



WESTERN RECORDER

May 20, 1997
Vol. 171, No. 20

FOR THE RECORD

SBC annual meeting
The launching of a new missions agency is expected to be the highlight of the meeting in Dallas. *Page 2.*

Kentucky for Kids Day
Kentucky WMU is sponsoring an event May 31 to promote child advocacy. *Page 3.*

Experiencing God
A weekend Bible study for teens in Murray attracted 260 people. *Page 3.*

Editorial
The gospel and a tale of two pulpits. *Page 5.*

Church health
A vibrant prayer ministry is important to church health, a specialist says. *Page 7.*

Summer missionaries
Photos of the 70 summer missionaries sponsored by Kentucky Baptist student unions. *Pages 8&9.*

"Partial-birth abortion"
The ban approved by Congress last week probably isn't veto-proof. *Page 10.*

Books
Reviews this week include one of a book on parenting and another about a book about the TV show "Touched by an Angel." *Page 12.*

Religion poll 1997 responses same as 1947

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

PRINCETON, N.J. (ABP)—The "good old days" may not have been much different than today.

A comparison of surveys from 1947 and 1997 found nearly identical results in America's "religious indicators," according to the Gallup organization's Princeton Religion Research Center.

Indicators included:
■ Belief in God (95 percent said they did 1947; 96 percent today).

■ Belief in an afterlife (73 percent said yes in 1947; 71 percent today).

■ Church attendance (41 percent said then and now they go to church at least once a week or almost weekly).

■ Prayer life (90 percent claimed then and now they pray).

Pollsters said results raise the question: Religion is broad, but is it deep? They cited a 1947 report in *Ladies Home Journal* that sounds as if it were written in 1997:

"A profound gulf lies between America's avowed ethical standards and the observable realities of national life. What may be more alarming is the gap between what Americans think they do and what they do.

"The extent of this national schizophrenia is made perfectly clear by the paradox that eight out of 10 Americans think that most of America's problems would be solved by absolute adherence to the law of love; and eight out of 10 Americans think they themselves obey the law of love."

Relationships help make Highview healthy

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

LOUISVILLE—When Tim and Cathy Matheny visited Highview Baptist Church for the first time, they were offered several options for Sunday school classes with people their own age.

The one they chose was not only full of their peers, it was taught by someone their own age.

That made an immediate impression on the young couple. "In most churches, the young marrieds Sunday school class is led by people who've been married 17 years," Mrs. Matheny explained.

Not only that, the teacher escorted the visitors to the worship service and invited them to lunch afterward.

"There was a good through-line the entire day," her husband added.

The next time the couple visited, the greeters at the front door remembered their names, as did a staff member. "They knew our names before we knew who they were," Mrs. Matheny said.

Soon after, the Mathenys joined Highview. They are among dozens of young couples who have come into the south Louisville congregation in recent months.

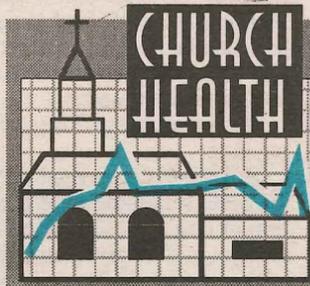
"This church is really my safe haven from the world," said Matheny, a graduate student at the University of Louisville.

Mrs. Matheny, who was raised in Lexington, said she never thought she would be happy living in Louisville. "But because of this church, I love Louisville," she said.

The people at Highview and the relationships newcomers form there often are cited as reasons for the



SUNDAY MORNING Pastor Kevin Ezell said he liked one person's description of Highview Baptist Church as the largest country church in America. "We're a large church, but we love in a small church fashion."



church's success.

Highview is among the Kentucky Baptist churches identified as "healthy" congregations in a recent statewide study by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church growth and administration division.

That study sought to identify common characteristics of healthy churches in Kentucky. Full results of the study will form the basis for a Church Health Summit to be held Oct. 10-11 in Bowling Green.

For the study, church health was defined as more than numerical growth. It also looked at measurements such as growth in spiritual maturity, ministry outside the church and internal decision making.

During the period studied, Highview scored well above the state average in three of those four categories. Though a large church, Highview rated lower on numerical growth.

However, a unique factor about Highview is the numerical growth it has experienced since the study.

Shortly after the period in which Highview was studied, the church's longtime pastor and music minister

both resigned amid allegations of sexual impropriety. Intense emotions of disbelief, anger and confusion washed over the congregation.

Yet, despite a situation that would have sunk many churches into decline, the church actually experienced a net gain in total members during the interim period. The church grew by 50 people in average attendance.

And since the arrival of Kevin Ezell as the church's new pastor about one year ago, the growth pattern has accelerated. Average worship attendance has increased by nearly 400 people, or 25 percent, in the past year.

Today, 1,900 people on average attend Highview's two Sunday morning worship services. More than 2,700 were present Easter Sunday. The church will add a third morning service soon.

In the last eight months, the church has recorded 260 decisions for baptism or church membership. Many of those newcomers have been young couples like the Mathenys.

What has happened at Highview is a testimony to the foundation laid by previous pastors as well as the strength
□ See Highview's Ezell ..., page 6

No military experience required to miss a friend this weekend

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

KANSAS CITY—Memorial Day, established to honor America's fallen soldiers, increasingly is identified as nothing more than part of a three-day weekend to welcome the advent of summer.

But an authority on grief said the holiday could be an ideal time for remembering deceased friends and recognizing the grief associated with such a loss.

"Grievers need to put their feelings into words, say them out loud and know they've been heard," said Harold Smith, author of "Grieving the Death of a Friend."

Next Monday is particularly significant for veterans, he said. "Unfortunately, there's been little processing of friend grief in the military."

Although their sorrow isn't widely recognized, military friendships represent some of life's deepest

bonds, he said.

He credited the Vietnam veterans movement with focusing more attention on the subject. One reason for the volume of visitors to the Vietnam Memorial is the lack of public grieving during the unpopular war, he said.

But such losses aren't restricted to recent times.

"I've talked with an older veteran who quit going to the cemetery because he couldn't handle the playing of taps," Smith said. "That's not necessarily unhealthy, unless he doesn't talk it out."

Although an Episcopalian, Smith is known to some Baptists as the author of "A Time to Heal," the divorce-recovery material published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

He also has ties to Kentucky, where he attended a mortuary school in Louisville. He later earned his doctorate in ministry at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore.

While he only worked in the funeral industry a few years before entering the ministry, Smith's interest in grieving was rekindled in 1991 when his 17-year-old godson died.

Despite their age difference, as the son of one of his best friends, the youth's death had a dramatic impact on Smith. He later used three of the victim's pallbearers in a detailed study of 16 people whose best friends had died.

The study became the basis for his doctoral thesis, book and "grief gatherings," meetings he has sponsored at which people express their feelings about personal losses.

Along the way he uncovered some interesting anecdotes, like the group of hunters who honored a fallen comrade. Taking the ashes from his cremation into the woods, they talked about him fondly before shooting his remains into the air.

"I thought that was bizarre, until I realized that was a therapeutic way for

In remembrance:

Harold Smith, author of "Grieving the Death of a Friend," offers these creative ways to remember a deceased friend.

- Continue a tradition the friend started.
- Adopt one of the person's charities.
- Plant a tree or bush in his or her honor.
- Remember the anniversary of his or her death.
- Make a fund-drive donation in your friend's honor.
- Adopt one of his or her good habits.

these hunters to express their grief," he said.

In February, Smith led a "grief"
□ See Smith: Memorial Day ..., page 11

Moving? See page 4 (0520)

BAPTISTS

SBC-RELATED EVENTS

■ **Pastors' Conference.** June 15-16 in Dallas Convention Center. Theme: "The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Dallas, Texas." Speakers include: Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ; Oklahoma Congressman J.C. Watts Jr.; former SBC Presidents Adrian Rogers and Ed Young; Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church in California; Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga.; James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga.; O.S. Hawkins, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dallas; Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church of Dallas; John Maxwell, founder and president of INJOY ministries. Special feature: Session for pastors' wives and other Christian women at 8 a.m. Monday in Hall E of the Dallas Convention Center.

■ **WMU annual meeting.** June 15-16 in Dallas Convention Center. Theme: "Beyond the Walls." Speakers include: Foreign Mission Board President Jerry Rankin, Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Denton Lotz; WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien; WMU President Wanda Lee; Robert Smith, preaching professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **SBC Ministers' Wives Conference.** June 17 in Dallas Convention Center. Speakers: Dixie Lusher and Dennis Swanberg.

■ **Church Music Conference.** June 15-16 at First Baptist Church of Richardson, Texas. Compositions by Southern Baptist composers Robert Sterling and Hugh McElrath will be unveiled. A number of choral groups will perform.

■ **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.** June 13-14 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Speakers: Calvin Miller, Southwestern professor; and Artless Dickerson, campus minister at Arkansas State University.

■ **Southern Baptist Hispanic Fellowship.** June 14-15 at Primera Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida in Garland, Texas. Speakers: David Galvan, pastor of the Garland congregation; Roberto Lopez, pastor of Bethel Hispanic Baptist Church in Las Vegas, Nev.; Jose Borras, a faculty member at the Theological Baptist Seminary, Madrid, Spain.

■ **Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists.** June 18 in the Dallas Convention Center. Speakers: W.A. Criswell, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church of Dallas; evangelist Henry Linginfeller of Alcoa, Tenn.; evangelist Ron Herrod of Loudon, Tenn.

■ **African-American Fellowship.** June 15-16 at Singing Hills Baptist Church in Dallas. Speakers: Dwight McKissic, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas; George McCalep, pastor of Greenforest Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga.; Fred Luter Jr., pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans.

■ **Southern Baptist Messianic Fellowship.** June 16 at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas.

■ **Southern Baptist Chaplains Convocation.** June 16 at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas.

■ **Southern Baptist Research Fellowship.** June 14 at Baptist General Convention of Texas offices. Speakers: "America's Mega Churches" by John Vaughan, editor and publisher of Church Growth Today magazine; "Inside, Outside, Upside Down: Four Dimensions of Church Growth," by Vernon Cole, director of church growth and administration for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Cynthia Woolever, research services associate with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); "Median Texas Baptist," by Clay Price, Texas Baptists' research and information services manager; "Constituent Group Attitudes Concerning Seminary Outcomes: The NOBTS Story," by Robert Mathis, professor of Christian education and director of the research doctoral program at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; "Churching of Raytown, Missouri, 1945-99," by Gary Farley, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board office of town and country missions.

■ **"The Local Church with a Missions Vision" conference.** June 13-14 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's World Missions Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Speakers: Jerry Rankin, president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, "Your Church Can Embrace the World"; Darrell Robinson, vice president for evangelism with the Home Mission Board, "The Local Church: Strategies for Mission"; Ken Hemphill, president of Southwestern Seminary, "The Antioch Effect: A Church that Grows Locally and Globally"; and Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., "Your Church Alive with a Missions Vision."

■ **Southern Baptist Founders Conference breakfast.** June 17 in the Dallas Convention Center. Theme: "Recovering Biblical Theology and Preaching." Speakers: Roger Nicole, visiting professor of theology at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, Fla., and Mark Dever, pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C.

NAMB launch highlight of SBC meeting

DALLAS (BP)—Launching the new North American Mission Board is expected to be one of the highlights of the June 17-19 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas.

SBC President Tom Elliff said the theme for the meeting is "To the Cross!" Elliff said he hopes that theme will help Southern Baptists leave the meeting "gripped with a sense of urgency that we are closer than ever to the return of Christ ... a sense of urgency for reaching the world with the message of Christ."

The vision for NAMB's role in advancing the evangelization of North America will be the focus of a 30-minute presentation Wednesday morning, June 18, including NAMB presidential nominee Robert Reccord and other live speakers as well as multimedia segments.

Also featured at this year's annual meeting:

■ A time of covenant between the six SBC seminaries and the convention at large Tuesday evening. Messengers will be given an overview of each seminary's history and vision, and each president will recount his call to ministry. The presidents will sign a covenant of faithfulness to SBC churches and Paige Patterson, presi-

dent of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina, will preach on "The Cross and the Call."

■ A time of missions challenge Wednesday evening, including a message by Adrian Rogers, former SBC president and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., on "The Cross Over the World."

■ A celebration of SBC ethnicity Thursday morning, including a Bible study by Ledtkey McIntosh, Native American pastor of Gloria Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, and a sermon by evangelist Luis Palau.

Among potential business items on this year's agenda: continuing debate over whether to call a boycott of the Walt Disney Co. and a possible resolution expressing concern with plans to update the New International Version translation of the Bible to more modern "gender-accurate" language.

In a widely publicized resolution last year, messengers called on Southern Baptists to boycott Disney if the company refuses to change the "anti-Christian and antifamily trend" in its corporate decisions.

The SBC resolution asked the Christian Life Commission "to monitor Disney's progress in returning to its previous philosophy of producing enriching family entertainment."

Three SBC seminary presidents have been among the leading critics of possible plans to market a "gender-accurate" NIV translation of the Bible in the United States. That issue is likely to be presented to the resolutions committee, according to a Baptist Press report.

