

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

June 24, 1997
Vol. 171, No. 25

FOR THE RECORD

The majority of this week's paper is devoted to coverage of the SBC annual meeting and the Jimmy Carter work project for Habitat for Humanity.

Bluegrass Baptists
Kentuckians' involvement at the convention. *Page 3.*

Editorial
Would Jesus go to Disney World? *Page 5.*

Volunteers
Hammering in the Hills has an impact on workers. *Page 6.*

Habitat recipients
New homeowners "need a helping hand, not a hand out." *Page 7.*

Restructuring
Page 10.

New agency
North American Mission Board trustees have their first meeting. *Page 11.*

Speeches
Page 12.

Elections & resolutions
Page 13.

WMU and women's meeting
Pages 14, 15 & 17.

Baptists help Habitat hammer at Appalachia needs

By David Winfrey
News Director

BEATTYVILLE—Scores of Kentucky Baptists were among the volunteers risking blisters, splinters and sunburn last week to help 50 families build decent and affordable housing with Habitat for Humanity's Jimmy Carter work camp.

But in an organization founded and promoted by Baptists, there's still room for greater involvement by Baptist churches, said Habitat leaders and volunteers.

Kentucky Baptists sponsored four of the 50 homes for the work camp—more than any other denomination, said Rick Beech, director of church relations for Habitat.

Nationally, 1,888 Southern Baptist churches have given more than \$1 million in support to the Christian home-building agency, according to figures from Habitat. That ranks them behind only United Methodist and the Presbyterian Church (USA) for number of congregations participating.

But that number accounts for just 5 percent of all Southern Baptist churches.

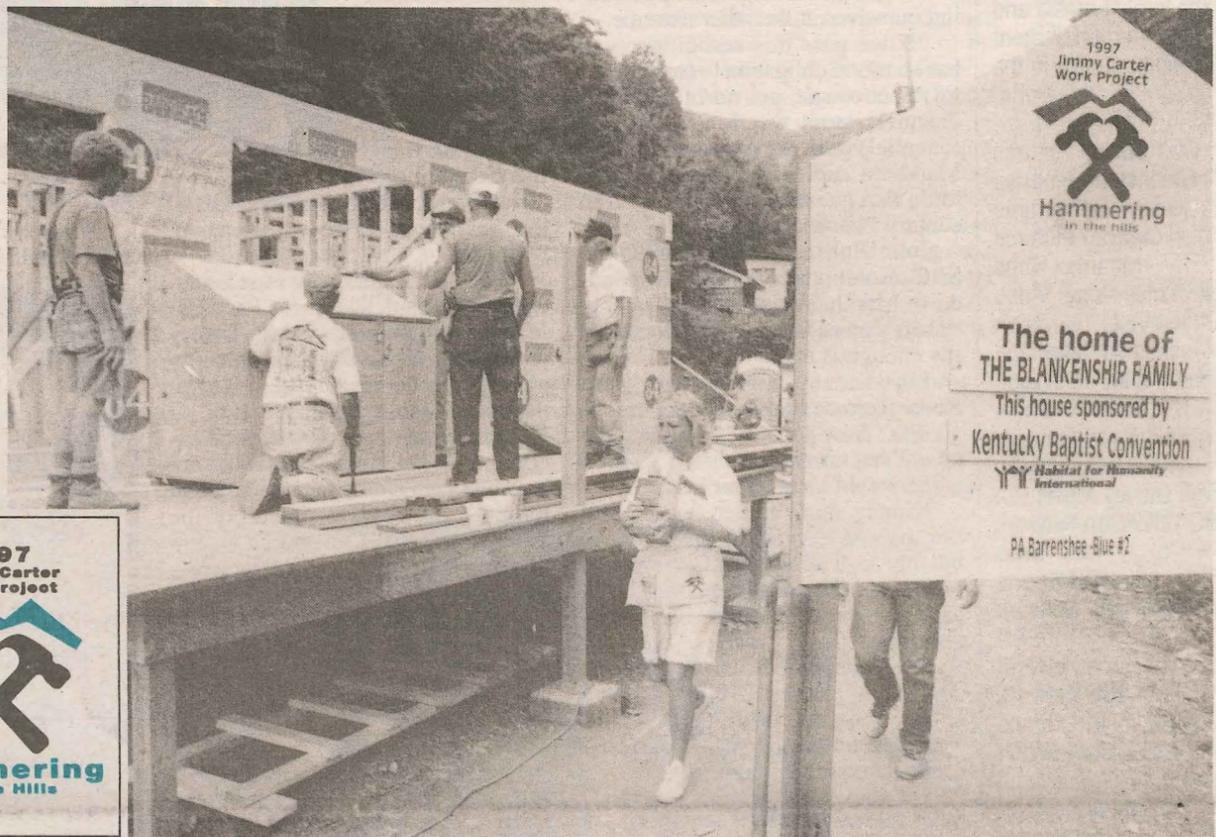
"There's a lot more room for growth, but there has been steady growth," said Beech, himself a Baptist.

In Kentucky, involvement with Habitat varies with each affiliate.

"To date, we don't have any houses sponsored by the Baptist community in Louisville," said Diane Kirkpatrick, director of Habitat for Humanity of Louisville.

By comparison, Catholic churches there have sponsored four homes, and Presbyterian churches have sponsored five houses, she said. "It's unfortunate because Baptists were the leaders in establishing Louisville Habitat and we would love to have them work with us again," she said.

In Morehead, however, Baptist involvement is high. Don Mantooth, pastor of First Baptist Church of



BLITZ BUILDING Kentucky Baptists sponsored four of the 50 houses in the Habitat for Humanity project. ■ Above: Volunteer builders work in Phelps at Baptist-sponsored homes. ■ Right: Elvis Brown, a member of Hartford Baptist Church, saws a panel.

Morehead, is president of the local Habitat affiliate.

"My church gives me a great deal of freedom in my role in Habitat," he said. "They're good at forgiving when the administrative work isn't done in the church because they know their pastor is giving in the community."

In Paducah, Baptist churches are well represented, said director Philip Munger. In addition to financial contributions from several Baptist churches, Immanuel Baptist Church supplies and installs the insulation for every Paducah Habitat house, he said.

"We haven't talked the Baptists into building a house for us yet, but we're working on it," he said.

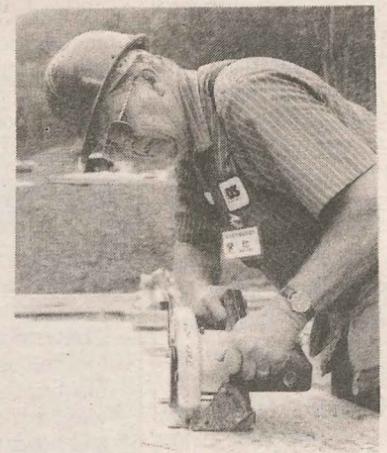
Kentucky Baptist Convention missions leaders said they hope the Cart-

er work camp will be a springboard to involving more Baptists in their local Habitat affiliates.

Larry Martin, KBC missions division director, said an effort is underway to increase Habitat involvement by Baptist student ministries in Kentucky colleges.

Said Truett Cocanougher, director of missions for Bracken Baptist Association in Maysville: "I'm hoping that our own people can see the larger picture of how we can be involved in helping people to have decent housing."

Talking from the roof of a Habitat house in Morehead, Cocanougher said the project is an ideal way for Christians to apply their beliefs to daily living. "Volunteers can see that and gain



insight as to what it means to witness by working, not just by talking." ■ For more photos and stories from the Jimmy Carter project, see pages 6-9.

Disney boycott may create a small world for Baptists

DALLAS—It could be a small world after all—a world without the Disney Channel, ESPN, ABC television and more than 200 other subsidiaries of Walt Disney Co.—for Christians who heed the Southern Baptist Convention's call to boycott one of the world's largest media and entertainment companies.

As expected, messengers at the SBC annual meeting in Dallas voted June 18 to follow through with the Disney boycott threatened at last year's convention in New Orleans. The show-of-hands vote was estimated at more than 90 percent favorable.

The resolution "on moral stewardship and the Disney Company" avoids the word "boycott" but asks the nearly 16 million Southern Baptists to "refrain from patronizing" Disney "and

any of its related entities."

The resolution accuses the family entertainment company of "increasingly promoting immoral ideologies such as homosexuality, infidelity and adultery." Among offenses cited by Disney critics are a policy offering health-insurance benefits to the domestic partners of homosexual employees, allowing the continuation of "Gay Days" at theme parks and the distribution of R-rated movies through Disney subsidiaries.

Most recently, the Disney-owned ABC network introduced television's

first leading homosexual character in an April airing of "Ellen."

The resolution asks Southern Baptists to avoid spending on any Disney products, charging Disney has abandoned its commitment to family values.

In addition to Disney's three well-known theme parks, the company also owns the American Broadcast Co.—which includes ABC television network, ESPN, A&E network, more than 20 affiliated radio and TV stations and a long list of trade journals, medical journals and software. Other entities

include Disney-owned film companies such as Walt Disney Pictures, Touchstone Pictures, Miramax Films and the Disney Channel.

In addition to targeting Disney, the resolution also calls for extending the boycott to "any company that promotes immoral ideologies and practices, realizing that the Disney Co. is not the only such provider."

Disney officials issued a brief response noting the company "creates more family entertainment of every kind than anyone else in the world."

"We plan to continue our leadership role and in fact we will increase production of family entertainment," the statement said.

In debate over the resolution, messenger Rick Markham of Snellville, Ga. *See Disney boycott ..., page 2*



Moving? See page 4 (0624)

BAPTISTS

Disney boycott may create small world after all

Disney's kingdom

Here is a partial list of enterprises owned by the Walt Disney Co., one of the largest media and entertainment conglomerates in the world:

Walt Disney Pictures
 Touchstone Pictures
 Hollywood Pictures
 Caravan Pictures
 Miramax Films
 Walt Disney Home Video
 Buena Vista Television
 Touchstone Television
 Walt Disney Television
 The Disney Channel
 Hollywood Records
 Wonderland Music
 Walt Disney Music Co.
 ABC Television network
 ABC News
 ABC Sports
 ABC Radio Network
 ESPN
 Lifetime Network
 A&E Network
 24 radio/TV stations
 Walt Disney World
 Disneyland
 Tokyo Disneyland
 Euro-Disney
 Disney Press
 Hyperion Press
 Discover magazine
 FamilyFun magazine
 Family PC magazine
 51 trade journals
 8 medical journals
 51 local newspapers
 The Disney Store
 Childcraft Education
 Diversified Publishing
 Fairchild Publications
 Chilton Enterprises
 Miller Publishing
 Hitchcock Publishing
 Wilson Publishing

Continued from page 1

Ga., opposed the boycott, equating Southern Baptists with 20th-century Pharisees. "This us-versus-them mentality is deadly," he said. "We are just reacting to an extreme while positioning ourselves at the other extreme."

"If we pass this resolution, you have a moral obligation to cancel your ESPN coverage, get rid of the A&E channel, stop watching Lifetime (channel) and never watch ABC," Markham said. "If we are not willing to do that, we are no more than 20th century Pharisees."

John Sullivan, chairman of the SBC resolutions committee, responded to Markham's speech by saying, "There comes a time when you must say enough is enough."

Lisa Kinney, a messenger from Keene Terrace Baptist Church in Largo, Fla., drew applause for telling the crowd that turning off their TVs for a while would be no great loss.

Kinney said she had "purchased the toys and watched the movies" but her conversion to Christianity brought her to understand that Jesus calls her to a higher level of personal purity.

"Will the Southern Baptist boycott on Disney change Disney? I don't know," she said. "Will it change us? Yes. We will show we love Jesus more than our entertainment."

The convention rejected an amendment by Walter Price, a messenger from First Southern Baptist Church in Beaumont, Calif., which would have limited the boycott to one designated month to emphasize its impact.

Resolutions committee chairman Sullivan spoke against the amend-

ment, comparing it to an earlier suggestion for a more narrowly targeted boycott of theme parks and merchandise stores.

"I'm against this for the same reason I'm against a targeted boycott," said Sullivan, executive director of the Florida Baptist Convention.

"If we say it is OK 11 months out of the year but not 12, we will seem hypocritical."

Wiley Drake, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, Calif., who introduced last year's Disney resolution, pledged to press for boycotting other companies deemed sympathetic to homosexuality.

"Just because we can't boycott everything doesn't mean we should not boycott one," Drake said, adding that the potential negative image of the Southern Baptist Convention should not be a concern. "Jesus had a negative image when he kicked the merchants out of the temple."

After pressing for an SBC boycott against Disney in 1996, Drake said he continued to use his family pass to Disneyland the rest of the year.

"The pass ran through December, so Disney already had the money," he explained. "It gave me a chance to be on the inside at Disney."

Though denied a chance to speak during debate, former SBC president Jim Henry told reporters he strongly opposed the boycott. "The world will hear 'boycott' and (think) that we are against homosexuals," said Henry,

pastor of First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla. "We are against the practice of homosexuality, not against people."

Henry urged Southern Baptists to ignore the resolution, saying they are more likely to influence Disney through witnessing contacts than a boy-

cott. Henry said after last year's resolution he had church members come to

him in tears and say, "Pastor, those people I've been witnessing to, bringing to church ... they're saying, 'Don't invite me anymore; don't come back; don't ask me to go to that church. If that's the way you feel about me or people, I don't have any time for it.'"

"This hurts us," Henry explained. "I do not feel like this is the best way to get our positive message out. That message is Jesus Christ loves you and wants to save you, and we've got that message. I think that's the great message, and I don't think this is the best way to deliver that message."



IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., talks to reporters after he was unable to address the Disney boycott resolution. "The world will hear 'boycott' and (think) that we are against homosexuals," he said. "We are against the practice of homosexuality, not against people." (BP photo)

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Draper asks for patience.** Be patient with us and pray for us, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Sunday School Board told messengers to the SBC annual meeting June 17. Jimmy Draper offered a "deep apology" to churches and other customers who have had trouble with the board's new ordering and distribution system.

"Our goal is to provide you with the best service possible, but that's not what you've been receiving for the past several months," Draper noted. "We haven't been able to give you the quality we anticipate, but we believe we'll be able to do that again."

During the transition period, Draper said, the board is taking several steps to help alleviate the problem: employment of 40 new customer service representatives; installation of additional phone and fax lines; enabling customers later this summer to place orders on the Internet or with a touch-tone telephone; making adjustments to shipping and handling charges; simplifying the customer discounts policy; and clarifying billing statements.

■ **Discount offered.** Baptist Book Stores will begin offering paid ministerial staff a 20 percent discount on

books, Bibles and printed music effective Aug. 1, according to Mark Scott, vice president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's retail group.

■ **Prayer and fasting asked.** Southern Baptists are being asked to set aside every Wednesday in 1998 and 1999 to undergird the denomination's final push toward Bold Mission Thrust by the end of the year 2000. Bold Mission Thrust—the goal of sharing the gospel with every person in the world by the year 2000—was adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1976.

Roy Edgemon, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's discipleship and family development division, announced the prayer and fasting emphasis during the SBC annual meeting June 17. Edgemon recommended each church member's day of prayer and fasting be broken with an evening church fellowship meal.

■ **SBC begins four a day.** Southern Baptists have begun four churches per day for three of the last four years, according to Charles Chaney, extension vice president for the Home Mission Board. That evaluation of recent work was delivered

during the HMB's annual new work banquet June 16, when leaders in church planting were recognized. Billy Billingsley, pastor of Sheridan Hills Baptist Church in Hollywood, Fla., received the Presidential Award for outstanding contribution in church starting. He is the founding pastor of Sheridan Hills, which has started 53 churches since 1963.

■ **Mega-church growth cited.** In 1970, there were 10 mega-churches in the United States, according to John Vaughan, a Missouri-based researcher on trends related to churches of 2,000 or more in attendance. But in 1997, there are about 400, he added. Of the current 400 mega-churches, 81 are Southern Baptist, 59 are independent charismatic, 31 are Assembly of God, 30 are independent and 17 are United Methodist, Vaughan said in a report to the Southern Baptist Research Fellowship.

■ **Merritt to preach.** James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga., has been named to preach the convention sermon when the Southern Baptist Convention meets next June in Salt Lake City. Robert Witty of Jacksonville, Fla. was named alternate.

■ **WMU works with Habitat.** The executive board of Woman's Missionary Union has signed an agreement with Habitat for Humanity to recruit up to 320 volunteers and raise \$258,500 in money and/or materials to build eight Habitat houses in 1998 and 1999.

■ **Merritt leads committee.** James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church of Snellville, Ga., has been elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee. Merritt was elected without opposition June 18. Other officers are Rex Terry, an attorney from Fort Smith, Ark., vice chairman; and Joe Reynolds, a Houston attorney, secretary.

■ **Endowment reaches goal.** The \$100,000 goal for a Ministers' Wives Endowment Fund was met and exceeded this year, according to Dolores Taylor of Gainesville, Ga., president of the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference for 1996-97. The fund was established two years ago to generate income to defray costs of the annual luncheon. That means tickets for next year's ministers' wives luncheon will cost less than the \$18-\$20 they have cost in recent years, she said.

KENTUCKY

Messengers agree with Kentucky man's concern

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

DALLAS—A Kentuckian's concern about "evolutionary ideologies" in magazines published by Woman's Missionary Union prompted messengers to last week's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting to pass a motion asking that such references stop.

The motion presented by Derek Staples of Lewisport Baptist Church in Lewisport stated: "In light of recent printed material by Woman's Missionary Union using language that espouses evolutionary ideology, and in light of the fact that we as a Southern Baptist Convention believe that the word of God 'is a perfect treasure of divine instruction and truth without mixture of error,' I therefore move that the Southern Baptist Convention request its agencies and auxiliaries to refrain from the use of evolutionary

ideology in the distribution of all materials."

Staples said he was referring specifically to articles published in WMU's *Aware* magazine and *Aware* resource kit for April-May-June 1997. The articles "state that people have lived in China for more than 1 million years," he reported.

WMU officials said no such reference could be found in the *Aware* magazine cited, although they admitted such a reference appeared in one small segment of a teaching strip in the *Aware* resource kit. The teaching kit is an optional item available to workers in WMU-sponsored missions programs for young girls.

Many conservative Christians who espouse a strict literal interpretation of

the biblical book of Genesis see an unresolvable conflict between the Bible's account of creation and the most conservative of these so-called "creationists" believe the world was created only 6,000 years ago.

Thus a statement that people have lived in China for more than 1 million years goes against the creationist viewpoint.

In presenting the case for his motion to SBC messengers, at Staples said "theological fidelity" is at stake in this issue. "As a parent of three small children, it is important to me that we as Southern Baptists state clearly what we believe on this issue ... so they will have the clear, unadulterated, author-

itative, inerrant word of God."

