



WESTERN RECORDER

June 3, 1997
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FOR THE RECORD

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Researcher suggests revival, but others aren't so sure

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (ABP)—One pollster says American Christianity may be experiencing a renaissance, but other observers are not so sure.

A four-year series of surveys by religious researcher George Barna indicates American adults could be turning toward Christ.

"Just one year ago, it appeared the Christian church in America was on the way out—out of people's minds, out of their hearts, out of their schedules, out of their future," reported Barna, president of the Barna Research Group, which conducted the surveys.

"But the latest in the annual series of tracking studies ... shows that the multi-year decline of Christianity ap-

pears to have bottomed out, and the Christian faith is now experiencing a renaissance of sorts," he said.

Meanwhile, other religious researchers and leaders said Americans are so confused spiritually that tracking their faith is next to impossible.

Barna's statements came at about the same time as the Gallup organization released findings that Americans' responses to a poll on religious indicators was nearly unchanged compared to responses 50 years ago.

Barna's research focuses on the percentage of Americans who are classified as "born again."

The survey categorizes a person as born again if she or he responds positively to two statements. "Born-again" individuals say they have "made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ

that is still important in my life today" and believe after death they will "go to heaven because I have confessed my sins and have accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior."

According to Barna's 1994 survey, 36 percent of American adults were "born-again" Christians. That figure rose to 39 percent in 1995, where it remained in 1996. But it climbed four points, to 43 percent, in January of this year.

The 7-point increase from 1994 to 1997 was more than double the survey's "sampling error," or the 3-point range of accuracy for the poll, Barna said.

However, several observers of U.S. religious trends questioned whether American religious faith can be plotted in an era of spiritual fervor,

rapid change and confusion.

"I hope George Barna is right, but I haven't seen anything to document it," said Loren Mead, founding president of the Alban Institute, a national church research and resource organization.

"I'm not running into what he's running into," Mead said of Barna's surveys, although he affirmed Barna's approach to information-gathering.

"I haven't seen any very strong evidence of increases in church numbers on the national scale," said Mead, now an independent church consultant. "There are very significant things that happen in some local situations. But I don't think they are affecting the large-scale picture of religious adherence or enthusiasm."

□ See Barna suggests ..., page 7

Missionaries: Coup shaking country but not God's presence

By Marty Croll
SBC Foreign Mission Board

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (BP)—Two rockets exploded just feet from the walls of their compound. A stray bullet pierced a lamp shade and lodged in a bedroom wall. But missionaries in besieged Freetown, Sierra Leone, said they felt the peace and presence of God during a military coup in late May.

"While there has been fighting all around us, we have not felt any specific danger," said Southern Baptist foreign missionary Ron Hill.

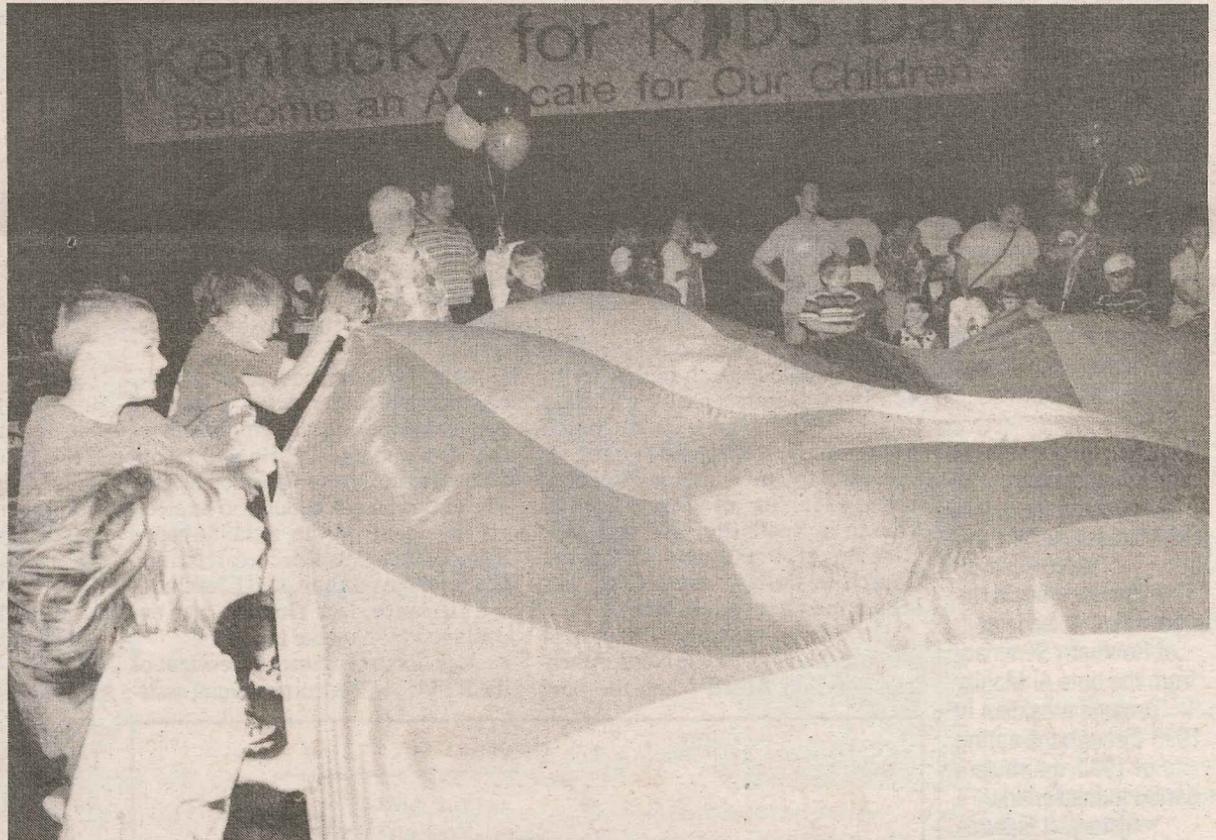
Still, with Nigerian gunboats landing the morning of May 28, Hill and his wife, Sharon, were beginning to consider whether to evacuate. "We're seeking God's guidance as to our next step," he said.

The Hills were jolted awake about 6 a.m. May 25 by the chatter of machine guns and blasts from heavy artillery as conspirators launched the coup in the capital city.

Nigerian troops loyal to Sierra Leone's first democratically elected president, Ahmed Tejan Kabbah, withdrew to about 12 miles outside the city after military leaders staging the coup drove Kabbah out May 25.

"People are tense as to what will transpire between Nigerian troops and the new military dictator's troops," Hill said.

At one point, troops entered the compound and sought to steal two vehicles. But a soldier carrying a pocket New Testament persuaded his colleagues not to; instead, they commandeered two vehicles next door.



INDOOR FUN Rain failed to dampen enthusiasm for Kentucky for Kids Day May 31. An estimated 1,000 people attended the event at the civic center in Frankfort. Sponsored by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, the activities were designed to urge participants to get involved in child advocacy issues. More photos and information about the event are on page 3.

Bible society flip-flops on translation decision

By Pamela Long
Religion News Service

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (RNS)—Pressure from conservative evangelical Christians has forced publishers to cancel plans for an updated, "gender-accurate" edition of the most popular Bible translation in the United States that critics said would have pandered to feminists.

The International Bible Society announced May 27 it would "serve the church ahead of market concerns" by scrapping a proposed New International Version that would substitute gender-neutral words,

such as "people," for gender-specific words, such as "mankind," in cases where the original biblical lan-

guages do not demand gender-specific words.

"We had a balance to strike between serving the evangelical church in the world and the evangelical church in the United States, and often those two halves see things from different cultural standpoints," said Steven Johnson, spokesman for the Colorado Springs, Colo.-based Bible society, which holds the copyright to the NIV.

The decision was hailed immediately by critics of the project.

"I believe the IBS has taken precisely the right steps in this situation," said Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and a leading

critic of the proposed changes.

"I am concerned about any attempt to use a translation of Scripture, or to revise a translation of Scripture in order to meet the demands of political correctness and gender inclusivity that we hear called for so much in modern culture," Mohler said.

Johnson agreed that the root issue with the new version has more to do with politics than with linguistic accuracy.

The debate over the NIV mirrors conflicts that have accompanied virtually every new translation of the Bible and that still roil the Roman Catholic Church as U.S. bishops seek to win Vatican approval for □ See Bible society ..., page 9

Moving? See page 4 (0603)

BAPTISTS

Fellowship drops funding for Baptist World Alliance

Film not scheduled in Kentucky

A documentary film about changing views on women in ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will air nationwide on public television this month, but most Kentucky residents won't be able to see it. "Battle for the Minds," a documentary produced by Steven Lipscomb, will air nationwide on PBS stations June 10. However, neither of the PBS affiliates serving Kentucky has scheduled the program. Programming spokesmen for KET, the statewide PBS network, and WKPC-TV, which serves the Louisville metropolitan area, said May 30 that they do not plan to air "Battle for the Minds." No further explanation was immediately available. The film will be shown nationally as part of the PBS series "P.O.V.: Television with a Point of View," which showcases independent non-fiction films. A slightly longer version of the documentary was the centerpiece of last fall's Louisville Film and Video Festival. The film documents the transition in leadership at Southern Seminary from the time Al Mohler became president in 1993 through the spring of 1995, a turbulent period in the seminary's history. It features interviews with Mohler, seminary trustee David Miller, former seminary professors Molly Marshall and Henlee Barnette and other Baptists attending the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in 1995. Inquiries about whether the program will be aired at any time on Kentucky's PBS affiliates should be directed to KET at (800) 432-0951 and WKPC-TV at (502) 459-9572.

McLEAN, Va. (ABP)—Tightening finances have prompted the Co-operative Baptist Fellowship to drop \$102,000 earmarked in its global-missions budget for the Baptist World Alliance, Fellowship leaders say.

The proposal to drop funding for the worldwide network of Baptist leaders was included but not reported in detail in a \$14.3 million budget approved by the Fellowship's Coordinating Council in April. The 1997-98 spending plan will be voted on at the Fellowship's June 26-28 General Assembly in Louisville.

The cut was not discussed in a plenary session by the Coordinating Council, but as news spread by word of mouth, some BWA supporters have complained to Fellowship leaders about the defunding.

BWA, based in McLean, Va., is comprised of 187 Baptist conventions and unions around the world. Among BWA members is the Southern Baptist

Convention, which is budgeted to give just under \$415,000 to the organization this year.

The Fellowship, an Atlanta-based group opposed to the SBC's conservative leadership, has not sought membership in BWA but has been funding the group through its global-missions ministry group.

This year, the Fellowship hammered out a proposed budget in the shadow of a funding plateau which in January forced the Coordinating Council to cut spending for the current year by 10 percent.

Next year's budget proposes 5 percent growth, calls for spending \$584,000 from global-missions reserves and adds a 2.5 percent reserve fund to cover any shortfall. It projects a net gain of six in the Fellowship's 140-member missionary force.

In a context of tough budget decisions, Fellowship mission leaders determined "we don't have enough

money" to include BWA in the 1997-98 budget, said Keith Parks, global missions coordinator.

"We're just having to make some tough, hard decisions, looking at money designated for missions and asking what is our priority scale in terms of missions priority," Parks said. "BWA didn't make the cut."

Parks said funding for BWA was placed under global missions in early Fellowship budgets for the sake of convenience. He believes it would be more appropriate for BWA to be in the Fellowship's general budget.

As long as giving to the Fellowship remained ahead of growth in its missions program, it didn't matter. This year, however, the global-missions group pondered the prospect of receiving more applicants for missionary service than it can afford to appoint or of canceling a popular missions and evangelism conference.

"It's not that we have any lack of

support for what BWA is doing," Parks said. "Many CBFers are very supportive of BWA. As we tried to evaluate mission priorities and looked at financial resources, that just didn't hit as high a priority as some other things."

Baptists in Virginia, where BWA is based, have been among the leading critics of the defunding. Mike Clingenpeel, editor of the Virginia Religious Herald, wrote an editorial May 22 strongly criticizing the Fellowship's decision.

"Why was BWA totally eliminated from CBF support when other CBF-funded partners received only partial cuts from the funding shortfall?" he asked.

The decision "is guaranteed to create division" within the Fellowship, Clingenpeel predicted. "It is the kind of issue that could divide CBF's fellowship at a time when CBF can ill afford—literally—internal discord."

Prominent religious broadcaster to lead SBC media unit

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—David Clark, a Christian broadcasting executive from Dallas, has been hired to head the media operation of the North American Mission Board.

Clark, 56, is president of KMC Media, a Dallas-based media company that produces and markets television programs for some of America's most prominent Christian ministries, such as Prison Fellowship, Concerned Women for America and World Vision.

His company produces and/or markets the television ministries of Southern Baptist pastors Adrian Rogers of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.; Ed Young of Second Baptist Church in Houston; James Merritt of First Baptist Church in Snellville, Ga.; and Jack Graham of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas, where Clark has been a member for six years.

He will be executive director of media technology for the North American Mission Board when the new

Southern Baptist Convention agency is created June 19. However, he began serving June 1 as executive vice president of the Radio & Television Commission in Fort Worth, Texas, one of three Southern Baptist agencies being merged to form NAMB.

Clark will direct the Fort Worth-based media operation of NAMB, which includes the FamilyNet cable TV network. He will report to NAMB's as-yet-unnamed vice president for media and missions education.

Clark was introduced to RTVC trustees and employees at a May 23 banquet honoring the employees of the dissolved agency. He will be appointed to the NAMB position by Bob Reccord, who is scheduled to be elected president of the Atlanta-based agency June 19. Reccord recruited Clark for the position, said Clark, adding his pastor, Jack Graham, also encouraged him to take the job.

Jack Johnson, current president of the RTVC, will become special assis-

tant to Reccord in the new structure, RTVC trustees were told. Johnson was unavailable for comment May 28.

Clark is current chairman of the National Religious Broadcasters, a position he also held from 1991 to 1994 and will continue to fill while serving NAMB. He was instrumental in instituting ethical and financial standards for members of NRB in the wake of the high-profile Christian broadcasting scandals of the 1980s.

Before starting KMC Media in 1991, Clark was vice president of marketing for the Christian Broadcasting Network, where he was responsible for marketing Pat Robertson's "700 Club" television program. He previously was dean of the college of communications at Robertson's Regent University, then CBN University, and professor of broadcasting at Bowling Green University in Ohio.

Clark also was appointed by a federal judge as bankruptcy trustee for Heritage USA, the failed theme park and development project of defrocked

PTL founder Jim Bakker.

Clark said he intends to maintain the current ministries of the RTVC while expanding services to churches. FamilyNet has "tremendous potential" and will be able to grow as new technology allows cable TV systems to increase the number of channels they offer, he said. Meanwhile, the agency's stable of radio programs has earned valuable free airtime on secular stations, he said.

But, he added, "We'll change the priorities of the RTVC somewhat."

"There is a clear mandate to serve the churches," he said, echoing a theme voiced by Reccord. "We need to listen very carefully to the needs churches have, primarily focusing on evangelism."

Not only large churches but small and medium-sized congregations will benefit from NAMB's media services, he said. The new agency will look for ways to equip local congregations to use NAMB media materials in their own outreach ministries, he said.

Graduation features a first and last

LOUISVILLE—A first and a last marked commencement ceremonies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary May 23.

John Crabtree of Indianapolis was the first to receive the master of theology degree from Southern through the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth.

The Billy Graham School was established in 1994. The master of theology degree is a graduate research degree which requires a master of divinity degree or its equivalent as a prerequisite.

In another historic moment, President Al Mohler handed diplomas to the last 11 graduates of the Carver School of Church Social Work.

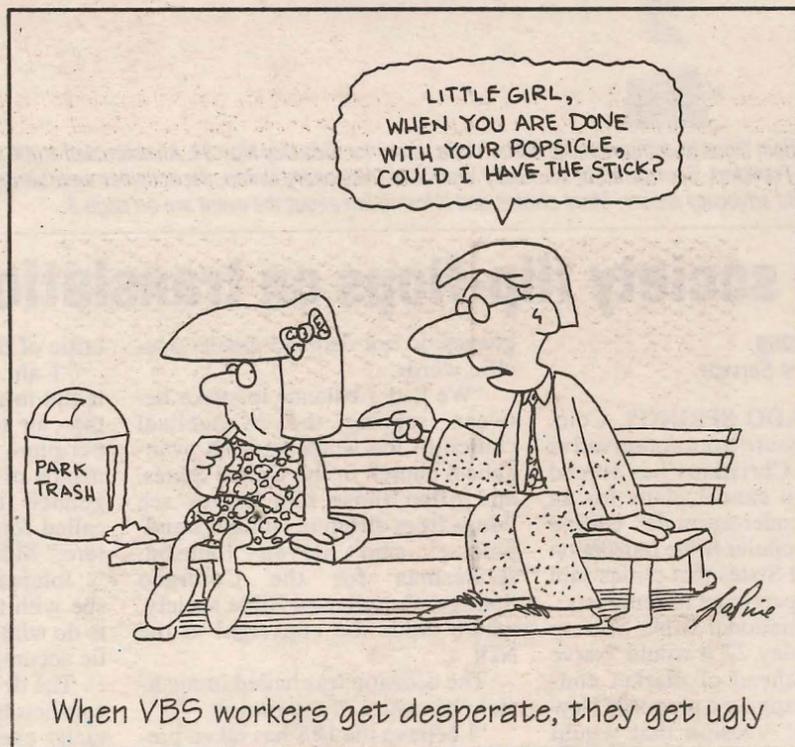
"We are very proud of these graduates," Mohler said. He asked the audience "to join with me in congratulating these graduates in

thanksgiving for all that they have received through this program." The Carver School graduates received a standing ovation.

The Carver School was established as the fifth school of the seminary in 1984, although its roots go as far back as 1907 when the Woman's Missionary Union Training School was established. In 1953 the name was changed and in 1963 the school was merged with the seminary.

After a conflict developed in 1995 between Mohler and Diana Garland, Carver School dean, over faculty hiring policies, the seminary's trustees voted to close the Carver School as a part of Southern's program.

Negotiations have been underway to transfer the Carver School name to Campbellsville University, but that deal reportedly has not yet been finalized.



When VBS workers get desperate, they get ugly

KENTUCKY

WMU event urges more advocacy for children's issues

By David Winfrey
News Director

FRANKFORT—With activities ranging from face painting and magic to education about child abuse and children's health care, an estimated 1,000 people attended Kentucky for Kids Day May 31.

Sponsored by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, 33 groups involved in children's issues participated in the event, said Julie Keith, chairperson for the event. WMU's emphasis this year is child advocacy.

Keith said the day helped people learn how to become more involved in helping children. "For different people, that's in different ways," said Keith, an associate for Kentucky WMU. "It may just be that they pay more attention to their children."

She added that she hopes local Baptist associations will consider holding similar events so people can learn how to be active locally.

Booths offered information on a variety of issues, from Kentucky Baptist agencies and statewide advocacy groups to healthcare issues and educational toys.

Jo Barrett, development coordinator for Kosair Charities, said she appreciated having a forum to tell more people about that group's involvement in children's health care.

Debra Miller, deputy director for Kentucky Youth Advocates, said she hoped more people learned how to be lobbyists for children in their hometowns.

Originally scheduled for the grounds of the state Capitol, rain forced the event to be held at the Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center. Children didn't appear to let the rain dampen their enthusiasm.

David Newell, who plays Mr. McFeely on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, signed autographs and spoke during the formal program.

Newell said the show tries to encourage people to consider children and children's feelings on a daily basis. "If you'd just do that every day of our lives, the world would be a much better place."

Peggy Hicks, president of Kentucky WMU, said that was the whole idea behind Kentucky for Kids Day. "We're hoping that the children have a wonderful time, but our real reason is to help people realize they can become advocates for children."



KENTUCKY FOR KIDS DAY ■ Top: Children play during the May 31 event, which encouraged more involvement in children's issues. ■ Above left: Lisa Martin, of South Side Baptist Church in Covington, runs under a canopy. ■ Above right: David Newell, who plays Mr. McFeely on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, signs an autograph. ■ Bottom left: A girl holds part of a prayer chain. The chain, which featured prayers for children, was displayed at the close of the event's formal program. ■ Bottom right: Taps, a group of four drummers, bang out a musical beat.



BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Bret Robbe**, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro and a member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive secretary-treasurer search committee, has been called as pastor of Clearview Baptist Church in Franklin, Tenn. Robbe said he will continue to serve on the search committee through the end of June, but will resign from the committee at that time.

■ **Elva Stricker** died May 29 in Louisville at age 68. Her husband, Jesse, is former evangelism director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. This was the second death to strike the family in two months. On Easter Sunday, the Strickers' grandson, Ben Perkins, died suddenly of an asthma attack in Kenya, where the Strickers' daughter and son-in-law are Southern Baptist missionaries. In addition to her husband, Mrs. Stricker is survived by two daughters, Beth Perkins and Pamela Stocking; a son, Barry Stricker; a sister, Goldie Stricker; and seven grandchildren. A memorial service was held June 2 at Woodland Baptist Church in Louisville, with burial in Cave Hill Cemetery.