The new mission board will be launched in an organizational trustee meeting June 19 after the convention adjourns. Thus, this year's SBC annual meeting will bid farewell to the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission—the three agencies serving to form NAMB—along with several other SBC entities closing under denominational restructuring.

The last time the SBC met in Dallas, in 1985, it drew a record registration of 45,519 messengers. That was at the peak of the struggle between moderates and conservatives for control of the convention.

About 15,000 messengers are expected for this year's meeting in Dallas.

The race for SBC president, once a pivotal point in annual meetings, is not projected to create controversy this year. Current President Elliff will be nominated for a customary second term.

Harwell to retire as Baptists Today editor

ATLANTA (ABP)—Jack Harwell has announced he will retire as editor of Baptists Today "on or before" Dec. 31, citing plans by directors to move the paper in a new direction.

The board will look for ways to attract younger readers and also will "seek funding from several new sources," according to a news report in the paper's May 22 issue. The paper's current income sources include subscriptions, advertising, development efforts and grants from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Harwell, who turns 65 Oct. 18, had

previously told the board he intended to work until age 70. "The board and I did not agree on my desire to continue for five more years," Harwell said in an interview. "They wanted the paper to go in a different direction."

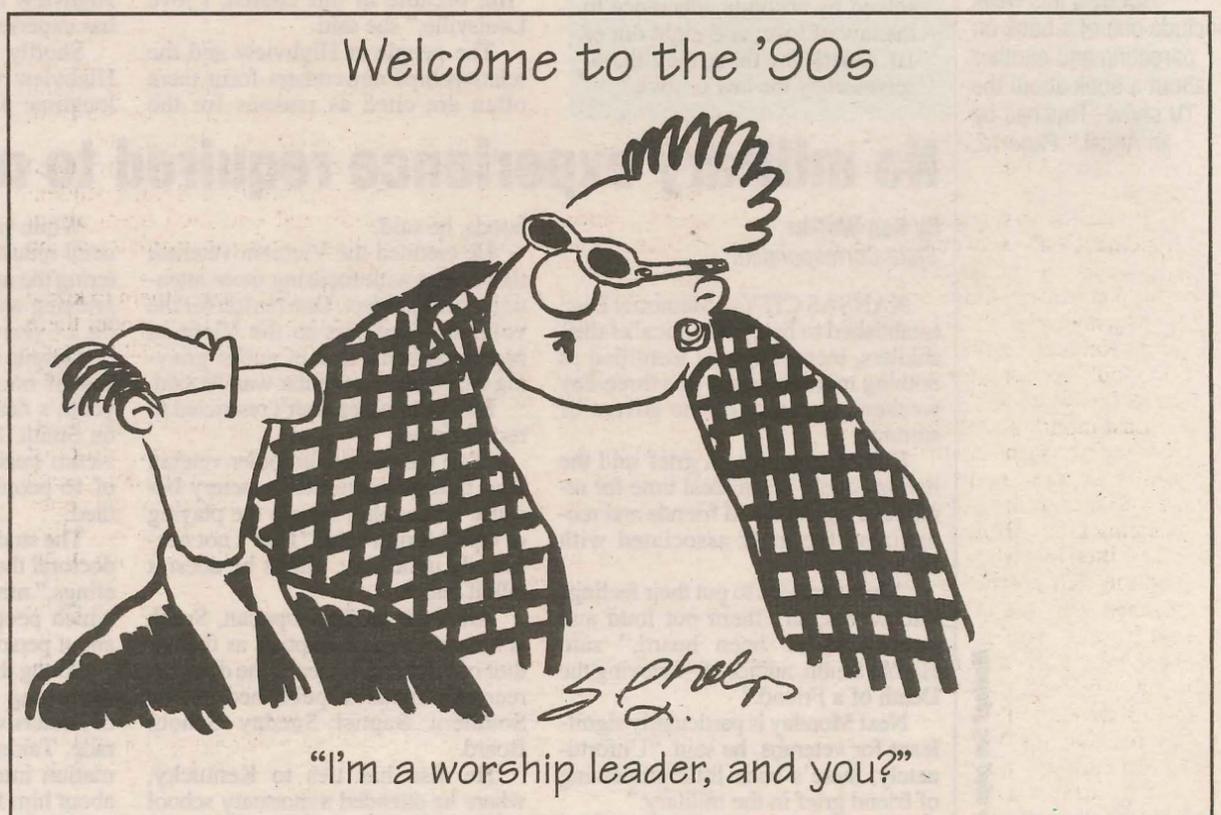
Board chairman Layne Smith declined to discuss the circumstances that prompted Harwell's retirement, except that it took place in the context of a board discussion about the newspaper's future.

Charting a first step in that new direction, the paper's directors adopted a new mission statement: "Discov-

ering and telling the Baptist story."

Harwell became Baptist Today's second editor in 1988, succeeding Walker Knight, who founded the paper in 1983. Originally called SBC Today, the paper was the flagship publication for moderates in the Southern Baptist Convention in their unsuccessful fight to prevent a conservative takeover in the 1980s.

Under Harwell's leadership, the paper increased its frequency from monthly to 20 times a year. Circulation grew from 4,500 to more than 11,000, Smith said.



KENTUCKY

WMU to sponsor Kentucky for Kids Day

FRANKFORT—Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is spearheading an effort to draw statewide attention to the needs of Kentucky's children May 31.

Actor David Newell, who plays Mr. McFeely on the PBS show "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood," will be keynote speaker for Kentucky for Kids Day.

The WMU-sponsored event will take place on the grounds of the state Capitol from 1-4 p.m. It will conclude with an effort to place a paper "prayer chain" around the Capitol. The prayer chain, made of colorful paper links, will contain prayer requests for the needs of children.

The afternoon will begin with two hours of free activities, including exhibits, carnival-style games, entertainment and music by children's choirs.

The formal program will begin

about 3 p.m.

Newell, the keynote speaker, is one of the original crew members of "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood." He is now director of public relations for the show's parent company.

In addition to speaking, Newell will mingle with the crowd and be available to sign autographs.

Julie Keith, an associate with Kentucky WMU, said the purpose of the day is primarily educational. "We are encouraging people to become advocates for children," she said.

Child advocacy is the social ministry project adopted by the national WMU organization this year.

"We're seeking to bring together in one place as many of the groups who are involved with helping children in our state as possible," Keith said. "We want the public to come and find out how they can stand up

and be counted for children."

Other entertainers scheduled to appear at Kentucky for Kids Day include Louisville magician David Garrard, several professional clowns and jugglers and a number of children's choirs.

Children's choirs scheduled to participate include First Baptist Church of Pikeville, Calvary Baptist Church of Lexington, Southeast Christian Church of Louisville, Fairhaven Rescue Children's Choir of Northern Kentucky, St. Stephens Baptist Church of Louisville and First Baptist Church of Jefferson-town.

A wide range of exhibitors will participate.

Those attending Kentucky for Kids Day are asked to bring new teddy bears, which will be donated to volunteer fire chaplains across the state to use in crisis ministry.

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Enterprise Association hosts DiscipleNow.** More than 46 youth from five churches recently attended the DiscipleNow weekend at Camp Shawnee for Enterprise Association in Eastern Kentucky. With the theme "JOY—Jesus, Others, Yourself: Can you pass the test?" the event included dramas presented by Cumberland College's creative ministry team and John and Karen Day.

■ **Campbellsville coach dies.** Lou Cunningham, head men's basketball coach for Campbellsville University, died May 13. He was 60. Cunningham died of septic shock, a condition that occurs when the body's organs shut down due to infection. He had colon surgery April 29.

■ **KBHC gets grant for foster care.** Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and Maryhurst child care agency in Louisville have been awarded a \$50,000 grant to continue a collaborative effort to encourage foster parenting in metropolitan Louisville. Jefferson County has 330 licensed foster homes, but as many as 1,500 children in the area need care away from their parent's home every day, according to the state Cabinet for Human Resources.

'Experiencing God' weekend for Murray teens attracts 260

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

MURRAY—Many teenagers reported making life-changing decisions during a recent "Experiencing God" weekend for youth.

During the event, sponsored by Murray State University's Baptist Student Union, at least six students reported accepting Christ as their personal Savior.

Several pastors from the 15 participating Western Kentucky churches also reported numerous rededications and a strengthening of members' faith.

"We had a young girl, 16, surrender to full-time Christian service," said Bill Houpt, youth pastor from Hillcrest Baptist Church in Hopkinsville. "A lot of kids got back on track."

"Now they're excited about doing a quiet time and talking to unsaved friends because they want to, not just because they're trying to check off a box. They're showing others Christ, not just talking about him," he added.

The event, April 18-19 at Westside Baptist Church, attracted 260 people.

It was the first regional "Experiencing God" weekend for teens organized by the Baptist Student Union at Murray State University.

Murray State's BSU also sponsored Kentucky's first "Experiencing God" weekend for college students last year.

Last month's seminar included presentations and testimonies regarding "seven realities of God," as outlined in the popular "Experiencing God" Bible study.

Written by Henry Blackaby and Claude King, the Bible study teaches that God is at work in the world and inviting Christians to become involved in his work.

After each general session, youth divided into groups of 10 to 12 for discussion. The weekend also featured praise and worship music, drama and a concert by

contemporary musician Dave Hunt.

Near the end of the two days, teens had time for personal reflection at a candlelight service. They were asked to share publicly any decisions they had made during the conference with their home church.

Keith Inman, Murray State's campus minister, said the highlight for him was the cooperative spirit evident throughout the weekend.

While youth pastors helped prepare their youth for the event, Inman also credited its success to a day of fasting and prayer by 50 BSU volunteers before the weekend.

Several pastors said the weekend helped their youth realize a relationship with God involves more than just church attendance.

"It was fantastic," said Boyd Smith, youth pastor at First Baptist Church of Murray, who led three members of his group in prayers to become Christians.

"The people here are excited because they see God working," he said, adding that their baptisms are part of a wave of growth this year at First Baptist.

Another salvation occurred after the conference, said Tom Richter, youth pastor of the host church.

The girlfriend of a Westside member asked him questions about Christ on the way home. After he explained how to become a Christian, she said she needed Jesus, so he pulled off the highway and prayed with her.

"In general, it (the weekend) added a sense of depth," Richter said.

"With a few of the youth, some of the material really clicked and showed them that there is a relationship God offers, something beyond Sunday school and religious activities," he added.

The weekend also helped teens struggling with low self-esteem. The boost wasn't to their self-image, Richter explained, but in un-

derstanding their value because of who they are in Christ.

At First Baptist Church of Benton, youth pastor Jeremy Hudgin said unity has been building since the weekend.

Boys and girls are interacting more, whereas they previously divided into separate camps, he said.

The youth also recognize a need to depend on God and to make him a priority in their lives, he said.

"I think they learned you can have fun and be a Christian, too," Hudgin said. "That's a stereotype in our society today that needs to be addressed a lot more."

The gathering was an outgrowth of an Experiencing God weekend last year in neighboring Graves County, when a dozen congregations went through the Bible study material simultaneously.

The recent event assembled teens from several churches in one location.

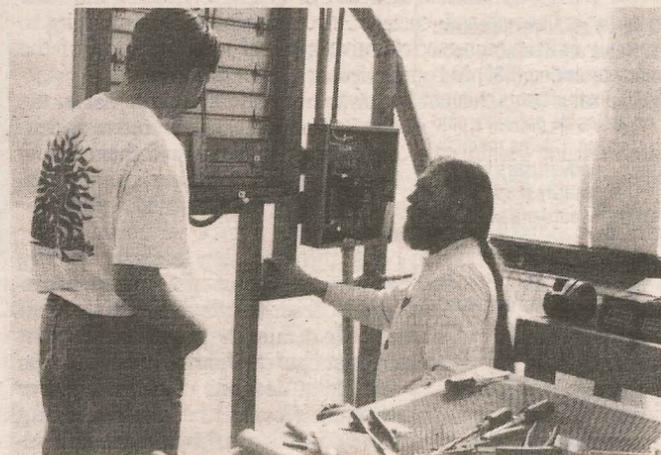
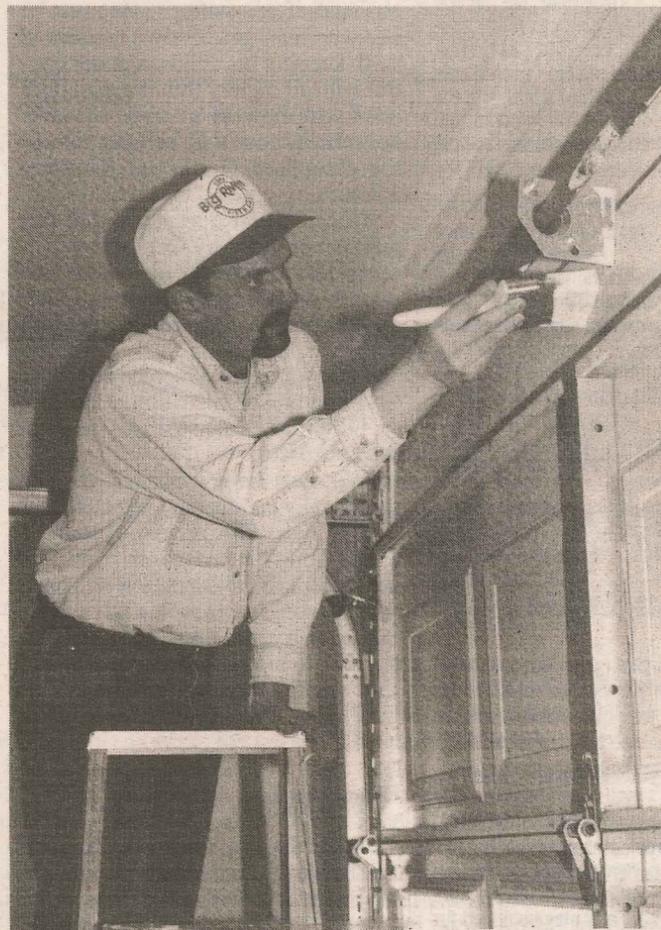
"This was a chance for them to come and see they're part of something that is much bigger than themselves, even if they are from a small church," Inman said.

