



WESTERN RECORDER

August 19, 1997
Vol. 171, No. 32

Special Church Growth Insert

FOR THE RECORD

Nelson retiring
When Jewell Nelson retires from the Kentucky Baptist Convention Sunday school department, she won't leave behind her love of children. *Page 3.*

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Students urged to use humility and prayer to impact their campuses. *Page 13.*

Many credit major healings to God or prayer

PRINCETON, N.J. (ABP)—Three in 10 Americans say they have had a "remarkable healing" related to a physical, emotional or psychological problem at some point in their lives, according to a recent survey.

Most attributed their healing to a supernatural force, with 42 percent crediting either God, Jesus Christ or a higher power. Another 30 percent attributed miraculous healing either to their own prayers or prayer by others.

A total of 21 percent said they had been healed of a physical problem. Another 21 percent cited either an emotional or psychological problem.

Most who reported a healing (89 percent) said it made them more aware of their spiritual life, and 84 percent said it deepened their religious faith.

Only 5 percent of Americans said a doctor ever had prayed with them when treating them for a serious health problem. Of those who had prayed with a doctor, 86 percent said the prayers helped them in recovering from their illness.

Of those who have never had a doctor pray with them, half said they would like for their doctor to do so; half said they would not.

The survey was conducted by the George H. Gallup International Institute in collaboration with Herbert Benson of Harvard University's Mind/Body Medical Institute. It was reported in the June 1997 issue of *Emerging Trends*, a monthly newsletter published by Gallup's Princeton Religion Research Center.

LaGrange duo keeps promise with center

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

LAGRANGE—When their unmarried daughter became pregnant during her junior year in college, Ray and Betty Decker promised God that if he would take care of her, they would spend the rest of their lives taking care of other women facing crises.

God took care of their daughter, Mrs. Decker said. Now happily married and the mother of four children, the daughter and her family are active Christians in a Florida church.

And the Deckers are keeping their promise. Five years ago, they founded the Center for Women in Crisis in

LaGrange. Two years ago, Mrs. Decker left her job as an executive with a paper goods company in Louisville to devote full time to the ministry.

Now, they are planning to build a transitional home where women facing crises can live while getting back on their feet. Oldham County businessman Lee Clore recently donated 1.5 acres near downtown LaGrange as a site for the home.

For the past five years, the center has offered "crisis intervention with a spiritual emphasis" for women encountering various upheavals such as unplanned pregnancies, domestic

abuse, divorce, homelessness and cancer, Mrs. Decker said.

Last year alone, more than 900 women sought help from the center.

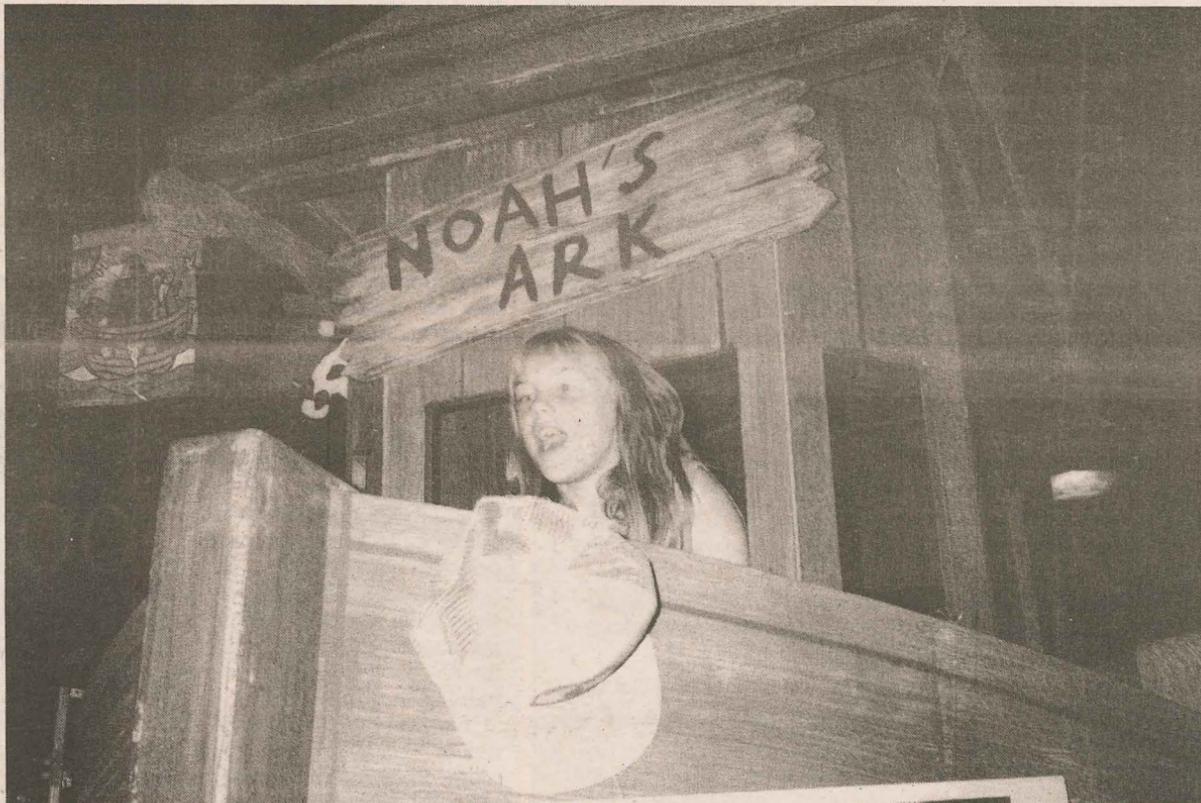
About one-third of those women came to the center for face-to-face assistance, while the rest received counsel over the phone.

Each woman who calls the center is linked

with one of 50 volunteers who has gone through a similar situation. There are no paid staff members and all operating expenses are covered by donations.

"We call the volunteers 'caring' □ See LaGrange couple ..., page 7

Serving WOMEN IN CRISIS



FAIR WEATHER FRIENDS Children are finding smooth sailing aboard Noah's Ark at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's exhibit at this year's Kentucky State Fair. The exhibit pays tribute to the victims of the 1997 flood and the volunteer disaster relief workers who helped them. The Baptist exhibit is located in the East Exhibit Hall. In addition to offering children an opportunity to romp on the Ark, volunteers are distributing information about Kentucky Baptists.

Kentucky natives minister to Guam crash workers, families

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

AGANA, Guam (BP)—Kentucky natives Tony and Kristi Smith have experienced their share of natural disasters in the two years. Smith has served as pastor of Marianas Baptist Church in Guam, including four major earthquakes and two typhoons.

But the Aug. 6 crash of Korean Air Lines Flight 801 less than five miles from the church has become the most intense and emotionally draining relief effort the church has ever undertaken.

Smith was asked by the Salvation Army to coordinate counseling services for rescue workers and family members of victims, as well as collection and distribution of food and drinks at the site.

About 125 of the church's 200 members were involved in relief efforts the week following the crash. Although they worked under the auspices of the Salvation Army, Marianas Baptist was the largest group supplying volunteers.

"One of the greatest things I've learned is that you can never have your church overprepared to deal with emergencies," Smith said. "One of the greatest things for our church was that we were as close as we were and that we responded. ... (Relief officials) said they had never seen a church respond as quickly as we did and with the force that we did."

At least 199 of the 226 people aboard the plane were killed.

The Smiths, natives of Glasgow and former members of Coral Hill Baptist Church, first learned of the

crash from an emergency medical technician who is a member of the church. The call came at 4 a.m., about two hours after the accident. Several other members were among the first on the scene, helping pull some of the 27 survivors from the wreckage.

Smith, who hosts a weekly talk program on the Christian Trans World Radio network in Guam, went on the air to enlist support for relief efforts. "Stuff started coming in from hotels, restaurants, other churches," he said. "It was just a matter of the whole community joining together."

Three primary relief stations soon were established to support rescue and recovery workers: one at the main highway several miles from the site, one at the top of the cliff nearest the remote crash site

that also served as a center for counseling efforts and a third at the bottom of the hill as near as possible to the crash site.

The lower camp—closest to the grisly task of removing the remains of victims—was supervised by Mrs. Smith. She, her daughter and two others manned the tent for four days from sunup to sundown.

"We felt like the people needed to see our face every day and get familiar with us and talk with us ... so we could help with counseling," Mrs. Smith said.

"I never realized I could do the things and see the things I saw without being very emotional," she added later. "But I didn't even have to think about it. ... I just hauled down some ice and started to work. It didn't even occur to me to be scared □ See Kentucky natives ..., page 11

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **"Celebrate Life" turns 25.** This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Christian youth musical "Celebrate Life," perhaps the most popular youth musical of all time. To mark the occasion, Second Baptist Church of Houston planned a "Celebrate Life" family reunion. Anyone who ever had sung the musical was invited to join a mass choir which rehearsed and performed the musical Aug. 15-17 with help from singer Cynthia Clawson and the musical's authors, Ragan Courtney and Buryl Red.

■ **BWA gets Web site.** The Baptist World Alliance has launched a site on the World Wide Web. It may be accessed at www.baptistnet.org.

■ **Disney may talk.** Two months after messengers to the Southern Baptist annual meeting called for a boycott of the Walt Disney Co., a spokesman has indicated Disney may be willing to talk. "We think there is room for discussion, and in the meantime would hope there's a sense of tolerance and attempt to treat each other decently," Disney spokesman John Dreyer told the Nashville Banner Aug. 8. Meanwhile, the SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission is preparing a mailing to SBC churches that will include a bulletin insert listing allegations about Disney's "pro-gay" and "anti-Christian" record.

■ **Alaska endorses boycott.** The Alaska Baptist Convention has become the first state Baptist convention to endorse the Southern Baptist Convention's call for a boycott of the Walt Disney Co. During the convention's annual meeting Aug. 5-6 in Juneau, messengers adopted their own resolution of support for the SBC resolution.

■ **Women in Ministry speaks on NIV.** At the request of the organization's directors, Baptist Women in Ministry President Rebecca Gurney has written the International Bible Society to express disapproval in a recent decision to drop plans for a "gender-accurate" translation of the Bible. "Language is not a static entity. Rather it is dynamic, changing and growing as we all participate in communicating with each other and with God," wrote Gurney, associate pastor of University Baptist Church in Austin, Texas.

■ **Peace Fellowship elects officers.** Steve Hammond, co-pastor of First Baptist Church of Oberlin, Ohio, and executive director of Ohio Campus Ministries, has been elected president of the Ohio Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America. Other officers are Lindsay Penn Matheson of Ontario, Canada, vice president; Isabel DoCampo of Washington, D.C., secretary; Beverly Donald of Freedomia, Wisc., treasurer; and Angela Ferguson of Fort Worth, Texas, board pastor.

■ **Student sues Cal Baptist.** California Baptist College in Riverside, Calif., has been named in a federal lawsuit alleging religious bias. Robert Woolwine, an evening college graduate student, claims he was denied a clerical job in 1996 because he is not a Christian. Woolwine said the school's liberal arts school may discriminate on the basis of religion in its hiring. A college spokesman declined comment.



LOADS OF LITERATURE The Southern Baptist Sunday School Board is taking "extraordinary measures" to ensure churches get their literature in spite of the nationwide United Parcel Service strike, according to board president Jimmy Draper. Dated literature orders placed by Aug. 6 are being sent by other carriers, at an additional cost to the board of more than \$500,000, Draper said. Shipments to Kentucky churches were to have been rerouted beginning Aug. 8. Here, (BP photo by Brydget Carillo) dozens of boxes of literature for shipping through alternate carriers.

Two notations removed from Midwestern

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (ABP)—The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada has removed two notations it placed against Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1994.

The notations were placed in 1994 by a team which visited the campus in Kansas City, Mo., to investigate concerns over trustees' refusal to grant tenure to a professor.

The ATS notations accused the school's trustees of exercising "inappropriate control over the administration and faculty" and noted a general tone at the seminary which "impairs the capacity to provide significant theological education and ministerial training."

Seminary trustees drew ATS scrutiny in 1993 by denying tenure to theology professor Wilburn Stancil over his view of the Bible, despite a recommendation by then-president Milton Ferguson to grant Stancil tenure.

Stancil, leading the board to view him as too liberal, Ferguson warned that the confrontation over faculty tenure could lead to "the devastation of this institution."

The latest accrediting team to visit Midwestern—on a scheduled five-year focused evaluation in February—found relations among faculty, trustees and administration much improved since the election of a new seminary president in 1995.

Trustees chose Mark Coppenger, a conservative, to succeed Ferguson, a moderate, who had led the seminary 23 years.

The accrediting team said a policy statement on "Academic Freedom and Tenure" adopted by trustees in 1996 with faculty approval adequately addressed accrediting concerns about inappropriate control by trustees. The board also planned to revise its trustee handbook to clarify trustee and administration roles, the team reported.

In addition, trustees interviewed said they now feel they have more information about what is going on at the seminary and reported "confidence in the relationship between the seminary and the president."

In fact, the team reported it was a "bit concerned" the relationship between trustees and the president had become too open. "In the interest of being as open as possible, the president might be encouraging trustees to get too involved in listening to students ... and then passing on that informa-

tion to the president instead of encouraging the students to speak directly with the person who may be more directly responsible regarding the student's concern."

Following up on the notation regarding the seminary's "general tone," the accrediting team discussed the overall climate on campus with the president's cabinet, the faculty and a group of 22 students.

"A consensus clearly emerged," the team reported. "The atmosphere is very positive. There has been upheaval and there continue to be adjustments but the transition has been handled reasonably smoothly. Six new faculty members have been welcomed."

Faculty are "admittedly" less involved in decision-making because Coppenger is less prone to use committees than Ferguson, the team reported. "Faculty influence, therefore, is more informal than formal."

The seminary asked the accrediting team to review the notations, along with two earlier notations citing seminary finances and evaluation procedures. While noting progress in finances and evaluation, the team decided to leave those notations in place for now, pending additional reports due in December 1998.

Troubled Baptist school averts loss of funding

MOBILE, Ala. (ABP)—Trustees of the beleaguered University of Mobile adopted a balanced budget July 14, a decisive first step toward resolving financial issues related to the Baptist school's troubled branch campus in San Marcos, Nicaragua.

