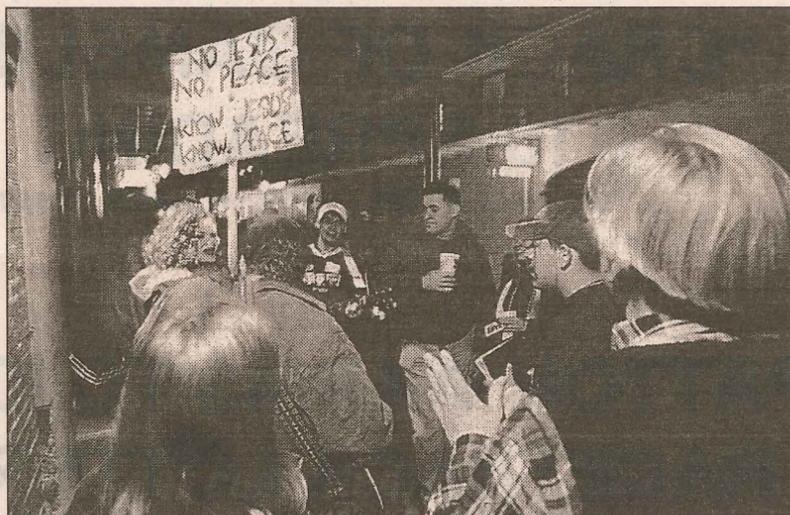
While the Mardi Gras parades no longer venture into the French Quarter—the crowds are just too large and wild—several groups of BreakOut students did.

Armed with tracts, surveys, guitars and courage, they hit the streets carrying hand-painted signs with slogans like "Smile, Jesus Loves You" and "Don't Ignore Jesus, He Didn't Turn His Back on You."

Students said they encountered everything from hostility and disinterest to curiosity and openness.

"It's tough out there; you see a little bit of everything," said Rusty Foreman, a graduate student from the University of Southwestern Louisiana. "But our job is just to share. I believe we're doing some good."

Tim LeBlanc, a junior at Northeast Louisiana University in Monroe, used the "Krewe of Christ" Mardi Gras cups to share the gospel. He led a group of three boys to accept Christ as their personal Savior.



MARDI GRAS OUTREACH
■ Above John Schaffner (second from right), a student at Louisiana Tech University, leads a group of college students in prayer before they hit the streets of New Orleans to share their faith during Mardi Gras. ■ Left Students sing and share their faith with Mardi Gras revelers in the French Quarter. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Faith propels Larry Flynt's daughter to tell her side of story

By Michael Paquette
Religion News Service

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (RNS)—Whoever coined the phrase "God works in mysterious ways" must have seen Tonya Flynt-Vega's story on the horizon.

Flynt-Vega—the Flynt comes from her father, controversial porn publisher Larry Flynt—keeps busy these days denouncing the very industry that made her father a fortune and the subject of a recent motion picture.

Propelled by her deep religious faith, Flynt-Vega has addressed gatherings of evangelical leaders, has appeared on Christian radio and TV talk shows and has teamed up with feminist groups to decry pornography.

"I don't have the words to tell you how much damage is being done to our society because of pornography," Flynt-Vega said in a recent telephone interview.

Flynt-Vega claims to have firsthand experience with the pain pornography can cause. She said as a child she was emotionally, physically and sexually abused by her dad. Flynt has denied the allegations of sex abuse.

Despite years of alleged mistreatment, Flynt-Vega says she still cares

deeply for Larry Flynt. "I'm not speaking out against my father, I'm speaking out against pornography."

After years of silence, speaking out has become her prime mission, which began last year after she read the screenplay for "The People vs. Larry Flynt"—the Hollywood depiction of Flynt's free-speech battle that he took all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Flynt-Vega said the film's "inconsistencies and lies" motivate her to work relentlessly to show America the real Larry Flynt.

"I read that screenplay and I got really upset," she said.

Flynt-Vega credited her faith with bringing her this far.

"If I let this go by without doing anything about it or saying anything about it then I'm not in God's will," said Flynt-Vega, who is married, has one daughter and attends a non-denominational charismatic church in Jacksonville, Fla.

When Flynt-Vega was still a baby, Larry Flynt divorced her mother, his second wife. Penniless, Flynt-Vega's family moved into subsidized housing in Jacksonville.

"He was a multimillionaire but never sent more than \$500 a month," she said. "My mother had to work two

jobs to support us." Flynt-Vega said the abuse occurred during childhood visits to Flynt's mansion.

"I really worshiped my father; he was my knight in shining armor who was going to save me from my poverty," she said. "I so desperately needed his love, but all I got was rejection."

In a statement, Larry Flynt denied he abused his daughter, calling her claims "absolutely not true." But he does acknowledge that in her 31 years he has "spent about 30 days with her."

Spurned by her father, Flynt-Vega said she found faith through a local Baptist church's outreach to the poor.

At about the same time, a Baptist couple began sharing their faith with Flynt-Vega's mother. Mother and daughter began attending church together and Flynt-Vega became a Christian at age 11.

At first, her faith did little to relieve her private pain. "I spent most of my youth crying," she said. "I was really sad. I had no self-esteem."

But one night, at the age of 15, she said God spoke to her in a dream, a revelation that brought healing to her emotions and a purpose to her shattered life.

"God said there was work for me to do," she said. "And he gave me a



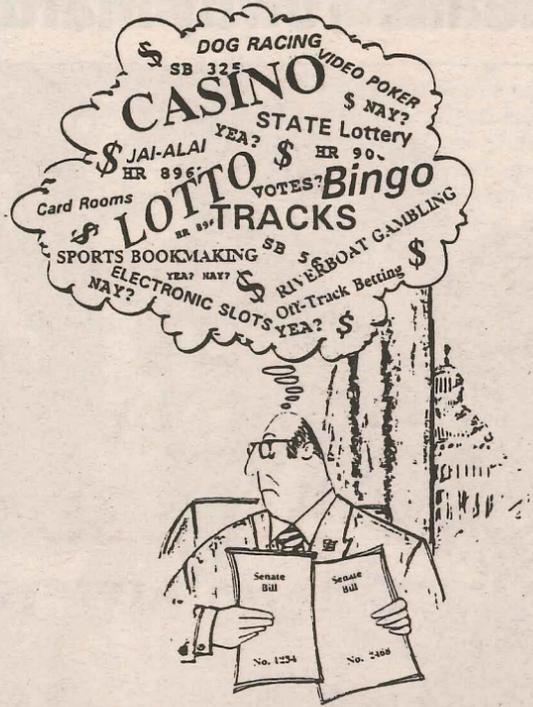
vision about speaking to multitudes ... about the harmful effects of pornography and God's healing intervention."

But it wasn't until the making of "The People vs. Larry Flynt" that she put her vision into action and began her campaign against pornography and the abuse that can result from it.

"I want people to know that they have a voice and they need to speak out if they are being abused," she said. "If I can do it with all the wealth and power my father has, they can do it, too."

OUTSPOKEN Tonya Flynt-Vega said she decided to speak out against pornography after reading the screenplay for "The People vs. Larry Flynt." (RNS Photo)

KENO LOTTERY VIDEO LOTTERY A LOST WAGER FOR KENTUCKY



VIDEO BETTING, CALLED "CRACK OF GAMBLING," IS SPREADING

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, JULY 14, 1992

"PATTON WARMS TO IDEA OF RACETRACK LOTTERIES"

THE COURIER JOURNAL, JANUARY 22, 1997

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