The weekend also introduced many youth to a Baptist student union and educated them about college student ministries, he said.

"We also wanted them to know when they leave high school there is a campus ministry that can pick up where their youth group left off," he said.

While plans haven't been finalized for another event, Hillcrest Baptist's Houpt said he hopes such weekends are held more than once a year. The event changed his life, he said, by renewing the joy of his salvation.

"We came back and are trying to figure out how to do one here before Murray does another," he said. "This isn't where you get bubbly and then go back and everything's the same. It's amazing what God can do if you give him a little time."



HELPING HANDS About 25 members of Oakland Baptist Church in Warren County recently helped renovate a building at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Glen Dale campus. ■ **Top:** Rich Harrington paints around the Drake Building's garage door. ■ **Above:** Electrician Jake Reynolds connects power to a greenhouse fan. The building will be used for Glen Dale's 4-H and vocational education programs.

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

P.O. Box 43969
Louisville, Ky. 40253
(ISSN 0043-4132)

MARK WINGFIELD
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

C.R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Send e-mail to CompuServe 102667,1300, and the Internet, wesrec@ntr.net. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$10.60 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$8.50 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 244-6471, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length.

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors: Bill Thurman, Lexington, chairman; Rusty Ellison, Louisville, vice chairman; Jim Abernathy, Covington, secretary; Laura Beville, Bowling Green; Mark Boes, Cecilia; Tom Curry, Louisville; Mike Harmon, Princeton; Frank Hatfield, Shepherdsville; Barry Howard, Corbin; June B. Rice, Paintsville; Kenneth Wells, Somerset; Charles Midkiff, Greenville.

Qualifications

On the front page (April 29) was an article about a divorced-pastor support group. The question came to mind—is it biblical?

Our Lord said, "And it was said, 'whoever sends his wife away, let him give her a certificate of divorce; but I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except for the cause of unchastity, makes her commit adultery; and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery'" (Matthew 5:31-32). Scripture clearly teaches us that divorce is wrong. We need to teach our people that once again.

The basic question must be addressed: Can a divorced man remain the undershepherd of a church? God's word clearly answers that debate: No, he can't! Paul writing to Timothy says: "An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, . . . He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?)" (1 Timothy 3:2,4-5).

Does Scripture teach us that this man is not loved by God and a cast-out of the church? By no means. The issue is one of qualification or rather disqualification from a particular task within the body of Christ. There are still many areas in which he can serve God and pursue his calling. However, Scripture clearly teaches he must not be a pastor.

We must be compassionate, and should rally behind our friends in their hour of need. But instead of looking at the door that has been shut, we should look at the doors God will open to us. Divorce is not the signal of death in a ministry, but only the signal that it's time to move on in our quest to do God's will in this sin-sick world.

Charles Driggers
Hartford

'Feminist tithing'

When Danny Akin, vice president for academic administration at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, speaks of Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago rejecting the clear teaching of Scripture and clinging to bizarre biblical interpretation of the Scriptures, I am confused.

It is my understanding that in the Bible, women were referred to as deacons, helpers, servers to their fellow human beings and to the church (Romans 16:1, 1 Timothy 3:11 and 1 Timothy 3-16).

A third-century eastern writing was the first piece of Christian literature to describe the duties of deaconesses in detail. The minister of the first Baptist church, John Smyth, wrote in 1607 that deacons could be men or women. (Refer to "The Emerging Role of Deacons," by Charles DeWiese.)

Better we have only men to serve as elders, deacons or ministers.

Better we have only men serve in higher positions in a church.

Instead of having a "feminist agen-

da," better that we have a "macho agenda."

Right?
Wrong!
Why?

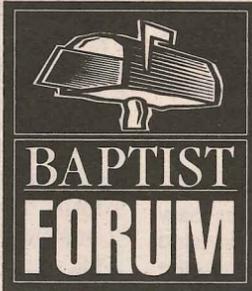
Because, a large percentage of the "macho agenda" does not get the job done; while the "feminist agenda" is already doing the job, behind the scenes.

As Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary asked: What will be next at Willow Creek? Hopefully, love of mankind, resisting the urge to judge others, peace to all and informing everyone that God loves all, is what will be next.

Excuse me, Mr. Akin and Mr. Patterson, but I am a feminist. Even though I also view myself as a frequent riding partner of the feminist gang, I do not support same-sex marriage or abortions.

I do, however, financially support Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, which includes salaries, with my "feminist tithing."

Connie Pruitt
Louisville



Calvinist values

The explanation of support for Calvinism as presented by Al Mohler (April 29, page 7), gives one pause. His evaluation of W.R. Estep's comments on the same subject, as "vitriolic and harsh" is another prime example of judgmentalism that accompanies Calvinism, if taken at its root.

John Calvin was a strange mixture of human nature, if history is to be believed. What he did to people in the name of God is no different than what happened to them in any "holy" war known to man. To dismiss these horrid acts as an attempt to enforce correct doctrine and then hurry to explain that no modern Calvinist would embrace such behavior, is an attempt by Mohler to have us all forget his brutal upheavals of faculty members at Southern Seminary. In destroying years of devotion and commitment, so as to "enforce correct doctrine," these Christian men and women were purged with the same degree of judgmental energy as can be found in the reading of John Calvin's historic brutality that is quickly dismissed by today's disciples.

In this scenario, Mohler did not call upon the "arm of the law" to support his religious purge, but chose to obey the mandate that was forced into existence by "the arm of trustee-ship." Other than losing one's life, the outcome for those devoted teachers, in many ways, was the same.

Judgmentalists will almost always defend, support and embrace John Calvin. The aura of political control and the accompanying ability to abuse people in the name of God, lures them into the arena of having forgotten that Jesus was not of that ilk.

If the value system of Southern Baptists, as expressed by Mohler in his defense of John Calvin is indeed what it appears to be, then we will be better served by a Moon Pie.

Edward Clark
Danville

MARRIAGE

Make marriage a beautiful quilt

By Diana Garland

It seemed like it would be a fun late-winter project to make a quilt. Our blank white kitchen wall begged for something; a quilt-hanging seemed like a great idea.

I never had made a quilt before, but how hard could it be to cut out simple shapes and sew them together? I bought the fabric and plunged in.

As I worked, I soon realized the quilt was going to be different from what I had planned. I mis-measured some of the middle pieces, and small mistakes in the middle multiplied as I added layer on layer to the edges. I had to patch in pieces and change the design to fit the mistakes.

The quilt took eight months to finish, not the two I had planned; it now hangs in our kitchen. It only remotely resembles my original sketch. It refuses to hang flat against the wall, and one side is slightly longer than the other. Nevertheless, I like it. No one will ever mistake it for factory-made. All the mistakes and corrections have become a part of the design.

My quilt is a lot like a good marriage. We start out with a dream that we can make a marriage better than the imperfect and (from our perspectives) dull marriages of our parents. We far underestimate the work of quilting together two lives into one pattern.

As we shape and stitch our lives day by day, we make mistakes and cause hurts. The marriage quilt becomes flawed, quilted as it is by two sinful people. We become discouraged; the pieces don't fit together as well as we thought they would. Compromises and patching have to take place, and the design must be altered.

If we persevere, however, and allow God to work in and through us, our marriage quilt takes on a unique beauty. Love and grace and forgiveness redeem the flaws to become part of a new design. That design can picture for us and for the world the healing power of God's love and grace channeled through imperfect human relationships.

May God bless your marriage with love, grace, humor and the ability to patch when things don't quite come out like you planned.

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

It has been six years since I began writing this column for the Western Recorder, and I am sad to say this is my last. My family is moving to Texas in June, where I and my husband both will join the Baylor University faculty.

I am grateful to Mark Wingfield, and Marv Knox before him, for giving me the opportunity to write this column. They are great editors and I have tremendously enjoyed working with them both.

I am thankful for my husband's willingness for me to share with you in this column our own marital experiences. My writing has been greatly enriched by our reading and editing of each other's work through our 27 years of marriage. In this parting column, I would like to share again an image of marriage that has been especially meaningful for us. The following is an excerpt from a column I first published in September 1993.

— Diana Garland



'Spin control'

I graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1994. I entered with the personal help, advice and support of Roy Honeycutt.

As I was touring the various old buildings, I came upon the official portrait of Honeycutt, along with those of past presidents. His was different. The background of his, unlike any others, had storm clouds. The kind that build on a hot summer evening across the Bluegrass. He knew even while that work was being done that a storm was on the way.

The arrival of that storm, and its awful results, is well cataloged. Through the dismantling of this proud seminary, the administration has continually told us the school was better for it. We were told conservative students would flock to the school now that those who "didn't understand the Bible" were gone.

A recent story in the Louisville Courier-Journal shows enrollment down from 3,312 when I enrolled to 2,186 over the past academic year. Yet, the administration uses political spin control by saying there was a "20 percent increase compared to the fall of 1995." That's like saying the patient is getting better now that he's dead.

It is time we Kentucky Baptists face the hard, cold facts. This grand plan of the conservatives has ruined Southern. We can no longer stand by and accept Al Mohler's (talk) about "contending for truth in an age of untruth."

I suspect the untruths are coming mostly from the administration as they try to show how a near 33 percent drop in enrollment, loss of almost every professor who was on staff, serious questions about accreditation and remaining chaos can be seen as anything but a mistake by the trustees. It is one which should be fixed, but, sadly, probably won't.

Gid S. Pool Jr.
Freehold, N.J.

HE SAID/SHE SAID

How often could you tolerate your husband cooking dinner?

SHESAI



Alison Wingfield

In a recent survey, the Louisville Courier-Journal reported that when it comes to sharing household chores equitably, men fall short of the mark. According to the women. According to the men, a majority said the split is 50-50 on sharing chores.

Tell me something I don't already know.

Because I work from home and only work part-time, I'll cut Mark some slack. I don't think he should be held to the

50-50 mark. But 60-40 (mine being the 60), would be nice.

It's not that he doesn't help out when he can. But he does pick and choose what he helps out with.

For instance, he's a great picker-upper and straightener. But there are times when I would rather he folded the mounds of laundry on the sofa or washed a few dishes.

I think men play dumb on purpose with certain chores. Cooking is a great example. I can think of two or three men who really know how to cook. (Grilling doesn't count.)

Mark often will volunteer to cook something on the weekend. But by the time he gets it on the table (one hour later than we usually eat), I'm usually so exasperated, I don't want him in the kitchen again for awhile.

And he always tries to "wing" it, and not use a recipe. (And it's always a variation on the same chicken thing.) Every once in awhile, the results are pretty good. It's the other times, when I have to pretend I like it, that can be trying.

But, I must admit that women do their own "playing dumb" when it comes to other chores. Mowing the lawn, for instance. In my defense, until this year we didn't have a mower that was easy to push. Of course, now I don't know how to use the new one. And I'm not planning on learning.

HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

The best defense I can muster is that things used to be different. I won't even pretend to believe that I do half the housekeeping in our family. But there was a time, when both of us were working full time outside the home, that I did do my fair share or more—at least in the way we men measure equality.

Having children changed all that. Of course, it also created much bigger messes to clean up as well. (And I did change plenty of diapers, thank you.)

I may not be one of the three gourmet chefs Alison knows, but at least I can find my way around the kitchen when necessary. Being the only child in a family of two parents who worked full time outside the home necessitated that.

I don't claim to be brilliant in the kitchen, however. My mother still loves to tell the story about the time I stayed home sick from fifth or sixth grade and called the school where she was teaching to ask how to prepare just half a can of soup.

And my first baking experience as a child was not successful. Using a recipe from a small Charlie Brown cookbook for children, I attempted to make peanut butter cookies. Unfortunately, I had not yet learned the major distinction between 1 teaspoon of salt and 1 cup of salt. Even our family dog refused to eat them. (My cookies are not what killed Dog No. 3.)

Given that shaky beginning, it's a wonder I'm any help in the kitchen at all.