At a called meeting in executive session, trustees also unveiled plans to reduce an internal debt by returning funds used for start-up of the Latin American branch to the main campus in Alabama.

The actions beat by one day a deadline imposed in June by Alabama Baptist State Convention officials for the university trustees to show how

they would get the Nicaraguan campus out of debt to the main campus or risk losing state convention funds.

The university's Nicaragua branch, established in 1993, owes the Mobile campus about \$3.3 million and is losing about \$200,000 a year.

Facing mounting pressures, the university's 13-year president, Michael Magnoli, 50, resigned May 13.

University trustees approved an agreement in 1994 to limit funding for the Latin American branch to gifts specifically given to or earmarked for that school and to return about \$2.3 million to the Mobile campus that had been used to

start up the Nicaraguan school.

On May 22, however, the university's board chairman told the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions the school had "sinned as an institution" by breaching those agreements. Instead of declining, internal debt continued to increase, explained Walter Hovell, a former trustee named interim president May 30.

Based on those revelations, the state board in June was in compliance with the 1994 agreement or risk losing about \$2.1 million a year from the state convention, a tenth of the school's budget.



NOW THAT'S SINGING !!

Nelson retiring from KBC, not from love for children

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—When Jewell Nelson retires after 11 years with the Kentucky Baptist Convention Sunday school department next month, she will take with her a life-long love for children.

Nelson, whose responsibilities as an associate in the department have focused on children's ministries, says her interest in children began in high school in her native Missouri.

"I set out to be a public school teacher," she said.

But college summer vacations spent working with children at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in North Carolina changed that.

"I began to realize the importance of ministry to preschoolers and children" through the church, she said.

After graduating from Oklahoma Baptist University, she moved to California to teach in public school.

A strong call to children's ministry pulled her back East to attend Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1959, she said.

That call "has remained strong for more than 50 years," she said.

It led her to Birmingham, Ala.,

where she worked as children's minister on a church staff for two years.

And it guided her ministry after she returned to Louisville in 1963 to marry lawyer Paul Nelson. For the next 23 years, while rearing two sons, Jay and Scott, she continued to lead preschool and children's leadership conferences at Ridgecrest, Glorieta Baptist Conference Center in New Mexico, and across Kentucky. She and her family were active members of Highview Baptist Church. Later, they joined Walnut Street Baptist Church.

She has written extensively, including 12 children's books, curriculum for preschool and children's materials and articles for educational journals. She wrote several church study course books for leaders of preschoolers and children, and she has contributed chapters to other study course books.

When her youngest son graduated from high school, the opportunity to work in the KBC Sunday school department opened up.

At the KBC, Nelson's first priori-

ty has been preschool and children's Sunday school, she said. Other responsibilities have included vacation Bible school for all ages, church weekday education programs and special education.

Nelson's hands-on approach to ministry has put her on the field and in the churches to observe as well as train preschool and children's leaders.

She said she has seen a growing awareness among Kentucky churches for the need for children's ministries. No longer is "just keep the kids" the norm, she said.

Early in her KBC work, Nelson said, she realized she alone could not do what needed to be

done. So she developed a network of preschool and children's leaders. She organized retreats and luncheon meetings and produced a newsletter to keep the group in touch.

That network "broadened the horizons" for children's workers across the state who otherwise would not have crossed paths, said veteran children's minister Anne Smith of High-

land Baptist Church in Louisville. "We learned what each does well and often called on each other to lead conferences."

Early on, Nelson realized the need for curriculum materials geared especially to the needs of small Kentucky churches. As a result, she wrote "Flexible Curriculum," an eight-unit, easy-to-use series centered on biblical characters.

"Jewell has a practical, common sense approach to ministry," Smith said. "She cuts to the chase. She knows what is best for children, and it never costs much."

It's a brown-bag rather than a party store approach to what works best with children, Smith said. "Less stuff and more relationships" is Nelson's motto, Smith said.

After Nelson retires Sept. 1, she says she hopes to pursue an interest in art therapy for children, renew a life-long interest in photography, read and write.

Plus, she wants to visit family as well some of the many elementary, high school, college and seminary friends with whom she has kept in touch over the years.

That will keep her busy, she said. Those friends are scattered across 27 states.



Nelson



NEW FACILITY Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children recently dedicated its new home for the Southern Region Shelter in Bronston. The 16-bed facility is a temporary residence for boys who are victims of abuse, neglect or family crisis. It was one of the projects funded through KBHC's Building a Brighter Future campaign. (Photo by Robert Reeves)

Brotherhood's John Lott takes preaching post

John Lott, associate director of Kentucky Brotherhood since 1990, has resigned that position to become pastor of Eastern Parkway Baptist Church in Louisville.

While looking forward to new opportunities as he returns to the pastorate, Lott said his experience with Kentucky Brotherhood has been positive.

"These seven years have been the greatest," he said. "There has never been a dull moment."

He encouraged Brotherhood participants to continue to build upon what already has been done.

"We have had a good adventure

in watching God build Brotherhood into the organization it is today," Lott said. "It is time to begin anew the quest for missions that will lead us into the year 2000. Brotherhood can be so much more than it has been without losing the programs like Kentucky Changers and disaster relief that have put Brotherhood in the light of the public."

Larry Martin, director of the KBC's missions and evangelism division, praised Lott's contributions to Kentucky Brotherhood.

"Along with John's role in the overall administration of Brotherhood, he had numerous areas of spe-

cial responsibility," Martin noted. "These included regular contact with the Brotherhood steering committee, comprised of more than 50 volunteer leaders. John gave strong leadership to missions education, including Royal Ambassador and Challenger activities. He coordinated World Missions Conferences, with 1996 being one of the strongest years ever. This summer he coordinated two very successful Kentucky Changers projects in Frankfort and Pikeville."

Lott came to the KBC in 1990 from the pastorate of Smiths Grove Baptist Church in Smiths Grove.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Larry Lindsay**, a coordinator in Moscow for Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Russian Baptists, was admitted to a hospital last week with a collapsed lung, according to his wife, Joy. Doctors were able to re-inflate the lung by inserting a tube into his lung cavity, said Ken Murphy of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions office. "Please pray for Larry and Joy," he said.

■ **Notice:** Notices from the Kentucky Baptist Convention for hotel accommodations in Bowling Green have incorrectly listed the phone number for Budgetel. The correct number is (502) 843-3200.

College offers free education

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville University will offer up to two years of college for dislocated workers at plants in Campbellsville and Jamestown.

The offer is available to nearly 2,000 people who were laid off from Fruit of the Loom plants. "We know these workers and their families are facing a great challenge in their lives at this time," said university President Ken Winters. "We want to provide a way to help prepare the dislocated workers for a new career."

The cost-free education, which includes textbooks, can be applied toward an associate's, bachelor's or master's degree.

The university also will offer "How to Survive a Layoff" workshops.

More information about the dislocated workers program and the cost-free education offer is available from the school's admissions office (800) 264-6014, ext. 5007.

Secretary group picks leaders

Carol Taylor, secretary at Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville, has been elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Secretaries Association.

The association met last month at Catherine Spalding Center in Nazareth for its 11th annual conference.

Dwight Parker, pastor of Knoxville Baptist Church, led worship services, and Brenda Sue Davis, an instructor for the Christian Growth Study Plan, led seminars on professional development and records management.

In addition to Taylor, others elected to two-year terms were:

■ **President-Elect:** Cindy Nunn of Glendale Children's Home.

■ **Secretary:** Debbie Settle of First Baptist Church of Murray.

■ **Treasurer:** Sherry Kingkade of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro.

■ **Historian:** Ima Jean Allgood of Temple Baptist Church in Owensboro.

■ **Newsletter Editor:** Linda Miller of Buck Grove Baptist Church in Ekron.

■ **Pastor Adviser:** Tom Curry of Parkland Baptist Church in Louisville.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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*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.

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On limited atonement

When I read the words of the exponents of the so-called "limited atonement" (Aug. 5, page 2) the writing of Peter came to mind instantly. At first he believed in a "limited atonement," an atonement limited to Jews. And then he met Cornelius, et al. God "cleansed their hearts" when their faith was seen from heaven. Peter was converted. He discovered that the atonement extended to unredeemable Gentiles.

He wrote that we have "been redeemed with the precious blood of Christ." The sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ was of infinite worth. When God chose to give his "only begotten Son," he did not diminish the worth of the gift, and he had nothing greater to give, even though he knew before the creation that there would be those who would reject his love and grace.

It is impossible for a sacrifice of infinite worth not to have merit more than sufficient for an infinite number of sinners and grace "greater than all our sins." All I have to know is the infinitude of the sacrifice for sinners at Calvary to know that the notion of a limited atonement is human rationalization. You can't restrict the number of beneficiaries of Calvary without diminishing the value of the offering.

If I remember correctly, our Lord Jesus' death was more than an atonement, a remembrance of sin. It was a propitiation, an obliteration.

*Donald MacDonald
Louisville*

Televangelists wrong

Regarding your editorial "Who's got it right: Tilton or Bakker?" (Aug.

The independence of Southern Baptist churches

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. This church is an autonomous body. There is nothing more independent than a Southern Baptist church. There are four entities or bodies in Southern Baptist life. They are:

- The local church.
- The local association.
- The state convention.
- The Southern Baptist Convention.

Each of these are totally autonomous and have no control or authority over the other. Each church is self-governing under the lordship of Jesus. The churches elect messengers to the meetings of the various entities, and they determine the course of the many programs and institutions of the Baptist bodies. The only relationship between any of the four is volunteer. They are held together by what we call "ropes of sand."

It is possible for a local church to be a member of the state convention

5, page 5), I want to commend you for the courage to write the editorial and for the wisdom to say the things Baptists needed to hear.

Contrary to the teachings of Jesus, the television preachers fill the airways 24 hours a day with the message "If you want to be healthy and rich, send us your seed money." They picture God as a benevolent banker-physician who will, for a contribution, provide material things and good health. And, from the fine clothes and jewels that bedeck the TV preachers, a lot of people are swallowing their false message hook, line and sinker.

Regrettably, a number of Baptist people have bought into this scheme and are helping line the silk pockets of the prophets of a false doctrine. I hope the Western Recorder will have more to say on this subject in the future. It is desperately needed.

*Lawrence Langford
Cincinnati*

More ideas

Regarding the article "Churches well-suited help working poor" (July 22, page 1), every topic outlined—transportation, clothing, grooming and opportunities—is excellently correct.

Joy Hager, director of ministries at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, has added much to your written advice and recommendations: Washer and dryer free for usage at the church ministry area; electric and water utility vouchers for helping keep current; a small truck for moving and transportation.

Hager is blessed and has blessed the members of Walnut Street Church and its downtown neighborhood by her presence and belief in Jesus' teachings. I believe her positive ap-

proach to Southern Baptist teachings reach more hearts than any red-letter headlines on boycotts or Hebrew decoding of the Bible.

My mother and beloved late grandmother made me a "Sunbeam" 58 years ago and Joy Hager, through her gifts to me, has enabled me to still "shine, shine, let it shine for Jesus."

*Viola Berry
Waddy*

In the Father's lap

Several years ago I heard a pastor from Birmingham, Ala., Warner Smith, describe our worship toward God as that of a child climbing up in his daddy's lap and telling him that he loved him. I have often quoted him, though I don't know if the illustration was original with him or not.

The article "When do we crawl into God's lap?" (Aug. 5, page 4) by Tom Ehrich added a great deal of meat to this simple illustration.

God came to dwell among us, as one of his names, Emmanuel, clearly states. It is imperative that we see the joy of having God with us as we praise him in our worship experiences. We can please the Father just as a child pleases his father when he snuggles up in his lap.

Ehrich's article was a beautiful reminder that God is our loving Father and enjoys being snuggled and hugged by his children. I hope God hears my approaching footsteps often. I know he'll be there waiting.

*Joe Norman
Fort Mitchell*

No more Disney: No more letters on the Southern Baptist Convention's boycott of the Walt Disney Co. will be published in Baptist Forum until new developments warrant reopening the discussion. Ample views have been expressed on all sides of the issue for the present time. — Editor

theological roots, our course is charted as is evidenced in the "Covenant" signed by the six seminary presidents. "Let the churches and the Southern Baptist Convention know that our seminaries are committed to theological integrity and biblical fidelity." The Covenant states the seminaries will teach "the authority, inspiration, inerrancy and infallibility of the Bible."

Convention president Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., praised the "Covenant" and the seminary presidents when he said, "Never in the world have six men so hot-hearted for souls, so firmly standing upon the word of God, covenanted with a group the size of Southern Baptists saying, send us your students, we will be faithful to God, faithful to you and faithful to your calling."

Elliff closed his president's address to the convention with these words, "Southern Baptists, we've come so far ... made so much progress ... gained so much ground, but there is still ground to be taken, there are still battles to be won. The cross is our battle standard. Onward Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before."

*LaVerne Butler, Interim pastor
Ashland Avenue Baptist Church
Lexington*

AGING

Evening light

By John Lepper

What image comes to mind when you think of aging? In "Caring for Folks from Birth to Death," Albert Meiburg uses two images. He suggests that for some people growing older is like a twilight and for others it is like the dawning of a new day.



The prophet Zechariah speaks of a "unique day" in which "at evening time there will be

light." He wasn't speaking of Daylight Savings Time nor of the electric light. Instead, he was talking about a new Jerusalem, a time when God will reign.

This image of light in the evening is one which also can apply to the aging process. We can regard our older years as the end of the day, or we can see them as the dawning of a new day. Admittedly, as we get older, the number of remaining years is less than at an earlier age. The issue here is not the length of days, but the quality of days.

Whether we view aging as dawn or twilight depends on our attitude. Is life something to be grasped? If this is our attitude, we may focus on the twilight as we feel life slipping away. If we view life as a gift, we can see the ending of one phase of life and the beginning of a new phase. Aging becomes the dawning of a new and exciting day.

How do you view change? If you fear change, then major changes related to aging will be scary. How have you adjusted to changes which have occurred throughout your life? As we learn from past changes, we can be less fearful about an unknown future.

Zechariah spoke of a glorious time in which there will be light in the evening. He could think about this drastic turn of events as positive because he believed in a God who would battle Jerusalem's foes, a God who would exert his rule over all.