■ **Georgetown College's** peer exchange network will sponsor a lecture by Earl Goode, president of GTE Information Services and GTE Directories, June 10 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Griffin Gate Resort in Lexington. Tickets cost \$25 and are available from Georgetown College, (502) 863-8527

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Who's qualified?

I read Charles Driggers' letter (May 20, page 4) upholding the view that divorce disqualifies a man from the pastorate. He correctly quoted 1 Timothy 3:2, 4-5, and used this Scripture to defend the view that I have heard all of my life—that divorce, experienced at any time and for any reason during a man's life, makes that man unfit to be a pastor.

Years ago, I began to question this vigorously defended, traditional view by looking at it this way. If a man were to truly conform to the literal requirements of 1 Timothy 3:2, 4-5, then, to be a pastor, he must only be a married man with children living at home. He cannot be "the husband of one wife" if he has no wife, and he cannot "keep his children under control" if he has no children living at home. Taken literally, it appears not only that those called to be pastors need to avoid divorce, but also that never-marrieds, widowers, the childless and empty-nesters need not apply.

*Benny Bivins
Williamstown*

Biblical equality

Several months ago, the Western Recorder published a cartoon depicting two women in a church. The caption read something like this: "They don't just shoot the wounded, they torture us first." Sadly, this is much too accurate to be humorous.

Connie Pruitt's letter (May 20, page 4) is to be commended for her declaration of being a feminist. Fem-

inism is nothing of which to be ashamed. Since Pruitt denounced both abortion and same-sex marriage, I would guess she is an "evangelical" feminist, one who looks to the Bible as the source of authority. Evangelical feminism focuses on the gospel, not upon who holds the most power in society.

Jesus Christ's life indicated that he, too, was such a feminist. He had women followers, he taught women, he made a woman the first witness of his resurrection, and there are many more examples if we care to give them attention.

If you are interested in knowing more about evangelical feminism and equality of all believers, you will find an abundance of information available from Christians for Biblical Equality (122 West Franklin Ave., Suite 218, Minneapolis, Minn.

55405-2451). This group is made up of Christian men and women from various evangelical denominations who work to understand and teach the unbiased truth of equality in the Bible.

If you have been tortured by years of confusing biblical interpretation regarding your worth or your ability to serve God because of gender, color, age or some other feature you have no control over, you deserve the joy and healing that the truth can provide.

*Sue Mattingly
Louisville*

Concern overstated

The editorial "Israel should value religious liberty" (April 22, page 5) was disturbing. You overstated the

issue. Not that religious liberty is a trivial matter, but this was a misreading of the issue.

After living 27 years in Israel I can assure you this has been an ongoing discussion for many years. Laws are on the books discouraging missionary activities but have not been implemented. You are not alone in your overreaction. An article in the London Times titled "Proposed Israeli Act 'Will Outlaw New Testament'" seems to reflect your opinion.

Will people distributing, possessing or studying the New Testament be put in jail? I doubt it.

Why this law?

Recently a tract or booklet titled "Peace" with an aggressive message aimed at proselytizing and converting Israelis was widely distributed to a large number of Israeli households. This was the main stated excuse. However, the Southern Baptist Convention resolution of 1996 targeting Jews for conversion contributed to this climate.

Both these events are considered serious threats to the ultimate survival of Judaism and Jews. It is safe to say these suggestions of a "crusade" targeting Jews for conversion is what the Jews fear most. "Targeting" and "crusades" are words abhorrent to Jews. Neither Jews, nor Muslims for that matter, have forgotten crusades of previous centuries and the subsequent inquisitions and forced conversions.

We would be wise to "cool it." Discussion and understanding, not confrontation or sensational comments (either from the Western Recorder or London Times) with threats of foreign political pressure, should be the order of the day.

*Milton Murphy
Williamsburg*

percent of annual revenues. Giving away 5 percent is considered generous. The vast majority of staff time is devoted to serving members.

Many congregations say they serve the world by making their space available to outsiders, but do they?

From time to time, congregations mount mission projects, but in my experience they rarely engage much energy beyond a committed few.

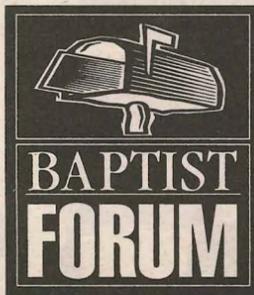
Church leaders say they serve by equipping members to be servants in the world. But is that what happens?

In my experience, church gatherings focus on the joys and duties of membership, and worship is driven by the tastes and expectations of members. The focus of conversion is getting oneself right with God. "Lay ministry" is taken to mean in-house duties, not dissimilar from serving on the greens committee.

Congregations are trapped in institutional habits that leave them behaving like clubs: members come to get personal needs met, they are protective of membership privileges and they screen out undesirables.

Some people sense the trap and are restless in it. As I talk with people who are searching for a faith community, I hear impatience with the club mentality, and I hear a strong desire to give life away in mission. (RNS)

Tom Ehrlich is an Episcopal priest in Winston-Salem, N.C., an author and former Wall Street Journal reporter.



AGING

'A non-anxious presence'

By John Lepper

Anxiety and stress characterize the lives of many people. Families are stressed as never before.

While many older people lead active lives, most are not driven to achieve and move through life so quickly.

In his book "Generation to Generation," Edwin Friedman suggests one role of a leader is to be a "non-anxious

presence." Older people can provide this kind of easy leadership and, in so doing, lower the level of anxiety in their immediate and extended families.

Comparing electrical step-down transformers to the idea of a non-anxious presence provides an instructive example. The power line in front of my house carries voltage too high for household use. The transformer steps down the voltage, making the power appropriate for the lights and appliances in my house. In the same way, the non-anxious presence of older people "steps down" the emotional energy in the nuclear and extended family.

Here are seven ways you can practice becoming a non-anxious presence:

■ **Talk to God.** Prayer unleashes power to create changes in our world and in ourselves.

■ **Talk to a trusted friend.** Sharing feelings with others can bring calm.

■ **Focus on the big picture.** We are sometimes so close to a family issue that we are unable to see the larger issues.

■ **Look at your situation as an opportunity, not a hazard.** Consider the opportunity you have to provide a positive witness.

■ **Speak to others with respect and courtesy.** Doing so provides a positive role model.

■ **Be clear about your own identity.** Many people are so hurried that they have little time for personal reflection.

■ **Identify the triggers for your feelings of anxiety.** Negative childhood experiences can last a lifetime. Identifying and dealing with those things that trigger our anxieties can be a first step toward becoming less anxious.

Older people can provide friends, families and their churches with sure and steady hands in these frantic times.

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

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

When members and mission collide

By Tom Ehrlich

When First Christian Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., announced the closing of its preschool, my first reaction was, "That's a strange decision."

Kind of like McDonald's dropping the Big Mac, I thought. The school is 35 years old, one of the first in the nation to be accredited. It has a strong reputation, loyal teachers and full classes. It provides great visibility to help a church reach young families.

Then I read the materials church leaders sent home to parents. That's when a larger lens came into focus for me.

Behind the soothing words, the core truth was: Church members wanted their space back. They were tired of sharing their classrooms with children who use the rooms hard on weekdays and don't belong to First Christian. The needs of members come first.

On one hand, this makes sense. What organization doesn't feel guided by the needs of its members? But on the other hand—well, what is the other hand?

I suddenly heard with new clarity the wrangling I've experienced in churches: leaders bemoaning the "wear and tear" outside groups put on church facilities and the scheduling conflicts that arise; church councils

imposing stringent building-use policies on users like 12-step recovery groups; finances committing recovery outreach spending until last in budget planning.

I know the other side of the story too. Some faith communities do a lot. Their lights are always on, their paint chipped, their budgets tight, their hallways lined with appeals for worthy causes, their members too busy serving others to complain about last Sunday's hymn selections.

But on the whole, religious congregations do surprisingly little for the world outside their doors. For some reason, that brought the issue of tax-exempt status to mind.

Before granting tax-exempt status to a public charity, the Internal Revenue Service insists the venture demonstrate its focus is on the public, not on its own constituents. Foundations, for example, must give away at least 85 percent of their revenues. A charity must show it serves others in a way that isn't self-serving.

Religious organizations, of course, have been grandfathered into tax-exempt status. But if the average congregation were to apply now for recognition as a charitable venture, it probably would be denied.

In the typical church budget, fixed expenses such as salaries, benefits and building maintenance require up to 80

COMMENTARY

HE SAID/SHE SAID

'Even a child is known by his actions'—and parents too

SHESAI



Alison Wingfield

Children learn how to cover for themselves at an early age. And it's amazing how remorseful they can be—after they've been caught in the act.

We had several episodes last week. With grandparents visiting, the boys used their wives to try and get away with as much as possible.

One day they turned on the hose in the carport and soaked everything in sight, including themselves. My mother-in-law was watching them from

the window. By the time she reached them, the damage had been done.

They knew immediately that they were in the wrong. They hung their heads, stripped their shoes off and ran inside to change clothes. When Grandma Charlotte asked them, "What is your Daddy going to say?", they quickly replied, "We'll tell him Mommy did it."

Luke got caught in his own game later in the week.

Their Sunday Bible verse was "Children, obey your parents." During Sunday lunch, they already were doing their best to forget this maxim when their grandmother asked them to tell us the verse they had learned. They repeatedly said they didn't remember it. Garrett eventually whispered it in her ear, but Luke was adamant that he didn't know it.

Later in the meal, he started being silly and said the verse was "Pets, obey your parents." But he wouldn't ever say the verse correctly, because he didn't want to have to live by it.

Then we played the boys' latest game, "Raise your hand if ..." After several rounds of things like "Raise your hand if you're wearing the color blue," the boys' crafty grandmother said, "Raise your hand if you know the Bible verse from Sunday school."

We all raised our hands, including Luke.

His expression was priceless. He looked like a deer caught in the headlights of a car. He knew the game was up. And then his face just crumpled and he started crying and crawled into my lap.

It was just a game. Whether Luke was upset because he had been caught or because he hadn't been obeying his parents, we're not sure. But for whatever reason, he needed to find the grace that was waiting for him.

Don't we all?

HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

There really ought to be a verse right after "Children, obey your parents" that says "Parents, be patient with your children when they fail to obey."

I thought of this the other day as I was impatiently praying for patience (God, give me patience with this child, and please give it right now!).

The best parenting advice I've ever heard is to always remember who's the child and who's the parent and act accordingly. It's great advice, but hard

to follow. Too often I suddenly realize I'm the one acting childish or I'm the one who's forgotten to live out the simplest Bible verse.

After all, parents can be as quick to pass the blame as kids. After a day packed with 5 gazillion crises of every sort, it's often hard to keep things in perspective. That's why I'm sometimes startled to hear myself barking corrective orders at the top of my lungs over relatively minor infractions.

The amazing thing is how young children remind us not only of the need for grace but of how to give it. At the end of the day, regardless of how little he's obeyed or how little patience I've demonstrated, Luke still gives me a big kiss and whispers in my ear, "I love you, Daddy."

That's grace indeed.

Baptists should do business in the open

In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Freedom of Information Act, a sweeping piece of legislation that removed unnecessary secrecy from the workings of the federal government.

Since then, every state in the nation has adopted some form of "sunshine" law, requiring official bodies to conduct their work in the light of open meetings except under certain sensitive circumstances.

Along with the federal government, all 50 states have recognized the vital relationship between freedom and free access to information.

For example, Kentucky's open meetings law allows government meetings to be held behind closed doors only when they involve a parole board, collective bargaining, certain real estate transactions, certain employee matters and pending litigation involving a public agency. Entire meetings may not be closed just because such items are on the agenda; they may be closed only during the time these specific items are discussed.

Like federal and state governments in the United States, Baptists have adopted a democratic form of government. Baptists have a long and cherished history of defending freedom both internally and externally.

By voluntarily cooperating for the sake of ministry and mission, Baptists have valued a free flow of information so that those who send the money may know how it is used. The trust and accountability necessary for this congregational form of church government requires access to uncensored information.

Given this history and the integrity the Christian faith demands, one would assume Baptists ought to hold to a higher standard of open meetings than government.

But Southern Baptists have no "sunshine" laws regulating their denominational bodies. That's why it has been relatively easy for the implementation task force which has done most of the work to create the new North American Mission Board to conduct two years of meetings behind closed doors.

This 10-member task force—which has held in its hands the fates of 500 denominational employees and

5,000 home missionaries—has not held a single meeting in open session. With an unprecedented arrogance toward the people in the pew who pay the way, this task force has reshaped how Southern Baptists will do missions at home in the future.

And out of this process the chairman of this 10-member task force, the person who has led the charge toward silence, has become the nominee for the presidency of the new agency—a position that could pay up to \$210,000 per year, according to a pay scale worked out in one of those many closed meetings.

Bob Reccord's nomination as NAMB president may have been handled with the utmost integrity; the new agency's high-flying pay scale may have been set after he stepped down as chairman of the task force. But the average Southern Baptist who pays the way never will know, because it all was handled in secret.

The process of selecting more than 150 denominational employees to lose their jobs in the NAMB merger may have been handled with the utmost fairness, completely free of political patronage. But the average Southern Baptist who pays the way never will know, because it all was handled in secret.

What Southern Baptists have received for the half-million dollars paid to a secular consulting firm related to restructuring may be a great bargain. But the average Southern Baptist who pays the way never will know, because it all was handled in secret.

The implementation task force has set a dangerous new precedent for conducting Baptist business in secret for no good reason. Trustees of the newly created mission board must demonstrate courage to ensure this precedent is not continued.

What would be even better is for Southern Baptists to adopt a meaningful "sunshine" law of our own, and at least catch up with the ethical standards of secular government. As freedom-loving people, Baptists have no place for business conducted behind closed doors.

— Mark Wingfield

When the bus comes by ...

By Carey Newman

The wrinkled brow told the story. My friend had been under severe pressure from his Sunday school teacher to embrace the teachings of the 16th century reformer John Calvin.

"Thus far I have kept him at bay by arguing that Calvinism and evangelism are contradictory. You know, why should we try and convert someone whose fate has already been determined by God? I've also pointed out that there are plenty of passages in the Bible which talk about our freedom to accept or reject salvation. He, however, keeps harping on 'election' and 'predestination,' and I'm not sure I understand these words at all."

In the Bible the verb "elect" and the noun "election" mean "to choose" and "(what is) chosen" respectively. "To predestine" means "to determine ahead of time" (without any specific reference to the time of determination). While "elect" and "election" are used throughout the Bible (most often to refer to God's choice of Israel as his people), "to predestine" occurs only six times.

At no time and in no place does the Bible support what is known as

"double election" or "double predestination"—that is, that God, before all time, chose some for salvation and others for damnation. That God promises severe judgment for the whole world and that he acts decisively at certain junctures should never be confused with his determining before the world began who would be saved and who wouldn't (that teaching sounds far more like deism, a heresy, than it does the Bible).

Nor does the Bible use "election" and "predestine" to endorse universalism—the teaching that all people, no matter their faith, are chosen and thus will be saved.

What the Bible does say is that it is God who does the electing and predestining. Moreover, the Bible says God elects and predestines "us," that is "believers." (Although a good case can be made that God elects and predestines a group—Israel in the Old Testament, the church in the New Testament—and not individuals.)

But God's activity of electing and predestining occurs only in and through Christ. There is no election or predestination outside of Christ. Three enormous implications grow out of election and predestination

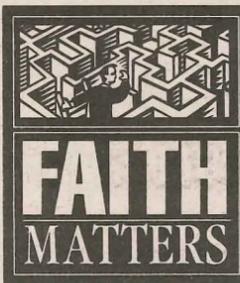
"in Christ":

■ Election and predestination are historical events, specifically the cross and resurrection, and not some decision made by God before the world began. Some wrongly use the word "election" to speculate about the pre-creational purposes of God when in fact election and predestination are inextricably tied to Calvary and Easter.

■ Because election occurs in and through the cross and resurrection, what is predestined is the believer's future. God predestines from the cross and resurrection of Jesus to the future and not from pre-historical time to our conversion.

■ Driving all the New Testament's statements about "our" election is the fact that Jesus is God's Elect One. It is the destiny of Jesus which seems to have been in God's hands from pre-existence and creation to the second coming and the Kingdom of God. We are elect because he is elect. Thus, when the bus of God's electing purposes comes by, get on the bus—its destination becomes our destination, and its past becomes our past.

I told my friend to sleep well and enjoy the ride. *Election and predestination are just two of the many ways—parallel to justification and reconciliation—in which the Bible describes how our incorporation into Jesus, through conversion, secures our final and complete salvation.*



BAPTISTS

Texas Executive Board rebukes seminary on nomination

DALLAS (ABP)—The Executive Board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas has rebuked Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for recently rejecting a teaching candidate, apparently over his view that churches should be free to ordain or call a woman as pastor.

A board resolution accuses the school in Fort Worth of "hiring practices that violate historic Baptist principles" regarding the autonomy of local congregations.

The 2.5 million-member Baptist state convention's chief governing board approved the statement by a show-of-hands vote during its spring meeting May 20.

The resolution came in response to a decision by seminary administrators to abort efforts to hire doctoral candidate Steven Harmon as a theology instructor.

Southwestern administrators

backed away from nominating Harmon to the vacant post during a seminary trustee meeting in March. Harmon's nomination ran into trouble after two interviews with trustees and a closed-door discussion in the academic-affairs committee.

Neither President Ken Hemphill nor School of Theology Dean Tommy Lea would say what led them to pull Harmon's nomination. It previously had their endorsement, as well as the unanimous approval of a faculty committee.

But Harmon, pastor of Round Grove Baptist Church in Dublin, Texas, said he was questioned closely by both trustee teams about his position on women in ministry.

Harmon told trustees he believes the issue—including whether to ordain a woman or to call a woman as senior pastor—should be decided by individual congregations, he said.

Trustee responses indicated they felt Harmon's answer raised doubts about his earlier affirmation that he believes in the inerrancy of the Bible, Harmon reported. Lea told him trustees felt his beliefs about Scripture were "not in conformity with the statement on 'Baptist Faith and Message'" adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963, he added.

In the statement adopted by the executive board, however, Texas Baptist leaders accused the seminary trustees of violating another section of the "Baptist Faith and Message," a statement on local-church autonomy.

The resolution notes the "Baptist Faith and Message" statement—which Southwestern trustees have adopted "as a guideline for their hiring practices"—claims the church "is an autonomous body, operating through democratic processes under the lordship of Christ."

Harmon's faculty nomination was withdrawn "because he affirmed the historic Baptist principle of local-church autonomy in relation to women in ministry," the resolution states.

"We ... wish to formally record our disapproval of institutional hiring practices that violate historic Baptist principles," the resolution says. It also reminds Southwestern trustees "of their spiritual obligation to honor the democratic processes under which autonomous local churches discern the lordship of Christ."

Southwestern administrators said the resolution was based upon "some misinformation."

"There never was a vote of trustees or of a trustee committee in this matter," the seminary said in a statement released by its public relations office. "The administration did what it felt best, both for the seminary and for Mr. Harmon."

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Patterson on women.** Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., says he was misquoted in a recent article in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Speaking on women, Patterson was quoted as saying, "Every man ought to own one." That is only true, Patterson said later, "in the sense of mutual possession of wives and husbands." Patterson said the Journal-Constitution reporter misrepresented his "tongue-in-cheek" humor used to reflect "the absurd view" often attributed to him by his detractors.

■ **CLC has home page.** The Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, which will change its name in June to Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, has launched a home page on the Internet. The address is <http://www.erc.com>.

■ **Tupper to Wake Forest.** Frank Tupper, a theology professor who was removed from classroom teaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary last year in a conflict with President Al Mohler, has been named visiting professor of religion at Wake Forest University.

■ **Mitchell to be nominated.** Retired Florida pastor and church planter J.C. Mitchell will be nominated for second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, which meets June 17-19 in Dallas. He will be nominated by Steve Cloud of Columbia, S.C., according to a news release. Mitchell was pastor of First Baptist Church in Winter Park, Fla., for 20 years before becoming executive director of the Pembroke Foundation, a church-planting ministry based in Florida. He has since retired from that position and has residences in Winter Park and in Black Mountain, N.C.

■ **Agreement reached on Baylor hospital.** Baylor University regents voted May 8 to free Baylor Health Care System to be governed by its own all-Baptist board of

trustees and urged that at least one-fourth of them be elected by the Baptist General Convention of Texas or the university regents.

■ **Crews' daughter dies.** Rhonda Bolei, the 37-year-old daughter of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary President Bill Crews, died May 22 after taking an overdose of prescription drugs. "This is an extremely difficult time for our family and we appreciate and treasure so very much the relationship we have with our family here at Golden Gate Seminary," Crews said. "We will appreciate your continued prayers." Bolei is survived by her husband, Chris.

