

PRactical Resources for Christian Living

WESTERN RECORDER

July 15, 1997
Vol. 171, No. 27

FOR THE RECORD

New England partnership

This week's Recorder features several stories about New England Southern Baptists and Kentucky Baptists' partnership with them.

Pages 7-9.

New job

The second person to chair the SBC's committee overseeing restructuring has landed an upper-level job with the North American Mission Board.

Page 2.

Horsing around

Many vacation Bible schools are taking advantage of Kentucky Baptists' equestrian ministries this summer.

Page 3.

KBC Executive Board

A special meeting has been called, but not for a new executive secretary-treasurer.

Page 3.

Dayspring

Women's conference speaker describes how God speaks amid grief.

Page 3.

Editorial

The para-church movement has won.

Page 5.

Seniors housing

Baptists are meeting needs with ministry.

Page 6.

NIV flap

An ethics committee has criticized World magazine's coverage of the NIV controversy.

Page 10.

RFRA decision affecting other religious suits

WASHINGTON (ABP)—It didn't take long for the U.S. Supreme Court's invalidation of a popular 1993 religious-liberty law to impact other cases.

Two days after striking down the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the Supreme Court:

■ Vacated a federal appeals court's decision that tithes given to a church cannot be seized to pay the debts of a Minnesota couple who later declared bankruptcy. The high court ordered the lower court to reconsider the case in light of the invalidation of RFRA.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had ruled that ordering Crystal Evangelical Free Church to turn over \$13,450 given by Bruce and Nancy Young during the year before they filed for bankruptcy "substantially burdens" the Youngs' free exercise of religion and does not further "a compelling governmental interest and therefore violates RFRA."

■ Annulled another appeals-court ruling that RFRA protected the rights of inmates to wear religious jewelry that is too small or light to pose a threat to prison security. Again, the Supreme Court ordered the lower court to reconsider the ruling in light of RFRA's demise.

The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals had rejected arguments by Wisconsin officials that Congress had overstepped its authority in enacting RFRA. The appeals court acknowledged that prison security is a

□ See Supreme Court's ..., page 10

Gospel often revolutionary in New England

By Pat Cole
Partnerships Editor

BOSTON—In a region where monuments tell the story of America's struggle for independence, New England Southern Baptists bear witness to the revolutionary message of Jesus Christ.

New England Baptists work among descendants of American colonists and among first generation immigrants. Their churches minister in quaint, postcard-like villages and in sprawling metropolitan areas.

Veteran New England Baptist leaders say the gospel can be a radically new message for New Englanders, regardless of how deeply their roots are planted in the region's soil.

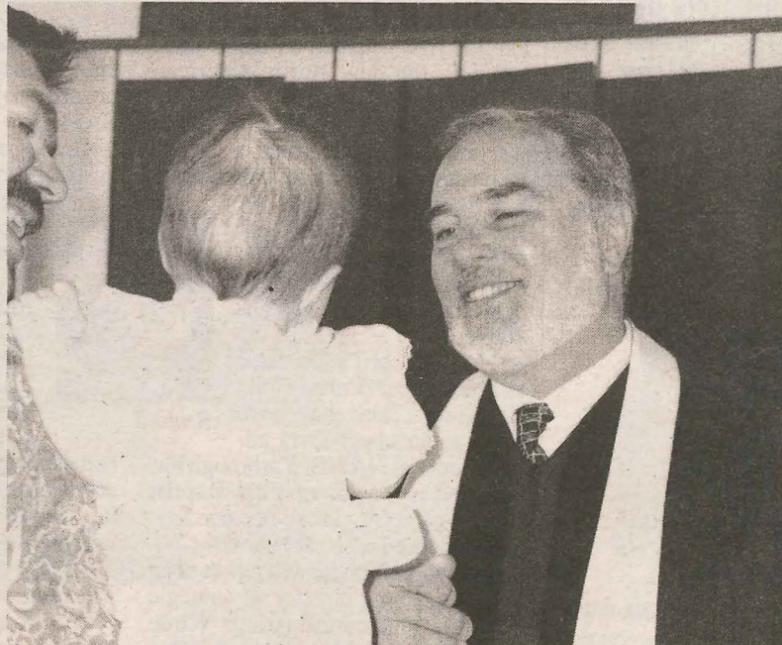
A long history of secularization in New England has caused many to grow up with little exposure to the gospel. Some New Englanders can name multiple generations of forebears who did not attend any church, New England Baptist leaders say.

Meanwhile, thousands of immigrants make their way to New England annually with limited or no knowledge of Christianity.

"This is not evangelical territory," said Bob Brindle, missions leader for the Baptist Convention of New England. "Talk about getting people to accept Christ and to commit their lives to Christ is foreign to them. About all you can do is build friendships and relationships. People don't feel lost."

New England churches base their ministries on relationship building, and that makes church planting a slow and arduous process.

As partners with New England Baptists, Kentucky Baptists have an opportunity to help them build relationships with their communities.



GREETING Dale Cross, pastor of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Cambridge, Mass., greets a child during a Sunday service. Two more congregations use the same building each Sunday after Metropolitan. More stories about New England Southern Baptists are on pages 7-9. (Photo by Pat Cole)



Partnership missions takes many forms. Churches send teams to do construction work, conduct vacation Bible school and assist with evangelistic outreach. Partnership missions also includes congregations covenanting to pray for each other and sharing ministry expertise. A Kentucky congregation also may agree to pay part of the salary of a pastor or church staff member in a fledgling New England church.

While Kentucky Baptists are more numerous and better established than their Southern Baptist counterparts in New England, leaders from both state conventions agree that a solid partnership is built on an attitude of mutual

contributions. "One of the reasons partnership missions is so important is so Southern Baptists can be exposed to diversity," said Ken Lyle, BCNE executive director. "Partnership is a two-way street. We need to learn about Kentucky Baptists and Kentucky Baptists need to know about us."

Kentucky Baptists began a partnership in 1996 with Greater Boston Baptist Association. The partnership expanded this year to include all of New England.

In 1996, Kentucky Baptists sent about 40 mission teams to New England and by the end of 1997 another 60 teams will have gone, according to Calvin Wilkins, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's director of partnership missions.

□ See Leader: Partnership ..., page 7

Actions could impact Kentucky Baptists' partnership in Russia

By David Winfrey
News Director

Political and economic actions in Moscow could threaten Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Russian Baptists, according to an official with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Politically, a bill before Russia's national legislative body could curb religious freedom drastically and imperil future partnership projects, said Calvin Wilkins, KBC director of partnership missions.

Economically, the primary Moscow bank for forwarding money to missionaries has stopped doing business with the KBC and the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, he added.

The "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations" bill was overwhelmingly passed in Russia's lower house of parliament and has broad support of the upper house, according to Religion News Service.

The bill is widely perceived as granting special privileges to the Russian Orthodox Church while potentially curbing activities of some minority churches.

Religious groups other than Russian Orthodox Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism would have to prove they have operated legally in Russia at least 15 years in order to be allowed to function.

That would effectively prevent most from operating because Russia and the rest of the former Soviet Union was officially atheistic until the fall of communism in 1991.

Even if Baptists' long history in Russia is observed, the wording of the bill is so vague that local congregations younger than 15 years old might be ruled void, Wilkins said.

James Dunn, director of the Baptist Joint Committee, agreed. "It's real fuzzy and ambiguous, and a lot of people think it's deliberately so."

Russian President Boris Yeltsin,

who has been encouraged by Clinton to veto the measure, has made no commitments but is expected to consider the bill before the end of July.

Meanwhile, Wilkins said, the bank in Moscow stopped working with Baptists last month.

About three weeks ago, Kentucky Baptists wired \$12,000 to Russian Baptists in Moscow for missions work. Dick Beaudoin, a career missionary associate for the International Service Corps volunteer and business manager for Baptist work in Moscow, was unable to withdraw the money initially because of a government audit, Wilkins said.

Later, after a six-hour meeting with bank officials, Beaudoin was given the \$12,000 and told the bank no longer would do business with Baptists, Wilkins said.

Mark Snowden, a spokesman for the International Mission Board noted that no money was lost and other options are being sought for getting

money to Moscow missionaries and mission projects. "It looks like we're going to have to hand carry cash into Moscow to do projects," he said.

Citibank in St. Petersburg continues to work with Baptists, Wilkins said, but he agreed that money will have to be hand carried to Moscow. Volunteers already take their personal expense money with them, but money also will have to be carried into the country for Russian support personnel paid by the KBC, he added.

No partnership projects have been canceled because of the developments, he added.

Wilkins said he suspects Orthodox Christian leaders may have pressured the church or the government to quit doing business with Baptists.

Dunn said that's not outside the realm of possibility. "I would not be surprised at anything," he said. "There are real and serious pressures."

With additional reporting by Religion News Service.

Moving? See page 4 (0715)

BAPTISTS

Another task force leader takes job with NAMB

Managers yet to be named include a vice president for evangelization and directors of 11 of NAMB's 21 divisions, the people who report directly to the agency's five vice presidents.

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

ATLANTA—The second man to serve as chairman of the committee which oversaw restructuring of the Southern Baptist Convention has—like the first—landed an upper-level job with the new North American Mission Board.

Bob Reccord, the Virginia pastor who initially was chairman of the implementation task force, was elected NAMB president June 19. He had stepped down as task force chairman in March after his nomination for the top paid staff position was announced.

Now Reccord's successor as task force chairman, John Yarbrough, also has been hired as an upper-level administrator at NAMB. Yarbrough has resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church of Perry, Ga., to become lead strategy coordinator at NAMB.

In that position he will report to an as-yet-unnamed director of strategic planning and coordination. While Yarbrough's position is two steps below a vice president in the staff structure, it is an influential position. He will lead a group of strategy coordinators—individuals who serve as liaisons between NAMB and state Baptist conventions.

How NAMB will relate to state conventions has been the subject of much scrutiny ever since the plans for

denominational restructuring were announced two years ago. The original restructuring document, called "Covenant for a New Century," noted that future SBC funding for home missions projects might be directed away from older, more-established state conventions to provide more funds for newer state conventions and toward projects funded directly by NAMB.

In the past, almost all SBC home missions projects were jointly planned and funded by the Home Mission Board and state conventions. The HMB is one of three old agencies merged to form NAMB.



Reccord

During the preparation period for restructuring, Yarbrough chaired a work group that examined the cooperative agreements that had developed between the HMB and state conventions. Those agreements have not been amended since the June merger which created NAMB, but most state convention officials anticipate renegotiations to be forthcoming.

Yarbrough is a Georgia native who has been pastor of churches in Georgia and Kentucky. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and is past president of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

He is one of only a few outsiders yet named to staff positions at NAMB. The vast majority of management-level staff members identified to date held previous positions with one of the

three agencies merged to form NAMB: the HMB, Radio & Television Commission or Brotherhood Commission.

However, more than three dozen management-level positions remain either unfilled or the names of persons chosen to fill them have not yet been released. All those vacancies reportedly will be filled by people who did not previously work at one of the three merged agencies.

Only five of the 107 management-level staff members announced by NAMB July 9 have come from positions outside the three agencies. In addition to Reccord and Yarbrough, they are Nate Adams, vice president for media and missions education, who was a vice president with Christianity Today



Yarbrough

Inc.; David Clark, executive director of NAMB's media technology unit based in Fort Worth, Texas, who was a media producer for another company; and Dewey Hickey, director of strategy and resource development at NAMB, who was executive director of the Dakota Southern Baptist Fellowship.

Managers yet to be named include a vice president for evangelization and directors of 11 of NAMB's 21 divisions, the people who report directly to the agency's five vice presidents. More than two dozen other mid-level management positions have not yet been filled.

The implementation task force which Reccord and Yarbrough both chaired still is playing a major role in hiring the additional personnel. NAMB spokesman Marty King said how the remaining positions are being filled varies from position to position. In cases where implementation task force members already were engaged in conversations with candidates, they are continuing to play a role, King said. In other cases, the newly hired vice presidents and managers are recruiting candidates on their own, he added.

Reccord has said he hopes to have a full staff functioning at the agency's Atlanta headquarters by Sept. 1.

Of the 107 NAMB management-level staff members announced to date, 12 are women and 10 are African-Americans or ethnics. That compares to 25 women and 18 ethnics in similar positions in the three merged agencies. With more than three dozen managers yet to be named, the final ratios cannot be calculated.

At an April news conference, Reccord had responded to a question about the role of women in the new organization by saying NAMB would have a higher percentage of women in management positions than its three predecessor agencies had. However, he predicted the total number of women would be fewer, since NAMB's staff would be smaller than the combined total of the three agencies.

The NAMB merger: Who's in and who's out

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

ATLANTA—Management-level employees in the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's evangelism section and mid-level workers at the Radio & Television Commission appear to have taken the lightest hits in layoffs during the recent merger of three denominational agencies.

As of June 19, three Southern Baptist Convention agencies—HMB, RTVC and Brotherhood Commission—were merged to form a new agency called the North American Mission Board. Between the three agencies, 217 employees lost their jobs due to the merger.

The Brotherhood Commission, the smallest of the three merged agencies, took the hardest hit percentage-wise on personnel losses: Only 14 (19 percent) of the Brotherhood Commission's 74 employees have positions with NAMB. That compares to 70 percent of RTVC employees and 69 percent of HMB employees who have jobs with NAMB.

Here's an overview of who's in and who's out from the three merged agencies:

■ **RTVC.** Most of the mid-level managers and technical personnel previously employed by the RTVC in Fort Worth, Texas, have landed similar jobs with NAMB. For now, NAMB plans to maintain the bulk of its media technology unit in Fort Worth, Texas.

However, only half the RTVC's upper-level management team have positions with NAMB, and those who do are serving in lower-level positions than they previously had.

RTVC President Jack Johnson has been named a special assistant to the president at NAMB. Glen McEowen, RTVC vice president for engineering services, is technical operations manager with NAMB, a position two levels below a vice president. Deborah Little Key, RTVC vice president for network operations, is radio and television distribution manager with NAMB, also a position two levels below a vice president.

Two RTVC vice presidents retired at the time of the merger: Bob Thornton, vice president for television services, and Ed Malone, vice president for radio services.

The RTVC's senior vice president of administration, Jerry Stamps, was not offered a position with NAMB.

■ **Brotherhood Commission.** Only eight of the Brotherhood Commission's professional staff members have made the move from Memphis, Tenn., to Atlanta. However, several received high-level positions with NAMB.

Mike Day, Brotherhood Commission executive vice president, is vice president for strategy planning and mobilization at NAMB. Douglas Beggs, Brotherhood vice president for program services, is a strat-

egy coordinator for NAMB. Jack Childs, Brotherhood vice president for support services, is NAMB's director of marketing services.

