

# WESTERN RECORDER

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## FOR THE RECORD

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## Volunteers stretched thin to meet flood victims' needs



By David Winfrey  
News director

Two weeks into Kentucky's biggest disaster in generations, Kentucky Brotherhood Director Bob Simpkins said he wonders if volunteers will last as long as the damage.

"One of the greatest concerns that I have is that my people are wearing down," Simpkins said last week. "Normally we have a sufficient volunteer bank to handle it when we're working in one or two given sites. In this one, we're working the whole state, and it spreads us so thin."

Baptist volunteers are helping feed residents and clean houses throughout

Kentucky. Crews that earlier were in eastern counties have moved west, downstream. In addition to Kentucky workers, volunteer teams from Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee also are working in the state.

Gov. Paul Patton has declared a state of emergency in at least 87 counties. The Federal Emergency

Agency has declared 63 counties to be disaster areas.

The extent of the flooding is expected to keep volunteers busy at least another four weeks before they can pack up their tools and go home, Simpkins predicted.

"This is requiring us to rent two trucks and set them up with new equipment to operate in the extended areas," Simpkins said.

□ See *Volunteers stretched ...*, page 6



**FLOOD '97** ■ Above Dale Bobb, a deacon at Trinity Southern Baptist Church in Falmouth stands in the sanctuary of the flood-damaged church. Drywall and insulation was soaked 6 feet from the floor, and the church lost pews, music instruments and a van. About one-third of the church's families have damaged homes or businesses. ■ Left A sign of assistance in Falmouth. More photos and information about the flood are on pages 5-7. (Photos by David Winfrey)

## Ideas offered to guard against child sex abuse

If your church needs more nursery or preschool workers, publishing a general announcement and taking anyone who volunteers may not be the best way to solve the problem, warns Jewell Nelson.

Nelson, a specialist in children's ministry who works with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Sunday school department, said her office is getting an increasing number of calls from Kentucky Baptist churches concerned about sexual abuse.

Many allegations of sexual abuse in churches are false, but some are valid, she said. "Unfortunately, preschoolers, children and youth have been sexually abused, even in the church environment in our own state."

Every church, regardless of size, should take steps to prevent child abuse from happening and to protect the many honest

□ See *Ideas offered ...*, page 3

## New Enterprise Baptist models caring & giving

By Joyce Sweeney Martin  
Staff Writer

ALCALDE—Spending a day at New Enterprise Baptist Church is like spending a day at a family reunion.

Between Sunday school and worship, the congregation gathers in the sanctuary to sing "Happy Birthday" to those who have had birthdays that week. They offer best wishes to couples celebrating wedding anniversaries. They repeat Bible memory verses. They welcome visitors.

There are lots of smiles, lots of laughter, lots of hugs.

"We don't let anyone get away without a handshake or a hug," Deacon Coy Mounce said.

Caring and self-giving long have characterized the congregation, said David Aker, who was Pulaski County director of missions for 22 years.

The New Enterprise congregation is one of many Kentucky Baptist convention churches identified as a healthy congregation in a study by the

KBC's church growth and administration division.

As a caring congregation, New Enterprise "models and leads the way," Aker said.

In the worship service, grandmothers hold grandchildren on their laps; mothers gently place their arms around their children; families sit together.

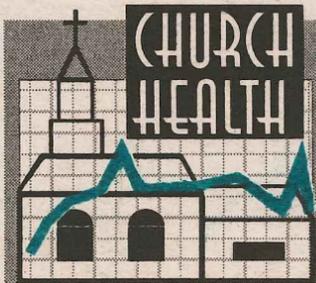
The fact is, most of the 75 people who attend regularly are interrelated, said Deacon Howard Edwards.

Some, like Edwards' wife, Sue, have been in the

church all their lives. They can trace their heritage to families who started the church in the Alcalde community five miles south of Somerset in Pulaski County in 1899.

Others like Mounce grew up in the church, moved out of state, then came back home.

When he and his wife, Betty, returned to the area after six years in Cincinnati, they joined a neighboring church. But Mounce said he had a "longing to go back to my home



Moving? See page 4 (0318)

# BAPTISTS

## Southwestern faculty nominee removed at last minute

By Toby Druin  
Texas Baptist Standard

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—His view that women in ministry is a local-church matter and opinions expressed in a letter to the Baptist Standard more than two years ago may have cost Steven Harmon a position on the faculty of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Harmon, 29, who is expected to receive a doctor of philosophy degree from the Fort Worth seminary this December, was to be recommended to seminary trustees March 10-12 for election as an instructor in theology.

Seminary President Ken Hemphill and Academic Dean Tommy Lea withdrew Harmon's nomination, however, after two interviews with

trustee members and discussion of the appointment in the trustee academic affairs committee. Both administrators said they felt it was "God's will" that they terminate the proposal, which had been unanimously recommended by the theology department and endorsed by both Hemphill and Lea.

"Our selection process has numerous checkpoints where candidates may be removed for various reasons," Hemphill said in a prepared statement. "At any point in the process the dean and president may remove the name. In light of input from our trustee body we came to believe that it was not God's will to bring this candidate and, therefore, removed him from consideration. We prayed fervently, followed due process, and I believe we made an appro-

appropriate decision. This illustrates that the process works."

Neither Hemphill nor Lea would say what was discussed in the closed-door academic affairs committee meeting.

Harmon said he was given no reason why his appointment was withdrawn except that Lea told him his beliefs were somehow apparently "not in conformity" with the "Baptist Faith and Message," a confession of faith adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963. No further explanation was offered, Harmon said.

Harmon said he considers himself a conservative scholar who believes in biblical inerrancy.

Harmon said he was questioned by trustees, however, about his views on women in ministry. He told them he felt the question of ordaining or hiring a woman as senior pastor should be left up to each local church, he said, apparently dissatisfying trustees.

Both trustee groups also asked Harmon about a letter to the editor he had published in the Baptist Standard in August 1994 after the announcement that Hemphill was to succeed Russell Dilday as president. Trustees fired Dilday in March 1994, charging he did not embrace the conservative course charted by school trustees.

In the letter, Harmon told Texas Baptists to be "wise as serpents" regarding a statement by Hemphill that "no one has led me to believe that the faculty (of Southwestern Seminary) is sprinkled with liberals."

"Having recently completed 135 semester hours in two degree programs at the seminary, I concur

wholeheartedly that the faculty is not 'sprinkled with liberals.' Texas Baptists should be reminded, however, that the members of the board of trustees that elected Hemphill have claimed quite the opposite," Harmon wrote.

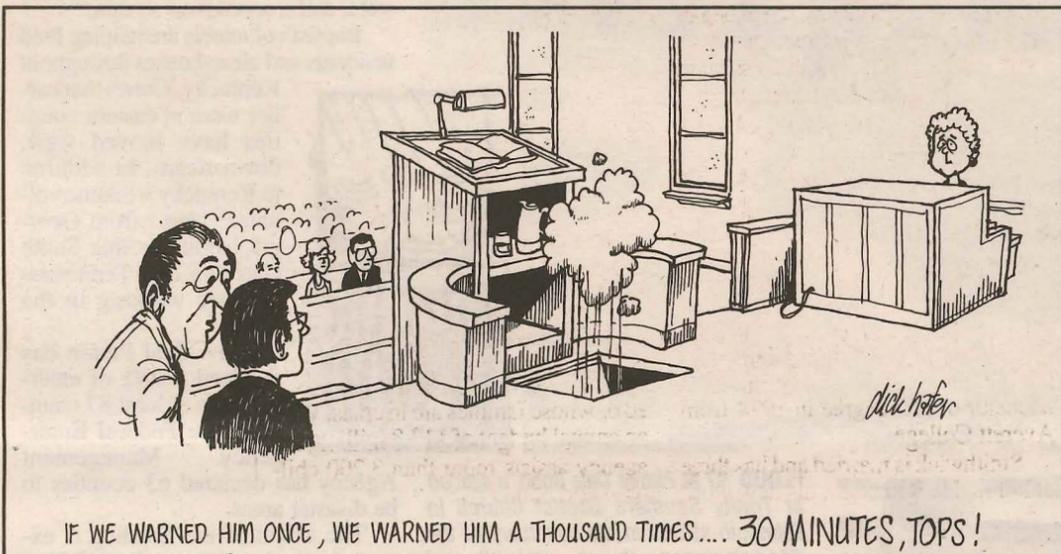
"Before a gathering of Tarrant Association pastors and in written responses to letters from concerned Texas Baptists, individual trustees have adduced allegations that specific Southwestern faculty members were guilty of liberalism in their efforts to justify the dismissal of Russell Dilday.

"If Hemphill's statement means that these trustees have reversed their position that liberalism is a problem at the seminary, then better days may be forthcoming for the seminary family. If, however, these trustees have not changed their position, then one can only conclude that the trustees have deliberately misled Hemphill or Hemphill has deliberately misled the public."

Harmon said he expected the letter to create problems when the theology department voted unanimously to recommend his appointment but had been assured by Hemphill and Lea it would not become an issue.

In the first interview with a trustee team, Harmon said, the letter was the first issue raised. The week before he was to be nominated the letter resurfaced in the second interview. One trustee "suggested I was an unrepentant sinner," Harmon said.

Harmon, who is pastor of Round Grove Church in Dublin, Texas, said he intends to continue his work toward his Ph.D. degree.



### BAPTIST BITS

■ **Lottie projected to increase.** The 1996 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions is projected to top \$93.5 million when books close in May. Foreign Mission Board officials said that total would be a 5 percent increase over the previous year's total and the largest percentage growth in eight years.

■ **Evangelism to be required.** Every student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville soon will be required to take a course in personal evangelism, academic vice president Danny Akin told students March 11. "I believe every seminary ought to equip every student for engagement in personal evangelism," Akin said in a chapel address.

■ **Southwestern cuts tuition.** An increased allocation from the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program will be passed on directly to students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary next year. Trustees approved an administrative plan to use the new money to reduce student tuition by 12.5 percent, from \$80 to \$70 per credit hour. The Fort Worth, Texas, seminary also announced plans for a \$100 million fundraising campaign called "Touch the World ... Impact Eternity."

■ **New convention statistics.** Six months after conservatives in Virginia formed Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia as an alternative to the existing state Baptist convention, 66 churches have aligned them-

selves solely with the new group and another 32 have chosen to be dually aligned with both the old and new state conventions. An analysis by the Religious Herald newspaper found these 98 churches account for 6.3 percent of all Virginia Baptist churches and 9.8 percent of all members of Virginia Baptist churches. Last year they gave 3.1 percent of the money that funded the old state convention's ministries. This small group of churches, however, counts among its membership 37.5 percent of all Virginia trustees on Southern Baptist Convention agency and institution boards.

■ **Page Kelley dies.** Longtime Southern Baptist Theological Seminary professor Page Kelley died March 13 in Louisville after suffering an earlier heart attack. He was 72. A former foreign missionary, Kelley taught Hebrew and Old Testament at Southern from 1951-1992. He taught at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond after his retirement. Kelley is survived by his wife, Margaret; three daughters, Margaret Ruth, Judith Ann and Mary Page; and five grandchildren.

■ **Cooper returns to Criswell.** The second of four vice presidents named to President Mark Coppenger's administrative "dream team" at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary less than two years ago is leaving. Lamar Cooper, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty since fall 1995, has been elected vice president for academic affairs at Criswell College in

Dallas, where he previously was a professor and administrator. Marty King, Midwestern's vice president for institutional advancement, left the seminary at the end of 1996 to return to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, where he previously worked. The two remaining "dream team" administrators are Gary Ledbetter, vice president for student development, and Michael Whitehead, vice president for business and finance.