■ **Cogdill to Midwestern.** Jim Cogdill Jr. has been named vice president for academic affairs at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. A graduate of the University of Louisville and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he most recently has been pastor of Wake Cross Roads Baptist Church in Raleigh, N.C.

■ **Funds escrowed.** North Carolina Baptists have escrowed their \$1 million annual allocation to Meredith College in response to a decision by the school's trustees to elect their own successors. Meredith, chartered in 1891, is the largest women's college in the Southeast. Officials said the change to exclude the Baptist Convention of North Carolina from appointing trustees was intended to protect the school from a struggle between moderates and conservatives for control of the state convention.

■ **Stetson goes interfaith.** Stetson University, which severed its ties with the Florida Baptist Convention in 1993, has broadened its historic Baptist affiliation to become an interfaith campus. The DeLand, Fla. school's trustee religious-life council, formerly exclusively Baptist, voted this spring to open its membership to the Jewish Federation of Florida, Cooperative

Baptist Fellowship, Catholic Diocese of Orlando and Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida.

■ **University president fired.** Michael Magnoli has been relieved of duties as president of the University of Mobile by trustees struggling to resolve the school's deepening financial woes. He had been president of the Baptist-affiliated school in Mobile, Ala., since 1984. The school faces numerous financial challenges, including a projected \$2.2 million cash shortfall this year, on top of long-term debts totaling \$8.5 million.

■ **Tuck honored.** Bill Tuck, former pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville and former preaching professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has received the 1997 Parish Pastor of the Year Award from the Academy of Parish Clergy. Tuck, currently pastor of First Baptist Church of Lumberton, N.C., was recognized for "excellence, faithfulness and competence in the practice of ministry."

■ **Union seeks missionaries.** Union University in Jackson, Tenn., is updating its alumni records and seeks information on anyone who attended or graduated from the school who currently is a missionary or has been a missionary. Call (800) 338-6644.

■ **International leader named.** Carey Bates, a former missionary to Portugal, has been named to lead international outreach ministries for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Bates will continue to develop a relatively new program reaching out to internationals temporarily living in the United States. He succeeds Bill Wakefield, who is retiring.

■ **Sandlin to Southern Living.** Mark Sandlin, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's photography department, will join the photography staff of Southern Living magazine July 1.

■ **Seaborn to be nominated.** Miles Seaborn, a prominent conservative Baptist in Texas, will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention during the upcoming June 17-19 annual meeting in Dallas. Seaborn's nomination was announced by Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas. Seaborn, 67, has been pastor of Birchman Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, since 1968 and is president of the statewide conservative organization Southern Baptists of Texas.

■ **BWA gives to Bangladesh relief.** Baptist World Aid, the relief and development arm of the Baptist World Alliance, has allocated \$10,000 as an initial response for relief and rehabilitation work following the May 19 cyclone that devastated parts of Bangladesh. Donations for BWAid "Bangladesh Relief" may be forwarded to BWA's offices at 6733 Curran St., McLean, Va. 22101.

■ **Rainbow honored.** Jon Rainbow, associate professor of Christian education and leadership, received this year's Findley and Louvenia Edge Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ **BWA and Orthodox may talk.** Leaders of the Baptist World Alliance and representatives of the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate have agreed to recommend full conversations at the international level between Baptists and the Orthodox Church. For this to happen, all 15 autonomous Orthodox churches will have to agree.

■ **Moratorium called.** The Louisiana Baptist Convention's Executive Board has asked for a moratorium on infighting which has divided the state convention. Executive Board Chairman John Alley outlined a plea to allow a new state convention executive director and a new president of the state Baptist college "time to do their jobs" apart from strife between moderates and conservatives.



Oneida Baptist Institute

Barkley Moore Offering 1997

Education for time and eternity

Meet some of the class of 1997

Someone you know needs Oneida Baptist Institute

OUR HERITAGE

Oneida Baptist Institute was founded in 1899 by James Anderson Burns. He helped bring an end to the mountain feuds by bringing education to the children.

WHAT IS ONEIDA?

Oneida Baptist Institute is a Christian boarding school for grades 6-12.

We provide a climate conducive to development of respect for authority, honesty, high moral standards, well-rounded personality, responsible behavior, an appreciation of the value of an education and the attainment of intellectual potential.

FOUR-FOLD MINISTRY

Academics

Some 60 percent of our graduates go on to higher education.

Worship

We have daily chapel as well as Baptist Student Union and campus ministry activities.

Work Program

Every student has a job. Students work one hour and a half each day.

Co-curricular

We offer a variety of sports as well as academic clubs and many fine arts activities.

Tewodros and Rahel, brother and sister, came to the United States together from Ethiopia in 1993. Tewodros ("Teddy") recalled that the political situation was not good, and their father wanted them out of the country. An aunt who lives in Atlanta put them in contact with OBI. They knew they would miss their family, but "it was the only choice," Teddy said. "Dad wanted us to go somewhere peaceful ... He's happy for us."

When Rahel came to Oneida she could not speak English. She was placed in a dorm room with American students, who helped her learn the language. Rahel spent time with other Ethiopian students who translated the rules and other important information for her. She found the faculty to be very helpful. On her first day, some of her teachers read her schedule to her and walked her to her classes. Rahel also felt God helped her to learn English in a short period of time.

Tewodros recalled his own problems adjusting to Oneida. At first, he did not understand that jobs were required of everyone. "I was so confused," Teddy said, remembering the first time he was assigned hours to work off because he had missed work one afternoon. He was disappointed about having to work, because at home he had servants.

Teddy soon came to enjoy having a job. As an aide in the boys' dorm office, he enjoyed spending time with the deans and felt good about the responsibilities and privileges he was given. He said since coming to Oneida he learned many responsibilities, like washing his own clothes,

making his own bed and taking care of his own things.

Teddy said he, too, had Ethiopian friends who helped him and told him

knew he really died for me."

Teddy accepted Christ soon after his sister. He explained that the accepted religion in Ethiopia is Ortho-



TEWODROS AND RACHEL

"This is a good place to see God"

what to do.

After three or four weeks, he felt "settled in." Teddy enjoyed learning to get along with people and learning the English language.

Teddy recalled he was overweight when he came to Oneida. He tried sports at first. Coaches made him run, and he said he could not do it. His friends kept encouraging him, so the next year Teddy tried soccer. He stayed, and then joined wrestling. After wrestling season, "I was so skinny. I couldn't believe it myself," Teddy remembered.

Tewodros and Rahel are both dedicated Christians. Rahel accepted Christ at the age of 10. She said when she first read the Bible, "I had joy instilled in my heart and accepted Jesus in my heart. That's when I

dox Christianity. An aunt came to live with them after being exiled from her mother's house because of her Pentecostal beliefs. Teddy recalled his aunt told them about Jesus and showed them her Bible, something they had never seen before. Teddy began reading about God and could see God's blessings in his aunt's life.

He realized in reading the Word that "God wants us to see Jesus." After accepting Christ, Teddy said "I died. He lives in me, so there is no more me. Jesus lives in me. That's all."

At Oneida, Teddy met Christian friends. He enjoyed Bible study and fellowship with other believers, and OBI's daily chapel services. He shared a desire to see more students "praising the Lord with their hearts

and minds." Teddy explained, "Our Lord said first love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, then love all the people around you. We brought nothing when we came to this earth. He gave us everything. We owe him our praise. God looks at your heart. If your heart and mind are not with God, God sees."

Teddy and Rahel are also both talented artists and were voted Most Artistic by the senior class. They are very close in many ways, and Teddy said it was hard at first to be separated from his sister in the dorms.

Rahel agreed, saying they have tried to take the same classes whenever possible. Rahel and Teddy both earned many academic awards. They also held high class ranking, with Rahel being fourth in the senior class and Teddy being the salutatorian. Rahel was named Most Improved Freshman Girl and has lettered in volleyball, softball and basketball. This year she was voted Miss Oneida and Most Studious.

Rahel was the recipient of the 1997 John Michael Davis Citizenship Award, the second highest OBI graduation honor. Teddy received the highest grade point average award in soccer, lettered in wrestling and soccer, earned an Outstanding Worker award and many art awards.

Rahel said she was happy to be graduating, but it was hard to believe she would not be back at Oneida next fall. Both Rahel and Teddy have applied to several colleges, including Western Kentucky University and Oral Roberts University.

Teddy said of Oneida, "This is a good place to see God. Don't let him pass by you."

"I didn't have anywhere else to go"

Sahara came to Oneida from Elizabethtown in August 1994. A sophomore at the time, she remembered, "I didn't have anywhere else to go." With low grades she attributed to a lack of concentration, Sahara said she "only went to school for friends or did not go at all."

Sahara's parents divorced when she was 7. She lived with her grandparents until she was 10, then stayed with her mother or her aunt. In 1994, Sahara was reintroduced to her father. She knew if she continued doing poorly in school, she would place her chances for college in jeopardy.

Her new and special relationship with her father inspired Sahara to make a change. She followed a friend's suggestion to give Oneida a try.

Sahara was worried about the money it would take to attend a private school. She was "really grateful" for the scholarship money that allowed her to attend OBI. "I don't know how it all worked out," she

said. "It was just God taking care of me."

After a year at Oneida, tragedy struck in Sahara's life. Her father died in the summer of 1995. Sahara returned to OBI in the fall, and "I got real busy to deal with it." She found Oneida to be a place for people who need help.

Sahara accepted Christ in the fall revival of that year. She had considered herself to be an agnostic prior to her conversion experience. At Oneida, Sahara encountered faculty members who talked with her about God. She became involved in Baptist Student Union and soon became a small group leader.

Sahara was very active at Oneida, and earned a number of awards. Some of her accomplishments included: Most Improved award and Highest Grade Point Average in track, High Expectations award for swimming, Composition award and Coach's award in Beta Club. She was named Most Versatile in Beta Club

and was voted Most Improved Senior Girl by the faculty. Sahara had the leading role in two plays and was voted Most Outstanding Junior Girl by the faculty. The senior class voted her Ideal Personality and Most Dra-

matic.

Sahara's lifelong goal is to be an obstetrician in a rural area or on the mission field. She plans to attend Boston University to achieve this goal.



SAHARA

She developed her academic and dramatic talents

Oneida Baptist Institute

"The education here is really good"

Courtney came to Oneida during the summer of 1993. She said she and her mother had been "fighting consistently for three years."

She attributed some of their problems to her mother's illness at the time. Courtney said in retrospect, "I didn't know how to handle it." When Courtney failed the eighth grade, it was time for a change. Her sister had graduated from OBI in 1988, so her family once again looked to Oneida.

Courtney stayed at OBI all four of her high school years. Getting some distance from each other helped her mother and Courtney understand each other. "She realized I'm going to grow up," Courtney explained. "I realized she is my mom, and she's the only one I'm going to have, so there has to be a relationship."

Once at Oneida, Courtney chose to stay because her friends "are like my life." She also felt "the education here is really good." Courtney graduated 10th in her class and "probably wouldn't have graduated if I'd stayed at home." She recalled how her freshman science teacher positively influenced her by "making me believe I could actually do something" when she had thought she would fail his class.

Courtney exercised her talents in the arts while at OBI. She played in the concert band and pep band all four years. She also participated in marching band, jazz band, choir, drama and piano. She was named Most Valuable Player in band as a junior and participated as a senior in the Eastern Kentucky University Honor Band.

Academically, Courtney earned Outstanding Scholar awards in three classes and was a member of Beta Club.

Courtney is happy to be returning home after graduation. She said her mother is now like her "best friend," and she is "better off for attending a private school."

Courtney plans on attending Monroe Community College in her hometown of Rochester, N.Y., then transferring to the University of Rochester.



COURTNEY
She learned to believe in herself

Ways you can help Oneida

◆ **Prayer.** We believe in prayer. Please pray for our faculty, staff and students; for God's will to be done on our campus.

◆ **Refer Students.** Many students come to Oneida because someone else has told them about our school. A young person you know may need what we have to offer.

◆ **Tell others.** Some people have never heard of the Oneida school. You can help spread the word. Better yet, come for a visit and bring someone with you.

◆ **Volunteer.** Do you like to help "hands-on?" Could you serve for days, weeks or a year? Prayerfully consider coming to Oneida as a volunteer.

"Things totally changed after I came here"

Euan was born in Scotland and lived there until the age of 10. After his parents' divorce, Euan moved with his mother and brother to the United States for a fresh start.

As a teenager in Whitesburg, Euan began getting into trouble. He was rebellious and did not obey his mother, who was working and not able to be home much. Euan recalled, "I was really immature ... I didn't have respect for anyone."

When Euan stole his mother's car, it was the last straw. She pressed charges. Euan later realized that "she had to, in order to wake me up." Euan was relieved to have OBI as an alternative. "Things totally changed after I came here," he said. "I'm realizing what matters and what's important."

Euan said at Oneida he learned to have respect for his friends, which taught him respect for his mother.

Euan improved academically as well. When he came to OBI as a freshman, his grades were failing. He improved to a B average and recalled studying was a hard thing to do, because "I never did that before." He found living in the dorm helped him stay focused on school. His senior year Euan earned an A average and even made straight A's second quarter. "Knowing that I can do it makes

me want to show people that I can, that I'm not just some dummy," Euan said. He felt the faculty at Oneida helped him

"They show you that you are smart, no matter what other people say about you," he explained. Euan earned two Outstanding Student awards his sophomore year. As a junior, he received Outstanding Student awards in all his subjects except one. His senior year, he earned the National Merit Award in English.

Another milestone in Euan's growth was accepting Christ the summer before his junior year. He knew hearing about God every day at Oneida influenced his decision. He began attending Baptist Student Union and started growing as a Christian.

Euan said that at Oneida "I learned a lot more about Jesus and God" He added that it is easier to grow spiritually at OBI, since drugs and alcohol are not permitted.

Euan played soccer and was very active in the Oneida work program. He was on three different cleaning crews and worked as a supervisor for two years. Euan earned Outstanding Supervisor awards both years and an Outstanding Worker award.

Euan plans to work after graduation



EUAN
He learned respect for others

to help his mother pay off some debts. Then he wants to go to college to study business.

"You can't compare me to the person I was"

Patricia came to OBI when her mother joined the teaching staff. Patricia was a sophomore, and wanted to come to Oneida whether her mother took the job or not.

She felt she was not growing as an individual at her previous school, and many of OBI's opportunities appealed to her. One was the cultural diversity of the student body. She enjoyed meeting international students. Patricia also liked the wide variety of sports available.

Patricia felt the advanced placement courses offered at OBI were an

advantage to her scholastically. As the valedictorian of her class, she admitted that many classes came easily for her. However, she noted that her AP courses were very challenging and required a lot of work.

Patricia said Oneida has helped her become "a lot more confident." She described herself as shy and "intimidated by everyone" prior to enrolling at Oneida.

Daily chapel is an important part of Oneida and makes a difference on campus, Patricia said. She found the Christian witness of the school pro-

vided many opportunities for students to be exposed to the message of Christ. In general, Patricia said she liked OBI because "everything together ... makes it such a great place."

She received the William A. Evans Award, Oneida's highest honor, given to the most outstanding senior. Patricia was president of the senior class and was voted Most Likely to Succeed. She was named Most Outstanding Girl of her class her sophomore and junior years. She also won the title of 1996-97 Oneidian Yearbook Queen.

Patricia was vice president of Beta Club. She played basketball, ran cross country and was on the swim team. In track and field, she finished first in the state in long jump her junior year. Patricia also participated in choir and marching band and was the yearbook editor.

Very active in BSU, Patricia was a small group leader. "It was a real learning experience for me," she said. At first fearful of leading in prayer, her Christian friends encouraged her. "I have really grown a lot as a Christian, Patricia said of her experience at OBI. "You can't compare me to the same person I was before ... I feel so secure in who I am in Christ."

She will attend Grace College and Seminary in Indiana, where she will double major in Christian counseling and physical education.



PATRICIA
She gained confidence

Oneida Baptist Institute

"You get to see so many sides of people"

Majic is from Cincinnati and came to OBI in April of her freshman year.

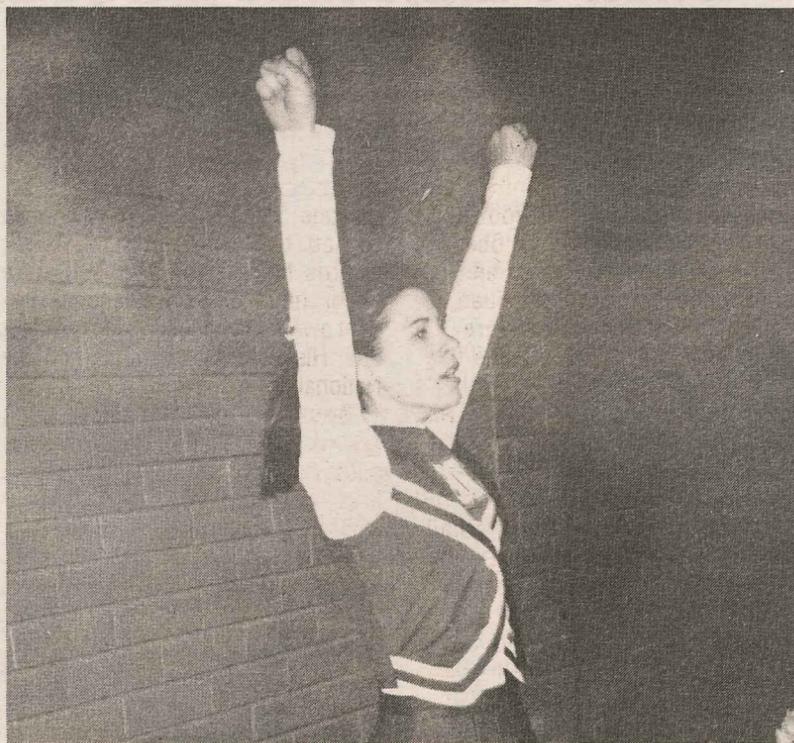
Majic said, "I had to come here." She explained that she and her mother "fought a lot." Majic also frequently lied to her mother about her whereabouts, and on one occasion was even in a different town without her mother's knowledge.

Oneida provided the structure this young lady needed. She got involved in several activities, including soccer, Beta Club and Baptist Student Union. With 10 years of gymnastic training, Majic was also a skilled cheerleader for OBI's basketball team.

Majic is very ambitious academically and worked to graduate in three years. She met all the requirements for an advanced diploma and said she "did not see the point of taking an extra year." Majic has remained on the A or B honor roll each quarter. She also earned some academic awards and a letter in Beta Club.

Before coming to Oneida, Majic said she was "back and forth" between believing in God and not believing in him.

After going with a friend to BSU, she said she began to grow as a Christian. Majic eventually became a BSU small group leader and had the opportunity to pray for many other



MAJIC
She wants to teach

students. Majic reported "seeing many walls come down" at BSU meetings. "You get to see so many different sides of people and get very

close to the other BSU members."

Majic's plans include earning her bachelor's degree so she can become an English teacher.

"I proved to myself I could do it"

David is from Henrico, N.C. He came to Oneida near the end of his 8th grade year. David had started "hanging around the wrong crowd."

He lived near a beach, which provided a great temptation for him to skip school. David's grades were too low for him to be eligible for sports. "I didn't apply myself. I didn't care," he admitted. "School was the last

thing on my mind."

Needing a change, David and his older brother came to OBI together. David made friends quickly, and his grades improved enough to play sports. He played baseball and basketball for four years and participated in soccer and cross country for two years. David earned many sports awards, including being

named to the all-conference tournament team for two years. He also earned an academic award in Algebra I and was named in "Who's Who Among American High School Students." David was also busy his senior year as co-editor of the yearbook.

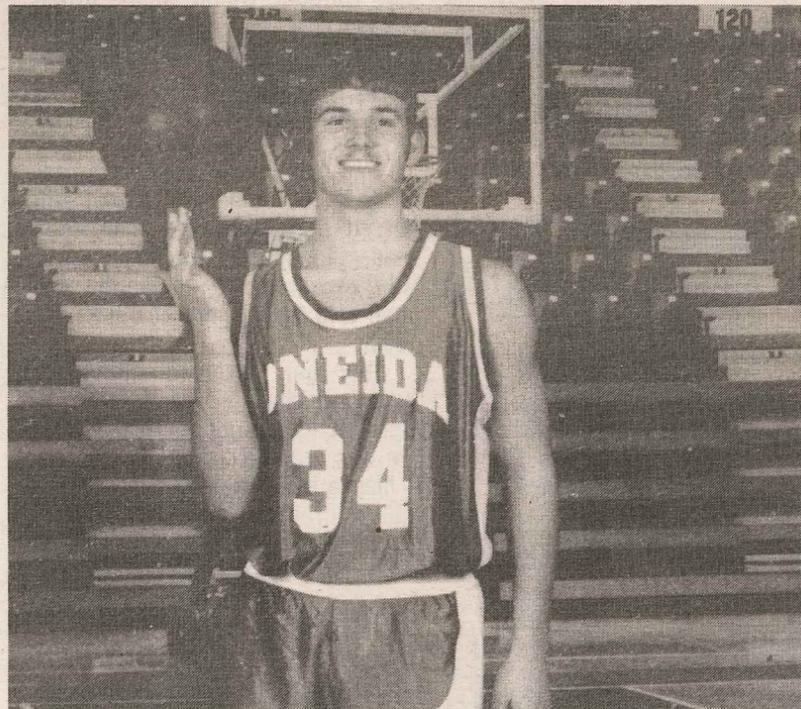
At first, David continued to do "just enough to get by" academically. During his junior year, he realized that his grades were not good enough to get him into college, no matter what his athletic abilities. By the second quarter of that year David made the B honor roll. He later took summer school, where he earned three B's and a C.