Tim Seanor, director of the Royal Ambassadors unit at Brotherhood, is director of NAMB's missions education division. Ben Kelley, Brotherhood's chief development officer, holds a similar position with NAMB. Mickey Caison, disaster relief coordinator at Brotherhood, holds a similar position with NAMB. Andy Morris and Keith Loomis, who led the World Changers unit at Brotherhood, hold similar positions in student volunteer mobilization with NAMB.

Among Brotherhood employees who either were not offered positions with NAMB or chose not to make the move: Rusty Griffin, assistant vice president for program services; Herschel Wells, associate director of Adults in Missions; Charlotte Teas, editor of Lad materials; James Warren, editor of Crusader materials; Joe Conway, editor of Challengers materials; and Bob Carey, editor of Missions Today magazine.

Before the merger, Brotherhood Commission trustees worked out a deal for President Jim Williams to receive funding to become director of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship.

■ **HMB.** Within the HMB's three program sections, mid- and upper-level employees of the evangelism

section appear to have survived the merger the most intact. From that unit, two managers retired—Ken Carter, associate vice president, and Reid Hardin, lay renewal coordinator—and one declined to accept a position offered him—Thad Hamilton, personal evangelism director, who became evangelism director for the Georgia Baptist Convention.

Seventeen others have new positions with NAMB, including evangelism Vice President Darrell Robinson. However, Robinson is working out of his home to promote his book "Share Jesus Now" nationwide.

The HMB's extension section and ministry section were more scrambled by the merger.

Extension Vice President Charles Chaney retired and plans to teach at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. His associate vice president, J.B. Graham, was not offered a position with NAMB. Joe Hernandez, assistant vice president for extension, was named leadership mentoring associate in NAMB's church planting group.

Within the extension section, both the associational missions division and black church extension division lost a large percentage of their management personnel.

Only two of the five managers in associational missions have positions with NAMB, and only one of those is in NAMB's new associational

□ See NAMB merger ..., page 11

KENTUCKY

Vacation Bible schools 'horsing around' this summer

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

MAYFIELD—When Charlie Simmons visited Hardmoney Baptist Church's vacation Bible school last month, he packed an evangelistic message in his saddlebags.

The director of missions for Graves County Baptist Association took his sorrel-colored quarter horse to Hardmoney as part of Kentucky Brotherhood's participation in VBS.

While no exact count was available, it appears dozens of Kentucky Baptist churches and associations are capitalizing on the Baptist Sunday School Board's material, "The Wild and Wonderful Good News Stampede," and including horses in VBS ceremonies this summer.

In events like the one at Hardmoney, Simmons parks away from the church, unloads his horse and rides onto the property, he said. "I'll use a skit talking about how we depend on the horse and on Christ. I'll use it as a tool and an attraction."

The horses are being used to augment the theme and to publicize equestrian ministry to churches and others, said Bob Morrison, director of missions for Little Bethel Baptist Association.

"A year ago when I saw what VBS was going to be on, my eyes got big," said Morrison, who is ac-

tive in the equestrian ministry, said, "We can tie into that."

Little Bethel Association will take horses to 11 VBS ceremonies. In addition to Morrison, presenters are Wayne Berry, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Morton Gap who recently moved to Mayfield; and Kenneth Lamb and Ronnie Cullen, both members of Pleasant Valley Baptist Church.

Using a presentation Berry developed, riders relate parts of the horse and equipment to the Christian life. For example, they compare the bit and bridle to the restraint of the Holy Spirit.

The events also feature a question-and-answer session and free rides. Morrison believes the live demonstrations are making a lasting impression.

"Whether the kids accept Christ or not, I think they'll always remember the time a cowboy came to their church on a horse and told them about Jesus," he said.

Wilburn Bonta, coordinator of Kentucky Baptist Convention Brotherhood's equestrian ministries, said he saw a lot of excitement at his presentation June 12 at Mt. Roberts Baptist Church in Taylor County.

The 44 children who inspected a mare and her two-month-old colt were thrilled to see him, said Bonta, who dressed in a red-and-blue plaid West-



ern shirt, cowboy boots and blue jeans.

"This is a good opportunity to make people more aware of the witness through this ministry," said Bonta, director of missions for Russell Creek and East Lynn Baptist associations.

"Instead of them thinking it's just a pleasure ride, we tie in the ministry of sharing the gospel. We explain people on the trail have needs too. And we want to make people aware they can witness with the creation God has given them, instead of just in church," Bonta said.

SHOW AND TELL Several people involved with equestrian ministries make presentations to children relating the horse and equipment to biblical lessons. (Photo by Shane McNary)

Conference speaker: God speaks amid grief

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

ELIZABETHTOWN—When she lost a third son, this time at age 17 by a drunk driver, author Marilyn Heavilin was so numb with grief that after driving she couldn't recall whether she had heeded the stop signs along the way.

But through the support of friends and family, Heavilin said, she learned God offered his comforting presence to her as he does to all his children.

Heavilin, speaking to last month's Dayspring women's conference at Severns Valley Baptist Church, said Christians too often fail to take the time, as Isaiah 28:23 states, to "listen and hear my voice; pay attention to what I say."

"God speaks to all of us," she said. "Most of us aren't listening, though." She said many Christians approach God as a last resort or they think of him as a giver, and they come with a list of demands. "But conversation is meant to be two-way."

Heavilin said she observes at least five minutes of "absolute silence" each day when she specifically listens to God, writing down her impressions. To be sure she is hearing God, she checks what she writes against Scripture as well as against the circumstances of her life.

Grief can result from the death of a loved one, she said, or over any loss of a dream.

In 1983, she dreaded the upcoming Christmas season, when Christmas day would mark the 18th birthday of her son who was killed that year. His twin had died of pneumonia

at 10 days old. Heavilin asked God "to cancel December." She had also lost another son, born before the twins, to crib death.

But she said she found God had "roses in December" or special lessons or impressions, in store for her.

"This is the winter of your life," she said God told her. "Take as long as you need. But while you're here, I have some special December roses for you."

One of those "roses" God offered was comfort, she said. Heavilin said some events are impossible to explain and are "God's business," but God does provide his presence and assurance that he's ultimately in control.

Heavilin said she discovered only God can open a rosebud; anyone else trying will cause it to fall apart. God alone has the secret and the timing for the unfolding of life events, she added. In the days following the accident that killed her 17-year-old, a verse that brought her comfort was Isaiah 57:1-2—"Good men perish, and the godly die before their time. No one seems to realize the perilous days ahead. Those who die in the Lord will rest in peace."

Another "rose" God showed her was friendship. Many friends offered their presence during those dark days, she said. People should acknowledge anniversaries of deaths as well as birthdays and wedding anniversaries in the lives of their friends, she said. "Those days are very lonely."

Real roses also figured into the continuing comfort she said God offered her. As academic counselor at her son's school, one of her duties was to assist at graduations. The year he

would have graduated, she was scheduled to hand out roses to each graduate to give to his or her mother. She said she steeled herself not to cry in public. When two of his classmates presented her with bunches of roses, however, the tears of the students and parents substituted for her own.

Heavilin, author of "Roses in December," "When Your Dreams Die" and "I'm Listening Lord," told the women a deeper relationship with God meant spending time in prayer getting to know him. She said the "warm, fuzzy" names for God, like shepherd and father, are only part of his character. He's also the God of vengeance and justice, she said. "The Lord is with us and will protect us," she said. "Christians are not to turn tail and run."

Christians must protect their time alone with God, setting aside places and time, she said. God will remind Christians of his love and his faithfulness will bring confidence, she said.

Prayer time also changes a Christian's perspective on life, explaining the past and reinterpreting it in God's light, she said.

She said past events as a girl kept her from feeling loved as a 50-year-old woman. But God's healing helped her leave her "baggage with the baggage keeper" as David did in the Old Testament, she said.

Heavilin advocated reading and studying Scripture so God's words are ingrained. "Thou will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee," she said, quoting Isaiah 26:6.

The sixth annual Dayspring conference drew about 430 women, the largest audience ever.

KBC Executive Board calls special meeting

A special meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board has been called for July 31 to consider several personnel matters.

The agenda will not include a recommendation from the executive secretary-treasurer search committee, Floyd Price, KBC president and Executive Board chairman, explained in a July 8 letter to board members.

"Our agenda includes some personnel actions and business that are important to our ministries and need to be addressed as soon as possible," Price said in the letter. "We will have candidates for Sunday school director and Brotherhood director. You will also receive reports on other personnel actions assigned as the responsibility of the administrative committee."

According to KBC policy, any candidate for a department director level position or higher must be elected by a majority vote of the full Executive Board. Without a called meeting, candidates for the Sunday school and Brotherhood positions could not be elected until the next regularly scheduled board meeting, which is in mid-November.

The July 31 meeting will be held at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

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.

Jesus wouldn't go

In answer to the question, "Would Jesus go to Disney World?" (June 24, page 5): I don't think he would. Jesus in his first advent, in his humility, would not have had the money for a ticket. And, had he had the money, he would not have given it in support of an industry that supports homosexuality, adultery or fornication.

The industry built around the Disney name is hypocritical in providing good family entertainment on one hand and then portraying the opposite on the other hand.

Baptists had better be careful that we do not become politically correct and lose our prophetic voice in America. God told Elijah to go hide himself. He was obedient to God for three years. God told him to go show himself, and when wicked King Ahab saw him coming, he accused Elijah of troubling Israel. Those who are troubling America, getting America into trouble, need the troubling of their hearts from prophetic voices like Elijah's.

Jesus would say to the homosexuals, adulterers and fornicators: "Repent!" He would say to those repenting, "Go and sin no more."

*Ray Gilliland
Russellville*

Go to Ninevah

My 3-year-old daughter's favorite Bible story right now is "Jonah." She loves the part where I make my voice real deep and say, "God said, 'Go to Ninevah.'" She is amazed that anyone would "not mind God," but is very satisfied that God will punish those who disobey. At this age moral choices are very black and white, and even though she does not always make the right choice, she knows right from wrong.

A trip to Disney World's Gay Day

By Bill Bartleman

It might be hard for some people to understand why the Southern Baptist Convention approved a resolution last month urging its membership to boycott the Disney Co. for its promotion of homosexual activity.

Some have argued there are more important issues for a Christian group to be concerned about.

However, one of my colleagues at the Paducah Sun learned first-hand about Disney's promotion of gay and lesbian activity. He was at Disney World in Orlando, Fla., in early June during the park's special promotion to attract gays and lesbians. If he had known it was the park's seventh annual Gay and Lesbian Day, he said he wouldn't have been there with his wife and two children, ages 12 and 16.

He went to the park to enjoy a family vacation. What his family saw was anything but family-oriented entertainment. "It was revolting," said my colleague, whom I won't identify.

He said the "special guests" wore red shirts with the words "Gay and Lesbian Pride" on the front and "Magic by Day, Pleasure by Night" on the back. The words on the back were a reference to the planned activities that included a visit to the Magic Kingdom

I am completely dumbfounded by our denomination's attack on Disney. No, they are not perfect (neither are we as Southern Baptists), but they don't claim to be a Christian organization (and we Southern Baptists do).

So how would Christ handle Disney? Would he start throwing stones at Disney or would he begin an awesome witness? You know the answer, and we as Christians should start that witness—all the way from the top CEO in the Disney organization down to Mickey Mouse himself.

I would rather see everyone who went to Dallas for the convention converting instead of condemning.

Wouldn't it be great if the "gay days" at Disney became "save a gay day" by all the Southern Baptist ministers.

God said, "Go to Ninevah." Jesus said to go to all nations. Southern Baptists need to go to Disney and save, save, save.

*K. Meece
Williamstown*

Sodom and Gomorrah

In am writing in regard to Mark Wingfield's remarks (June 24, page 5) on "Would Jesus go to Disney World?" Wingfield said absolutely he would.

I believe Jesus will, but for another reason. Jesus visited Sodom and Gomorrah with brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven. (Genesis 19:23-25).

Please do one thing or the other: Cancel Mark Wingfield or cancel my name from the list to receive the Western Recorder.

*George Oney
West Liberty*

How much more?

After reading about the Southern Baptist Convention and the ridiculous resolutions concerning Disney and evolutionary ideologies from Woman's Missionary Union I thought, How much more pathetic can the present leadership of the convention become? Then I read on to the arti-

cles covering what President Elliff and Richard Land had to say. It seems they try to top the previous year's gaffes with more judgmental and poorly thought-out pronouncements and dictates.

Elliff said there are seven moral fields in which the battle has not been won: inerrancy and

translations, abortion, mandated giving to the SBC, ordained women, gays, Disney and religious persecution of his religious beliefs. After that what? Seven more? Then seven more? Where does his moralizing end, and who is he to judge others?

Not to be outdone, Richard Land envisions a political theocracy where Baptist leaders will rule by religious dictate (Republican/Fundamentalist no doubt) and if you don't agree with them you won't be considered a Baptist in good standing with the powers that be.

How much further from Baptist principles will we drift? These guys don't represent me. All Baptists should be offended by their demeaning of our historical foundations. Why aren't they asking questions like: Why pay huge salaries to SBC leaders? Is evolution true? Who are you to question who God calls into full-time Christian service? Why pick on people who are sexually different than you? Why not go after the adulterers in your own leadership's midst? What

is your position on hermaphrodites' sexual morality? Why do many of our SBC leaders follow strict Calvinism?

The hypocrisy screams out to the world and that is why the Baptist witness in the world is failing.

*Tim Hall
Henderson*

Liberal views

The opinion expressed by the editor in the June 24 issue really shows the writer's liberal side. His one-sided views keep coming in every issue. But when his beloved Cooperative Baptist Fellowship makes a decision, he never goes against it in print.

Southern Baptists have always been the one Christian group that stands tall when opposing any wrong. Thank God we still have some who are willing to express their concern about the slide to wrong of Disney.

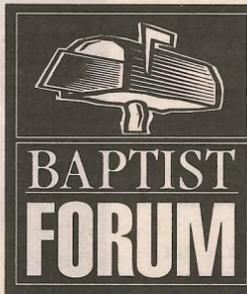
Our vote of concern was one of love and not hate. Jesus would want us to warn others of hurt that was coming even though it might cause uneasiness. When I learned of my lostness, it hurt, but Jesus didn't just turn the other way. Instead, because of love, he said, "You are a sinner but my love can make you better if you repent and believe."

Would Jesus go to Disney? He would approach everyone of those who have the problem of homosexuality and share his concern. The word asks us to shun evil, and to even suggest that Jesus would become involved in sin is unthinkable.