The bottom line seems to be that while men and women today have made great strides toward sharing household chores, full equality has not been reached. Instead, men and women appear to have fallen into areas of specialization.

Men may not always be the smartest of the sexes, but at least we know how to pick the easier areas of specialization.

The gospel and a tale of two pulpits

This is a tale of two pulpits. Both situations are true and really happened in Baptist churches, although in different states.

Church A is a large downtown congregation. This church's mammoth sanctuary was built as a shrine to the ego of a former pastor. Multiple pastors have occupied that church's pulpit since then, but the memory of the pastor who built the pulpit remains with the congregation.

Problem is, the pulpit he built is an ark that stands high above the rows of pews and far enough away from the first pew to drive two or three trucks in between. This is a pulpit one truly must "mount," as the old-time preachers used to say.

The current pastor of this church continues in the same theological tradition of his predecessors, but is intentional about making Sunday morning worship more accessible, warm and inviting. As a result, he doesn't stand behind the pulpit. Instead, he preaches several paces in front of the pulpit, closer to the congregation.

Any reputable congregational consultant would advise the church to remove the mammoth pulpit and create a more naturally inviting atmosphere for modern worship, not to mention a greater symbol that the ground is level at the foot of the cross. But that won't happen, because the pulpit is viewed by too many members as a sacred piece of furniture—perhaps more sacred than the message intended to be proclaimed from it. They already grumble that the new pastor doesn't stand behind the mighty pulpit to preach the word of God.

Nevertheless, this wise pastor has found a way to accomplish what he needs to do without forcing the church to do what it ought to do. The pulpit is a symbol of status and power that this pastor has refused to take on.

Church B, a suburban congregation, faced an almost opposite situation. Shortly before the arrival of a new hot-shot preacher, this church had moved into

a large new facility. Care had been taken to create an appropriate worship setting, with nicely coordinated furnishings in a style traditional for churches in that region.

On the Saturday before his first sermon, without announcing his intentions to anyone, the new pastor moved out the existing pulpit and replaced it with his own cross-shaped pulpit. He had to have this particular pulpit because of its reminder of the cross, he said, so he moved it with him wherever he went.

Eyebrows were raised, particularly by members of the building committee. But everyone was so excited to have this energetic young preacher that they didn't make a fuss.

In time, the pastor's stealth pulpit swap became a symbol of more than the gospel. It foreshadowed a turbulent tug-of-war between congregational leadership and a manipulative pastor. After several years, the once-healthy congregation split nearly in half. The pastor took his pet pulpit and hundreds of members to a new location.

On one level, these two stories illustrate the threat from opposite sides of the pulpit of allowing non-gospel things to overshadow the gospel. Whether it's the pulpit or some other piece of furniture, some tradition or some worn-out church program, every church faces the temptation to make idols out of its possessions.

But on another level, these two stories illustrate that moving or not moving furniture is not what really makes a church effective or healthy. Ultimately, attitude is much more important than accouterments.

The gospel can be preached effectively from any pulpit, or from no pulpit at all.

When we insist that there's only one "right" way to do church or that certain earthly elements are necessary to have a legitimate church, we put God in a box where God does not fit. Worse than that, we draw more attention to the box than to God.

— Mark Wingfield

Deeds not words

By Carey Newman

A recent news story contained some harsh and indicting words from a prominent personality. He had issued a public statement angrily criticizing the doctrinal position of the pastor of a large and very effective church.

My friend said: "All this really confuses me. Here is a pastor and a church obviously changing lives. In fact, my sister and brother-in-law became Christians because of their ministry—and they never would have darkened the door of another church. Yet, this leader assuredly claims that the pastor's doctrine is wrong and confidently predicts dire consequences for this aberration. How do I choose between someone who tells me what to believe, right down to the smallest detail, and someone who is so obviously doing the work of the Kingdom?"

The Bible is clear about the importance of orthodoxy (right belief). Christians are told to contend for the faith and to adhere to the truth. Many

parts of both the Old and New Testaments directly address the perils of wrong belief.

However, three things should be remembered when discussing doctrinal matters.

First, not all doctrines are created equal. Some doctrines are so critical that they define Christianity. Specifically, Christians are told that beliefs about the way in which the words and deeds of Jesus work the purposes of God for this world are non-negotiable.

To miss the sacrificial death and bodily resurrection is to miss Christianity altogether. Other doctrines, while important, do not define Christianity. Elevating an important, yet peripheral doctrine to the place of a critical one, thus making it a litmus test, may well be just as heretical as misstating the critical doctrine.

Second, not only do doctrines carry unequal theological weight, there is not equal evidence for each doctrine. Many people make statements as if it is a "plain fact" that the Bible teaches this or that. However, there are

many doctrines about which we all could wish for more information.

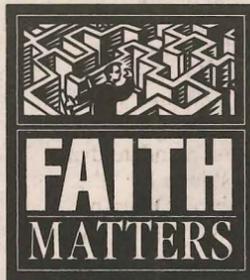
The biblical evidence for the resurrection of Jesus is of a completely different magnitude than, say, describing in detail exactly what life after death will be like. Thus, genuine, Spirit-filled Christians can hold different theological positions simply because there is not enough biblical material to settle the matter conclusively.

It is here that the proud and arrogant claims of some dangerously confuse the authority of Scripture with the supposed infallibility of their own interpretation.

Third, orthodoxy (right belief) should never be substituted for orthopraxy (right behavior). If the prophets and the books of James and 1 John are to be heard at all, then it is not enough to make an accurate confession; you have to live rightly.

It is far easier to say what you believe than to live it. Living rightly proves what is believed, and wrong living demonstrates that that belief is hollow. Faith (orthodox belief) without works (Christian compassion) is dead.

I told my friend that if I were a betting man I would put all my money on those people who live the gospel, for love covers a multitude of sins—even theological ones.



CHURCHES

Highview's Ezell: Relationships key to church's growth

"Brother Kevin does a great job, but in a church this size, he can't have contact with every member or every visitor every week. The church is more than the pastor. It's a body of believers."

Highview member Jeff Goodyear

Continued from page 1

of the church's lay leadership and the enthusiasm generated by the new pastor, said Associate Pastor Norman Coe.

"Our pastors have always been leaders; ... that's the biblical model," said Coe, who was raised in the church. "But at the same time, there has been a freedom as well as a challenge for laypeople to take up positions of ministry."

Lay leaders like Jeff Goodyear not only carry major responsibilities within the congregation but are among the church's most enthusiastic spokesmen.

"I'm excited about the growth we're seeing," said Goodyear, an engineer at General Electric who with his wife and children has attended Highview for 10 years.

"We have a large group of lay leadership who really do the work of the ministry," he added. "Brother Kevin does a great job, but in a church this size, he can't have contact with every member or every visitor every week. The church is more than the pastor. It's a body of believers."

Highview offers a full slate of programming, including a traditional Southern Baptist Sunday school structure that is well-organized and effective. Because of the church's size, a variety of classes are offered for every age group.

That's part of what helps Highview

reach young adults so effectively, Ezell said. "It's kind of a domino effect; when you have young couples, you attract young couples."

But at the same time, Highview has put a lot of resources into its preschool and children's programs. In addition to basic church activities, Highview offers a weekday preschool program and a Christian school for kindergarten through 12th grade.

The church has one of the largest programs in the state for Southern Baptist children's missions programs such as Royal Ambassadors, Girls in Action and Acteens. At the same time,

Highview also has made effective use of the non-denominational Awana Bible club program for children.

Highview's adults have multiple opportunities to plug in to ministry. The church has an extensive intercessory prayer ministry,

a prison ministry that reaches 600 people a week, a nursing home ministry, a student ministry, a singles ministry.

Highview also cooperates with Louisville's Southeast Christian Church to operate a crisis pregnancy ministry.

Highview's growth has come without adding many newfangled bells and whistles in its worship service. In an era when contemporary worship styles are touted as the path to church growth, Highview has grown while maintaining a traditional blended wor-

ship style.

A typical Sunday order of worship includes gospel hymns such as "Rock of Ages" alongside more modern praise choruses. There is no praise team, no overhead projector, no drama. Ezell's preaching style is not flashy or dramatic. He describes his sermons as "relaxed" and expository.

"I'm fairly convinced there's a place for traditional church worship," Ezell said.

Highview also maintains a reputation as one of the most theologically conservative churches within the Kentucky Baptist Convention. That is a hallmark of which the congregation is proud—and one Ezell and others contend has propelled its growth.

One reason Highview has grown is because few other churches in the area have been seen in such a conservative light, Ezell said. "Some of our youngest members are the most conservative."

But older members share that view. "We preach God's word. That's truly what brings people here," said longtime member Don Grider.

"You stand on the word of God because you're the church," added Coe, the associate pastor. "People today who are not church members are



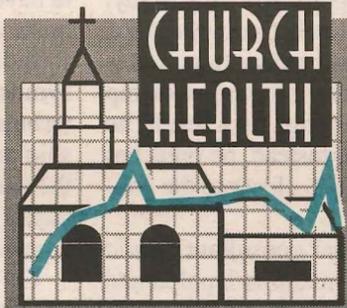
GREETINGS Highview's pastor, Kevin Ezell, (right) said the church's many classes for young couples are helping it attract other young couples. "It's kind of a domino effect."

looking for a church that really believes that stuff ... that you live what you preach."

In recent years, Highview has strengthened its ties with the Southern Baptist Convention and Kentucky Baptist Convention. Ezell recently led the church to increase its annual contributions to the Cooperative Program unified budget by 40 percent.

That and other factors aside, Ezell said he believes relationships still form the foundation of Highview's health. He likes the description of Highview given by one outsider: "The largest country church in America."

"We're a large church, but we love in a small church fashion," Ezell said.



Increase your income by giving

Are you like many Kentucky Baptists who depend on the income from certificates of deposit or stock dividends and wish the interest or dividends paid were higher?

And do you sometimes wish you could give more for the benefit of one or more of your favorite Baptist causes but do not feel you can give-up that income-producing asset?

There is a solution to both of those wishes which deserves your consideration. It is called a charitable gift annuity.

A charitable gift annuity is an agreement between you and a qualified charitable organization, like the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, under which you agree to give to the organization a gift of cash or appreciated assets, like stock, in exchange for a life-time of income payments from the charitable organization.

A gift annuity also can be on two lives, such as a husband and wife or a parent and child. Not only is the income partially "tax-free," but also the gift is tax deductible.

If you give appreciated stock instead of cash, there will be capital gains tax savings also. The portion of your gift not needed to assure the

annuity payments to you will be available for the benefit of the Baptist cause or causes you designate in advance. That portion can be available outright to the Baptist cause or causes, or it can be held in a permanent endowment fund with only the net income, not the principal, being paid to the cause or causes each year in perpetuity.

The rates on gift annuities are based on your age at the time of the gift. The older you are, the higher the rate. Currently rates range from about 6.5 percent at age 60 to 11.5 percent at age 90.

So if you were age 65 and you gave \$10,000, your annual income would be about \$700 or 7 percent. The minimum gift annuity amount through the Foundation is \$5,000.

If this sounds like a solution to your needs and wishes, please contact Laurie Valentine or me for more information on how to do a charitable gift annuity.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Church Health Summit

Growing Healthy Churches in Changing Communities

October 10-11, 1997

First Baptist Church, Bowling Green

Keynote Speakers:
Leith Anderson
Reggie McNeal

Over 106 Interest Conferences!

Registration Cost: \$15.00 per person or
Group rate: \$50.00 (minimum of 4 people)

Who is invited?
Anyone interested in growing healthy churches!

Sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention
Church Growth & Administration
(502) 245-4101 ext. 227

CHURCHES

'Vibrant, sincere prayer' important to healthy churches

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

LOUISVILLE—When members of Highview Baptist Church get a phone call from the church, it's not always a plea for volunteers to teach a class or serve on a committee.

Chances are it's a call from the church's prayer ministry.

Prayer Minister Nell Bruce explains it this way: "We call people and say, 'Mrs. Jones, this is so-and-so in the prayer room and I just called to let you know I'm praying for you this morning. Is there anything special I could pray with you about?'"

When this ministry first began, Bruce recalled, the caller often was met by silence on the other end of the line. "People would pause, and then you could hear them crying. They would say, 'You're the first person who's ever called me from my church to pray for me.'"

That spoke volumes to Bruce, a lifelong Baptist and former minister's wife, about how churches relate to their members.

"Why do Baptist churches call their members? Usually to ask them to do something," she said. "It changes their hearts when they are called for prayer."

That's just one aspect of Highview's wide-ranging prayer ministry, which the 77-year-old Bruce has directed the past 11 years as a Mission Service Corps volunteer.

Church leaders cite the prayer ministry as a vital part of what has helped the church not only stay healthy but grow in recent years, even amid an abrupt loss of pastoral leadership several years ago.

That assessment corresponds with new research by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church growth and administration division. A state-wide project to examine church health in Baptist congregations has identified prayer as a key common element among healthy churches.

"Vibrant, sincere prayer is a central feature in growing churches," said Vernon Cole, director of the research project.