"I proved to myself I could do it," he said. David remained on the honor roll his senior year.

David said being at Oneida helped him improve not only his grades but his attitude and maturity. "It has made me a better person all around," he said.

He added that he learned responsibility for his actions. "There's no one looking over your shoulder all the time," he noted. It's ... like college. If you make a good decision, you have it good. If you make a bad decision, you get consequences."

A turning point in David's life was the 1994 spring revival. As he listened to the preacher, "I knew I needed to change for the better ... I knew accepting the Lord ... would help me."



DAVID
He learned responsibility

"Oneida has taught me a lot about life"

FAST FACTS

Stefano came to the U.S. from Brazil in 1991. His mother is originally from Kentucky, and he has grandparents in Louisville. When Stefano turned 14, he had a desire to go to America to finish school. It was "kind of an experiment, to see if I could handle it," Stefano recalled.

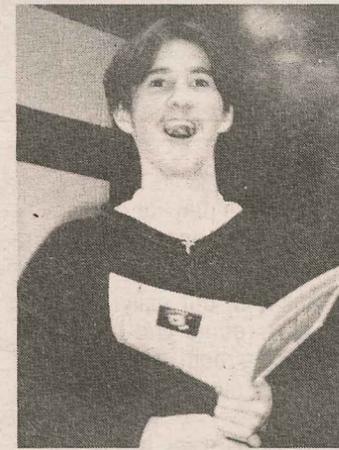
He liked OBI from the start. Stefano's English quickly improved. He remembered nearly getting into trouble his first day at Oneida for not making his bed. He did not completely understand the rules, and a maid had always done the house-keeping in his home. Stefano soon learned to be responsible for his chores.

Stefano maintained B or A averages his entire time at OBI. The faculty awarded Stefano the title of Mr. Oneida for the 1996-97 school year. He also earned many academic awards and was voted Most Athletic and Best Personality by the senior class.

Stefano was involved in soccer, tennis, track, baseball, swimming and wrestling. He earned many awards, including Most Valuable Player, All-Conference Team and Offensive award in soccer. He was chosen Most Valuable Wrestler and went to state competition three times in track.

Stefano was in the school choir and was a BSU small group leader. He was a hall monitor, even though his sports activities fulfilled his work requirement. It was "an extra thing to keep me busy and to help." Stefano said Oneida "has taught me a lot about life." He has learned to balance studying, free time and jobs.

Stefano graduated in the top 10 of his class, and he hopes to play soccer for Union College.



STEFANO
He prepared for life

◆ Oneida Baptist Institute has been educating young people for 98 years.

◆ We take boys and girls in grades 6 through 12.

◆ Our average enrollment is 500.

◆ We have approximately 150 faculty and staff.

◆ We accept students throughout the year.

◆ The Oneida school is fully accredited.

◆ We provide Christian education at an affordable price.

REASONS STUDENTS COME TO ONEIDA

◆ They want a Christian education and Christian influences.

◆ They enjoy the independence boarding school gives in preparation for college.

◆ Some may be struggling academically in public schools.

◆ Some need our Special Help program or our 1:15 teacher/student ratio.

◆ Others may be experiencing social or family problems.

Oneida Baptist Institute

Barkley Moore: His dream lives on

This is the third annual Barkley Moore Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute. We are very honored to have Kentucky Baptists support us with this offering, and we are grateful for the ongoing tribute to Dr. Barkley Moore.



BARKLEY MOORE
OBI president 1972-94

Dr. Moore was devoted to young people, meeting their individual and collective needs. His love lives on as we continue to minister.

A 1958 OBI alumnus, Dr. Moore was the valedictorian of his graduating class. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky and completed one year of law school before coming to Oneida as assis-

tant to the president in 1963.

In 1965 he went to Iran with the Peace Corps. Six years later Moore left the Corps with the distinction of the longest term of service of any Peace Corps volunteer.

Dr. Moore returned to the Oneida school in 1972 as president and served until his death in 1994. He came to Oneida at a very difficult time. Enrollment was down, faculty and staff were minimal and finances were critical. With dogged determination and great faith, Moore went to work. No mountain was too high, no road too long, no burden too heavy for this dedicated servant of God.

All of us who served alongside this wonderful man have had our lives forever changed. We were not only taught by his spoken word, we also saw daily in his life "the living Bible." It is much easier to talk about being a servant than to actually become one. Living the life Jesus told us to live is much easier if we have a mentor like Barkley Moore. We learned that every effort must be made to meet the needs of others, especially young people.

Dr. Moore taught staff and students alike the true meaning of ministry. As he lived his faith, he demonstrated the importance of forgiveness and the value of a second chance. Through eyes of tremendous compassion, Dr. Moore saw the best in every student. He encouraged his fellow laborers to explore the potential of every child.

Dr. Moore once referred to our students as "teenage boys and girls ... immortal souls which we have the opportunity to minister to, to train, to influence for a life of, we pray, Christian living ... We feel the Lord has directed each one to this little place ..."

Will you pray for us? Will you tell others about Oneida? We thank God for the life of Dr. Barkley Moore. I hope you will join us in ministry, that his love may live on.

Dr. W.F. "Bud" Underwood
President, Oneida Baptist Institute

See for yourself

Come and see for yourself what God is doing at Oneida. Campus tours are available.

Worship with students and faculty in our daily chapel services. See our dormitories, classrooms and historic Anderson Hall. Enjoy a meal in our dining room. Walk across the swinging bridge to the farm. View our state-of-the-art swine complex.

Stop by the craft house to shop for bargains before you return home.

Contact us at: P.O. Box 67, Oneida, Kentucky 40972. Phone: (606) 847-4111; Fax: (606) 847-4496. E-mail: obi@kih.net

"I wasn't the most agreeable kid"

Tim arrived at Oneida as a sophomore. Originally from Louisville, Tim's family learned of OBI from their attorney. Tim's reason for coming? "I wasn't the most agreeable kid," he recalled.

He had been living alternately between his divorced parents. Tim described himself as having "a real bad temper" and being "just hard-headed." Tired of switching back and forth between parents, Tim found Oneida to be "like a regular home."

On his first day at Oneida, Tim went to work on the farm. Soon, his interest in and knowledge of agriculture grew. He decided to make farming a career, and he realized he would not be as successful as he wanted unless he went to college. OBI farm manager Ken Martin was Tim's inspiration, stressing the importance of academics in agriculture.

Tim's grades were almost all failing until his junior year. He then realized he needed to improve his grade point average to be accepted into college. By the second quarter of his junior year, Tim had made the honor roll for the first time in his life. Not only has he stayed on the honor roll ever since, but he has earned straight A's. Tim was even voted Most Studious by the senior class. He plans to attend the University of Kentucky and study animal science.

Tim became a Christian while at Oneida and was baptized as a sophomore. He said he had gone to church all his life, but finally realized he



TIM
He plans to study animal science

needed salvation. Tim recognized God blessed him at OBI. "I've never been a student to make good grades,

but now I make the best grades possible," he explained. "I doubt I could have done that myself."

Rex goes from 'slow class' to honor roll

When Rex left OBI halfway through his 6th grade year, Dr. Barkley Moore told him he would be back. Rex did return in the 8th grade from his home in Lawrenceburg, Dr. Moore said, "See, told you you'd be back."

One reason Rex returned to Oneida was the opportunity to play soccer as a middle school student. He did not have that opportunity at

home.

Rex had also been classified in his school as a "slow" student, and had been in special education. He did have low grades, but had always felt he did not belong in special education. After coming to Oneida, Rex says he got the attention he needed and quickly made the B honor roll.

During his sophomore year, Rex became a Christian. He had attended

church before coming to OBI. "I guess everyone assumed I was saved," he said. Rex has grown as a believer at OBI and has been a Baptist Student Union small group leader.

Rex needed the strength he found in his faith when he was faced with the horrible news of his father's death last year. "We had just started getting close," Rex said with sadness in his voice. He prayed and turned to the other BSU small group leaders for support. Rex said the love and acceptance from faculty and staff also helped him deal with the loss.

Rex has received numerous awards, including over 15 letters in sports and four letters in fine arts. He was yearbook photographer and a lifeguard. Rex has been involved in choir, drama, piano, art, soccer, wrestling, track and tennis. He has held jobs on campus as supervisor of a cleaning crew, hall monitor and room monitor. He has also worked after school in the OBI print shop.

Rex plans on attending Georgetown College to major in environmental and conservation science. He would like to become a ranger or law enforcement agent assigned to enforcing conservation laws.



REX
He returned to Oneida

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

NOTES

LET YOUR
heart
BE BROKEN



*Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied
by action, is dead*

James 2:17

**Week of Prayer for State Missions
September 7-14, 1997**

**1997 Eliza Broadus Offering Goal:
\$700,000**

Come Go With Me

to
**Women on Mission
Adults on Mission
Retreats**

Cedarmore

October 3-4, 1997
October 11-12, 1997

Jonathan Creek

October 17-18, 1997
October 18-19, 1997
(new date)

Mark your calendars now for a weekend full of inspiration and celebration! These retreats will feature both general sessions and a variety of conferences. Sessions on age-level organizations are back by popular demand as well as conferences on the new co-ed groups. As always the retreats will offer the opportunity to hear from foreign and home missionaries as well as individuals involved in innovative local ministry projects. The Oct. 11-12 retreat will include a session for the Baptist Nursing Fellowship and the Oct. 18-19 retreat will include a time of worship.

Just for fun, all retreats will feature a talent show where churches can compete against one another for a variety of prizes including: most original talent; funniest talent; most "off the wall" talent; best "serious" talent; and many others. Start planning your "act" now!

More detailed information about the retreats will reach you in the coming months. A registration form is located on page 3-B.

A Personal Word



Kay Trisler
Executive Director
Kentucky WMU

Thanks for caring about missions education and Kentucky's kids

The sun is finally shining on "my old Kentucky home." It has been a long winter, but summer promises new and exciting adventures for Kentucky WMU.

It has been a year and a half since I came to serve with you as executive director. Those months have been filled with change and adapting to change.

During this time, many of the joys I have experienced have come from times I have had the opportunity to visit churches and associations in our state and see first-hand the innovative ways you are doing missions. The

changes in the structure of our organization as well as outstanding new magazines and materials make it possible for everyone in the church and community to be involved in missions.

I am convinced we will be more effective in serving others if we first "study to show ourselves approved." WMU members are among the best missions educators I know.

Soon our entire staff and Executive Board will be dreaming and planning for a new year in WMU. WMU leaders in the local church and association also will be getting ready for a new year. Who knows what the Lord can

do with us as we are yielded completely to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. I'll be praying with you.

◆ **Thank you, thank you.** Words cannot express enough appreciation to all the people who worked so hard to get us ready for "Kentucky For Kids Day."

Very special thanks goes to event coordinator Julie Keith who had the major responsibility for this event. Brenda Price also played a major role in making sure details were worked out for the May 31 event at the Frankfort Civic Center.

Others who made significant contributions were the Kentucky WMU Child Advocacy Task Force, retired Kentucky Baptist Convention Missions Director Bob Jones, Editor Mark Wingfield of the Western Recorder, the entire Kentucky WMU staff, and Kentucky Governor Paul Patton and his wife, Judi.

A special thanks to all the individual participants as well as those who represented organizations and agencies.

Thanks for making a commitment to be advocates for children.

IDEAS THAT WORK

Women on Mission

By Denise Jones

"What can I do to get the younger women involved in Women on Mission?" That's one of the most common questions I hear from Women on Mission facilitators and coordinators.

I hope your church is one of the lucky ones that is blessed with strong participation by all age levels. But if you aren't, take heart—you are not alone.

You can involve the younger women, but it will take time, effort, creativity and prayer.

It's been said before, but can't be emphasized enough—women today are different and it takes a different approach to involve them in WMU. To complicate matters, the approach that works well in one church may not work at all in another. In order to get women to participate, we must discover their unique needs and interests and then match them to the programs we offer. The only way to get this information is to ask.

The process of asking can be as simple as getting information through conversations after church or choir practice or it can be as formal as a questionnaire. You might want to consider the suggestions below. (There's a survey in the *Women on Mission Guide* you might use.)

WMU now offers missions education groups in combination with other interests or needs in addition to the traditional ap-

proach called the "Multifocus Missions Option." Be sure the women know about these options and ask them which one they prefer. Many groups pair their own interests with missions.

Remember to ask questions about when the women want to meet. Ask about meeting frequency, the most convenient day of the week, time of day and the length of time they are willing to devote to a meeting. Find out if they need child care. Ask if they want to meet at church or somewhere else.

Ask all kinds of questions. The more information you have, the better the likelihood your group will thrive and grow. You may not like all the answers you get. However, WMU is a nurturing organization. Start with your women where they are and help them grow. Don't be afraid to try something new.

Opportunities to remember:

◆ Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship Luncheon—July 26, 1997, at First Baptist Church, West Liberty.

◆ Women on Mission Retreats—Oct. 3-4 and Oct. 10-11 at Cedarmore and Oct. 17-18 and Oct. 18-19 (new date) at Jonathan Creek.



Acteens

By Julie Keith

◆ **Acteens Conference.** More than 835 Acteens and advisors attended the 1997 State Acteens Conference at First Baptist Church in Murray April 4-5.

The conference included worship experiences and workshops as well as opportunity for hands-on ministry. Seventy-five Acteens and advisors participated in three local ministry projects. Acteens' groups also donated eight boxes of canned goods and 20 boxes of baby supplies for Murray-area ministries.

The offering collected during the conference totaled \$1,128.74. Half the money was designated for Southern Baptist relief work in Somalia and was given in memory of 16-year-old Benjamin Ray Perkins, the son of Southern Baptist missionaries Ken and Beth Perkins. Benjamin died Easter Sunday while experiencing an asthma attack. The remainder of the offering will be used for expenses for the 1997 Kentucky State Acteens Activator team that will work in New England.

Thanks to First Baptist Church for so graciously hosting the conference and to Vickie Travis who did an excellent job as chairwoman.

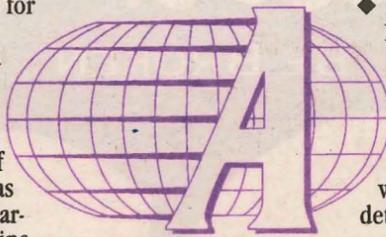
◆ **T-shirts.** Looking for a bright and beautiful T-shirt for your Acteens group? 1997 SAC T-shirts are available in sizes "extra large"

and "extra extra large" and cost just \$6.00 each. The shirts are royal blue with orange and white lettering, and a silver cross. Mail your order to Julie Keith, Kentucky WMU, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, Ky. 40253-6569. Make checks payable to "Kentucky WMU"

◆ **NAC '98.** Don't miss the 1998 National Acteens Convention July 1-4 in Louisville. Watch your mailbox in June for more information. Visit the NAC website at www.nac98.com for more details.

◆ **Congratulations.** 1997-98 Snider-Creal Acteens scholarship recipients: Staci Alder, First Baptist Church in Walton; Jennifer Atherton, Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah; Leigh Ann Carner, Donaldson Baptist Church in Princeton; Theresa Matthews, Repton Missionary Baptist Church in Marion; and Crystal Rose, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Gilbertsville.

◆ **Reminder:** 1997-98 Kentucky Acteens advisory panelists applications deadline is Aug. 15, 1997.



Mission Friends/Girls in Action

By Brenda Price

Mission Friends

◆ **100 years and still growing.** Missions education for boys and girls dates back to 1886 when a Virginia teacher named Anna Louise Elsom prayed God would send someone to help teach her "Sunbeams" about missions. George Braxton Taylor, the son of missionaries, began telling stories to the children in the little church. Months later, as he spoke to children across the South, "Cousin George" gained the endorsement of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. With the FMB's consent, the national Woman's Missionary Union adopted "Sunbeams" in 1896.

The 1996-97 year has been a celebration of missions education for boys and girls, specifically preschoolers. It has been a time to recognize those who care that preschoolers learn about Jesus and his mission.

This year, the national WMU preschool/Mission Friends team has been looking for a teacher who taught nursery and/or beginner Sunbeams and who still teaches Mission Friends to honor with a special "Sunbeams/Mission Friends Teacher Recognition."

Nominations for this recognition have come from several states. The teacher selected has taught for more than 75 years and will be introduced July 1 at Ridgecrest.

Congratulations to Kentuckians Pauline Clements of Bagdad and Norma Turnbow of Louisville who were nominated for the recognition because of their dedication to preschool missions education.

Pauline has served as a Sunbeam/Mission Friends teacher for 35 years. Currently, she is a Mission Friends teacher at Bagdad Baptist Church and Mission Friends consultant for Shelby County Baptist Association. Norma is Mission Friends teacher at Beechmont Baptist Church and is Mission Friends consultant for Long Run Baptist Association.

Thank you, Pauline and Norma, and the many others throughout our state who are committed to missions education for preschoolers. Let's continue to be "100 years and still growing in Mission Friends."

Girls in Action

◆ **WorldVentures.** Starting this fall, there will be a new, more effective way to help GAs move forward in their awareness of their world. It is called "WorldVentures." WorldVentures will replace Missions Adventures as the individual achievement plan in GA. Watch for more information in *Aware* magazine. (NOTE: After May 30, Missions Adventures badges will be available only from WMU, SBC.)

◆ **Kentucky week of prayer.** In September children in your church will want to participate in the week of prayer and offering for state missions. The study and prayer material focus on multihousing ministries in Kentucky. A teaching guide is available from your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office.



WMU Directors

By Anna Mary Byrdwell

Four months remain for you to reach all your goals for this church year. You have many opportunities to make a difference in your church.

◆ Would a parish nursing program benefit your church or community? Encourage nurses in your church to attend the summer Baptist Nursing Fellowship luncheon to learn about it. (See page 4-B.)

◆ Encourage your Women on Mission and GA leaders to conduct the "Christmas Around the World" celebration. Look for plans in the June *Missions Mosaic Executive* magazine. This joint event supports the Christmas in August activity.

◆ Your support, enthusiasm and participation in associational events sets the example for your church.

◆ Do you have a churchwide picnic? Consider the suggestions on page 7 of the July-Aug.-Sept. *Dimension* magazine. Call our office if you need a missionary to invite.

◆ Encourage your leadership team to subscribe or ask your church to provide the *Western Recorder* for them. Through the *Western Recorder*, they will receive weekly information about Kentucky Baptists, as well as the quarterly insert, *Kentucky Notes*.

◆ Two very important items to look for in your mail: (1) In mid-June: An envelope containing a green '97-'98 "WMU Leadership

Team" card. We create our mailing list from this. (2) Last week of July: Your "State Missions Week of Prayer" preparation package. This will include a sample poster, envelope, a copy of the study material, (which also will be in the *Western Recorder* at a later date) and other helps to prepare for this special September emphasis. Your entire leadership team and your church depends on you to share this material with them and to order needed supplies. Don't let them down. (And don't neglect the many missions causes that are dependent on your support.)

◆ Ask for God's guidance as you make plans for the '97-'98 year.

◆ Check now for the dates when your association will conduct WMU leader training conferences. As you enlist leaders, inform them of up-coming training events.

◆ See pages 27-29 in your July-Aug.-Sept. *Dimension* magazine for helps in conduct a WMU training event in your church.

◆ Work prayerfully with your WMU leadership committee to enlist '97-'98 leaders.