With all of the ups in the Southern Baptist Convention, why didn't Mr. Wingfield write a complimentary article about one of those issues? Thank God for the direction the SBC is going.

*Don Jones
Somerset*

■ Family Forum will return next week.



cartoon portraying Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck as homosexual lovers, and Minnie Mouse and Daisy Duck as lesbians. How do you explain that to your kids?

My colleague said he used his family's visit as a learning experience to teach his children that such activity was wrong.

My colleague believes people with a different sexual preference have a right to "do their thing," even if he thinks it's wrong.

However, he is opposed when there is such a blatant, "in your face" offensive public display intended to shock those who are disgusted by such activity.

My colleague said if he had taken his family to downtown San Francisco or certain parts of New Orleans, he would have anticipated exposing them to undesirable activity.

He also was upset because he was told those visitors received a 20 percent discount on their admission fee to the park.

My colleague said he left a note in the park's suggestion box that the next time they plan a day for homosexuals, that they advertise it on the park's marquee and in other ways to warn those who want to enjoy a day with their families.

He said if his children had been

younger, he would have left, even though the park has a no-refund policy.

Will he go back again? "Not for a long time," he said. His future visits to Orlando will be to other non-Disney parks.

The action of the Southern Baptist Convention was not intended to make a judgment against those who engage in homosexual activity. The convention messengers also approved a resolution urging churches to establish special ministries to counsel homosexuals and lead them out of their lifestyle.

The action calling for a boycott is not binding on individual churches or individual members. It is up to each person to decide the degree to which they want to boycott Disney and other companies that promote such activity.

It is doubtful that the boycott will have a huge economic impact on Disney because it is such a large entertainment company. The benefit will be that the Southern Baptist Convention has put out a warning that Disney is more than Mickey Mouse.

Bill Bartleman has been a reporter for the Paducah Sun since 1972 and has covered government and politics since 1975. He is a member of Reidland Baptist Church in Paducah and was a messenger to this year's SBC annual meeting.

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Marriage: Smooching in public or walking 20 paces apart?

HESAI



Mark Wingfield

While waiting for my luggage at an airport terminal recently, I couldn't help seeing a young couple nearby who apparently were very happy to see each other. While the other passengers and I gathered around to watch the empty conveyor belt spin, this couple was working on making each other's hearts spin.

Their protracted greeting, perhaps the most gratuitous public display of affection to be found anywhere besides the dark corners of a high school football game, soon captured the attention of those of us bored with watching the empty conveyor belt. The man standing next to me at the luggage belt was so captivated that he probably let his luggage pass by three times before even realizing it was there.

A few weeks later, I saw another couple out for a walk together down our street. Both were wearing stereo headsets; and he was walking 20 paces ahead of her. Their idea of togetherness was quite different than the airport couple's.

As you might guess, the first couple was young and the second couple was older. While the roles could have been reversed, these two couples illustrate the progression many couples make in their journey together: from serious smooching in a crowded airport terminal to walking 20 paces apart while listening to different music.

I know many women think their husbands paid attention to them only when they were dating and then abruptly went their own ways soon after the honeymoon. But even for the best-intentioned of us, it takes diligence to stay close—or even to find time to spend together in the same room.

Seems like we're more inclined to watch the conveyor belt of life rolling by than to pay attention to who's waiting beside us. I'm reminded that I need to stay close to Alison as we journey through life, but don't look for us smooching by the airport conveyor belt. We're definitely too old for that.

SHESAID



Alison Wingfield

With two active children bouncing around us, it's a miracle if Mark and I ever find ourselves in the same room alone during our waking hours. And we couldn't smooch at the airport conveyor belt if we wanted to, because we'd have two little appendages clinging to our legs.

Our recent bout with chickenpox brought new meaning to the word togetherness. After being stuck at home for a week, the minute Mark

walked in the door I walked out. He was glad to be home, and I was glad to get out of the house.

I now understand why my parents put my brother and me to bed a lot earlier than they went to bed. They needed time. Time just to breathe. Time to be alone. And time to be together.

With the extended daylight hours of summer, I find I stay up later, because we generally let Luke and Garrett stay up a little later too. That little bit of quiet time in the evening keeps me sane—even if it means less sleep.

We struggle and find ourselves torn between the need for time alone, time with the boys and time together as a couple.

The honeymoon is definitely over. But, after 12 years, that's OK. We might be a little worse for the wear after the miles we've walked but at least we've walked them together.

As long as old what's-his-name doesn't forget our anniversary (coming up real soon) I'll keep him.

Para-church model shapes our future

As a child growing up in a Southern Baptist church, I learned early that not everything in the religious world was deemed kosher by Southern Baptists.

One of the dangers of the religious world, we were told, was "para-church" organizations. "Oh, that's a para-church ministry," someone would say with an appropriate tone of disdain when asked about Campus Crusade for Christ or Navigators.

Even in our fairly conservative church, using discipleship materials produced by the Navigators was not recommended, because we only used materials produced by our own people in Nashville or Atlanta or Richmond. That's part of what it meant to be a Southern Baptist, of course.

We felt the need to be loyal to our denominational programs as much as possible, so we avoided patronizing those non-Baptist organizations that we feared would siphon money away from our denomination's unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program, and lead us down the slippery slope toward independent Baptists and all sorts of other evils.

Another motivation was our desire to fit the Southern Baptist pattern. You expected that if you visited another Southern Baptist church anywhere in the nation you would study the same Sunday school lesson as your class back home would be studying. You would sing from the same hymnal and go through the same motions.

But times have changed. Those non-Baptist forces we once shunned have shaped the way Southern Baptists and their churches operate as much or more than any denominational agency.

For example, most churches today purchase materials from a number of sources, whether run by Southern Baptists or not.

Also, non-Southern Baptists routinely headline Southern Baptist teaching and preaching programs. And Southern Baptists are said to be the most frequent visitors to seminars put on by Willow Creek Community Church, a non-denominational church in Chicago.

Southern Baptists also have found help in the Promise Keepers men's movement—a para-church ministry.

Another example: The most influential person among rank-and-file Southern Baptists today is not the president of the Southern Baptist Convention nor the head of

any denominational agency. Rather, that honor would go hands-down to James Dobson, founder and president of a para-church ministry called Focus on the Family. Dobson's advice on parenting and "family values" politics impacts Southern Baptists more than any denominational figure.

The SBC's own political crisis has thrown an interesting twist into this equation as well. Many of those who honed denominational brand loyalty into a near creed now are in opposition to the denominational leadership. And many of those who formerly chafed under demands to shop only at the company store now run the company store.

No one should miss the irony when moderate Southern Baptists today fiercely declare their right to use alternative literature or support alternative missions programs. Nor should one miss the irony when conservative Southern Baptists today call for undivided loyalty to denominational programs and the Cooperative Program. The times have changed; the tables turned.

But pointing out that irony of SBC politics doesn't account for the whole story. Sociological forces were at work apart from SBC politics that would have changed Southern Baptist churches dramatically anyway.

The landscape has forever changed. For good or ill, the para-church ministries have won the day. Their interdenominational, cafeteria-style model influences us more than the appeal for denominational uniformity. And our own denominational structures are looking more like para-church ministries every day.

What remains to be seen is whether Southern Baptists will have learned anything from this change.

One lesson we should have learned is that denominational arrogance is a sin. Perhaps it was this very pride, this sense of thinking God could reach the world only through us, that we could provide every resource a church might need, that set us up for two decades of political infighting.

Are we destined to repeat the mistakes of the past as we head toward the 21st century? The question ultimately will be answered by churches as they determine how they will network with other believers, denominations and para-church ministries to fulfill the Great Commission.

— Mark Wingfield

It's a girl!

By Carey Newman

Another couple invited my friend and his wife to join them at a week-night Bible study. While they both were impressed by the sincerity, devotion and intensity of the group that gathered to study the Scriptures, they were a bit put-off by the pressure the leader placed upon them. He told them that they, though Christians, were missing the full blessing of the Spirit. My friend looked at me and asked, "Is there anything else I need to be a Christian?"

The Bible often characterizes salvation with images which look backward. God breaks the curse so long uttered over our lives; he cures the disease that had infected us; he repairs the damaged wrecked by the powers of evil; he removes the obstacles that had blocked our way.

"Newness" also is integral to what it means to become a Christian. The New Testament regularly speaks of a

new teaching, a new commandment, a new covenant, new wine, a new and living way, and even of a new heaven and earth.

But no image so graphically captures what it means to become a Christian as "new birth." New birth means that you become a child of God and become a member of God's (new) family. It also means that you undergo a spiritual change, a change which comes from above and occurs within. Being born again means that God remakes us from the inside out,

that we begin afresh with a new power for living locked inside us.

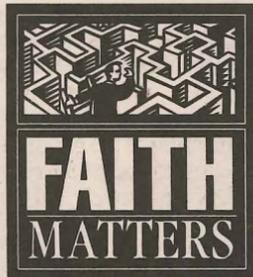
Two weeks ago Leanne and I were caught completely by surprise—well, almost. Sure she was 37 weeks into a pregnancy; sure the doctor had said the baby could come at any time; sure Leanne already had experienced some contractions. We, however, were in deep denial: this baby was not coming for another 10 days (or, so we thought).

Not only were we surprised by the timing, but we (once again) were amazed and awed by the birth itself. Eliza was so tiny, so fragile, so vulnerable. Given the trauma surrounding birth and the delicate nature of her young life, Leanne and I wondered aloud, "How could she live?"

My mother-in-law—known for her sage perspective—said, "Don't be fooled by their size; they already have everything they need."

And so it is with us. When we undergo the pangs of new birth, God places his Spirit inside us, and that is all we need. To be sure, we must grow and mature. At every stage of life we must be ready (and willing) to ask what it means to be possessed by the Spirit. But everything we need for Christian experience is given at conversion by God's Spirit.

I told my friend to sleep well and walk in the Spirit, for the Spirit fused inside us is the DNA code for the Christian life. Being "born again" begins God's act of re-creation (the spiritual transformation of who we are on the inside, how we live and what we really care about) that finally culminates in our transformation into the image of God as revealed in Jesus.



BLUEGRASS BURGEO

Baptist housing for seniors meets needs with ministry

■ **Former Kentucky WMU President Emma Coots of Lexington died June 29. She was 89. She was the widow of Pastor C.B. Coots and a member of Porter Memorial Baptist Church.**

■ **Baptist Hospital East in Louisville opened the area's first cancer resource center June 18. The center features books, videotapes and other forms of information about different types of cancer.**

■ **Harold Matthews, pastor of Filipino Baptist Church in Louisville, died July 5. He was 68 and a former missionary to the Philippines for 35 years.**

■ **Three Cumberland college professors recently received the J.B. Fuqua Excellence in Teaching Awards. They are Clarence Brooks, who recently retired as chairman of the psychology department; John Broom, professor of religion and history; and Jim Ross, chairman of the biology department.**

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

SOMERSET—Kentucky Baptists who've built senior citizens housing call it a challenge, but Baptist Care Homes proved extensive research isn't required before meeting a growing need.

David Aker said the non-profit group was formed in 1987 on the strength of a Census Bureau report that Pulaski County's elderly population was rising. Many of them just missed qualifying for federal housing assistance.

"We didn't do a survey," said Aker, director of the all-Baptist board. "But we kept getting calls from people who said, 'My aunt is 72. She needs to get off the farm and move into town to get closer to services. Is there anywhere she can go?'"

Demographic studies project such needs are likely to grow. The 1990 U.S. Census reported 12.6 percent (465,000) of the state's population is older than 65. Seniors are expected to total 17.5 percent of Kentuckians (or 792,000) by the year 2020.

"It's not just a Kentucky issue," noted Ron Crouch, director of the state data center at the University of Louisville. "It's an international issue. The developed countries—Europe, Japan and North America—are all growing older."

Bob White of Middletown, a consultant on housing for seniors and nursing homes, warns the state is facing a "demographic shock" with elderly housing demand.

The number of people older than 85 is expected to double in the next

33 years, he said. "Over 85 is the critical group in terms of the future," said White, who is helping develop Middletown Christian Village.

Thus, it is not surprising such developments are in a growth phase. Three of four Baptist-run homes contacted by the Western Recorder are expanding. The fourth, Baptist Towers of Louisville, recently completed a \$1.3 million renovation.

Somerset's Baptist Care Homes recently broke ground on 18 one-bedroom, assisted living apartments. "Assisted living" refers to meal preparation, maintenance and other services that allow elderly people to live independently.

In August it expects to complete seven town homes for seniors. They will contain such age-sensitive features as lever-action doorknobs and fingertip-opening refrigerators. These units will join 26 duplexes and triplexes that house 48 people in Somerset.

Originally chartered to provide housing for people over 55 and the disabled, Baptist Care Homes has added emergency shelter services for the homeless and single parents.

Baptists housing providers say their emphasis on ministry distinguishes their developments from other senior housing.

"We try to cue our residents to counseling services provided by Baptists in the area," said Aker, director of mountain missions for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

He said they also keep area churches informed about needs, such as transportation to services and various personal crises.

Members of Walnut Street Baptist

Church, which opened Baptist Towers in Louisville in 1971, provide seniors with clothing, furniture and other items, said manager Joan Robinson.

"Anytime I need anything they're the first ones I call," she said of the church board. "They're more concerned with the welfare of the residents than profit-and-loss (statements). This is more of a ministry."

Randy Jones of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's town and country missions division said helping seniors was the driving force behind the development of Baptist Village in Erlanger.

"Our surveys showed there was a need," said Jones, who until last year was director of missions for Northern Kentucky Baptist Association.

Located near the association's office, the 48-unit apartment for seniors and the disabled opened two years ago. Baptist Village soon will break ground on 58 assisted-living apartments and the first of nine six-unit condominiums for seniors.

The development will also include a multipurpose building, which will accommodate 500 people for worship services and other activities.

The last phase will be a licensed nursing facility. Gary Parker said that is the final link in allowing seniors to remain in the village even if they become incapacitated.

Parker is director of the Baptist Convalescent Center, a 167-bed nursing home in Newport that also provides assisted living to 33 people. Founded in 1952, the association's experience with the center helped it in developing the village.

While the Christian environment is

important, Parker said, its witness plays a valuable role outside the property. "We believe it's a good public relations tool for Baptists," said Parker, a member of Ft. Thomas' Highland Baptist Church. He pointed out the development is open to non-Christians; a resident in his 80s recently accepted Jesus as Savior.

"In terms of outreach, there are assets ministry brings to relations with the community. I would want to live in a community that was safe, secure and populated by mostly Christian people."