■ **Two retire from RTVC.** Bob Thornton and Ed Malone, vice presidents at the Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission, have announced their retirements effective June 19, when the RTVC will be merged into the new North American Mission Board. Thornton, 64, is vice president for television services. Malone, 58, is vice president for radio services.

■ **Second meeting with Campus Crusade.** Eight Southern Baptist Convention leaders in youth evangelism met with eight Campus Crusade for Christ officials Feb. 24. The meeting of the "Great Commission Task Force" is a follow-up to a January conference between SBC leaders and the parachurch organization that explored possible collaboration on youth evangelism.

■ **Annuity Board assets up.** Assets under management of the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board totaled \$5.67 billion at the end of 1996, an increase of \$499 million over the previous year.

■ **SBC leader criticizes Sony.** A leader of the Southern Baptist Convention has joined Roman Catholic Cardinal Bernard Law in protesting an album distributed during the 1996 Christmas season that raised money for abortion-rights causes. Richard Land, president of the SBC's Christian Life Commission, joined Law and Don Argue of the National Association of Evangelicals in sending a letter to Sony Corp.'s chairman. The letter protested an album called "O Come All Ye Faithful," which benefited an organization called Rock for Choice.

■ **Spinks to Richmond.** Robert Spinks has been named director of development at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. Spinks, 53, has worked in Baptist higher education 25 years, including 10 years at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **Richmond accredited.** Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond has been granted full accreditation by the Association of Theological Schools. The Virginia school, which opened in 1991, has been an associate member of ATS since 1994.

■ **Southeastern in New Hampshire.** Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and New Hampshire Baptist Association have forged a partnership aimed at establishing 50 Southern Baptist churches in New Hampshire over the next 10 years. The partnership calls for five graduating seminary students each year to go to New Hampshire as church planters and pastors.

## 'Idea man' Smithwick elected new KBHC president

By Mark Wingfield  
Editor

LOUISVILLE—William Smithwick was named president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children by the agency's board of directors March 11.

Smithwick, assistant executive director of Virginia Baptist Children's Home and Family Services, succeeds Curtis Mooney, who moved to a new post in Texas in July.

Smithwick, 46, was described by his Virginia supervisor as "an idea man," "on the cutting edge" and "an excellent administrator."

Don Bradley, executive director of Virginia Baptist Children Home and Family Services, said in a March 12 interview that Virginia's loss is Kentucky's gain. "He was my right hand. He has excellent management skills, excellent people skills. He's the kind of fellow I hate to see leave."

Bradley said Smithwick is a person who thinks on "the cutting edge" of child-care ministries. "He is interested in finding better ways to deal with the residents and provide Christian child care ... to reach out and change lives."

Smithwick also has been recognized by his peers across Virginia. He currently serves as president of the Virginia Association of Children's



Smithwick

Homes.

During Smithwick's tenure at the Virginia Baptist agency, new programs were added to help victims of sexual abuse, and emergency care facilities were expanded. The Virginia agency also has begun an innovative concept of establishing residential homes for developmentally disabled adults in partnership with local churches and associations.

"He is the kind of person we've been praying for," said Terry Lester, pastor of First Baptist Church in London and chairman of the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children board. "His experience uniquely combines to meet the kinds of needs we have."

Herb Booth, a medical doctor from Florence and chairman of the Kentucky agency's search committee, described Smithwick as a "progressive" leader with "demonstrated management skills."

"He is a people person, caring, sharing, open, authentic," Booth said. Smithwick praised Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children for its development of new and varied programs in recent years. "The challenge now is to deepen our base, to build as strong a foundation as we can to strengthen what we're doing."

The ministry provided by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is essential, Smithwick said. "The breakdown of the family continues to weak-

en the very infrastructure of our society. As various fracture, dysfunction and exist in varying states of disrepair, innocent children are caught in the wreckage, many of them damaged for life.

"I'm looking forward to working as part of this dynamic organization to share hope and healing," he said.

Audrey Puryear, interim president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, said the agency's staff is "very excited" about Smithwick's election. "He has been on the front lines with children and is able to communicate to our staff," she said.

Smithwick has served Virginia Baptist Children's Home and Family Services since 1983, except for one three-year period when he worked as a financial consultant for Southeastern Employers Services Co. He began his work with the Virginia agency as a chaplain and then became assistant executive director for programs and administration. He also has been a bivocational pastor.

Smithwick recently earned the master of business administration degree from Averett College in Danville, Va. He also earned the doctor of ministry degree in 1984 from St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Md.; the master of divinity degree in 1978 from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; and the bachelor of arts degree in 1974 from Averett College.

Smithwick is married and has three children. He will begin his new work

### Cornerstone leader leaving

LOUISVILLE—Jane Parker, director of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Cornerstone Counseling ministry since its inception in 1992, left the agency at the end of February to pursue other interests.

Bill Sapp, one of the ministry's clinical supervisors, has been appointed interim director.

"This has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life," Parker said of the ministry, which has grown from one Counseling Green office to 17 offices throughout the state.

Counseling offices often result from partnerships between the agency and local Baptist associations, churches or other local groups.

Audrey Puryear, interim director for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, praised Parker's leadership. "Jane leaves the ministry in very good shape," Puryear said. "I'm glad she left such a capable, strong team to carry on this counseling ministry."

April 21.

In addition to Booth and Lester, other members of the search committee that unanimously recommended Smithwick were Gerald Sharon of Fort Thomas, Mira Ball of Lexington, Jane Cross of Louisville, Lynn Parish of Pikeville and Ken Reinhardt of Louisville.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, provides care for children who have been abused, neglected or whose families are in crisis. With an annual budget of \$13.8 million, the agency assists more than 3,200 children and adults each year.

## Ideas offered to help churches guard against child sex abuse

Continued from page 1

people who work with children in church programs, Nelson said.

She offers these suggestions:

- Screen each volunteer or paid staff person's background. Copies of a sample screening form are available from Nelson or from the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

- Avoid situations where a worker and child are left alone. "It is wise not to be alone with a preschooler, elementary age child or youth," she said. "If a child needs to talk privately, move away from others but stay within sight of others."

- Place at least two workers in every teaching unit. Nelson cited several reasons: better teaching can be done; in case of an accident, one teacher can take care of the accident and the other can continue with the session; claims of sexual abuse are less likely; sexual abuse is less likely to happen.

- Never touch a child in anger. "Even in a caring way, you must keep your hugs and touchiness from becoming suspect."

- Never refer to a child's or youth's body in a suggestive way.

- Assign two workers to supervise restroom time or if this is not feasible, leave the restroom door ajar or stand outside the door.

- Allow children to take care of their restroom needs as much as possible. "Do not assist unless needed."

Nelson advised. "If a young child needs help, talk as you give assistance: 'Now that you are finished, I will wipe your bottom,' or 'Yes, I will help zip your jeans.' This helps the child know exactly why you are near his or her private parts."

- Dress yourself comfortably but not provocatively when working with children and youth.

- Never allow a child to go with an adult who does not have permission to take the child. Written permission should be given by the person who brings the child if someone other than that person is to pick up the child, Nelson said. For example, a mother might bring a 4-year-old to vacation Bible school. The child's father might pick the child up in what appears a normal transaction. But in this case, the mother and father are legally separated and the father has been ordered not to be near the child. By violating that order, the church becomes liable for aiding the father's kidnapping, Nelson said.

Nelson recommends that church child-care leaders view a video, "Reducing the Risk of Child Sexual Abuse in Your Church," for more help on this subject. The video is available on loan from the KBC Sunday school department by calling (502) 245-4101, or it may be purchased by calling (800) 222-1840.

Nelson is available to help churches understand more about how to protect both children and workers.



## Poll finds opposition to offering slot machines at horse tracks

FRANKFORT—Two-thirds of Kentucky's adults oppose efforts to legalize video slot machines at the state's race tracks, according to a statewide survey conducted in February.

Opposition to the new form of gambling was strongest in the areas that would be most directly affected—regions that are home to horse tracks.

The survey, conducted by the public relations firm Preston-Osborne on behalf of a group called Front and Center, found only 9.2 percent of Ken-

tuckians strongly favor legalizing video lottery terminals. Another 18.1 percent said they somewhat favor the idea.

While a strong majority of Kentuckians oppose video slot machines, 39 percent said the new gambling form would be the best of four options to create additional funds for higher education. Other options given in the survey were raising the state sales tax by 1 percent, applying the state sales tax to services or raising tuition.

**CREATIVE MINISTRY** Jeff Smith (left) of Salt and Light Ministries in Richmond, Va., works with students at the recent Creative Ministries Festival. More than 860 people attended, said Tom Smoot, an associate student ministries director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Smoot said more churches are adding visual messages to singing and sermons in their worship. (Photo by Angela Perkins)

## 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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## Concern from Russia

Dear brothers and sisters, we greet you from Russia. With heartfelt pain we learned the news of heavy rains causing flooding of different rivers in Kentucky. We feel heartfelt concern for the health of the people and the homes and buildings.

Our local churches of the Evangelical Christian Baptist Union, the brothers and sisters, teachers and ministers in the Sunday school, take your needs to our Heavenly Father and Savior Jesus Christ.

We believe that our kind pastor will preserve you in his hand, fill you by his mercy and meet all your needs and give you peace in your spirit.

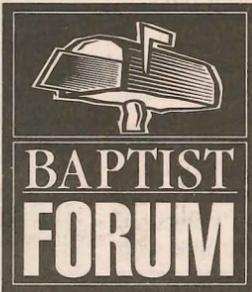
May God bless you.

With love and prayers for you.

*Uri Vasiliovich Podosyonov, senior pastor, Nikolai Sirovatko, Sunday school director and all pastors of the oblast, St. Petersburg Church of Evangelical Christians-Baptists St. Petersburg, Russia*

## Thanks to Parker

On behalf of the Bowling Green Cornerstone Counseling Advisory Board, we would like to thank Jane Parker for the Christ-like and professional manner in which she initiated and nurtured the Cornerstone Counseling ministries.



From the pilot project here in Bowling Green to the statewide network of care centers, she has given of herself sacrificially and selflessly to ensure the viability of this ministry.

Her work through Cornerstone Counseling has provided pastors and other church staff an invaluable resource in the care of their congregations. Cornerstone Counseling has served each community in which there is a center with educational and professional support for government, social and health agencies. In other words, the impact of each Cornerstone Counseling center has ranged far beyond the local church to touch the community it serves. For this effectiveness, we

have Parker to thank.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is to be commended for its foresight in the envisioning and implementing of Cornerstone Counseling. Parker also is to be commended for her nurturing of this good work that has brought help and hope to so many who are hurting.

As God leads her to other venues of ministry, she has our gratitude and we pray God's blessing on her.

*Bowling Green Cornerstone Counseling Advisory Board (Scott Kilgore, Johanna Thomas, Fred Stickle, Mae Mefford, Elizabeth Ayers and Jerry Oakley)*

## Another faith?

With respect to the letter by Hubert Moore in the March 4 issue of Western Recorder: Without taking a position on the appropriateness of your article concerning former United Methodist minister Walker Railey, I would like to suggest that Moore's choice of words left something to be desired. It seems strange indeed to hear United Methodists referred to as persons of "another faith!"

*O. French Ball  
Ashland, Ohio*

## The horror of honoring Larry Flynt

By Frederica Mathewes-Green

Not long ago I was invited to participate in a television talk show on the topic of "Castration for Sex Criminals." I was being invited to take the position in favor of the proposal, though why was a mystery; I'd never written or spoken about the topic, and any reading I'd done had been purely in passing.

The fly in this particular ointment, however, was that they wanted me to take the wrong side. Arguments about "cruel and unusual punishment" aside, I do not believe that even castration is sufficient to deter sex criminals.

Exhibit A: Larry Flynt.

The recent movie "The People vs. Larry Flynt" has brought America greater familiarity with a leading figure on the national porn scene, but not as much familiarity as is necessary to rouse contempt. It would take exposure to actual copies of Hustler magazine to do that.