◆ Purchase a 1997-98 *WMU Year Book* for yourself and each member of your leadership team.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendar

- June**
 15-16 WMU SBC Annual Meeting—Dallas
 17-19 Southern Baptist Convention—Dallas
 16-20 GA/Acteens Camp—Jonathan Creek
 20-21 Mother/Daughter Overnight—Jonathan Creek
 21-27 Jericho—Ridgecrest
 23-27 GA Camp—Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore
 27-28 Mother/Daughter Overnight—Jonathan Creek
 27-29 Women's Weekender—Ridgecrest
 30-4 WMU Week—Ridgecrest
- July**
 7-11 GA Camp—Cedar Crest and Jonathan Creek
 11-12 Mother/Daughter Overnight—Cedar Crest
 14-18 GA/Acteens Camp—Cedar Crest
 18-19 Mother/Daughter Overnight—Cedar Crest
 21-25 Acteens Camp—Cedar Crest
 25-26 Mother/Daughter Overnight—Cedar Crest
 26 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Luncheon—West Liberty
 26-3 Ky State Acteens Activator Team in New England
 28-1 GA Camp—Cedar Crest
- August**
 1-2 Mother/Daughter Overnight—Cedar Crest
 4-8 GA Camp—Cedar Crest
 10 Language Missions Day—all churches
 15 KY Acteens Advisory Panel application deadline
 22 Project HELP: Child Advocacy report deadline
- September**
 7-14 Week of Prayer for State Missions
 26-27 Language Leadership Conference—Louisville
- October**
 1-4 Tenth Continental Assembly, North American Baptist Women's Union—San Diego
 3-4 Women on Mission Retreat—Cedarmore
 10-11 Women on Mission Retreat—Cedarmore
 17-18 Women on Mission Retreat—Jonathan Creek
 18-19 Women on Mission Retreat—Jonathan Creek (new)
- November**
 3 1997 Baptist Women's Day of Prayer
 12 Missionary Luncheon, KBC—Lexington
 10-12 Kentucky Baptist Convention—Lexington
 16-19 International Missions Study
 30-7 Week of Prayer for International Missions & Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

The Kentucky Minister's Wives Fellowship will meet during the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington on Tuesday, Nov. 11. The dinner meeting, which will begin at 5 p.m., will feature "Hello Lord! It's Me Again." Cost is \$7 if tickets are purchased by Nov. 7; \$8 after Nov. 7. To register, contact Debbie Overton, 12235 Bordeaux Drive, Lexington, KY 40504.



NAC 98 is coming to Louisville!
 July 1-4, 1998, Freedom Hall, Louisville, Kentucky

Women on Mission Retreat Registration

Cedarmore Baptist Assembly
 502/747-8911, P.O. Box 37, Bagdad, Ky. 40003
 October 3-4, 1997
 October 10-11, 1997*

	2/rm.	3/rm.	4/rm.
Boone Lodge	\$40.50	\$39.50	\$37.50
Motels	\$31.00	\$30.00	\$28.00
Dorm	\$33.50 per person		

Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly
 502/354-8355, 3043 Beal Rd., Hardin, Ky. 42048
 October 17-18, 1997
 October 18-19, 1997**

	2/rm.	3/rm.
Gray Motel	\$40.50	\$39.50
Dorm (4-10 bunk beds per rm.)	\$28.50	

The rates listed above are for EACH person and include lodging, linens, program fee and three meals. Send \$19 pre-payment for each person. The balance will be due at check-in. Make checks payable to Kentucky Baptist Convention. Full refunds will be given up to two weeks before the event. Seven dollars (approximately one-third) will be refunded up to 48 hours before the event. Please complete the form below and mail to: Kentucky WMU, P. O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

Please register the following persons for the retreat on _____ at _____.
 Enclosed is an \$ 19 pre-registration fee for each person. Total amount enclosed is \$ _____.

Person completing this form _____ Address _____
 Daytime Phone _____ Church _____ Association _____

Overnight accommodations will be reserved in the order in which they are received.

Overnight lodging preferred _____ How many per room? _____
 Please list the names of the persons you wish to register and circle the names of those wishing to room together.

Will your group be participating in the talent show? Yes _____ No _____

Day Guest Registration (Complete this section if you do NOT need overnight accommodations.)

The cost for participating as a day guest varies. To determine your registration fee please add the cost of the meals you want to the program and insurance fees. Meal prices are: breakfast \$4.60; lunch \$4.95 and dinner \$5.95. The insurance fee is \$1 and the program fee is \$4.

Please list the names of the persons you are registering as day guests and the amount for each person.

Name	Amount
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

*Includes special session for Baptist Nursing Fellowship.

**Includes worship service.

Please duplicate this form for additional registrations. Mail completed form to either Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek.

Activator teams

The following Acteens groups are going this summer as Acteens Activators. Please pray for them as they will serve God throughout the United States. If your Acteens group is interested in serving as an Acteens Activator team in 1998, contact the state office for a brochure and application. Activator applications are due in the Kentucky WMU office by Dec. 15.

Church, City

Calvary Hill, Stanford
 Crofton, Crofton
 First, Somerset
 First, Whitesburg
 Friendship, Ledbetter
 Graefenburg, Waddy
 Grapevine, Manitou
 Magnolia, Elizabethtown
 New Harmony, Clay
 Rose Hill, Catlettsburg
 Squiresville, Owenton
 Victory, Providence
 *Kentucky State Team

Team leader

Mae Renner
 Penny Thielen/Amy Baker
 Rhonda Hazel
 Saranell Caudill
 Karen Proctor
 Karen Harrod
 Christina Gatlin
 Jamie Hines
 Leisa Williams
 Sara Billups
 Ann Brown
 Martha Davis
 Julie Keith

Assignment

Townsend, Tenn.
 Panama City, Fla.
 Myrtle Beach, S.C.
 Savannah, Ga.
 Summerfield, Fla.
 Tucson, Ariz.
 Benton, Tenn.
 Williamsburg, Ky.
 Gatlinburg, Tenn.
 Providence, R.I.
 Daylor, Ohio
 Atlanta, Ga.
 New England

President's Perspective

Let's keep focused on our important missions task



Peggy Hicks
 President
 Kentucky WMU

Dear Co-laborers:

The 1997 Kentucky WMU annual meeting provided many inspirational and challenging moments as we heard from people who serve Christ in our state, the nation and the world.

We want to thank everyone who participated in any way. Our wonderful, hard-working staff does so much in preparation to have everything in readiness to assure a smooth-running meeting. St. Matthews Baptist Church had made thorough preparation and their warm hospitality was felt and appreciated greatly.

Each year at our annual meeting we take two special offerings—one for

the Christmas gift check given to each foreign missionary who claims Kentucky as home and one for each missionary kid attending college or seminary in Kentucky. Many of you who could not attend the annual meeting may want to participate in these special offerings. You may do so by sending a check to Kentucky WMU and designating it for "Missionary/MK gifts." Some churches and associations may want to take an offering for these gifts.

Your vote of confidence for me to serve as your state president for another term was humbling. Thank you for allowing me to serve alongside you. We have a very important task to

carry out and we must not get sidetracked from our missions responsibility. The world's need for Christ is great, for many do not yet know him. Each generation needs to be taught God's will and plan for being on mission with him. Our joint efforts will produce greater results for missions education, missions giving and missions going. Pray with me that God will give us eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts to respond to all he wants to do in Kentucky WMU through missions and missions education.

Leadership is key to anything meaningful happening in individuals, churches and nations. To be a leader

requires work, but many of you have discovered the joy and excitement of being prepared for a job through training. Participating in training experiences and then adapting what you've learned to the needs in your own association and church can be rewarding. We really need more people committed to being trained. Our missions responsibility can't be put on the back burner.

Many of you will attend Ridgecrest WMU week June 30-July 4, the final WMU week to be held at Ridgecrest. You will be inspired, informed, challenged and trained.

MISSIONS INFORMATION

Partnership Missions

To Russia with love

By Delores Spears

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union took part in the third Russian Women's Conference May 8-10 at Nizhney Novogorod. Lena Osminina had attended the first conference WMU helped sponsor in 1994. She wanted to have a conference for the women in her region.

Nizhney Novogorod is a beautiful city of 2.5 million people. The conference was held at Central Baptist Church and was attended by approximately 70 women.

Vivian Foe from Bowling Green and Shirley Taliaferro from Louisville were the other members of the team. Vivian spoke to the women about children's work. Shirley taught the women about stewardship of time, money and personality. I spoke on the Holy Spirit, the difference in fruit of the spirit and spiritual gifts, the theme "Hand in Hand" and different methods of prayer.

It was very exciting to see many young

women in the conference. All the women were so loving, and they enthusiastically hung on every word we said.

When my purse was missing with my passport, visa, credit card and money, the women were concerned and spent much time in prayer. God used my loss in a miraculous way to show the power of prayer. In a city of 2.5 million people a witness saw the man throw all my papers, including the passport and visa, out the window of his car hours before we were to leave the city. The witness got his license number, gathered up all my papers and took them to the police station. I went to the station to report my loss so I could get a new passport in Moscow and found they had just received some documents. The documents were all of my papers, including that precious passport. The people of the church plan to visit the man and witness to him. It will be exciting to see what God does with this.

During our time in Moscow, we attended the monthly missionary prayer meeting. This was a potluck supper at the home of Teri and Ed Tarleton. There were approximately 30 missionaries and their children and 13 of



ABOVE: Shirley Taliaferro (second from left), Vivian Foe (third from right) and Delores Spears (second from right) pose with participants at the women's conference. LEFT INSET: Joy Lindsey, Nancy Walden, Delores Spears and Vivian Foe prepare for a prayer walk in Moscow.



us from Kentucky. What a special time to get acquainted with so many of them.

Saturday, Shirley, Vivian and I joined Joy Lindsey, Nancy Walden, Jamie and Kathy Knight for a prayer walk. We walked throughout the city of Moscow praying for the needs of the people of Russia. We walked across Red Square singing "Our God is An Awesome God". We stood on the steps of the government building where so many important decisions are made and had prayer. Two policemen with machine guns came up to see what we were doing. Shirley gave them pencils with "God is love" printed on them in Russian. Then they let her take their pictures.

On Sunday, we visited Central Baptist Church and had lunch with the women who meet each Sunday after morning services for Bible Study and to make items of clothing for the needy.

There is so much I would like to share with you. The women at the conference gave us prayer requests. We will have them translated and share them with you. Please pray for the people of Russia. They are depending on our prayers.

Delores Spears is prayer coordinator for the Russia partnership

BNF

Baptist Nursing Fellowship
Summer Luncheon

July 26

First Baptist Church, West Liberty
11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Dr. Deborah Reed will discuss parish nursing. Deborah began the church nurse program at Bruner's Chapel Baptist Church in Harrodsburg. First Baptist Church in West Liberty will host the program. There is no cost for attending, however, reservations are necessary. More detailed information about the program and speaker as well as directions to West Liberty will be mailed to you after we receive your registration form.

BNF Luncheon: Complete the registration form and mail to Kentucky WMU, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, Ky. 40253-6569.

Name: _____
Street address: _____
City, state and zip: _____
Phone: _____
Church: _____
Association: _____

Camp

There's still room for you at Camp!

◆ **GA or Acteens:** \$80 per person
GA completed 4th-6th grades; Acteens completed 7th-12th grades
◆ **Mother Daughter overnights:** \$20 per person
For girls who have completed 1st-3rd grade, with their mothers
Call the WMU office for registration materials: (502) 244-6485

See dates in calendar on page 3-B

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund

May 1, 1996 through April 30, 1997

Donor

Brenda Price
Dale and Julie Keith
Donald B. White and children
Mary Helen Dixon
Frankie Johnson
Dr. and Mrs. Horace P. Hambrick
Maribeth Hambrick
Troy and Martha Smith
Pulaski Co. Association WMU
Women on Mission, New Harmony
WMU First Baptist, London
North Frankfort Baptist WMU

Little Clifty WMU

Patricia Robertson
Women on Mission, Lone Pine
Betty R. Cook

Lorraine B. Kaufman
Mr. and Mrs. James T. Price

Grober-Parish Baptist Women,
Hopkinsville
Executive Board, Kentucky WMU
Kathleen R. Hall
Mrs. Wade Bryant Hicks
Mary Lou Crutcher
Betty Wallace
Maribeth Hambrick
Maribeth Hambrick
Maribeth Hambrick
Maribeth Hambrick
Troy and Martha Smith
Kay H. Trisler
Kay H. Trisler
Spears Mill Baptist Women

Georgia B. Woods
Betty and Beth VandenBrink

In Honor of

Dee Gilliland
Dee Gilliland
Anna C. White
Maribeth Hambrick
Maribeth Hambrick
Maribeth Hambrick
Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Mills
Emma Jo Cummins
Carol Noffsinger
Carol Noffsinger
Rosa Fiechter
Charter Members,
North Frankfort Church
Naomi Pryor, Rena Armstrong,
Shellie Shartzter,
Pansy Probus,
Mabel Wilson
Laverne Sublette
Estella Brashear
Kathryn Jasper Akridge,
Lealice Dehoney,
Dixie Mylum Lusher
Lillian Brown
Anna Mary Byrdwell,
Brenda Price

Arista Mason
Ersie A. Dees, William Stanley
Jack Hall
Jack Hall
Jack Hall
Jack Hall
Mary and Ira Porter
A.L. Meacham
Byrd Ison
Corrylla Eberhardt English
Sara Thomas Hambrick
Mollie Jean Cummins
Carrie T. Allen
Harold Rice
Former members,
Spears Mill WMU
Aline Bramblet
Laura A. Lynn

Donor

Lake Spring Church WMU
WMU Night Circle, Mt. Tabor
Brenda Price
Kay Trisler
Margie Oliver
Mary Lou Crutcher
Anna Steinbrecher
Bill Jagers
Troy and Martie Smith
West Fork Women on Mission
West Fork Women on Mission
Georgetown WMU
Georgetown WMU
Libby Cox
Anna Mary Byrdwell
John C. Hack
Bryant and Peggy Hicks

Other Donors: Calvary Baptist Church WMU, London; Mrs. E.R. Nicholson; Mary C. Page; Women on Mission, Gratz Baptist Church; Anna F. Blaylock; Freedom Baptist Church

Note: The gift of June Cottrell in last year's report was in memory of Gladys H. Street.

As of February 28, 1997, the carrying cost of the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund was \$62,670.59. It is the interest on this endowed fund which is used to fund the grants which were given for the first time at the annual meeting in 1996. Exciting projects involving migrant groups, college groups, ethnic groups, educational materials, and area development of WMU have been made possible through this fund, the purpose of which is to sustain, develop, and strengthen WMU in Kentucky.

Our thanks go to the missions minded men and women who have made gifts to the fund. The Kentucky Baptist Foundation manages these funds for WMU and is available to discuss estate planning and other ways of giving. This is the future of missions!

*Maribeth Hambrick
Development Specialist*

LEADERSHIP

Barna suggests spiritual revival; others not so sure

Continued from page 1

On the other hand, society apparently is becoming "increasingly secular, and this is affecting our church membership significantly," he added. "Something is happening to our society and culture which is changing the world in which we're trying to do ministry, and we're not adapting to that very well."

All that change may be whipping up interest in religion, but not necessarily Christian faith, noted Ben Harbin, director of marketing planning for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church-growth group.

"There's definitely a resurgence of spirituality in America," Harbin said. "But there's a good debate over whether that translates into an increase in Christianity."

And it might lead to increased participation in extreme sects and cults, noted church historian Bill Leonard, dean of Wake Forest University's divinity school.

"What we're learning out of this California debacle over the Heaven's Gate cult is that Americans perceive themselves to be very religious, but it's very self-determining," Leonard said. For example, the Heaven's Gate cult cooked up its own homemade religion, blending parts of Christianity,

eastern religion, science fiction and even music theory.

"Looking from the long term, we are in a period of permanent transition," he suggested. "People's religious identities and orientation move across a wide spectrum. There's lots of interest in religious life, and people move in and out of religious movements."



Barna

Such individualized faith leaves religious organizations and institutions "in constant flux," Leonard said. "It's very hard—you can't predict where they will go."

And that makes "religious sociology naval-gazing," or interpreting the up-to-the-minute spiritual condition of modern America, quite difficult, he said.

For example, he noted Barna's latest positive report on "born-again" Americans followed by only a few weeks another Barna report that said American males comprise a "pagan subculture."

"One week he says it's all coming apart, and the next he's saying it's all coming back—and he's probably right on both," Leonard said. Depending on how the population is categorized and how terms are defined, Americans appear more pagan and more Christian almost simultaneous-

ly.

Working in this context, the Southern Baptist Convention showed slight membership growth in 1995, reported Cliff Tharpe, manager of the Sunday School Board's strategic information unit.

Based on preliminary estimates, SBC membership increased 0.23 percent—from 15,668,077 in 1995 to 15,703,884 last year, Tharpe said. For the 1994-96 period, membership increased 0.58 percent.

From Barna's perspective, U.S. Christians have reason to be optimistic.

"It is too early to say that spiritual revival has gripped the nation," he acknowledged. "However, there is an undeniable interest in spirituality among tens of millions of Americans, and much of that interest is being pursued through church-related activities."

"Realize, too, that these figures raise hope for the moral and emotional restoration of American society. Historically, societies firmly rooted in, and committed to, positive spiritual convictions are comparatively more compassionate and productive."

"If this spiritual reawakening of our nation continues, America's culture could be revolutionized, as evidenced by effects such as decreases in violence, emotionally healthy families, a superior work ethic and a more community-minded society."

Church attendance up 6%

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

OXNARD, Calif. (ABP)—After bottoming out last year, American church attendance is on the rebound, according to statistics compiled by the Barna Research Group, a tracker of national religion trends.

In January 1996, only 37 percent of U.S. adults claimed to attend a religious service during a typical week, reported religious pollster George Barna, head of the company that bears his name. That figure marked the lowest church-attendance percentage in 15 years.

But since then, attendance has grown steadily, attracting 43 percent of the population in January of this year, Barna said. That's about the same percentage as recorded in both 1994 and 1995, he added.

The gain of six percentage points has been fueled by increases in two primary segments of the population, Barna noted.

"The increase is partly attributed to male baby boomers. ... There has been a return to the fold among many men in their 30s and 40s," he said. "Another factor in the increase is the many inactive 'born-again' Christians who have recently been reactivated."

The overall gains have been made in spite of recent declines in attendance among those age 70 and older and baby busters, he added.

Currently, only one out of three busters claims to attend church in a typical week, Barna said.

Beyond church attendance, the Barna organization questioned Americans regarding several variables of religious involvement. They include:

■ **Sunday school.** This January, 23 percent of American adults said they attend Sunday school weekly, compared to a low of 17 percent a year before.

■ **Personal evangelism.** More Christians are telling non-Christians about Jesus, he said. Nearly six out of 10 American Christians told pollsters they shared their faith with a non-Christian in the past year.

■ **Unchurched adults.** Twenty-seven percent of all adults said they have not been to a church service, other than a holiday service or special event, for at least six months. That figure has remained stable over the past several years, Barna said.

■ **Evangelicals.** "Evangelicals are a tiny segment within the adult population—only 7 percent—but form a firm foundation within the church," Barna said. That percentage has remained unchanged, he noted.

■ **Volunteerism.** About one-fourth of adult Americans—most of them women—say they are actively involved in church efforts during a typical week, surveyors found. This figure has remained stable, "in spite of the pressure of frantic schedules and the desire to earn money to sustain a comfortable lifestyle," he said.

■ **Small-group ministries.** Participation in small groups and cell groups has remained proportionately unchanged for three years, Barna noted, citing that as a warning for church ministries.

"Many thousands of Christian churches have changed their ministry structures and programs to emphasize the development of both community and discipleship, primarily through small groups," he explained.

Consequently, stagnant small-group attendance "may presage a period in which millions of people's faith will fail to achieve the depth which many churches intend to provide through the small-group setting." As a result, recent gains in church attendance may not be sustained, since many churches depend upon small groups to foster relationships that will help newcomers bond to the congregation.

■ **Bible reading.** Only one out of three adults reads the Bible at times other than worship services, pollsters found. That figure has not changed in three years and is near an all-time low.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Needed: Secretary. 40 hours/\$7.50 per hour. 40 wpm, Microsoft Word, phone, research skills. Must be flexible for growing church. Resumé to: Victory Baptist Church, 2261 Armstrong Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40515.

SEEKING: Gracey West Union Baptist Church is presently searching for a part-time minister of youth and music. If interested, please send resumé to: Youth and Music Search Committee, GWUBC, P.O. Box 143, Gracey, KY 42232-0143.

AVAILABLE: Outgoing, energetic ordained minister seeks church to pastor. Call (502) 789-3412.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Eastern Parkway Baptist Church. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Eastern Parkway Baptist Church, 601 Eastern Parkway, Louisville, KY 40217.

ATTENTION: Pastors, ministers. Hundreds of churches call us each month looking for a pastor or minister. Call (800) 917-9599 for your confidential information packet. Southern Baptist Ministers Staffing Service.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music for church averaging 350+ in worship service. Send resumé to: Minister of Music Search Committee, P.O. Box 57, Hawesville, KY 42348.

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).

TOUR: 11 days Israel and Egypt from your area only \$2,089. Nov. 1-11, including air, 1st class hotels, meals and all the sites plus experience you can trust. Call Judy Studie (502) 247-8331 for a color brochure.

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.

WANTED: Part-time minister of music, responsible for adult, children and handbell choirs. Contact Lewis Lane Baptist Church, 2600 Lewis Lane, Owensboro, KY 42301. (502) 684-4266.

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.

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.

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.

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: 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 resumés 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 resumés for a full-time DOM. Resumés will be accepted until June 16. Applicants should mail resumés to: DOM Search Committee, Blackford & Breckinridge Baptist Associations, 404 Elm St., Cloverport, KY 40111.

Baptists send 1.8 million meals to starving N. Koreans

By Mark Kelly
SBC Foreign Mission Board

PYONGYANG, North Korea (BP)—Southern Baptists recently shipped more than 1.8 million meals to starving North Koreans in the wake of their country's famine.