"A vital prayer life, where church people experience their prayer as making a real difference, is a necessary foundation stone in the refocusing of attitude and perception," he added. "A disciplined individual and collective prayer life could hold the creative power for revolutionizing the church's view of its potential."

Bruce and others believe prayer is what kept Highview together during the dark days of 1995, when the church's longtime pastor and music minister both resigned amid allegations of sexual impropriety.

During the interim period before a new pastor was called, the church continued to grow. And since the arrival of a new pastor last year, growth has surged even more.

"In the storm we've been through, it's because our people have been on their knees," Bruce

explained. "It's God that sustained us. ... It really told our people who he is."

Through prayer, the congregation learned "a real reliance on the Lord," added Jeff Goodyear, deacon chairman. "During the transition time, the church really focused on prayer."

That sentiment is shared by Norman Coe, associate pastor for administration and pastoral care, and Kevin Ezell, the church's new pastor.

Ezell said that as a pastoral candidate, he was impressed by the "intense concentration" Highview's members put on prayer routinely, but especially during the interim period. The church organized specific days of prayer, weeks of prayer and days of prayer and fasting during the interim.

"The foundation had been laid here for prayer years ago," Coe added.

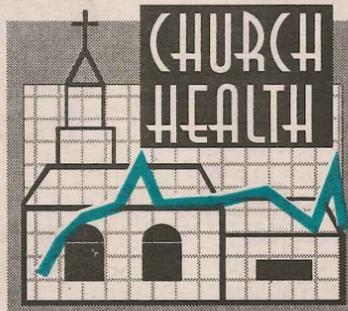
That prayer foundation was laid largely by the persistence of Bruce, who organizes volunteers, maintains a massive database of prayer needs and religiously spreads her passion for prayer.

About 200 people participate each month in the prayer ministry, housed in a suite of offices with a secured entrance for 24-hour access. The suite includes not just one prayer room but four.

One large room serves as a meeting place for prayer groups. Three smaller "prayer closets" offer focused places for individuals to pray

About this series

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



for home missions, foreign missions and the church family.

Each room contains lists of prayer needs. For example, the home missions room contains names of every Southern Baptist home missionary; all city, county and state government officials; needs related to the church's crisis pregnancy ministry; and other current requests phoned in from around the nation.

One part of Highview's home missions prayer ministry focuses on students, faculty and staff at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Bruce has someone at Highview assigned to regular prayer for every seminary student and employee.

A previous emphasis was on praying for every Jefferson County police officer and firefighter by name.

The large room in the prayer suite also creates an ideal place for families to pray together, Bruce said.

"There's something different about a trip to the temple, as it were, to go to prayer. This is an investment. Prayer is an investment in someone's life or in our own life. These children will never ever forget their parents taking them to God's house to pray."

During Desert Storm, the prayer rooms at Highview were "filled night and day with families," Bruce said. "They would come and point out (on a map) where Daddy was, and they would kneel and pray for Daddy and the others out there."

Highview's prayer ministry produces visible results, not only within the congregation but outside as well, Bruce said. "We've had miracles."

She cited the case of a schoolteacher who picked up something from her desk drawer that she thought was medicine for her eyes but actually was Superglue. She was rushed to the hospital, where the doctors faced a dilemma: The potential cure to her problem could create a worse problem by tearing her eye tissue.

Bruce said the doctors asked someone to call Highview's prayer ministry. Once the call was received, Bruce had dozens of people praying within minutes.

Soon after, back at the hospital, a tear rolled out of the teacher's eye, then more followed until her own tears had flushed out the Superglue.

"Every church ought to have some sort of a prayer ministry," Bruce said. "Every church can do this."

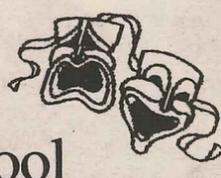
"Prayer is an investment in someone's life or in our own life."

Nell Bruce, prayer minister for Highview Baptist Church

Seeking experienced pastor, seminary graduate, for SW Virginia Southern Baptist Church. Please send résumé to: Pastor Search Committee, PO BX 711, Abingdon, VA 24212, by May 31.



Mid-Continent College begins offering Church Drama Summer School



Creative Church Drama

July 14-18, 1997

Taught by Mel Dougherty

- ◆ Puppets
- ◆ Monologue
- ◆ Choral Speaking
- ◆ Pantomime
- ◆ Creative Readers Theatre
- ◆ One-Act Plays

Drama in Ministry: Bringing God's Word to Life

July 21-25, 1997

Taught by Charles Reese & Rebecca McCoy-Reese

The focus of this class is two-pronged: First we would spend part of each day working on becoming better instruments—acting, voice and improvisation exercises designed to help make the performing artist more expressive. The second part of the day would be used examining ways the gospel can be communicated through drama. Class participants will learn several scripts over the course of the week that can be presented in worship or evangelistic situations.

For a free brochure on these classes, please call (800) 774-8010 or write Mid-Continent College, 99 Powell Road East, Mayfield, KY 42066 and give your name, address and phone number. Both classes can be taken for three hours college credit, ACE credit or audited. The dorm will be available as well as meal plan for these classes.

HOME



Carla Amos
Georgetown
Florida



Sarah Barrett
Alice Lloyd
Louisiana



Carrie Bell
Georgetown
New England



Julie Black
Western
Virginia



Vickie Lynn Cooper
Eastern
Louisiana



Nate DeGross
Northern
New England



Emily Dennis
Eastern
Utah



Meg Fortney
Western
Alabama



Jenni Fullmer
Morehead
Arkansas



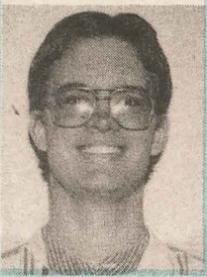
Becki Hall
Mid-Continent
South Carolina



Teddy Hardy
Cumberland
Florida



Jennifer Harris
U of L
Oklahoma



Steven Hash
Alice Lloyd
Florida



Monica Haydon
Cumberland
New England



Dora Holeman
Henderson CC
Oklahoma



Stacie Jarvis
Berea
Nevada



Virtie Johnson
Morehead
Florida



Jenny Kelly
UK
Louisiana



Amy Ledden
Northern
Georgia



Cynthia Mathis
Morehead
Illinois



Lydia Meadors
Eastern
Arkansas



Mark Moreland
Morehead
Alabama



Laurie Mullins
Georgetown
Louisiana



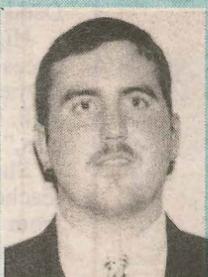
Eddy Murphy
UK
Arkansas



Gail Rector
Cumberland
California



Kristy Reeder
Eastern
Florida



Joey Roberts
UK
Northwest Area



Gina Roy
Cumberland
Louisiana



Stacy Sargent
Transylvania
Virginia



Ryan Stelk
Cumberland
Arizona



Heather Stivers
Eastern
Montana



Jessica Strimple
Eastern
Alabama



Aaron Austin
Cumberland
SonShare



Kelli Bricking
Morehead
Son Bound



Amy Darbyshire
U of L
Son Praise



Jason Kees
U of L
Son Praise



Katie Owen
Georgetown
Son Celebration

SUMMER MISSIONARIES

KENTUCKY



Aaron Austin
Cumberland
SonShare



Laurie Barr
Western
SonBurst



Betsy Blair
Northern
Son Bound



Todd Boling
Campbellsville
SonBurst



Don Breeden
Murray
SonBurst



Colli Bricking
Morehead
Son Bound



Geron Brown
Eastern
Son Celebration



Jenny Chasteen
Georgetown
SonBurst



Jonathan Clark
Murray
Son Bound



Shala Curtis
Campbellsville
SonShare



Amy Darbyshire
U of L
Son Praise



Kristyn DeJarnatt
UK
Son Celebration



Shane Garrison
Campbellsville
Son Praise



Sara Hamrich
Georgetown
SonShare



Sabrina Haney
Lexington CC
SonBurst



Jason Kees
U of L
Son Praise



Crystal Meyer
U of L
SonShare



Lyndsay Mulhall
Campbellsville
Son Praise



Heather Napier
U of L
Son Bound



Matt Norton
Cumberland
Son Bound



Katie Owen
Georgetown
Son Celebration



Mark Powell
U of L
SonShare



Tom Richter
Murray
Son Praise



Darla Rosenstiel
Northern
Son Celebration



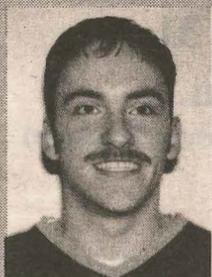
Amanda Taylor
Campbellsville
Gasper River Assn.



Cager Thompson
UK
Son Celebration



Jennifer Van Camp
Cumberland
Son Celebration



Chris Wilder
Cumberland
Son Celebration

FOREIGN



Paige Alcott
Western
Russia



Darren Burres
Georgetown
Russia



Jennifer Gibson
Murray
Russia



Philip Hopper
Mid-Continent
Philippines



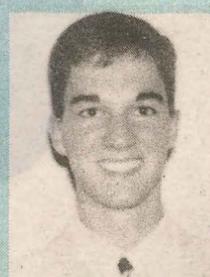
Chris Jones
Cumberland
Australia



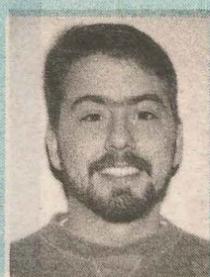
Shawn Kettering
UK
China



Deidra McIntosh
UK
Indonesia



Bill Noe
UK
Russia



Tim Schindler
UK
Southeast Asia



Kristie Young
Western
Niger

Pilot says Operation Blessing planes used for diamond mines

NORFOLK, Va. (RNS) Zaire-bound airplanes sent by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson's tax-exempt organization were used primarily for his diamond mining business, according to pilots on those flights.

Two of three planes sent to Zaire in September 1994 were flown by Operation Blessing. But chief pilot Robert Hinkle said only one or two of the approximately 40 flights made during his six months in the country could be termed humanitarian. The rest of the flights were related to mining, the Virginia-Pilot, a Norfolk, Va., newspaper reported.

Robertson's spokesman at first denied the accounts by Hinkle and co-pilot Tahir Brohi. But later, Gene Kapp, vice president for public relations at Robertson's Christian Broadcasting Network, said the planes proved to be unsuitable for medical relief and the broadcaster reimbursed Operation Blessing for the use of the aircraft.

"Without Mr. Robertson's generous overture, Operation Blessing would have incurred further expenses with its aircraft," Kapp said.

Hinkle told the newspaper he expected the flights would be of a humanitarian nature. "We hauled medical supplies one time," he said. "It might have been about 500 pounds at the most. It was a very minimal amount." The planes could carry about 7,000 pounds of material, he said.

Robertson is president and sole shareholder of African Development Co., which is based in Kinshasa, the capital of Zaire. The company had been seeking to dredge diamonds from a remote jungle riverbed.

Veto likely for 'partial-birth' abortion ban

WASHINGTON (RNS)—President Clinton is likely to veto a bill that would ban a late-term abortion procedure after two Democratic proposals on the controversial issue were defeated last week in the Senate.

The defeat sets the stage for a vote this week on a bill sponsored by Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., that would outlaw the use of an abortion procedure called "partial-birth" abortion and known medically as intact dilation and extraction.

Santorum's bill has been the central focus of abortion opponents for the past two years.

The White House said Clinton was disappointed a substitute measure proposed by Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschel, D-S.D., and endorsed by Clinton was defeated. Daschle's bill lost on a 64-36 vote.

It would have banned all abortions, not just those using the controversial procedure, after a fetus is considered viable—when it can live outside the womb, usually between 22 weeks and 28 weeks. It made exceptions, however for when a woman faced death or "grievous injury" to her physical health.

White House spokesman Michael McCurry said Daschle's proposal had

"addressed the president's deeply held concerns" about the welfare of pregnant women.

Asked if Clinton now stood ready to put his veto pen to use, McCurry said, "Yes, he does."

Abortion opponents, such as Margie Montgomery, executive director of Kentucky Right to Life, said Daschle's legislation would have allowed abortion doctors to write themselves "a self-permission slip" granting authority for a late-term abortion "even if there was not factual basis for asserting the mother was at risk."

According to Centers for Disease Control figures, about 1 percent—or 16,450—of all abortions in 1992, the most recent year for which figures are available, were performed after 20 weeks of gestation. About 320 were performed after 26 weeks.

The Senate was expected to consider Santorum's bill this week. The same ban already passed the House of Representatives. Clinton vetoed a similar bill passed in the last Congress.

The Santorum bill is expected to pass overwhelmingly, but both sides in the fierce debate said abortion opponents lack a two-thirds majority to override a presidential veto.

Also last week, the American Med-

ical Association's board of trustees stated the "partial birth" procedure should be used rarely, if at all.

In a report, the board stated there is "no identified situation" requiring the procedure and urged tight limits on its use, according to Associated Press.