Just east of Louisville, Baptist Homes for the Elderly soon will complete the first three of 29 two-unit buildings for people over 62 at Cornell Trace. It will be followed later by an assisted-living apartment building.

The homes will range from 1,330 to 1,855 square feet. Though designed for independent living, assisted living features are available. If residents become ill, the Baptist East nursing home is next door.

Cornell Trace's Christian features include access to the nursing home chaplain and the influence of the Baptist Homes board, comprised of church members in Long Run Baptist Association.

"This may not be a great deal different from other seniors housing, but from the average condominium there's a great deal of difference," said board treasurer Bill Galloway.

"We sell a lifetime interest in the property and buy it back when the person doesn't want to live here any more, or can't. We have a homogeneous group of people whose needs and wants are fairly close."

Owensboro vols put construction skills to work for others

By Mark Cooper
Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer

PELLVILLE—The workers who built the new pastor's cottage at the Schafer Baptist Camp in Hancock County weren't paid a dime, but they say they've all been richly rewarded.

"There's nothing more satisfying than doing the Lord's work," said Melvin Pagan, 59.

The work was done June 7 by members of Yellow Creek Baptist Church Brotherhood, a group of construction volunteers who choose a different project each summer to complete.

In previous years, the Yellow Creek members have helped on projects in Eastern Kentucky and as far away as Utah. Beginning with just a concrete slab Saturday, the 30 or so workers had the two-story home under roof by late afternoon. Finishing work continued throughout the following week.

The 1,300-square-foot building contains an upstairs and downstairs apartment. One will be used as a temporary residence for overseas missionaries returning home for a little rest and relaxation; the other will serve as pastor's quarters for churches and associations using the camp.

Thanks to the group's contribution, the building cost about \$40,000, or about half what it would if a contractor had built it, said Mike Melloan, Brotherhood director at the church. Baptists have operated the 97-acre camp on a donated farm about 20 miles east of Owensboro since the early 1950s.

An average of 2,940 people stay there each year, and typically, 50 of them make professions of faith or declare their interest in becoming Christians, according to a campaign brochure.

The land was given to Daviess-McLean Baptist Association in the early 1950s by the family of Henry Schafer, a former pastor in the association, to be used as a children's camp.

Brotherhood volunteers come from all walks of life, but they all have two things in common: They're members of Brotherhood and they enjoy putting their skills to use for others, Melloan said.

The men, several retired, contribute their time and sweat despite the fact that most have had serious health problems, Melloan said.

"These guys have had so many heart attacks, broken bones and cancer operations that we're called the Cardiac Crew," Melloan joked.

Only about six or seven of the volunteers have construction experience, Melloan said, but those men serve as crew leaders for the others in a system that's very efficient. The oldest member is 75 while the youngest are in their early 20s, he said.

"If you can provide an opportunity like this, then you'll get people who would normally just sit in the pews and do nothing," Melloan said. "These guys feel comfortable doing this."

"If you don't enjoy doing it, then you're wasting your time," Pagan said.

Requests for the group's help keep pouring in from all over, Melloan said, and as long as they do, the group will keep on hammering.

"We believe in working for the Lord," said Jim Miller, 63.

Used with permission of Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer.



BEFORE & AFTER Starting with a concrete slab, Brotherhood builders from Yellow Creek Baptist Church had the pastor's cottage for Schafer Baptist Camp completely framed in. (Photos by Mike Melloan)



MISSIONS

Mission teams play vital role in church's outreach

By Pat Cole
Partnerships Editor

BILLERICA, Mass.—As Pastor Jack Parrott gazes across the construction site at New Colony Baptist Church, he sees more than a building program for the congregation he serves.

Parrott envisions a mission base to reach the 950,000 people who live on Boston's North Shore. That strategy includes the services of people from his congregations and mission teams from other states.

Parrott, a native of Barboursville, is convinced volunteer missions will play a vital role in helping his congre-

gation and other Boston-area Baptists reach people for Christ.

"If we believe as Baptists that people need Jesus Christ and if we believe Jesus is coming soon, we've got to find the most effective methods to put on the field," Parrott said. "There's no way we can recruit and finance all the people we need. The task is more than ordained people can do."

Parrott and his congregation have shown their commitment to volunteer missions with a major capital investment. The church has converted the two-story house that once served as the church's educational space into a house for volunteer missionaries.

Named in honor of Kentucky Baptists Larry and Joyce Martin, the house can accommodate 10 long-term residents and 14 short-term workers.

Larry Martin is director of the missions and evangelism division for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and a former director of missions for Greater Boston Baptist Association. His wife, Joyce, is a staff writer for *Western Recorder* and a former editor of the *New England Baptist*, monthly news journal of the Baptist Convention of New England.

"Larry and Joyce Martin represent a strong belief in the important role that volunteers play in ministry in new convention areas," Parrott said.

The house is managed by Greater Boston Association and will provide accommodations for mission teams serving throughout the area.

Among the house's first guests are volunteers working on the \$600,000 sanctuary and educational space under construction at New Colony. Of

the 250 volunteers staying at the house this summer, 150 will be working on the New Colony building project.

In front of the construction site, a sign tells onlookers a new worship center is being built. It also says the construction is being performed by volunteers from New England, Kentucky, South Carolina, Oklahoma and North Carolina. Parrott said he wanted the surrounding community to know Baptists cared enough to volunteer their time on the project.

Kentucky churches sending construction volunteers this summer include St. Matthews Baptist, Louisville; Olivet Baptist, Oak Grove; and Living Hope Baptist, Bowling Green. Kentucky Builders, a Kentucky Brotherhood

group, and a construction team from Greenup Baptist Association are scheduled to work on the building this month. Construction trips are planned in September by Calvary Baptist Church in Danville and First Baptist Church of Monticello.

The new sanctuary will seat 226 and will be expandable to 300. Currently, the congregation draws 130 people on Sundays, with attendance sometimes edging up to 150, exceeding the 144-seat capacity of the current sanctuary.

"We don't see 500 people worshipping on our campus," Parrott said. As the congregation grows, Parrott sees the church commissioning people to leave New Colony and start new congregations.

Already, the church sponsors two mission churches and two Bible studies that the church hopes will grow into congregations.

Meanwhile, New Colony remains



SIGN OF THE TIMES
Jack Parrott, pastor of New Colony Baptist Church, stands in front of a sign noting Baptists from other states working on the church's new building.

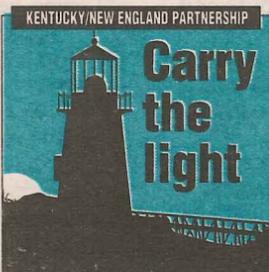
committed to reaching a large population of young families who live in the community. Many of these families work in the computer industry, a mainstay of the local economy.

Through a large summer camp program, New Colony tries to reach out to children and their families. As parents bring their children to the camps, New Colony members and mission volunteers attempt to establish rapport with them.

The new sanctuary and educational space will be an asset in the church's efforts to attract new people, Parrott said. "If you don't go to church, going on church property is a big decision. We have programs in the sanctuary to draw people in."

Mission teams from St. Matthews and Living Hope were among those to help with this year's camp program.

During the past five years, New Colony has used more than 1,000 volunteers. Volunteers can perform a broad spectrum of tasks, and thus help New Colony and other churches in their mission enterprise in New England, Parrott said. "No matter what your gifts are, there is a way to use them in New England."



RIBBON CUTTING Larry Martin, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions and evangelism division, and his wife, Joyce, a *Western Recorder* staff writer, cut the ribbon on a house recently named in their honor. The house will provide lodging for missions volunteers. The Martins were former missionaries in Boston.

Leader: Partnership important to Kentucky & New England

Continued from page 1

New England mission teams also have visited Kentucky. New England Hispanic leaders have helped Kentucky Baptists with their ministry to migrant workers.

In addition to sharing hands-on ministry, the two state conventions also profit from an exchange of information, officials on both sides said.

New England Baptists for years have been ministering in a region of great ethnic and cultural diversity. They have much to teach Kentuckians about ministry among multiple cultures, Wilkins said.

"Our largest congregations are our ethnic congregations," said Rafael Hernandez, BCNE language missions leader. Of the 200 churches in the BCNE, 70 are language congregations.

Hernandez expects many opportunities for New England Baptists to assist Kentucky Baptists with ethnic ministries.

However, he noted that Kentucky Baptists can help ethnic congregations in New England, even though Kentuckians may not speak the language of the congregation.

Hernandez explained that children

in the various ethnic communities speak English and eagerly attend backyard Bible clubs and other events led by Anglo visitors. In addition, there is always need for construction projects and other ministries where language skills aren't required.

"Love is recognized even when it cannot be clearly communicated" through speech, Hernandez said.

Besides ethnic diversity, New England is heavily influenced by new religious voices making their way across America. "A lot of groups are targeting areas like New England," said John Ramirez, BCNE student ministries leader. "Cults are tremendously aggressive here."

Campus ministers, he noted, are not just concerned about reaching new people, but about keeping Baptists away from cults.

"To make significant strides, we'll have to use volunteers and we'll have to employ new paradigms in our approach," Ramirez said.

While New England churches are familiar with the changing culture, many pastors and congregations face the situation with few trained leaders. Numerous churches are populated primarily with new converts, who need

maturing in faith and leadership skills, said Neal Davidson, BCNE church growth leader. Leaders in smaller congregations are often overworked and struggle with burnout, he said.

Few churches can afford a paid staff minister other than the pastor, so churches are heavily dependent on volunteers.

"Worship is a challenge for a lot of churches, because they don't have people with musical skills," Davidson said. Good quality worship experiences, he said, play a key role in growing a viable congregation.

Kentucky Baptists who can offer training are sorely needed, he emphasized. He also suggested that some Kentucky Baptists could serve as long-distance consultants for New England churches.

People skilled in children's ministry, youth ministry, educational ministry or music could visit a congregation, assess the situation, hold a training session and then maintain an ongoing consultative relationship with the church, Davidson said.

New England pastors frequently go about their ministries in lonely situations. Therefore, pastors from Kentucky who come to lead Bible studies

or preach revivals are appreciated, said Ray Allen, BCNE evangelism and men's ministries leader.

"It helps our pastors to have somebody on their field," he said. "Our churches are so spread out our pastors don't get together much."

Lay leaders from Kentucky churches who could invest a long period of time in New England could provide a great benefit to the region's new congregations.

"There are retired folks with enough income to live in New England on their own expense," Brindle said. "They could become part of a small congregation, providing leadership and just be mature Christians" in a New England church. That long-term presence can help offset the leadership deficit most new churches face, he said.

The Kentucky/New England linkage could make a major impact on the lives of individuals as well as the overall work of both state conventions, Lyle said.

"Anyone who would make a commitment to volunteer missions is going to be changed by the Holy Spirit," he explained. "It gives a kingdom perspective that changes people."

How to help

For more information about the Kentucky-New England partnership, contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions office at (502) 244-6462.

MISSIONS

New England mission trip became life-changing event

By Pat Cole
Partnerships Editor

PROVIDENCE, R.I.—David Montalbano is life-proving that a mission trip can be life-changing.

Montalbano's current role as director of missions for Southeastern New England Baptist Association has its roots in a 1994 mission trip to Connecticut. At the time, he was a pastor in Valdosta, Ga., and he came to New England with a group from his association to do construction work in Ledyard and backyard Bible clubs in inner-city New London.

"When we left Connecticut, our hearts were heavy," said Montalbano. "We realized that some of these youngsters living in less than desirable circumstances in those projects may or may not be ministered to again."

The group asked Connecticut Baptists to continue the ministry in the project and they were able to maintain some programs, Montalbano said.

However, as he returned to Georgia, Montalbano still remembered the children in the housing project. About the same time, he sensed God leading

him to denominational ministry.

His director of missions in Georgia recommended that Montalbano attend a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board workshop for potential directors of mission.

"I began praying for direction, and I continued in prayer," Montalbano said. "I've always wanted to be used wherever I served. There wasn't any doubt in my mind that the Lord could and would use me."

It was not long before Montalbano was called to a denominational post.

In just one year after that mission trip to New England, Montalbano was on the field as Southeastern New England Baptist Association's director of missions. The association includes Rhode Island and part of Connecticut.

Montalbano saw commonalities in his background and the culture of the region he now serves. Although he was a pastor in a small Southern city, Montalbano, who is of Italian descent, grew up in Tampa.

"This area is culturally mixed and I grew up in that kind of diversity in Florida," Montalbano said. "I grew up among Hispanics, Italians and Ang-

los."

"So even though it was a move from the South to the Northeast, which is a switch of a pretty big magnitude, I thought I could relate because of my own ethnicity, and because Providence and the surrounding area were very similar to my hometown."

Montalbano also brought to the post fluency in three languages—Spanish, Italian and English.

"I came here with basically two key issues on my heart," Montalbano said. "First, to strengthen existing churches and to plant new units. It's hard to do as much as needs to be done because the churches we have are too few and too small to do what needs to be done."

Montalbano said most Southerners who visit New England go home convinced of the need for mission work in the region. While Providence is the home of the oldest Baptist church in America (an American Baptist congregation), the area is in dire need of more churches, he said.

"When you drive through New England and find just how few ministering congregations there are and how few Southern Baptist churches there are trying to get the job done, it has got to impact you."

Montalbano strongly believes volunteer mission teams can play a ma-

"When you drive through New England and find just how few ministering congregations there are and how few Southern Baptists churches there are trying to get the job done, it has got to impact you."

David Montalbano, director of missions for Southeastern New England Baptist Association



MONTALBANO stands in front of a statue of Baptist leader Roger Williams, founder of Rhode Island.

Major role in strengthening New England churches for effective ministry. His own experience has convinced him that such trips can change the lives of volunteers as well.

"I've never been anywhere on a mission trip that I didn't come back leaving a piece of me at the place I had been," Montalbano said. "There are faces that you will never forget. They are in your memory forever."

Metro Boston's ethnic diversity pervades Baptist church

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.—A portion of the diversity that pervades metropolitan Boston visits a Baptist-owned piece of real estate every Sunday.

In the heart of Cambridge, Mass., Metropolitan Baptist Church draws university students and professionals who worship beside people struggling to survive economically.

After Metropolitan finishes its morning service, Eglise Baptiste Cambridge conducts a French-speaking worship service mainly for Haitians in the same building.

As evening begins, members of Iglesia Bautista Metropolitana gather for a Spanish-speaking service.

Although all are independent congregations, the three pastors, Dale Cross of Metropolitan, Nicholas Muteba of the French-speaking congregation and Efrain Lopez of the Spanish-speaking congregation, work closely together.

"We meet weekly to pray together and plan together," Cross said.