People who haven't visited this world may imagine playful Playboy fare of decades ago, and feel indulgent about others' right to purchase naughty fun. They may congratulate themselves on their open-mindedness; they're not vicious oppressors of free-speech rights, like the movie's villainous Jerry Falwell.

But Hustler is not about girlie photos, not even the cruder kind.

It's about children, for one thing. Matt Labash reports in the Weekly Standard that "A 1986 report for the Justice Department said Flynt's flagship Hustler mag-

azine depicted children sexually an average of 14.1 times per issue."

Bob Herbert writes in the New York Times that the anti-censorship movie "has rigidly censored the vile and hateful images that are the cornerstone of Mr. Flynt's empire."

Herbert writes of seeing in those pages images of blind and naked little girls, and a cartoon showing an obstetrician holding up a stillborn baby girl and making "a crude sexual reference."

Adult women aren't treated more kindly: blacks are depicted with "enormous lips and buttocks" and infected with disease and lice; whites are shown beaten, raped and killed. A notorious photo spread from June 1990 featured charred skin, body parts on fish hooks, decapitated and

dismembered women, one lying dead by a toilet. The person for whom this is a turn-on is a person in big trouble. As is the hapless woman he manages to kidnap.

Not only women are at risk. In October 1990 police in Norman, Okla., asked stores to remove the latest issue of Hustler from their shelves. It contained an article on torture, including instructions on a crude surgical procedure to remove the human eye intact, rendering a person unable to look away "as, for example, you mutilate his genitals."

Police asked removal of the magazines after a little boy was brought to the emergency room, the victim of an attack imitating these instructions. The newspaper story reports that his hospital room was filled with flowers and gifts from horrified citizens of the town.

## COMMENTARY



Frederica Mathewes-Green

## SINGLES

### Where can I ask hard questions?

By James Stillwell

**Q.** As a single person searching for God, where can I ask the hard questions and not have to check my brains at the door?

**A.** The Bible is not a book for those who have life all figured out. Those who give the impression of "having it all together" often are those most likely to crash and burn when adversity hits. I congratulate you for having a seeking faith.

Many have sought to find life's answers through the lens of science, even though faith is the "substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

There is a certainty in matters of faith that breaks the mold of the scientific model. The New Testament tells of the man who told Jesus, "Lord, I believe, help thou my unbelief." God is willing to meet us more than halfway when we seek him.

My first suggestion would be that you become part of a small group. This could be a Bible study, discipleship/support group or a group organized to do ministry. The disciples of Jesus had their questions voiced in the midst of a group of 12. Seek out such a safe place where you can authentically drop your guard with others.

Second, be open to experiences of receiving. When you put yourself in situations where God can speak to you (the spiritual disciplines of worship, Bible study, Christian friendship, prayer, etc.), he will. The more exposure you give yourself to God, the better your chances of hearing God's voice.

Third, participate in opportunities to serve. Sometimes doubts come as a result of exclusive self-focus. Take part in a mission project. Risk giving a witness for Christ. Pick up a hammer for Habitat for Humanity. As you reach out to "the least of these," you may find Christ on the receiving end.

The bumps of life may leave you with more questions than answers. Know that the rough-and-tumble waves of life are an essential part of the journey of faith. They can be the very things which propel you to your destination. "Church" means you don't have to take that journey alone.

*James Stillwell is minister with single adults at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.*



## HE SAID/SHE SAID

### We nearly had a barbecue, but enchiladas survived the fire

#### SHESAI



Alison Wingfield

Since we recently experienced a flood, I decided we needed a fire as well. Last week, Mark and I both were suffering with colds (caught from our children, naturally). The winner of the moaning and groaning contest is yet to be determined.

As a remedy, I decided to fix the next best thing to chicken soup: chicken enchiladas.

Green chile, particularly the kind we "import" from New Mexico, can open the sinuses faster than any Sudafed tablet. And since I also had some New Mexico corn tortillas on hand in the freezer, I thought I was set for dinner.

Enchiladas are easy to fix. But to get the tortillas the right consistency, you have to fry them in oil. So I did.

Unfortunately, in the middle of this process, the boys required my assistance. In the heat of responding to their crisis, I stupidly left the hot oil on the stove. I was gone only a minute, but when I returned to the kitchen flames were shooting from the oil.

Split seconds later, after my hyped-up brain assessed whether it would be faster to find the baking soda or the fire extinguisher, I had the fire out with my handy-dandy box of baking soda. Thank goodness for fire safety pamphlets. Somewhere along the way, I had picked up that you never throw water on a grease fire.

By this time, the smoke alarm was blaring its piercing shriek and the boys were headed my way. I got the kids outside while I tried to figure out how to shut the alarm off before I lost my hearing altogether.

Then I assessed the damage. We might have to change the color scheme of our kitchen to match the blackened patches on the used-to-be white microwave over the oven, but otherwise we were fortunate.

Flood and fire in two weeks is enough for me. The only way I hope to experience famine is to go on a diet.

#### HESAI



Mark Wingfield

For the record: The enchiladas were really good.

But any medicinal benefit they offered was offset by inhaling all that smoke. I've never had to clean soot off the kitchen ceiling while preparing dinner. Why did we paint that kitchen white anyway?

The boys told me about Alison's misadventure before she did. As soon as I drove in the driveway last Tuesday evening, they met me in the backyard to

report that "Mommy smoked up the kitchen."

I thought they meant she just smoked up the kitchen. I didn't know they meant she nearly burned the house down.

I'm thankful she had the presence of mind to throw baking soda on the flames, because the fire extinguisher never had made it up to the kitchen from the basement after we moved. So much for being prepared.

The event apparently made quite an impression on the boys. The next night at Mission Friends, the 4-year-olds made pictures of their houses. Garrett drew fire shooting out of his. His friend Aaron drew a fire station.

It was quite a week on the whole: Our housekeeping turned topsy turvy by moving everything out of the basement flood zone, the kitchen nearly catching fire and Alison accidentally dropping my nasal inhaler in the toilet (while I was suffering from a cold).

One morning I sat down to tell God how messed up everything was, and a funny thing happened. All I could think of was how fortunate we are in so many other ways. Perhaps it's through the close encounters that we learn to recognize the simple blessings all around us.

## How to help Kentucky's flood victims

Over the past two weeks, Kentucky has been flooded not only with water but with displays of neighborly compassion too rarely seen on drier days.

Residents of flooded areas have begun receiving help from their neighbors, from strangers and even from other flood victims.

"When the water starts rising, it really is every person helping every person," Pastor Joe Boone of Butler Baptist Church told me last week. He helped evacuate people from his small Northern Kentucky community the night of the flood. Several days later, he still marveled at the outpouring of support from the community.

Newspaper and TV pictures of the flood's devastation have stirred many to action. All across Kentucky, compassionate people are asking what they can do to help.

The answer to that question may be somewhat frustrating. Plenty of help is needed, but not all of it is needed right now. Much will be needed in the weeks ahead, even after the eye-popping pictures have disappeared from newspapers and TV.

Kentucky Baptists already are at the forefront of responding to the flood. Disaster relief crews organized by Kentucky Brotherhood are at work in Louisville, Falmouth, Butler, Sanders, Maysville, Owensboro and Paducah. Crews from Tennessee, Georgia, Missouri and North Carolina are working in Madisonville, Henderson, Cold Spring, Falmouth and Monterey.

Here are some practical ways you can help both now and in the days ahead:

■ If you know anyone who needs assistance in the areas where Kentucky Baptist disaster relief crews are working, call these phone numbers to report the need: (502) 962-7786 or (502) 962-8738.

■ If you want to volunteer to help with immediate clean-up efforts organized by Kentucky's disaster relief ministry, call (502) 465-7163 or (502) 465-3106. Crews will be needed for weeks. Volunteers should have up-to-date tetanus shots.

■ The biggest need for contributions right now is

for money to buy equipment and supplies. Kentucky Brotherhood especially needs trucks and pumps. Donations of certain cleaning supplies are being accepted at the Red Cross warehouse in Louisville (5803 Fern Valley Rd.) and at some individual churches. Financial contributions should be directed through your church to the Kentucky Baptist Convention and marked "Kentucky Disaster Relief." Contributions also may be mailed directly to the KBC at Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253-0433.

■ Please do not send any goods other than those specifically requested above to the KBC or any disaster relief station without first verifying that what you want to send is needed at this time. This is not a time to unload your junk or white elephants, although there will be an appropriate time soon for the donation of certain good-quality items. Unsolicited donations sent to the wrong place can create more of a problem than a help.

■ Keep in mind that many Kentucky Baptist churches have experienced the same kind of structural damage as the homes in their communities. (See the chart on page 7.) Many of these churches do not have adequate insurance to cover their losses. Members of these churches can barely begin to think about restoring their damaged church buildings until they restore their damaged homes. They will need help from sister Baptist churches at the appropriate time.

■ Consider bringing your church into a one-on-one partnership with a flood-damaged church or a flood-damaged community where you can help meet specific needs. The KBC will attempt to connect willing churches with partners who have needs. Call the KBC partnership missions office at (502) 244-6462. Individual churches also may desire to make direct arrangements on their own.

■ Keep alive the desire to help and plan to pitch in over the next few weeks as more specific needs are announced. The Western Recorder will provide updated information on current needs each week.

— Mark Wingfield

## Crucified with Christ

*Editor's note: This is the second in a three-part series on the death of Jesus, which will be followed after Easter by three more on his resurrection.*

By Carey Newman

My friend was in the habit of stopping by the local museum to view the newest exhibit. This month the curator featured a collection of paintings depicting the death of Jesus.

Intending to stay a few minutes, my friend instead spent his entire lunch hour. He found himself transfixed by one painting in particular. Unlike the foreboding tenor of all the others, this one was warm, welcoming, even triumphant. Around the face and body of Jesus, the artist had faintly painted hundreds, maybe thousands, of faces of people from all over the world. My friend said: "For the very first time I understood that we all were there with Jesus."

Our tradition sometimes lulls us into sleep. Given its importance for salvation, there is a temptation to think

of the death of Jesus only in sacrificial terms. The net effect of sacrificial imagery is to emphasize how different we are from Jesus. He was fully obedient and totally innocent; we are neither.

However, sacrificial imagery is by no means the only way in which the Bible interprets the death of Jesus. Nor is it true that the death of Jesus only relates to our initial saving experience. The Bible connects the death of Jesus with other aspects of the Christian life.

For example, spiritual growth is directly bound up with Jesus' death. We are to relive Jesus' crucifixion as the prelude to our experience of resurrection life mediated by the Spirit. The net effect of the Bible's use of crucifixion imagery to describe spiritual growth is to emphasize how our lives inextricably are connected to his—especially at the point of his death.

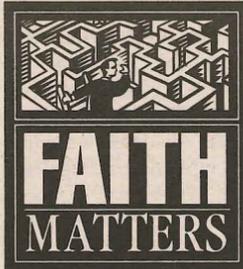
I was reminded how the destiny of one affects the destiny of the many just recently. In order to help celebrate my birthday, one of my prize students

(to protect her from embarrassment, I will not mention Sheri Thayer Koyles by name) presented me, on behalf of the entire class, a "birthday cookie." Accompanying the cookie was a "proclamation" which asked if I would graciously omit Sheri from the quiz for the day and—can you believe this?—give her full credit.

Sheri's petition for individual grace, given its public character (it was read in front of the entire class) had profound implications. What I did for Sheri I had to do for everyone. She was representative of the whole class because she shared with them the status of being a student.

Jesus' death included us. At Golgotha, he publicly and irrefutably announced his solidarity with us—he represented us and embodied us. Somehow, inexplicably, in the experience of hearing and believing the gospel, we miraculously relive the death of Jesus.