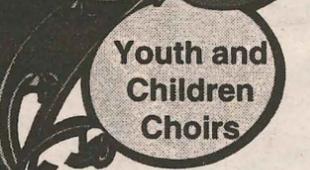
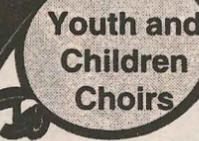
Meanwhile, Southern Baptist Convention President Tom Eliff and nine past SBC have written Clinton urging him to drop what Eliff called "your continued defense of the killing of living premature babies."

Also weighing in last week on the issue was a coalition of peace and justice groups, which called on Congress to pass the ban.

The coalition, which calls itself the Seamless Garment Network, includes such varied groups as Sojourners, the evangelical social justice network; Pax Christi USA, the Roman Catholic peace organization; Feminists for Life and the Pro-Life Alliance of Gays and Lesbians.

The group takes its name from an idea proposed by the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, who argued that opposition to abortion should be linked to opposition to the death penalty, war, euthanasia and other life-denying issues in a "seamless garment."



Kentucky

for

KIDS

Day

Become an Advocate for Our Children

Meet
Mr. McFeely
from

**MISTER
ROGERS'
NEIGHBORHOOD**

GDB, 05/97

At the State Capitol in Frankfort

Saturday, May 31

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

(Rain site: Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center, Frankfort)

Sponsored by:
Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union
(502) 244-6485



Bring a NEW teddy bear to be given to children in crisis!

Smith: Memorial Day ideal for remembering lost friends

Continued from page 1
gathering" at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Those attending clipped pictures and words from magazines to help tell the life story of the person they were grieving. People mounted their clippings on poster boards, and the collages became a springboard for discussions, said James Stillwell, singles minister for the church.

"We told stories of the person who died," said Stillwell, who added he learned he hadn't completed grieving the death of his mother three years ago. "Everyone was eager to share after they did the collage."

Immanuel started focusing attention on grieving in 1995, when members began a memorial service in 1995 for people still coping with the loss of

loved ones.

Stillwell said the collage exercise worked so well that he is using it for the church's seven-week divorce recovery workshops.

In general, Smith said, society fails to recognize a friend's setback when a death occurs. While the family is well attended to, friendships often have been closer than blood ties, he said.

An example he offered was his mother's Sunday School class. The elderly women became like a family to her, he said, and she grieved deeply as her social network passed away. Many elderly people are seen as "crotchety" or "angry," but they are really trying to deal with considerable grief, he said.

"I call it unrecognized or disenfranchised grief," Smith said. "People have significant struggles. Many say, 'Make a new friend.' But my mother couldn't replace friends she had had for 50 years."

A chaplain with Hospice of Louisville agreed, saying it is important for those who lose a friend to recognize the importance of that relationship.

"The main thing is to express the loss and let yourself experience all its dimensions," said Joy Berger, a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "With elderly people, losing a lifelong friend can be as significant as losing a family member."

There are several issues people struggle with at such times, she said:

- Guilt, which leads to questioning why this happened to their friend instead of them.

- Vulnerability, as people reason that if this happened to their friend, it could happen to them.

- Feelings of helplessness or abandonment. These can be accentuated if distant or estranged family members show up prior to death and make crucial decisions that go against their friend's desires, she said.

Both agree churches should pay more attention to death's consequences on everyone touched by the victim.

Resources

- "Grieving the Death of a Friend," a book by Harold Smith

- Smith also has a World Wide Web page on grief: www.planetconnection.com/friendgrief.

- Grief coping classes are conducted by many hospice organizations in Kentucky.

"Anytime a person dies, they need to ask, 'What friends will be impacted?'" Smith said. "It's like tossing a pebble in a brook—people who were fishing or hunting buddies, in the choir together or a building program. They spent a lot of time together and developed a close friendship."

Berger suggested churches hold an annual memorial service, either around Memorial Day or Thanksgiving, to provide the community a time for remembering friends.

"We really are a grief-ignorant society," said Berger, a member of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville. "As Christians, we can over-emphasize the glory part of our faith without walking through the valley of pain with others."

"Many say, 'Make a new friend.' But my mother couldn't replace friends she had had for 50 years."

Harold Smith, author of "Grieving The Death of a Friend"

Windows Software for Churches

Church Data Management System for Windows
— CDMS-Win —

The only church software you will ever need

Call Don Putnam at 1 (800) 928-6388

Greentree Applied Systems, Inc., 157 Prosperous Place, Suite 1A,
Lexington, KY 40509 • (606) 263-2959 • Fax (606) 263-9824

Announcing:

A new, undated adult Sunday School curriculum created with the real world in mind.



19 lesson titles to choose from that will take you through discussions on:

Time

Money

Stress

Sex

Parenting

Health

Families in 3D

The mission of Acacia Resources, a new division of Baptist Center for Ethics, is to guide Christian families and draw them godward, as the ark of acacia wood guided the people of Israel in their journey and represented the presence of God in their midst.

For order information:
1-800-469-4223



Acacia Resources
4219 Hillsboro Road, #210, Nashville, TN 37215

COMING SOON TO A LOCATION NEAR YOU!

Super Saturday 1997

Sensitizing and Activating the Church!

August 9th
Erlanger Baptist Church
Paducah First Baptist

August 16th
St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville

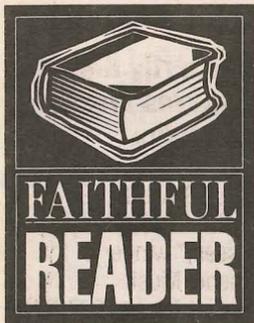
August 23rd
Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington

September 6th
Central Baptist Church, Corbin
Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro

Training for Leaders in Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Music, Media/Library, Pastors and Staff, Directors of Missions, and Family Ministries

Identify the needs and learn how to better meet them! Update your teaching skills! Find new resources for doing ministry!

BOOKS



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Midlane Park Baptist Church in Louisville, and Jim Holladay, pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville.

Best-selling paperback Christian non-fiction

- 1 Day of Deception, John Hagee
- 2 The Signature of God, Grant Jeffrey
- 3 Woman, Thou Art Loosed, T.D. Jakes
- 4 God's Little Instruction Book for Women, Honor Books
- 5 A Divine Revelation of Hell, Mary Baxter
- 6 The Beginning of the End, John Hagee
- 7 The Bondage Breaker, Neil Anderson
- 8 Loose That Man and Let Him Go, T.D. Jakes
- 9 Five Love Languages, Gary Chapman
- 10 Yeshua: The Name of Jesus Revealed, Yacov Rambsel

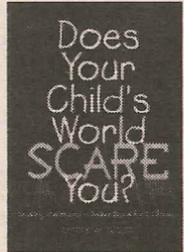
Source: Evangelical Christian Publishers Association

Does Your Child's World Scare You? Making the World a Better Place for Children. Jeffery Scott. Peake Road, 1997. 129 pages. \$19.95. ◆◆◆◆◆ (Out of five)

If the world of your children or grandchildren doesn't scare you, it will after you read Jeffery Scott's book. A father of two children and a minister at University Baptist Church in Carbondale, Ill., Scott offers us a no-holds-barred look at the world in which our children live: "Today's children in America are more likely to be poor, drug-dependent, pregnant, murdered or incarcerated than children living in any other industrialized country."

Under the headings of family life, violence, sex, economic woes and health concerns, Scott paints a pretty bleak picture of the present and potential future facing children in America. Regarding teen pregnancy, he observes, "The situation has grown so severe that nearly one-half of all adolescent females will experience at least one pregnancy as a teenager." A telling statistic concerning the health care of children is that "a black child born in inner-city Boston has less chance of surviving the first year than a child born in Panama, Uruguay or North Korea."

Scott argues that the time has come for us to renew our focus on children. Fortunately his book is more than a litany of woes facing children. At the end of every chapter he suggests how parents and other concerned adults can get involved in that chapter's issue. The appendixes list religious and civic groups working on behalf of children, as well as "50 Nifty Child Advocacy Ideas for Parents." With "Stand for Children Day" coming up on June 1,



Scott's book provides insight and help to church members, parents and others who want to understand and address the world in which our children live and are growing up. *Jim Holladay*

Barrier-Free Friendships: Bridging the Distance between You and Friends with Disabilities. Joni Eareckson Tada & Steve Jensen. Zondervan Publishing, 1997. \$9.99. 148 pages. ◆◆◆◆◆

Joni Eareckson Tada writes about barriers in this book, but not the barriers people with disabilities must overcome. The barriers Tada writes about are those that must be overcome by people without disabilities in order to become friends with those who have disabilities—a barrier-free friendship.

As a person confined to a wheelchair, Tada speaks authoritatively about what it means to be friends with a disabled person. But instead of focusing on the benefit to the disabled person, Tada turns the table and highlights the blessings that come to the non-disabled person.

The book is full of Tada's own experiences, as well as others who have been on one side or the other of barrier-free friendships. Tada uses examples of how Jesus related to people with disabilities to show how to build mutually fulfilling relationships. She covers the highlights and the crises of both sides. Topics range from what to say at first introduction to gauging appropriate levels of help. Throughout her book she conveys the idea that responsibility for the friendship is shared by both people.

Tada's book is for everyone, whether or not you have a disabled friend. If you have not found what Tada calls the joy of a barrier-free friendship, then the book will help you be prepared when God presents the opportunity for entering a barrier-free friendship. *Wayne Hager*

Attending Parishoners' Spiritual Growth. Thomas Williamsen. Alban Institute, 1997. 127 pages. \$15.25. ◆◆◆◆◆

Thomas Williamsen recalls his experience as a successful pastor of a large church being called to help develop a new congregation. He began well, praying daily for those he would visit, depending on the guidance of the Holy Spirit as he sought members for this new church. Over time, as the congregation grew and the task of visiting became more arduous, his prayer time diminished, his excitement lapsed and people's responsiveness dried up. One day his wife reminded him, "A church does not grow because of charming people. A church grows because of the Holy Spirit working through faithful servants." That wake-up call re-oriented his ministry and set him on a path of church development described in this book.

Williamsen argues that most church members exist on a spiritual diet of cheese sandwiches when they could be feasting at a banquet table. Much of the responsibility for that rests with pastoral leaders who neither challenge church members to deepen their walk with God nor build into the structures of congregational life a spiritual foundation and infrastructure.

While providing a stinging assessment of many churches' spiritual life, Williamsen's real contribution is his practical help in addressing the problem. He outlines ways churches can transform committees and program organizations into spirit-renewing experiences for leaders and participants. Particularly interesting was his chapter on the work and ministry of the church council.

Williamsen's insights are not mere speculation. They are being practiced by the congregation he serves. His book is a testimony not only to his personal transformation, but to the renewal of his congregation. *Jim Holladay*

Touched By An Angel: Stories from the Hit Television Series! Martha Williamson & Robin Sheets. Zondervan Publishing, 1997. \$12.99. 207 pages. ◆◆◆◆◆

As the subtitle indicates, this is a book of stories. The stories, however, are not just printed transcripts of the teleplays. The stories include not only four teleplays, but also how Martha Williamson became executive-producer of the show. Other stories revolve around the stars and comments from fans.

Fans of the TV series will be interested in how Williamson came to the show. She approached producing "Touched" in the same way many have approached viewing the show—with a great deal of initial skepticism. Then the show took on a life of its own and hooked her. Williamson is a Christian who uses her biblical spirituality to guide the show. Of course, it doesn't hurt to have Della Reese, a gospel singer and preacher, as one of the stars.

Each TV episode is introduced with a "story behind the story" section, followed by a response to the show from the stars and a viewer or two. The stories are interesting to read and convey the "good feeling" of the show.

The televised stories in the book present "Christian" spirituality without being specifically Christian. Anyone who is familiar with the Christian gospel cannot help make some connections. The stories can actually be used to introduce someone to the Christian gospel by discussing the plot line and the outcome. *Wayne Hager*



Special people

By Robert Dunston

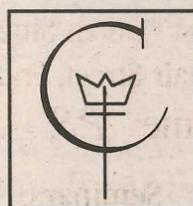
At Cumberland College's faculty and staff recognition dinner, held May 3, we recognized three of our number who are retiring. Together they have contributed almost 88 years of faithful service to our college family.

Marty Brooks came to Cumberland College in 1978 to teach in our psychology department. During his tenure at Cumberland, Brooks served as director of the counseling center and most recently as chairperson of the psychology department. Brooks was a chaplain in the United States Army and for many years served in the Army Reserve. His military service enabled him to travel extensively, and he brought his international perspective to the classroom. Twice Brooks has been recognized with our Honored Faculty Award indicating the high regard both his colleagues and students have for him. Currently, he serves as interim pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin.

Louise Foley came to Cumberland in 1968 and is retiring as our supervisor of personnel records. Foley has served on numerous committees during her time with us and has been active in the Cumberland

College Woman's Club. In 1995 she received the Service Award, which honors a member of our staff for their outstanding contributions to the college mission and family. Foley enjoys writing gospel songs and with her daughters Donna Colegrove and Deborah Peace often performs her songs in local revival services and homecomings. A

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



member of Goldbug Baptist Church, Foley has taught in vacation Bible school, sung in the choir and participated in Woman's Missionary Union.