Staples' sentiments were echoed by Tom Woodson of Sheridan Road Baptist Church in Tulsa, Okla.

"The issue today is one of trust," he said. "We have a holy responsibility before God to raise up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We must be able to trust implicitly all the materials produced by our Southern Baptist agencies."

No one spoke against the motion, and it passed on a show of hands vote.

In a brief statement later in the day, WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien said: "We certainly are committed to presenting the truth in the Scripture. Because of that we have doctrinal readers for everything we produce.

"There's always the possibility of something slipping through that might offend," she continued, noting the SBC resolution serves as "a good reminder to us to keep a watchful eye."

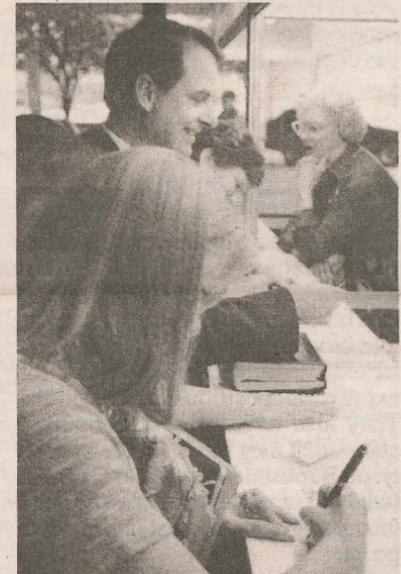
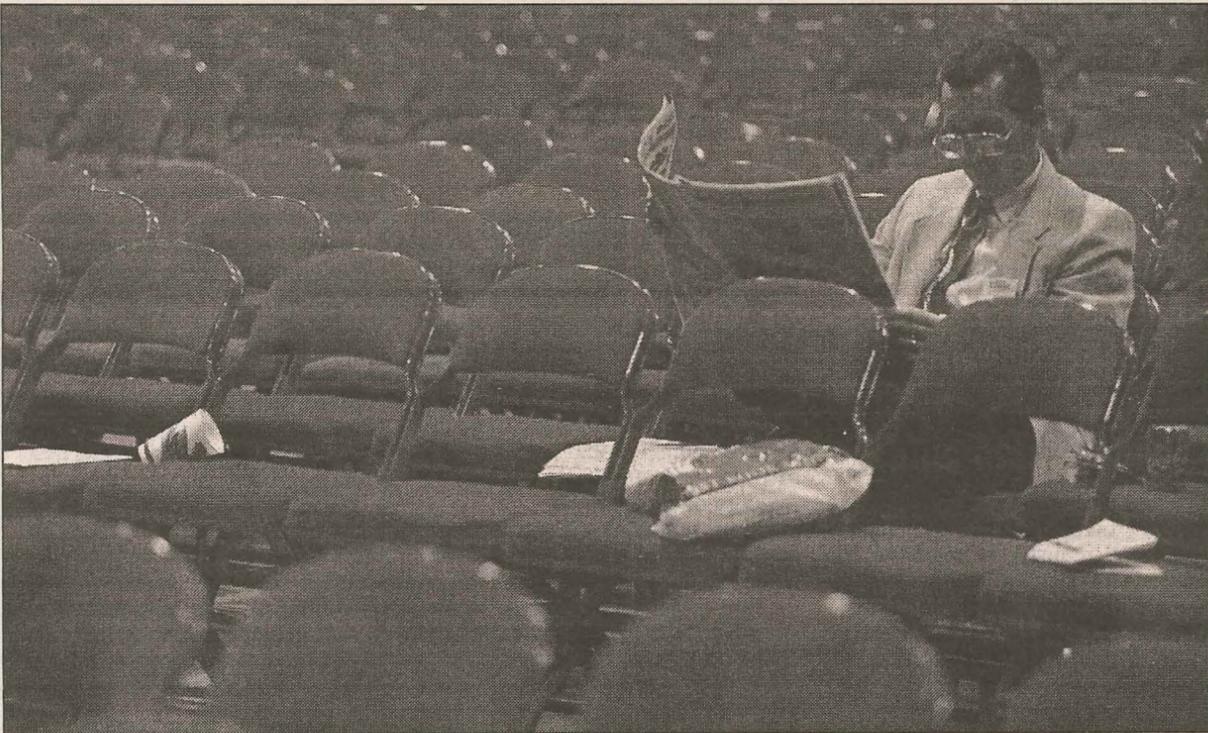


BLUEGRASS BURGOO

■ **Keith Inman**, Baptist campus minister at Murray State University, has been named president-elect of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers. Inman was elected during the association's annual meeting June 14 at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

■ **Kentucky Baptist churches** sent 500 messengers to this year's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Dallas. They were among a total of 12,414 messengers from across the nation, the lowest messenger registrations since 1973 when the SBC met in Portland, Ore.

■ **Arnold Caddell**, the member of Erlanger Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky whose nomination to a Southern Baptist Convention post had been challenged, was elected to the SBC committee on order of business without public opposition. The SBC committee on nominations had threatened to withdraw Caddell's nomination because his church allows members to make contributions to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The chairman of the nominating committee later declared that the Kentucky church meets "the letter of the law," if not the spirit.



KENTUCKY IMAGES ■ **Top left:** Brian Malcon, pastor of Kirksville Baptist Church in Richmond, catches up on the latest news during an afternoon break at the Southern Baptist Convention (BP photo by Bill Bangham). ■ **Above:** Mike Roult, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland, and his family register for the convention. ■ **Bottom left:** Jerry Rankin (right), president of the International Mission Board, presents the Dr. Willie Simmons Award to Mikell Robinson, campus minister at Kentucky State University, as his wife, Janet, looks on. The award is given in recognition for leadership in helping African Americans do international missions. It was presented during the Southern Baptist African American Fellowship luncheon. ■ **Bottom right:** A couple stops by the convention booth for Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.



WESTERN RECORDER

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

MARK WINGFIELD
Editor

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

MAURI SMITH
Marketing & Business
Manager

C.R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Perverse leaders

Can there be any greater indication of the perversity of our denominational leaders when:

■ They object to a gender-accurate (inerrant) Bible?

■ In a world filled with real terrorists and evil-doers, our leaders declare Disney the enemy?

Against this backdrop, I present two truths: (1) Women are fully human; and (2) Mickey Mouse is not an enemy.

Our leaders, seemingly at ease with problems of the greatest complexity, can not accept even the simplest and most obvious truth if it be such as would oblige them to admit the falsity of conclusions which they have delighted in explaining to colleagues, which they have proudly taught to others and which they have woven into the fabric of their lives.

It is difficult to get persons to understand something when their salaries depend upon not understanding it.

*Gary L. Millsap
Louisville*

Don't speak for me

I have read with interest all the letters concerning gender and biblical truth.

Those who have argued against the role of women in leadership have attacked Western Recorder editors for expressing positions in editorials. They also have made unsupported claims that they speak for the majority of Baptists. They accuse people (who differ with them) of words and thoughts that do not belong to those people.

In response, first, editorials are understood to be personal statements of opinion—and everybody has a right to one.

Second, no one can speak for me—or anyone else for that matter—unless he or she has asked me my feelings first. Anyone who claims to do so is telling one untruth multiplied by the number of people offended by the statement.

Third, the accusation that those

who favor the gender-accuracy action are attempting to feminize the Bible and are not God-fearing is unfair, unfounded, inaccurate and inappropriate.

I do fear God. I also have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and know Jesus Christ as my Savior. And I understand enough about language, the transformation of language and the translation of language to realize that language is fluid; it must adapt to the changes in the listeners of it in order to communicate the intent of the original speaker.

Fourth, I am distressed, not because I disagree with the positions held by the writers, but because the writers suggest that they are the only ones who have a direct communication line to God. Doesn't the "priesthood" of the believer endow everyone a communication line to God through prayer?

Finally, I am dismayed by mean-spiritedness toward other Christians. How can we reach out to the unsaved when we don't reflect Christ's love to our own?

How will I be able to answer for the investment and stewardship of the "talents" God entrusted in me if I hide them in the ground—or behind a man's authority?

*E. Carolyn Tucker
Dixon*

Student missions

Recently I read an interesting commentary by Tony Campolo (April 8, page 4) in the Recorder. In the article, "A Challenge for Youth Missions," Campolo sets forth a suggested ministry involvement plan for young people.

Campolo's plan of church-based ministry involvement in evangelism and social ministry is excellent. He suggests a variety of positive results, including personal growth for the missionaries, assistance for new or struggling churches and an excitement among the churches the missionaries join after their term of service.

Southern Baptists already have a similar ministry in place, funded by state Baptist student ministries and our North American and International mission boards. High school juniors and seniors can spend a summer in

service for Christ as Sojourner summer missionaries. College and seminary students can spend either a summer or a school year serving as summer or semester missionaries. College graduates under age 30 can serve in either North America or around the world for two years as US-2 missionaries or journeymen.

Through these and other Southern Baptist-sponsored volunteer ministries, young people have the opportunity to be involved in church-based, practical ministries such as those suggested by Campolo. At this moment, 2,000 Southern Baptist high school and college students and young adults are serving as volunteer missionaries in the United States and around the world. These youth, students and young adults are winning people to Christ, helping start churches and meeting needs from a Christian perspective.

For more information about volunteer opportunities for youth, students and young adults, call the student volunteer mobilization unit of the North American Mission Board at (800) 462-VOLS or the student section of the International Mission Board at (800) 789-4693.

*Van Simmons
Student Volunteer Mobilization
North American Mission Board
Alpharetta, Ga.*

Qualified nominee

After reading the epistle regarding the nomination of Arnold Caddell to serve on the Southern Baptist Convention's committee on order of business (June 10, page 2), I can see no justification for rejection.

There are guidelines and there is a policy. Caddell would be a valuable asset to the committee. Giving is a freedom of choice.

These guidelines, it seems to me, are of the kind that would be welcomed in the Kremlin.

Take advantage of this man's proven ability. Don't swallow a camel and choke on a gnat.

*Bryce VanLandingham
Erlanger*

Editor's note: Although Caddell's nomination was challenged prior to the SBC annual meeting, the challenge was dismissed after the Recorder published news of Caddell's plight.

MARRIAGE

Healthy marriages are possible

By John Lepper

After writing the Family Forum column on aging for almost five years, I look forward now to writing the marriage column. Since this is my first column in the area of marriage I thought it might be helpful to share some

of my own story as well as my hopes and dreams for couples.

It began almost 51 years ago when I was born into a Christian

family. My parents' love for God was evident in the way they loved and related to one another and their three sons. Our family was not perfect, but it was the source of meaning and purpose in life.

When I was 15 my mother died and my father carried on the tradition of providing, as best he could, love and guidance for our family. While the church had always been our extended family, its role became more important.

Connie and I were married 26 years ago this week. It's been a great 26 years. We've fallen down and gotten up; we've struggled to grow together; we've enjoyed these years. We've taken our vows seriously, and we've taken seriously our potential as a couple. In many ways, the sparkle that faded with the death of my mother has been replaced by the family we've created and nurtured. We've personally benefited from marriage enrichment as well as marriage counseling.

Here are some of my beliefs, hopes and dreams about marriage:

■ God believes in family.
■ Healthy marriages are possible.

■ Weddings mark only the beginning of a marriage. Growth through the years is possible.

■ Frustrations in our current family often have more to do with experiences in our family of origin than in the current situation.

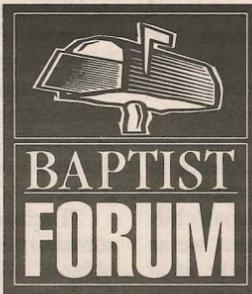
■ Couples are driven by unconscious forces developed during childhood.

■ Marriage counseling can help couples move beyond stuck places and help couples stay together and grow.

■ Churches need to help couples discover how to apply biblical principles to their marriages and families.

■ Marriage enrichment opportunities provided by churches have great potential in contributing to growing marriages.

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



Bring back the joy of living through giving

Is your walk with Christ filled with joy? Or is it a necessary chore—a drudgery that is more than enjoyed. I want to share with you one way to bring back the joy—discover or rediscover the joy of giving. Carefully consider four steps:

■ **Reflect on God's gifts to you.** If you need a little help, read Psalm 103. You'll find a list in verses 1-12. Do you have eyesight, sense of touch, ability to get around, a voice to speak, ears to hear? Thank the Lord.

■ **Remind yourself of his promises**

regarding generosity. II Corinthians 9:6-7: Now this (I say,) he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one (do) just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.

■ **Examine your heart.** This is the tough one. Don't think about what you would like to have or all those bills facing you. Ask yourself some tough questions. Am I giving from a grateful heart? Is my giving sacrificial? Is Christ being honored in

my giving? Am I prompted by joy? Is my giving cheerful?

■ **Make a commitment to become a joyful giver.** One man told me recently that beginning last January, he and his family began to tithe regularly. He said, "On paper we could not do this, but by faith, we have made this commitment. And you know, we are getting along better on the 90 percent than we did before on the 100 percent."

Count your blessings. Do a little soul searching. Then begin to give joyfully, generously and regularly.

*Dan Garland, pastor
Zion Baptist Church
Henderson*

MINISTERIALLY SPEAKING

HE SAID/SHE SAID

There was a pox on our house, and, of course, Mark was gone

SHESAI



Alison Wingfield

The pox: chapter one. It was bound to happen the way it did. It was inevitable. Mark was out of town.

He left about 6 p.m. Sunday night. Our Realtor called about 9:30 p.m. There was a complication on the counter-offer we had made the day before to someone finally wanting to buy our house. And I had to make a decision that night.

Of course, Mark was out of town.

After a sleepless night, worrying and fretting over whether I made the right decision, I got the boys up early and out the door for their first day of vacation Bible school.

After three weeks of summer vacation, I think I was more excited than they were. A whole week of freedom (at least for three-and-a-half hours a day) loomed in front of me. I didn't even mind that Mark was going to be gone to the Southern Baptist Convention until Friday, because I knew I'd have a break every day. I was going to get some freelance work done without a thousand interruptions, get my hair cut, go to a mall (or two) by myself. I even had an appointment for my first manicure in five years.

Monday afternoon, things got dicier on the house. Of course they did: Mark was out of town.

And that night, as I was getting the boys ready for baths, I noticed some suspicious-looking spots on Luke. We had avoided the chicken pox for five years. As a matter of fact, I had planned to have them vaccinated in August, before school starts again.

No need for that. It was indeed the pox. And we missed the rest of VBS. Garrett (who has yet to break out) even opted to stay home with Luke.

Of course, Mark was out of town.

And we were in quarantine all week. I now know all the drive-throughs in town. We even got our car emissions test out of the way.

Now we're waiting for the other shoe to drop, checking Garrett every day for spots. All we need to do is check the calendar and see when Mark is due to leave again. That's when Garrett will break out.

HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

Same song, 350th verse. Anyone with a job that requires travel knows this routine well. Trouble waits until you're out of town to strike.

And then you spend the next six months trying to make it up to your spouse. But you can't make it up, because such events are everlasting trump cards. I imagine when Luke is grown and living on his own Alison still will remind me of the crises that struck while I was out of town.

I know trouble waits to catch you out of town because our real estate trauma proves it. We've been trying to sell this house for eight months. (A house, incidentally, that everyone advised us would sell in a matter of days.) Eight months with no buyer; then I'm out of town for a week and suddenly we have two buyers fighting for the house, each threatening to sue someone if they don't get it.

Where were these people the week before, when everyone was in town? Or for that matter, where were these people eight months ago? They were waiting until I was out of town and Alison was in quarantine with a chicken-poxed child.

I've decided to take comfort in the Scripture passage that says God "never slumbers nor sleeps." Surely that means God doesn't go out of town. I'm glad, because if God went out of town, there's no telling what might happen.

Would Jesus go to Disney World?

Some days, it seems like the Southern Baptist Convention wants to control the world. Now that we're beyond battling for control of the convention's internal workings, the quest for domination has turned outward.

The resolution to boycott the Walt Disney Co. adopted by messengers to last week's SBC annual meeting is the most recent example of this attempt to make the world march to our beat. But it is not the only example.

Last month, three SBC seminary presidents and officials of the SBC Sunday School Board threatened a boycott of the New International Version of the Bible if the English translation were updated to make certain nouns and pronouns "gender-accurate"—and, ironically, more true to the original biblical languages.

The SBC also is becoming a force to be reckoned with in Washington, where the Baptist interest has turned from safeguarding the First Amendment to trying to rewrite it in an image more helpful to our cause. A Southern Baptist agency is leading the demand for greater accommodation of religious practice by government—from letting religious majorities set the agenda for prayer in public schools to requiring government to pay for religious education.

And now the SBC has given Mickey marching orders because of who he keeps company with.

The problem in all these cases is that the zealots among us are demanding that the world conform to their standards rather than working to ensure that they personally conform to God's standards.

The Bible admonishes us not to conform to the pattern of this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. It says nothing about boycotting when secular companies don't embrace our values.

Jesus has been described as the greatest revolutionary ever to walk the earth. His mission was to change the world. But he consistently rejected opportunities to control the world.

When we attempt to control the world, we deny the power of Jesus to change the world. Jesus did not operate from a position of power, but of love. If we really believe what he taught, we ought to shun power and seek love as well.

A messenger from Florida made a stirring appeal in favor of the Disney boycott last week. She talked about how Jesus changed her life and now demands a higher level of personal purity in her life. For her, that means not supporting Disney. She acknowledged her actions have more effect on her than on Disney.

If personal piety really is the goal, then the focus should be on individual action rather than corporate action.

That's in keeping with the historic Baptist belief in the priesthood of the believer. Each of us is responsible individually to God; no church body or official has the right to

tell us where to shop or what kind of entertainment is appropriate for our families.

While making such a mandate may not have been the intent of the Disney resolution, it is the effect. We have created one more litmus test that can be used to define who is a "loyal" Southern Baptist.

When our quest for personal piety leads us to pile up heavy burdens unrelated to God's redemptive work, then we become modern-day Pharisees, as another messenger pointed out.

The SBC's Disney boycott is the equivalent of the meaningless regulations of the Scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day. Besides that, it is structured in such an all-or-nothing manner that it has no chance of being effective. The negative repercussions far outweigh any potential good.

Where is the wisdom in demanding that we avoid some of the best family products available in order to make a statement on "family values?" And where is the wisdom in building a wall between those who have the gospel and those who need it? Where is the wisdom in harming the years of personal witness to Disney employees carried on by brothers and sisters like those at First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla.?

Would Jesus go to Disney World? Absolutely. And he probably would go on Gay Day because that's where he could do the most good. He would walk among all the people, inviting them to journey from their small world to God's Tomorrowland.