Maybe we need to adopt Zechariah's attitude. Surely the God who is king over all has the power to see us through all the changes of life. His power is not confined by time or space, by age or youthfulness. With this view, we can see aging as the dawning of a new day, not the twilight of a day far spent.

(Reprinted from WR, June 6, 1995.)

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

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Can you tell me how to get back to the house at Pooh Corner?

SHESAI



Alison Wingfield

I should have seen it coming. First, Barney was supplanted by Buzz. Then Duplos turned into Legos. Scribbles became letters and words. And worst of all, they no longer wanted to watch Winnie the Pooh. No more soft "Oh, bothers" at our household.

My kids are growing up. With school starting this week, everybody has been asking Luke and Garrett if they are ready to start

kindergarten. They should be asking me if I'm ready. I'm not.

If you had told me two years ago that I would be all sentimental and sad about my boys going to school, I would have laughed at you. The thought of them at school all day, five days a week, was bliss.

Now I'm panicking. Will they sit still? Will they share with the other kids? Will they get lost in the hallways? How will they get along without their mother for such a long time?

Letting go is harder than I thought.

When they are babies and toddlers, we coax and teach and push, praying for the day they can do a few things on their own. And then we want to take it all back.

When we went to an orientation at their school, Mark said he was more worried about me than them. My anxiety must have been peeking through, because one teacher assured me it would be much better to drop the boys off at the front door rather than walk them to their classes. (I think she was worried about me making a scene, not the boys).

Deep down, my major concern is this: Will I become a tossed-off relic of the past, just like Pooh and friends?

During a tour of the school building, I had a glimmer of hope. In the library is a wonderful mural with a forest in the background and a big treehouse with familiar characters standing all around it. It's called Pooh Corner.

HESAI



Mark Wingfield

Here's a bit of advice for husbands whose wives have chosen to be stay-at-home moms. When the day approaches for the children to go to school, do not ask your wife this question: "So, what are you going to do with all your time when the kids go to school?"

I nearly got booted to the guest bed one night after I innocently asked that question. Seems I was hardly the first inquiring mind who wanted to know.

She'll barely admit it, but Alison is taking this major transition pretty hard. She's not alone, though. We know other parents of kindergarteners who also are stressed out for the same reason.

Aside from the natural emotions of sending your offspring into someone else's care, the biggest jolt of starting school for us has been realizing how times have changed. What our boys will experience in kindergarten is more like what we experienced in first grade.

We "shopped" to find the right school. The most surreal part of this experience was standing in a kindergarten classroom last spring talking with the teacher about how that public school "markets" itself. How times have changed.

The one thing that hasn't changed, though, is the eager enthusiasm young children have for learning. Our boys have been so excited about starting school that they hardly can contain themselves. Their minds are wide open for learning.

It's no wonder Jesus used the innocent eagerness of children to illustrate how we must come to him. "Unless you become like a little child," he said, "you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven."

Jesus wants us to come to him with the eager anticipation of a kindergartener on the first day of school.

Democracy fails when bullies prevail

Next week, Christians from all over the world will gather in Coventry, England, for a first-of-its-kind conference to share how God is at work in their lives and in the hard spots of our world. The event, called Reconciliation '97, is part of the lay renewal movement that has been sweeping many Christian faith groups in the latter part of the 20th century.

Southern Baptists have been among the primary planners of this conference over a period of several years. Yet the irony is that no current employee of a Southern Baptist Convention agency will lead so much as a silent prayer at the conference, and only one or two SBC employees will even attend.

The absence of official SBC representatives is not because they're not wanted. Quite the contrary. Many SBC representatives had been scheduled to play major roles in the conference, particularly employees of the North American Mission Board.

Why have they dropped out? They've been bullied and scared out of participation because of the persistent campaigning of one NAMB trustee.

Here's what happened in a nutshell.

Earlier this year, Bill Streich, who was a trustee of the SBC's Home Mission Board, began expressing concern about HMB employees participating in Reconciliation '97. Much of the energy for the conference originated with the HMB's lay renewal office, and many HMB employees were enthusiastic about it.

Streich, a layman from First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas, opposed the conference because of its interfaith makeup. He has expressed loudly and repeatedly his position that Southern Baptists ought not be mixing with people of other Christian faiths, like Roman Catholics and Anglicans, for example.

The assumption behind his position is that Baptists are one of the few—if not the only—authentic expressions of the Christian church in our world. To cooperate with Anglicans and Catholics would "compromise" the Baptist faith, he has said.

At the last-ever meeting of the administrative committee of HMB trustees, Streich managed to get passed an agreement that the HMB would not pay any employee's way to the Reconciliation conference. Bob Record, the new president of NAMB, although not a part of that decision, agreed to abide by it after the HMB merged to form NAMB.

EDITORIAL

At this point, several NAMB employees still planned to attend the conference, but entirely at their own expense.

That wasn't enough for Streich. At the first-ever meeting of NAMB trustees June 19, Streich made a motion that would have resulted in immediate termination of any NAMB employee who attended the conference, even if they did so on their own time and using their own funds. Not a single additional person on the 80-member trustee board supported Streich's motion. He cast the sole vote in favor.

A rational observer would assume that meant NAMB employees would not be threatening their jobs if they fulfilled their commitments to the conference using their own time and funds. Not so. Streich's smear campaign has continued since then, to the point that no NAMB employee is willing to risk his or her job by attending the conference. What's worse, employees of other SBC agencies have had the same pressure applied to them.

What's the moral of this story? Several come to mind.

First, the current climate of the SBC is such that bullies can get their way by intimidation if not by vote—especially if the bully positions himself as being even more conservative than all the other conservatives. This is leading us into an ever-deepening spiral that asks, "How conservative is conservative enough?"

Second, we're reaping the fruit of 18 years of one-issue zealots being placed as trustees of SBC agencies and institutions to fulfill a political agenda. The greatest untold story of the "conservative resurgence" in the SBC is that too many people tapped as trustees have no qualifications to serve in the roles where they have been placed and do not adequately represent the agenda of even mainstream conservatives. The sole asset some of these trustees brought was their willingness to vote the party line on the big issues.

Finally, if you've been around Baptist churches long you know misinformed bullies like Streich don't just rain on national and international parades; they keep the pot boiling at home as well.

The ultimate test of a healthy denomination—or a healthy church—is whether anyone has the moral courage to stand up to such extremists for the sake of advancing God's kingdom.

— Mark Wingfield

Where's Savannah?

By Carey Newman

My friend looked sad. "The last few weeks have been really hard." I have had an intense struggle way down deep inside of me. Some of my Christian friends have told me to go and get counseling, for surely all of this is just a psychological problem. Other Christian friends have told me to ignore it, for God wishes me happy and victorious all the time.

I asked him what he thought was wrong. He said, "I think I have disobeyed God and what is happening on the inside is his way of letting me know that."

The work of the Holy Spirit can be thought of in several ways. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit is God's down payment. The Holy Spirit enters our lives at conversion, when we initially give ourselves over to God, and remains with us from then on.

What God starts at conversion (our salvation), he fully intends to complete. The Holy Spirit is God's promise to do just that.

The Holy Spirit also is that which transforms us. As the presence of the risen Jesus in our lives, the Holy Spirit is God's agent for our spiritual growth. The Holy Spirit changes who we are on the inside, how we behave and what we really care about in life.

The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit acts as our guide. He shows what is right; encourages us to do it; and is there to remind us when we refuse to do so.

In the last few weeks Savannah, our 2 year old, has relished playing a make-believe game. She crawls up under our dinner table—in plain sight of all—and pretends she is invisible. Leanne and I (and anyone else joining us for dinner that night) then take part in her charade. We begin an elab-

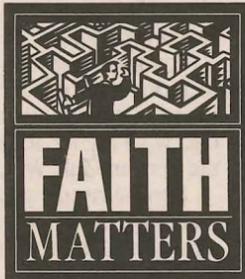
orate cycle: "Is Savannah in the kitchen? No. She's not there. How about her room? No. She's not there either." And so it goes.

Savannah, meanwhile, sits with a grin as big as Texas upon her face, convinced that she remains undetected. The game reaches its climax when we say, "I guess Savannah is gone." Then, and only then, does she with a strange mixture of authority, enthusiasm and joy say, "No! I Savannah here!"

Without questioning the proven worth of professional counseling, sometimes what is wrong with us is spiritual to the core. It stems from our disobedience. It is the Holy Spirit at work inside of us reminding us we belong to God.

Often we think we can conduct our lives in ways that will remain unnoticed by God. We try to make-believe he can't see us. Only when we no longer can stand the spiritual tension do we reveal ourselves to God.

I told my friend to watch and pray, for sometimes God works inside of us, through his Spirit, to bring us to repentance and new levels of obedience.



KENTUCKY

Kentucky Acteens work in New England & across U.S.



ACTIVATORS The first statewide team of Acteens Activators to go on a missions trip spent one week in New England. They were one of 13 Kentucky Activator teams to go on mission trips this summer.

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's first statewide Acteen Activators team recently completed a week of missions work in New England.

The team was one of 13 working in missions this summer, according to Julie Keith, Kentucky WMU associate responsible for Acteens.

The statewide team included 12 Acteens, teenage girls who are involved in missions education and ministries through their local churches. Many Acteens on that team came from churches that wouldn't have been able to sponsor a team alone, Keith noted.

The team worked with five churches in New England, conducting day camps. In addition to performing with puppets and as clowns, the Acteens worked with youth in local churches, linking them with unchurched youth in those communities, Keith said.

"I think it changed their lives.

Many of them are talking about doing summer missions next summer," she said. Through the week, the team ministered to a total of 74 children, she said.

Like other Activator teams, the Kentucky Acteens had to perform 50 hours of personal training, including personal Bible study, Scripture memorization and missions activities prior to the trip, Keith said.

Another statewide team probably won't be possible next year because the national Acteen conference will be held in Louisville, she said. But the following year Keith hopes to organize a group for overseas missions.

Meanwhile, this summer's team learned the importance of serving in any location, she said. "It clicked that you don't have to go out to do missions."

More information about Acteens and Activator missions opportunities is available from Kentucky WMU, (502) 244-6485.

Activator teams

- Calvary Hill Baptist Church in Stanford
- First Baptist Church of Somerset
- First Baptist Church of Whitesburg
- Friendship Baptist Church of Ledbetter
- Graefenburg Baptist Church of Waddy
- Grapevine Baptist Church of Manitou
- Magnolia Baptist Church of Elizabethtown
- New Harmony Baptist Church of Clay
- Rose Hill Baptist Church of Catlettsburg
- Squiresville Baptist Church of Owenton
- Victory Baptist Church of Providence

Employees' prayer groups turn conveyor belt into 'Bible belt'

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE (BP)—The conveyor belt at the local General Electric plant rolls off dishwashers, but workers on the second shift say their prayer meetings are producing more spiritual results.

This production line has been dubbed "the Bible belt" because there are so many Christians working on it. Employees say that since the prayer groups started in 1981 they've seen changed lives and more positive attitudes at work.

"People who transfer in from other buildings talk about the difference they see here," said Danny Lewis.

"When people need prayer, they know where to go," said Lewis, an Assembly of God church member. "We've seen the hand of God move in a number of ways."

Judy Holbrook said the groups are special to her because they led her to become a Christian. She said she accepted Christ as her Savior at a church, but her spiritual search began at work.

The sessions have strengthened her faith and made her bolder, she said, by giving her the opportunity to lead Bible studies and discussions.

"I can't tell you what it means to me to have a group every day during (break) where I can go and pray and learn," said Holbrook, who attends a non-denominational church.

"It's built a strong foundation in me. We've seen people come closer to the Lord and help others be able to share their testimony," she said.

Noah Vance, a 31-year GE employee, said the first group began through the efforts of a bivocational African-American pastor who is now retired. Since then, at least five other groups started throughout the plant, he said, as employees were transferred to other divisions. But the 4 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. shift can't take credit for all of them, he said laughing. "I think God had something to do with that."

The spiritual emphasis even affects those who don't attend, said Vance.

He said before the prayer groups existed alcoholism was a problem in his building. "There's been a big change over the years, but it doesn't happen overnight. We've seen people who were really into sin whom God delivered. That's a highlight, to see people move from sin to salvation."

Another is tangible expressions of faith. One time an employee was in danger of losing his job after repeated absences, Lewis recounted. The company and union officials were unable to get him to visit a doctor, so they asked Lewis and co-worker Tom Allen to intervene. When the medication prescribed by the physician didn't help, they checked him in to a mental health center.

The man suffered from a chemical imbalance in his brain, Lewis said, and though upset at first about the long-term treatment, he later thanked them. Today he is back on the job.

"It's not so much what we do but what God does through us," Lewis said. "People will come to the group for counsel when they need it."

The prayer groups use various formats. Some rotate leaders for prayer and Scripture studies, while others rely on one teacher. One group discusses a daily devotion distributed over the company's e-mail system.

Attendance ranges from a handful to more than a dozen, although as many as 50 have attended. Daily turnouts were higher, for example, during the Persian Gulf War in 1990-91.

Special needs also can recruit attendance. Lewis recalled a woman who came to ask for prayer for her granddaughter, who was suffering from cancer.

Her granddaughter went to the doctor a few days after the prayer, and the physician couldn't find any cancer in her body. Yet after that, the woman never returned.

"I thought, 'Man, if God did that for me, you couldn't keep me out of the prayer group,'" said Lewis.

Allen, a deacon at Louisville's Clifton Baptist Church and graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Sem-

inary, is pleased the groups have drawn from a diverse group of denominations but remained centered on faith in Christ.

"They keep you focused on God," Allen said. "It keeps me in close fellowship with him and other Christians."

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Family ministers from experience of unwed pregnancy

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—A couple whose daughter's unwed pregnancy dramatically changed their lives are letting other parents know hope exists beyond the pain of this crisis.

Last fall Luther and Anne McIntyre organized "Especially for Parents," a weekly support group for parents dealing with the pregnancy of a teenage or unwed daughter.

Parents meet at their home on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. Only a few couples have attended thus far, but McIntyre said they also have served as an information and referral source for other parents.

"The most beneficial thing we do is provide a support mechanism for people to be heard," he said. "They can safely say what they think and feel."

They also share insights, such as the reluctance of some doctors to treat unmarried pregnant women, and the privacy and legal issues a family faces during an adoption.