The Metropolitan congregation was founded in 1965 by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board to serve university students.

More than 200,000 students attend universities located within a two-mile radius of the church. Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Northeastern University and Boston University are among the campuses located nearby.

When Cross became pastor in 1991, no permanent residents of the local community were members. "We began a strategic plan to become indigenous," Cross said.

Neighborhood interaction and social ministries have helped the church expand its outreach.

Metropolitan sponsored an annual block party for three years that drew 250-300 people. Out of that event, the community formed a neighborhood association that eventually took over sponsorship of the event. The church, Cross said, has built rapport with the organization and has worked to keep high visibility.

Metropolitan also sponsors a meal program for the homeless and helped form a network among area churches called Interfaith Action Organization. For 15 years, the church has been the site of a program to serve homeless people and others who are mentally ill. Mental health patients visit the church on a regular basis and talk with psychiatrists and social workers.

These days more than 40 percent of the 65-80 people who attend every Sunday are permanent residents. The feeding program, mental health program and stepped-up community visibility have helped attract local residents, Cross said.

Meanwhile, both language pastors are trying to build congregations among people who speak a common language but whose cultural backgrounds are different.

Muteba, a native of Congo (until recently Zaire), is attempting to expand the Haitian base that forms the 20-member congregation and also draw French-speaking people from other countries.

"We want to be aggressive in outreach," Muteba said. "We are trying to open the congregation to all French-speaking people. We do not need to exclude; the Great Commission is open to all people."

Students and people who come to



HYMN TIME Hymns are sung in three languages each Sunday at Metropolitan Baptist Church. (Photo by Pat Cole)

Massachusetts from Cameroon, Congo and the Ivory Coast are among the non-Haitian French speakers he hopes the church will reach.

Muteba concedes that multiple cultures can pose a challenge for a single church. Yet he remains optimistic that the new congregation can be viable.

"Speaking in a human way, I would say that it cannot be done," Muteba said. "But all Christians have the Holy Spirit who takes the word of God to our hearts."

Lopez, the Spanish-speaking pastor, is a native of Puerto Rico and serves a congregation composed mainly of people from Central American countries.

Lopez said he receives much help from his congregation in trying to minister with other people from Central America.

"When someone arrives from Central America, they give me the address, telephone number and will go with me to visit," he said.

Most of the 35-40 people who attend his congregations are recent immigrants who work in service industry jobs and have limited incomes.

Since many in the congregations don't have cars, members usually car-pool or ride the bus to church. One woman peddles her bicycle five miles to attend.

Lopez, a bivocational pastor, works as a public school administrator. He plans to retire in 2004 and devote his full attention to the pastorate.

Lopez, Muteba and Cross say that volunteer mission teams will play a key role in strengthening their congregations. This summer teams from Zion Baptist Church in Henderson and Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green have installed a baptistry at Metropolitan.

Living Hope and Woodland Baptist Church in Louisville have helped the Baptists in Cambridge with day camps. Later this month, Zion will return to conduct a day camp and put the finishing touches on the baptistry.



Muteba

MISSIONS

Hartford pastor unafraid to take risks for the gospel

By Pat Cole
Partnerships Editor

HARTFORD, Conn.—James Bishop knows what it's like to take risks for the sake of the gospel.

Bishop, pastor of Welcome Baptist Church in Hartford, Conn., has seen drug deals made outside his church. Just a few blocks away, a public housing project was the scene of more than 50 murders in late 1995 and early 1996.

Yet Bishop and his congregation were not scared away by the violence and drug activity. Instead, they responded with an evangelistic effort inside the housing project and help for people struggling with drug addiction.

Hartford police officers became concerned when they heard about the church's intention to witness at the housing project. Fearing for the safety of the church members, police offered to drive through and sound their sirens before church members entered the area.

The police presence sent the drug dealers into hiding and gave the people from Welcome a chance to distribute English and Spanish Bibles. They continued that ministry for a year.

"People knew our church and knew we were there to help," Bishop said. The housing project recently has

been demolished, and the violence in the community has subsided. A newly-renovated apartment building across the street from the church, a new sanctuary for Welcome and other construction projects stand as evidence that new life is springing forth in the neighborhood.

Meanwhile, Bishop and his church continue an aggressive outreach into the community.

Bishop is convinced the gospel can rescue people from any circumstance, even on street corners where the drug culture rules.

Since coming to the church in 1988, Bishop has implemented a strong program of Bible teaching and discipleship training. He's seen lives transformed. "They say, 'The word of God has changed my life,'" Bishop said. "They've been in every program in town and nothing else worked."

The church provides a "healing ministry" for people who are "addicted to anything whether it be alcohol, drugs or food," Bishop said.

Bishop, a man not given to the slightest hint of braggadocio, shows a small grin as he peers over plans for the new sanctuary under construction. It will accommodate 600 worshipers, and the sanctuary and other related capital projects will cost \$800,000.

The old sanctuary will be used as educational space, and several nearby

houses have been purchased by the church and will be rehabilitated. Some units will be rented to church members and others will house homeless people.

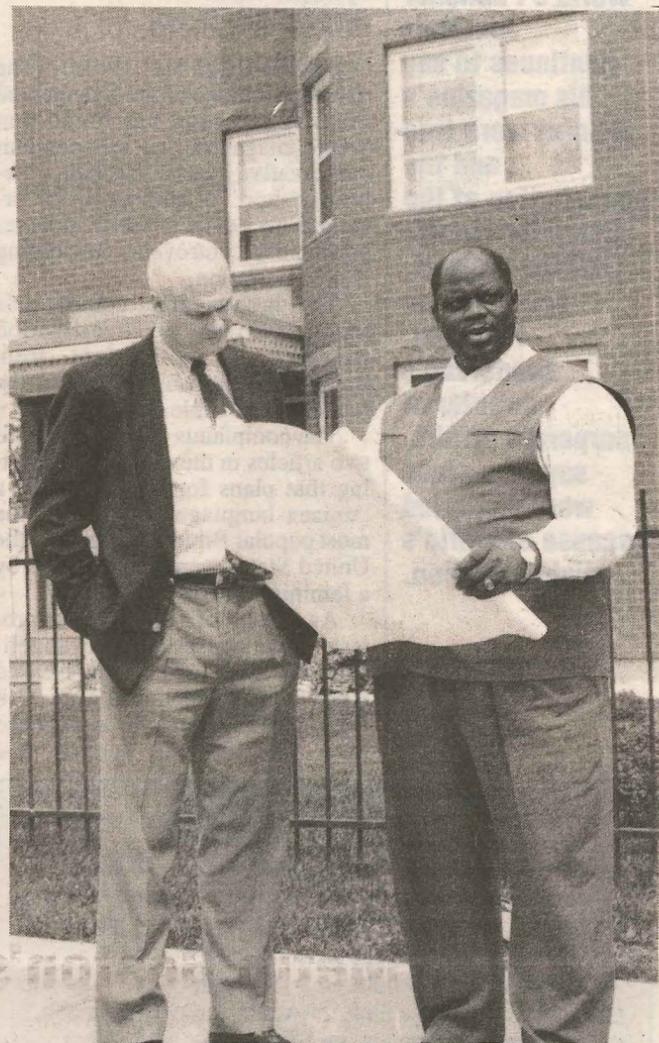
This summer two Kentucky churches, Central Baptist Church in Paris and First Baptist Church of Winchester, have helped with construction projects and helped conduct day camps. The two churches are part of Elkhorn Baptist Association, which has entered into a partnership agreement with Western Connecticut Baptist Association, to which Welcome belongs.

"We can always use people to come and train and teach for us," Bishop said. Members of Welcome Baptist know well the premium Bishop places on teaching. New members of Welcome must complete a 12-week discipleship program.

He attributes the growth of the church to its commitment to the Bible. Since Bishop came to the church, it has grown from a membership of 225 to 700.

Meanwhile, the congregation is catching the eye of people at city hall. At a recent ground breaking service for the new sanctuary, Hartford Mayor Mike Peters promised that the city would give the congregation an abandoned apartment building near the church to renovate.

"They're very interested in doing something with the neighborhood, now that the new church building is coming," Bishop said.



PLANNING FOR GROWTH
James Bishop (right), pastor of Welcome Baptist Church, looks over plans for the church's new sanctuary with Kentucky native Ron Huffman, director of missions for Western Connecticut Baptist Association.

Pasta parties help church start grow in suburban Boston

By Pat Cole
Partnerships Editor

FRANKLIN, Mass.—A small, 1930s vintage church building on the outskirts of Franklin, Mass., is bustling with new life these days.

It's the home of Franklin Baptist Church, a thriving new congregation that sits on the main thoroughfare leading into the suburban Boston city.

Franklin is the last stop on the commuter train that serves metropolitan Boston and the fastest growing area in Massachusetts. Since beginning as a Bible study in 1992, Franklin Baptist has grown to 89 official members and 100-125 regular attendees.

Two services are held in the 75-seat sanctuary each Sunday morning. The church recently acquired additional Sunday school space by purchasing and refurbishing two trailers, formerly used as on-site construction offices.

"A lot of people are looking for a sense of community and a church that preaches the Bible," said Charles Chamblee, pastor of Franklin Baptist.

Chamblee is building a sense of community among a harried constituency. The commute into Boston is 45 minutes each way. "Many of our people start their day at 4:30 a.m.," Chamblee said.

The process of building the church has been slow but steady. He began by inviting people to an all-you-can-eat pasta dinner.

"I provided all the pasta people could eat and I asked them to provide

their favorite pasta sauce," he said. At first, only three people expressed an interest in starting a church.

However, Chamblee continued to boil pasta and build relationships. Eventually, a consistent Bible study group was formed and it grew in attendance to 25. On Easter Sunday in 1993, the first worship service was held in an Elks Lodge with 53 people in attendance.

With no room to hold Sunday school classes, the church moved into a rented storefront at the end of 1993. Yet the fire code dictated a capacity of only 45 and the congregation again was in need of space.

Meanwhile, Franklin Baptist's current building was the home of Franklin Gospel Mission. The church, an aging congregation headed by an 84-year-old founding pastor, was thinking about disbanding. However, with an appraised value of \$275,000, Chamblee decided purchasing the building would cost more than the congregation could afford.

One day Chamblee received a call from a leader of Franklin Gospel Mission. The church, the leader told Chamblee, had decided that God had called the church to disband and donate the building to Franklin Baptist.

"I just remember doing everything I could to keep from crying like a baby," Chamblee said.

Since its inception, Franklin Baptist has benefited from volunteer missions. Volunteer teams have renovated educational space and helped the church hold its children's camps. The



PASTA & PULPITS As the congregation grew, Charles Chamblee (right) had to keep looking for larger meeting spaces. Chamblee talks with Bob Brindle, missions leader for Baptist Convention of New England.

campus began four years ago with 30 and have grown to more than 130.

Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green has been a consistent supplier of volunteers both for construction work and the children's camps. A Baptist campus ministry Son team from Kentucky is helping with the camps this summer.

In addition to ministry with children, the camps provide an entree to a relationship with their parents and the community.

Relationship-building and a positive image in the community have been critical to growing the church, Chamblee said.

Chamblee has helped nurture good relationships by being president of the

Interfaith Council, a member of the Youth Services Council and Baptist campus minister at Dean College.

During its short life, the church also has received some public notice by the participation of two New England Patriots, Jay Barker and Shawn Holcomb, who attended until being traded to other National Football League teams.

Yet no celebrity figures can build the respect that comes with day-to-day practice of being good community citizens and respected witnesses.

"For a long time, we were seen as newcomers," Chamblee said. "People wondered if Southern Baptists are a cult. Now, we've built a great relationship with the town."

"A lot of people are looking for a sense of community and a church that preaches the Bible."

Charles Chamblee, pastor of Franklin Baptist Church

Ethics committee criticizes magazine for NIV stories

World's Publisher Joel Belz continues to say his magazine's articles were true and the cancellation of the plans for the NIV edition prove it, but Jonathan Petersen, Zondervan's director of corporate affairs, says the plans were disrupted because of World's misinformation.

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (RNS)—The ethics committee of the Evangelical Press Association has found that World magazine, an independent conservative journal, has fallen "seriously short" of abiding by the organization's code of ethics in its reporting of a controversy concerning Bible translation.

The three-member committee's report followed an investigation triggered by complaints from Zondervan Publishing Co. and the International Bible Society.

The complaints revolved around two articles in the magazine reporting that plans for what it called a "unisex-language" edition of the most popular Bible translation in the United States were being fueled by a feminist agenda.

As a result of a firestorm of protests from conservative evangelicals, the Colorado Springs-based Bible society announced May 27 it was canceling plans for a proposed New International Version that

would substitute gender-neutral words, such as people, for gender-specific words, such as mankind.

The EPA ethics committee found the two articles were "written in sincerity" but were "one-sided and dismissive of responsible alternatives." World was particularly criticized for not contacting Zondervan Publishing House, the Grand Rapids, Mich.-based publisher of the NIV Bible, for comment.

World's editor hinted the magazine would drop out of the association unless the board of directors repudiates the ethics report. The group's board of directors is in the process of calling a special meeting July 22 to consider the report.

World publisher Joel Belz, who just completed a two-year term as EPA president, said he was "stunned" by the committee's findings.

Belz said the committee "never talked to anyone from World magazine" before issuing its report.

"I think it's important for readers to remember that this is not a statement of the Evangelical Press

Association," said Belz. "It's a recommendation to its board from an ad hoc committee. As such, it has no weight until EPA processes it."

While Belz continues to say his magazine's articles were true and the cancellation of the plans for the NIV edition prove it, Jonathan Petersen, Zondervan's director of corporate affairs, says the plans were disrupted because of World's misinformation.

In a response in the July 12 edition of the magazine, World editor Marvin Olasky said the ad-hoc committee "erred by implicitly setting up new requirements for EPA membership, by making recommendations that would suppress competition among publications and by trying to push their own journalistic and ideological values under a guise of judicial ethical examination."

"If the EPA board does not repudiate the findings of the ad hoc committee, then we have obviously been mistaken in our understanding of what EPA membership entails, and we are no longer able, in good conscience, to be a member of the EPA," Olasky

wrote.

In the same issue, publisher Belz called the report "a professionally sloppy performance by people we have regarded as colleagues and friends."

World magazine's mission statement says it will accompany reporting with commentary written from a perspective of "the final authority of the Bible as the inerrant Word of God" and intended to "assist in developing a Christian understanding of the world, rather than accepting existing secular ideologies."

The magazine employs standards for what it calls "directed" reporting, meaning journalists have a responsibility only to promote viewpoints consistent with the Bible.