Roberta Meadows joined Cumberland in 1958 and is retiring as our bursar. Through the years she has been an invaluable help during college self-study programs and in the Woman's Club. In 1993 Meadows received the Milestone Award for 35 years of service and the next year received the Service Award. Many students have been helped through financial and personal difficulties through her caring ministry. Meadows is a member of Highland Park Baptist Church.

We will miss these faithful servants and dear friends.

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

A lesson from a dog house

My dad used a dog house to teach me a great lesson in life and theology one day when I was about 13.

My neighbor had given me a hound dog. Problem was, there was no shelter for the dog to find relief from the hot Florida heat or severe thunderstorms.

The scenario was a great one for a young boy to create something out of his own head with his own two hands.

The back of the dog pen backed up to two buildings, which provided walls for the new house. All I had to do was build the top and front. Dad had scrap lumber around, so I went to work.

Although I was short on desire and planning, the new dog house went up faster than even I could imagine.

I was putting the finishing touches on my masterpiece about the time Dad came home from work. Thinking he would be pleased that I had done what he asked of me, I was surprised to find him less than enthusiastic about my creation.

Dad took off on one of those dreaded lectures. He even made one of those statements I now find myself saying to my own chil-

dren: "If something is worth doing, it's worth doing right."

I had heard it before, but somehow, like water off the proverbial duck's back, it ran off and never seemed to sink in.

Dad told me to tear down my "shoddy work" and "do it right." I did and have never forgotten the lessons I learned that summer afternoon as a boy.

I learned people judge you by the work you do, for it is an extension of who you are.

I also learned it is quicker and easier to do a job right the first time than to tear down and rebuild all over again.

I later learned the theological dynamics of that same lesson. Whatever we do, we do unto God. He deserves our

best in the home, at church, on the job, on the athletic field, etc.

We should "give of our best to the master" in all we do for "the earth is his and the fullness thereof."

Thanks Dad.

Bill Smithwick is president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, 10801 Shelbyville Rd., Middletown, Ky. 40243. Call (800) 456-1386. KBHC's Internet address is: <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

MUSIC

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Meta Baptist Church is presently in the process of searching for a full-time minister of youth and music. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Meta Baptist Church, 8807 Meta Highway, Pikeville, KY 41501.

FOR RENT: Sanibel Island, Florida: 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo available for vacation rental. Large pool, tennis courts, bikes, canoe, kayak, screened porch, lovely secluded beach. Weekly rates May through mid-December: \$595. Call Pat Owen, (502) 895-8752 (home) or (502) 897-5079 (office).

SEEKING: Buck Creek Baptist Church in search of full-time pastor. Send inquiries to: R. Thomasson, 892 Browns Valley Road, Utica, KY 42376, or RThoma316@aol.com.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music and activities. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Maple Grove Baptist Church, 5911 E. Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40219. (502) 964-7314.

SEEKING: Concord Baptist Church is in process of searching for a full-time minister of youth. If interested, please send resumé to: Concord Baptist Church, 1945 Concord Lane, Hopkinsville, KY 42240, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Bardstown Baptist Church is currently accepting resúmes for a full-time minister. Resúmes will be accepted until June 1, 1997. Send resumé with a cover letter claiming your statement of faith to the Pastor Search Committee, Bardstown Baptist Church, 101 West Brashear, Bardstown, KY 40004.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Lebanon Junction, Ky., is accepting resúmes for full-time pastor. Previous pastoral experience desired. Send resumé and cover letter to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 577, Lebanon Junction, KY 40150. Resúmes received through May 31, 1997.

FOR SALE: Baby grand piano, \$3,500. Call Greg Harry at Cecilia Baptist Church, (502) 862-4228.

SEEKING: Salvisa Baptist Church is presently searching for a part-time minister of youth. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Salvisa Baptist Church, P.O. Box 75, Salvisa, KY 40372.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor, minister of students. Worship attendance approximately 350. Seminary training and experience preferred. Send resumé to: Pastor, Lewisport Baptist Church, P.O. Box 384, Lewisport, KY 42351.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth and children. Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, P.O. Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth and children. Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, P.O. Box 91146, Louisville, KY 40291, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: A full-time associate pastor with a strong music emphasis. The position will require the ability to provide strong leadership, direction and training for our music and education programs, plus assist the pastor with the overall ministries of the church. Send resumé to: Morganfield First Baptist Church, 200 North Morgan St., Morganfield, KY 42437, Attn: Search Committee.

WANTED: Full-time director/minister of youth and education. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Oak Ridge Baptist Church, 6056 Taylor Mill Road, Covington, KY 41015. Resumé should include applicant's experience and/or education for the position.

NEEDED: Pianist for east-end church. Two Sunday services and Wednesday evening choir rehearsal. Pay is very competitive. Call Gary Vidito, West Broadway Baptist Church, (502) 491-1920.

SEEKING: Preschool teachers. Fern Creek Baptist Child Development Center is currently looking for preschool and parents day out teachers for the 1997-98 school year. Hours are MWF, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for preschool and TT, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. for parents day out. We offer competitive wages, a friendly environment and other benefits. Please contact Debbie Gorbandt or Linda Barnes at (502) 239-0316.

SEEKING: Calhoun Baptist Church in western Kentucky is accepting resúmes for pastor until July 1, 1997. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Calhoun Baptist Church, P.O. Box 283, Calhoun, KY 42327.

SEEKING: High Point Baptist Church in Mayfield, Ky., is seeking a full-time associate pastor with primary responsibilities in youth and children's ministry. Send resumé to: Search Committee, High Point Baptist Church, 220 Farthing St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

SEEKING: Blackford & Breckinridge Baptist Associations, consisting of 36 churches, are accepting resúmes for a full-time DOM. Resúmes will be accepted until June 16. Applicants should mail resúmes to: DOM Search Committee, Blackford & Breckinridge Baptist Associations, 404 Elm St., Cloverport, KY 40111.

SEEKING: Immanuel Baptist Church is seeking a full-time youth pastor. Ideally, he should be married with a family, college degree in youth ministry and have some experience. Our church runs approx. 200 in Sunday school with 30 youth on roll. Send resumé to: Immanuel Baptist Church, 264 New Hope Road, Princeton, WV 24740-2132.

"Butterfly Kisses" achieves crossover hit status

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—"Butterfly Kisses," winner of the Gospel Music Association's 1997 Dove Award for "Song of the Year," has become a hit on secular music stations.

The ballad on the album "Shades of Grace" was performed and co-written by contemporary Christian artist Bob Carlisle, who wrote it for his daughter Brooke. It also won a Dove for inspirational recorded song of the year.

"'Butterfly Kisses' is a song that was never intended to even be on the album," Carlisle said while accepting the Dove April 24 in Nashville. "I wrote it a couple of years ago as a gift for my daughter on her 16th birthday. I was persuaded to put it on the record."

The album is No. 1 on Billboard's Adult Contemporary chart and No. 1 on the music magazine's Heatseekers chart for the week ending May 17. It has been on the Top Contemporary Christian chart for 44 weeks, reported USA Today.

The opening lyrics are: "There's two things I know for sure. She was sent here from heaven, and she's Daddy's little girl."

Carlisle, who co-wrote the song with Randy Thomas, told USA Today how he came to write the song: "I came to the realization that I wasn't going to have this child under my roof much longer. I fell apart one evening. The song just poured out of me."

Is your church for everyone?

Begin or strengthen a special education ministry. *Special Education Today* (0767346890) is the publication ministering to special education persons, their families, and other caregivers. And there's a new book to help: *A Place for Everyone: A Guide for Special Education Bible Teaching-Reaching Ministry* (0767318986).

Contact The Sunday School Board for these resources: Email to 70423.2526@compuserve.com or fax your order to 615-251-5933.



Make Youth Fest '97 a part of your youth activities!

FEATURING:



Buster Soaries
(Speaker)



Phillips, Craig & Dean
(Musician)



Chosen
(Musician)



Face to Face
(Praise & Drama)

When & Where? June 27-28; Freedom Hall

What time? Friday - 7 p.m. & Saturday - 8:15 a.m.

How much? Youth Fest = \$6 pre-registration; \$7 at the door

BONUS: Pre-register for Youth Fest and get a ticket to JoyJam '97 (a contemporary Christian music festival sponsored by the Louisville Redbirds) for \$10. This is half off the normal JoyJam '97 ticket price! Michael W. Smith is the headline act for JoyJam '97 along with other nationally known Christian acts.

Deadline: June 6

Fill-in the form below

Name of Contact Person: _____
Church: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Number Registering for YEC _____ x Cost (\$6) = \$ _____
JoyJam '97 Number _____ x Cost (\$10 per person) = \$ _____
TOTAL enclosed = \$ _____ **Pre-register by June 6!!!!**

Mail form to: Youth Fest '97, KBC, Office for Evangelism, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253.
Make check payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

A Weekend for Single Adults

May 30 - June 1, 1997

Sponsored by:

First Baptist Church Single Ministry
201 St. Clair Street, Frankfort, Ky.

Conference Theme: "P.S. - God Loves You"

Seminars:

- ◆ Moving Ahead After Divorce
- ◆ Legal Issues for Singles
- ◆ Finding Love
- ◆ Discovering Spiritual Gifts
- ◆ Grief Recovery
- ◆ Music in Worship
- ◆ Drama in worship

Keynote Speaker: Peggy Haymes, Editor of *Reflections*, a devotional magazine, Greensboro, N.C.

Call the church office at (502) 227-4528 for registration information

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Linda Sims as she leads Bible studies in St. Petersburg, Russia.

■ "Missionary Kids" in Russia.

■ Wisdom and energy for Kentucky partnership coordinators Joy and Larry Lindsey as they prepare to welcome Kentucky summer mission teams to Moscow.

■ Pastor Tony Kebreau and members of Haitian Church of the New Jerusalem in Dorchester, Mass.

■ Wisdom and energy for Boston partnership coordinator Vicky Parrott as she prepares to welcome Kentucky summer mission teams to Boston.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BEECH CREEK**—Beech Creek Church called **Richard Parsons** as pastor. He will be ordained to the gospel ministry June 22.

■ **CADIZ**—**Michael Smith** resigned as pastor of Locust Grove Church April 27 to become pastor at North Springfield Church in Springfield, Tenn.

Todd Gray resigned as pastor of New Hope Church. Gray plans to attend Southern Seminary.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church called **David Johnson** May 11 as minister of music. He previously was music associate and singles minister at First Church in Shreveport, La. He will begin his new ministry July 1.

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church called **Erdie Carter Jr.** as part-time youth minister. Carter is a student at Boyce Bible School, and previously was volunteer minister of outreach at Rineyville Church. He will begin his new ministry Aug. 3.

■ **FISHERVILLE**—**David Vaughan** resigned as minister of music at First Church effective May 25 to become minister of music at Immanuel Church in Lancaster, S.C. He will begin his new ministry June 1.

■ **FRANKLIN**—First Church called **Tim Leadingham** as minister of youth and children. He previously was minister of youth and church activities at Southern Heights Church in Lexington. He will begin his new ministry June 8.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Great Crossing Church will celebrate its 212th anniversary June 1. An all-day event is planned. Call (502) 863-2182 for more information. **Art Hardin** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Valley Station Church ordained **Gregory Fields** and **Robert Wolf** as deacons May 11.

Lyndon Church has entered a six-month attendance competition with Trinity Church in Lexington. Both congregations will contribute toward creation of a banner, which the winning congregation will keep. Pastors **Brian Shoemaker** and **Doug Martin** also will exchange pulpits one Sunday.

Crescent Hill Church's youth/college choir will present a free concert "He Never Failed Me Yet" May 21 at 6:15 p.m. Call (502) 896-4425 for more information.

Ridgewood Church called **Louis Twyman** as interim pastor. Also, **Clint Hildebran** was called as associate pastor/music.

Hazelwood Church called **Tracy Neff** as minister of children. **Hilton Davis** is pastor.

Roger Lamb celebrated 15 years as minister of music at Broadway Church.

■ **MAYFIELD**—First Church called **Bob Swift** as interim pastor. Swift began his new ministry April 6.

■ **NANCY**—Lakeside Mission called **Bently Hogan**, a native of Clermont, Fla., as pastor.

Ministry drives deacons to offer low-cost car repairs

STILLWATER, Okla. (BP)—Low-cost automotive care for single women is fueling deacons' drive to minister at First Baptist Church of Stillwater, Okla.

Prompted by a course on biblical principles of financial management, deacons began looking for ways to minister to single women of the church, said deacon Larry Daugherty.

"We found cars were often a cause for concern," he said.

That led Daugherty and Bennie Trout to volunteer their automotive centers as ministry sites.

On the ministry's initial Saturday, volunteers diagnosed and corrected problems for nine vehicles.

Routine service, such as oil and filter changes and tire rotations, also was performed.

Other items corrected included brakes, brake-signal lights, starters,

belts and steering components.

The women were charged only for the cost of parts. The men donated their labor.

As a result, oil and filter changes cost only about \$8 or \$9, about half the normal fee. Labor charges at auto service centers range from \$35 to \$60 per hour.