—Mark Wingfield

EDITORIAL

Now boarding

By Carey Newman

My friend approached me with a Bible in one hand and a piece of paper in the other.

"I was digging through my Bible and found some old sermon notes. One in particular caught my eye. It was dated January 1991 and was preached by a visiting preacher in our church. It was about how Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait was a direct and specific fulfillment of God's plan for the world; and that Jesus was due to return on the heels of a great war in the Middle East. I still remember the sermon.

The way he cut and pasted parts of the Bible made it seem so convincing. As I now look at the sermon, I know that his interpretation, though sincere, was mistaken. I guess my question now is: What should I think about the Second Coming of Jesus?"

The first thing to note is that the Bible backs off from giving anything resembling a timetable. When asked by his disciples, even the risen Jesus claimed ignorance on the subject of

his own return. In the end, the claims of some (even if well-intentioned) to know more than Jesus did distorts the teaching of the Scriptures.

What can be said about the Second Coming of Jesus? Much. The Second Coming is both necessary and certain and is made so by the Resurrection of Jesus and the gift of the Spirit. The Second Coming is made necessary by the Resurrection because it begins something that must be brought to conclusion; and the Second Coming is made certain by the gift of the Spirit because the Spirit is God's down payment, his promise to bring all things to their final end.

The Second Coming of Jesus is imminent. According to the New Testament nothing stands in the way of Jesus' Second Coming. God's final triumph over the powers of evil could occur at any moment. The cry of the early church, "Maranatha," (Come quickly our Lord!) reflects its hope for a speedy and imminent return.

Finally, the Second Coming will be a surprise. At first blush to say this seems to contradict its necessity, cer-

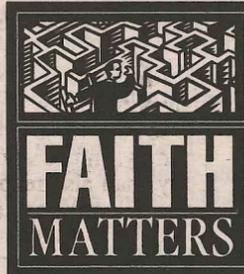
tainty and imminence.

Yet the Bible holds all these ideas together. Jesus consistently warns that his own return will be sudden and unexpected. Jesus' return will be as surprising as his Resurrection—only more so.

On a recent flight the dreaded words of the captain, "We seem to be having some minor mechanical problems—we should be underway soon," were met with the obligatory groans. Despite the predicament, I and my hundred or so fellow travelers were certain that the airline was going to get all of us to our final destinations. The tickets we held in our hands represented the airline's promise to complete what it started—even if they were to do so in some quite unpredictable and surprising ways.

While we all looked forward to an imminent departure—hoping it would be sooner than later—we also knew that no one, not even the captain, could state with accuracy the precise moment.

I told my friend to hope passionately but live patiently, for our eagerness for the Second Coming of Jesus should be matched by our resolve to wait in faithfulness. *The Second Coming of Jesus is the final and full realization of all God started in the Resurrection.*



MINISTRY

'Hammering' has impact on Appalachia & volunteers

"Regardless of how much skill and training you've had, you can still contribute to missions."

Jeff Hinson, a Baptist from Charlotte, N.C., and volunteer with the Jimmy Carter work camp

By David Winfrey
News Director

PHELPS—Standing by a stack of roof trusses, Mike York summed up the feelings of many volunteers last week.

"I'm not a carpenter, but I'm a good gopher," said York, pastor of Elkhorn City Baptist Church.

York's church sits on U.S. Highway 80 on the far eastern side of Kentucky. He compares the congregation's mission to the road, which spans the commonwealth from Virginia to Missouri.

"We look at our mission field as the whole state," he said.

So when volunteers from his church recently helped Falmouth dig out of the worst flood in years, they were ready to go again when their director of missions asked them to consider helping last week with Habitat for Humanity.

"It makes us feel like we're a part of Kentucky Baptist missions," he said.

The church averages about 100 in Sunday school and never could match the dollars some churches pumped into the project, York conceded. "But we feel like we can do a lot by being out here."

That's why he and two members, Doyle Bailey and Bill Brickey, worked all week at the house Kentucky Baptists sponsored in Phelps. And that's why members baked 25 pies and cakes to help feed the volunteers working in that part of Kentucky with the Jimmy Carter work project for Habitat for Humanity.

"We wanted the churches of Pike County to be represented," he said.

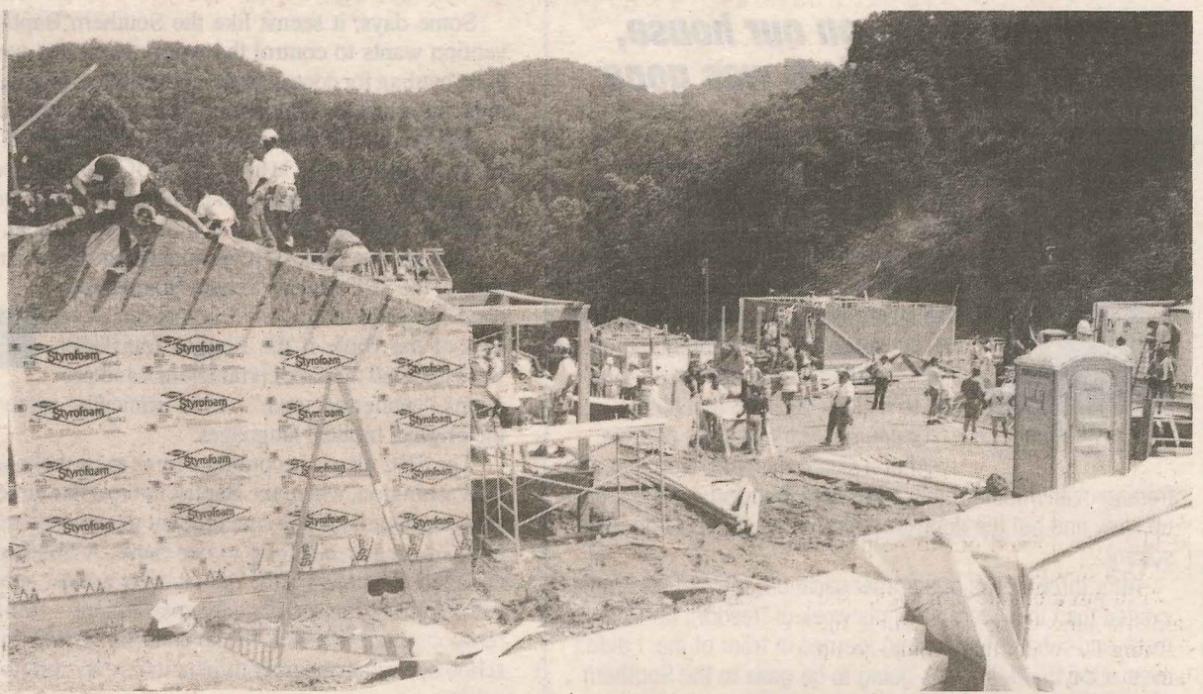
Reasons for working with the blitz build varied as greatly as the distances traveled to get to Appalachia.

Ray Wilson, pastor of Rockhouse Baptist Church in Leslie County, called the project a good witness for Baptists in the county.

Leslie County contained one of the four Habitat houses sponsored by Kentucky Baptists.

"It's a way to let Leslie County know that Kentucky Baptists care about Leslie County in a visible way," he said. "We talk about caring. Now we've got to put it in action. And this is putting it into action."

Meanwhile, Nancy Blackburn, a



ON BLITZIN' Volunteers came to the Habitat for Humanity blitz build from a variety of backgrounds and motivations. ■ Above: The site in Pikeville. ■ Below left: Steve Goad, a Baptist from Charlotte, N.C. ■ Below right: Pastor Mike York (left) and Bill Brickey of Elkhorn City Baptist Church. ■ Left corner: Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter greet Baptist Brotherhood volunteers who served food in Beattyville.



member of First Baptist Church of Belfry, said she came to work because she heard how much fun a relative had during a local Habitat build last fall.

"He had such a great time, we couldn't wait for him to come home (each night) to tell us what he'd done," she said.

After she worked during the day her pastor, Steve Rice, helped install the plumbing for the houses in that area.

"We're just thrilled that Baptists are taking part," Blackburn said.

Kentucky Baptists weren't the only Baptists who volunteered last week.

Steve Goad of Charlotte, N.C., said he got involved in Habitat through his church, Providence Baptist, and was pleased at how much closer the church grew by working together.

"It was amazing how many people wanted to help," said Goad, who added more people are involved in local missions as a result of working with Habitat.

Jeff Hinson, also of Providence Baptist, agreed. "I never had really gotten involved other than giving my money for missions," he said.

"It made me realize it's not just something you have to go somewhere to do. You can do it in your own back yard," he added. "Regardless of how much skill and training you've had, you can still contribute to missions."

Reb Snyder, of West Point Baptist church in West Point, Nebraska, said she believes God led her to work in



Habitat last week.

"So often as Baptists we focus on evangelizing or telling people the good news," she said. "I just realized it's important to serve as well."

Not everyone was motivated by a religious sense of mission. Susan Scarritt of Philadelphia said she came to Kentucky to visit with family members who also were coming for the blitz build.

"My sister and I thought this would be a great time to have some time together and do something making a difference."

In fact, it wasn't until she arrived on site and heard the history of Habitat that she learned it has a religious basis. "That kind of surprised me," she said. "I'm poking my sister and saying, 'Did you know that?'"

She said she has experience at construction sites with lots of yelling and profanity. "It's kind of refreshing to see this kind of atmosphere."

Among the more well-known volunteers was U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who admitted he was skeptical the first time he heard of Habitat.

"I said, 'Oh, that's that kind of do-goodism that makes them feel good but doesn't do very much,'" he said.

It wasn't until he visited a house

dedication in his district that he learned what a difference Habitat can make. "It was really, for me, a transformational moment," he said.

"What you're seeing is people getting a little closer together as they work together," Gingrich said. "It is, I think, the best example I know of a way to bring together human beings."

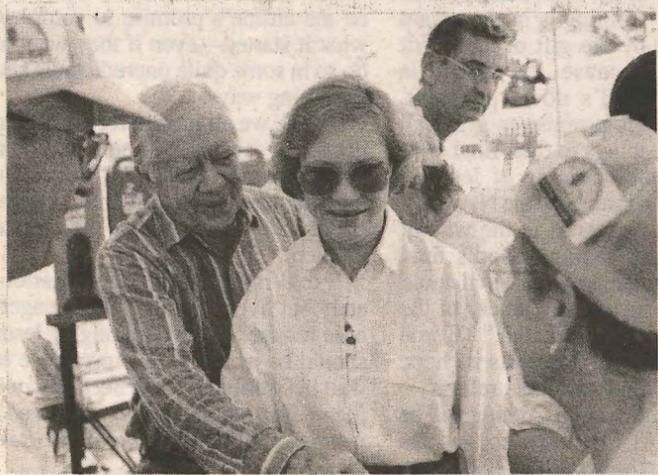
As another example of that, in Washington 35 congressmen from across the political spectrum have worked on the "house the House built," Gingrich said. Those representatives have challenged every member of the House to go back to their district and work on a Habitat house, he said.

Elvis Brown, a member of Hartford Baptist Church in Hartford, Ky., has another group in mind.

"My wish is that everyone who's affiliated with a church to have just one time to come on a Habitat project and see how people can come together," he said.

Asked how he feels about the family he's working with, Brown became emotional.

"They're my family," he said, trying to hold back a tear. "It's just like if I build a house for my own wife and kids."



MINISTRY

Habitat families 'need a helping hand, not a handout'

By David Winfrey
News Director

PHELPS—Had he not died last fall, Carl Booth would have turned 45 years old on the day Habitat for Humanity volunteers started building his family's new home.

Anna Booth brought her husband's memory to the work site on Monday, June 16, with a tear in her eye and his old hat on her head.

The three-bedroom house built last week will allow her to move from a mobile home owned by her brother to a home of her own for herself and the two children who still live with her.

Booth, 52 and a true coal miner's daughter, said she was excited by the people who turned out to help her build her house.

"I'm just a bundle of nerves," she said watching workers assemble the framing for walls that would go up later that day.

Booth's was one of 50 families to benefit from the Jimmy Carter work camp last week.

While the families might be considered low-income, Eric Taylor said that they shouldn't be called poor. "They are not poor of spirit. They are not poor of heart. They are not poor of their religion," said Taylor, a volunteer from Tallahassee, Fla.

"The prices of housing are just going so high that no bank is going to lend them that money," he said.

Habitat's new homeowners are purchasing their houses under the agency's no-interest, no-profit guidelines. Homes built last week cost an average \$33,000 for a two-bedroom house and \$35,000 for a three-bedroom house.

By not charging interest, the 20-year mortgages cost just \$137.50 or \$145.83 monthly.

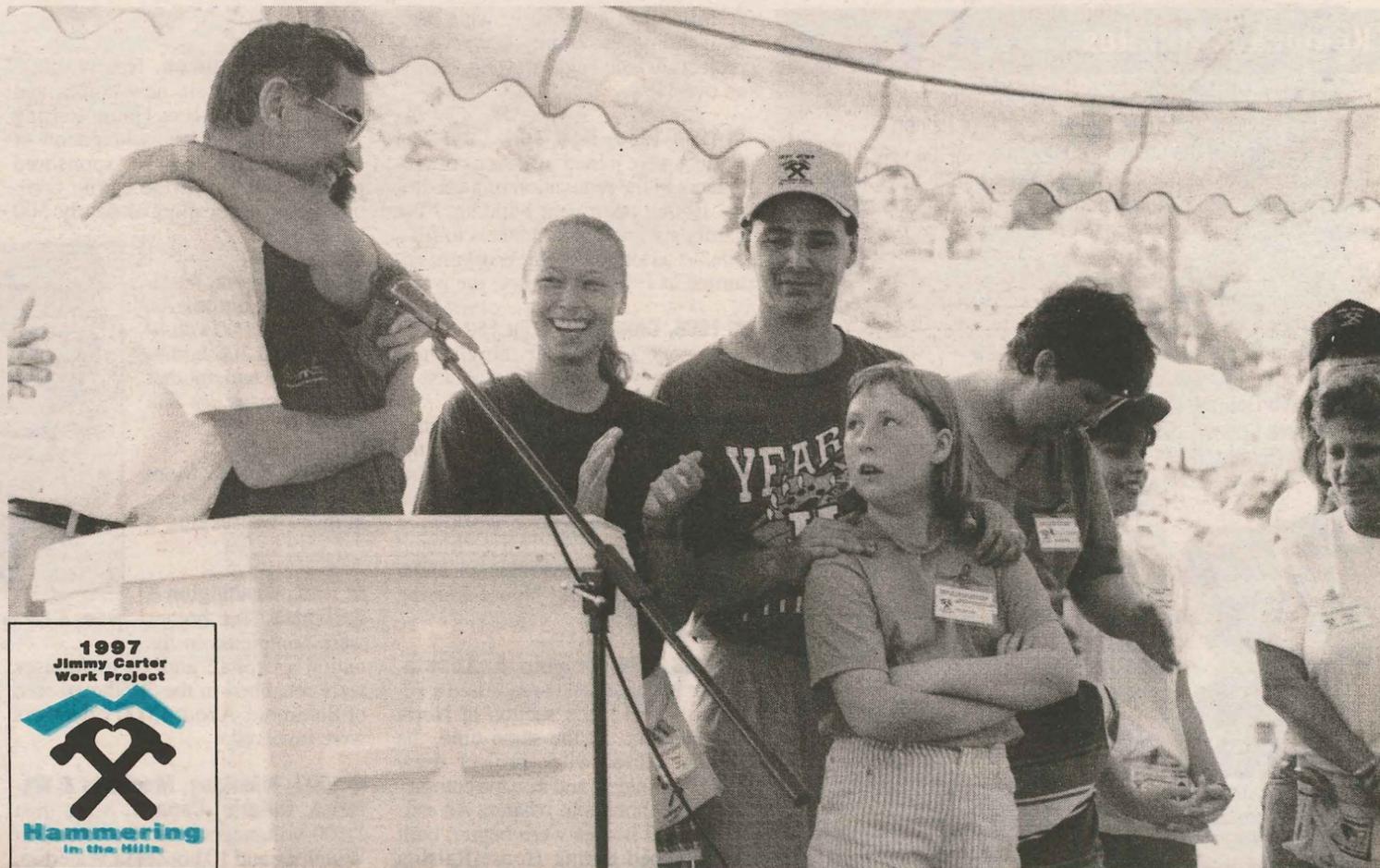
House payments are rolled into a fund that builds more Habitat homes.

In addition, Mrs. Booth and others attended classes to prepare them for home ownership, including such subjects as personal finance and house maintenance.

Volunteer Dee White, a pharmacist who lives in Red Jacket (15 miles from Phelps) said she sees the need for Habitat's services.

"There are people who want to do for themselves. They just need a helping hand—not a hand out," she said.

So, like others, White took a week from her job to wield a hammer, carry supplies or do whatever else was needed to build a house in six days.



"I'm very unskilled, well-supervised labor," she said.

Until Saturday, Donna Jones rented a trailer that's "in pretty bad shape." Last week she said she was looking forward to having reliable windows, doors and a piece of property she can leave to her daughter.

"It's God sent," she said of the house sponsored by Kentucky Baptists.

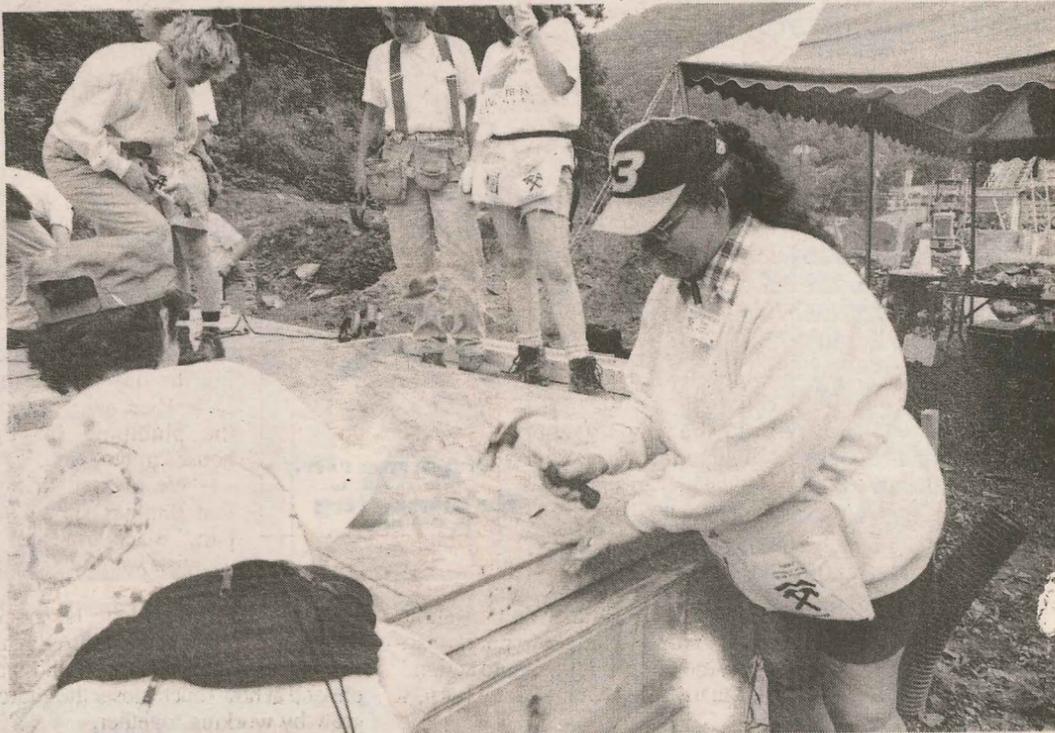
Rosie Blankenship worked for Habitat three years and had seen what it had meant to others before she was chosen to be a Habitat homeowner.