My friend told me he was going to sleep well that night, for he thought he saw a face closely resembling his own near the wounds in Jesus' hands. *What Jesus did on the cross he did in our name, and, through our subsequent acknowledgment of that through faith, we are included in his death.*



# FLOOD '97



**AFTERMATH** Greg Singer sits in front of the house he and his family rented in Falmouth. Baptist volunteers helped him clean it out. In Kentucky, 63 counties have been declared disaster areas by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. (Photos by David Winfrey)

**FOOD LINE** Missouri Baptist volunteers (right) staff a feeding line for disaster relief volunteers and residents at Falmouth. In addition to Kentucky and Missouri workers, Baptist teams from Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee also are serving in flood-damaged areas.

## Volunteers stretched thin to meet flood victims' needs

Continued from page 1

He said he's asking every Kentucky Baptist trained for disaster relief work to consider volunteering.

"The problem we've got is it's stretching us so very thin," he said. "It's taking all we can get on every call up, and we're still coming up

short, but we're making it work."

Baptist volunteers have helped clean mud, sewage and debris from at least 350 homes, but many more homes remain.

Feeding crews in four cities have prepared more than 122,000 meals.

Currently, feeding is taking place in southern Louisville, Falmouth, Madisonville and Paducah.

Cleaning, or "mud-out," work currently is occurring in Southern Louisville, Falmouth, Owensboro, Henderson and Cold Spring, but crews are moving to meet the needs almost daily.

"They can't believe that we're not charging them anything," said Mike Klein, a coordinator with the cooking and cleaning crew in Southern Louisville.

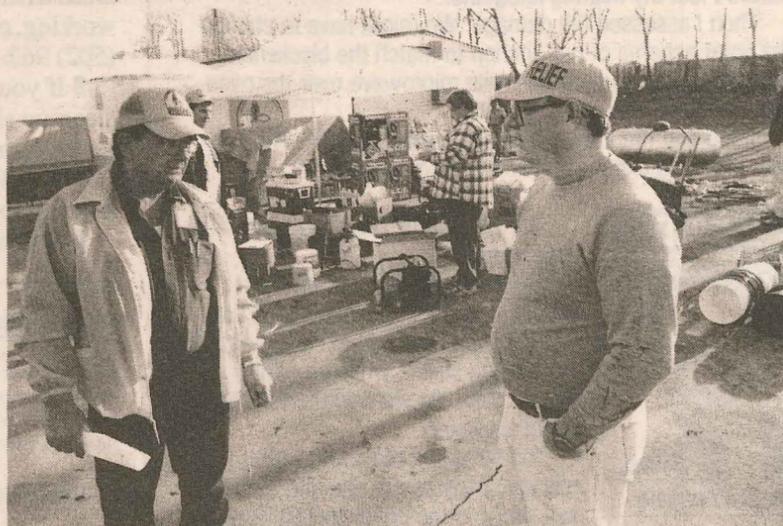
In Falmouth, cars must detour around mountains of mud-caked furniture, photos and heirlooms. On Highway 27, a sign reads, "TOWN OF FAITH HOPE AND LOVE WE WILL BE BACK."

As residents were allowed back in to begin rebuilding their lives, Baptists were there to help. A feeding team from Missouri arrived and set up camp in the parking lot of an elementary school.

Kentucky Baptists from near and far arrive daily to clear garbage, clean homes and converse with residents—all for a chance to tell people that regardless of what has happened, God still loves them.

"We're kind of softhearted," said Terry Schinkle, director of the Baptist cleaning teams in Falmouth.

"A lot of people who come in here break down and cry, and we cry with them," he said. "We try to explain to



**PLANNING** Baptist disaster relief workers George Schinkle of Campbell County and David Schroeder of Nicholasville discuss plans in Falmouth.

them the Lord has his own purpose. Out of everything bad can come something good."

Schinkle lives less than an hour from Falmouth, but so long he has yet to get back home. "We're here for the duration or until they run us out."

Dale Meehan drove 13 hours to get to Falmouth. As crew chief for the Missouri feeding team, he wears many hats, ranging from cooking coordinator and liaison with the Red Cross to cheerleader and counselor.

Volunteers savor the difference they can make in the lives of hurting people, he said. "We can come fix them a hot meal and hopefully relieve the pressure so they can think about putting their lives back together."

Meehan's personal motivation, however is a little more specific. "I

want to be able to find people and lead people to Christ."

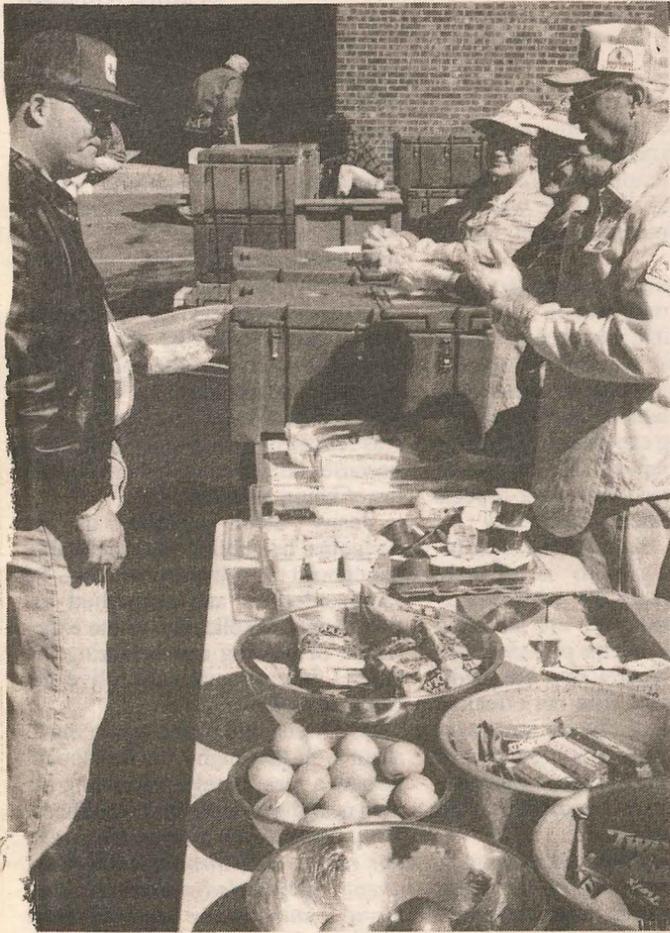
He recalled a recent conversation with a Catholic resident of Falmouth who told him, "I don't see how anybody could stand to go through this without Christ."

He agreed. "I guess that's one of the reasons I keep going."

David Schroeder of Nicholasville said he's found a spiritual lesson in the disaster and help that is taking place.

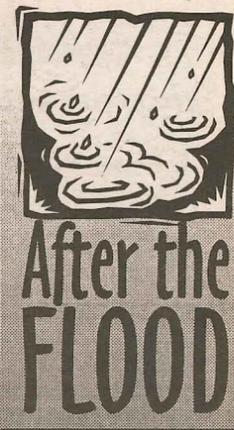
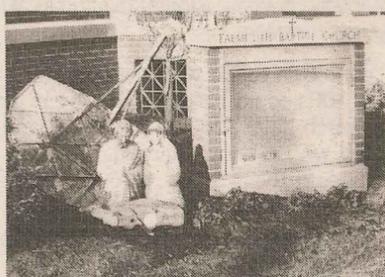
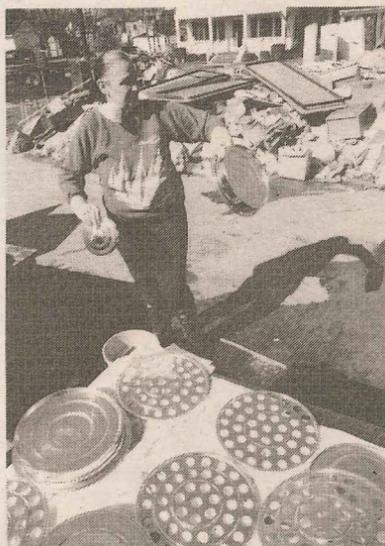
"This flood is very much the way we are when we come to God," he explained. "We are all a disaster. Some of us more of a disaster than others. But regardless of what shape we're in, God takes us one step at a time and restores us to wholeness."

□ **How to help Kentucky's Flood victims. Page 5.**



# FLOOD '97

## Churches helping & hurting as flood waters recede



**AFTERMATH** Several Kentucky Baptist churches are struggling after floods damaged their facilities. Often, members must care for their own families and homes before they can turn their attention to the church. ■ Above Destroyed furniture and walls sit in front of the education building of Trinity Southern Baptist Church in Falmouth. ■ Above left Lola Mae Staggs Barnard cleans Trinity's communion trays. ■ Left Debris sits beside Falmouth Baptist Church's sign. (Photos by David Winfrey)

### KBC CHURCHES SERIOUSLY DAMAGED

NOTE: This list contains information available to the Western Recorder as of press time March 17. If any information printed here is incorrect or if you know of a seriously damaged church that is not listed, please call the Recorder office at (502) 244-6470 or the KBC partnership missions office at (502) 244-6462. This list will be updated each week and published for the next several weeks. **Please do not send any items to flood-damaged churches without first verifying the need and the church's ability to receive donations.** Many damaged churches have no means of storing donated items at this time and have much structural work to be done before items such as pianos, organs or refrigerators can be used. For information on how to help flood victims, see this week's editorial on page 5.

CHURCH	ASSOCIATION	PASTOR	INSURANCE?	DAMAGE/LOSS/NEEDS
Falmouth Falmouth	Union	Dan Reynolds (606) 654-5517	No	Basement flooded; damaged chairs and tables; paint damage; everything in kitchen lost
Trinity Southern Falmouth	Crittenden (606) 654-2681	Bill Barnard	No equipment	Pews destroyed; walls damaged 6 feet from ground; education facilities also damaged; lost piano, organ, computer
Beech Grove Lebanon Junction	Nelson	Rusty Watson (502) 543-8231		Damage not fully assessed
Bardstown Junction Shepherdsville	Nelson	Ray Hayes (502) 243-3747	No	Basement flooded with 9 feet of water; air conditioner ruined; sanctuary carpet ruined
Lebanon Junction Lebanon Junction	Nelson	Thomas Hughes (502) 833-4954	No	Basement flooded up to sanctuary; doors damaged; carpets damaged
Calvary Frankfort	Franklin	Gerald Roe (502) 695-4608	No	5 feet of water in basement; lost stove, lots of sheet music, hymnals and church library
First Frankfort	Franklin	Mark Hopper (502) 227-4528	Yes	Basement flooded with 6 feet of water; damage to educational building, kitchen and fellowship hall
Lockport Lockport	Daviess-McLean	Wayne Kelly (502) 484-2007	Some	Ruined drywall and kitchen cabinets
Gilead Glendale	Severns Valley	Ken Jewell (502) 369-8104	No	6 feet of water in basement; ruined three pianos; kitchen ruined
White Mills Elizabethtown	Severns Valley	Craig Perkins (502) 769-5443	No	Basement and one room damaged
Colesburg Elizabethtown	Severns Valley	Mark Judd (502) 737-4517		Sunday school rooms damaged
Panther Creek Owensboro	Daviess-McLean	Tim Bell (502) 684-2155	Some	Basement flooded with 8 feet of water; refrigerator, stove, ice machine damaged
Dawson Memorial Maceo	Blackford	Steve Boyd (502) 756-6386	Some	8 feet of water in building; extensive damage
Sanders Sanders	Whites Run	Morgan Kerr (502) 463-2877	No	Hymnals, organ, seats, carpet ruined
Buck Run Frankfort	Franklin	Bob Jackson (502) 695-4050	No	4 feet of water in new sanctuary/educational building; damaged pews, carpets, walls, office furniture; greater damage in old sanctuary and fellowship hall
Sacramento Sacramento	Daviess-McLean	Kimbrough Simmons (502) 736-2266		Damage not fully assessed
Calvary Elizabethtown	Severns Valley	Charles Fannin (502) 767-4209		Knee-deep water in building; septic system ruined; damage to entire building
Athertonville Hodgenville	Severns Valley	Charles Gellhaus (502) 549-8359		30 inches of water in parsonage; many items ruined
Eureka Paducah	West Union	Tommy Gleeson (502) 554-9515		Building nearly destroyed