In response to criticism that the articles' use of inflammatory terms detracts "from a reasoned discussion of an important issue," Olasky wrote, "If 'reasoned discussion' means the assumption that there are a variety of valid positions on the issue of quoting God accurately, we reject that."

With additional reporting by Associated Baptist Press

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Expanded TV rating system approved.** The TV industry, under pressure from a wide range of critics, agreed in principle to revamp its fledgling ratings system to give parents more information to shield children from sex, violence and potentially offensive language. But NBC, the top-rated network in prime time, refused to participate. Among the changes: In addition to the current age-based ratings, networks will label shows for violence, sexual content, strong language and sexually suggestive dialogue.

■ **Regular Baptists oppose PK's "inclusive character."** The General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, a group of 1,426 fundamentalist churches, passed a resolution at its recent annual conference stating that while members rejoice when Christ is preached and men are saved, it opposed the "inclusive character" of the Promise Keepers men's movement, which its members claimed "minimizes" doctrinal differences to achieve unity among Christians.

■ **Former Cult Awareness Network director loses suit.** Cynthia Kisser, former director of the Cult Awareness Network, lost her defamation suit against the Church of Scientology, which called her a "long-time advocate of forcible restraint and assault conducted under the guise of 'deprogramming'" in its Freedom magazine. Kisser is waiting for an Illinois Supreme Court to decide if she may continue with a case against the church for malicious prosecution. The Church of Scientology has filed more than 20 suits against CAN in the last few years.

■ **Jury picks begin in homeless helping case.** Jury selection began July 7 in the trial of Pastor Wiley Drake, who has been struggling with Buena Park, Calif., officials more than a year about a homeless encampment his church operates. Five charges accuse him of letting people sleep in tents, an enclosed patio and automobiles at First Southern Baptist Church in Buena Park, the Associated Press reported.

■ **Salem witches dispute over money, spirituality.** Witches in Salem, Mass., might not mind burning one of their own. Laurie Cabot, 63, has been charged with losing touch with the spiritual side of witchcraft and paganism. She has made her witchcraft the subject of books, TV appearances and college lessons, and she is opening an art gallery and shop on the wharf downtown. About 30 leaders from the Wicca religion and pagan groups met last week and agreed to stop referring students of witchcraft to Cabot, according to the Associated Press.

Group wants Falwell investigated

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A public policy group concerned with church-state issues has called on the Internal Revenue Service to investigate a "church-based partisan political campaign" pushed by Jerry Falwell and other Virginia pastors who supported a candidate for state attorney general.

Falwell, in a statement, denied charges by the Washington-based Americans United for Separation of Church and State that he violated the IRS tax code.

In a July 2 letter to the IRS, Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United, said "a number of churches across the state, prodded by the Rev. Jerry Falwell of Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, apparently intervened in the attorney

general's race on behalf of Mark Earley, a state senator from Chesapeake."

Earley won the June 10 Republican primary.

Lynn cited a copy of "The Falwell Fax," a briefing sent by Falwell to evangelical pastors in which he reported that he "challenged the pastors to get personally involved in this primary."

Lynn claimed that while Falwell said in his writings that his efforts fall within IRS rules, he is violating tax code provisions banning political campaigning by exempt organizations.

Falwell responded in a statement: "Mr. Lynn knows very well that Jerry Falwell did not violate any tax laws in the Sen. Mark Earley campaign or any other campaign."

Supreme Court's decision impacting other cases

Continued from page 1
"compelling state interest" but concluded that Wisconsin had not justified a regulation that "forbids the wearing of a crucifix even if it is too small or light to be a weapon (at least more of a weapon than a fist, a tooth or a fingernail)" and "too expensive to barter for a weapon."

■ **Let stand a ruling by California's top court that RFRA did not shield a landlord from complying with state fair-housing laws that bar discrimination on the basis of marital status.** Because of her belief that sex outside of marriage is sinful, landlord Evelyn Smith had refused to rent to unmarried couples. The decision that was allowed to stand ruled that neither RFRA nor the First Amendment allowed Smith to refuse to rent to unmarried couples.

The Baptist Joint Committee, the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission and seven other religious groups had asked the Supreme Court to correct the California Supreme Court's inter-

pretation of RFRA.

Congress enacted RFRA after a 1990 Supreme Court decision made it easier for government to interfere significantly with religious exercise. In *Employment Division vs. Smith*, a 5-4 court majority said government no longer needed a "compelling" reason to justify broadly applied laws that burden religious practice.

But in its June 25 ruling, the Supreme Court said Congress lacked the authority to restore the "compelling" interest requirement through RFRA.

The Constitution authorizes Congress to enact laws enforcing constitutional liberties but not to expand liberties in ways that usurp the power of the courts or the states, the court said.

The Supreme Court struck down RFRA in a lawsuit from Boerne, Texas, where city officials refused to issue a building permit sought by St. Peter Catholic Church to expand its facilities. After the city denied the

permit request because the church was situated within a historic preservation district, the church filed a RFRA claim.

The high court's actions in the tithing, religious jewelry and landlord cases were expected, a Baptist church-state attorney said.

"We would have liked to see the court use one of those cases to revisit the Smith decision," said Brent Walker of the Baptist Joint Committee, "but obviously there were not enough votes for that at this time."

Walker said the court's disposal of the other three RFRA-related cases signals a return to a period of diminished protections for religious practice.

He said that during the three years between the Smith ruling and the passage of RFRA, "religious claimants lost virtually all cases" except when state laws and constitutions offered more protection for religious liberty than the Supreme Court's interpretation of the First Amendment.

Hawaii closer to same-sex unions

HONOLULU (RNS)—A new law in Hawaii, effective July 8, brings the state a step closer to legalizing same-sex marriage.

The nation's most comprehensive rights package for domestic partners allows same-sex couples and opposite-sex unmarried couples over age 18 to qualify for health and other benefits. They will be recognized by the state as "reciprocal beneficiaries," entitling them to many rights reserved for married couples, such as family leave and joint auto insurance.

BAPTISTS

NAMB merger: Who's in and who's out

Continued from page 2

strategy unit. Hugh Townsend, director of mega city missions, holds a similar position with NAMB. Bob Moore, director of metropolitan missions, is partnership/site selection manager in NAMB's strategy and resource development unit.

Gone from associational missions are Nelson Tilton, director of associational administration; Michael Cox, associate director of mega city missions; and Gary Farley, director of town and country missions.

From the black church extension division, only one of four professional-level staff members has a job with NAMB. Robert Wilson is African-American church planting manager with NAMB. Willie McPherson, director of the HMB's black church extension division, retired, and his other two associates, Dennis Mitchell and Michael Thurman, took positions with churches.

Most personnel from the language church extension division kept jobs with NAMB, although several were placed in different areas of work. David Terry and Rodney Webb, two department directors, were placed in positions not directly related to ethnic work.

Russell Begaye, director of the HMB's language church extension division, now is one of four managers of church planting efforts targeted at specific ethnic groups. There is no unit in the NAMB structure similar to either the language church extension or black church extension divisions of

the HMB.

Other departures from the HMB's extension section include Bill Fulkerson, director of refugee and immigration ministries; Floyd Tidsworth, director of new church extension; and Henry Smart, associate director of new church extension.

Personnel from the HMB's ministry section who got jobs with NAMB mainly were dispersed into two new units: one under the evangelization group called ministry evangelism and one under the strategic planning group called volunteer mobilization.

Don Hammonds, interim vice president for ministry, retired. Two other ministry section staff members, Kendale Moore and Carl Barrington, were appointed to missionary positions with NAMB. Three other ministry staff members did not receive jobs with NAMB: Bill Lee, director of special ministries; Joel Land, associate director of special ministries; and Valerie Hardy, associate director of student missions.

The chaplaincy division, part of the HMB's ministry section, largely was kept intact, although moved in the new structure to be part of an evangelization unit. One staff member, Lew Dawson, associate to the director, was lost.

The HMB's two other vice presidents, Ernest Kelley in planning and finance and Gary Jones in services, have positions with NAMB. Kelley is vice president of NAMB's business services group. Jones is director of human resources within the business

services group, a position similar to the one he held before becoming an HMB vice president.

Departures from the planning and finance section and services section include: Jim Coldiron, regional coordinator; Bill Reed, senior financial analyst; Jamie Cook, director of information services; Wayne Grinstead, editor of MissionsUSA magazine; Phyllis Thompson, managing editor of MissionsUSA; and Mark Sandlin, director of photography.

From the HMB's executive office, the entire staff related to prayer and spiritual awakening was retained in the new structure's administrative group. The public relations function was moved to the new media and missions education group, with Marty King remaining as public relations director.

Dan Euliss, the HMB's promotion director, and his associate, Eddy Oliver, both do not have positions in the new agency. They were directly responsible for promotion of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Wally Buckner, assistant to the president at the HMB, was assigned to a lower-level position at NAMB as missions education organizations manager.

HMB President Larry Lewis left the agency at the end of 1996. He is still technically on the NAMB payroll as a liaison between Southern Baptists and an interdenominational evangelistic effort called "Celebrate Jesus 2000." He also works from a home office.

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Fulbright to Gardner-Webb.** Bob Fulbright, former minister of education at Kirkwood Baptist Church in St. Louis, has been elected professor of Christian education at Gardner-Webb University's new divinity school.

■ **Seals promoted.** Former Kentuckian Mary Alice Seals has been named assistant dean of the divinity school at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, N.C. Seals, a former professor and administrator at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, will continue in her role as associate professor of church music at Gardner-Webb also.

■ **NIV costs professor job.** Larry Walker, a Southern Baptist serving on the Committee on Bible Translation, the group of scholars responsible for translating the New International Version of the Bible, has resigned his tenured faculty position at Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn. The July 14 issue of Christianity Today reported that Walker resigned "under duress." Seminary officials reportedly asked Walker to disassociate himself from the NIV committee, which recently came under fire from conservatives over plans to produce a "gender-accurate" NIV translation. Walker previously taught at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, one of six schools funded by the Southern Baptist Convention.

■ **Swindoll guest editor.** Charles Swindoll, well-known preacher, author and radio personality, will serve as guest editor of "Stand Firm," a monthly men's devotional magazine published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. Swindoll is president of Dallas Theological Seminary. Swindoll will write monthly editorials for the magazine from July through October.

■ **Book stores on-line.** Baptist Book Stores and Lifeway Christian Stores now have their own site on the World Wide Web. The address is www.baptistbookstore.com.

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

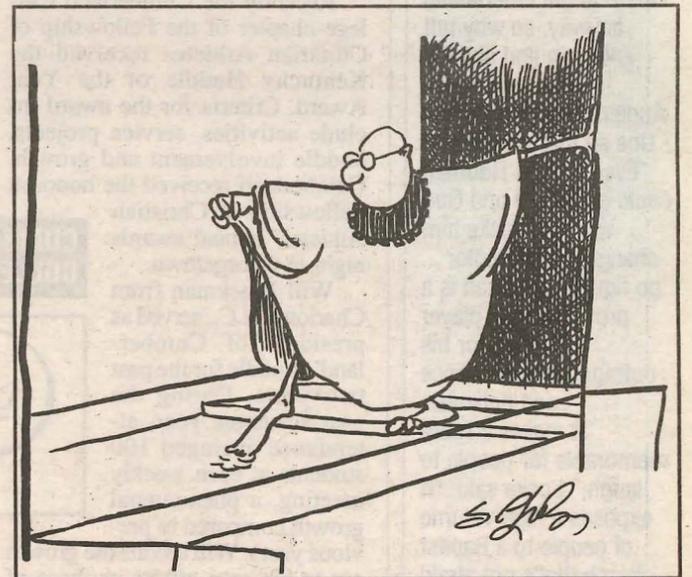
Retirement Living Community

9251 Stonestreet Road • Louisville, KY 40272

502-935-5884



NOW OPEN



Steeple & Baptistries

From the world's largest manufacturer of fiberglass church products

- Steeples
- Baptistries
- Lighted Wall Crosses
- Baptistry Heaters

Call or write for our free catalog 1-800-527-1459

Fiberglass Specialties, Inc.
P.O. Box 1340
Henderson, TX 75653



FIBERGLASS SPECIALTIES INCORPORATED

CLASSIFIED ADS

Here's hope, even if T-Rex devours you

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (BP)—"If the T-Rex were to have you for an appetizer tonight, are you sure you'd go to heaven?"

That question greeted recent movie-goers in Springfield, thanks to a local church's creativity.

"The idea is that if we want people in church, we need to meet people where they are," said Hunter Sherman, pastor of Bellview Baptist Church. Bellview is sponsoring a summer ad campaign aimed at people who see movies in the four largest theaters inside Springfield's 16-screen movie house.

"The other goal is to get people interested in church who have never been. This gets their attention because it might not fit their image of church," he said. Bellview member Keith Locke dreamed up the movie ad idea.

"When people go to the theater, they are there to look at a screen," said Locke. "They're going there to get entertained anyway, so why not entertain and share a message, too?" Audiences have noticed. One ad that stands out: "Even Dennis Rodman could get saved and God wouldn't make him change his hair color ... go figure." Rodman is a pro basketball player known for his outrageous appearance and behavior.

"It makes it more memorable for people to laugh," Locke said. "It exposes a high volume of people to a Baptist church that's not afraid not to be so 'stuffed-shirt-like.'"

Each attention-getting line is followed by the church's logo and phone number.

SEEKING: Part-time music director to lead choir and congregational music, Blackjack Baptist Church. Small salary. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 555, Franklin, KY 42135.

WANTED: Part-time or full-time minister of music and senior adults. Send resumé to: Music Committee, c/o Hartford Baptist Church, 415 Liberty St., Hartford, KY 42347.

WANTED: Woman to live in home—private room, care for two children ages 9 and 12. References needed. Call (502) 459-4502.

WANTED: Nurse aide/CNA, part-time (2:30-11 p.m.). Personal care home for ladies. Parr's Rest, Inc., Louisville, (502) 451-5440.

WANTED: Front desk attendant/receptionist, full-time, two days, 11 p.m.-7 a.m., three days, 3:30-11 p.m. Parr's Rest, Inc., Louisville, (502) 451-5440.

TOURS: Miller Tours. Pigeon Forge, Tenn./Asheville, N.C., Oct. 8-10, 1997—Alabama Grill, Music Mansion Theatre, tour of Smokies, Biltmore estate, Deerpark Restaurant, two nights hotel, five meals, \$291. Branson, Mo., Christmas, Dec. 3-6, 1997—Wayne Newton, Jim Stafford, Charley Pride, Tony Orlando, Mel Tillis, Imax, three nights hotel, six meals, \$379. Reservations call: (502) 363-0609.