"You see people who have had nothing have something they could call their own," she said.

"When you know you've helped somebody, it kind of gives you a good feeling for yourself."

It's a feeling she said she hopes to continue feeling now that she has her own house.

"When I get older and get my son grown, I want to travel around and help Habitat," she said. "There's still a lot of people who care about other people."



HAPPY FAMILIES ■ Top: Habitat founder Millard Fuller meets recipient families in Beattyville. ■ Above: Anna Booth works on her home in Pike County. ■ Far left: Rosie Blankenship stands in the bedroom of her new house. ■ Left: Donna Jones talks with Elvis Brown, a Kentucky Baptist from Hartford. (Photos by David Winfrey)

MINISTRY

Blitz builds have resulted in more than 400 homes

Kentucky affiliates

Habitat for Humanity has about 60 affiliates in Kentucky. Kentucky Habitat for Humanity has a goal of having an affiliate in each of the state's 120 counties by the year 2000. Below is a list of Kentucky affiliates, with phone numbers when available. Note, some numbers are an officer's home or work:

- Anderson County, (502) 839-6694
- Ashland-Ironton Area, (606) 324-1325
- Bourbon County, (606) 987-1637
- Bowling Green/Warren, (502) 781-3459
- Boyle County, (606) 236-9153
- Breathitt County, (606) 295-3535
- Caldwell County, (502) 365-3545
- Carter County, (606) 474-5396
- Casey County, (606) 787-7098
- Clark County, (606) 744-3181
- Cumberland County (502) 433-5768
- Cumberland River Valley (Corbin), (606) 528-0283
- Daniel Boone (Hyden), (606) 672-3162
- Estill County, (606) 723-2713
- Foothills (Campton), (606) 668-3731
- Franklin County, (502) 227-5700
- Garrard County, (606) 792-2229
- Glasgow/Barren County, (502) 651-5392
- Hands of Joseph (Buckner), no phone listed
- Hardin County, (502) 765-7183
- Harrison (Cynthiana), (606) 234-1477
- Henderson, (812) 425-1591
- Hopkins County, (502) 825-1539
- Hopkinsville/Christian County, (502) 235-5089
- Jessamine County, (606) 858-3074
- Land of Logan (Russellville), (502) 726-6207
- Laurel County, (606) 878-1220
- Lee County, (606) 464-0327
- Lexington, (606) 252-2224
- Limestone (Maysville), (606) 564-9429
- Lincoln County, (606) 792-3300
- Louisville, (502) 583-6599
- Madison County, (606) 625-9208
- Marshall County, (502) 527-4795
- Meade County, (502) 624-3324
- Mercer County, (606) 734-0267
- Metcalfe Area (Edmonton), (502) 432-5403
- Montgomery County, (606) 498-5885
- Morehead Area, (606) 784-8408
- Muhlenberg County, (615) 228-8200
- Murray/Calloway County, (502) 436-5405
- My New Kentucky Home (Lebanon), (502) 692-1082
- Northern Kentucky (Covington), (513) 791-0444
- Ohio County, (502) 298-4258
- Owensboro/Daviess County, (502) 926-6110
- Paducah, (502) 443-6150
- Pendleton County, (606) 654-3482
- Phelps Area (McCarr) (606) 427-7563
- Providence/Webster County, (502) 667-7263
- Russell County, (502) 866-5180
- Sandy Valley (Pikeville), (606) 432-9216
- Scott County, (502) 863-4551
- Shelbyville, (502) 633-5518
- Somerset/Pulaski County, (606) 679-4491
- Union County, (502) 389-5232
- Wayne County, (606) 348-6488
- Woodford County, (606) 846-5085

LEADER Don Mantooh (right) is president of Morehead Habitat for Humanity and pastor of Morehead Baptist Church



More than 400 houses have been built during the Jimmy Carter work projects, which began in 1984. Here's an overview:

■ **1984-1985, New York City.** The Carters were joined by dozens of volunteers in the renovation of a six-story, 19-unit apartment building. "We hardly got enough volunteers to fill a bus," Carter recalled. Workers returned in 1985 to complete the work.

■ **1986, Chicago.** About 150 volunteers—working under rainy conditions—built a four-unit townhouse.

■ **1987, Charlotte, N.C.** The Carters were joined by 235 volunteers in the construction of 14 houses. This marked the first year the project was held in tandem with a worldwide house-raising week. An estimated 250-300 homes were begun or under construction during House-Raising Week '87.

■ **1988, Philadelphia & Atlanta.** About 200 volunteers renovated a 10-unit rowhouse in a section of North Philadelphia. At the same time, the Jimmy Carter work project drew 1,000 volunteers and saw the completion of 20 houses in Atlanta. An estimated 200 homes were begun, built or rehabbed during House-Raising

Week '88.

■ **1989, Milwaukee.** Nearly 1,000 volunteers built six new homes and renovated eight others. House-Raising Week '89 drew the participation of 180 affiliated and 14 sponsored projects, resulting in the startup, completion or renovation of nearly 500 homes.

■ **1990 Tijuana, Mexico, & San Diego.** An estimated 2,000 volunteers raised 100 homes in Tijuana and another seven houses in San Diego.

■ **1991, Miami.** More than 400 volunteers built 14 houses and a day care center.

■ **1992, Washington & Baltimore.** Ten homes were completed in the nation's capital, and 10 rowhouses were rehabbed in the Sandtown area of Baltimore. About 1,000 volunteers were involved.

■ **1993, Winnipeg, Manitoba & Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.** More than 1,100 volunteers built 18 houses in Winnipeg and 10 houses in Waterloo.

■ **1994, Eagle Butte, S.D.** Thirty houses were completed on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

■ **1995, Southern California.** More than 1,500 volunteers from 39 states and five countries participated in this Jimmy Carter work project. Twenty-one houses were built in the Watts/Willowbrook community of Los Angeles, while accelerated builds were held at five other Habitat affiliates in southern California.

■ **1996, Vac, Hungary.** Ten houses were built by the Carters and about 500 other volunteers from 23 countries.

■ **1997, Appalachian Kentucky & Tennessee.** About 2,400 volunteers built 50 homes during the 14th annual

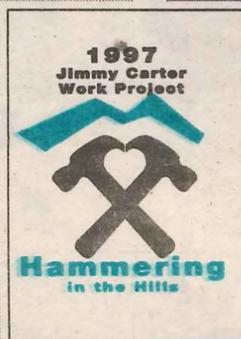
work project. Another 100 houses were begun by other Habitat affiliates and by the Federation of Appalachian Housing Enterprises.

■ **1998, Houston.**

■ **1999, Philippine Islands.**



Fuller & Carter



BUILDERS ■ Left: John Edwards (right), a member of First Baptist Church of Russell studies a wall at a house site in Morehead. ■ Right: Rhelda Toler, a member of First Baptist Church of Morehead, hammers on the roof of a Habitat house in Morehead. Toler was a Habitat house recipient in 1993. (Photos by Becky Dodson)

Program tries to keep poorer countries on equal footing

BEATTYVILLE—Organizers of the Jimmy Carter work camp face a challenge when the project travels to the Philippines in two years.

Leaders long have sought to make the program an equal partnership between recipients and volunteers. But when workers arrive with much more resources than the residents of a lesser developed country, officials must work to keep the two sides on equal footing.

One answer is the Global Church Challenge, said Steve Weir, director of Habitat for Hu-

manity International's Asia Pacific region.

With it, churches from more developed countries supply 90 percent of the money for a house and 10 percent of the labor. Those figures are switched for a church in the less developed country.

"It's really a way we can act in partnership instead of rich church-poor church," said Weir.

Weir recalled a Baptist pastor in Fiji who wanted his congregation to gain a new perspective on what it means to be a church.

The 20 members of the church wanted to participate in building a

Habitat house, but the mountain village was a money-less society that grew its own food and bartered for other services.

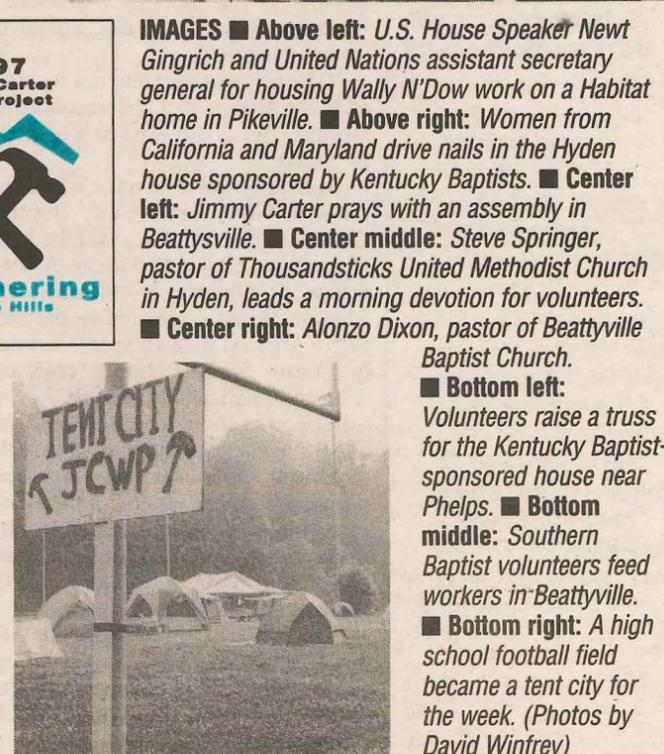
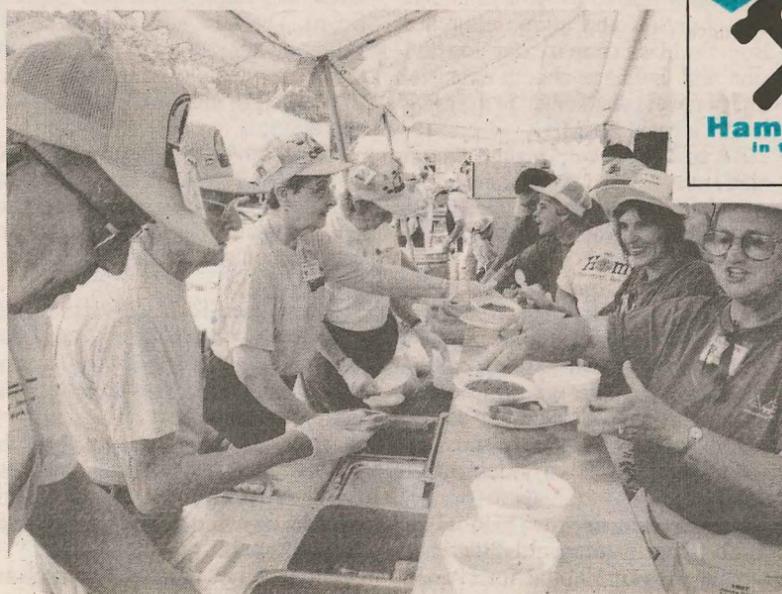
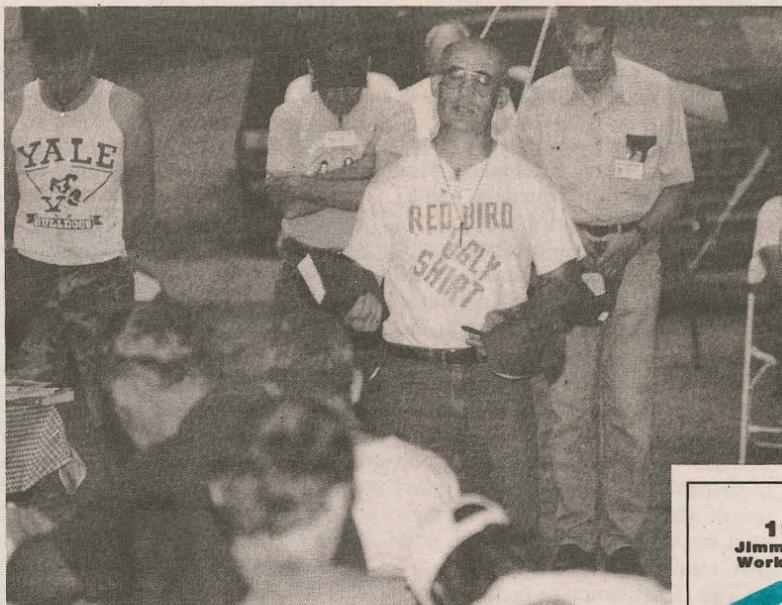
Like a youth group preparing for a mission trip, the members took produce into the nearest town to sell for money, Weir said. Members then went to villages, working various jobs to raise the money needed.

In a country where the average income is \$60 per month, the little church raised more than \$600 to help build a church, Weir said.

"It was just a really empowering thing," he said.

MINISTRY

Builders spend week working, worshiping together



IMAGES ■ Above left: U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich and United Nations assistant secretary general for housing Wally N'Dow work on a Habitat home in Pikeville. ■ Above right: Women from California and Maryland drive nails in the Hyden house sponsored by Kentucky Baptists. ■ Center left: Jimmy Carter prays with an assembly in Beattysville. ■ Center middle: Steve Springer, pastor of Thousandsticks United Methodist Church in Hyden, leads a morning devotion for volunteers. ■ Center right: Alonzo Dixon, pastor of Beattysville Baptist Church. ■ Bottom left: Volunteers raise a truss for the Kentucky Baptist-sponsored house near Phelps. ■ Bottom middle: Southern Baptist volunteers feed workers in Beattysville. ■ Bottom right: A high school football field became a tent city for the week. (Photos by David Winfrey)

BAPTISTS

SBC restructuring costs report total \$6 million

There's a new name written down

If you're looking for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, don't look in Richmond, Va. It's not there anymore.

The agency which oversees the SBC's worldwide missionary force hasn't moved, but its name was changed last week as part of a massive denominational restructuring plan. The new name: International Mission Board.

That creates several other changes as well, according to Louis Moore, IMB spokesman. Instead of talking about foreign missionaries, Southern Baptists now will talk about their international missionaries, he said. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions will become the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions.

One other SBC agency remains essentially the same but with a new name. The Christian Life Commission has become the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

Eight other SBC entities didn't just get a name change but ceased to exist last week: Education Commission, Stewardship Commission, Historical Commission, Southern Baptist Foundation, Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Seminary, Brotherhood Commission, Radio & Television Commission and Home Mission Board.

The latter three of those agencies were merged to form a new domestic missions agency called the North American Mission Board. It will be based in suburban Atlanta, in the facility previously occupied by the HMB.

Although the name of the agency responsible for domestic missions has changed, the related terminology will not change, said Marty King, NAMB spokesman. Missionaries appointed by NAMB still will be called home missionaries.

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

DALLAS—Restructuring the Southern Baptist Convention has cost an estimated \$6 million, members of the SBC Executive Committee were told June 16.

However, that \$6 million price tag could be offset by \$40 million in savings over the next five years, for a net savings of \$34 million, according to the 10-member task force that has guided restructuring.

The implementation task force made its final report to the Executive Committee in a special session one day prior to votes at the SBC annual meeting which finalized all elements of the restructuring. The plan, in process for two years, reduces the number of denominational agencies from 19 to 12 and creates a new domestic missions agency called the North American Mission Board.

The bulk of the \$34 million in projected net savings was calculated by comparing estimated annual operating costs for NAMB to what it would have cost to keep operating the Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission at their current levels for the next five years.

The \$6 million cost of restructuring

is based on actual expenditures and expenditures committed for the future. Most of that total—\$4.3 million—relates to merging the three old agencies into NAMB.

Another \$716,000 relates to dissolving five other entities: the Education Commission, Stewardship Commission, Historical Commission, Southern Baptist

Foundation and Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Seminary.

Another \$970,000 has been paid to consultants and attorneys and to cover printing and travel costs related to restructuring.

The task force reported that 217 denominational employees have lost their jobs due to the restructuring. The largest numbers were cut at the Home Mission Board (98), Brotherhood Commission (60) and Radio & Television Commission (30) to form NAMB.

On a percentage basis, employees of the Brotherhood Commission took the hardest hit of the three agencies merged to form NAMB. Only 19 percent of the Brotherhood Commission's 74 employees will have jobs with NAMB. That compares to 70 percent of RTVC employees and 69 percent of HMB employees.

NAMB will begin operation with



365 employees, 165 less than the 530 that had been employed by the three merged agencies.

Terminating employees at all SBC agencies affected by restructuring has required expenditures of \$1.8 million in severance benefits, the task force reported.

The HMB brings by far the most assets to the marriage of the three agencies merging to form NAMB, with reserves of \$57 million. The RTVC brings assets of \$1 million but also a \$1.5 million debt on its Fort Worth, Texas, headquarters building. The task force reported that a contract has been signed for sale of the Brotherhood Commission's headquarters in Memphis, Tenn. When that \$1.2 million sale is closed, the Brotherhood Commission will bring about \$1 million into NAMB.



SOMETHING NEW Two men stand beside the display for the North American Mission Board. The new agency was formed June 19 during a meeting of trustees. It was established by the merger of the Home Mission Board, the Brotherhood Commission, and Radio and Television Commission. (BP photo)

Some African-Americans troubled by restructuring

"The reorganization ... hints to a lack of concern and interest for ethnic and black presence in the SBC."

Emmanuel McCall, former director of black church extension with the Home Mission Board

DALLAS (ABP)—African-Americans in the Southern Baptist Convention have "lost" in the restructuring process, some former denominational employees expressed at the African-American Fellowship gathering June 16 in Dallas.

"We have some very serious consternations in this restructuring," Dennis Mitchell, former consultant in the black church extension division of the Home Mission Board, said in an interview at the meeting. "African-Americans have lost in this. We have moved backward."

"The fact that we were not included in the process just underscores the fact that there is still work to be done," he added.