# CHURCHES

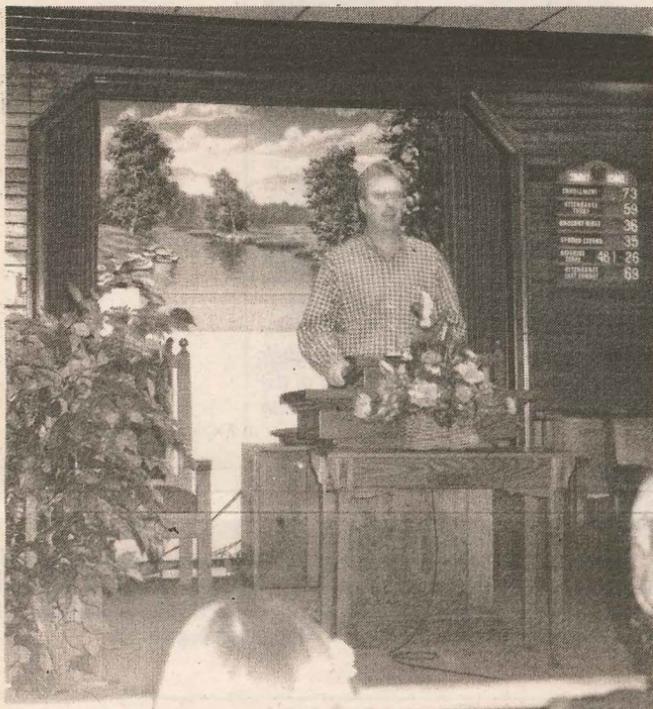
## New Enterprise's caring nature results from tragedy

By Joyce Sweeney Martin  
Staff Writer

ALCALDE—New Enterprise Baptist Church's caring nature was formed in the crucible of tragedy, according to David Aker.

During the last 25 years, three of the church's five pastors have become terminally ill while serving the church. When pastors Marvin Combest, Lenville Coldiron and Curtis Keith died, the congregation rose to the ministry challenge, Aker said.

**FAMILY CHECKUP** Richard Coldiron, Sunday school director at New Enterprise Baptist Church in Alcalde, asks church members to share important events of their week.



"They hurt with the families," Aker said.

As director of missions for Pulasqui Baptist Association for more than 20 years, Aker has had ample opportunity to observe the church, which is located five miles south of Somerset.

"It is a beautiful, caring church," he said.

Pastor Jim McKinney agrees. "The specialness of this church is their ministry to pastors who were terminally ill and their positive response to that challenge," he said.

When 52-year-old Keith was diagnosed with cancer in 1995 and became too ill to function as pastor, New Enterprise did not replace him. Instead, the church continued to pay his salary and benefits as well as pay supply preachers.

They collected special offerings for the Keith family.

"It seemed like every time a big bill would come, the money would be there," said Keith's wife, Diana.

Keith's salary continued for three months after his death, thanks to the generosity of a former member of New Enterprise.

"I can vouch for the fact that the church cares," Mrs. Keith said. "They took care of my husband and me financially and spiritually. They loved us."

The church had shown similar concern when long-time Pastor Coldiron became ill in the late '80s. Coldiron, who had been pastor for 17 years, "preached until he was unable to stand and had to sit in a chair," Deacon Howard Edwards said.



**OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY** The picnic shelter at New Enterprise Baptist Church in Alcalde was built to be used by church members and non-members.

And when Pastor Combest became ill in the early '60s, church members completed a house he had begun for his family. Combest's wife, Louise, remained in the church for a time after her husband's death. Now, she lives in Somerset.

Both Mrs. Coldiron and Mrs. Keith are still members of the church.

The care the church has given to its pastors extends to the community as well.

So many of the men are members of the local volunteer fire department that one Sunday evening during a worship service, nine pagers buzzed as firemen were called to a fire, McKinney said.

The fire fighting team keeps the

church in touch with the community of 300 people, he added. Last year, the church gave \$250 each to two families whose homes burned.

And the women, through Woman's Missionary Union, are "constantly helping someone in the community," Edwards said.

Recently, the items they collected for Bethany House, a home for abused women in Somerset, filled the vestibule.

A few years back, when Coldiron was pastor, the church built a basketball court and picnic shelter on the rock ledge next to the church.

"He was concerned that the kids in community would have something constructive to do," Aker said.

## Cole: Healthy 'family churches' have hope-filled attitudes

By Joyce Sweeney Martin  
Staff Writer

### About this series

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

Healthy "family-style" churches often are characterized by a hope-filled attitude, according to Vernon Cole.

"The church may have had problems in the past or be in the midst of problems, but members have confidence that things will be better down the road," said Cole, Kentucky Baptist Convention church growth director. "It's how they rally around tension points that determines health or disease."

Family churches are those that have several biological families who are interrelated. The churches are characterized more by their tight-woven connectedness than by their size, Cole said.

Such churches operate more like a family than a civic or corporate organization, he said.

Cole listed several characteristics of a healthy family church:

■ **Decision-making is informal.** "Decisions most often are made in the parking lot around a pick-up truck," he said. Decisions may or may not be brought to the church business meeting for a vote.

■ **Leadership is entrusted in the hands of a few.** "Leadership is exercised by a patriarch or matriarch or a few families, unless the pastor has been at the church for a long time or he grew up in the area. Then church leaders know him well and know he has the same value system as they do."

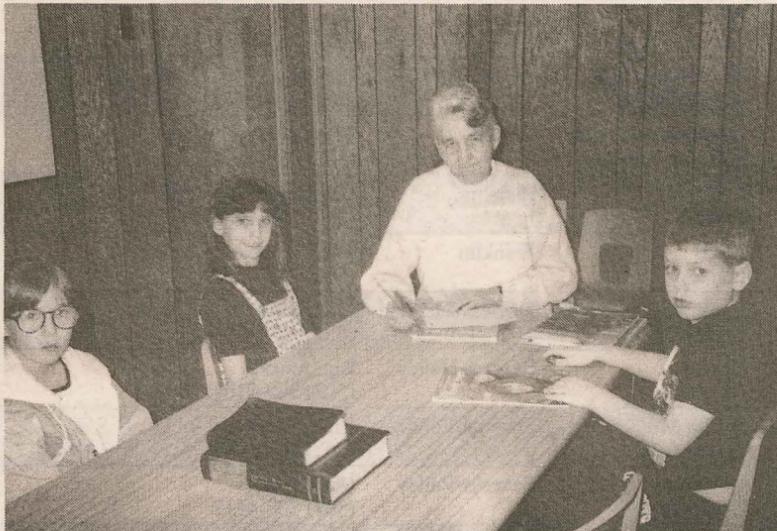
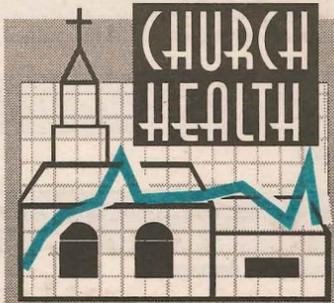
■ **The role of pastor is family-oriented.** "The pastor is preacher, marryer, buryer and visitor."

■ **Relationships are paramount.** "The people know more about each other than the pastor will ever know about all of them. Church leaders work to keep the family together. They deal with tensions, support and encourage all members across generational lines."

■ **Communication patterns work.** "The church has worked out communication patterns which they understand and which work for them."

■ **Ministry is important.** "Members feel good about the contribution the church makes to the lives of their families." They also feel good about the contribution they make to the community, he added.

Gary Farley, of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, lists these characteristics of many family churches:



**SUNDAY MORNING GATHERING** Children are present and accounted for at New Enterprise Baptist Church's Sunday school and worship.

■ **A single cell, not a complex organization.** All participants identify as a part of the whole church, not as a part of a subdivision. Events involve the whole congregation.

■ **Pastoral leadership.** The pastor is a "hands-on" leader. He is a generalist. He meets the felt needs (spiritual, social, psychological and material) of his people. He walks with his people. He understands and cares.

■ **People centered.** Weekly events, such as Sunday school and worship, are seen as gatherings of the clan. Questions include, "Is everyone

present or accounted for?" "How is each person's health?" "What has happened to each person this past week?"

Emotions, feelings and relationships are foremost. "Who" is more important than "what."

■ **The event is the thing.** Revivals, homecomings, Easter sunrise services and Christmas programs—more than weekly or monthly programs—are the stuff of family church life.

■ **Projects.** Family churches work best through projects. They see a need, they raise the money.

## Prayer partners sought for Middle East, North Africa

NICOSIA, Cyprus (BP)—Southern Baptist workers in the Middle East and North Africa are seeking prayer support to help them impact one of the world's more difficult areas to penetrate with the gospel.

"We want to sign up 5,000 prayer partners who will commit to praying for us weekly," said Hugh Provost, a Southern Baptist representative based in Cyprus.

About 220 Southern Baptist workers serve in 11 countries across the Middle East and North Africa. They have been encouraged by increased openness and response in many places during recent years.

The majority of the 280 million people in the area are Muslim. More than half the population is younger than 20 years of age. Many ethnic groups there represent what the Foreign Mission Board has dubbed the "Last Frontier"—areas of people with the least access to the gospel.

These include the Berbers of North Africa and about 19.2 million Bedouin nomads.

There are pockets of traditional Christians in some lands, but for most of these "Christianity" is only a cul-

tural identity, not a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

"We want people to pray for several reasons," Provost said. "First, we want our Southern Baptist churches to become an integral part of our outreach effort through prayer. We want them to become informed about specific individuals and current projects and take a prayerful interest in them. Surely the churches that are paying for what we do are interested in the changed lives and sometimes the struggles that result from our work."

Prayer also is sought for the protection of Southern Baptist workers, who often are in dangerous, unsettled places, Provost said. "Our area includes some war zones and former war zones, areas which are economically unsettled and areas where violence can erupt any time. Prayer is essential."

Southern Baptists who respond will receive information packets on a selected country and periodic updates.

Contact Hugh Provost, On Mission Through Prayer, P.O. Box 835; 6307 Larnaca, Cyprus, or via fax, 011-357-2-451860, or e-mail, 71153.1336@compuserve.com.

## Kentucky missionary among those fleeing Albania

TIRANA, Albania (BP)—All Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board missionaries in Albania, including a Kentuckian, left the country March 12 as violence in the southern region continued to intensify.

However, a missionary working through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was grazed in the head by a bullet while awaiting evacuation from the Port of Durres. Debbie Ayers lost a lot of blood, a CBF spokesman said, but is recovering.

All 14 CBF missionaries in Albania, including Ayers and her husband, Bert, have evacuated to Italy. The Ayerses have a Kentucky connection. Bert Ayers' brother, Bob, lives in Louisville and attends Highland Baptist Church.

Nine FMB workers evacuated to Greece and Bosnia earlier in March, but then rebel mobs seized more territory. Insurgents looted assault rifles, heavy machine guns and fighter planes from government bases, forcing army and police units to flee north. The continued violence prompted mission administrators to pull the remaining nine workers from the country as well.

Suzanne Lacy of Louisville and three other FMB missionaries relocated to Thessaloniki, Greece. Another moved to Skopje, Macedonia. They will continue their study of the Albanian

language and work with the large groups of ethnic Albanians in those countries.