The group is sponsored by St. Matthews Baptist Church, where the McIntyres received counseling during their daughter's unplanned pregnancy four years ago.

The affiliation also led to the church supplying two mentors to group members' daughters who needed a confidante outside their families.

Associate Pastor David Stancil said he thinks "Especially for Parents" will grow as word spreads of the service.

"It's not like it doesn't happen," he said of the nation's 1 million out-of-wedlock pregnancies each year. "It's just a matter of steering people to the right resources."

"Sometimes it's hard for parents to open up and make an effort to talk to someone they don't know," said Mrs. McIntyre, a nurse at Veterans Administration Hospital in Louisville.

"There is a big need. More girls are becoming sexually active and pregnant these days. It's something you think about but you never think will happen to you," she said.

In the McIntyres' case, their daughter's pregnancy occurred during her freshman year at college. McIntyre also was a student then, at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He wrote about their experience for Home Life magazine two years ago. The McIntyres sell reprints of the article as one of the resources offered by Good News Publishing, which McIntyre organized after he graduated.

"I was on an evangelism track in the school of theology," said the former instructor at the University

of Virginia. "I would like to be teaching, but for now we find ourselves here operating this publishing business. It (the pregnancy) changed our plans 180 degrees."

He also has written two books, "Help for Hurting Parents" and "Whose Child is This? A Biblical View of Adoption," which have sold more than 5,500 copies. He markets them primarily to crisis pregnancy centers, adoption agencies and churches.

This October his company will release a devotional journal aimed at helping expectant mothers reflect on their experience and learn how it af-

fects others.

As the support group grows, McIntyre hopes to write another book as a guide to help parents in other states establish similar efforts.

"The thing that's important about this ministry is the need for support doesn't stop," he said. "Healing takes place continually. Everything doesn't stop and is fixed after the baby is born."

For the McIntyres, there has been a pleasant conclusion to their daughter's choice to give birth. Her child was adopted by another family, and last spring she married after graduating from college.

They also have been through the birth of a grandchild to one of the



How can churches help?

The Center for Women and Families in Louisville offers a variety of ideas for churches wanting to minister to women in crisis:

- Make pamphlets and brochures available at the church concerning various types of crises and services available to address each.
- Contribute financial support and services to families in crisis and to community agencies that respond to crises.
- Provide in-depth training for clergy and laypeople to minister to women in crisis, including matters of abuse, unwed pregnancies or financial crises.
- Establish or expand the church's family ministries program to include a family support network.
- Volunteer to work at a local agency, such as a women's abuse shelter or rape crisis center. Agencies will provide needed training.

couples in their group, which Mrs. McIntyre describes as a joy.

"It's been very rewarding for us, knowing we can give our experience to someone to help them understand what they're going through," she said.

"I think the main thing we try to give families is encouragement and letting them know there is going to be light at the end of the tunnel. Although they wouldn't have chosen for (their daughter) to be pregnant, there are certainly a lot of blessings that come out of it," she said.

LaGrange couple keeps promise with God via crisis center

Continued from page 1

partners," Mrs. Decker said. "Our approach is, 'We have been there.'"

Volunteers not only offer support for the women in their pain but also advice based on "what God's word says," Mrs. Decker said.

When more help is needed than center personnel are trained to give, the volunteers refer clients to professional mental health workers, social service agencies in La Grange and Cornerstone Christian Counseling Services in Newcastle.

Local churches working through the South Oldham Ministerial Association pick up the tab for temporary, emergency shelter in local motels. Churches, including DeHaven Memorial Baptist where the Deckers are members, also help out with food and clothing. A local minister provides pastoral counseling.

Four volunteers, including the Deckers, open their homes as "shepherding homes" to women needing longer-term housing. During the past three years, 10 women have stayed from one to nine months in these homes, Mrs. Decker said.

When the planned 5,200-square-foot transitional facility is completed, the Deckers want to expand the ministry to offer life skills training such as budgeting, job-hunting and parenting techniques for women staying there.

Each resident will be expected to work or attend school, and pay \$90 a month.

A full-time pastoral counselor and a social worker will be employed as



PEACEFUL PLACE Betty Decker stands in the park that is adjacent to 1.5 acres donated for the LaGrange Center for Women in Crisis. Decker plans to build a transitional facility for women in a variety of crises, including pregnancy, abuse, divorce or life-threatening illness. "We are here to introduce the women to Christ and to do anything we can to love them through the trauma," she said.

well, Mrs. Decker said.

The center currently is trying to raise \$200,000 to cover start-up costs and projected staff salaries, Mrs. Decker said. She said she hopes most

of the labor and materials for the building will be donated.

The center will continue not only to provide support for women in pain, but also to point them to the Bible, she

said.

"We are here to introduce the women to Christ and to do anything we can to love them through the trauma," Mrs. Decker said.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Minister sues police over "prayer tour."** A Maryland minister has sued the U.S. Capitol Police for declaring the group of Christians he led on a "prayer tour" around the Capitol building was staging an illegal demonstration. Pierre Bynum, associate pastor of Waldorf Christian Assembly, was guiding a group of eight Nov. 3 when police threatened him with arrest. Prayer is permitted in the chambers of the House and Senate, but it is prohibited in the Rotunda if it is interpreted as a demonstration.

■ **Nation of Islam plans rap events.** The Nation of Islam, led by Minister Louis Farrakhan, plans to sponsor two October events in Washington, D.C.—a "peace and atonement" conference and a rap concert—aimed at ending violence among rap artists. The conference, scheduled for Oct. 9, will feature Farrakhan as moderator of a panel that organizers hope will include prominent rap celebrities, industry officials and the mother of slain rapper Tupac Shakur. On Oct. 11, organizers plan to sponsor a nine-hour rap concert.

■ **Belief in afterlife grows.** More Americans than ever before—81 percent—say they believe in an afterlife, according to a sociologist at the University of Chicago. But Andrew Greeley, a Roman Catholic priest and columnist for Religious News Service, who presented his findings at the meeting of the American Sociological Association in Toronto, said the increase has more to do with an influx of religious immigrants than with a religious revival that some say is sweeping the nation.

■ **Pastor found guilty of sexual misconduct.** A local body of the Reformed Church in America has found Richard Rhem guilty of "gross sexual conduct" and has removed him from the ordained ministry of the denomination. The verdict means Rhem, pastor of the 2,800-member Christ Community Church in Spring Lake, Mich., will no longer be recognized as a minister. Rhem's own congregation, however, has no intention of removing him from the pulpit.

■ **Episcopals honor Florence Nightingale.** The Episcopal Church has added Florence Nightingale—generally recognized as the founder of modern nursing—to the list of model Christians worthy of commemoration. As members of the Anglican Communion, Episcopalians do not have a formal canonization process, but the church does add post-Reformation names to its commemoration list without formally calling them saints.

■ **Youth defend homosexuality stance.** The National Youth Ministry Organization of the United Methodist Church has taken issue with the denomination's conservative wing for suggesting youth were manipulated by adults when they urged the denomination to drop its proscriptions against homosexuality. The group had been criticized in an article of Good News magazine for requesting at its 1995 assembly that the denomination change its stand on homosexuality. Good News is an independent caucus of conservative evangelicals within the United Methodist Church.

■ **Investors want biblical theme park.** Which way to the Rapture roller coaster? A group of Hollywood investors hopes to build a \$1.6 billion amusement park with biblical themes in Nevada. The proposal for "Holy Land" aims to give vacationers a spiritual alternative to Walt Disney's theme parks, said Daxx Edder, head of Nevada-based Quorum International. Edder pictures the theme park featuring virtual-reality attractions of scenes from each of the 66 books of the Bible. "We're going to be parting the Red Sea," he said.

■ **Nun featured on baseball card.** She's not a baseball player, just a fan. But Sister Mary Assumpta, a 40-year-fan of the Cleveland Indians, has earned the unusual designation of being featured on a baseball card. Upper Deck, a card company, has printed 10,000 of the cards featuring the nun. The company plans to donate \$2,000 to Sister Assumpta's community and \$1,000 worth of memorabilia to the nursing home for which she is the primary fund-raiser, reported the Associated Press.

Mormons lead numerical growth in '97

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—Denominations in the United States generally experienced either modest growth or decline last year, according to the 1997 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches.

"Denominations like the Southern Baptist Convention which have experienced growth over the last decade continued to grow. However, they grew at a more modest rate than in many past years," wrote editors of the annual compilation of statistical data by the National Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

"Denominations like the United Methodist Church who have declined in recent years continued to decline, but they lost fewer members this year than in some previous years," they added.

Overall, U.S. church membership increased by about a quarter of a million members. Most of that growth was accounted for by three groups: Mormons, Catholics and Southern Baptists.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints grew more than any other religious group last year, registering a membership increase of 98,400, or 2.39 percent. Mormons comprise the seventh-largest faith group in the U.S., with 4.7 million members.

The Roman Catholic Church showed the second-highest numerical increase, with membership up by 89,849 (0.15 percent). The SBC was third, growing by 49,236 members, a change of 0.32 percent.

Other groups reporting significant growth are:

- Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.), up 4.25 percent.
- Assemblies of God, 1.7 percent.
- Jehovah's Witnesses, 2.14 percent.
- Seventh-day Adventist Church, 2 percent.

■ American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., 0.63 percent.

■ International Pentecostal Holiness Church, 4.68 percent

■ Presbyterian Church in America, 3 percent.

More than half America's church membership is in the three largest denominations: The Roman Catholic Church, the SBC and the United Methodist Church. The 30-largest faith groups comprise 95 percent of the total church membership.

Roman Catholics are by far the largest denomination, with 60.2 million members. Southern Baptists are second, numbering 15.6 million. United Methodists number 8.5 million.

An estimated 151 million U.S. adults, or 86.2 percent of the population, belong to Christian faith groups, the Yearbook reported. The estimated adult Jewish population is 3.1 million, or 1.8 percent of the population. Muslim/Islamic adults number 527,000, or 0.3 percent. Unitarian Universalists number 502,000. Buddhists number 401,000 and Hindus

227,000.

While cautioning that changes in membership reported to the Yearbook for one year cannot be used to determine changes in long-term trends, the editors noted this year's data "raises a question about the assumption that conservative churches grow while liberal denominations decline."

"If liberal is understood to mean denominations that either allow or encourage diversity within the denomination and conservative means those denominations that strive for uniformity in belief and practice, then the Canadian data ... support the theory. However, in the United States the data is not so clear.

"The list of denominations reporting the largest decline in membership includes several denominations that encourage strict adherence to set beliefs," the researchers said.

A total of 114 denominations in the United States and 53 denominations in Canada reported statistical data to the 1997 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches.

Membership rankings of U.S. churches

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Roman Catholics | 60.2 million |
| Southern Baptist Convention | 15.6 million |
| United Methodists | 8.5 million |
| National Baptist Convention USA Inc. | 8.2 million |
| Church of God in Christ | 5.5 million |
| Evangelical Lutheran Church in America | 5.1 million |
| Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints | 4.7 million |
| Presbyterian Church (USA) | 3.7 million |
| National Baptist Convention of America Inc. | 3.5 million |
| African Methodist Episcopal Church | 3.5 million |
| Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod | 2.6 million |
| Episcopal Church | 2.5 million |
| Progressive National Baptist Convention | 2.5 million |
| National Missionary Baptist Convention | 2.5 million |

Guidelines given for faith in federal workplace

WASHINGTON (BP)—Federal employees may keep Bibles at their desks, wear religious apparel and invite co-workers to church, according to guidelines issued by President Clinton last week.

Clinton, acting with the support of organizations spanning the ideological spectrum from liberal civil liberties advocates to conservative evangelicals, issued a 15-page directive clarifying the extent of religious freedom for federal employees.

The 15-page guide requires all non-military federal agencies and their officials to allow to the "greatest extent possible" personal religious exercise, not to discriminate on the basis of religion and to "reasonably accommodate" religious practices by employees.

The "Guidelines on Religious Exercise and Religion Expression in the Federal Workplace" specify an employee will be able to:

- Share his faith with fellow employees.
- Keep a Bible or other scriptures

on his desk and read it during breaks.

■ Wear religious apparel, religious jewelry or clothing with religious messages.

■ Invite co-workers to church services.

■ Be protected from discrimination based on his religious beliefs.

■ Meet with other employees for Bible study and prayer during lunch in a conference room used on a first-come, first-served basis.

■ Have his observation of the Sabbath or a religious holiday accommodated.

■ Be exempted from an assignment he finds objectionable on religious grounds.

Limiting factors are workplace efficiency and activity that would lead a "reasonable observer" to conclude the government is endorsing religion.

Endorsers of the guidelines included such diverse organizations as the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, People for the American Way, the National Association of Evangelicals and the Baptist

Joint Committee on Public Affairs. The Christian Legal Society and American Jewish Congress were prime drafters of the guidelines.

"The president's directive to all federal employees makes it clear that Americans have the right to freedom of religious expression in the federal workplace," said Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Brent Walker, Baptist Joint Committee general counsel, said in a written statement the guidelines "do not solve every problem but do promote understanding and facilitate decision making."

The new guidelines come three years after a controversy that was ignited when the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission proposed guidelines to prevent religious harassment. The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and other organizations opposed them on the basis of their threat to religious expression. After the EEOC received a record 100,000 comments, the guidelines died.

**Special
Church Growth
INSERT**

Church Health Summit '97

October 10-11, 1997

First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Kentucky

Who is Called to the Church Health Summit '97?

Church Health Summit '97 is the first event of its kind for Kentucky Baptists. Its purpose is to celebrate, educate and train believers wanting to help their church become healthy. By assessing your church's current growth status through careful diagnosis, you will identify an overall pattern of growth that could hold the possibility for a healthy prognosis toward vitality in your church. Calling all Kentucky Baptist:

- Church Staff
- Pastors
- Organizational Directors
- Lay Leaders
- Teachers of any age group
- Any Believer

Identify your current state of church growth in four dynamic presentations on the following themes:

- Numerical Growth
- Growth in Christ
- Growth in Ministry
- Growth in Decision-Making

Choose from more than 106 conferences to strengthen and fine-tune your leadership skills in the identified areas of growth, OR Choose from a personalized menu of conferences within the conference track customized for your particular area of church leadership:

- Pastors
- Sunday School Teachers/Leaders
- Deacon Ministry
- Discipleship Leaders
- Ministers of Education
- Ministers of Music
- Ministers of Youth
- Church Secretaries
- Mission Leaders

Experience:

National Speakers, Inspiring Music, Accessible Resources, Networking Possibilities, Engaging Drama by Matt and Darlene Tullos from the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, and an **on-site Bookstore** which will be at your disposal.