Mitchell, now executive administrator at Greenforest Unity Baptist Church in Decatur, Ga., said the loss of positions related to African-American work at the new North American Mission Board compared to the old Home Mission Board presents serious questions for the future role of African-Americans in the SBC.

Concerns about the future relation of SBC agencies, particularly NAMB, to African-Americans were expressed during a business session of the African-American Fellowship. Officers of the organization said more intense debate will occur during an Oct. 1-3 meeting in New York City.

The concerns raised during the African-American Fellowship came on the heels of critical comments by the former longtime director of black church extension at the HMB. In a

June 7 speech to the Southern Baptist Historical Society, Emmanuel McCall, departed from a prepared text to criticize the makeup of NAMB.

"I make a very painful statement," McCall said. "The reorganization ... hints to a lack of concern and interest for ethnic and black presence in the SBC."

McCall, who left the HMB in 1993 to become pastor of Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in College Park, Ga., said he recently was with a group of Hispanics who are raising the question of whether they should form their own convention in light of the new SBC structure.

The HMB structure included specific units related to African-American churches and ethnic churches. Both the black church extension division and language church extension division were dismantled in the merger that created NAMB.

According to information distributed at the African-American Fellowship, four employees from the HMB's black church extension division will not have jobs with NAMB.

According to this handout, Herbert Brisbane, who has been the HMB's director of black church evangelism, will become NAMB's multi-cultural consultant manager with responsibility for relating to all ethnic groups. He will expand his responsibilities from 2,000 churches to 10,000 and from one language to more than 100. One associate will work with him.

Robert Wilson reportedly will become manager of the African-American

unit of the new church congregation implementation team, one of four ethnic consultant positions within the board's church planting unit.

NAMB will have one church-planting specialist for each of four ethnic identities—Korean, Hispanic, Native-American and African-American.

McCall charged that isn't enough. "That far decimates the emphasis that has been historic in the SBC," he noted. "It means that there is no ... intentional development of churches" in ethnic areas.

Members of the task force that have created the NAMB structure have denied the repeated suggestions that African-American and language work will suffer in the new mission board. The new structure merely is different, they explain, and will involve every employee in some aspect of promoting missions among blacks and ethnics.

Separate units where ethnic and African-American missions are isolated are no longer needed, they suggest, adding they believe the new structure actually will elevate emphasis in these areas.

McCall said he doesn't buy that explanation. "Anybody who takes that position does not know what is going on either in American society or the SBC," he said.

Brisbane acknowledged that "the dust is still up in the air" on how these changes will affect African-Americans, and he added that he is "happy to have a job."

"I have not talked to any powers

that be, but I understand their intent is to be more inclusive of African-Americans in all areas of the SBC," Brisbane added.

However, Mitchell noted that he is distressed over the way the implementation task force—the group responsible for designing the convention restructuring—approached its task. Mitchell believes the task force did not aggressively seek input from all constituents within the convention.

"It was a very pale, male group," Mitchell said. The 10-member task force included one Hispanic and one Anglo female.

Meanwhile, a parade through downtown Dallas under the banner of "Celebrating Ethnic Southern Baptists" preceded this year's SBC annual meeting. The parade and a corresponding rally were organized by the HMB's language church extension division.

An estimated 800 people representing at least 50 language groups met at First Baptist Church of Dallas to proclaim their solidarity and to thank the SBC for facilitating what organizer Russell Begaye called the largest denominational inclusion of ethnics in the world. Begaye directed the HMB language church extension division, but what position he may have with NAMB has not been announced.

"Because of us, Southern Baptists have become the most ethnically diverse denomination in the world," Begaye said. "We chose to be Southern Baptists."

BAPTISTS

NAMB trustees put their stamp on first meeting

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

DALLAS—In their first-ever meeting, trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention's new North American Mission Board enthusiastically endorsed the presidential candidate nominated to them but immediately put their own stamp on the agency by amending several key documents prepared for their adoption.

Robert Reccord, pastor of First Baptist Church of Norfolk, Va., was elected president of the new mission board, created by a merger of the old Home Mission Board, Brotherhood Commission and Radio & Television Commission.

Reccord had been nominated for the post by a seven-person search committee, called incorporators. For nearly two years, Reccord served as chairman of a related group, the implementation task force, charged with working out the details of launching NAMB. Reccord resigned that chairmanship when he became an official candidate for the presidency.

NAMB trustees convened in the Dallas Hyatt Regency June 19 at the conclusion of the SBC annual meeting at the nearby Dallas Convention Center. Gathered in a small, hot room with inadequate seating for the crowd of trustees, potential NAMB staff, press and other guests, the newly constituted board worked from 1:30 p.m.-7 p.m. with only two brief breaks.

The meeting included a 90-minute executive session in which trustees elected four vice presidents nominated by Reccord and adopted a salary scale for all employees. Information about NAMB salaries was not made public.

However, after the meeting trustee chairman Charles Fuller said trustees had amended the presidential salary scale downward—"not by a great deal, but downward." This was accomplished by lowering the upper level of the salary range, he said.

Salary ranges for other NAMB employees were not amended, Fuller said, but all salaries were frozen for one year for evaluation.

For several weeks prior to this first trustee meeting, salary scales developed by the incorporators for NAMB were the subject of intense discussion among some trustees, particularly after the concerns of some trustees were published in news reports.

Some trustees believed the pay scales had been set too high, and they were concerned that they did not have opportunity to help set pay levels they would have to defend. NAMB trustees had been asked to affirm a pay range of \$140,000 to \$210,000 for the president and \$100,000 to \$150,000 for five vice presidents.

As soon as the NAMB trustee board was constituted June 19, trustees began amending documents prepared for them by the incorporators and implementation task force. In addition to the salary scale, trustees amended the agenda for the meeting itself as well as the proposed bylaws for the mission board.

Trustee David Stone of Oklahoma offered two amendments to the bylaws before they were adopted, and trustee Anthony Clevenger of Florida offered another. They were adopted.

The effect of Clevenger's amendment was to ensure that trustees are given adequate notice of meetings.

Taken together, Stone's amendments added three more members to

the trustee executive committee—members selected by other board members rather than by the trustee chairman. Some trustees had expressed concern that the executive committee structure as originally proposed concentrated too much power in too few hands.

On a related issue later in the meeting, trustees appealed to Chairman Fuller to consider expanding the number of full board meetings to three per year rather than the two per year proposed in the bylaws.

Also, Stone offered an amendment to the board's committee structure that put more responsibility on subcommittees and the full board rather than the executive committee on certain key issues such as review of missionary appointments and approval of church loans.

Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church of Roanoke, Va., and former chairman of the SBC Peace Committee, was elected chairman with one vote in opposition. Two vice chairmen were elected without opposition. Gary Underwood of Arkansas was elected first vice chairman. Donley Brown of Missouri was elected second vice chairman.

NAMB trustees had been introduced to Reccord as a presidential candidate weeks earlier at an informational meeting. Before voting on his nomination at the June 19 meeting, trustees were shown a brief video with images of Reccord at home and church, portions of Reccord's personal testimony and endorsements by several members of his Virginia church.

The video also featured endorsements of Reccord's nomination by seven religious leaders: evangelist Leighton Ford; televangelist Pat Robertson; pastors Adrian Rogers, Jack Graham, James Merritt and Ed Young; and evangelism professor Roy Fish.

Reccord was elected to the post by a show of hands with two dissenting votes. He was greeted with a standing

ovation after the vote.

Later in the meeting, Reccord's response to trustees was transmitted by live video feed to NAMB employees in Alpharetta, Ga., and Fort Worth, Texas.

"You've got an official job," Reccord told the employees, most of whom had been offered positions several weeks earlier pending board approval. "Thank you for all you have done and all your flexibility," Reccord told the employees.

He reminded employees and trustees alike that NAMB is a new organization, "not simply three existing organizations velcroed together." Employees should not look to fill someone else's shoes, he said. "We're bringing our own shoes with us."

Reccord said his first priority personally is "my walk with Jesus Christ." Other personal priorities are his family, the staff team at NAMB and his own ministry role in NAMB, he said.

He also outlined four "strategic areas" for NAMB's work: reaching the major cities of North America with the gospel, ethnic work, reaching junior and senior high students and reaching college students.

"We are losing our country," Reccord warned. "If we don't give it everything we've got and color outside the lines, we're going to lose it in this generation."

Trustees, staff and guests in attendance were called to specific times of prayer throughout the meeting. Reccord concluded his comments by calling all trustees and staff members to renew their commitment to personal evangelism.

In other business, trustees adopted an employee handbook and approved employee benefit plans and other legal documents. They also adopted a budget for the six-month period from July-December 1997.

The \$52.6 million budget projects \$16.7 million in income from the SBC's Cooperative Program unified budget and \$20 million from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Funds will be distributed across six groups: \$1.34 million for the president's office, \$4.26 million for the evangelization group, \$1.76 million for the church planting group, \$6.26 million for the media and missions education group, \$2.88 million for the strategic planning and mobilization group and \$18.04 million for the business services group.

In the closing moments of the meeting, trustee William Streich of Texas inquired about the status of NAMB staff members participating in an interdenominational renewal conference in England this fall. Streich, a former HMB trustee, earlier had expressed strong opposition to HMB employees participating in Reconciliation '97.

Streich said he wanted NAMB employees to know if they go to the meeting, even as individuals and not using any NAMB funding, they might as well not come back to work.

Trustee Walt Carpenter of Texas offered a substitute motion that the matter be handled by Reccord. Carpenter's substitute motion passed with only Streich voting in opposition.

Top NAMB staff named

DALLAS—Five of the top six administrative posts with the new North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention were filled June 19.

During the first meeting of NAMB trustees, held at the Dallas Hyatt Regency at the conclusion of the SBC annual meeting, Robert Reccord was elected president of the newly formed missions agency.

Reccord has been pastor of First Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va. He also was chairman of the implementation task force that spent two years creating NAMB.

Soon after his election June 19, Reccord nominated and the trustee board approved men to fill four of five vice president positions. They are:

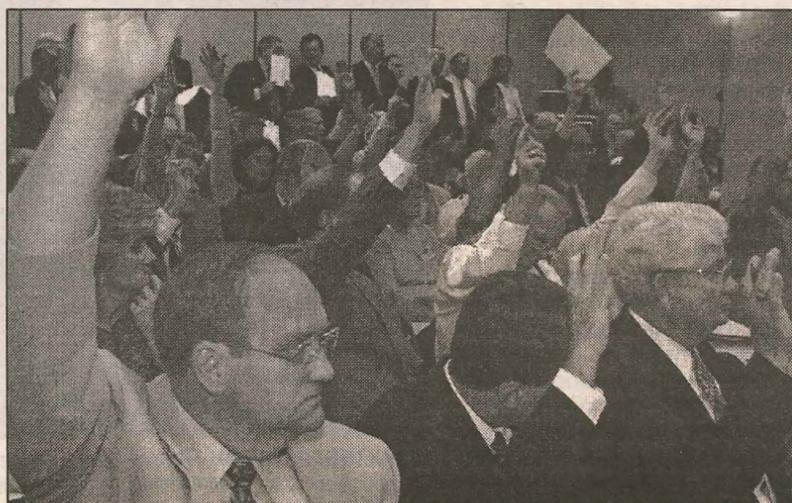
■ Nate Adams, vice president for media and missions education.

Adams has been vice president of operations for Christianity Today Inc., based in Chicago.

■ Richard Harris, vice president for church planting. Harris, a Kentucky native, has been director of mass evangelism with the Home Mission Board, one of three agencies merged to form NAMB.

■ Mike Day, vice president for strategic planning and mobilization. Day has been executive vice president of the Brotherhood Commission, another of the three agencies merged to form NAMB.

■ Ernest Kelly, vice president for business services. Kelly has been vice president and chief financial officer at the HMB. From Jan. 1-June 19, he served as the HMB's interim president. A vice president for NAMB's evangelization group has not yet been named.



FIRST MEETING ■ Top: Trustees pray. ■ Above: Bob Reccord. ■ Right: The vote. (BP photos by Morris Abernathy)

BAPTISTS

Elliff: Southern Baptists still have ground to take

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (ABP)—Southern Baptists still face "battles to be won and ground to be taken" in their effort to permeate American culture with the gospel, Southern Baptist Convention president Tom Elliff said during his address to the SBC annual meeting in Dallas June 17.

The cross of Christ is their battle

standard as Southern Baptists continue their spiritual struggle, insisted Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla.

But he expressed his dismay at hearing a young pastor tell him, "The battle for the Bible has been won, and ... all I have to do is pastor my church."

Elliff cited seven moral fields in which he indicated the "battle" has not yet been won. Southern Baptists, he said, still face battles:

■ "As long as any Bible publisher thinks Southern Baptists are more likely to purchase Bibles on the basis of 'political correctness' than the fidelity of the (biblical) text."

SBC leaders recently persuaded the International Bible Society not to publish a "gender accurate" version of the New International Version of the Bible. The Bible society said the new version would more accurately reflect pronouns found in the Bible's original languages. But SBC leaders charged the society with caving in to feminist forces that would defile the Bible's intended message.

■ "As long as any person of any rank would claim affiliation with Southern Baptists while having such a cavalier disregard for the sanctity of life that partial-birth abortion remains as an option."

Numerous Southern Baptists have

criticized President Clinton's 1996 veto of the partial-birth abortion ban, which would have prevented doctors from performing the controversial late-term abortion procedure.

■ "With Southern Baptist church debt at almost \$2.5 billion, with payments last year in excess of our combined Co-operative Program (unified budget) and mis-

sions giving and literally thousands of debt-encumbered churches baptizing few or no new converts," he said, "something is wrong with our concept of faith and stewardship."

■ "As long as any Southern Baptist believes a low view of the Scripture is more scholarly; ... as long as any endorse the ordination of those who do not meet the qualifications of the man of God as spelled out" in the New Testament book of II Timothy.

The authority and nature of the Bible was central to a 12-year SBC theological/political controversy won by the convention's conservative wing in 1990. Southern Baptists also have divided over whether or not women can be called of God to ministry, particularly the role of senior pastor of a church.

In a news conference, Elliff expanded on this point to say he sees no room for debate on the issue of ordaining women. "If you hold that Scripture is indeed the inerrant, infallible

word of God, and you believe Scripture ... speaks plainly, you cannot help but take passages relative to ministry and see that they plainly refer to a man of God—'let him be the husband of one wife.'"

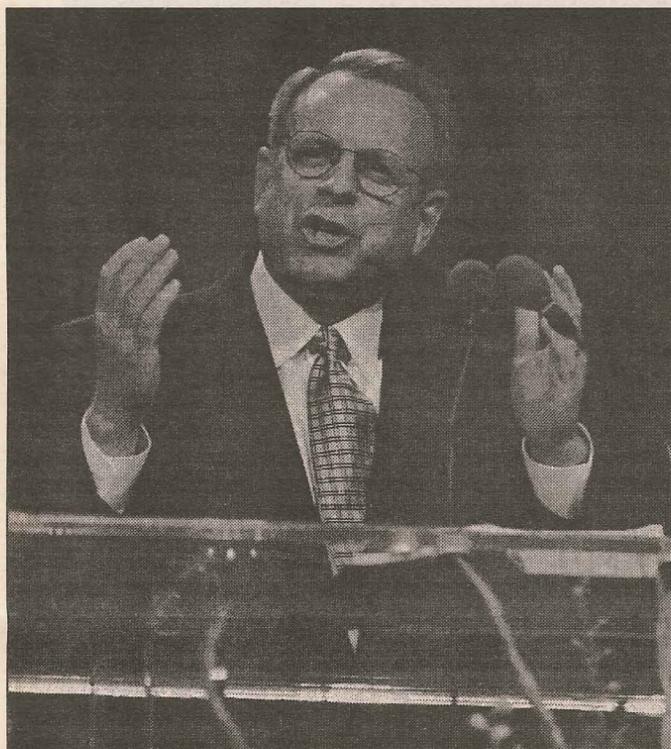
■ "When major entities look at the almost 16 million members of our Southern Baptist churches and question whether we are people of our word, whether we really mean what we say, and whether we are actually willing to sacrifice the enjoyment of their products, performances or media presentations."

During this year's convention, messengers approved a resolution calling on Southern Baptists to boycott the Walt Disney Co. Supporters of a boycott have derided the company for allegedly abandoning the pro-family stance of its namesake.

■ "As long as there are those who believe that Southern Baptist churches and members are not loving unless they condone homosexuality, perform single-sex marriages and endorse fornication in its many forms, we have not communicated the true meaning of God's grace."

■ As long as religious persecution of Christians is "often endorsed by the trade and foreign policies of our own nation, not to mention the existence of corporate greed which must be satisfied at whatever the cost."

In light of those battles, "Southern Baptist believers must capture in our hearts this fact: We are soldiers. We cannot rest until the battles are over and God calls us home," he said.



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Tom Elliff told Southern Baptist messengers there are "still battles which must be fought and ground to be taken before our Savior's return." (BP photo by Kent Harville)

Land: Christians have aided America's moral decline

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

DALLAS (ABP)—Christians have aided and abetted America's decline by remaining on the sidelines of civic involvement, Richard Land told the Southern Baptist Convention June 18.

In the convention's keynote sermon, Land, president of the SBC Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, said America is on the brink of destruction.

"If America dies she will perish from self-inflicted wounds," he said.

Land cited statistics on divorce, child abuse, violence, pregnancy, abortion and teen suicide to contend that America has declined since 1960. Other problems such as pornography, rape, domestic abuse and abortion further indicate decline, he added.

Land said Christians have contributed to problems caused by a generation-and-a-half of "moral relativism" by remaining on the sidelines of civic involvement.

"It's our fault for not being willing to get involved and being part of the process," Land said.

Land said he grew up attending Baptist churches where people often said: "We're Southern Baptists. We don't get involved in anything controversial. We just preach the gospel."

"Folks, that's an oxymoron," he retorted.

Jesus' command for Christians to

be "salt and light" forbids non-involvement, he said. "Jesus intended for us to be controversial."

Land said Christians must fight for a voice in the public arena.

"There has been a conscious, concerted, clever attempt by the various ruling elites in this country ... to marginalize Christians and to drive them from involvement in the public policy of this nation and it must stop," he said.

"We must tell them we will no longer allow them to censor us, revile us and to keep us from our rightful place in the public square."

Land said a spiritual awakening is the nation's best hope.

"Our salvation will never be in America but the cross of Jesus Christ. We must have a revival and it must be a revival that blossoms into an awakening and becomes a reformation," he said.

While Baptists have a right and responsibility "to be involved in the civic process," Land said they should not look to government to solve spiritual problems.