Four others relocated to Sarajevo, Bosnia, where they will help with church-planting efforts. Eight of nine workers who evacuated earlier also relocated to Bosnia.

They join six missionary couples who entered Bosnia last year for temporary assignments to respond to an openness to the gospel after four years of civil war.

"We have been praying for extra workers to go into Bosnia for more than a year," said Larry Cox, who directs FMB efforts in the area. "I believe God has answered that prayer by using an unfortunate situation in Albania to send workers into Bosnia."

For the last seven weeks, Albania has been in a crisis brought on by the collapse of a pyramid investment scheme in which nearly every Albanian family had invested. The fund's failure to pay the interest it promised to depositors led to mass protests a month ago.

The violence threatens growth on one of the most responsive mission fields in Eastern Europe. Dozens of evangelical churches have sprouted up across Albania in recent years.

*With information from Religion News Service.*

# Fishing is easier if you have the right tools.

When it comes to sharing our faith, many of us get wet feet. We want to share Jesus, but don't know how. That's why every pastor in Kentucky should bring 10 church leaders to the *People Sharing Jesus Conference*.

Get hands-on guidance and equip your church to reach out to the lost in natural, loving, effective ways. With an investment of just 4 hours and \$5.00, the *People Sharing Jesus Conference* will equip you to:

- turn everyday conversations into sharing opportunities
- listen to others and share Christ at the point of their need
- recognize God-given opportunities to share
- share the Good News of the gospel in creative ways.



And once you're equipped, you can train others. So bring 10 leaders with you, and join us April 21 and 22.

Before you know it, people will describe your church as *People Sharing Jesus*.

For more information or to make reservations,

please call The Office for Evangelism at (502) 245-4101 (ext. 330).



## The People Sharing Jesus Conference

April 21, 1997, 5-9 p.m. EDT, Porter Memorial, Lexington  
April 22, 1997, 5-9 p.m. CDT, First Baptist, Madisonville

Call by April 11 and make your reservations\* for the meal and conference.

\*\$5.00 per person registration fee includes entrance to all sessions, a conference syllabus and a light meal.



**DWIGHT ASHLEY**  
Soloist  
April 21



**J. K. PIERCE**  
Pastor, Porter  
Memorial Baptist Church  
Lexington



**DARRELL ROBINSON**  
Vice President for  
Evangelism,  
Home Mission Board  
Both Locations



**ALMA RANDOLPH**  
Soloist  
April 22

## Prayer season urged for oppressed Christians

**"Our brothers and sisters in Christ are wearing their crown of thorns with great dignity in the name of the Lord."**

*Caroline Cox, president of the British branch of Christian Solidarity International*

By Adelle Banks  
Religion News Service

ORLANDO, Fla.—Baroness Caroline Cox has seen firsthand the Sudanese families of persecuted Christians who had to purchase their children back from slavery.

"Isn't it incredible that we can talk in 1997 about a child being worth three head of cattle?" she asked.

Cox, deputy speaker of the House of Lords in the United Kingdom, is the president of the British branch of the Swiss-based Christian Solidarity International, a human rights organization that helps people of all faiths.

She was in Orlando this month to help World Evangelical Fellowship highlight the need for greater attention to persecuted Christians.

The Fellowship has called for a "season of prayer" from Sept. 28 to Nov. 16 for those suffering persecution.

Cox told those attending the breakfast meeting that she has seen the faces of persecuted Christians in Sudan, Myanmar (Burma) and the Armenian enclave of Ngorno-Karabagh in Azerbaijan.

"Our brothers and sisters in Christ are wearing their crown of thorns with

great dignity in the name of the Lord," Cox said.

More than once, as she landed in areas that had witnessed bombs, fires, murders, slavery and other tragedies, Cox said she was greeted by Christians saying, "Thank God you have come. We thought the world had forgotten us."

She said many of the persecuted do not speak in anger about their plight but rather about how to maintain their dignity and their faith.

Cox said some of those she met had seen great atrocities—children hung from trees or who had their heads severed by enemies—but did not focus on vengeance in their conversations with her.

Rather, she said, some of the most persecuted follow the biblical directive to "beat swords into plowshares." She recalled a church in Burma that used half a bombshell as its church bell.

And instead of vengeance, she said, she heard thanks for the efforts of groups like Christian Solidarity International, which bring medicine and other support for the persecuted.

Dwight Gibson, the Fellowship's North American director, urged U.S. Christians to consider the persecuted

as a hurting part of their family.

"Persecution of our fellow believers around the world is very real today," he said.

A number of those attending the meeting said they hoped Cox's remarks would spur more churches to be involved in prayer and other activities in support of persecuted Christians.

"This is something that should sear our conscience," said Steve Haas, U.S. coordinator of the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. "This truly is a grassroots movement. It's a movement of knowledge, of education and of prayer."

Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, said some of his staff have suffered persecution in their work abroad.

"We have staff who are in prison," he said after the breakfast. "We have staff who have been killed. We have staff who have constantly been persecuted."

In many cases, Bright said, Christian couples part in the morning and don't know if they ever will see each other again.

"It's wrong we're not demonstrating greater compassion for one another," he said.

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# EDUCATION

## Symposium explores new Kentucky seminary options

By Mark Wingfield  
Editor

GEORGETOWN—Any effort to launch a new seminary or divinity school in Kentucky would be most successful if housed at an existing college and designed as an innovative and regional model, about 40 participants in a March 13 symposium on theological education agreed.

The symposium on the future of theological education in Kentucky, held at Georgetown College, was organized by a theological education committee of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship.

That committee already has filed papers of incorporation for a new entity to be called Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. However, no further plans for the school have been made public.

Paul Simmons, chair of the Kentucky Fellowship's theological education committee, said his group hopes to make a presentation soon to a Kentucky Baptist school located conveniently near access to several major interstates and highways.

That description fits Georgetown College. Georgetown President Bill Crouch, who attended the symposium, made no commitments to participants.

However, he said he would be willing for four members of Georgetown's trustee board who also were present to bring the matter before the trustees for consideration.

During a dialogue time at the conclusion of the symposium, participants strongly affirmed the need for a new option in theological education in Kentucky. At the same time, they said such an effort should be launched with a clear vision for the future and not merely as a reaction to the transition that has occurred at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville since 1990.

Southern, which for years has educated the vast majority of pastors in Kentucky Baptist churches, has taken a sharp turn to the right theologically as the Southern Baptist Convention has come under more conservative-minded leadership.

The symposium featured four informational reports about the state of theological education and future trends.

Whatever is done in Kentucky should involve significant lay leadership, suggested David Peterson, president of Tafel Motors in Louisville and a member of St. Matthews Baptist Church. "Theological education is far too important to leave to theologians," he said. "That is dangerous for the church and society as a whole."

Peterson, a Southern Seminary graduate who described himself as a "card-carrying layman," said new forms of theological education must seek to train both clergy and laity. While it may appear cheaper to formally educate only a few, such a limited vision actually carries a much

greater cost, he said.

Theological education also must help clergy connect with the people they lead, Peterson said. "We laypeople are not at all convinced that professional theologians have any clue about the daily pressures of our lives."

Dan Aleshire, associate executive director of the Association of Theological Schools and a former Southern Seminary professor, outlined broad trends in theological education nationwide.

He spoke of the unique challenges faced by mainline Protestant schools, Roman Catholic schools and evangelical schools. "If moderate Southern Baptists were to initiate some new effort in theological education, which of these three groups would you identify with?" he asked.

The answer, he later suggested, may be none. Instead, moderate Baptists may find common ground with each of these three groups at some point—with mainline Protestants on the declining size of many congregations; with Roman Catholics on the loss of a cultural identity that previously shaped everything they did; and with evangelicals on institutionalizing the ideals of a movement.

Throughout the symposium, speakers emphasized a nationwide trend toward more regional centers of theological education and away from national seminaries.

Aleshire said this shift is due in part to the changing demographics of seminary students. The average age of seminary students nationwide today is 37, he said. "The typical seminary student is second or third career and is more geographically fixed."

**"Theological education is far too important to leave to theologians."**  
Businessman David Peterson

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The twelve inches of ground water that backed-up into our basement through the drain "made away" with some "treasures" we had "stored-up" in the basement. Had we not hoarded them, they could have helped other people in need. Now they are destroyed and can help no one.

So it is true, treasures on earth are perishable, and we share the fate of that to which we give our hearts.

Therefore, the Allen family has pledged anew (a) to seek first his kingdom—his kingly rule in our lives, his standard of doing right

and for his will and (b) to make every effort to stop any behavior that reflects an attitude of security in material possessions.

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Barry Allen

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coming age and take hold of the life that is truly life. (II Timothy 6:17-19).

Your Kentucky Baptist Foundation exists to assist you in (a) discovering God's purposes for your possessions and (b) defining a plan to accomplish those purposes. Give Laurie Valentine and me the privilege of assisting you.

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

### Aleshire: More changes for theological education

GEORGETOWN—Within this century, theological education has moved from an emphasis on dispensing information to an emphasis on creating professional clergy to an emerging emphasis on providing more holistic formational experiences, said Dan Aleshire.

Aleshire, associate executive director of the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, spoke to a symposium on the future of theological education held at Georgetown College March 13.

A major thrust of theological education in the future will be on spiritual formation—"to help people form an identity as religious people who are faithful," he explained.

Seminaries and divinity schools must regain their places as "centers of religious values," Aleshire said. He suggested that the most important things learned at seminary are the overarching values assimilated there rather than the specific pieces of individual information.

Despite the changes theological education has experienced over the last 30 years, even more change lies ahead in the coming 30 years, he predicted. The challenges seminaries face today, however, vary by faith groups, Aleshire said.

Mainline Protestant seminaries must find new ways to relate to their declining denominations, he said. For example, some numerically declining congregations may no longer be able to afford full-time pastors.

Roman Catholic seminaries must contend with a dramatic shortage of candidates for the

priesthood. Currently in the United States Roman Catholics have one priest for every 1,000 parishioners, he said. To maintain that ratio, Catholic seminaries would need to be training 5,000 future priests each year, but actually are training only 2,000, he explained.

However, the drop in priests in training has not translated into an overall decline in enrollment at Catholic seminaries, Aleshire said. As the number of vocational ministerial students has declined, the number of laypeople enrolling in seminaries has increased.

Roman Catholics also must contend with the demise of a "Catholic culture in North America that previously provided a cultural cohesion," he said.

Evangelical Protestant schools are finding their pool of students spread much thinner than before, Aleshire reported. With an increasing number of schools vying for students, enrollments at individual schools appear smaller than in the past or at least are growing at a slower pace.

Aleshire said he sees no clear limit on the number of seminaries and divinity schools that can survive. Southern Baptists, in particular, are the most "underseminaried" religious group in America, he explained, because they have relied on larger schools with a national draw. Episcopalians, for example, are a much smaller denomination than Southern Baptists but have 11 seminaries compared to the Southern Baptist Convention's six.

## Baptists want Roger Williams statue kept in Capitol Rotunda

WASHINGTON (RNS)—It's not that the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is against women's rights.

It's just that Roger Williams, the founder of Rhode Island, is the pre-eminent American symbol of religious liberty, a principle Baptists hold dear to their hearts. And Williams is credited with founding America's first Baptist church.

So the group's executive committee has weighed in on one of those little battles that often engulf life inside the Washington beltway, adopting a resolution lauding Williams and opposing a plan to remove his statue from the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. The removal is being resisted fiercely by Sen. John Chafee, R-R.I.

At issue is a decision by the Joint Committee of the Library of Congress to banish Williams, much as he was banished from Massachusetts by the Puritans, to make room for a statue of three early crusaders for women's rights—the suffragist Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott.