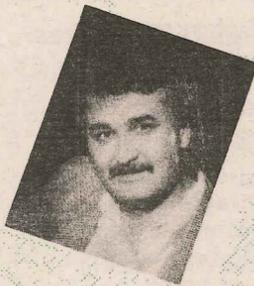
Leith Anderson

Pastor of Wooddale Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is nationally known for his publications, *Dying for Change, A Church for the 21st Century*, and *Winning the Values War in a Changing Culture*.



Reggie McNeal

Director of Leadership Development and Pastoral Ministries for the South Carolina Baptist Convention, has developed some peer pastor training approaches from his own personal burnout experience.



Keith Longbotham

Singer and musician from Nashville, Tennessee, will give witness to his artistry and skills in the role of Worship Leader for Church Health Summit '97.



Alma Randolph

Featured artist from Owensboro, Kentucky and at the '96 Kentucky Baptist State Convention, will give an inspiring concert Friday evening.

In October of 1997, Kentucky Baptist Pastors, Staff and Church Laity will assemble at First Baptist Church in Bowling Green to discover the dynamics of *growing a healthy church*. Like you, most Kentucky Baptist churches will have asked these questions and will be searching for answers:

- What do I need to do to help my church become a Healthy Church?
- In what areas have Kentucky churches grown the strongest?
- Will using a Team Approach to ministry work in my church?
- How can I resolve the differences between Musical Styles in my church?
- Can I effectively teach Preschoolers to make Healthy Decisions?
- What must I do to plan a Big Event that captures Community-wide Attention and Reaches People?

Summit '97 will begin to set a foundation for careful analysis of your church's current situation. A number of activities, including more than 106 conferences, will provide opportunities for you to find various ways toward being a contributing and collaborative member of your church's health diagnostic team.

Please take a few minutes to read through this insert, complete the necessary information and return the registration form with fees to the *Kentucky Baptist Convention*. Take advantage of the cost-saving rates by Pre-registering before September 30. If you have any questions, please call the *Church Growth Division* at 502-245-4101, ext. 227, and provide us the opportunity to assist you.

**See you in
Bowling Green!**

Session I Friday, 3:30 PM

* These Conferences and/or their time slots are subject to change without prior notification; however, an up-to-date Conference Listing will be available at Registration on the days of the Summit.

Please contact the Church Growth Division at 502-245-4101, ext. 227, if more information or clarification is needed.

Mobilizing the Laity, *Part 1*
 Demographic and Life-style Information, *Part 1*
 Attendance Campaigns: Find 'em and Keep 'em, *Part 1*
 Moving Beyond Worship Wars, *Part 1*
 Building Strong Families, *Part 1*
 Personal Money Management, *Part 1*
 Enneagram: Seeing How Personalities Relate and Collide, *Part 1*
 How Prayer Refocused our Church
 Ministering to People with Special Needs
 Guiding Children in their Understanding of God
 Support Group Ministry
 Developing Financial Stewards without Offending
 Drama that Grows the Faithful
 Connecting with a Preschooler's Family
 Spiritual Maturity is a Process, not an Inoculation
 Making Church Ordinances More Meaningful

Church Health through Growing in Christ-likeness
 Keeping Yourself Focused and Growing
 Developing a Hopeful Church
 Growing in a Long Term Pastorate
 Discipling: From A to Z
 Ministering to the Extended Families of Divorce
 Church Secretaries: Personal Spiritual Growth
 Beginning an Alternative Worship: How and Why?
 Discipling Youth
 Growing through Life's Transitions
 Preaching that Disciples
 Guiding Preschoolers in their Understanding of God
 Faith Development in the Seasons of Life
 Measuring a Disciple
 KBC Churches and Maturational Growth

Session II Friday, 8:00 PM

Finding Strength Under Stress in Ministry, *Part 1*
 Mobilizing the Laity, *Part 2*
 Demographic and Life-style Information, *Part 2*
 Attendance Campaigns: Find 'em and Keep 'em, *Part 2*
 Moving Beyond Worship Wars, *Part 2*
 Building Strong Families, *Part 2*
 Personal Money Management, *Part 2*
 Enneagram: Seeing How Personalities Relate and Collide, *Part 2*
 How Prayer Refocused our Church
 Ministering to People with Special Needs
 Guiding Children in their Understanding of God
 Support Group Ministry
 Beyond the Church Page: Raising the Visibility of your Church
 An Alternative to Children's Church
 Drama for the Unchurched
 Keeping Ideas Fresh in Worship Planning
 A Church Growing Numerically without Overloading its People
 Growing your Sunday Morning Worship Service
 Making the Invitation More Inviting
 How Erlanger Baptist Church Grew
 Reaching New People with Needs-Based Bible Studies
 Church Secretaries: Helping Numerical Growth
 Growth Spiral
 Evangelistic Sermons that Relate
 What is your Preschool Ministry Communicating?
 Basic Formulas for Church Growth
 Doing Big Events to Reach People
 Seeker-Service Outreach
 Ten Benchmarks for Measuring a Healthy Church
 Taking the "Numb" out of Numbers
 Turning Cheering Crowds into Servant Teams
 KBC Churches and Numerical Growth

Church Health Summit '97 Registration Form

Return this form and registration fees to: **Church Health Summit '97**
 Church Growth Division
 P.O. Box 43433 • Louisville, KY 40253-0433
 Make check payable to *Kentucky Baptist Convention*

Name or Group Contact Person _____

Church _____

Address _____

City _____ State Zip _____

Phone () _____ Fax () _____

Association _____

Please indicate the number of participants from each leadership area:

_____ Deacons
 _____ Discipleship Leaders
 _____ Music Leaders
 _____ Sunday School Teachers/Leaders
 _____ Mission Leaders
 _____ Youth Ministry Leaders
 _____ Other Leadership Positions
 _____ Minister of Education
 _____ Minister of Music
 _____ Minister of Youth
 _____ Other Staff Positions
 _____ Pastor
 _____ Church Secretary

Registration Fees:

Pre-registration fee\$15.00
 (Before 9/30/97-one person)
 Pre-registration fee\$50.00
 (Before 9/30/97-unlimited number from YOUR church)
 Regular registration fee\$20.00
 (After 9/30/97-one person)
 Regular registration fee\$60.00
 (After 9/30/97-unlimited number from YOUR church)
 Total number participating
 Total amount enclosed\$

Session III, Early Bird Conferences Saturday, 8:00 AM

Ministering to Hurting Families, *Part 1*
 Assimilation: Helping New Folks Become
 Family, *Part 1*
 Enneagram: Seeing How Personalities Relate
 and Collide, *Part 1*
 Finding Strength under Stress in Ministry, *Part 2*
 Leading a Church to Define its
 Beliefs: *An Overview*
 Involving the Laity in Worship Planning
 When a Staff Person Must Go
 Constitution and Bylaws: Revising without
 Undoing the Church
 Getting the North-Bound Train Going North
 Developing Financial Stewards without Offending
 An Alternative to Children's Church
 Beyond the Church Page: Raising the Visibility
 of your Church
 How Prayer Refocused our Church
 Discovering How a Church Makes Decisions
 What Kind of Church is Ours?
 A Church Remaining Healthy while Growing
 in Decision-Making
 Children's Learning Styles
 Church Secretaries: Opportunities for
 Professional Growth
 From Vision to Ministry
 Making Wednesday Night a Growing Time
 Using a Team Approach to Ministry
 Make Lasting Impressions
 Spiritual Sensitivity through Prayer
 Maturing while Leading
 Worship Music for Busters
 Gift-Based Deacon Ministry
 How We Conducted the Study and
 How Churches were Chosen to Participate

Session IV Saturday, 10:30 AM

Moving Beyond Worship Wars, *Part 1*
 Leading a Church to Define its Beliefs, *Part 1*
 How to Help a Fussing Church, *Part 1*
 Enneagram: Seeing How Personalities Relate
 and Collide, *Part 2*
 Ministering to Hurting Families, *Part 2*
 Assimilation: Helping New Folks Become
 Family, *Part 2*
 When a Staff Person Must Go
 Developing Leaders
 From Vision to Ministry
 Gift-Based Deacon Ministry
 Worship Music for Busters

Drama that Heals Bad Decisions
 Leading a Choir to be Involved in
 Incarnational Ministry
 Music for Healing
 How Prayer Refocused our Church
 Connecting with a Preschooler's Family
 Starting a Crisis Pregnancy Ministry
 Identify the Needs, then Connect
 Discipleship and the Decision-Making Process
 Church Secretaries: Flexibility in Decision-Making
 Ministry to College Students
 Teens and Decision-Making
 Ministering to the Hungry
 Decisions not to Make as a Minister of Education
 Teaching Decision-Making with Preschoolers
 Emerging Apostolic Leaders
 Transitions: It's not the Change that Kills
 AIDS Ministry: Individuals and Families
 Developing Leaders
 Ministering to Survivors of a House Fire
 Decision-Making with Children
 KBC Churches and Decision-Making Growth

Session V Saturday, 1:30 PM

Moving Beyond Worship Wars, *Part 2*
 Leading a Church to Define its Beliefs, *Part 2*
 How to Help a Fussing Church, *Part 2*
 Ministering to People with Special Needs
 Discovering How a Church Makes Decisions
 Children's Learning Styles
 Worship Music for Busters
 Drama that Moves us to Ministry
 Connecting with a Preschooler's Family
 Music for Healing
 Turning a Great Defense into a Great Offense
 Starting a Crisis Pregnancy Ministry
 Ministering to the Extended Families of Divorce
 Identify the Needs, then Connect
 Leading the Church to be Community
 Change Agents
 Church Secretaries: Reaching Out
 Ministering to Survivors of a House Fire
 Children Doing Ministry
 Ministry to College Students
 Involving Teens in Ministry Projects
 Mississippi River Ministry
 Ministers of Education Leading a
 Church in Ministry
 Preaching for Servant Ministry
 Beyond Barney: Teaching Preschoolers to
 Love Others
 Jail/Prison Ministry
 AIDS Ministry: Individuals and Families
 Revitalizing Evangelism through Sunday School
 KBC Churches and Incarnational Growth

Our diagnosis of health in Kentucky Baptist churches focuses on church members' attitudes. This collection of conferences was birthed by a research project with 20% of Kentucky Baptist churches. It is the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff's deepest desire to assist our churches in discovering paths toward health and growth.

The purpose of the research study was to reveal the ways Kentucky Baptist churches are experiencing numerical growth, remaining stable or declining numerically. This study views church growth as more than numerical growth by exploring the varied features of church life. Reaching more people is extremely important (Numerical growth), but there is an increasing need to help churches grow in their ministry to those outside the church (Incarnational growth), to help church members grow in their daily walk with Christ (Maturational Growth) and to assist churches with learning flexibility in decision-making (Decision-Making Growth). All four of these areas combine to affect the growth and health potential of our Kentucky churches.

—paraphrased from "The Healthy Church" report, 1997

Customized Conference Tracks for your Particular Leadership Area

An intentional feature of this Summit is the creation of and your selection from individualized conference tracks designed to meet the specific needs of ministry leadership in our growing churches. A personalized menu is available for you to determine which conferences to attend. Contact the Church Growth office for specific details at 502-245-4101, ext. 227.*

Schedule

Friday, October 10

- 2:00 General Session I
Maturational Growth
- 3:30 Conference Session I
(Choose from more than
30 conferences)
- 4:30 Dinner Break
- 6:30 General Session II
Numerical Growth
- 8:00 Conference Session II
(Choose from more than
30 conferences)
- 9:00 Concert
Sponsored by *Western Recorder*

Saturday, October 11

- 8:00 Conference Session III
Early Bird Conferences
(Choose from more than
25 conferences)
- 9:15 General Session III
Decision-Making Growth
- 10:30 Conference Session IV
(Choose from more than
30 conferences)
- 11:30 Lunch Break
- 1:30 Conference Session V
(Choose from more than
25 conferences)
- 2:45 General Session IV
Incarnational Growth
- 3:30 Dismiss

Summit Accommodations

The following list is provided to help you make lodging reservations. First Baptist Church is located at 621 East 12th Street, on the corner of 12th and Chestnut Streets in Bowling Green.

Best Western Motor Inn
Highway 231 at I-65, 42104
800-343-2937; 502-782-3800
Denny's Restaurant on site

Budgetel
165 Three Springs Road, 42104
502-843-3200

Comfort Inn
4646 Scottsville Road, 42104
502-843-1163
Continental breakfast provided

Greenwood Executive Inn
Off Scottsville at I-65 exit 22
800-354-4394
Restaurant; room service

Hampton Inn
233 Three Springs Road, 42104
502-842-4100
Continental breakfast provided

Holiday Inn
3240 Scottsville Road, 42104
502-781-1500
Restaurant; room service

Ramada Inn
4767 Scottsville Road, 42104
502-781-3000
Restaurant; room service

University Plaza Suites
1021 Wilkinson Trace, 42103
502-745-0088
Restaurant; room service

Meals and Fees

Ample time will be provided for lunch and dinner breaks. Explore Bowling Green restaurants. A list of eating establishments will be provided at Registration on the days of the Summit.

The facilities at First Baptist Church Bowling Green are handicap-accessible with the additional convenience of elevators.

Sorry, child care services will not be available at the Summit.

Save \$5.00 per person or \$10.00 per group when you Pre-register by September 30th!

Pre-registration:

\$15.00 per person

\$50.00 for an unlimited number from YOUR church

Registration after September 30th:

\$20.00 per person

\$60.00 for an unlimited number from YOUR church

African churches return favor by coming to America

By Nkiru Asika
Religion News Service

LOS ANGELES (RNS)—For generations, Christian missionaries from the United States journeyed to Africa to teach their religion.

Now, however, amid an explosion of Christianity in Africa, churches there are sending thousands of missionaries overseas to preach the Christian message in their own unique style. And many of those missionaries are coming to the United States.

"We have been blessed by the U.S. and now we want to give back to them through the gospel of Christ," said Badeg Bekele, pastor of Emmanuel Ethiopian Church in Los Angeles.