"There is always a danger when we are in a crisis to turn to the government and try to make the government our ally and say, 'If we can just get the government to sponsor our religion we can bring about revival.'"

"That always has been and always will be a fatal bargain," he said. "When government sponsors religion the government thinks it owns it."

While Baptists shouldn't ask government to sponsor religion, they do want government "to quit suppressing our right to be heard," Land said. "We want the government to provide a level playing field, then get off the field."

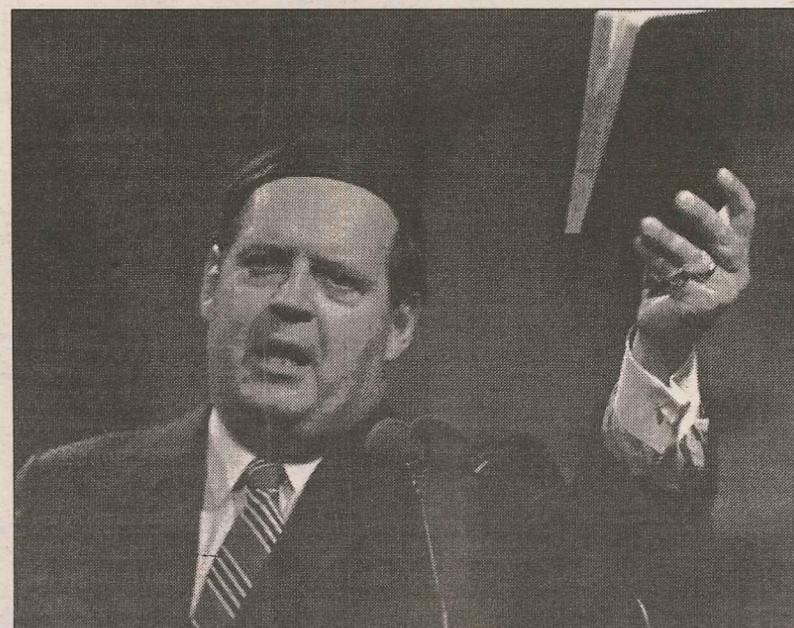
Land disputed the argument that Christians should distance themselves from politics because of the separation of church and state.

"When we preach the gospel and

God blesses it and peoples' hearts and minds have been changed, then they as citizens have the right to come into the public arena and say, 'This is wrong and we want it stopped.'

"That's not called a theocracy. That's called the democratic process."

"Ask not what your country can do for God," Land said. "Ask what God can do for your country. The answer, of course, is everything."



CONVENTION SERMON Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, lifts his Bible while delivering the convention sermon at the 1997 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

BAPTISTS

Elliff re-elected SBC president without opposition

DALLAS (BP)—As anticipated, Southern Baptist Convention President Tom Elliff was re-elected June 17 without opposition for a second term as president of the 15.7 million-member denomination.

Joining Elliff as convention officers are Miles Seaborn, first vice president; David Galvan, second vice president; John Yeats, recording secretary; and Lee Porter, registration secretary.

Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., was nominated by Ralph Smith, retired pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas.

Seaborn, pastor of Birchman Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, was elected over Wisconsin director of missions Dennis Hansen. Seaborn re-



ceived 2,202 votes or 57.45 percent of the votes cast.

Galvan, pastor of Primera Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida (New Life First Baptist Church) in Garland, Texas, was elected second vice president in a run-off with retired Southern Baptist missionary Bill Wagner, now a professor at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif. Galvan received 1,586 votes or 57.53 percent of the 2,757 votes cast.

J.C. Mitchell of Florida and Bob Burch of Tennessee also were nominated for the second vice president position but were eliminated in the first round of balloting.

Yeats was elected recording secretary over Arkansas pastor Mark Brooks. He received 1,939 votes or

58.74 percent of the 3,301 votes cast.

Yeats, a former pastor in Texas and Kansas, has been director of communications for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and editor of the Indiana Baptist newsjournal since 1996.

The Indiana editor succeeds David Atchison of Franklin, Tenn., who chose not to run for re-election to the office.

Porter, of Lawrenceville, Ga., was re-elected without opposition to his 21st term as registration secretary.



SBC OFFICERS Officers of the Southern Baptist Convention for 1997-98 elected in Dallas include John Yeats of Indiana, recording secretary; David Galvan of Texas, second vice president; Tom Elliff of Oklahoma, president; and Miles Seaborn of Texas, first vice president. (BP photo by Morris Abernathy)

SBC QUOTES

"We are the bride of Christ in combat boots. Will you give the time to roll up your sleeves, put on your boots and give to the 'least of these'?"

Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union

"Government can be part of the solution. But all the laws in the world can't make people love one another."

Texas Gov. George W. Bush

"When I came to Christ it was like there wasn't just my voice in my head anymore. God was with me, and there was no longer silence."

Lillian Veles, testifying during a missions program about her conversion to Christianity through the witness of missionaries in Colorado

"When you're worried and can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the shepherd."

Dixie Lusher of Berea, speaking to the Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference

"Yes, God can take the lemons of our life and make lemonade. But if all we do is stand complaining about the size of our lemons, what have we to offer the unsaved?"

Evangelist David Ring

Seminary heads sign covenant

DALLAS (BP)—With a pledge to keep their institutions "anchored in the book" and "lashed to the cross," the presidents of Southern Baptist Convention's six seminaries signed a covenant with the convention as part of their June 17 report to the SBC annual meeting.

Titled "One Faith, One Task, One Sacred Trust," the document was presented by Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Ken Hemphill in the absence of its author, Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Mohler had been hospitalized in Louisville until June 17, suffering from blood poisoning stemming from a bacterial infection.

The five presidents present for the report took turns signing the document while sitting in the chair of Southwestern Seminary founder B.H. Carroll, whom Hemphill said admonished his successor, L.R. Scarborough, "to keep the seminary lashed to the cross." Mohler signed the document from his hospital bed before the seminaries' report.

SBC President Tom Elliff said the covenant represented the fulfillment of a personal dream. After visiting the seminaries in the fall of 1996, Elliff approached Mohler with the idea of a covenant between the seminaries and Southern Baptists.

In the covenant, the presidents pledge to uphold Baptist doctrines. "Let the churches in the Southern Baptist Convention know that our seminaries are committed to theological integrity and biblical fidelity," the covenant states. Seminaries will teach "the authority, inspiration, inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible."

'Baptist Faith & Message' could get addition

DALLAS—For the first time since 1963, the Southern Baptist Convention's "Baptist Faith and Message" doctrinal statement could be revised.

Messengers to the SBC's June 17-19 annual meeting in Dallas approved a motion by Charles Lawson, a messenger from Baltimore, Md., that instructs SBC President Tom Elliff to appoint a committee to study the issue and propose any changes when the SBC meets next June in Salt Lake City.

The specific intent of Lawson's motion was to add a section on the family to the doctrinal statement, which is viewed by Southern Baptists not as a creed but as a common statement of faith. The "Baptist Faith and Message" has been adopted as a doctrinal guideline for all SBC agencies and institutions.

"There has been a concerted attack upon the family," Lawson said in presenting his motion. "The very meaning of family has been redefined by those whose agenda it is to include homosexual couples and generalized to include any two (or more) people living together."

Lawson's motion was one of 35 proposed during the three-day annual meeting in the Dallas Convention Center. Here are highlights of other motions and their disposition:

■ Timothy Wilkins of Raleigh, N.C., asked the North American Mission Board to "conduct a thorough study of homosexuality" and "develop and aggressively promote ministry resources" for churches to use in ministry to homosexuals. The motion was referred to NAMB.

■ Wilkins also asked the convention to spend three minutes in prayer for homosexuals, which SBC President Elliff agreed to and led.

■ Dino Senesi of Marenno, La., asked the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission to "communicate this convention's concerns about corporate America's support of homosexual and immoral heterosexual relationships." The motion was referred to the ERLC.

■ Derek Staples of Lewisport asked SBC agencies and auxiliaries to refrain from distributing anything that advances "evolutionary ideologies." The motion was adopted. (See story on page 3.)

■ Debbie Everett of Calhoun, La., asked the Annuity Board to reconsider open enrollment in its group health insurance plan. Her motion was adopted.

■ Roger Perkins of Mount Vernon, Ala., asked to amend Article III, Section 2 of the SBC Constitution to provide for messenger representation based on the percentage of a church's contributions to the Cooperative Program. His motion was referred to the Executive Committee.

■ Jody Wyatt of Polkton, N.C., asked that a future convention be scheduled in the New York City area. Her motion was referred to the Executive Committee.

■ Betty Rutledge of McKinney, Texas, asked that the SBC's committee on nominations be instructed not to apply any guidelines for eligibility for nominations other than the requirements mandated by SBC bylaws. Her motion was referred to the Executive Committee.

■ Ron Wilson of Thousand Oaks, Calif., asked that the SBC create a giv-

ing plan where churches could give money directly to the SBC Executive Committee, which, unless otherwise designated, would be split equally between the SBC and the state convention the church designates. His motion was referred to the Executive Committee.

■ Steven Lipscomb of Knoxville, Tenn., asked that the SBC's resolutions committee be required to give a rationale for why it does not recommend a resolution for consideration and that each person who submits a resolution be allowed two minutes to defend his or her resolution and allow messengers to vote on whether to hear such resolutions. His motion was referred to the Executive Committee.

■ Joe Hewitt of Rowlett, Texas, asked the SBC to set a goal of having 10,000 "trained soldiers of the cross" to participate in an evangelistic blitz in Salt Lake City prior to next year's SBC annual meeting there. His motion was referred to the North American Mission Board.

■ Mark Rawlins of El Paso, Texas, asked that the salary structure for employees of the North American Mission Board be reconsidered and presented to the SBC's 1998 annual meeting. His motion was referred to NAMB.

Summary of SBC resolutions

DALLAS—Mickey Mouse took most of the spotlight for resolutions adopted by messengers to the June 17-19 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

In addition to a resolution calling for a boycott of the Walt Disney Co., messengers adopted 11 other resolutions:

■ Urging Americans to refrain from international trade with nations which practice religious persecution.

■ Calling on Southern Baptists to promote the denominational world-hunger drive through World Hunger Day Oct. 12.

■ Asking Texas Gov. George W. Bush to call a special session for action on legislation aimed at

protecting charities from a \$1 billion class-action lawsuit.

■ Asking courts to uphold public displays of the Ten Commandments in government offices and courthouses.

■ Opposing "gender-inclusive language" in new Bible translations.

■ Opposing prenatal genetic testing "for the purpose of abortion decisions" and asked for laws prohibiting research on human embryos, cloning of human beings and the release of information gathered through genetic testing.

The SBC resolutions committee declined to act on 35 of the 55 motions submitted for consideration.

BAPTISTS

Is success of new women's event a trend for SBC?

"No. I didn't even know they were meeting at that time."

Jeana Floyd, wife of Pastors' Conference President Ronnie Floyd, asked if she was concerned that the special Pastors' Conference session for women might appear to compete with the WMU annual meeting

DALLAS (ABP)—While an estimated 3,000 women attended a first-ever event for pastors' wives and "other female Christian leaders" June 16, fewer than 500 women gathered in the other end of the Dallas Convention Center for the 109th annual meeting of Woman's Missionary Union.

Planners of both meetings downplayed competition between the two events, but others saw the attendance as symbolic of changes affecting the Southern Baptist Convention—particularly as representing an emerging new paradigm for involving women in church events.

"We just sensed this year a real need for pastors' wives to have some speakers to speak to their needs," said Jeana Floyd, planner of the new Monday meeting for women offered as part of the SBC Pastors' Conference.

Asked if she was concerned that the session might appear to compete with the WMU annual meeting, Floyd, wife of Pastors' Conference President Ronnie Floyd, said: "No. I didn't even know they were meeting at that time."

WMU, which for decades has met on the two days prior to the SBC annual meeting, traditionally has drawn 3,000 or more women to receive reports, hear missionary testimonies and conduct business.

WMU leaders, including Execu-

tive Director Dellanna O'Brien, said the two meetings were not competitive. Few of the women participating in the Pastors' Conference session would have attended WMU otherwise, they said. Most WMU leaders are not pastors' wives, for whom the other session was intended, they explained.

Instead, they said, the decline in WMU attendance in recent years mirrors the decline in SBC attendance, which also was the lowest in years this year. WMU leaders, who also meet at other times during the year, have quit coming to the SBC for a number of reasons, said Teresa Dickens, WMU communications specialist.

The Pastors' Conference crowd always has included many women, most of them pastors' wives along for the ride. Many said they were grateful to have an alternative this year.

Wanda Rushing, whose husband belongs to the ministerial staff at Council Road Baptist Church in Bethany, Okla., said she chose to attend the three-hour Pastors' Conference session for women over WMU because the speakers were more relevant to struggles of modern women trying

to balance careers, parenting and supporting their minister husbands.

"I thought it was wonderful," she said. "I think the program spoke to the ladies of '97."



The pastors' wives, who met during one of five Pastors' Conference sessions, sang praise music and were advised on deepening their spiritual lives and assisting

their husbands' ministries.

"I loved it," said Abby Jordan of Bowling Green, who said she usually attends the Pastors' Conference instead of WMU so she can be with her husband.

"It was very worshipful," said Pam Rinehart of Jackson, Tenn., who said she never has gone to the WMU meeting. She said she particularly enjoyed speakers Beth Moore of Houston and Teresa Brown of Charlotte, N.C., both leaders of local women's ministries.

Across the convention center, about 1,000 people registered for the two-day WMU meeting, down from 1,800 last year. The meeting, traditionally the only pre-convention offering specifically for women, shrank to as few as 300 at times on Monday.

Leaders said such numbers do not

reflect the national strength of the Birmingham, Ala.-based organization, which claims 1.1 million members and a network of leaders in state conventions and local churches. But they conceded they face a challenge.

"What is WMU? The answer is up to you and to me," O'Brien told WMU participants. "Will people say that it was an organization that died from lack of interest? I hope not. Will people possibly say, 'We are informed, influential and innovative women who will understand and are radically involved in the missions of God'? May it be so."

While WMU always has focused on missions, the trend toward women's ministries began as a grass-roots movement focusing on women's spiritual needs, explained Barbara Curnutt, director of the women's missions and ministries department of the Florida Baptist Convention. A growing number of Southern Baptist churches, particularly large conservative churches, offer women's ministries apart from WMU.

Curnutt said reports of WMU's demise are unfounded or at least premature, but she added all Southern Baptists should be concerned about the organization's future. "Anyone who perceives us as on the decline ought to be concerned about the decline of missions."

WMU members urged to break down walls of racism

"Bring down the walls of prejudice and injustice before it is too late."

WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien

DALLAS (BP)—Southern Baptists women should use their influence to break down walls of racism in America, Dellanna O'Brien told members of Woman's Missionary Union during their annual meeting June 15.

"Racism still thrives in our land. People of color still experience discrimination and mistreatment," said O'Brien, WMU executive director.

"I challenge you, our total membership, to use your influence to make a difference in your community as we focus our attention on cultural diversity," she said, referring to WMU's fourth annual Project HELP emphasis.

O'Brien encouraged WMU members "to bring down the walls of prejudice and injustice before it is too late."

"Beyond the Walls" was the theme



WMU PRESIDENT Wanda Lee

for the 109th annual meeting.

About 1,000 women registered for this year's meeting at the Dallas Convention Center, down about 800 from last year's registration.

International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin and his wife, Bobby, told participants Southern Baptist missionaries are reaching beyond the walls of communist oppression, economic instability and misconceptions about Christianity to share the gospel of Christ worldwide.

The Rankins credited the "mobilized" prayer support of WMU members and other Southern Baptists for the "opening of doors" to new sports and medical ministries in countries such as North Korea and Cuba.

The Rankins' 40-minute presentation also featured testimonies from international missionaries Cindy Wilson of South Africa; Rick Smith, who is based in Central Asia; and Lucy

Pessoa of Colombia.

Wilson and Smith cited misconceptions about Christianity as one of the barriers they face.

"The worst thing about apartheid is that its foundation is the government's suppression of people in the name of Christianity," Wilson said. "Therefore, many South Africans see Christianity and apartheid as going hand in hand."

Smith agreed, noting he constantly must overcome misunderstandings about Christianity in Central Asia.

"Due to the deception of government officials who say they are Christians, many people tell their children that Christians are bad and Baptists are a cult," Smith said.

Baptist World Alliance General Secretary Denton Lotz observed that walls must be broken down for people to come to know Christ. Among those walls, he said, are racism, poverty, injustice, hostility and tribalism.

To break down barriers, Christians can pray, bear the cross of Christ and show love and joy, Lotz said. "May God give each of us the courage, wisdom and spirit to break down these walls."

Robert Smith, associate professor of Christian preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, added that a critically ill world cannot be ministered to by a critically ill church.

After 2,000 years of knowing that the veil of the temple was shattered by Jesus' death and resurrection, many Christians are at the same place relationally, religiously and racially that the Jews were before the separation of the veil, Smith said.

"God is too big for the holy of ho-

lies that man constructs," he said. "God is not in a box; in fact, he is too big to be contained in our denominational boxes."

The church's blindness to its own critical illness and the critical illness of the world is self-imposed, Smith said.

"We keep at a distance God's disclosure of himself because we don't want to see what is behind the veil," he said. "Allowing God to disclose himself to us means we would have to accept all human beings as being created equally in the image of God, regardless of socio-economic, educational and ethnic differences. Sometimes it means we would have to leave our comfort zones and share power, not seek power for our own aggrandizement."

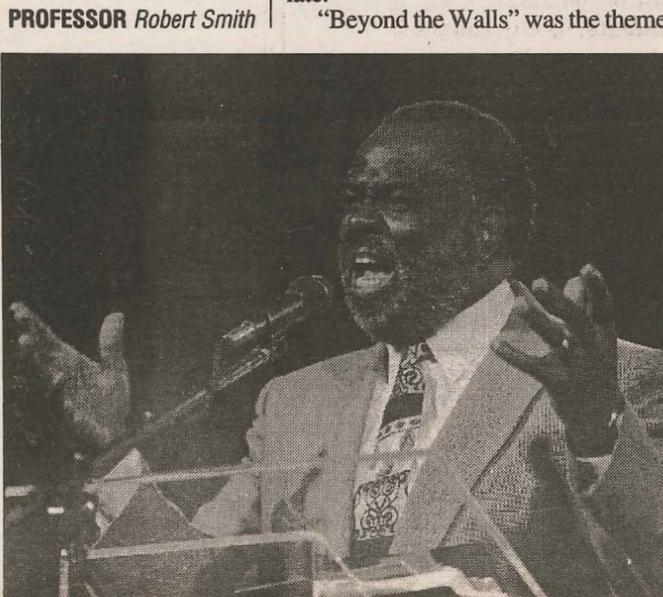
WMU President Wanda Lee of Columbus, Ga., pledged WMU's continued commitment to missions.