Dehydrated vegetable soup mix was shipped to the reclusive Asian nation—at a cost of 3.6 cents per meal—because of a partnership between Southern Baptists, American farmers and an interdenominational food bank.

The project was funded through the 1996 World Hunger Fund collected by Southern Baptists.

North Korea is in the grip of a famine after two years of massive crop failures. Eyewitnesses say as many as 20 million people go to bed hungry nightly.

The famine has left entire villages surviving on diets of grass, straw and weeds, while hospitals are unable to function because of a lack of fuel, food and drugs.

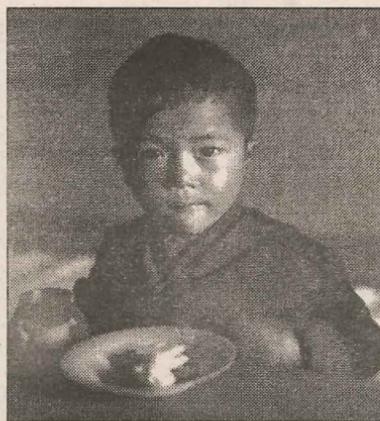
In some areas, government rations have shrunk to 3.5 ounces a day—less than one-fourth the level needed to

maintain body weight. Children reportedly have begun to die of malnutrition.

Three overseas freight containers, containing 1.86 million meals total, were shipped for only \$60,000, said Bill Cashion, a Southern Baptist human needs consultant. Expenses were minimized because farmers in Colorado and Texas donated surplus crops and Breedlove Dehydrating Plant, a non-profit ministry of an interdenominational food bank in Lubbock, Texas, provided its services at cost.

"These farmers have given a tremendous boost to this relief effort because they were willing to give away their surplus harvest, rather than turning it under," Cashion said. "In fact, they offered 200 million pounds of potatoes and vegetables, but even at this low cost, it would have taken \$9 million if we had processed and shipped it all. We just don't have that kind of resource."

Southern Baptist officials were able to release another \$140,000 to extend the project, however. About \$1.2 million of Southern Baptist hunger funds have been released to relieve the food crisis since August 1995



EMERGENCY MEAL A North Korean boy receives emergency food assistance. North Koreans are facing a massive famine as U.S. aid groups including the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board scramble to help. (RNS/Reuters photo)

floods destroyed much of that year's rice harvest.

"We believe that compassionate ministry in the name of Christ will continue to reveal to North Koreans the depth of love God has for them," Cashion said.

Meanwhile, North Korea recently

agreed to allow a special liaison officer into its territory to coordinate and oversee relief aid by church agencies and other non-governmental organizations.

Erich Weingartner, a former World Council of Churches official, will head the new Food Aid Liaison Unit that will be housed in the offices of the United Nations' World Food Program—the major international agency supplying aid to North Korea—but will be financed by church and non-governmental relief agencies.

The World Food Program estimates North Korea will need at least 1.3 million tons of food to meet its basic needs in 1997. It has appealed for 200,000 tons of aid—worth about \$96 million—but to date has received less than half that.

Relief efforts have been plagued by world politics and the North Koreans' extreme suspicion of foreigners.

The North Korean government requested an NGO liaison because it needed help in meeting NGO requirements, such as prompt information for contributors about what happens to the aid and assurances it reaches the people it is intended to help.

"We believe that compassionate ministry in the name of Christ will continue to reveal to North Koreans the depth of love God has for them."

Bill Cashion, Southern Baptist human needs consultant

Christians protest at Israeli embassy over bill

By Ira Rifkin
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON—Dan Murrill is an evangelical Christian who took time away from his salesman's job recently to stand outside the Embassy of Israel and both praise the Jewish state for being "God's chosen nation" and condemn it for a proposed law he fears could make it illegal to possess

a New Testament there.

"I believe in evangelizing and spreading the word of Jesus Christ," said Murrill, who lives in Woodbridge, Va. "This law could slam the door on that in Israel."

Murrill joined about 125 Christians and Messianic Jews who demonstrated two hours May 19 outside Israel's Washington embassy in opposition to a bill in the Israeli Knesset (parliament) that would make possession of religious materials used in conversion efforts a crime punishable by a year in jail.

Carrying Israeli flags and "We Love Israel" signs, the demonstrators staged a bit of street theater in which black-clad "Israeli policemen" "arrested" a group of Christians witnessing to other protesters who played "Israeli Jews."

"They're doing the same thing now as they did 2,000 years ago," one of the protesters said, referring to Jewish rejection of Jesus.

The proposed bill also would outlaw the importation, reproduction or distribution of religious materials for use in conversion efforts. Current Israeli law makes it illegal to try and convert minors or offer financial inducement to convert.

Opponents say the proposed law is so broad as to outlaw simple possession of a New Testament, although one of the legislation's chief sponsors says that is not the case.

Nissim Zvili, a member of Israel's opposition Labor Party, also says the proposed bill will not hamper traditional Christian worship or other expressions of the faith in Israel, where the Roman Catholic and Greek Orthodox churches have large followings within the Arab community.

However, Zvili and the bill's other supporters have not hidden their desire to make it more difficult for evangelical Christians from the United

States and elsewhere to proselytize Israeli Jews.

That has galvanized elements of the international evangelical community—for whom spreading the gospel is central to their faith—to attack vociferously the proposed law as an assault on religious freedom.

Messianic Jews—Jews who profess belief in Jesus as the Messiah but maintain Jewish identities—have joined the opposition. They view the proposed law as an attempt to stem the growth of their movement in Israel.

"It is wrong for Israel, which calls itself a democratic state, to slide into state-sponsored religious persecution," said Joel Chernoff, general secretary of the Philadelphia-based Messianic Jewish Alliance of America.

Chernoff fears that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will back the proposed law to shore up support for his ruling coalition among ultra-Orthodox Jewish political parties.

In addition to Zvili, the bill's other major supporters are from the ultra-Orthodox right wing.

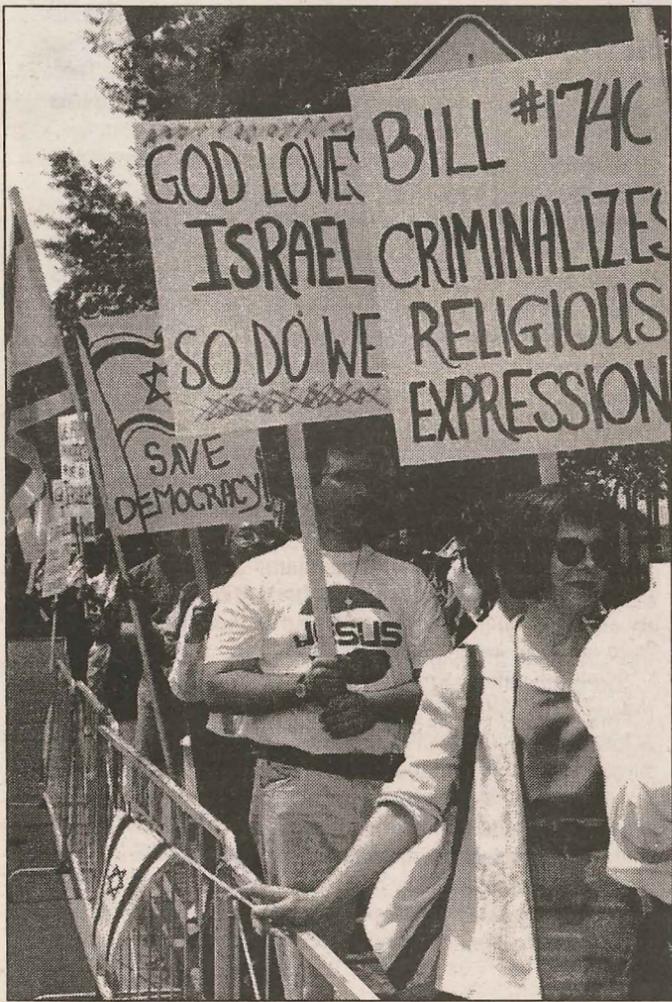
Reports from Israel have said Zvili's support for the measure is part of a Labor move to lure ultra-Orthodox support away from Netanyahu.

The bill was prompted by a recent campaign, orchestrated from the United States by San Diego-based televangelist Morris Cerullo, in which hundreds of thousands of unsolicited copies of a Hebrew-language missionary pamphlet were mailed to Israeli Jews.

The well-financed campaign infuriated Israel's Jewish religious leaders because of its foreign origin and its specific targeting of Jews.

The proposed bill has received preliminary Knesset approval, but must be voted upon two more times before it becomes law. Some changes to the bill are expected while it is in committee.

PROTEST More than 125 messianic Jews and evangelical Christians demonstrate outside the Israeli embassy in Washington May 19 to protest a proposed law that would severely limit evangelism efforts in that country. (RNS photo)



WORLD VIEW

■ **Colombia adopts euthanasia.** Colombia's highest judicial body has legalized euthanasia for terminally ill people who have clearly given their consent. The court ruled a person acting under strict guidelines cannot be held criminally responsible for taking another person's life. But it said judges would have to come up with the guidelines and consider on a case-by-case basis whether a person is terminally ill, Associated Press reported.

■ **Morals urged in politics.** A new report by African church leaders from 20 countries says the continent's churches need to "inject a new moral culture into politics" as part of the effort to rebuild countries devastated by war, poverty and corruption.

■ **Caution urged.** The general assembly of the (Presbyterian) Church of Scotland has called for churches to exercise caution with regard to the so-called Toronto Blessing, a revival phenomenon in which worshipers fall to the floor, break out in uncontrollable laughter and sometimes make animal noises. The assembly approved a report by a committee that endorsed the concerns of those opposed to the revival as not an authentic act of the Holy Spirit.

■ **Bible study required reading.** The man who trains diplomats for the government of South Africa is requiring all trainees to take the "Experiencing God" Bible study, according to Sylvester Grayson, literature coordinator for the Baptist Mission of South Africa.

50 pastors: Ten Commandments don't belong in Ala. courtroom

MONTGOMERY (RNS)—A group of 50 Alabama clergy has filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the Supreme Court of Alabama arguing that Judge Roy Moore's sponsorship of Christian prayers and the display of the Ten Commandments in his Gadsden, Ala., courtroom violates the Constitution.

"Church-state separation is not an anti-religious concept," the ministers said in their brief, "but instead protects religious diversity and equality by ensuring that government remains neutral on religious matters, neither favoring nor inhibiting religion."

Nine of the 50 ministers are Baptist. The brief was one of a flurry of written arguments filed with the Alabama court as it considers a lower court decision that ruled against Moore's practices. The lower court said Moore must confine his judicial authority to the secular matters within his authority and insisted he not inject his personal religious beliefs into his official actions.

The case has drawn national attention and involvement.

An April 12 rally in Montgomery, Ala., in support of Moore and featuring Christian Coalition executive director Ralph Reed, was endorsed by a host of national conservative groups, including the American Family Association, the Eagle Forum, Concerned Women for America and the American Center for Law and Justice.

Joining the 50 Alabama clergy in signing the brief were the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the Interfaith Alliance, and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Bill bars trade with religious persecutors

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Legislation to "put teeth" into efforts to curb the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in foreign lands by imposing a variety of economic and other sanctions was unveiled recently in the House and Senate with broad religious backing.

The proposed bill—offered in the Senate by Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., and in the House by Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va.—also would create a senior White House position to monitor religious persecution abroad and would expedite proceedings for those claiming asylum from religious persecution.

Sudan—where Christians say they are sold into slavery and otherwise persecuted with the backing of

the nation's Muslim rulers—was singled out in the proposed legislation for immediate sanctions.

Wolf likened the proposed sanctions against Sudan to those imposed on South Africa during the apartheid era.

But Specter, speaking at a Capitol Hill news conference, conceded the bill's call for trade sanctions will be a tough sell in Congress.

For example, the bill could affect trade with China, which religious activists say discriminates against Christians, Tibetan Buddhists and Muslims. China is already the focus of a trade debate, with President Clinton urging Congress to renew Beijing's "most favored nation" trading status—a move opposed by

some supporters of the Specter-Wolf bill.

As offered, the "Freedom from Religious Persecution Act" would impose automatic sanctions if the director of the proposed White House Office of Religious Persecution Monitoring found a nation guilty of religious persecution.

The president would have the power to waive sanctions—which include a ban on all exports and non-humanitarian aid to nations guilty of religious persecution—for national security reasons. Additional sanctions include denying visas to officials from offending nations and opposing a country's efforts to gain international development loans or join the World Trade Organization.

Law would limit prisoners' religious rights

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Justice Fellowship, the public policy arm of Charles Colson's Prison Fellowship, has taken petitions with 30,000 signatures to Capitol Hill urging lawmakers to resist exempting prisoners from a 1993 law making it difficult for government to interfere in religious practices.

"If religious liberty is not secure for prisoners then it is not secure for anyone," Colson said at a news conference to launch the First Freedom Campaign.

Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., acting on

behalf of a number of prison officials and states' attorneys general, is seeking to exempt prisons from having to comply with the stringent requirements of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. That law says government must show a compelling interest before it can interfere with a person's religious practices.

Reid said his bill would stop the national increase in the number of frivolous lawsuits by prisoners who claim infringement of religious rights. The legislation would prohibit the application of RFRA to anyone incarcerated

in a federal, state or local prison.

Reid's spokeswoman, Jenny Backus, estimated 40 percent of all civil cases in Nevada were brought by prisoners using RFRA in 1993.

But Deborah Phillips of Justice Fellowship said Reid exaggerated the number of cases brought by prisoners under RFRA. Citing statistics from the Office of the U.S. Courts, Phillips said 50 inmate-filed RFRA cases were reported in the past two years, accounting for less than 5 percent of all prisoner-filed lawsuits and less than 1 percent of all civil cases nationwide.

Court: Charity tax breaks are for all or none

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The U.S. Supreme Court ruled this month that states cannot discriminate in levying property taxes between charities, including religious groups, primarily serving out-of-state clients and those serving state residents.

In a 5-4 decision, the court overturned a Maine Supreme Judicial Court ruling against a summer camp operated by the Christian Science

Church, in which 95 percent of the attendees were from out of state. A \$30,000 property tax had been levied on the camp that was not imposed on charities whose clients were primarily from within the state.

Religious groups, including the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, filed a friend-of-the-court brief arguing religious liberty would be "seriously at stake" if the High Court ruled

against the camp.

The Supreme Court's opinion was written by Justice John Paul Stevens, who argued such discriminatory practice would never be permitted in profit-making corporations.

The dissenting opinion, written by Justice Antonin Scalia, argued the Maine law was merely a way of supporting charitable activities designed to improve that state.

Bible society spokesman: 'Gender' politically charged word in U.S.

Continued from page 1

gender-neutral biblical texts to be read at mass.

The NIV dispute arose in late March, when an article in World magazine, an evangelical news weekly, contended the society's Committee on Bible Translation had recommended a "unisex" version that would become the only NIV available in the United States.

In a series of statements intended to clarify the issue, IBS and Zondervan Publishing House, publisher of the Bible, sought to assure the evangelical community that the current version of the NIV would remain available.

In a mid-May statement, IBS and Zondervan said they "never have considered, nor will ever consider, any change in the NIV text that would use feminine pronouns to describe the deity or deny the masculinity of Jesus.

"Nor would we approve any changes that would diminish or elim-

inate the divinely ordained uniqueness of men and women. No changes will be approved that are contrary to the original biblical text in any way."

Such statements, however, did not mollify critics.

"I believe that the word 'gender' in the North American context, unlike the United Kingdom, is a highly politically charged word," Johnson said. "It's a powder keg of terminology."

The British version of the NIV already contains many of the "gender-accurate" passages that would have been incorporated into the edition planned for the United States.

Johnson said when translators deal with gender—grammatical masculine, feminine or neuter categories of words—linguistic precision is the goal, not a bow to feminist pressures.

Some U.S. evangelicals have confused linguistic accuracy with feminist revisionism, he added.

"They view it as pandering to the feminist agenda and they don't view it as the linguistics issue that it really

is," he said, precisely the charge leveled by Mohler.

"The main issue was the fact that we would see translators use modern standards of political correctness emerging out of the feminist agenda to come out with a version of Scripture, a translation, to be more acceptable to the modern mind," Mohler said.

Southern Baptists, the largest Protestant denomination in the United States with 15.7 million members, are the top purchasers of the NIV. The NIV is the translation of choice for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in its commentaries and study manuals.

Overall Bible sales in the United States are estimated at \$500 million annually. The NIV holds a 45 percent market share and is especially favored by evangelicals, who use it nearly as often as the traditional King James Version. Since its introduction in 1978 and subsequent revision in 1983, more than 100 million copies have been

sold, according to Zondervan and IBS officials.

Johnson said the decision to scrap the new translation is irrevocable.

"We have shelved all plans to ever discuss this," Johnson said.

"If the North American evangelical church ever wanted to discuss gender accuracy, I don't know if we'd be willing again, but in any case, that would be well down the road, probably after you and I are long gone."

In addition to scrapping plans for a "gender-accurate" NIV Bible in the U.S., the Bible society also announced it will begin immediate revisions in its New International Readers Version to remove the "gender-accurate" treatment built into it from the beginning. The New International Readers Version is marketed for children and adults low-level English skills.

Also, IBS said it will negotiate with the publisher of the NIV Bible in Britain toward of goal of ceasing publication of the "inclusive language" NIV there.

Willow Creek pastors counsel Clinton on abortion ban

SOUTH BARRINGTON, Ill.—

Bill Hybels, pastor of the 17,000-member Willow Creek Community Church and one of President Clinton's spiritual advisers, has faxed a letter to the president urging him to sign a bill banning a controversial abortion procedure.

Lee Strobel, an associate pastor at Willow Creek, said he instigated and prepared the one-page letter calling for the president's support of the "Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act."

The bill was passed by the House in March and by the Senate May 20. The White House has indicated Clinton is likely to veto the measure because it does not contain a safeguard for the health of the mother.

Hybels meets monthly with Clinton for an hour-long session but does not raise policy issues unless the president does.

Strobel said the letter was similar to two memos drafted last year before Clinton vetoed a similar ban.

"I argued as forcibly as I could that he should sign the bill, because the ban is morally, ethically and medically appropriate and constitutionally defensible," Strobel said.

Strobel said Hybels wrote a message on the letter before faxing it to the president, but Strobel added that he did not know what Hybels said.

Strobel noted that Hybels takes an anti-abortion position and has preached on the subject. "Its' probably not a big leap to guess what Bill has said."

In the past year, the Christian Coalition has donated \$850,000 to help burned black churches. In January the group unveiled its Samaritan Project, a combination of legislative proposals and economic projects to assist churches and other ministries in the inner city.

Coalition holds meeting on race issues

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

BALTIMORE (RNS)—When Christian Coalition President Pat Robertson knelt before a predominantly black congregation May 10 and accepted its prayers on his behalf, his conservative political organization took another symbolic and highly visible step in its promotion of racial reconciliation.

The prayers for Robertson came at the end of the coalition's Congress on Racial Justice and Reconciliation, a meeting that brought together 500 people to explore ways white and black conservatives can join in com-

mon cause on issues of race and justice.

"We are with you in the Christian Coalition and I'm with you personally and, together folks, we will see the elimination of racial bigotry in America," Robertson said in a speech at Israel Baptist Church just before an interracial group of clergy laid hands on him in prayer.

Even before the meeting, the coalition has made efforts to reach minorities, particularly African-Americans. In the past year, the group has donated \$850,000 to help burned black churches and in January the group unveiled its Samaritan Project, a combination of legislative proposals and

economic projects to assist churches and other ministries in the inner city. Part of the project includes a pledge to raise \$10 million by the year 2000 to help "at-risk youth."

But critics claim the coalition's legislative agenda will hurt rather than help people of color.

"Their actions and agenda clearly indicate that their intent is to try to enlist African-American people of faith in becoming unwitting accomplices in an effort to move this country in retreat back to those days when we were a nation 'separate and unequal,'" said Charles Stith, a board member of People For the American Way.

Christian songwriters, radio stations at financial odds

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Christian songwriters and the radio stations that air their music are involved in a bruising tug of war over the fuel that keeps both going—money.

On one side is the National Religious Broadcasters, which has long felt its member radio stations pay too much for the licenses that allow them to play Christian music.

On the other side are Christian songwriters, who say they are struggling economically and already earn far less than secular songsmiths.

The debate has sharpened as Congress considers proposed legislation to revamp the royalty system under which fees are paid to artists.

"The net effect of this legislation is that it will (cut) the earnings of Christian songwriters by 50 percent," said Frank Breeden, executive director of the Christian Music Trade Association in Nashville.

Breeden said some NRB members "have gotten very passionate about this plan and have moved it into this legislative mode without realizing what the ripple effect would be to the Christian songwriters."

The NRB, however, counters that the current licensing process is not equitable for Christian broadcasters who run for-profit commercial stations that play a limited amount of music. Non-profit stations have separate licensing agreements.