African ministries are springing up in America because "the church in Africa is on fire, while the church in America is, for the most part, losing its zeal," said Pastor Ivey Williams of the Tallahassee, Fla., congregation established by the Nigeria-based Redeemed Christian Church of God.

Nobody knows how many African churches exist in the United States, but estimates range from hundreds to thousands.

Some of the churches are affiliates of larger bodies such as the Nigerian-

based Deeper Life Bible Fellowship, which has congregations across America, while others are independent, such as the fellowship of French-speaking Africans who gather in Congolese pastor Daniel Kapepula's home in Takoma Park, Md.

Regardless of size or national origin, African churches share common characteristics of exuberant worship, heavy emphasis on prayer and a strong mission to plant new churches and win converts.

Ndugu Tofori-Atta, who coordinates an African religious heritage project at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, said the growth of African ministries in America is a natural byproduct of Christianity's African growth. In 1960, 10.7 percent of the world's evangelical Christians were Africans; by 1993 this figure had climbed to 20.9 percent, according to Patrick Johnstone, author of "Operation World."

Researchers also estimate that by the year 2000, 338 million of Africa's 700 million people will be Christians. Thousands of churches have opened across Africa and many of them are now setting up branches in Western Europe and America.

Despite their growth, African ministries face a number of obstacles. One

of these is the uncertain immigration status of some of the ministers and church workers. Pastors often are in America for a limited time.

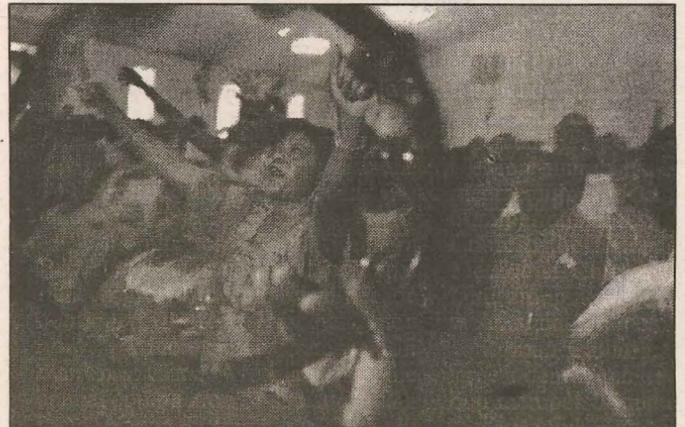
"If the pastor was just sent here by his organization for one or two years, then he cannot look to more long-term projects," said Joshua Shonubi, pastor of Action Chapel in Washington.

He predicts those pastors who can become more rooted in the United States will involve their African churches in the community, running food banks, homeless shelters and other such programs.

A further obstacle is the insularity of the African church and a "lack of cohesiveness" between the African church and the African-American churches, said Stephen Gyermeh, a Ghanaian who founded Church of the Living God in Hyattsville, Md.

Shonubi predicted during the next 10 years, more ethnic and social barriers will come down as people see that African churches have a lot to contribute both to the American church and to society at large.

"It is time for the African to spread the gospel," said Gyermeh. "I think the Lord wants to make sure that our particular way of worship and praise and prayer is known to the rest of the world."



CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Baby grand piano, \$3,000. Call Greg Harry at Cecilia Baptist Church, (502) 862-4228.

SEEKING: Audubon Baptist Church is currently seeking a part-time minister of youth. The church seeks a mature Christian who is committed to youth ministry. Anyone interested should send a resumé to: Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane, Louisville, KY 40217, or call the church office at (502) 635-6750.

SEEKING: Growing church seeks full-time music worship leader. Forest Park Baptist Church, Bowling Green, KY 42101. (502) 843-3419; Fax: (502) 843-3434.

NEEDED: Mothers day out director for two-days-per-week program at Rockford Lane Baptist Church. If interested, or for more information, contact Ron Abrams, pastor, at (502) 447-2591.

SEEKING: Louisville church seeks full-time children/preschool minister. Experience required; generous salary and benefits. Send resumé to: P.O. Box 221066, Louisville, KY 40222-1066.

SEEKING: Nicholasville Baptist Church is searching for a full-time minister of youth. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Nicholasville Baptist Church, 131 South Main St., Nicholasville, KY 40356.

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

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

RETREAT: KBC Keyboard Ministers Retreat for church pianists/organists, Sept. 19-20, FBC Bowling Green. Call church music department, (502) 245-4101, by Sept. 1 for information.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of LaCenter, Ky., is currently accepting resúmes for a full-time minister of music, C/Y. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 239, LaCenter, KY 42056.

SEEKING: Baptist church in Bowling Green looking for a part-time minister of youth to minister to approximately 40 enrolled youth plus scores of others not enrolled. Must be born-again, faithful to local church and morally upright. Send inquiry or resumé to: Greenwood Baptist Church, 5165 Scottsville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42104. Telephone: (502) 781-2378.

MEDICAL: Diabetics with Medicare or insurance, get your diabetic supplies mailed to your home. Insulin-dependent only call: (800) 337-4144.

FOR SALE: 1970 MCI Challenger 39-passenger bus. Mileage 182,995. If interested, please call Nancy Myrick, (502) 368-0239, or Rev. Jacky Newton, (502) 368-5806.

ANNIVERSARY: All former staff members and friends of Chevy Chase Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky., are invited to attend its 50th anniversary celebration Sept. 27-28, 1997. There will be a reunion fellowship at 7 on Saturday, Sept. 27. Dinner will be served after the morning worship service Sept. 28.

SEEKING: Located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, Hickory is the home of Viewmont Baptist Church, a strong moderate congregation which is completing a successful intentional interim process and is now seeking an experienced pastor. The church is located between downtown and the rapidly growing and popular Lake Hickory area. The congregation places a high value on interesting and life-oriented worship services which are televised (live) to the surrounding four-county area. Major renovations of educational and office facilities are nearing completion. The candidate for pastor should have a maturing relationship with Jesus Christ, possess communicative preaching and teaching skills, have sufficient administrative skills to lead a multiple staff, involve laity in the planning and leadership of programs and events, ensure effective ministry to all age groups, have strong pastoral interests and gifts, develop healthy relationships within and outside the membership characterized by high ethical and moral standards, and be committed to the values and mission of the congregation. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Viewmont Baptist Church, P.O. Box 5379, Viewmont Station, Hickory, NC 28601. Resúmes will be received until Oct. 1, 1997.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Mt. Sterling, Ky., is seeking a full-time minister of youth/music. Applicants should send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 324, Mt. Sterling, KY 40353.

SEEKING: Organist (pipe organ), First Baptist Church, Mayfield. Contact: David Whaley, First Baptist, 118 West South St., Mayfield, KY 42066, or (502) 247-2992.

NEEDED: Full-time secretary at DeHaven Baptist Church, LaGrange. WorkPerfect 6.0 skills a plus. Contact Scott Riggs at (502) 222-9306.

SEEKING: Prison Fellowship Ministries is seeking a full-time administrative secretary for its Louisville office. Requirements: two or three years strong administrative experience; good organizational and office management skills; excellent communication skills; and PC proficiency (MS Word, Excel). Database experience preferred. Send resumé to: Prison Fellowship Ministries, P.O. Box 17500, Washington, D.C. 20041-0500, Attn: Human Resources.

WANTED: Used or new portable partitions to divide classes in fellowship hall. Call Phil Potratz, (502) 241-8534.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to youth. Submit resumé to: Personnel Committee, Lyndon Baptist Church, 8025 New LaGrange Road, Louisville, KY 40222. No phone calls please.

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

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: Boone's Creek Baptist Church, 197 Cleveland Road, Lexington, KY 40509.

SEEKING: Scottsville Baptist Church, Scottsville, Ky., is seeking a full-time minister of education and outreach. If interested, please send resumé or request for further information to: Minister of Education Search Committee, Scottsville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 392, Scottsville, KY 42164, or phone Larry Wilcher at (502) 237-5444, ext. 5345 days.

RHYTHMIC WORSHIP The number of African churches in America has grown as a byproduct of Christianity's growth on the African continent.

■ **Top:** Choir members sing and dance to West African rhythms during Sunday service at the Church for the Living God in Hyattsville, Md.

■ **Bottom:** Their exuberant style of worship is attracting non-African members. (RNS photo)

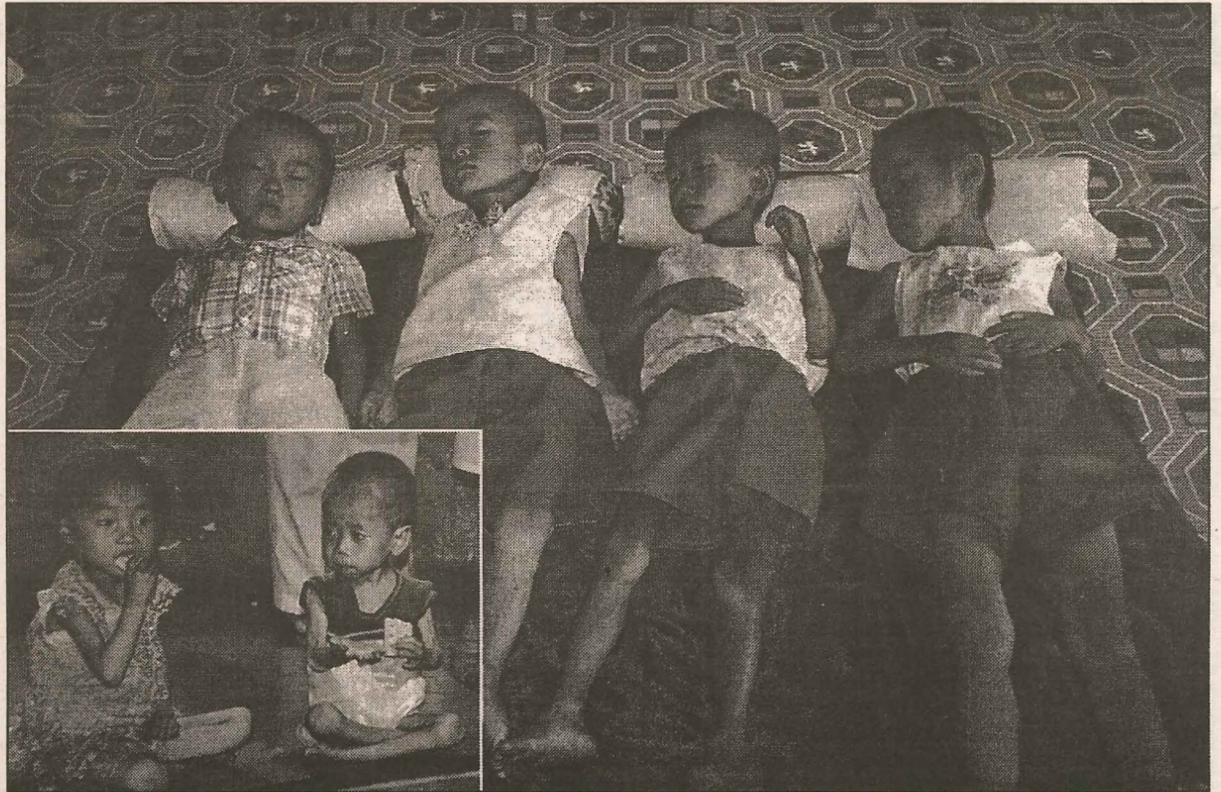
WORLD

WORLD VIEW

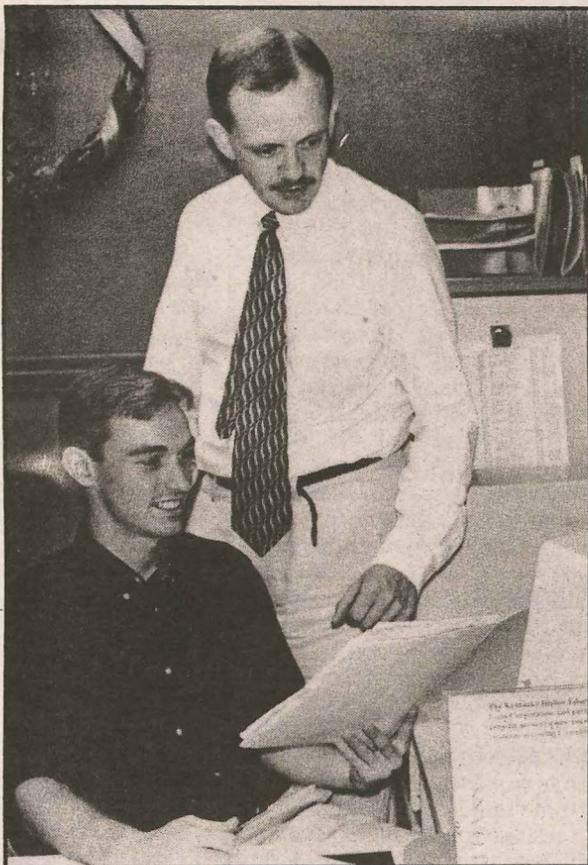
■ **Benin legalizes voodoo national holiday.** The parliament of the West African country of Benin has adopted a law formally making July 10 a voodoo national holiday. Benin is considered the cradle of the voodoo religion. Although officials have declared a voodoo holiday on July 10 in past years, President Mathieu Kerekou, who describes himself as a born-again Christian, decided to seek approval of the parliament in making the holiday official, Reuters reported.

■ **Korean Christians seek reunification help.** Prominent Christians from both North and South Korea have appealed to the World Alliance of Reformed Churches to help them overcome their political divisions and achieve reunification of their country. Kang Yong-Suo, chair of the (North) Korean Christian Federation, called on WARC to stand firm "in solidarity with Christians in our country for our national reunification." This year was the first time since the early 1950s that North Korean Christians have attended the WARC General Council's annual meeting.

■ **Religious rift resolution urged.** Leaders of Romania's Orthodox and Catholic churches have been called on by the Bucharest newspaper Cotidianul to end a bitter rift over the restoration to Greek Catholic control of more than 2,500 churches and other church-related buildings seized by communists. As in other Eastern European nations, buildings originally owned by Romania's Greek Catholic Church, an independent church that retains ties with the Vatican, had been confiscated by communists after World War II and handed over to Orthodox control.