"Woman's Missionary Union is committed to our missionaries and to telling their stories. May their example of loving service in turn challenge us at home to move beyond the walls of indifference to a more committed lifestyle of love in action," she said.

Lee challenged WMU members to pray the prayer Bob Pierce, the president of Word Vision, prayed when he said: "May my heart be broken with the things that break God's heart."

"When we do," Lee said, "Woman's Missionary Union will be there to help us move beyond the walls that keep us from becoming all God has called us to be."

During the meeting, WMU members re-elected Lee to a second term as president along with recording secretary Janet Hoffman of Bernice, La.



BAPTISTS

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Missouri Baptist Children's Home is seeking a Human Resource Director. Successful candidate will create and administer personnel plan including recruitment, training, retention and employee relations. BA degree required, graduate degree and experience preferred. For more information and application, call (800) 264-6224. Deadline July 7.

New event encourages pastors' wives

DALLAS (BP)— "We are here today asking God to fill and renew us, to minister to our wounded hearts and heal our broken hearts," said Jeana Floyd as she convened the first pastors' wives session to be held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference.

More than 3,000 women attended the June 16 session at the Dallas Convention Center.

Floyd organized the meeting with her husband, Ronnie Floyd, who was elected last June as president of

the SBC Pastors' Conference. They planned the meeting and invited speakers Beth Moore, Teresa Brown, Barbara O'Chester and Nancy Leigh DeMoss, as well as soloists Diane Machen and Michelle Gage.

All the speakers and musicians shared their personal stories of going through troubled times and how God had restored them. Jeana Floyd herself suffered from cancer a few years ago but currently is in remission.

"This is the worst of times but also the best of times," said Moore, founder of Living Proof Inc. in Houston and author of a popular women's Bible study and videotape series, "A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place," published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Moore said within the past year she also suffered the loss of an adopted son whose birth mother reclaimed him and the critical illness of her mother, for whom she is primary caregiver.

Nevertheless, "I believe God is

up to something huge today in the heavenlies," she said. "The word of God is being released now like never before. The word of God is in the hands of laypeople like never before. There has never been such a wave of in-depth Bible study by laypeople, crossing denominational lines," Moore said.

"God is looking for people who will come to him, who will surrender all to him, withholding nothing," she declared.

Satan knows of the increased interest in Bible study, Moore said, and is trying to cause a distraction.

"That distraction for women is fear," she said. Women typically resist total surrender to God because "they fear something terrible will happen as soon as they do."

Moore said such fear is ill-founded: "We do not have a mean God. Hard times don't come because we've surrendered to God."

Instead, "when we have already

"God is looking for people who will come to him, who will surrender all to him, withholding nothing."
Beth Moore



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

Guaranteed Buy-Back Program • We Buy Used Buses

Church Buses Rental Buses

(New & Used)

Carpenter Bus Sales Inc.

Brentwood, Tenn.

(800) 370-6180

(615) 376-2287



"We Are America!"

THE 1997
CELEBRATE AMERICA
PATRIOTIC EXTRAVAGANZA!

Renewing Our Heritage
Reviving Our Hope!

presented by

The Music and Drama Ministries of
Florence Baptist Church

283 Main Street in Florence, Kentucky

Three exciting performances:

Friday, June 27, at 8:00 PM

Saturday, June 28, at 8:00 PM

Sunday, June 29, at 10:00 AM

No tickets necessary

Doors will open 45 minutes prior to performance time

No child care provided for evening performances

Enjoy:

- * A salute to the 50 states * A stirring tribute to our founding fathers *
- * Elaborate lighting, costumes, and special effects *
- * A salute to the men and women of the armed forces *
- * Rozzi's famous fireworks * All new music and songs *

* Free Admission *

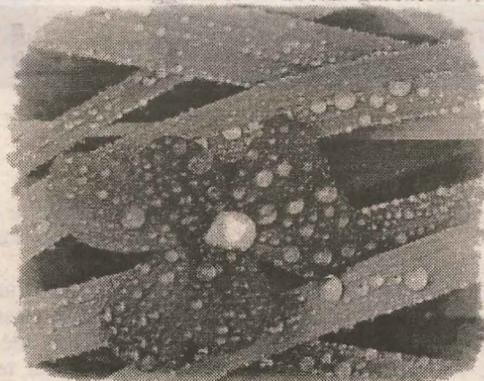
A love offering will be received

Florence Baptist Church is conveniently located
just 1 mile east of exit #180 off I-75.

For more information, please call the church office at
(606) 371-7141



Plant The Seed Today



Get Up To 12% Life Income When You Establish A Cumberland College Gift Annuity

- A gift annuity gives you the safety of a bank - without the variable interest of a bank.
- A gift annuity gives you as large a return as many securities without risk of loss.
 - No management problems.
- No need to change investments, or clip coupons.
 - You receive your checks regularly.
 - The amount never varies, and you cannot outlive your annuity.
- Liberal immediate savings on estate, inheritance, capital gains and income taxes.
 - No age limit. No medical examination.
 - No legal fees or other service charges.
- Your annuity helps Cumberland College for years to come.
- Up to 12% depending on age, for any amount from \$1,000 up.

For More Information Contact:

Dr. Jim Taylor
6191 College Station Drive
Williamsburg, KY 40769
(606) 539-4202

E-mail: pres-off@cc.cumber.edu



PEOPLE

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Pastor for dually aligned (CBF/SBC) Baptist church in a growing suburb. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Ridgewood Baptist Church, 6209 Greenwood Road, Louisville, KY 40258.

NEEDED: David C. Cook curriculum, teacher's book only. Children's Church Worshipping God I for 2- & 3-year-olds. Jackie, Kenwood Heights Christian Church, (502) 366-3712.

NEEDED: Senior adult groups—fall mission trips in Atlanta, Leesburg, New Orleans. Activities include fellowship, mission work, Bible study, sightseeing. Call Mission Adventures, (800) 299-0385.

FOR SALE: Fiberglass baptistry, \$150; pulpit furniture set, \$500. Inquire at (502) 348-7661.

SEEKING: Northside Baptist Church, Jasper, Ala., is seeking a Christ-centered man to serve as full-time pastor. Forward resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 500 U.S. 78 Bypass, Jasper, AL 35501. Phone: (205) 384-5331.

WANTED: Christian child care center in downtown (Louisville) area seeks director for program ages birth-5th grade. Send resumé to: Board of Directors, Walnut Street Baptist Child Care Center, 220 W. St. Catherine, Louisville, KY 40203.

SEEKING: Associate pastor/youth. Ridgewood Baptist Church, Louisville (CBF-affiliated), is seeking a part-time minister to youth. Send resumé to: Ridgewood Baptist Church, 6209 Greenwood Road, Louisville, KY 40258.

SEEKING: Minister of youth, children and education. Primary responsibility: youth work with established layleaders. Submit resumé by July 18 to: Personnel Committee, Central Baptist Church, 829 High St., Paris, KY 40361.

FREE: 150 Broadman Hymnals (1977). Contact Trinity Baptist Church, 3900 Lafayette Road, Hopkinsville, KY 42240, (502) 885-6348.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Gethsemane Baptist Church, 10400 Blue Lick Road, Louisville, KY 40229.

WANTED: Minister of youth and education; First Baptist Church of Fairlea, W.V. College required; seminary graduate preferred. Total salary package: \$32,000 to \$38,400. If interested, send resumé to: Jane Lorensen, Chairperson, Search Committee, Box 1106, Lewisburg, WV 24901.

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.

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).

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.

FOR SALE: 12 church pews, oak, medium-dark stain, 11 feet long, removeable seat cushions, \$100 each. Louisville (502) 935-1690.

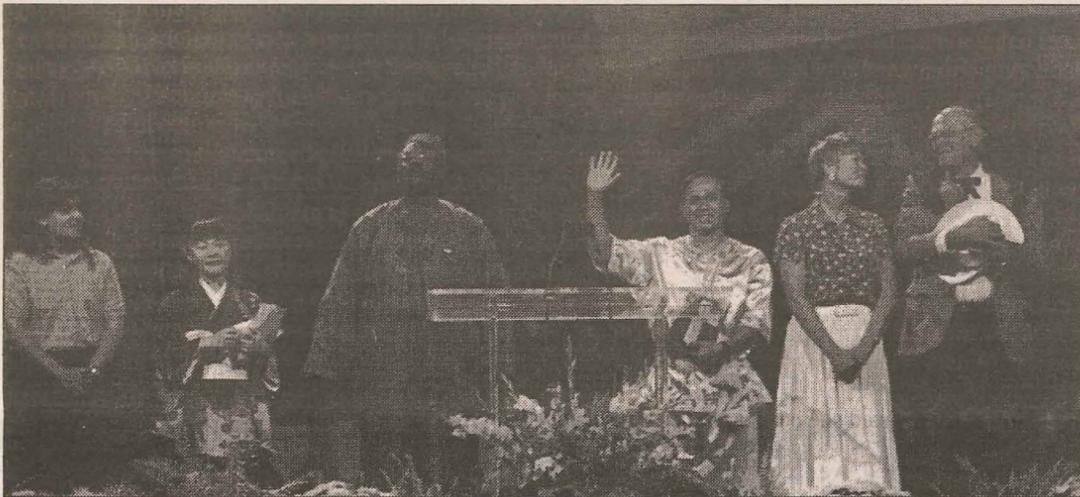
WANTED: Full-time staff minister with emphasis on youth. Send resumé to: Buena Vista Baptist Church, 324 Clifty, Somerset, KY 42503, Attn: Clyde Strunk.

SEEKING: Full-time youth/music minister, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, D. Wheelton, sec., Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 1815 Clifty Road, Somerset, KY 42503.

SEEKING: Bivocational minister of music and/or youth. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Trinity Baptist Church, 3900 Lafayette Road, Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

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.

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.



MISSIONS MOMENTS
■ Top: Kathy Phillips of Portland, Ore., shared how she became a Christian through a drug rehabilitation program operated by a Southern Baptist home missionary. She is now director of the program. **■ Above:** Six people shared testimonies at the 1997 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas about how they accepted Christ through Southern Baptist home and foreign missions efforts. (BP photos by Bill Bangham)

Thanks, Wyndee

By Robert Dunston

In December of 1985 Cumberland College was blessed by the arrival of Wyndee Holbrook as our campus minister.

Holbrook had just graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and was eager to begin her ministry at Cumberland. She brought with her contagious excitement, leadership skills, dramatic talents and spiritual depth and maturity. For the past 11 and a half years, these talents and others have enabled God to work through her to enrich the lives of many.

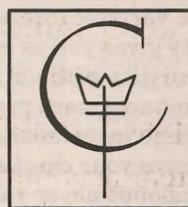
While it is impossible to list everything she has accomplished in this brief column, I do want to let you know how she has influenced and blessed our students.

As a staunch supporter of missions work, Holbrook has led college teams during spring breaks and other times to minister in areas around our nation. Students and Holbrook engaged in manual labor, creative ministries, evangelism and other avenues of service to God and others. Not only did she lead others in mission trips but she involved herself in mission opportunities, traveling to Russia through the Kentucky-Russia partnership. Holbrook

gave our students a taste of and commitment to missions around our world.

Holbrook also taught an Old Testament survey class each semester. As a teacher, she is excellent. Knowledge of her teaching gifts quickly spread through campus, and her class was typically full. She has helped students become stronger in their faith and better able to apply faith to the demands of life today.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



As well as her own work, Holbrook has served faithfully on a number of committees on our campus. Her entire family has been members at First Baptist Church of Williamsburg, involved in every program the church has. Somehow she has even made time to perform in some of the presentations of Cumberland's theater group.

This summer Holbrook will leave her position at Cumberland College to become campus minister at Berea College. We will miss her greatly as a colleague and friend. God bless you, Wyndee, even as you have blessed us.

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

Advocates for children

The American Heritage Dictionary and the Holy Bible each define advocacy. The dictionary describes the verb and noun advocate: "to speak in favor of; recommend; one who argues for a cause or a person; a supporter or defender."

Scripture introduces us to the ultimate supporter and defender.

"If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

As followers of Jesus, we are thankful we have an advocate in the person of Jesus. He helps us in our weakness, provides sight for our blinded spiritual condition, gives grace for our unfaithfulness and sends peace in the midst of crisis and pain.

In a similar way, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children serves as an advocate for Kentucky's children. Children should have families that advocate for them at all cost, but often this is not always the case. On the other hand, some families are advocates for their children, but their problems are so severe they do not know what to do. In both instances KBHC ministries fill the gap to serve the role of advocate.

The beauty of childhood is its

innocence. The tragedy of childhood is when this innocence is abused and exploited. When tragic, sometimes deplorable decisions are made for children who cannot choose themselves, they need an advocate, one who stands in the gap for them, someone to become the comforter. Our ministry is about advocacy; being that defender in the earthly realm, and helping kids meet Christ, the ultimate advocate.

Kentucky for Kids Day, which was held in Frankfort recently, was a tremendous experience. Everyone in attendance was interested in serving kids across the commonwealth as advocates. I was proud to be there and have KBHC participate.

Our society is finally realizing the stark reality that if people do not step forward today as advocates for kids, tomorrow may be too late. Please join hands with us and become a real advocate for our children.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

PEOPLE

FAMILY

This mail is for the birds

By Jeremy White

From the volume of mail I receive, banks with credit card offers are my best friends.

Apparently, I am not alone.

Last year, banks mailed 2.7 billion credit card offers. That is about 27 offers for every American household.

I know of two cases where owners' dogs appeared on various mailing lists. You guessed it: the dogs soon received an offer for a pre-approved Visa Gold card with a \$3,000 credit limit. Keep that in mind when a credit card offer causes you to feel proud or financially superior.

In the past, you could count on conservative bankers to screen applicants. Now, bankers often ignore credit risks to increase market share in a profitable, competitive market. They offer teaser rates, preprinted checks and marketing tie-ins. The ease of rolling balances from one card to another can worsen addictive overspending habits.

You must be more discerning than ever. Remember the words of Jesus: "Be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves" (Matthew 10:16). What approach should you use for credit card offers?

■ *The environmentally responsible approach* (best in almost all cases). Use the offer as bird cage liner or kindling. Never open the envelope. Don't even read the lies on the envelope, such as "Get what you want in life and save!"

■ *Magnifying glass approach*. If you do open the offer, go immediately to the fine print. Don't read the cover letter. Just strain to read the terms, annual fee, length of the introductory interest rate and the eventual annual rate. Then, revert to approach No. 1.

■ *Rawhide approach* ("Roll-in," "Rollin' Rollin'"). Only in rare cases, roll the balance from your existing card to the offered card. The math is appealing, but the danger here is treating the symptom and not the problem (consistent overspending). To qualify for this approach, prove you can spend less than you earn for six months. Then, transfer your balance when the introductory interest rate is at least six months and four percentage points lower than your current rate.

Jeremy White is a CPA in Paducah. Obtain a free sample copy of his newsletter, *Financial Wisdom*, by writing him at 250 Myrna Drive, Paducah, Ky. 42003.



New event encourages pastors' wives

Continued from page 15

given everything to God and then suffering happens along, there's nothing to block our healing," nothing to prevent joy from being restored and nothing to keep that woman from living an abundant life, she said.

"Just being in ministry does not mean we have abandoned all to God," Moore reminded the women.

"Sometimes we ask, 'What will happen to me if I abandon all?'" she said. "But a much more frightening question is, 'What will become of me if I don't?'"

Teresa Brown said she grew up deep in a valley of east Tennessee. Her church had no indoor plumbing, no shades on the light bulbs, no carpeting, no pastor and no pastor's wife.

"But when I was a little girl, I know God told me that one day I would be a pastor's wife," she said.

Brown, whose husband, Joe, is pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., inquired if God really does call a woman to be the wife of a pastor.

"If we believe God calls men into ministry and if we believe God is in control, then how likely is it that the same God would haphazardly throw that man together with the first wom-

an who came through the door?" Brown asked.

"God is logical. ... God called you both."

The purpose of the life of a pastor's wife is not the ministry, Brown said. "The purpose of your life is to love and serve God with all your heart and soul and mind. If you do that, I promise

you God will take care of the ministry."

Barbara O'Chester, director of Great Hills Retreat Ministry in Austin, Texas, and a pastor's wife for 40 years, spoke of the faithfulness of God despite hard times.

"Don't be surprised when trials come," she said. "Fiery furnaces are a way of life."

"At times it will be hard to trust in God, but God is always in control," O'Chester said. She described persecution from whites she and her husband experienced in the 1960s when they took a stand against persecution of African-Americans. During another pastorate, their church had to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. They also had a daughter "who wandered in and out of the world for 15 years," she said.

However, she said she has learned that "no one ever trusted God in vain. When we trust God, we stop fretting

and start believing. When we trust in God, we stop complaining and start praising."

Nancy Leigh DeMoss talked about the power of discontentment to ruin one's life. "Circumstances do not make us content," she said. Contentment comes from "knowing God and having his nearness in my life."

DeMoss concluded the meeting with an altar call. For 20 minutes women continued to come to the platform area to pray; many were weeping.



A CHALLENGE TO PASTORS' WIVES
Nancy DeMoss, director of publications and women's ministries for Life Action Ministries in Niles, Mich., was one of the featured speakers for a special session for pastors' wives and other female Christian leaders during the 1997 Southern Baptist Pastors Conference. (BP photo by Paul Obregon)

SENIOR LIVING

Five bowling trophies.
Thirteen secret recipes.
Ninety-six great-grandchildren.
One happy family.

At Stonecreek Lodge Retirement Community, we're proud of what today's seniors have achieved in life. And we're equally proud that some of these seniors are calling us home. That's why we're working so hard to provide a happy, caring environment in our new community. Look for our grand opening coming soon. To schedule a visit, call 502-935-5884. Then discover a place that rewards you for a lifetime of great accomplishments.



STONECREEK LODGE

Retirement Living Community

9251 Stonestreet Road • Louisville, KY 40272

502-935-5884



NOW OPEN

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Missionaries Clay and Connie Cartwright and their family as they prepare to leave Tambov, Russia, July 5 to study at Southern Seminary.

■ Students who recently graduated from Moscow Baptist Theological Seminary.

■ Wisdom for missionary Mel Skinner as he considers the invitation of Russian Baptists to coordinate evangelism and church planting efforts around Moscow.

■ Summer community outreach plans of Central Vermont Baptist Church in Waterbury, Vt.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ ALLENSVILLE—Jay Stratton resigned as pastor of Mount Gilead Church to join the staff at Oneida Baptist Institute.

■ AUBURN—Joe Hendricks resigned as pastor of Cave Spring Church.