FOR SALE: One Tokai baby grand piano: \$3,600; one Baldwin Aerosonic piano: \$2,200. Excellent condition, appraisal available. (502) 366-4318 or (502) 969-0704.

SEEKING: The Cincinnati Baptist Association is now accepting resúmes for the position of associational missionary. The associational missionary would oversee associational staff, offer support for church and their staffs and direct area churches in missions. The successful candidate should have a seminary degree, 10 years experience as a pastor and experience with starting new churches. Resúmes can be sent to: Associational Missionary Search Committee, 735 Reading Road, Mason, OH 45040.

SEEKING: Main Street Baptist Church of Alexandria, Ky., is currently accepting resúmes for a full-time minister. Resúmes will be accepted through Sept. 1, 1997. Send resumé with cover letter to: Pastor Search Committee, Main Street Baptist Church, Alexandria, KY 41001.

SEEKING: Administrative assistant to the vice president for academic administration at Southern Seminary. Office experience and Microsoft Word 6.0 required. Please send resumé to: Southern Seminary, Personnel Services, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40280.

NEEDED: Organist/pianist for fast-growing church. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Christ United Methodist Church, 716 Cave Mill Road, Bowling Green, KY 42104.

SEEKING: Middle Creek Baptist Church in Hodgenville, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 3595 Carters Bro. Road, Hodgenville, KY 42748.

SEEKING: Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, is seeking a minister to young single adults. The position will be part-time, requiring 10 hours per week. Some seminary education is preferred but not required. Send resumé to: Dr. Jim Cobban, 220 W. St. Catherine, Louisville, KY 40203.

FOR SALE: 24 theatre choir chairs. Call Seven Hills Baptist Church, (502) 926-2473.

SEEKING: Beacon Hill Baptist is now accepting resúmes for a full-time minister of students (children, youth and coordinator of college). Send resúmes to: Search Committee, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, 274 Old Monticello Road, Somerset, KY 42503. Deadline for resúmes is July 31.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth. Send resumé to: Youth Search Committee, Double Springs Baptist Church, P.O. Box 70, Waynesburg, KY 40489.

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

FOR SALE: Thirty choir robes—gold, excellent condition, washable. Sizes: 12 large; nine medium; nine small. \$25 each. Please call Dobie Rider at (606) 567-2362 or 567-2401. Warsaw Baptist Church, Warsaw, Ky.

NEEDED: Bookkeeper (full charge) for large Lexington church. Send resumé with references and salary requirement to: Immanuel Baptist Church, 3100 Tate's Creek Road, Lexington, KY 40502, Attn: Minister of church administration.

SEEKING: Turner Ridge Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky is searching for a part-time minister of youth. If interested, please send resumé to: Turner Ridge Baptist Church, Rt. 5, Box 283, Falmouth, KY 41040.

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.

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

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

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

Christian champions

By Robert Dunston

Recently the Cumberland College chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes received the Kentucky Huddle of the Year Award. Criteria for the award include activities, service projects, huddle involvement and growth. Cumberland received the honor at Fellowship of Christian Athletes' annual awards night in Georgetown.

Will Blackman from Charlotte, N.C., served as president of Cumberland's huddle for the past two years. During the past academic year, attendance averaged 100 students at each weekly meeting, a phenomenal growth compared to previous years. Will credits the growth not to his own efforts or those of the other officers, but to God. The group had prayed to have a greater impact on campus, he said, and God answered those prayers and empowered all involved to witness for Christ.

In addition to their weekly times of worship, praise and Bible study, Cumberland's huddle participated in the FCA state convention, "Weekends of Champions" and FCA encouragement weekends. Our group was very involved with the FCA high school track meet ral-

ly, held here in Williamsburg. Our huddle also traveled to Campbellsville University and Georgetown College to lead their meetings using drama, songs and testimony.

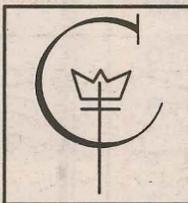
Will Blackman, who played football during his four years at Cumberland College, graduated in May with a major in religion and a minor in history. In the fall he will begin seminary as he continues to follow God's call in his life.

Kenny McKinney, a pitcher for Cumberland's baseball team and a student from Whitley City, is president of our FCA huddle for the 1997-1998 year. Kenny looks forward to another exciting year of spiritual and numerical growth and service, knowing God will continue to bless the work at Cumberland and across the state.

Our Kentucky Baptist institutions of higher education are filled with students who combine physical prowess, academic skills and commitment to Christ. The positive impact of these young men and women will last far beyond their college years.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Don't miss the fun of ...

Child Care Day!

You're invited to a special time of fun and learning at Glen Dale Children's Home! It's a great opportunity to see for yourself how Baptists are ministering to young people.

- ☺ Campus Tours!
- ☺ Entertainment!
- ☺ Fun & Games!
- ☺ Lunch Provided!



Saturday, July 19
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Glen Dale Children's Home

2125 Gilead Church Rd., Glendale, Kentucky



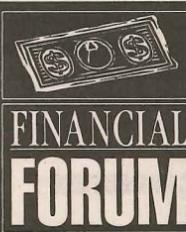
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
Call 1-800-456-1386 for more information!

CHARITABLE

Another goal of estate planning

By Laurie Valentine

Planning for tax savings and the distribution of assets at your death probably quickly come to mind when you think about the goals of estate planning. Assuring all that can will pass to your beneficiaries at your death is important, but should not be the only objective of the estate planning process.



"Incapacity planning"—planning that assures your affairs could be managed and decisions could be made for you in the event you became incapacitated and unable to do those things for yourself—is the often forgotten, but equally important, other goal of estate planning.

Neglecting this aspect of your estate plan can be costly. Court-supervised guardianship, which may be the only choice if you have done no advanced planning, can be a substantial, on-going financial drain on your resources.

Asking a court to determine you are mentally incompetent so a guardian can take control of your assets also can place a tremendous emotional strain on your family.

Incapacity planning allows you to plan now for the possibility that some future physical or mental incapacity may render you unable to manage your own affairs. It permits you to decide who will manage your finances and make decisions for you, determine how that person (or people) will be empowered to act for you and state what kinds of decisions should be made for you if you cannot speak for yourself, rather than leaving those choices and decisions to others.

Usually more than one "incapacity planning" document is necessary to accomplish your incapacity planning objectives. Empowering someone to act for you can be accomplished through the use of durable powers of attorney, health care surrogate designations and revocable living trusts. Documenting your health-care wishes and declaring the types of health care decisions that should be made for you if you cannot speak for yourself can be achieved by making a living will directive or health care surrogate designation.

As people live longer, the possibility they will experience a period of incapacity during their lifetime becomes greater. This makes the need for this type of planning vital.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

48 Kentuckians graduate from seminaries

At least 48 students with ties to Kentucky graduated from Baptist seminaries this fall. Those graduating included:

■ Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville:

- Todd Beasley of Somerset, diploma in Christian education.
- Chuck Beighle of Dry Ridge, master of divinity in missions.
- Stephen Bogle of Bowling Green, master of divinity.
- Vernon Carpenter of Frankfort, associate of arts.
- Richard Carver Jr. of Shepherdsville, master of divinity.
- Glenna Clark of Langley, associate of arts.
- Barry Combs of Louisville, doctor of musical arts.
- Robert Cox of Richmond, diploma in Christian ministry.
- Thomas Dail of Georgetown, master of divinity.
- Joyce Evans of Louisville, diploma in Christian education.
- William Hall of Jenkins, master of church music.
- Yu-Chi Rebecca Hsu of Louisville, master of arts in Christian education.
- Cleora Johnson of Louisville, master of divinity.
- James Kerr of Elizabethtown, master of divinity.
- John Lampkins of Benton, master of divinity in missions.
- Richard Livingood of Crittenden, master of divinity.

■ Donny Mathis of Corbin, master of divinity.

- Nathan Miller of Cynthiana, master of divinity in missions.
- Brian Montgomery of Louisville, master of arts in Christian education.
- Richard Noble of Hazard, associate of arts.
- Glenn Noe of Sassafras, master of arts in missiology.
- Steven Payne of Henderson, master of divinity.
- Randle Record of Paducah, master of divinity.
- Laurice Rogers of Louisville, master of divinity in pastoral care.
- Cindy Rosser of Louisville, master of divinity.
- Shelley Shumate of Pikeville, master of church music.
- Marnie Smith of Cox's Creek, master of arts in Christian education.
- Timothy Stonecipher of Paducah, master of divinity.
- Stephen Strange of Louisville, master of divinity in Christian education.
- Robert Thomas of LaGrange, master of divinity.
- Eugene Voll of Louisville, master of divinity.
- Mark Whitt of Marion, master of divinity in Christian education.
- Glenn Williams of Murray, master of divinity in pastoral counseling.
- Ronald Williams of Central City, doctor of philosophy.
- John Withers of Cynthiana, doctor of philosophy.

■ Michael Wolfzorn of Fort Thomas, master of arts in Christian education.

■ Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

- Greg Belcher of Somerset, master of divinity with biblical languages.
- Ben Tackett of Virgie, master of divinity with biblical languages.
- New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary:
 - John Cravens of Lexington, master of divinity with biblical languages.
 - Cary Duckett, pastor of Aetna Grove Baptist Church in Summersville, master of divinity.
 - James Hume of Harrodsburg, master of divinity.
 - Buddy Rue IV of Lexington, bachelor of arts.
- Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas:
 - Charles Gaddis of Owensboro, master of divinity with biblical languages.
 - Kevin Hall of Frankfort, master of arts in communication and master of religious education.
 - Andrew Jones of Morehead, master of divinity with biblical languages.
 - DeAnna Osborne of Hopkinsville, master of divinity.
 - Tim Percy of Paducah, master of divinity.
 - Shawn Sullivan of Mayfield, master of divinity.

Baptist student workers pinned down by crossfire

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (BP)—Thirty Baptist summer workers sought safety in the home of Southern Baptist workers Steve and Patti Ellis as fighting broke out between troops of rival prime ministers in Cambodia's capital city July 5.

Fighting drew to within a few blocks of the Ellis home, and the sounds of gunfire and mortar blasts reverberated through the neighborhood.

The university students arrived July 3 and had just begun to familiarize themselves with Phnom Penh before beginning work teaching conversational English to local students. Now it appears they will evacuate as soon as the airport is usable again and enough stability returns for a U.S. Embassy operation.

The workers were still with Patti Ellis and her daughters July 7. Steve Ellis, her husband, was en route by plane from the United States, where he and the president of the Cambodia Baptist Convention spoke at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Dallas.

Muslim sues to keep job under wraps

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (RNS)—A Muslim flight attendant has accused US Airways of violating her religious beliefs by prohibiting her from wearing a head scarf.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission agrees with Rose Hamid of Charlotte, N.C., and has filed a discrimination lawsuit against the airline. A July 25 hearing has been set.

The airline says its uniform policy prohibits any kind of head coverings, USA Today reported.

US Airways told Hamid in a letter the standardized uniform gives the public a sense of professionalism. The

letter also said the scarf could interfere with her performing duties related to safety.

The airline offered to transfer Hamid to a non-uniformed position, but she declined to accept that offer.

The head covering was not an issue for Hamid, 37, when she became a flight attendant in 1985. But she learned more about her religion after a 1995 auto accident, when she was unable to work for two years. She wanted to wear the scarf when she returned to her job. She has offered to wear a scarf matching the airline's navy blue uniform and to place the company insignia on it.

RETIRING SOON?

If you've been offered early retirement or you're retiring soon, you can't afford to make a wrong decision now that will affect you for the rest of your life. You should read this free booklet right away...

"What you Ought To Know Before You Receive Your Retirement Distribution"

Don't fall into one of the many hidden tax traps the IRS has waiting for you. Be informed and fight back!

For Your FREE Copy, Call Now.

Darlys S. Harmon-Vaught
Senior Vice President
Financial Consultant
(502) 326-9677



Windows Software for Churches

Church Data Management System for Windows

— CDMS-Win —

The only church software you will ever need

Call Don Putnam at 1 (800) 928-6388

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



Church Buses Rental Buses

(New & Used)

Carpenter Bus Sales Inc.

Brentwood, Tenn.

(800) 370-6180

(615) 376-2287

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

Guaranteed Buy-Back Program • We Buy Used Buses

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

Pray for these specific needs related to Kentucky Baptist partnership with Russia:

- International Service Corps volunteer David Cook and his Russian colleagues as they lead summer camps.
- Jaime and Kimberly Knight in language school in Moscow.
- Missionaries Paul and Lori Babb as they prepare to leave Kazakhstan for furlough in the United States this month.
- Missionaries Brad and Jeanine Horne in Moscow as they learn the Russian language.
- Alosha, a Russian man who made a profession of faith in Jesus May 27 in the home of missionaries Charles and Phyllis Hardie in Novosibirsk, Russia.
- Connie Robbins who works with Russian women in Khabarovsk, Russia.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BEREA**—Bobby Bowling received the bachelor of arts in Christian education degree from Florida Baptist Theological College in Graceville, Fla., May 23.

■ **COVINGTON**—Oak Ridge Church recently ordained Scott Robinson to the deacon ministry.

Madison Avenue Church will celebrate its 140th anniversary June 18-20. June 18 will feature music, worship and fellowship. June 19 will feature a youth program, music, worship and fellowship. Homecoming is planned for June 20. Call (606) 291-1861 for more information.

■ **EUBANK**—Glenwood Church called Randall Hughes of Tennessee as pastor. He began his new ministry June 15.

■ **FINCHVILLE**—Finchville Church called Scott Patton as pastor.

He previously was minister of youth, children and evangelism at Wornall Road Church in Kansas City, Mo. He began his new ministry June 8.

■ **HAWESVILLE**—New Life Church called Brian Roberts, native of Owensboro, as pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—Immanuel Temple called Joseph Tricquet Jr. as pastor. He previously was associate pastor at Oakhill Church in Evansville, Ind. He will begin his new ministry Aug. 4.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Parkway Church called Stephen Banks as full-time minister of education and youth June 29. Also, Brent Witten was called as part-time minister of music May 21. Leon Greer is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Word of Faith Full Gospel Church will hold its annual women's retreat July 19 at 10

a.m. Registration is \$15 (includes lunch and seminar packet). Call (502) 451-4912 for more information.

■ **MORGANFIELD**—First Church called Kenneth Brown as associate pastor. He will begin his new ministry Aug. 10. He previously was minister of music and senior adults at Lynn Acres Church in Louisville.

■ **MURRAY**—Westside Church recently called Mark and Lisa Whitt as ministers of youth and students.