One of the women, retired Southern Baptist foreign missionary Sistine Givens, called the project a "tremendous ministry to us women."

As a retiree returning to the United States from Brazil, she said her car there was far less complicated than her American car.

"In Brazil, you can see the ground on each side of the engine, but here under the hood is packed," she said.

"Having someone who can be trusted to work on your car gives you more peace of mind."



Church Buses Rental Buses

(New & Used)

Carpenter Bus Sales Inc.

Brentwood, Tenn.

(800) 370-6180

(615) 376-2287

Available in 20' to 30' Models
(12 to 35 passengers)

Guaranteed Buy-Back Program • We Buy Used Buses

'The Wind Beneath my Wings'

The following is an essay by Patricia Wood, our 1997 valedictorian. She also is the recipient of the William A. Evans Award, Oneida's highest honor, given to our most outstanding senior.

"A few years ago, Bette Midler came out with a hit song titled 'Wind Beneath My Wings.' It was the theme song for the movie 'Beaches.' In this movie, two little girls meet and grow up together, sharing a special and sometimes rocky friendship. At the conclusion of the movie, one of the friends dies, and the other one, who is now a popular singer, shares through this song what a true hero her friend was. The song talks about a person who has always encouraged you and helped you while you took all the glory and praise. ... But the question is, 'Who is my hero?' After thinking very long and hard, I realize that the most completely honest response to that question would be God.

"If I could ever thank any one person for helping me to be who I am today, the only logical person would be my Creator. God made me—every limb, muscle, bone, strand of hair, you name it. ... However, God not only created me, but he loves me unconditionally. ... No matter what I do or how bad I mess up, God always believes in me and loves me regardless. No matter how special one person is, at some point in your life they will disappoint you and let you down. It cannot be helped; it is only human nature.

"The first line of the song starts out with the phrase, 'It must have been colder in my shadow, without any sunlight on your face.' Then the song later states, 'I was the one with all the glory, and you were the one with all the pain.' Every time I hear these two lines, I cannot help but think about

Christ. In one way, it reminds me of the pain he had to bear as he died on the cross for me. In another way, I always think about how he has so richly blessed my life. God has given me all these abilities and talents that I possess; he is responsible for what I have accomplished. Yet, he lovingly and unselfishly sits back and watches people applaud and praise me. I have often thought about what God must think as he sees me take the glory for something he has done. What an awesome act

of love. It is a continual, day-by-day, selfless act as he continues to bless my life.

"The ... most important reason for choosing God as my hero is the obvious fact that he is the perfect example. After becoming a Christian, I have always tried to become more like Christ. ... It has been a slow and difficult walk. But God is always there, right by my side encouraging me. The only way I can continue to be the best that I can be is to continue to follow Christ's example. It is the best and most perfect example to follow.

"Writing this paper has been difficult for the simple reason of choosing about whom I wanted to write. Many people were considered—my parents, my brothers, my friends and most definitely my teachers. ... Finally I realized my teachers, my parents and my friends all have one major thing in common. God has placed them in my life for a reason. It is God who has blessed me by giving me the opportunity to know them and work with them. He has worked through them to touch my life and help me to grow. God is the wind beneath my wings."

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Senior testimonies

Our seniors received their degree May 9 in commencement exercises at Binghamtown Baptist Church in Middlesboro. Former professor Earl Clark challenged them to adopt a ministry of encouragement, enlistment and mature faith.

Joe Baldwin returns to South Carolina and bivocational ministry.

He first visited Clear Creek with a volunteer work team, and the Lord called him to ministry the next year. He and Barbara moved for the first time in 30 years.

An "Experiencing God" group influenced Dawn Mullins to enroll. Her husband, Chris, was already a student, "and I needed to know more about the Bible." She cites her major accomplishment as the realization "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." The couple now serves First Baptist in Wooten.

Tennessee pastor Mike Bernard came to see Scott Bridwell receive his diploma. Bridwell said Clear Creek "was a lot like Parris Island. I wouldn't trade the experience for anything in the world, but I wouldn't do it again." He'll always remember beating all the campus wives in a hula hoop contest at their first fall festival. Scott and his wife,

Becky, have two children, Kaylea and Levi, who have enjoyed the child development center. Both parents were employed on the campus "workshop" program.

Darrell and Barbara Everly of Central City finished the course with perfect attendance. That wasn't easy during the time Barbara was disabled with a broken ankle.

The couple actively worked in First Baptist Church in Pineville.

A former student introduced Ohioans Phillip and Selena Huffman to Clear Creek. They will stay on campus for Selena to enroll and complete work on her bachelor's of arts degree. They moved to campus without any guarantee of a job; Phillip is a teacher in the child development center.

The distance award goes to Michael and Tonya Norton from California. They heard about us from a 1993 Baptist Student Union summer missionary from Clear Creek. "I continue to learn that I don't need to fight every time my convictions are challenged and when I do speak to use love for the person and not tear them down," Mike said.

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

Raceway ministries put gospel on the fast track

By Laurie Lattimore
Alabama Baptist

TALLADEGA, Ala.—The Talladega Superspeedway is known for its fast cars and fast crowd.

Beer is sold by the gallon. Four-letter words spew even more freely. When the Winston Cup 500 invades every April, a majority of the 250,000-plus fans are ready for a party.

What they're not ready for is a man who drives a special edition Ram Air Trans Am who knows the race lingo, knows the drivers, knows their best race times and knows the Lord.

An Ernie Irvan fan, and sometimes look-alike, Prattville pastor J.B. Burt loves the Talladega crowd, no matter how rough—all the more witnessing opportunity. Burt took over the Alabama Raceway Ministries project four years ago from Frank Stark.

Stark started Raceway Ministries and currently works for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's lifestyle ministries department, promoting local evangelism at racetracks, truck stops and casinos.

ARM sets up a large tent outside the speedway to offer food, drinks, sunscreen and hospitality items. It also provides clown acts for children and offers a worship service Sunday morning. ARM shows the "Jesus" film under the tent at night.

Burt coordinates three worship services on Sunday—in the tent outside, at the Motor Sports Hall of Fame and in the infield. "Jesus said love the multitudes," Burt noted. "This is definitely the multitude."

As several admire his black Trans Am—similar to the pace car for the Winston Cup race at Talladega—Burt doesn't let the chance to talk racing run away.

"Man, this is the most beautiful car I've ever seen," one admirer notes.

"Thanks, man. Let me give you a race schedule," Burt says as he hands the young man a tract with Scripture

verses and plan of salvation presented in racing terms.

During the qualifying race, Burt and others distributed thousands of the race schedule/tracts.

"They love that racing schedule," Burt noted. His only regret was not bringing more. His wife and son had loaded up bags that also were empty by the end of the race.

Since starting the ministry, this is the first year ARM has been able to rely on organized volunteer support.

"The last couple of years I've just gotten people I knew to help," he said, noting the growing interest among Alabama Baptists for this type of evangelism effort.

Burt held a training session for all volunteers who would pass out tracts and work the hospitality tent.

Noel Walker and Dennis and Teresa Olson came early to help Burt hand out tracts during time trials. Each handed out a backpack full.

"I love this because I get to do two of the things I love most—talking about Jesus and watching cars go 'round and 'round,'" Mrs. Olson said.

Her husband noted that ARM's presence seems to have a positive effect on the crowd.

"I think they appreciate the fact that we are willing to be here," he said. "There's a phenomenon in the stands that when people know we are Christians, their language changes and they are more aware of what they are doing."

The Olsons added that although ARM volunteers cannot influence every person who receives a racing schedule/tract, the seed is planted. "Who knows what could happen when someone comes out of their drunken coma on Monday morning and finds Scripture in their pockets?" Mrs. Olson said.

Frank Stark, a native Missourian, has helped establish local Raceway Ministries efforts at 13 of the 19 NASCAR tracks around the country.



He started ARM at Talladega in 1985 and handed it over to Burt in 1993.

"The reason we're not in those other tracks yet is because we don't have local people yet who are interested," Stark said. "That's why this really works—getting churches and associations involved."

In fact, Alabama native Mandy Wetzel recently started Raceway Ministries in California. Wetzel, who is working on her master of divinity degree at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., got interested in race-track evangelism while working with Burt as a college student.

Now she has started ministries at two NASCAR tracks—Sear's Point Raceway and the new California Speedway—and at Altamont Raceway Park.

With two other seminary students, Wetzel coordinates 75 to 100 volunteers who provide hospitality, enter-

tainment for children, a women's center and worship services. At the Altamont park, Tina Kollman serves as chaplain for the drivers and their crews.

"Now they notice if we're not there," Wetzel said of track owners. "More drivers at Altamont are asking us to pray with them, and I've heard a lot of feedback from people that they are really thankful for our ministry."

"God's done it, but he has used me to get it going," she said.

Motor Racing Outreach, a North Carolina-based ministry offered through NASCAR, provides a traveling chaplain for all the drivers.

Stark said ministry is needed for both drivers and fans. With races always occurring on Sunday, worship at the track is often the only chance they get. "We need to go to them. These people would feel threatened in a regular church."

SPEED WEEK J.B. Burt, head of Alabama Raceway Ministries, hands out tracts with a race schedule during time trials for the Talladega 500. (Photo courtesy of the Alabama Baptist)

Church wants to show love to people 'until they ask us why'

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—The outreach strategy for NorthStar Church in Kennesaw, Ga., is pretty simple.

"We're getting out of the church and into the community. We're trying to love people until they ask us why," said Pastor Ike Reighard.

NorthStar had more than 360 people in its first service, held this past January in a hotel conference center.

Reighard, former associate pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta, soon moved worship services to a high school auditorium because of growing attendance, which now averages 750 per week.

Speaking on the campus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Reighard said he and other organizers intended the church "to introduce the unchanging Savior to the changing community."

Groundwork began in October 1996, he said. Through demographic study he found the Kennesaw area, northwest of Atlanta, to be 65 percent unchurched.

In what Reighard calls the church's preseason, "Good Neighbor" Bible study groups were formed. Such activity was designed to encourage every member to be involved in ministry.

"If church members feel the church staff is there to meet their needs, then the church will grow only as much as the church staff can meet their needs," he said. "But if church members feel they are ministers, then the church will be limited only by how many people will fit in the facility."

NorthStar was planned to be "outreach-focused" from the start, Reighard said. Leaders had several community ministries operating from the beginning, including a crisis pregnancy center, hospice care, an adopt-a-grandparent ministry and a free service of car oil changes for single mothers.

The church even has an associate pastor whose job description is to be pastor to the community, Reighard said.

College students recruited for church 'jump-start'

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (BP)—In 1981, Haywood Cates Baptist Church was a thriving congregation with more than 400 members.

The predominantly Anglo congregation packed out two worship services each Sunday and was reaching Florida's capital city with the gospel message.

Then, for more than 15 years, the church suffered from an ailment all too familiar—the older and declining congregation failed to reach its younger community.

Now, however, the 59-member congregation may have discovered a cure—the energy and enthusiasm of five college students.

Responding to a request by Pastor John Cone and Florida Baptist Convention officials, students from the Baptist Student Union at neighboring Florida State University volunteered their spring semester to help "jump-start" the small congregation.

A core group of five students participated in the project, and several BSU singing and drama groups helped with special events.

During the three-month project, the students joined church members in weekly church

services in order to encourage the congregation.

They often helped lead worship, singing contemporary songs and performing skits.

"Members had been down for so long and they needed a boost," Cone said. "We were looking for something, and the Lord sent us the college students to give us a big shot in the arm of youthfulness."

The collegians canvassed communities near the church seeking youth and children, distributing flyers and inviting youngsters to softball games and backyard Bible clubs.

The mission project has shown results. Since the project began, more than 40 adults and youth have visited the church services, and eight people have joined.

Linda Osborne, director of Baptist student ministries at FSU, said college students can bring energy, freshness and enthusiasm to churches.

"They bring with them good ideas for ministry," she said. "At their age, they don't have it in their minds that, 'This is the way we always did it or it's always been like this.' So they come up with ideas and just do it."

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

THE AMERICAN ALCOHOL MARKET IS NEARLY A \$100 BILLION ENTERPRISE, AS WE SPEND MORE FOR BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR THAN ON ALL NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES COMBINED, FROM SODA POP, FRUIT JUICES, BOTTLED WATER, COFFEE, MILK, TEA AND OTHER SUCH NON-INTOXICATING DRINKS.

LAST YEAR'S SPENDING FIGURED OUT TO BE \$10.9 MILLION PER HOUR, OR \$182,000 PER MINUTE FOR EVERY SINGLE DAY OF THE YEAR.

17,274 PEOPLE DIED IN ALCOHOL RELATED CRASHES ACROSS AMERICA IN 1995.

278 PEOPLE DIED IN ALCOHOL RELATED CRASHES IN KENTUCKY IN 1995

THE NIAAA SAYS: IN 1995 THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ALCOHOL USE ON THE U.S. WAS OVER \$150 BILLION.

**THE TEMPERANCE LEAGUE OF KENTUCKY
SAYS:
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH**

2722 CRITTENDEN DRIVE,
LOUISVILLE, KY 40209-1114