■ CAMPBELLSVILLE—Green River Memorial Church called Jeff McCarty as pastor. McCarty previously was pastor at Little Union Church in Taylorsville. He will begin his new ministry July 13. Also, Josh Bunch was called as music director. He is a student at Campbellsville College.

■ ELIZABETHTOWN—Valley Creek Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary Aug. 23-24. Call (502) 737-9282 for more information.

■ GILBERTSVILLE—Gilbertsville Church called Ron Melton as pastor. He previously was pastor of Bellview Church in Elkton.

■ LEXINGTON—Rosemont Church will celebrate 50 years of ministry June 29 with a 3 p.m. service and reception following. Pastor Gilbert Tucker and former pastors Louis Arnold, William Craig and Jerome Brown will be participating. All are invited to attend.

■ LONDON—First Church called Sam Spragens as minister of youth and recreation. He previously was minister of youth/children and education at Central Church in Paris.

■ LOUISVILLE—Tommy Hellams resigned as minister of music and administrator at Carlisle Avenue Church

effective June 8, to serve as executive assistant to the president at Southern Seminary.

Highland Park First Church's sanctuary choir will present "This is America" by Michael Parks June 29 at 6 p.m. Call (502) 231-3917 for more information.

Bethlehem Church dedicated a new missionary residence June 22. Missionaries Clay and Connie Cartwright of Russia will be the first occupants of "Elisha's Place" when they arrive in late July.

■ MEXICO—Mexico Church called Rodney Groff as pastor.

■ MIDDLETON—Middleton Church called Winston Roberts as pastor.

■ OWENSBORO—Jim Spaulding, director of missions at Daviess-McLean Association, will retire Sept. 1. The association will hold a reception in his honor at Third Church July 14 at 6 p.m. Call (502) 684-2377 for

more information.

■ QUALITY—Gupton's Grove Church called Jeff Miller as pastor.

■ RUSSELLVILLE—Whippoorwill Church called Bruce Alvis as pastor.

Carl Freudenthal was elected director of missions for Bethel and Logan associations May 19. He previously was pastor at Adairville Church.

New Union Church called John Walsh as pastor. He previously was associate pastor at Concord Church in Hopkinsville.

■ SOMERSET—Pleasant Hill Church called Larry O'Bryan as pastor. He previously was pastor at Old Yellow Creek Church in Middlesboro.

■ WESTPORT—Dwayne Doyle recently resigned as interim youth minister at Westport Church to become a Southern Baptist International Mission Board Journeyman to Bosnia. Doyle also served as an intern in the KBC Brotherhood Department.

Shop owner drops the nun bun, for now

NASHVILLE (RNS)—It's tough to keep saying no to Mother Teresa. Ask Bob Bernstein.

Bernstein, owner of the Bongo Java coffeehouse in Nashville, at first balked when the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Roman Catholic nun sent him a letter urging him to refrain from cashing in on a cinnamon bun that some people said bears a curious likeness to her.

He shellacked the bun, displayed it in his coffeehouse and began selling T-shirts, coffee mugs, prayer

cards and other items featuring the nun bun. That upset Mother Teresa, who won't even allow her name put on Bibles to raise money for the poor she helps worldwide.

But recently he had second thoughts. For now, at least.

Bernstein said he'll talk to Mother Teresa's lawyers before deciding whether to permanently quit the nun-bun business. Besides, he said, "I've made so little money on this that there's no point antagonizing anybody."

ROSEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH Lexington, Kentucky

Cordially invites our community to celebrate

"50 Years of Ministry"

Sunday June 29, 1997

3:00 pm. Service with reception to follow.

All are welcome! Come Celebrate the Lord!

(606) 277-6147

Six weeks equals nine months

It is hard to believe summer school already has begun. A very short two and one-half weeks after school was out in May, many students have returned for summer school. We have a few more students than we did last summer, but, for the most part, everything is about the same.

Most of our summer school students are taking classes they failed last year. A little more than half of the students who come to Oneida are making failing grades when they enroll. It normally takes about 90 days for students to make substantial improvements in their grades. During that time, they may fail a class or two and will have to retake those classes.

When students come to Oneida, parents are concerned most about academics. They seem to think that if a student can bring his or her grades up everything else will fall into place.

While that may be true in a few situations, for the most part it is not true.

The advice I most frequently give to parents is to let the student have at least 90 days to adjust to Oneida. When that student feels good about being here and gets involved in our many activities, then grades normally improve.

About 75 percent of our students begin to make better grades during their first three months at Oneida. Young people who do not make significant improvements in their grades may need more time to adjust, or they may have to be placed in our tutoring program.

While many students have returned to summer school to repeat classes they failed, others have come to take a class they need to earn an advanced diploma. Others are taking a class for six weeks that they do not want to take for nine months dur-

ing the regular school year. A student in summer school will cover the same material in six weeks that is covered during nine months of the regular school year.

There is another group of students who come to summer school. These students are those who have come to Oneida for the first time.

The first two months of the regular school year are the most difficult for us. There are about 150 first-time students and about 350 returning students.

The new students have the most difficult time adjusting. They will be moving in with three strangers and learning to share space and room cleaning responsibilities. They will have to adjust to new rules, new teachers, different food and a completely new environment. Some will make this adjustment relatively easily, while others will find the adjustment much more difficult.

Even students who are returning go through a little homesickness as they adjust to new roommates and the loss of friends who have graduated.

We ask the parents of those students who we feel will have a more difficult time adjusting to enroll them in the summer school program. It is much easier for these young people to adjust in summer school, with only about 175 students, than in the fall term with 500. We will be able to focus on these students in summer school and give them more attention than we can provide at the beginning of school in the fall. With this in mind, we are happy to have 52 new students enrolled in summer school.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

New scholarships established

The goals of Beyond 2001, our development campaign to secure \$3.5 million in resources, include at least \$800,000 for endowed student scholarships.

■ Commercial bank of Harrogate, Tenn., B.J. and Brenda Fortner and members of the bank's board of directors joined efforts to provide \$16,000 for the Stephen Brent Fortner Memorial Scholarship. Interest from this endowment will provide financial grants to students from Tennessee.

■ First Baptist Church of Harrogate, Tenn., approved \$10,000 to create the Kenneth and Frances Clendaniel Scholarship in honor of our former academic dean and his wife. The fund will assist students who are members of the church or other Tennessee students.

■ James and Florence Deaton of Jackson established a scholarship in their name to assist students from the eastern region of Kentucky. A charitable trust will add to the fund after their death.

Four churches pledged sufficient amounts to endow scholarships to honor former pastors:

■ East Bernstadt in London pledged \$30,000 for the Earl and

Vada Clark Scholarship. Earl Clark retired as New Testament professor in 1996.

■ Horse Creek of Manchester committed \$32,000 for the Dennis Rush Scholarship and already has given two-thirds of the pledge.

■ First Baptist Church of Prestonsburg pledged at least \$5,000 over three years to honor Bill Jagers. The first year, the church nearly reached its goal.

■ First Baptist of Madisonville honors Harold Purdy with a \$10,000 scholarship.

Two churches have committed \$10,000 each in appreciation of current pastors:

■ Lone Oak First Baptist is thankful for Willis Henson's 25 years.

■ Binghamtown in Middlesboro honored W.B. Bingham for 45 years of leadership.

Beyond 2001 offers churches, associations and individuals an excellent opportunity to honor faithful leaders or to continue Christian stewardship until Jesus comes.

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

BAPTISTS

Crossover Dallas offers food for body and soul

DALLAS (BP)—Before Southern Baptists gathered in the Dallas Convention Center to call a boycott of the Walt Disney Co. and conduct other business, they gave away three tons of chicken and thousands of New Testaments, conducted neighborhood surveys and shared the gospel in church and shopping center parking lots all across Dallas.

Crossover Dallas, a June 13-15 evangelistic event, included 117 block parties as well as door-to-door evangelism and street evangelism. More than 3,600 people made professions of faith in Jesus Christ through these

activities.

Bill Cox, who has coordinated Crossover block parties since their inception six years ago, said he was impressed with the wide variety of activities Dallas-area churches used to reach people. "Churches have done a fantastic job of putting together their own programs and activities that reach their community."

"The Southern Baptist churches

out here in Parkerville took different areas and coordinated to make sure all of the town was covered by Crossover," said Gaylon Riddle, pastor of

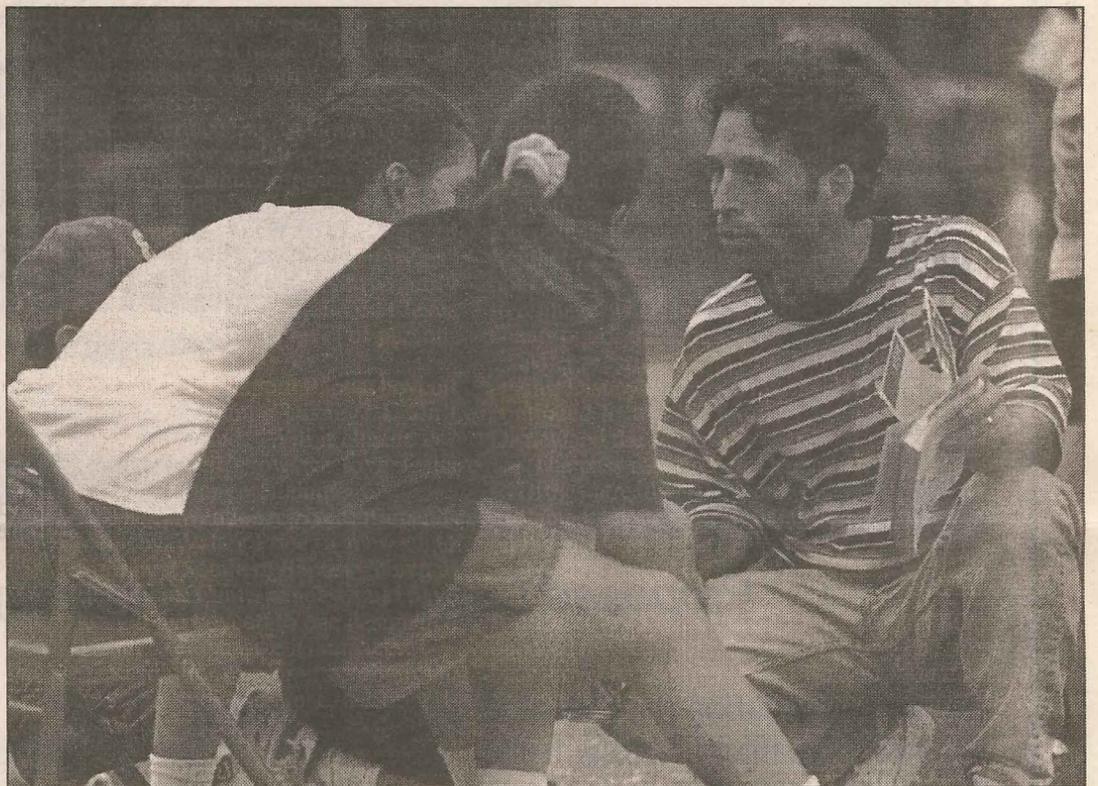
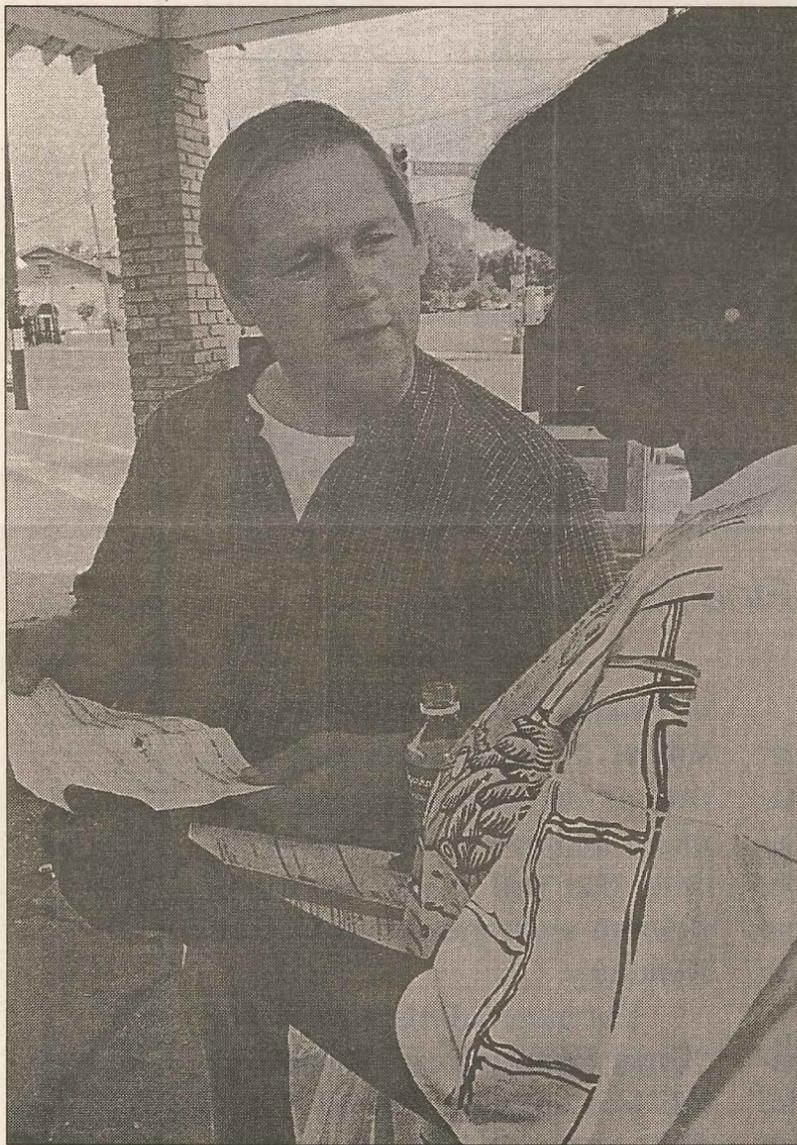
Parkerville Road Baptist Church in DeSoto, Texas.

With four teams fanning out in a section of DeSoto, about 75 contacts were made

among 200 homes, generating 15 to 20 strong prospects for the church.

Two months before Crossover, members of Second Baptist Church in Dallas began preparing for the event. "We needed \$1,600 to host our block party," Pastor Joe Smith said. "Our church raised \$4,600."

"There's a low-income motel just down the block from here," said Louise Snyder, a member of Second Baptist and volunteer at the party. "I used to live there, so I know what goes on—lots of drugs and prostitution. Second Baptist helped me get on my feet, and now I have the opportunity to tell the people that they don't have to live this way. They have a choice."



SHARING THEIR FAITH
 ■ Above: Scott Coleman, minister of missions at Calvary Baptist Church in Oak Cliff, Texas, talks with two young girls he eventually led to make professions of faith in Christ during "Crossover Dallas". ■ Left: John Shelton, pastor of Church on the Lot in Dallas, counsels with a woman in need of permanent housing. ■ Middle: Bary Keldie spins a gyroscope ride at an evangelistic block party. ■ Right: a clown offers face painting at a block party. (BP photos by Bob Carey)

Prayer walk undergirds SBC witnessing blitz in Dallas

By Dan Martin
 Baptist General Convention of Texas

DALLAS--The three men walked slowly along Lower Greenville Avenue, with the skyscrapers of downtown Dallas looming nearby.

At mid-morning June 13, many of the denizens of the mile-long area were not yet up and stirring: Lower Greenville, for the most part, is an area of bars, restaurants, clubs, boutiques and other places that draw people of the night.

"Lower Greenville is a magnet for people who, in Dallas, want to get away in some way from the dominant mainstream culture," said Mark Thames, minister of the Lower Greenville Baptist Community. Thames lives and works in the area.

As the men walked, Thames described people with whom he has come into contact as he has worked to reach people for Jesus Christ. As Thames described the people and places along the six-block stretch, one or the other of his companions prayed, lifting that person or business up to God.

They prayed for the "scientific atheist," for the young woman whose family has had no connection with any religion for several generations, for another person so untouched by church that when she went to the public library looking for a Bible she didn't know whether to look in the fact or fiction section.

Another young woman was described as a pagan, who believes an ancient goddess guides her and helps

her make decisions. Others mentioned and prayed for included homosexuals, lesbians, New Age devotees. Prayer was voiced that they might be won to the Lord Jesus Christ and accept him as their personal Savior.

The three men were engaged in a prayer walk, an effort where Christians walk through an area and quietly pray.

Prayer walking was an integral part of Crossover Dallas, a massive witnessing and evangelism effort coordinated by the Dallas Baptist Association in advance of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in the Dallas Convention Center June 17-19.

Jana Young, the association's director of church and community ministries and coordinator of the

year-long Crossover planning, described prayer walking as "praying on sight with insight."

A lot of times the people are not even praying publicly. It is praying with your eyes open.

"We asked the churches to send people into the neighborhoods where we would be going to do door-to-door evangelism, block parties or other efforts so they could pray for the people who live there," Young said.

Young said more than 250 of Dallas Baptist Association's 470 churches participated in Crossover. "We do not know for sure how many went out prayer walking Friday morning," she said, but estimated that more than 100 people were on the streets praying as they walked through various neighborhoods.

A GREAT PERFORMANCE

Campbellsville University has become one of Kentucky's great performances of the decade. Its student enrollment has

The Student's Guide to America's 100 Best College Buys.

Are we satisfied to rest on our recent laurels? Not on your life. In fact, we are quickly moving our fine arts area to become one of the premier programs of its kind in the

ter of Music Degree in Music Education program, all clearly demonstrate our commitment to solid arts education and performance.

But to paraphrase a Rogers and Hammerstein favorite, Campbellsville's fine arts program



Proposed Campbellsville University Fine Arts Center

soared 131% during the past nine years to more than 1,530 students. Two of its faculty were named among the state's college/university teachers of the year for 1995-96-- a rare distinction for any school.

And for the second consecutive year, Campbellsville University has been named by *U.S. News & World Report* as among the leading 64 Southern liberal arts institutions, and was recently listed in

state and region.

As one of Kentucky's two private colleges and universities nationally accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, Campbellsville University's fine arts program is turning heads across the state.

Campbellsville's 11 music ensembles, ranging from the 100-member Tiger Marching Band to the internationally-acclaimed University Chorale to its new Mas-

is "bustin' out all over," as a result of its many successes. And now is the time to construct a major addition to its existing facility that will enable the arts to flourish even greater in Central Kentucky.

For more information on our "Great Performance," contact us toll-free at (800) 264-6014 ext. 5001, and we'll be happy to show you why we're Kentucky's "New Standard of Excellence."



A New Standard of Excellence

1 University Drive
Campbellsville, KY 42718-2799
www.campbellsvil.edu