FAMINE CONTINUES Four boys suffering from malnutrition in the eastern North Korean city of Wonsan lie on the floor of Ponchun kindergarten. Doctors say 15 of the kindergarten's children have died so far this year. ■ **Inset:** Nursery school children in a village northwest of Pyongyang receive rations of food. During the past year, Southern Baptists have contributed \$1.3 million through the International Mission Board to help alleviate the results of North Korea's famine. Plans are being made for more food shipments. A team of Southern Baptists will visit that country in September to survey needs and develop future response. Contributions designated for North Korean famine relief may be sent to the International Mission Board at P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230. (Reuters photos)



Aaron is pictured with Fred Miller, a financial aid counselor at Campbellsville University.

Meet Aaron Gabehart

Aaron Gabehart, the son of James and Joan Gabehart of Campbellsville, Kentucky, is a junior majoring in social studies at Campbellsville University. He plans to teach high school following graduation.

Aaron is a work study student in the University's Office of Financial Aid. Because of Kentucky Baptists' faithful Cooperative Program giving, this college student receives a Church Matching Scholarship, the Frances and Ruth Moore Scholarship, and the Women's Missionary Union Anniversary Scholarship. This financial assistance enables Aaron to continue his college education as he prepares to teach tomorrow's youth.

As college students begin a new academic year this month, remember that your Cooperative Program dollars *do make a difference.*

Another example of your
Cooperative Program dollars at work!



MISSIONS

Kentucky natives lead ministry for Guam crash workers

Continued from page 1

or that sort of thing. I felt it was an honor to be able to help."

Smith also helped coordinate counseling services for about 300 family members of the victims who came to Guam, primarily from Korea.

Counselors dealt with the immense grief, frustration and anger, particularly as family members visited the crash site.

One area was set up on the cliff where family members could say

their last farewells; one man standing near Smith attempted to jump off the cliff but was stopped by a soldier.

Smith said he worked non-stop for about two days and nights after the accident, culminating in the gut-wrenching task of working with family members at the site on Aug. 9. "It was the most emotional day I think I have ever spent in my life," he said.

At the church, members were busy around the clock making sand-

wiches and preparing supplies. "The Hawaii Baptist Convention sent \$1,000 for the relief effort to the church, which was largely needed to buy Gatorade," Smith said, noting intense heat and hazardous conditions made providing liquids one of their most important tasks. The church, founded by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, is now a part of the Hawaii convention.

The last of the volunteers were relieved at the site by Korean Air

Lines workers by Aug. 13, but Smith said his counseling work is far from over. Those who assisted with the effort continue to deal with the trauma of what they have seen and experienced.

"I guess there's no limit to how your faith in God helps you through these things," he said. "The greatest thing that I've learned is that God doesn't hide us under his wings to protect us, but he hides us to prepare us. And then he puts us back in the battle."

Kentucky missionaries to S. Africa offer evangelistic sewing lessons

KYALITSHA TOWNSHIP, South Africa—A stitch in time saves souls, according to a Kentucky missionary to South Africa.

Shepherdsville native Eugene Elder recently led a recognition ceremony for women graduating from a sewing class.

In addition to the eight graduates, many others also attended the service. During the graduation Elder preached about Christianity and six South Africans accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

The sewing sessions had been

sponsored as an outreach ministry of the Baptist church in Kyalitsha Township.

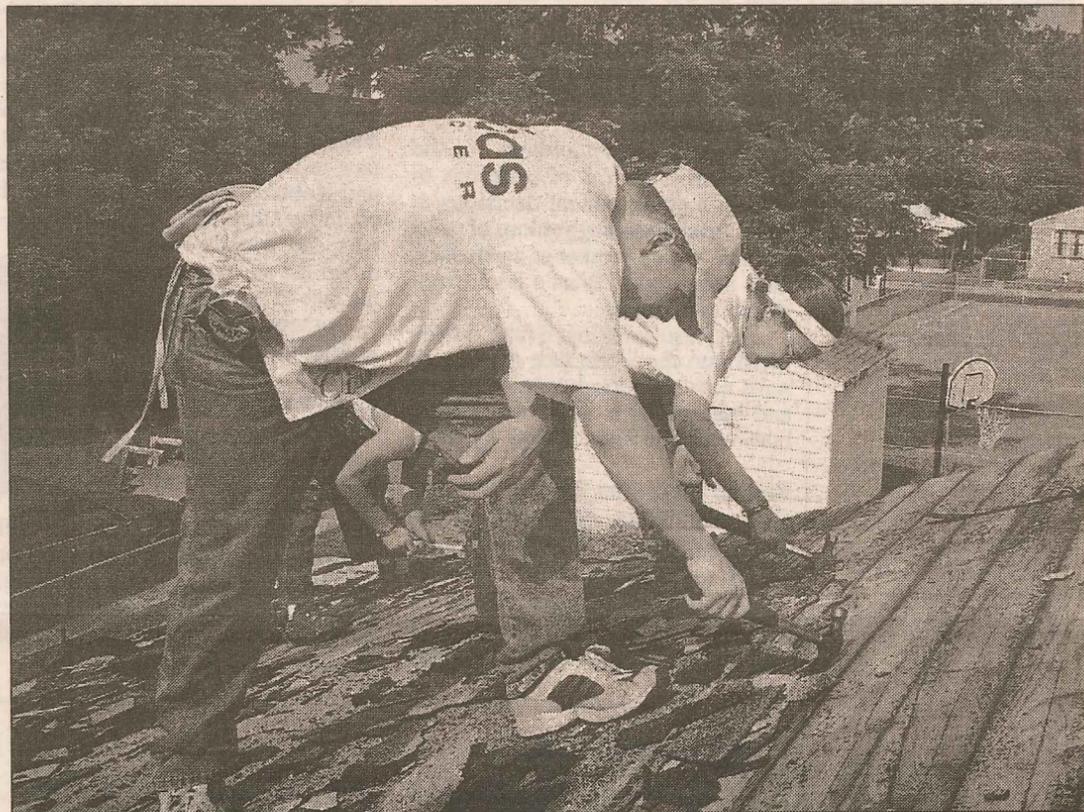


Elder

Elder's wife, El-lamae, had taught the pastor's wife, Angelina Lata, how to sew years ago and Lata started an "evangelistic" sewing class.

"Angelina led the way in using this skill as an evangelistic outreach and to help ladies equip themselves to help support their

families," said Mrs. Elder. "It was thrilling to be a part of this service and be where God is working."



WORLD CHANGERS
Two high school students help repair a roof at a World Changers work site in Memphis, Tenn. Nearly 11,000 volunteers from 585 churches worked on home repair and renovation projects this summer, according to the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. (BP Photo by Amy Witherspoon)

Like parents, like children

The first verse of one of my favorite hymns goes like this:

"I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold;

I'd rather be his than have riches untold;

I'd rather have Jesus than houses or lands.

I'd rather be led by his nail-scarred hand

Than to be the king of a vast domain

Or be held in sin's dread sway.

I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today."

Although it's a favorite of mine, it's also very intimidating when I compare what I say I believe with what I do.

Materialism is a megaforce in the world today; it's a disease, a cancer not only in the world but in our churches, and many of us parents are transmitting this infectious virus to our children.

Some parents who are in hock up to their ears continue to buy things. Parents obsessed with brand names and who buy on impulse treat shopping as a pastime are teaching their children this kind of undisciplined monetary behavior.

Other parents buy for their children out of guilt—trying to make

up for spending little time with their children. All of this communicates the wrong message about the importance of things, and once our children are addicted to this buying behavior, they become masters at continuing it.

Overspending and the buying cycle are modern terms for greed, and greed by any name is sin, and sin is rebellion against God.

There has never been a time when our churches needed to speak and teach more clearly to all age groups the responsible use of money. Like parents, like children.

May God help us as Christian parents to be cured of this disease so we can cure our children. Jesus said, "But seek first his kingdom and his right-

eousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33).

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation conducts Christian Financial Planning seminars designed to teach biblical principles of the responsible use of money. Please call us at (502) 244-6466 to arrange one in your church.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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Ronald Shaver
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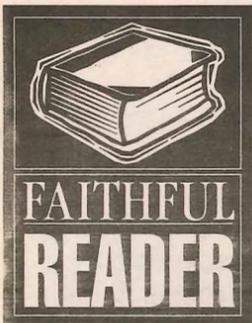
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BOOKS



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Midlane Park Baptist Church in Louisville, and Jim Holladay, pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville. Holladay and Hager welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: docholladay@juno.com or jwhager@juno.com

Go to Work and Take Your Faith Too! Ross West. Peake Road, 1997. 164 pages. \$13.95 ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Ross West's book addresses an area that is difficult for most people to settle in their own lives. As a result there is a great divide between the relevance of "church" faith and life in the workplace. This is not to say people live terrible lives, it's just that they never really think much about how their faith can affect their work life. West encourages us to let faith have just as much of a place at work as it does when we walk in the doors of the church.

West's generous use of illustrations combined with his light-hearted conversational style makes this book highly readable.

Of particular importance for the individual is the list of questions to help in making ethical decisions at work. In addition, suggestions of ways to relate to a co-worker as a person of faith helps move West's book from theory to practice.

West also notes that if faith is to be taken into the workplace the church must actively acknowledge the issue and take positive steps to celebrate both work and faith. *Wayne Hager*

God on Trial: The Book of Job and Human Suffering. Bill Thomason. The Liturgical Press, 1997. 101 pages. \$9.95. ♦♦♦♦♦

The "Job-we-all-know" is not the Job to be found within the pages of this unique book of the Bible. In fact,

Thomason argues, the Job we picture as a model of patient suffering, who "did not 'utter one sinful word,'...is, in the last analysis, a discouraging figure."

Thomason's theme is that Job is anything but a model of patience. Rather, Job is a man who in the face of inexplicable suffering decides to put God on trial. Job asks all the hard questions and with brutal honesty confronts the difficult concept of "human suffering in a world created by God." Job insists there must be an answer to the question, but ultimately never finds it.

Only a direct encounter with the Creator quells Job's questions.

Thomason leads us through the text of Job in a way that brings the power of the dialogue between Job and his friends to life. I was brought face-to-face with Job, Bildad, Eliphaz and Zophar. But more than that, I could hear the voices of church members and friends who have asked the same questions in the face of senseless tragedy.

Perhaps the most exciting and poignant section of the book was the chapter on the encounter between God and Job.

The final chapter reflects Thomason's own struggle with and attempt to answer the questions posed by Job and will challenge the reader to stretch his or her response to evil and suffering. This short book could be a valuable resource to strengthen preaching and pastoral care. *Jim Holladay*

Rethinking the Church. James Emery White. Baker Books, 1977. 142 pages. ♦♦♦♦

The title of this book suggests it is in the category of books seeking to reshape the way church is done in America. Most of those books focus on a suggested way of "doing church" better and more effectively.

Some of what White discusses could be put into that category, but his real purpose is to encourage the church to shift from asking the question "How do I do this better?" to "Why do I do it this way or at all?" In other words, he asks for some theological reflection. The discussion focuses on worship, evangelism, structure, discipleship, ministry and community. While each chapter includes ways to do church "better," White does a good job of calling the reader to consider the basic question: Why is this even an area of discussion in the life of the church?

In particular White caused me to do some rethinking in the chapter on church structures. While White does lean toward a particular structure for the church, his discussion is good because it raises some needed questions about sacred structures such as committees and even majority rule. You may not always agree with White's opinions,

but you can always give him credit for making you sit back and consider why you do what you. Church staff and lay leaders will benefit from White's discussion. *Wayne Hager*

Old Wine in New Wineskins: Doctrinal Preaching in a Changing World. Millard Erickson & James Heflin. Baker Book House, 1997. 269 pages. ♦♦♦♦

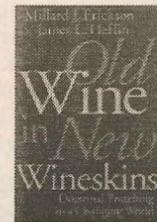
In a time when the Christian church wrestles with declining attendance and the difficulty of reaching a society disaffected with organized religion, preaching and teaching about doctrine is not a high priority for most pastors.

But former Southwestern Seminary professors Millard Erickson and James Heflin contend that, despite the difficulty, the church needs a regular diet of doctrinal teaching and preaching. Without a sound doctrinal foundation, the life and ministry of the congregation can easily form in ways that are out of sync with God's work in the world.

Erickson and Heflin seek to accomplish at least three tasks in this book. First, they identify and address contemporary obstacles to doctrine and preaching from both society and the church. Second, they develop a model for discovering the doctrinal content within Scripture. Third, they identify and describe sermon forms for preaching doctrine.

A strength of this book is the brutal honesty with which the authors argue for the need for doctrinal preaching. Another strength is the discussion of how to read and study Scripture to discover the doctrinal content.

One weakness grows out of its collaborative structure. The initial discussion about contemporary issues is repetitive. *Jim Holladay*



Welcome, Dean

Dean Whitaker, our new campus minister, and his wife, Jane, recently joined our Cumberland College family.

Whitaker comes to us after having served most recently as instructor and assistant director of the intensive English as a second language program at the University of Louisville.

A native of Hazard, Whitaker received his bachelor of arts degree in business administration from Alice Lloyd College and his master of divinity degree in Christian education, with a concentration in campus ministry, from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. In the year before his work with the University of Louisville, Whitaker served as an intern with the University of Louisville Baptist Student Union working with international students, as an instructor's assistant at Southern Seminary helping with courses in "Christian Faith and the University" and "Ministry to College Students," and as an intern with single adults in the family ministry department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Whitaker brings abundant experience in campus ministry and missions. In campus ministry he served as an intern with the BSU at Vir-

ginia Tech and as a part-time BSU director at Spalding University and in eastern Kentucky at Alice Lloyd College, Hazard Community College and Prestonsburg Community College.

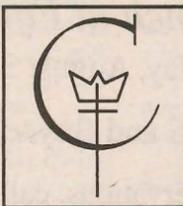
In missions, Whitaker performed on the 1987 Son Share drama team, helped organize Beach Reach 1990 and 1991 programs, served as co-leader of a creative ministry group in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, and worked as a volunteer tutor for Chinese teachers of English in Guangzhou, China. Whitaker also has experience in a local church, having served as youth and student ministry director at First Baptist Church in McDowell.

Jane, a native of Halifax, Nova Scotia, received her bachelor of music education degree from Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, and her master of divinity degree with an emphasis in pastoral care from Southern Seminary. She has served as a hospital chaplain and as a professional clarinetist and saxophonist.