The 13-ton marble statue of the women has been tucked away in a downstairs corridor where it has been languishing since shortly after 1921, when it was presented to Congress and briefly displayed in the Rotunda. Women's groups have been lobbying for more than 30 years to have it restored.

In their resolution, the Baptist Joint Committee, an umbrella group of most Baptist denominations and agencies except the Southern Baptist Convention, describes Williams as "the primary architect of the lively experiment of church-state separation as the necessary corollary of religious liberty."

Now, another group has weighed in. The National Political Congress of Black Women, which originally supported the suffragist side, now says it wants the trio's statue kept out because it should include a fourth—Sojourner Truth, the former slave, abolitionist and champion of voting rights for women.

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**FOR SALE:** 1994 Chevy C1500, red, 4x4, extended cab, Silverado package, tow package, extended warranty, loaded, 27,500 miles. Call Bob, (502) 361-8646.

**SEEKING:** Versailles Baptist Church seeks part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: Versailles Baptist Church, 125 East Green St., Versailles, KY 40383.

**FOR SALE:** 1984 Bluebird bus, 24-passenger, 35,000 miles, \$6,150. Call: Mrs. Roberts, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky., (502) 842-0331.

**SEEKING:** Full-time church pastor for Central Baptist Church, Corbin, Ky. Requirements: M.Div. degree from an accredited Baptist seminary; full-time pastor experience. Call: (606) 528-6650 or fax (606) 528-3407 or send resumé by March 31, 1997, to: Pastor Search Committee, c/o Central Baptist Church, 201 4th St., Corbin, KY 40701.

**WANTED:** God-sent person to serve as associate pastor. Primary responsibility is worship leader with emphasis on music plus other church ministry according to spiritual gifts. Tremendous opportunity to serve in a fast-growing church family open to innovative ministry styles. Send no resumé yet—write for information: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 576, Mt. Carmel, IL 62863.

**NEEDED:** Full-time bookkeeper, experienced with Peachtree software, general ledger account through monthly financial statements and payroll; also coordinate admissions and marketing inquires for personal care home for elderly ladies. The successful candidate will possess superior organizational and communications skills, relate well to elderly clients, staff and as a member of the management team. Three years minimum bookkeeping required. Salary commensurate with experience. Resumé may be sent to: Administrator, Parr's Rest, Inc., 969 Cherokee Road, Louisville, KY 40204, or fax to (502) 459-5455.

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**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.

**NEEDED:** Nursery worker able to work during all services. Apply: Chevy Chase Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., (606) 266-2601.

**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.

**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.

**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:** 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.

## The value of work

By Robert Dunston

Part of Cumberland College's mission statement emphasizes that the college's "commitment to a strong academic program is joined with a commitment to a strong work ethic."

One might expect that our students would work hard in and out of the classroom on academic projects, and that is certainly true. Faculty seek to introduce students to the best resources and help them use those resources in creative ways to solve problems. Students work diligently to prepare for tests, write papers and make presentations.

In addition to diligent academic work, many of our students work hard in other areas. Some hold part-time jobs off campus as they complete their education. Many others work on Cumberland's campus through our work-study program.

Ever since Cumberland College opened its doors in 1889, students helping themselves has been an important part of our approach to higher education. We all tend to value those things or experiences we have worked hard to achieve. Through investing ourselves we come to appreciate what we have.

Currently, 42 percent of our full-time undergraduate students are involved in our work-study program. Of this group, 89 percent work 10.75 hours or more each week, in addition to attending and preparing for classes. Our students are willing to work, and we are committed to helping them.

What do these students do? A little of everything. Almost every office and department on campus has student workers to help with word processing, filing, mailings, publicity, campus tours and meeting the public. Students work in our lodge and museum, and in athletics as trainers, lifeguards and statisticians. Some work in ministry offices, and

still others work in local school systems. Without the contribution of these students, Cumberland College could not function smoothly. They are valuable colleagues as well.

Such experience, joined with the academic experience Cumberland provides, helps prepare students for life beyond college. Work-study develops people skills, good work habits and a desire to contribute to something beyond oneself.

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

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## State of nation's children 'unconscionable'

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Despite some encouraging signs, the nation's children remain in peril from threats of violence, abuse and neglect, Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund, said March 12.

"It is unconscionable that every day in America, 16 children die from gunfire, 8,042 children are reported abused or neglected and 3,300 children lose private health insurance," Edelman told a news conference where she released the liberal advocacy group's annual "State of America's Children Yearbook," a statistical

portrait of the nation's youth.

Despite many grim statistics, this year's report also cites "encouraging improvements" in key indicators—teen birth rates are down, fewer youth are being arrested for homicide, and children's immunization rates are up.

But the report calls for urgent action on issues such as health care, welfare and education. "America's child, family and community challenges are legion. But they are solvable, depending on our moral choices as citizens," the report said.

Edelman called on "religious congregations of all faiths" not only to

provide a moral voice for children, but also literally to open their doors and provide community programs to repair the "fundamental breakdown" in family support structures.

Edelman, who comes from a long line of Baptist preachers, said churches should improve their family and youth ministries and "speak out for justice for children and for the poor."

Edelman called it scandalous that America ranks first among industrialized nations in its health technology but still does not provide comprehensive health coverage for all children and pregnant women.

## Group links black church arsons as conspiracy

ATLANTA (RNS)—The Center for Democratic Renewal, an Atlanta-based national hate crimes research organization, released a report claiming evidence exists of a conspiracy to burn black and multi-racial churches "for the purposes of starting a race war."

"Our findings are so troubling that it is going to take all of us, not just government alone, to challenge the purveyors of hate who are determined to tear this country apart," C.T. Vivian, the center's chairman

of the board, said in releasing the report.

Center officials said white male supremacists between the ages of 45 and 80 form "the backbone of the conspiracy," and have a mission to teach a younger generation their ideologies and methods.

The center's report also said some local police and fire officials refuse to address racism as a factor in the fires and are reluctant to investigate the possibility of a larger conspiracy.

As recently as January, officials of

the National Church Arson Task Force, a cooperative effort of the U.S. Departments of Justice and Treasury, said they had not found evidence of an overall conspiracy, but rather a variety of reasons for the arsons, including racial and religious hostility.

The center is a co-sponsor of "A Call to Action: A March of Solidarity to Challenge Hate in America," a series of events that includes an update on the church burnings, a march and a rally in Columbia, S.C., April 11-12.

## Reed visits White House to talk about gambling study concerns

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The Clinton White House may be a favorite political target of the Christian Coalition, but that did not stop the group's leader from going to Pennsylvania Avenue to discuss gambling with the administration.

Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, met March 6 with Erskine Bowles, the White House chief of staff, to discuss appointments to the National Gambling Impact Study Commission.

Reed was invited to the White House after the Christian Coalition sent Clinton a letter raising concerns about who was being appointed to the commission.

An unnamed administration official described the 15-minute meeting as cordial and businesslike. The official also said Reed presented Bowles with the names of Democrats the Christian Coalition feels would be appropriate for the commission.

Reed said he initiated contact with the White House to express his view that the nine-member commission should be an unbiased body that would thoroughly investigate the gambling industry's impact on society. There have been reports that two of Clinton's three appointees to the commission represent the casino industry.

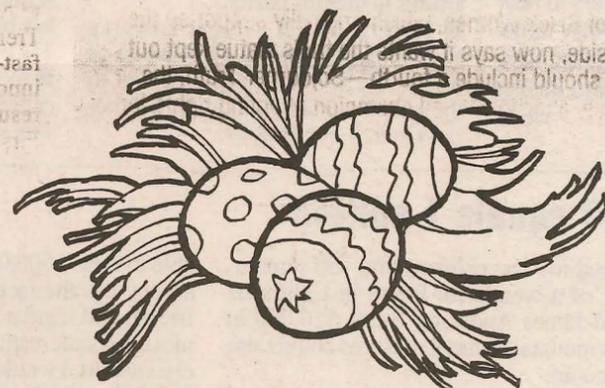
Religious leaders have been among the most vocal supporters of the commission. Last year, 16 Protestant, Orthodox and Muslim groups issued a statement saying compulsive gambling is becoming increasingly common because of the promise of instant riches held out by state lotteries and other forms of gambling.

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■ Groundbreaking April 6 for the Baptist Convention of New England office and training center in Northboro, Mass.

■ Volunteers needed this summer to build the Baptist Convention of New England office and training center.

■ Leaders in New Hampshire as they target three counties that have no Southern Baptist work.

## Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Mount Roberts Church ordained **Melvin Skaggs** to the deacon ministry March 9. **Shane McNary** is pastor.

■ **COVINGTON**—Immanuel Church will hold a sunrise service at the Garden of Hope March 30 at 7 a.m. **Bob Dunn**, director of missions at Cincinnati Baptist Center, will bring the message. Call (606) 431-3476 for more information.

■ **DANVILLE**—Calvary Church honored **Steve Fegenbush** on his 25th anniversary as minister of music and education March 9.

■ **HARDYVILLE**—**Billy Foster**, pastor at Three Springs Church, has resigned effective March 30. He will be available for pulpit supply, revivals and as interim pastor. Call him at (502) 524-2761.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church called **Emory Riley** as minister of music March 9. Riley previously was minister of music and education at First Church in LaFollette, Tenn. He will begin his new ministry in early April.

■ **KEVIL**—First Church recently ordained the following to the deacon ministry: **M.T. Bowles**, **Tommy Brewington**, **Larry Ferren**, **Donald Jerrell** and **Richard Miers**. **Denzel Dukes** is interim pastor.

■ **KNOB LICK**—New Liberty Church called **David McKinney** as pastor. He recently was ordained to the gospel ministry at Grider Memorial Church in Glasgow.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Highland Park First Church's sanctuary choir, accompanied by members of the University of Louisville Orchestra, will present "I Claim the Cross," an Easter worship musical by **Keith Ferguson** and **Bruce Greer**, March 23 at 6 p.m. Call (502) 231-3917 for more information.

The choirs of Crescent Hill Church, Church of the Ascension in Frankfort and members of the Louisville Orchestra will present John Rutter's Requiem at 6:30 p.m. March 23 at Crescent Hill. On March 26 at 5:45 p.m., Crescent Hill will recreate a Jewish Passover followed by the Lord's Supper; reservations needed by 10 a.m. March 24. Call (502) 896-4425.

■ **PADUCAH**—**Brian Branham** resigned as minister of music and education at Oaklawn Church.

■ **PINEVILLE**—**Bill Whittaker**, president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, is in Tambov, Russia, teaching ethics and preaching at Truth Baptist Church. Also, **Bill Pfoff**, Old Testament professor at Clear Creek, taught in Tambov Dec. 2-20. He taught in a pastor/church planter school at Truth Baptist Church.

■ **SHEPHERDSVILLE**—First Church will host holy week services at noon March 24-28. Services will be led by area pastors. Call (502) 543-7721 for more information.

■ **WARSAW**—Bramlette Church called Interim Pastor **Jay Patton**, of Jonesville, as pastor Feb. 23.

## Muslims want prophet off wall

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Several American Islamic groups have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to remove a 64-year-old stone bas-relief of the prophet Muhammad from its chamber because they regard it as offensive to Muslims.

"Muslims are sensitive to any images of the prophet as a statement of our commitment to strict monotheism," said Salam Al-Marayati, director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council.

Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American Islamic Relations, said "the statue has to be changed. It is not acceptable to show the prophet's face."

Muhammad is one of 18 individuals associated with the historical development of jurisprudence—including Moses, Solon, Confucius and Napoleon—who are depicted on a frieze, a decorative bas-relief that adorns the top of the chamber's walls.

Not all Muslim groups concurred with the request to have the bas-relief altered.

"This was constructed many years ago, not by Muslims and with good intentions," said Adurahman Alamoudi, of the American Muslim Council.

"We need to set priorities," he said.