"We're motivated by fairness," said Brandt Gustavson, president of the Manassas, Va.-based NRB. "We want fairness in it all."

NRB has been urging its members to lobby lawmakers to support the proposed legislation.

"Under current rules, the licensing monopolies are charging religious broadcasters three to four times more than they charge other stations that play music all day long," the NRB argued in a recent mailing.

The songwriters and broadcasters have begun discussions to understand each other better. And, while the talks have been described as civil by some, harsh words have been heard from individuals on both sides of the divide.

"The selfish agenda the NRB pro-

poses to enact via H.R. 789 and S.28 will devastate one of American Christianity's greatest treasures—our rich heritage of gospel music," wrote Robert Sterling, head of the newly formed Coalition for the Protection of Americas' Gospel Music Heritage. He also called proponents of the legislation "self-serving profit mongers of the NRB."

Russ Hauth, executive director of the NRB music license committee, issued a responding statement, stating, "Mr. Sterling intemperately and erroneously maligns the motives of Christian radio stations but has never even contacted us."

In an interview, Sterling reiterated his view that the NRB-backed legislation is "essentially selfish," and said his role defending fellow songwriters is an unusual one.

"This is a property rights issue that should be settled in the marketplace and has no business before Congress," Sterling said. "This is my property that they're trying to use and trying not to pay for. I don't believe I have any way of dictating to them what they charge for their advertising rates, for example, and I don't think they want that issue settled in Congress."

Speaking from personal experience, Sterling said Christian songwriters do not make "a lot of money" from performance licensing organizations, such as ASCAP.

Sterling wrote "God Is With Us," a hit song in 1995 by Point of Grace, a Christian pop group.

"My income from that as the sole writer ... will not exceed \$4,000," he predicted. A writer of a hit country single would generate income in the six-figure range, he said.

Some NRB representatives attended the early May meeting of the Church Music Publishers Association in Scottsdale, Ariz., and on May 5, some music publishing officials met with Gustavson.

Neither side said much publicly about the meetings.

"We have met with (CMPA) leaders at their convention ... and although we have differences we've mutually agreed to private talks in a civil manner," said Chuck Merritt, communications director of the NRB Music License Committee.

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.

Alice Lloyd College Faculty/Staff Vacancies Fall 1997

Alice Lloyd College is a four-year liberal arts, work-study college operated on Christian principles and dedicated to the purpose of education Appalachian students for-indigenous leadership. The College is located at Pippa Passes in the picturesque hills of eastern Kentucky, approximately 150 miles from Lexington, Kentucky. We are seeking faculty who are enthusiastic and dedicated to quality teaching and faculty/student interaction. Faculty reside on campus in faculty housing, dine in the cafeteria (optional) and serve as mentors, counselors and advisors to students.

Mathematics: Ph.D. in Mathematics preferred, Masters in Mathematics required. Responsibilities include teaching Algebra and Trigonometry, Calculus, Geometry, Statistics, Differential Equations and other courses as needed.

Chemistry/Biochemistry: Ph.D. in Biochemistry or Chemistry with 18 graduate hours in Biology required. Responsibilities may include teaching Introductory Biology, Introductory Chemistry, General Chemistry, Organic, Biochemistry, or other courses as needed.

Sociology: Ph.D. in Sociology required, graduate work in Geography would be helpful. Responsibilities include teaching Introduction to Sociology, Racial and Cultural Minorities, Contemporary Social Problems, Introduction to Anthropology and Human Geography.

Physics: Ph.D. in Physics required, with credentials in Mathematics. Responsibilities include teaching General Elementary Physics, General College Physics, Modern Physics, Classical Mechanics, Experimental Physics, Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus.

Technical Services Librarian: ALA accredited M.L.S. degree required. Responsibilities include all technical aspects of librarianship through which the integrity of collections is managed, including acquisitions, cataloging, processing and database management.

For the above positions, send letter of application, send current letter of application, current resume, names, addresses and phone numbers of three references to: Dr. Wallace Campbell, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Alice Lloyd College, 100 Purpose Road, Pippa Passes, KY 41844. Alice Lloyd College is an AA/EOE.

Director of Admissions: Master's degree preferred. Minimum of three years admissions experience. Responsible for creating and implementing strategies to meet specific goals for the recruitment of students from a 100-county service area in Central Appalachia.

Admissions Counselor: Bachelor's degree required. Previous admissions experience preferred. Extensive travel in 100 county, 5 state area required. Ability to communicate effectively in writing as well as orally to various constituencies.

Radio Station Manager: Bachelor's degree required. Operate a college-based FM radio station including its management, public relations and fundraising. Must have a deep commitment to Christian broadcasting.

Field Representative: Bachelor's degree required. Must have high interpersonal skills to cultivate and solicit donors and prospects in states west of the Mississippi. Previous development or sales experience preferred.

For the above positions, send letter of application, current resume, names, addresses and phone numbers of three references to: Mr. Donald DeBorde, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Alice Lloyd College, 100 Pippa Passes, KY 41844. Alice Lloyd College is an AA/EOE.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Drive launched for prayer amendment.** Supporters of an amendment that would modify the Constitution's religion clauses have launched a campaign to gather 1 million signatures on a petition calling for its passage. "Our goal is to deluge Capitol Hill with petitions, telegrams and phone calls," said Christian Coalition Executive Director Ralph Reed. The efforts included a "Freedom Ride" promotion that stopped in Nashville and included Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

■ **Groups oppose China trade status.** The nation's Roman Catholic bishops have joined forces with the Christian Coalition and other conservative groups to urge Congress not to renew China's "most favored nation" trade status. "Freedom for markets without freedom of worship is not really freedom at all," said John Carr, secretary for social development of the U.S. Catholic Conference.

■ **Congress passes bill protecting vols.** Congress has overwhelmingly passed a bill to protect volunteers from some lawsuits that could stem from their charitable work. The bill would protect a volunteer from liability for harm caused while properly engaged in volunteer work unless the harm was caused by willful or criminal misconduct or conscious, flagrant indifference, or resulted from a crime of violence, international terrorism, a sexual

offense or a violation of civil rights law, Associated Press reported.

■ **Bishop: Church can't do state's job.** Bishop Vinton Anderson, one of the nation's leading African-American church leaders, said government is wrong to suggest churches should do more for the poor as the government enacts welfare reform. "Our great fear is that the churches do not have the infrastructure to deal with welfare reform," he said. "Then the church will get a black eye. We will be seen as failing to do something when we are not equipped to do it."

■ **Wycliffe branch names new director.** The international Christian ministry Wycliffe Bible Translators has announced Roy Peterson was appointed executive director of its influential U.S. branch. Peterson said he intends to maintain his predecessor's vision for translating the Bible into 1,000 new languages. Wycliffe already works in 1,053 languages worldwide and has helped translate the New Testament into 432 languages for 30 million people. Its stated mission is to give all people access to the Bible in their native languages.

■ **NAE OKs Worldwide Church of God.** National Association of Evangelicals board members have voted to accept as a member the Worldwide Church of God, a once fringe group that has revamped its

doctrine and moved into the evangelical Christian mainstream. Headquartered in Pasadena, Calif., the Worldwide Church of God was founded by the late Herbert W. Armstrong in 1933. He taught that the Trinity was a pagan doctrine. In recent years, after Armstrong's death, the denomination's doctrines have more resembled basic evangelical tenets.

■ **Heaven's Gate left video.** Members of the Heaven's Gate sect videotaped a message 21 years ago, apparently in the hope Hollywood would want to make a movie about the group after they "left Earth." The "last statement" features sect leader Marshall Applewhite describing the group's beliefs—including giving up sex and other earthly desires—for "those people who care to know what we were all about," the Los Angeles Times reported. The William Morris Agency is trying to sell the two-hour video for use as the basis for a TV special or movie.

■ **Conservative Methodists warn of split.** Good News, the conservative caucus within the United Methodist Church, is warning that recent developments in the denomination on the issue of homosexuality could lead to a schism in the nation's second largest Protestant denomination. "We are seeing today a growing, unabashed campaign to force upon us an unbiblical standard that claims homosexual practice is acceptable, even

good, for United Methodism," the caucus' president said in a letter the group plans to distribute to "several hundred thousand" church members.

■ **Nun too happy about dolls.** The National Coalition of American Nuns is asking people to boycott a line of museum-quality "nun dolls," produced by a Michigan-based company. The coalition claims the company—which is selling a line of dolls dressed in exact replicas of the habits worn by women's religious orders in the pre-Vatican II era—is exploiting the image of nuns for its own profit. The handmade dolls cost between \$139 and \$199 each and come with a booklet explaining how a young woman becomes a nun.

■ **Church-state expert dies.** Dean Kelley, one of the nation's experts on church-state relations and a passionate champion of the free expression of religious beliefs, died May 11 at age 70. Kelley was a United Methodist minister who headed the National Council of Churches' religious liberties office for more than 30 years. "There was no group that was beyond Dean Kelley's concern," said James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee.

■ **Correction:** Last week the Western Recorder printed the wrong phone number for the International Forgiveness Institute. The correct number is (608) 222-0241.

Scholarships

Awarding scholarships to Kentucky Baptist students attending a Kentucky Baptist-related educational institution is one of the most gratifying aspects of the Foundation's ministry. This year the Kentucky Baptist Foundation awarded a total of \$200,000 to 262 students attending Campbellsville, Cumberland, Georgetown, Clear Creek, Mid-Continent and Southern Seminary. In addition 197 first-year students received \$79,000 for the KBC's matching scholarship which is also administered by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. The Kentucky Baptist Foundation also administers scholarship funds for churches.

The stated objectives of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation's scholarship program are: (1) to fulfill the sacred trust of the benefactors who established the scholarship funds, (2) to provide meaningful assistance to as many of the most needy Kentucky Baptist students as possible in as equitable a manner possible, (3) to heighten the awareness of Kentucky Baptist students about their denominational family and its intent in and commitment to quality education in a Christian context, and (4) to administer the program as simply and ef-

ficiently as possible for the students, the institutions and the foundation.

All of these scholarships were established by people who loved young people, who appreciated their Baptist educational institutions, who believed in Christian higher education and ministerial education and who trusted the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to invest the funds and administer the scholarship until the Lord returns.

Some of the scholarships give priority to young people who have been served by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Some prioritize children of foreign missionaries. Others prioritize young people of a particular church, association or county. Some of the scholarship endow-

ments were established by a bequest in a will; others by outright gifts of cash or appreciated assets. Some were established in memory of a parent or child.

Please call Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, or me at (502) 244-6466 to discover how you can make a lasting difference by establishing a scholarship endowment fund.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Need help ministering to someone facing an unplanned pregnancy?



Some of the best advice you may be able to give is to call First Step. Whether the birth parent is planning to parent the child or is considering adoption, First Step can help with confidential counseling and compassionate assistance.

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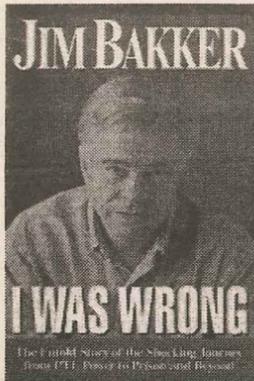


Pregnancy Counseling and Adoption Service



A service of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
Visit our WWW site at <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc/>

BOOKS



There is plenty to keep you turning the page just to see what is going to happen next and how the episodes are interrelated. Since Bakker is telling the story, you never quite feel as if you are being a voyeur, but almost.

I Was Wrong. Jim Bakker with Ken Abraham. Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996. 647 pages. \$24.99. ♦♦♦ (out of five)

Jim Bakker, as you might suspect, throws the reader some curves in this interesting account of his fall from the power of PTL to federal prison and back to freedom. Bakker addresses all the public parts of his and Tammy Faye's life, as well as parts of the story that were not public until the writing of this book. The tabloid parts are here for sure: childhood sex abuse, the Jessica Hahn affair, the Falwell "takeover" of PTL, the trial, the emotional breakdown, imprisonment, the divorce from Tammy Faye, adjustment to prison life, release from prison and movement back into society. There is plenty to keep you turning the page just to see what is going to happen next and how the episodes are interrelated. Since Bakker is telling the story, you never quite feel as if you are being a voyeur, but almost.

What most people have heard about the book is that Bakker learned in prison how misguided was his view of the purpose of the gospel and the life of discipleship it calls for in a believer. He does apologize for preaching his gospel of wealth. "I was wrong," however, rings throughout the whole book in other interesting contexts.

Bakker obviously wants us to be in sympathy with him as a result of reading his story, and I must admit he almost had me hooked. Almost. The publisher includes an end note about a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that would have kept Bakker out of prison had it been issued in time. For me, the inclusion of the end note destroyed all of Bakker's pleadings and forced me to question whether Bakker really understands how he was wrong. The last words of the book became not "I was

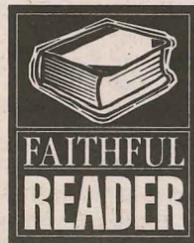
wrong" but "See, I really was right."

The book is long and expensive but an interesting character study. It moves along well and you can hear Bakker's voice behind every word. Get the book and decide for yourself. *Wayne Hager*

Gathering the Seekers. James Newby, 1995. The Alban Institute. 85 pages. \$15.95. ♦♦♦

Do not let the title of this book fool you. This is not another book on how to get the boomers, busters, or x-ers into church. Newby's subject is not evangelism or outreach. Rather his subject is inreach on the deepest and most personal level.

James Newby directs the Trueblood Academy of the Earlham School of Religion. This book is the end-product of a Lilly-endowed study on congregational renewal.



Newby contends the church is fast forgetting how to love God with the whole mind. "Thoughtlessness abounds everywhere in today's world," he writes, "the by-product being minds without rudders, floating in a sea of

confusion. And for many the Christian faith has been unable to ... clarify the confusion."

Christians must develop the discipline of loving God with their intellect, he contends. "To love God with the ... mind leads to the examination of one's life. Examination leads to questions. Questions lead, in the end, to spiritual growth." This process of the intellectual love of God will help Christians re-connect faith and life.

After diagnosing the situation he observes in the church, Newby outlines a small-group process designed to increase our biblical and theological literacy, increase our ability to reflect on life and faith, and to revitalize congregations through NET (Nurturing Experience

Theologically) groups.

At least half of the book outlines the group process, lists resources and provides practical examples of the "ministry experience reports," which are the centerpiece of the process.

Newby's process might be a good follow-up for people who have been through the "Experiencing God" Bible study and who want to go further. *Jim Holladay*

The Celebration Hymnal: Songs and Hymns for Worship. Tom Fettke, senior editor. Word/Integrity, 1997. 865 pages. \$9.95. ♦♦♦♦♦

My 16-year old daughter recommends we replace our current hymnals with this one. My wife is impressed with the range of songs and hymns contained in this hymnal. The minister of music at our church wants to buy copies for the choir because he likes the optional endings for many of the hymns, as well as the material available to open worship. With that kind of feedback, what can I say?

The day I got this hymnal, I sat at the piano and played through it. It was an enjoyable experience. Fettke and the hymnal committee put together a hymnal that blends choruses, hymns, gospel songs and readings into a refreshing and useful tool for worship.

The layout of the hymnal is practical. Rather than throwing all the responsive readings to the end of the book, they are interspersed at appropriate places throughout the hymnal. The first 239 selections focus on the drama of worship. While most of the hymns and choruses can be used in a stand-alone manner, the editors have provided clues on how to put readings, choruses and hymns together to enhance their use in the service.

The remainder of the hymnal is divided into: "The Life of Christ," "The Holy

Spirit," "The Living Church," "New Life in Christ," "Walking with God," "Everlasting Fellowship," and "Special Times and Seasons."

If our church had not invested in new hymnals five years ago, I'd be tempted to take my daughter's recommendation. Fettke and company have successfully brought together the best of traditional and contemporary church music into an inviting hymnal. *Jim Holladay*

Graying Gracefully: Preaching to Older Adults. Edited by William Carl Jr. Westminster John Knox Press, 1997. 157 pages. \$15. ♦♦♦♦

The subject of this book is one every preacher must address: How do I preach to a congregation that includes older adults? Is preaching different for older adults than for younger adults? With the overall aging of our population, even churches that currently have a "young" feel will with time be graying congregations.

William Carl Jr., has assembled an excellent group of preachers to write about preaching to older adults. Each contributor first addresses an aspect of preaching to older adults, such as the biblical perspective on aging or a suggested agenda for preaching to senior adults. Each article is followed by a sermon that illustrates the theme of the article.

I found the articles and sermons by Cynthia Campbell and William Carl Jr. to be the most beneficial for sermon preparation. Each article provides specific themes around which the preacher can develop numerous sermons.

If a preacher has not given thought to the preaching task as it relates to older adults, this book is a great start. Even "graying" preachers will find handles to address the concerns of their own lives and their congregations. *Wayne Hager*

Honored graduates

By Robert Dunston

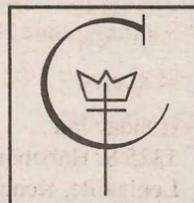
At our annual Honors Day service May 5 we recognized two seniors who have exemplified outstanding leadership on the Cumberland College campus during their four years as students.

The recipient of the Gorman Jones Campus Leadership Award was Sharla Hanson. Hanson is the daughter of Dale and Linda Hanson of Buckner. She is an education major and a member of Cumberland's chapter of the Kentucky Education Association Student Programs. Hanson has been active on the Baptist student union council, as a STAR student assistant in our Insights freshmen orientation program and as a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, the national freshman honor society. For two summers she served with our Mountain Outreach missions team and for one summer she coordinated the children's summer program at an inner-city mission center. She has been involved in her church's children's choir and has worked diligently at the childcare facility of First Baptist Church of Williamsburg. She completed her student teaching this semester at Williamsburg Elementary School. Her dedication, creativ-

ity and leadership abilities will make her an excellent teacher.

Jason Hernandez received the T.J. Roberts Campus Leadership Award. Hernandez is the son of Richard and Devonia Hernandez of Lexington. He has a double major in business administration and communication arts. For all four years at Cumberland, Hernandez has

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



been involved with the college television station TV-3 as a sports anchor and reporter covering college and high school sports in the area. For the past two years he served as chairman of the campus activity board, coordinating the many programs Cumberland offers to help our students relax and refresh themselves. During the summers Hernandez volunteered as a little league coach in Lexington. His presence on campus has provided creative leadership and stability.

As these two and all our seniors graduate, we are proud of what they have accomplished. During May graduation, 196 students participated. We are grateful we could provide these future leaders a quality education founded on Christ.

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

Become a Friend of Baptist Healthcare

By Charles W. Cox Jr.

Friendship has been described by some as a sheltering tree. When the harsh rays of an unyielding sun burn their way into our day, there's nothing like a sheltering tree—a true friend—to give us relief in its cool shade. Its protective trunk gives security beneath its branches have rested many a discouraged soul.

Through the years, Baptist Healthcare has been blessed with a number of thoughtful, caring friends whose prayers and financial support have helped our ministry assist countless numbers of patients and families in need.

As our hospitals address the challenges ahead, many will want to continue this important tradition of friendship that has characterized Baptist Healthcare for so many years.

A new Friends organization has been started for those dedicated donors who wish to provide regular financial support for our ever-expanding ministry to patients, families and for community projects.

You are invited to be a part of this special relationship with Baptist Healthcare System by becoming a Friend. By making at least one gift of \$50 or more each year

to Baptist Healthcare System through Baptist Healthcare Foundation, you will become a Friend of Baptist Healthcare Foundation.

As always, you may designate your gift to the Baptist hospital or community project of your choice.

We want to say thank you to each new Friend of Baptist Healthcare Foundation. Everyone who gives at least \$50 during 1997 will receive a token of appreciation from Baptist Healthcare System and Baptist Healthcare Foundation. Please give prayerful consideration to becoming a Friend of Baptist Healthcare Foundation through your gift of \$50 or more. Join us as we minister to those in need everyday.

Just like a sheltering tree, your gift to Baptist Healthcare Foundation will provide much-needed help and comfort to persons facing some of life's greatest challenges.

For more information about this important project, contact Baptist Healthcare Foundation.

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

Shultz: Show family the money, but send IRAs to charity

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

LOUISVILLE—Designating a charity rather than family members as death beneficiary of an Individual Retirement Account could help both the charity and the family, a tax expert told a group of Kentucky Baptists May 15.

Charles Shultz, a California attorney and nationally known authority on charitable giving and tax laws, was the featured speaker at two seminars sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Foundation and National Asset Management.

In a session titled "Investing for Eternal Gains—You Can Take it With You," Shultz explained that unspent IRA balances make ideal charitable contributions at the time of death.

He noted that an increasing number of Americans are not depleting their IRA funds before death. This is because even after the age at which a

person must begin drawing down IRA funds, only minimum distributions are required, he said. With good earnings continuing on the IRA, it takes a number of years for the minimum withdrawals to begin to deplete the fund.