■ **PELLVILLE**—Pellville Church called Chuck Fuller as pastor. Fuller was past president of Campbellsville University Baptist Student Union. He will attend Southern Seminary this fall.

■ **SOMERSET**—Woodstock Church celebrated its 128th anniversary June 8. Tom Patterson is pastor.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—Gene Barnett, 48, died June 4. He was a member of First Church in Danville. Barnett served on eight partnership mission projects through the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Brazil and Russia.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church called Mike Wolfzorn as minister of discipleship. He will begin his new ministry Aug. 1. He previously was associate pastor at Chevy Chase Church in Lexington.

■ **WHITESBURG**—Colson Mission recently called Joe Walters as pastor. Walters was licensed to preach by First Church. Also, Colson Mission will celebrate its 36th homecoming Aug. 17.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Drew Martin was elected director of missions for Boones Creek Association. He previously was pastor at First Church in Paintsville.

CORRECTION

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

Questions abound as church leader's wife faces arson charge

TAMPA BAY (RNS)—Henry Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention, USA—the nation's largest black denomination—is facing allegations of adultery after his wife was charged with setting fire to a Florida mansion he co-owns with another woman.

Deborah Lyons admitted she set fire to a \$700,000 home on Tampa Bay's waterfront after "coming to realize that her husband was sharing the home with another woman," said Marianne Pasha, spokeswoman

for the Pinellas County Sheriff's Department.

Mrs. Lyons has been charged with felony counts of burglary and arson in connection with the July 6 fire that caused \$30,000 in damage, Pasha said, and was released on bond, the Washington Post reported.

According to a clerk at the Pinellas County Courthouse, records show Henry Lyons and Bernice Edwards purchased the house in March 1996.

Pasha said Deborah Lyons stated

she tore stuffing out of upholstered furniture, broke lamps and set several fires after discovering some of her husband's clothing in the mansion.

Police said she then crashed her Mercedes into a palm tree near the house she shares with her husband as she was heading home.

The St. Petersburg Times reported Deborah Lyons told sheriff's deputies she recently found a deed for the Tampa Bay house in her husband's briefcase, listing him and Edwards as co-owners.

Despite her comments to the sheriff's department, Deborah Lyons told the Times the incident was a misunderstanding.

She told the newspaper she had known about the Tampa Bay house, that it was used as a "national guest house," and that Edwards and her husband were business partners.

She denied she suspected her husband of having an affair. "My husband has always been very above-board with me," she told the Times. "I have no reason to doubt him at all."

'The best day I have had in a long time'

How many times have you heard someone make a statement similar to this: "You didn't know how good you had it?" Many of you know that my position before becoming president of Oneida was dean of boys and work program supervisor. As far as I am concerned, those were the two best jobs on the campus. It was really hard work, but the best part was getting to work directly with the students.

On more than a few occasions, President Barkley Moore would come to an area where the students and I were working. He would stand at the top of a hill for a long time and watch us cut the weeds. Normally he would motion to a boy and ask him his name and where he came from. When I later talked with Moore, he would say something like, "I wish my work was like this. When you get done you can see that you have accomplished something. I normally don't get to see the same results with my responsibilities." I honestly did not fully understand his frustration then, but I certainly understand now. It is such a treat to get out of the office and do some "real" work.

A few days ago, I took a day off from the office. Many of our newer faculty, staff and students do not realize that once upon a time I had a "real" job. Some men laying block for our new print shop needed sand for their mortar. There wasn't anyone here who knew how to drive the backhoe, so I grabbed my keys and headed out. I took two loads of sand to the print shop and several loads of crushed rock to fill in some bad spots on the road to the farm and several driveways. Apparently I made quite an impression on some of our new faculty and staff. They were overheard say-

ing, "Was that Mr. Underwood driving that backhoe?"

Then there was that drainage ditch I had been wanting to get cleaned out the past four years. I crossed the ditch and spent the next two hours widening the ditch. Some would question whether I helped the situation or made it worse.

With all the rain this spring, you can only imagine how difficult it has been to keep the campus and lawns mowed. Weeds are higher than I have seen them in years. It has been too wet nearly every day the past three weeks to do our usual lawn chores.

With homecoming just days away, I was getting concerned. Besides, I really wanted to get outside and do some "real" work. I requested permission to have some boys with weed trimmers during the work program after school. Seven boys were assigned to me. They got their weed trimmers and I grabbed a handful of tools, extra string and a can of gas. I gave each boy an area to clear.

I had forgotten that some boys may not know the best way to start a weed trimmer. Two who were having a lot of trouble had forgotten to turn the off/on switch to the "on" position. They were really impressed at how quickly I solved the problem. No doubt they would be surprised to discover that the president could do much of anything. Within moments, the first weed trimmer was brought to me for repair. "Mr. Underwood, I can't get the string to come out." I really impressed this young man when I removed the spool and discovered he had run out of string. This was the best day I have had in a long time.

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
Baptist Bible College
Pineville, Kentucky
Announces with Thanksgiving
that on June 25, 1997,
it became a
Candidate for Accreditation
with the
Commission of Colleges
of the
Southern Association
of Colleges and Schools

Convinced skeptic becomes evangelist

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Frank Harber was a skeptic until he studied the Bible; now he's an evangelist.

Harber was a University of Texas student with plans for law school until he talked with Southern Baptist pastor Bruce Wells at a tennis match. "I told him the Bible was full of errors—the invention of men. When he realized I was a skeptic, he challenged me to back up what I was saying," Harber recalled.

"I agreed to disprove Christianity. I read the Bible from cover to cover. I read other books. I knew more than most Christians. What struck me was the primary evidence of the resurrection—the greatest attested fact in all antiquity. The miracles of Christ and what his enemies had to say about that was also powerful. But still I was not convinced."

One day Harber was in a Longview, Texas, bookstore when Wells walked in. "I fumbled around. I told him I was looking for a real defense of Christianity. He said, 'You need to read 'Basic Christianity' by John Stott.'"

Harber said that by the time he fin-

ished that book he was intellectually convinced of the claims of Jesus Christ. Then, he said, "I had to deal with the willingness problem. I had to repent and commit myself to living a life of righteousness. I had to take the leap of faith."

He made a personal commitment to Christ. Then he looked at the different Christian denominations and settled on one. "Southern Baptists are so doctrinally solid," he said. "I am Southern Baptist because I chose to be."

Soon Harber was sharing his faith experience. "Every time I spoke people were saved," he said. "I discovered I have the gift of evangelism."

Harber entered Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, earning his doctorate. He also taught a class in evangelism at the seminary.

Harber's dissertation covered the major evangelists from Philip of the New Testament to Billy Graham. "What I found out was that these early evangelists were apologists. They were well-educated and had sharp minds. They were taking the gospel to pagan skeptics. They had to know

philosophy to speak to the Greeks. They had to know Scripture well to convince the Jews."

In his ministry, Harber said, "I am just doing what the earliest evangelists did. They were defenders of the faith."

Harber noted the church "was tuned out during the Dark Ages when it insisted the earth was flat. People thought if the church was wrong on that, maybe they missed it on ultimate matters. Our audience today is intelligent and has access to information. If we come off as being uninformed, we will be tuned out."

Relativism, Harber said, is the greatest challenge to the spread of the gospel in this country. "I hear people say, 'You have your truth and I have my truth.' But I have to ask, 'Do you realize what you are saying?' Either Jesus is the Savior and the only way to God or he lied. Muhammad said, 'I am in need of forgiveness.' Jesus said, 'Which of you convinces me of sin?' Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us."

The key, he said, is helping people understand that "Jesus demonstrated he had power over sin and the grave. He can save you."

Actor identifies with role as Bonhoeffer

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (ABP)—Al Staggs identifies with Dietrich Bonhoeffer, both professionally and personally.

One identification is obvious: For about a decade, Staggs has staged a one-act, one-actor play based on Bonhoeffer, a Christian who died as a martyr during World War II.

Bonhoeffer, a German pastor and theologian, was hanged in a Nazi prison camp in 1945 for his participation in a conspiracy to assassinate Adolph Hitler.

Staggs wrote his play, "A View from the Underside," and portrays the martyr on a stage set in Bonhoeffer's prison cell hours before his execution.

Bonhoeffer was a cultured, well-educated young man from a wealthy family, Staggs noted. He traveled widely, and friends begged him to stay in the United States rather than return to Germany shortly before the war.

And yet Bonhoeffer chose to return to his homeland, to minister in difficult circumstances, to speak out against a ruthless regime—all because he felt the call of God, Staggs marveled in an interview.

As a minister, Bonhoeffer felt compelled to serve the people whom society lightly regarded, Staggs noted. Rather than a life of ease in exile, Bonhoeffer thrust himself into the cauldron of controversy.

"The thing Bonhoeffer said that has struck me most deeply is, 'I've learned to view life from the perspective of the outcast, the oppressed, the maltreated, the prisoner and the poor—in short, from the perspective of all people who suffer,'" Staggs said.

And that brings Staggs to a more

personal point of identification with Bonhoeffer. Both have been acquainted with suffering.

Staggs' wife, Vicki, first battled cancer a decade ago. That adversary returned a few months ago, forcing her back into treatment and once again plunging the family into the agony known by cancer patients and their loved ones.

"When I'm performing this drama, I do think about some of the adversities Bonhoeffer was thrust into, and just because he was a Christian he was not exempt from the painful realities of life," Staggs said.

"For me, that is a comfort in our own context of dealing with cancer. In the midst of facing death and powerlessness and the uncertainties of each day, he nevertheless ... really trusted God with his day-to-day existence and his future," he said.

"Despite all he endured, he believed all of it, as (the Apostle) Paul says, was for good. It was not all good, but it was for good. There was a purpose for all of it. And that's how his pilgrimage has given me strength."

Other identifications are broader and less painful.

Staggs, who first studied Bonhoeffer as a Harvard divinity student in the early 1980s, admires his bravery.

"He displayed extraordinary courage," Staggs recalled. "When it seemed a huge majority of Christians in Germany were being taken in by Hitler's ... pogroms, Bonhoeffer was one of the distinct minority who spoke prophetically against what was happening to Germany."

"He basically said you can't continue to do church as if there is nothing unjust going on" as Germans exterminated the Jews and other minorities, Staggs said. "He said that the injustice that prevails in society is an indictment against the church's silence."

Although Bonhoeffer was a pacifist, he came to see that assassinating Hitler would be a "lesser evil" than allowing Hitler to continue his rampage, Staggs said.

So, Bonhoeffer risked—and ultimately lost—his life trying to prevent further suffering of the oppressed, Staggs noted.

Lessons from Bonhoeffer's life apply to Christians today, he added. "Our profession of faith [in Christ] should be more than just a matter of words. He [Bonhoeffer] spoke disparagingly of 'cheap grace,' grace without discipleship. It must be more than words; deeds must follow."

Bonhoeffer's life also challenges "cultural Christianity," said Staggs, who was pastor of Woodland Baptist Church in San Antonio until 1994, when he went full-time with his performance ministry.

Bonhoeffer's life teaches "we need to be careful about our patriotism," Staggs explained. "Our loyalty to our nation is part of our Christian witness, but it never is equal to our allegiance to God."

"God has no national favorites. The Germans thought they were God's favorites, and if we're not careful, we can be led to believe we're God's special people. But if we do not do righteousness and justice, we will suffer God's judgment."

And Bonhoeffer's example addresses Christian responses to issues in the United States today, Staggs said.

For one thing, Bonhoeffer would support the separation of church and state, he stressed.

And another, Bonhoeffer would have sharp words to say to welfare reformers who forsake the poor, he added.

Bonhoeffer would "call a lot of the religious community on the carpet for their unwillingness to stand up for economic justice," Staggs insisted.



IN-FLIGHT INCIDENT Schuller shows off the robe that started a chain of events. (Reuters/RNS photo)

Love tap or headlock? Schuller defends actions during flight

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—TV preacher Robert Schuller was being investigated last week by federal authorities after a United Airlines flight attendant alleged the televangelist injured him during an in-flight altercation.

The 70-year-old founder of the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif., denied at a July 1 news conference he had misbehaved.

"I have not broken a single one of the Ten Commandments, and I have not broken any of the teachings of Jesus Christ," he said.

At the time of the alleged incident, Schuller was flying from Los Angeles to New York to speak at a memorial service for Betty Shabazz, the widow of the late Malcolm X, the Los Angeles Times reported.

He was not arrested and no civil lawsuits or criminal charges have been filed, but Schuller was to have learned last week whether he'll face federal criminal charges.

Schuller, who reaches a TV audience of 20 million each week with his "Hour of Power" program, explained his side of the story with the help of his attorney, Terry Giles.

The incident occurred after Schuller asked to hang a garment bag containing a clerical robe, but the male flight attendant told him he couldn't. A supervisor helped reach a compromise: Schuller could remove the robe from the bag and hang it as a coat. Giles said the compromise appeared to make the attendant "irate."

Later, when fruit and cheese were served, the attendant refused to allow Schuller—who is on a low-fat diet—to have fruit without cheese. Schuller got out of his first-class seat and asked a female flight attendant for a serving of grapes.

After that, Schuller somehow touched the first attendant who jumped back and said, "If you touch me again, I will call the police," the Associated Press reported.

Giles said he was told by sources the flight attendant claimed Schuller either put him in a headlock or pushed him.

United Airlines spokesman Tony Molinaro told the Los Angeles Times the flight attendant saw a company doctor, "and he is injured." If the attendant chooses to sue Schuller, United will suggest an attorney, Molinaro said.

Schuller said he usually communicates with physical contact. "I had no impression if I touched him that could in any sense be considered a violent" act, he said.

Preaching before his congregation July 6, Schuller continued to deny his guilt. "It's no longer safe to be a hands-on person in a society that is going through social and cultural anarchy," Schuller said.

We believe everyone should experience life to its fullest.



After serious illness or injury, Baptist Regional Medical Center can help you recapture the best life has to offer. Our Physical Rehabilitation Unit gets patients back on track—and back to the business of living. We offer a full range of services to help you complete your journey back to recovery.

And it's all right here in your community.

Quality
close to home

BAPTIST
REGIONAL
MEDICAL
CENTER

1 TRILLIUM WAY
CORBIN, KENTUCKY 40701
(606) 528-1212

We believe everyone should experience life to its fullest.



After serious illness or injury, Baptist Regional Medical Center can help you recapture the best life has to offer. Our Physical Rehabilitation Unit gets patients back on track—and back to the business of living. We offer a full range of services to help you complete your journey back to recovery.

And it's all right here in your community.

Quality
close to home

BAPTIST
REGIONAL
MEDICAL
CENTER

1 TRILLIUM WAY
CORBIN, KENTUCKY 40701
(606) 528-1212