## Southern Baptist Convention 1997 Messenger Cards

### Attention Pastors

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## 500,000 equals 1 million

If you read my last column, you will remember reading of a wonderful friend in California who offered James Anderson Burns \$50,000 in 1923 for his mountain school, if Burns could raise an equal amount.

Most of Oneida's friends already have heard about our recent wonderful blessing, but in case you missed the news let me bring you up to date. This past summer, an anonymous donor offered Oneida \$500,000 for a permanent endowment fund if we could raise an equal amount.

While Oneida was not laden with debt as we were in 1923, this was a gigantic challenge.

From our earliest days, Oneida always has been rather frugal. Anyone who comes to our campus will notice that many things are different here. You will not find our students sitting in new, expensive desks; they will be in desks that have been donated from other schools that have replaced theirs and have been kind to us by giving us their old ones. Several years ago, students in our summer work program repaired and painted every high school student desk. Before this, many classrooms had pink, blue, brown and tan desks. Until recently, the tables we use in our dining room all had been made by our students, mostly from used materials.

Our faculty use desks and chairs from surplus. Our trucks, vans and cars are donated to Oneida by our many friends. The bottom line is we know we do not have some things others may have.

But we never have to apologize for our stewardship. By stretching every dollar and trying to use every donated item, we normally are able to keep our debt and expenses to a minimum.

I was more than a little anxious about being

able to raise \$500,000. For me, the most difficult aspect was the fact that I would have to ask our friends and regular supporters to help. One of my more difficult responsibilities is asking for financial support. I would rather do without than to have to ask for additional funds. However, in this case it was not for me but for our students.

I typed and re-typed the announcement letter. I asked God to help me put on paper what I felt in my heart. Would our friends respond? Did they

have the resources to help us reach our goal? How long would it take? So many questions, so few answers.

Finally, after much prayer, the letter was mailed the first of September. Boy, was I in for a surprise. It did not take weeks for the response, only a few days. The special endowment envelopes started coming in just days after being mailed.

The business office was overwhelmed with donations. Day after day, week after week, for four months there was a flood of mail.

It may be a bit much to compare it to creating the universe in six days, the parting of the Red Sea, or feeding 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish, but a miracle it was.

The total amount received to date is more than \$585,000. We are especially thankful for the fact that our regular financial support was not affected greatly. We know our friends rejoice with us. I know many made personal sacrifices in order to help us.

We thank God for answered prayer, our many friends and a wonderful, special friend.

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

### THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

## Returns of a 23-year ministry

What's the secret of a pastor staying in a church for 23 years? Mickey Webb says his pastor, Mike Bernard, has a genuine love for the people. Bernard went to Central Baptist Church in Athens, Tenn., in 1974. He confesses, "I've had my ups and downs, but this is still the place God wants me to be." Part of the secret of his longevity may

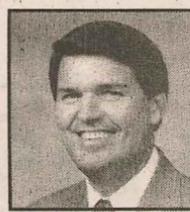
response was, "Oh me. We'd just bought a new home."

Lester took a group of new students on a bus trip of Bell County. Bernard had some experience with mountain driving, and Lester arranged for him to go to on a trip to the Whitesburg area. Bernard went to Deane Mission and served three years as pastor. "With just a few

people, we built a new building a block at a time. I took Clear Creek students up on Saturdays to work on the project." A few years back, Bernard returned to Deane Church and baptized one of the boys who worked on the church building.

In 1982, Bernard started a ministry of Total Life Encounters. A team of 50 adults con-

### CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

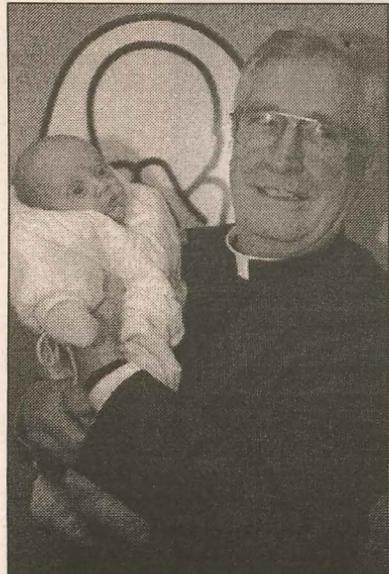
ducts youth conferences and summer camps in Michigan, Florida and Tennessee. For 26 years Bernard has directed the association's camp ground, responsible for year-round maintenance and the staff and program for two weeks of summer youth camps. Construction is underway at Central Baptist on a 7,260 square-foot family life center.

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

## Cardinal offers help for every unwanted pregnancy

By Robert Nowell  
Religion News Service

LONDON (RNS)—Roman Catholic Cardinal Thomas Winning, the archbishop of Glasgow, has promised



**BABY TALK** Thomas Winning has pledged to help any woman facing an unwanted pregnancy if she refuses to have an abortion. (RNS photo)

any woman—anywhere—facing an unwanted pregnancy unconditional practical and financial aid if she refuses to have an abortion.

Winning announced the offer for women facing unwanted pregnancies in a March 9 speech to the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child, a group opposing abortion.

"I strenuously urge any person in that situation, of any ethnic background, of any faith, from anywhere, to come to the archdiocese of Glasgow for assistance," Winning said.

Winning's comments came in the wake of a poll released last month that showed two-thirds of Scottish Roman Catholic respondents said women should have the right to an abortion.

Abortion has been legal in Britain since 1968, when the 1967 Abortion Act, piloted through Parliament by an elder of the Church of Scotland, became law.

In 1996, there were about 160,000 abortions in the country.

In his remarks, Winning offered a variety of practical aids to women with unwanted pregnancies.

"Whatever worries or care you may have, we will help you," he said. "If you need pregnancy testing or counseling, we will help you. If you

want help to cope with raising the baby on your own, we will help you. If you want to discuss adoption of your unborn child, we will help you. If you need financial assistance, or help with equipment for your baby, and feel financial pressures will force you to have an abortion, we will help you."

Winning's initiative was welcomed by Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster and the top Catholic official in Great Britain.

Describing abortion as "one of the greatest scandals of our time," Hume said the Catholic church "has always recognized that it is one thing to condemn abortion, another to offer practical help to those facing a difficult decision or to ensure adoption is available as an alternative to abortion."

The practical details of Winning's proposal, however, remain unclear.

Noel Barry, Winning's press secretary, said it is impossible to calculate the cost of the offer. But he said the archdiocese already has received pledges of support to fulfill the commitment, including one woman who promised to give part of the proceeds from the sale of her house and another woman who promised to give \$80,000.

Barry also said it is not clear precisely how the plan would work nor how it would affect the finances of the Glasgow archdiocese.

The archdiocese in 1993 had a deficit of \$10.7 million. Its social service programs had an additional \$2.4 million deficit.

However, some light can be thrown on the issue by the experience of the anti-abortion charity Life, an independent group which since 1970 has offered help to women facing unwanted or unexpected pregnancies.

Life receives about 90,000 calls a year and its national telephone help line often is overloaded. It has 134 "care centers" around the United Kingdom and 44 homes that provide accommodations for women made homeless by pregnancy. At any one time, about 200 women live in these houses, and during a year about 300 women will be helped in this way.

The group itself has an annual budget of about \$1.2 million.

But Life chairman Jack Scarisbrick said the most essential service provided is free confidential, professional counseling that allows women the freedom to decide what to do at a time when they are often under pressure to have an abortion.

**The archdiocese already has received pledges of support to fulfill the commitment, including one woman who promised to give part of the proceeds from the sale of her house.**

## Nursing home ministries important to residents, leaders say

CENTREVILLE, Ala. (BP)—In the last 17 years, retired Baptist pastor E.C. Day and his wife, Lois, have made more than 800 trips to the Bibb Medical Center Nursing Home in Centreville.

Many people of Day's generation would have long since ended the weekly 75-mile round trip. But Day, 85, said he and his wife, 80, "are not doing this for ourselves."

"The nursing home ministry has been our life for many years and will continue to be until God calls us home."

Day is one of many Baptists who give their time to nursing home ministry. He and others say the best gift they have to give—and the one appreciated most—is the gift of time.

"Some patients think they have been put in the nursing home and forgotten about," said Leonard Nail, director of nursing home ministries for East Cullman (Ala.) Baptist Association. "When you visit, they re-

alize someone really does care about them."

Nail has led a Bible study at two Alabama nursing homes since his retirement from Veteran's Hospital in Birmingham nearly 18 years ago. He also visits other local nursing homes when he has time.

Nail encourages others not to let "busy-ness" be an excuse for not visiting. "Many people say they don't have time to visit. My response to that is, Don't wait until you get in the nursing home to say, 'I wish I had visited,'" he said.

Ministry programs are some of the most popular volunteer programs in nursing homes, said Lynn Childs, director of public relations for the Alabama Nursing Home Association.

"The patients love singing, Bible study and pretty much anything to do with religion," Childs said. "We also find that the religious community is one of the strongest supporters that staff and facilities have as far as vol-

unteering and doing things for residents."

Bridget Pope, activities director at Cleburne County (Ala.) Nursing Home, said residents look forward to worship activities each week regardless of denomination.

"It doesn't matter what denomination they are or whether they are black or white," Pope said. "The residents just really enjoy worshipping and appreciate anyone who takes time to visit."

"It is God's will that people should have company," said Eva Jarrell, a resident at the Cleburne County facility. "As long as they're not drunk or cussing, we are glad to have them."

Many people, Christians included, shy away from nursing home visitation because of the age of the patients and the prospect of death. But the nursing home is a good mission field, and patients are usually receptive to the gospel, workers said.

At the Cleburne County facility,

several patients have been baptized in the last few years, Pope said.

Death is a real part of nursing home ministry, Day added. "You have to realize that you may not have a long time to reach the patients," he said. "They may not be at the nursing home that long."

Fortunately, the nature of nursing home ministry helps ministers and other volunteers deal with the death of a patient.

"It's easier to deal with the death of patients when you've gotten to know them through Bible study and know they are Christians," Nail said.

As in any area of ministry, nursing home ministers also get discouraged. But Nail said even the smallest response is rewarding. "Many of the residents can't speak, but you can talk to them. They hear what you say even if they can't respond," he said. "You can see a smile, or something in their eyes, and you know you are making a difference."

## Inmates getting Baptist seminary training while behind bars

ANGOLA, La. (BP)—Professors at one of the newest seminary extension sites truly have a captive audience.

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, along with Baptists in Baton Rouge, La., are sponsoring seminary classes for 50 inmates of the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola.

The extension site offers training for leaders of 16 inmate-led congregations within the prison.

Baptists in Baton Rouge got involved in ministry to the inmates in the summer of 1995, when T.W. Terral, director of missions for the local Baptist association, was asked to meet with Burl Cain, the prison warden.

Cain told Terral prisoners were re-

questing Bibles and he needed help in obtaining them.

Terral said the association could supply 2,000 Bibles, and he thought that would be all Cain would need.

Later, Cain told Terral more than 700 men had accepted Christ as their personal Savior, and he needed help in discipling these new converts.

Baptists responded by volunteering to teach "Experiencing God." Within a year, 480 men had completed the course and 100 more were on a waiting list. This ministry led to a class on chemical dependency sponsored by the Baptist association.

"I thought surely he was finished then," Terral said. "But he wasn't."

"We have 16 inmate-led congrega-

tions," Cain told Terral. "We need to give these men better training to lead their congregations."

"It had to be of God because I was making commitments without knowing how we could do it," Terral said. "It was the grace of the Lord because without one budget penny we provided all the Bibles, 'Experiencing God' textbooks, chemical dependency textbooks and all the textbooks needed for the seminary classes."

By September 1995, the connection had been made with New Orleans Seminary, and 50 students were enrolled. Each is pursuing a bachelor's degree in pastoral ministries through the seminary's school of Christian training.



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