Shultz gave an example of a person with a \$500,000 estate at the time of death. The estate was made up of \$50,000 in an IRA balance and \$450,000 in other property. This person planned to give \$50,000 out of his estate to charity.

Typically, the surviving family members would receive the \$50,000 IRA plus \$400,000 of the other property, the balance available after the \$50,000 charitable contribution.

However, naming family members as beneficiaries of the IRA at the time of death isn't doing them any favor, Shultz said. In Kentucky, IRAs and pension funds are subject to five taxes at the time of death, he explained. The cumulative tax rate can run as high as 85 percent.

That means of the \$50,000 balance in the IRA, family members might see only \$7,500. The bulk—up to \$42,500—would be paid in federal and state taxes.

But if a charity, such as a religious institution, is named beneficiary of the IRA, the balance is transferred tax-free, Shultz said.

The solution in this person's case was to make the \$50,000 donation to charity from the IRA and give the \$450,000 in other property to the family, he said. Property other than IRAs and pensions is not subject to the same number of taxes.

This was one of several strategies Shultz outlined for maximizing charitable contributions while also helping family members financially.

He also explained how a gift to a charity through a unitrust can provide additional income for the donor while still living, in addition to helping the charity.

A unitrust is a type of trust that annually pays one or more non-charitable beneficiaries a fixed percentage of the market value of the trust assets revalued annually. After the income beneficiaries die or after a designated term of years expires, the remaining assets pass to one or more charitable beneficiaries.

For example, a 65-year-old couple with appreciated property worth

\$200,000 would face heavy taxation if they sold the property outright and pocketed the proceeds. But this same couple, Shultz said, could save \$44,800 in taxes by placing the \$200,000 in a 7 percent unitrust.

From that unitrust, the couple could earn annual income of \$14,000 to be used as they desired, he said. Some donors use this as a means to give gifts to their children, to pay for their own living expenses or to make additional charitable contributions, he explained.

Based on life-expectancy tables, at least one of the two donors is likely to live another 25 years, Schultz said. That means they could receive several hundred thousand dollars from the unitrust over their remaining lifetime and provide for distribution of an appreciated investment to charity at the time of death. Under a unitrust, assets remaining in the trust pass tax-free to the designated charity at the time of the donor's death or at some other specified time.

Parents or grandparents also can use trust instruments to fund college education for their children or grandchildren by means of a charitable contribution, Shultz said.

The agencies and institutions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention cooperated with the foundation in planning the seminars.

In Kentucky, IRAs and pension funds are subject to five taxes at the time of death, Shultz explained. The cumulative tax rate can run as high as 85 percent.



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PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Kentucky construction and vacation Bible school team led by John Walker in Sosnovi Bor, Russia, May 28-June 10.

■ CSI missionaries "Paul" and "Lori" in Almaty, Russia, who were tied up and robbed in mid-May. At the time, "Lori" was seven months pregnant.

■ Plans underway for an ethnic leadership center, jointly-sponsored by Massachusetts Baptist Association and the Baptist Convention of New England. The center will be housed at Worcester Baptist Church.

■ Southeastern New England Baptist campus ministries at Connecticut College, United States Coast Guard Academy and Yale University.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BAGDAD**—Mark Potts resigned as pastor of Bagdad Church to return to Tennessee to aid aging parents.

■ **CADIZ**—New Hope Church called O.D. Boyd as interim pastor. He began his new ministry May 25.

Locust Grove Church called Archie Brock as interim pastor. He began his new ministry May 11.

■ **CORBIN**—First Church called Student Intern Amy Schlayer as minister of students and recreation. She began her new ministry June 1.

■ **FRANKLIN**—Stephen Hooks resigned as minister of music at Calvary Church, effective May 12. He will be available for revivals and other services. He can be reached at: 106 Country Club Estates, Franklin, Ky. 42134. Phone (502) 586-9371.

■ **GUSTON**—Hill Grove Church will celebrate its 175th homecoming June 29. Former pastors Bill Bargiol, Ken Milby, Robert Watts and David Meyers will participate in the all-day event. Call (502) 828-3155 for more information.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—NSA National Baptist Church Tournament will be held at Anderson-Dean Community Park. July 11-13. Call Mark Bryant at work (606) 734-9167 or at home (606) 734-3217 for more information.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host the Heartland Boys of Nicholasville in a gospel music concert June 13 at 7:30 p.m. For more information call (502) 367-0128.

Third Avenue Church called

Renee Carden Jones as minister of children and organist. She will begin her new ministry June 14.

Anna Mary Byrdwell will celebrate 30 years of service with Kentucky WMU June 5.

■ **MIDWAY**—Bill Barnett resigned as pastor of Forks of Elkhorn Church, effective April 13.

■ **MITCHELLSBURG**—Mitchellsburg Church called Wayne Malone as pastor. He previously was pastor at Pryorsburg Church in Mayfield. Malone began his new ministry May 21.

■ **MOREHEAD**—Don Mantoath will celebrate 15 years as pastor at First Church June 15.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Bret Robbe has resigned as pastor of Bellevue Church to become pastor of Clearview Church in Franklin, Tenn.

■ **OWINGSVILLE**—Owingsville Church will hold an old-fashioned tent revival June 8 at 11 a.m. and June 9-11 at 7 p.m. Sherl Thomas, pastor of First Church in Irvine, will be guest speaker. Also, Owingsville Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary June 20-22. Former pastor Edwin Davis will speak June 20, the Sons of Liberty gospel trio will be in concert June 21 at 7 p.m., and a special homecoming is planned for June 22. Call (606) 674-2055 for more information.

■ **RICHMOND**—Viney Fork Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary June 29. Former Pastor William Estep will be guest speaker. An all-day event is planned. Call (606)

369-3956 for more information.

■ **SOMERSET**—High Street Church called Chris Platt as pastor. He previously was pastor at Cash Creek Church in Henderson. He will begin

his new ministry with a pastor installation service June 15. Larry Martin, director of the KBC missions and evangelism division, will be the featured speaker.

Church members are flocking to pull this flamingo prank on their friends

By Greg Lohr
Newport News (Va.) Daily Press

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—Charlene McKeithen eased the gray Mazda along Woodland Drive at about 6:30 Saturday night, her husband seated next to her. Harold McKeithen had just returned from a preachers' conference in Chicago.

Suddenly, as they turned left into their driveway, they saw pink. Lots of it.

There in the front yard stood 98 bright pink, plastic flamingos, their wire-thin legs planted firmly in the grass of the McKeithens' home.

The reverend began to laugh. He knew exactly what had happened.

Like many members of Hiddenwood Presbyterian Church, he had been "flocked."

Last month, members of the congregation began raising money for a summer youth retreat by sneakily paying to have the birds stuck in each other's yards. Some woke up to see one or two flamingos. One woman found 50 in her yard.

"I flocked one friend," said a

giggling Mary Jane Bryan, who has gone to the church since about 1960. "She came out and said, 'I can't imagine who did it.' I said, 'I don't know either, because I've been out of town.'

"She still doesn't know."

As Hiddenwood's pastor for the past 16 years, McKeithen got hit the worst. But he doesn't mind. After all, at \$1 a flamingo—or \$15 for flock-prevention insurance—the passing-of-the-birds has proved much more lucrative than previous efforts like car washes.

The game already raised nearly \$2,000 of the \$5,000 it will cost to send 10 young church members to a week-long national Presbyterian conference in Asheville, N.C.

With that in mind, McKeithen has taken his yard's appearance in stride.

"Most everybody at the church is really enjoying this, I think. It has sort of added an element of playfulness," he said.

McKeithen even invited friends over for a viewing of the spectacle and cups of pink punch.

Used with permission of Newport News Daily Press

'I will always remember my senior year'

We have said our farewells to the class of 1997, but they will not be soon forgotten.

In March, I asked the senior class to write essays about their thoughts of Oneida. I want to share excerpts from one of those essays. It was penned by a senior who was only with us one year. The essay is titled, "My Oneida Experience."

"Are we ever going to get there? The five hour drive to Oneida was the longest of my life. I came with my mother, aunt and ... sister to look at my future home. ... We toured ... with other prospective students.

"My first week of living in the dorms was hard, to say the least. I had never had to live in the same building with almost 200 girls. I was very homesick for the first two weeks. ... It was a very prodigious adjustment for me. I joined the volleyball team, ... and I played on the junior varsity and varsity team. Church and Sunday school were a major part of the spiritual life of the campus. I liked the idea of going to church on a regular basis.

"The academic life at Oneida is unlike the public schools I attended. The advanced placement classes are academically challenging. I am taking my first AP class here at Oneida. I have learned more in my AP English class this year than I have in any other English class. This year was the first time I have ever studied poetry, and I have truly developed a love for poets such as: Robert Frost, Rudyard Kipling and W.E. Henley. The teachers at Oneida are truly devoted to their students. They are always willing to stay after school or come to the dorm if you need extra help with your studies. Honor roll is another aspect of Oneida that was very encouraging to help me achieve higher grades every quarter. I was

never recognized for A or B honor roll at the public schools. I have made A honor roll all year, and it makes a tremendous difference when you know that every quarter you will be recognized. It makes learning a reward and not a chore.

"Everyone is required to have a job at Oneida. Some girls have never experienced working together as a team to reach a goal. Some have had paying jobs before they came here, like myself. ... I think I would have been better prepared for the

workplace if I had come to Oneida before I started working. I believe I am prepared for situations that will arise at a job from my experience.

"Daily chapel services have helped me grow spiritually and learn more about God's word. It is a break from the routine of going to class all day long. There is usually a different speaker every day that makes chapel interesting. ... The services also include music. It is a way to worship God through singing and praying. I enjoy listening to Mr. Spencer and the Palmieries lead the musical part of the service. Not only do

we have daily chapel services, but we also have morning church services, Sunday school and evening church services. I am delighted to have the opportunity to worship.

"In conclusion, my involvement at Oneida has been very memorable and gratifying. I have heightened my maturity, spirituality and responsibility by being here at Oneida. I have had a worthwhile learning experience at Oneida that I will carry for the rest of my life. It is one that can never be replaced. I will always remember my senior year as the prime year of high school."

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

God works for good

It started with a tingling in the fingers at the close of a work day.

In six days my wife Rebecca was on a walker. The next day we received the diagnosis of Guilliane-Barre Syndrome, a rapidly progressing neurological ailment. Through days of pain and mystery, hospitalization and now outpatient physical therapy, we have experienced the reality of Romans 8:28—God works in all things for the good of those who love him.

God works through prayer to bring good. Even when we don't know how to pray, we have the assurance the Holy Spirit intercedes (Romans 8:26-27).

The news of our need went out on campus e-mail. During the following days, prayer support came from alumni, former staff in Korea and missionaries in Japan. Rebecca's name was shared at a state meeting of Gideon wives. Prayer cards came from many churches and individuals.

God works through his people, "with those who love him." Frank Reed, held hostage in Lebanon from 1986-90, felt most the lack of anyone caring.

"I began to realize how withering it is to exist with not a sin-

gle expression of caring around me. If no one cares, you are truly alone." In Christ we are never alone.

But Christ shows his care through his people, through the church and through our families. God's people have nurtured us through visits, food and much encouragement. How blessed we are to have a caring Christian family.

When Rebecca was without strength, I bent down and with her arms around my neck provided the needed lift. "We're closer than we've been in a while," she said with a smile. God works in adversity to build relationships.

God works through all things to fulfill his purpose. His loving presence enables us to be more than conquerors. When we love and trust him, it is possible to learn something from every difficulty, to grow through it and to become more suitable for his purposes.

Each day Rebecca grows stronger with a prognosis for complete recovery. We praise the Lord and thank his people.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

And in 15 years, they can field a baseball team

MULHALL, Okla. (BP)—“If you build it, they will come.”

This famous line from the movie “Field of Dreams” is a fitting theme at First Baptist Church of Mulhall, Okla.

Several months ago, deacons at the north-central Oklahoma church decided to refurbish the church’s nursery.

“We really didn’t have a reason to do that,” said Pastor Troy Taylor. “We didn’t have any babies, and the youngest child in the church at that time was about 3.”

The church spent nearly \$2,000 remodeling the facility, which seemed odd to many members, Taylor said.

Months after the nursery was completed, something started to happen: The church’s vision for four cribs wasn’t big enough. “It seemed like every week, one of the young couples in our church was announcing they were expecting a baby,” Taylor said.

The nursery now has its first occupant, Matthew Lowrie, born March 13. By December, Matthew will be joined in the nursery by eight new friends, including a set of twins.

The church is located in a town of about 200, and Sunday school attendance averages 50 to 60. That means almost one-sixth of the congregation is pregnant.

“We think the Lord is just blessing us,” Taylor said. “One of the (expecting) couples has been married 10 years and gone through a lot of hard times trying to have a baby.”

Taylor noted small churches in small towns sometimes get discouraged because “they get a small-church mentality.”

“We started praying, asking the Lord to add the increase according to his plan,” Taylor explained. “It looks like God chose to start from the nursery up.”

20,000 attend stadium event for women

By Timothy Ruthstiver
Religion News Service

PASADENA, Calif. (RNS)—Some 20,000 evangelical Christian women gathered recently in Southern California’s most famous stadium for Chosen Women—an event that was part convention, part pep rally, part concert and part revival meeting.

Although attendance was much lower than organizers predicted—initial estimates ranged from 35,000 to 100,000—Chosen Women founder Susan Kimes said she was “in shock” over the number of women who attended the Rose Bowl meeting, May 16 and 17, declaring the first-of-its-kind event a success and a “movement of God.”

It was a judgment affirmed by others.

“These seats are full,” declared emcee Alaina Reed-Hall as the muggy, humid afternoon turned into a cool evening.

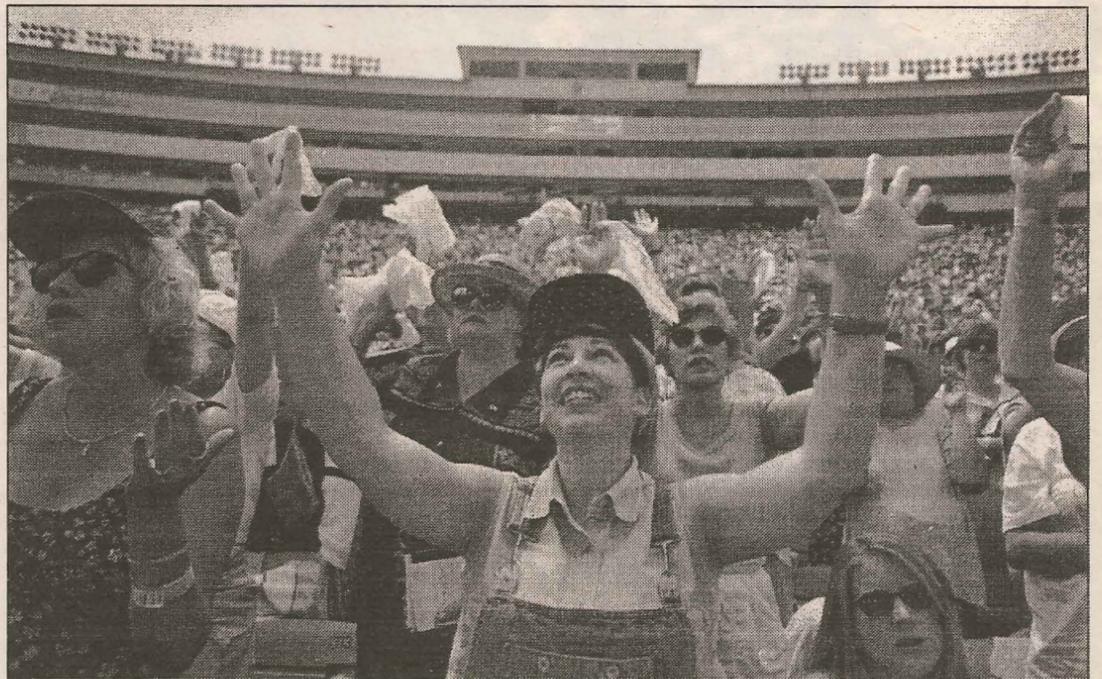
Reed-Hall, an actress who has appeared on TV’s “227” and “Sesame Street,” pointed to the blocked off, empty sections and declared, “The angels are sitting here. We’re going to change the name from the Rose Bowl to the King Dome.”

Kimes, who also founded the Network of Evangelical Women in Ministry, said the idea for a mass rally of Christian women came to her seven years ago and she began planning in 1995.

Chosen Women has assiduously avoided comparisons to Promise Keepers, the stadium-filling evangelical men’s movement that urges men to reclaim their traditional roles as head of the family by rededicating their lives to serving God, their wives and their children.

There was little such talk at Chosen Women. Still, no one disputed the role of men as head of the family and no one claimed the mantle of feminism.

Speaker Bunny Wilson, author of “Liberated through Submission,” called submission to authority—including pastors, employers, husbands and God—a “biblical principle.” Even Kimes said she sought her husband’s confirmation before beginning work



on Chosen Women.

But, added Kimes, the primary reason for the rally was more about evangelical women coming together for spiritual encouragement than for discussions of gender roles.

“It’s about surrender to the Lord, and letting him lead you in every part of your life,” she said. “I think we can just relax and be (ourselves).”

Like similar rallies, the event offered immediate spiritual nourishment and a wide array of material goods and resources, such as books, tapes and souvenirs.

Merchandise ranging from 50 cent pens to \$10 Chosen Women seat cushions to help combat the Rose Bowl’s hard aluminum benches to \$38 white-and-navy sweatshirts were sold in a tent where 15 cash registers hummed continually during the weekend.

Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of evangelist Billy Graham, was the keynote speaker for both evenings. Saturday’s program included Lotz’s videotaped interview with her mother, Ruth Bell Graham, shown on a huge TV monitor.

Other speakers included evangelical authors Jill Briscoe and Elizabeth

Elliot. And entertainment provided by a praise band featured Marilyn McCoo, best-known as a member of the 1960s singing group The Fifth Dimension.

Although the Chosen Women rally was aimed primarily at professed Christians, Friday evening’s program also included an old-fashioned altar call by Lotz—her face, voice and mannerisms echoing her famous father’s. About 200 women walked onto the field to dedicate—or re-dedicate—their lives to Jesus under a cream-colored banner declaring “The Lord Reigns.”

Joanne Herdrich, spokeswoman for Chosen Women, said the only hitch to a completely successful event was a low volunteer turnout. Chosen Women had hoped 1,500 volunteers would help run the event but only 800 came forward. Upon hearing of the shortage, a small corps of men—some Promise Keepers—arrived Saturday to lend a hand.

Despite enthusiasm from many attendees, Chosen Women organizers said they were not looking to establish a permanent program of meetings.

“Unless the Lord moves it,” said Kimes, “I’m not going to do it.”

CHOSEN The women’s rally has avoided comparisons to Promise Keepers, but it was similar to the stadium-filling evangelical men’s movement, from the well-known speakers to the merchandise tent. (RNS photo)

Spelling and meaning aside, Chautauqua event is 25 years old

By Chip Alford
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—There is debate over its meaning and practically no one can spell it, but “Chautauqua” is now an established term among many Southern Baptist senior adults.

It’s been 25 years since the first conference exclusively for seniors under that name was held at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Adelle Carlson, now a senior adult herself, still remembers looking for just the right name for the meeting.

“Young people had ‘youth blasts’ and ‘celebrations.’ I wanted senior adults to have a unique term of their own, one that would make our conference distinct,” said Carlson, then a

senior adult consultant at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Thumbing through an unabridged dictionary, she checked for other meanings of words like retreat, conference and assembly. It was the latter word that triggered the thought of “chautauqua.”

The dictionary explained chautauqua was an institution that flourished in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in America, providing popular education usually combined with entertainment in the form of lectures, concerts or dramatic performances, often presented outdoors or in a tent.

Still another reference book informed her that chautauquas were modeled after summer schools established at Chautauqua, N.Y.

She later learned a frequent speaker at early chautauquas was B.W.

Spilman, the man credited with starting Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

The name seemed perfect.

“It was so different, it caught on,” said Carlson, now retired and a resident of Mobile, Ala. She recently was honored during a senior adult convention for her role in starting Chautauquas.

Carlson said that at the first Chautauqua 25 years ago she had no budget and “sat up half the night putting together table favors with my mom and dad. We weren’t even allowed to use the large auditorium; we had to use a smaller room that only held 400 people. That’s how many people we had.”

From that original one-location event, Chautauquas have spread to sites across the country. Each year, the

conferences involve thousands of senior adults in a week of Bible study, morning devotions, preaching, seminars, concerts and singing.

“I wanted it to be spiritual first, but also educational and fun,” Carlson said. “I think we were able to do that and it’s still happening.”

So, what does the term “chautauqua” really mean? That’s still in doubt, according to Carlson. Indians, the French and other early Americans had a part in molding it into its present form, she said, adding some define it as “the foggy place” while others say it means “the place high up.”

But exact meaning isn’t important, Carlson said.

“People may have trouble spelling it, but they remember the name. And senior adults enjoy attending these meetings. That’s what counts.”

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