We welcome the Whitakers to our campus.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



It's Round-Up Time!

September will be Food Round-Up month for the boys and girls of

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Your gifts of canned goods and other non-perishable food

items can help supply our campuses for the coming year!



For more information and a list of pick-up sites call:

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RESOURCES

CHURCH

This 'stuff test' may leave you uncomfortable

By Doug Strader

I was attending a workshop on stewardship and feeling pretty comfortable until the leader asked a probing question: "Do you own your possessions, or do they own you?"

I still was not that uncomfortable until he continued. "Try this test," he said. "Go home and find the one thing in your house that you prize the most (not counting a family heirloom or something your child made for you in vacation Bible school) and give it away." That is when the uncomfortable feelings rushed through my body. I began looking at my life and my personal stewardship theology and practices. I was not nearly as comfortable as I had been earlier. Many thoughts came to my mind:

■ Psalm 24 reminded me the entire earth and everything in it belongs to the Lord. These things are not ours. They are loaned to us for the benefit of all mankind, not just to be used selfishly for our own benefit.

■ Ownership requires responsible management. The Bible speaks many times about mankind's accountability to God for the way we manage his property.

■ Ownership requires that the owner consider the needs of others. The Old Testament concept of "gleaning" was one way land owners helped feed the widows and orphans. Hired hands were instructed to leave some grain in the fields for widows and orphans to harvest for their needs.

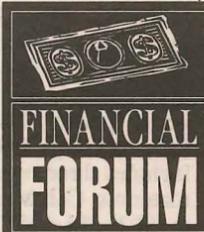
■ Ownership is in this life only. "Things" of this world are not eternal. That is not to say the things of this world are not important. Rather, our ownership is to serve a purpose. That purpose is that we are on mission with God. That is an awesome truth.

■ As Christians we must understand that ownership temporarily involves managing all that God has given us.

■ As Christians, we also accept ownership as a means of service. If we are to be good managers we will seek to help meet the needs of others. God has not blessed us because we are deserving, rather because he has chosen us to be a blessing to others.

Do you own your possessions or do they own you? You do not truly own anything until you are free to give it away.

Doug Strader is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department.



Humility recommended to reach campus

By Chip Alford
Baptist Sunday School Board

LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C. (BP)—Tom Warrington recently asked a group of Southern Baptist college students how Christians were viewed on today's campuses.

Their answers? "Bigots." "Weirdos." "People fixated on rules."

"It really hasn't changed that much since I was in school," the 52-year-old Warrington said.

The associate director for volunteers in missions at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board told the students that some of his non-Christian friends referred to a group of believers on campus as "the God Squad."

Those Christians had created such an atmosphere of separation that they were unable to communicate with non-Christians," he explained. "They missed every opportunity to minister."

During Student Week '97 at Lake Junaluska, N.C., Warrington and

Karen Gilbert, a special assistant for the IMB's volunteers in missions program, challenged students to humble themselves and pray for non-Christians on their campuses.

"When you go in judging people, you're not going to win them," Warrington told the students. "Do you really want to ignite your campus for Christ? Then do what Jesus said, become like a child."

"When you are totally and completely dependent on the Father, I believe that is when you will change your campus and ... your world. It won't happen through pride or self-centeredness."

Gilbert told students: "You can wrap your arms around every person on your campus through prayer. ... There is nobody on your campus that God doesn't want to bring to a saving knowledge of him."

What can students pray for specifically? Gilbert gave several suggestions:

■ For help in seeing the real needs

of their campus and how to meet them.

■ For the salvation of every student, faculty member and administrator.

■ For school administrators to make wise decisions and be open to Christian groups on campus.

■ For the ministry of other Christian groups on campus, such as Campus Crusade for Christ and InterVarsity, and a spirit of unity among all believers on campus.

■ For churches near their campus.

Gilbert encouraged students to avoid the mistake of expecting non-Christian peers to act like they're saved.

"When you start praying for them, God will give you insights as to what their needs are and how you can help them," she said. "He will help you see the students on our campus the way he sees them."

"God changes not only the object of prayers; he changes the pray-er too. He will change your attitudes, your approaches."

Spiritual gifts can open doors or close them

By Linda Lawson
SBC Sunday School Board

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Discovering one's spiritual gifts can open doors of service or limit a Christian's availability to God, depending on how the person uses the information, a conference leader said recently.

"Sometimes we limit God because we have categorized ourselves," said Sam House, editor of Experiencing God newsletter for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

House recalled being asked to become involved in a church ministry with mentally retarded people. He agreed to visit their home but intended to turn down the request to serve,

feeling he lacked gifts and time for the job. However, on his visit he was surrounded by a group of loving children with Down's syndrome and he suddenly found he wanted to be involved even without skills or experience.

"Often our availability is the single thing God can use," House said, "and the greatest barrier to service is that we limit God because we limit ourselves. If we are available, he will teach us what we need to know."

When Christians make themselves available to God, he will put them in the middle of situations they would not have chosen for themselves and provide blessings beyond anything they could have imagined, he said.

"As we seek to be available to God,

we must give him time to speak to us. Waiting is something people in our culture find difficult to do," House said. "We are so American. We expect God to respond immediately. Waiting is so spiritual and we are so pragmatic."

As editor of the Experiencing God newsletter, which includes stories of God at work around the world, House acknowledged, "I continue to be amazed that I am amazed how God continues to work."

"God is always at work around us," he told the group at Jericho Missions Festival. "Just because we don't know about it doesn't mean God isn't working."

Noting surveys consistently show 20 percent of church members do 80 percent of the work, he said "what we do for God is not restricted to what office we're willing to accept."

"Do you really want to ignite your campus for Christ? Then do what Jesus said, become like a child."

Tom Warrington, associate director for volunteers in missions at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board

"We limit God because we limit ourselves."

Sam House, editor of Experiencing God newsletter

Richland Baptist Church Owenton, Kentucky Celebrates 150 Year Anniversary

All former members and friends of the church are encouraged to come and be a part of this historic occasion as we celebrate the blessings of God.

Saturday, September 13, 1997 - Picnic and singing on the grounds beginning at 12:30 p.m. Local singing groups ministering throughout the day. *The Kevin Spencer Family* ministering in concert at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, September 14, 1997 - services begin at 10:30 a.m. with Bro. Howard Beauman, pastor of Highland Park First Baptist Church, Louisville, bringing the message. Pot luck fellowship to follow.

KEN & LOIS HOLLAND

In concert

Sunday, August 24
6:30 P.M.

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BAPTIST CHURCH
3728 Taylorsville Road
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(502) 454-4681

Associate Pastor for Children/Students

First Baptist Church, Milledgeville, Ga., is seeking a full-time associate pastor for children/students. This 750-resident-member congregation is located in a community of 50,000. A four-year state university, a military prep school and a junior college are located within two blocks of the church. Position is one of four full-time ministerial staff. Open to male and female applicants. First Baptist is affiliated with the CBF and SBC. Send resumé with references to: Mr. Wes Cummings, c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 795, Milledgeville, GA 31061.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ That doors for evangelical witness will remain open in Russia.

■ Russian evangelist Dima Pavliclev.

■ Alexey, the Russian interpreter in St. Petersburg.

■ Primeira Igreja Batista de Lingua Portuguesa of Danbury, Conn., as the Portuguese-speaking congregation seeks a pastor.

■ Christina Davidson, Baptist Convention of New England church music consultant, as she plans for the annual church music retreat Aug. 22-23. Kentuckians will help lead the event.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BELTON**—Hazel Creek Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary with two days of special events Sept. 20-21. Saturday activities will begin at noon and end with an evening meal and gospel sing featuring the Stillwater Quartet. Sunday activities will begin at 10:30 CDT and include former pastor **Robert Browning** as guest speaker in the morning worship service. After lunch, the afternoon service will feature Oneida Baptist President **Bud Underwood**, and music by **J.D. Sumner** and the Stamps Quartet from Nashville.

■ **FRANKLIN**—Dennis Plank, pastor of First Church, has announced his early retirement effective Jan. 31. He

will be available for Christian service as pastor, interim pastor, staff member or associational leader.

■ **GLASGOW**—Calvary Church called **Isaac McDonald** as interim pastor. McDonald began his new ministry Aug. 3.

■ **KEVIL**—Newton Creek Church called **Doug Kineman** as associate pastor, with responsibilities of youth and music. **Rodney Cude** is pastor.

■ **LA CENTER**—Mount Pleasant Church celebrated homecoming Aug. 10. **Paul Crews** is pastor.

■ **LEDBETTER**—David Rogers celebrated his 25th anniversary as pastor at Fellowship Church Aug. 3.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Green Acres

Church will present the Melody Masters Quartet of Spartanburg, S.C., Sept. 7 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (502) 964-8165. **Dan Powell** is pastor.

Green Hills Baptist Church will host a homecoming and revival Aug. 24-27 featuring **Benton Williams** as evangelist.

Dallas Vincent, pastor at Ormsby Heights Church for 39 years, will retire effective Aug. 31. An anniversary and retirement recognition will be held Aug. 24 at 3 p.m. There will be a reception after the afternoon celebration. Call (502) 447-6867 for more information.

Walnut Street Church called **Cheryl Fekete** as director of its child care center. Fekete previously directed the Rainbow preschool program at West Broadway Church. She began her new ministry Aug. 7.

■ **MADISONVILLE**—Liberty Church called **Tondra Daugherty** as pastor. He previously was pastor at East Union Church in Graham. He began his new ministry Aug. 3.

■ **PADUCAH**—Twelfth Street Church will celebrate its 90th anniversary Aug. 23-24. **Tim Pearcy** is pastor.

West End Church called **Tim Stonecipher**, a native of Paducah, as pastor. He began his new ministry Aug. 3.

■ **RADCLIFF**—The women's ministry of Stithon Church will present its first annual ladies' Bible conference Sept. 26-27. **Emily Herrod** will be the guest speaker. Early registration is \$25, after Sept. 10 the fee is \$30. This includes three meals and conference materials. Call Mary Beth Hammond at (502) 351-6055 for more information.

Baptist leader denied two prior marriages, license states

ST PETERSBURG, Fla. (RNS)—Henry Lyons, the National Baptist Convention USA president who recently has been confronted with questions about his marital fidelity, now has been accused of denying two previous marriages when he applied for his third marriage license.

According to Associated Press, Lyons was about to become pastor of Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church in St. Petersburg, Fla., when he learned of a requirement he had not met—being married.

"One of the stipulations of being pastor was you had to be married," said Betty Andrews, a church member.

Lyons returned to Cincinnati and married Deborah Louise Manuel, his current wife, marking on his marriage license that he was marrying for the first time, AP said. But Lyons, in fact, had been married twice already, AP stated.

According to Georgia records, Lyons married Patricia Lucile Demons in 1966 and divorced her in 1969. Later that year, he married Camilla Smith and divorced her in 1972. That same year he married Manuel.

He and Deborah Lyons moved with her two children to Florida when he became pastor of Bethel Metropolitan Baptist Church.

Lyons' marital fidelity came into question in July, when his wife, Deborah, was charged with setting fire to a house her husband owned with another woman. Sheriff's deputies said Deborah Lyons told them she suspected her husband was having an affair with the co-owner of the house, but she has since denied that.

Meanwhile, leaders of two Denver-area African-American organizations are planning to protest the September meeting of the National Baptist Convention USA in their city.

One group wants the conventioners to patronize black-owned businesses and an official of another said

Lyons should step down.

The National Baptist Convention USA is scheduled to hold its annual meeting Sept. 1-5. Between 40,000 and 60,000 are expected to attend.

Alvertis Simmons, head of Colorado's Million Man March local organizing committee, said the group will protest outside the meeting because the denomination hasn't responded to its demands that they encourage conventioners to patronize black-owned businesses. They also plan to protest the meeting because the denomination refused to recognize the Million Man March and its founder, Louis Farrakhan.

'Twas the week before school starts ...

Is it really possible? Can it be true? Has another year gone by? Someone pinch me and tell me it is a dream! I simply cannot believe another year has slipped away. It seems like just a few weeks ago we were getting ready for the 1996-'97 school year. Here we are with just six days before our students return for the 1997-'98 school year.

It has been an incredibly busy summer. But the past few weeks have been even more intense, for our students have been painting beds. The bunk beds we use are a little old—WW II army surplus—but they are definitely the most durable beds we can find. It is really hard to believe, but these are the same beds I slept on when I was a student here in the early '60s. Even the best beds need an occasional painting, so several students have been painting them a beautiful gloss black. After a few days of drying, they are being moved back into the dorms.

Other students have been painting the dorm rooms. One of the many blessings we receive from time to time is donated paint. When retailers custom mix paint for customers and the color does not come out as expected, Oneida is often presented with another gift. Now I must confess it does take a little imagination and work to mix several unwanted colors together in order to come up with just the color we wanted. When I was giving a tour a few years ago, a lady in my group asked who picked our colors of paint. I immediately replied, "God does." I could tell she was embarrassed, so I quickly told her I believed God impressed someone to give us that paint, and I was not in the habit of asking God to take things back.

With rooms painted and curtains washed, the

final touch is waxing the floors. The "wax crew" literally has been working night and day getting the floors waxed in the dorms and school buildings. Few things are more attractive than a freshly waxed floor. Don't ever let the wax crew find you sliding furniture on a newly waxed floor!

With the freshly painted beds in place, the next items in the rooms are the dressers. Nearly all of our dressers are army surplus. Students and volunteers have been making necessary repairs and putting on fresh coats of paint.

While many students have been busy in the buildings, other students have been working outside. There are acres of grass to mow. Mowing grass is a lot like washing dishes; when you think you are finished, it is time to mow again. Our beautiful campus is maintained by a handful of hardy boys who work very hard. Assisting them are other boys who run six or seven weed trimmers. They get into all those hard spots and are responsible for putting the finishing touches on our campus.

Another group of students has been hard at work on the farm. They not only have been doing the daily chores, but have had to spend a lot of time in the corn patch. Have you had any fresh sweet corn yet? Boy, we have! When you can pick corn at 9 a.m., shuck it by 11 a.m. and be eating it at noon, you know you have been blessed. Fresh sweet corn has been a daily treat now for the past four weeks.

Well, ready or not, here they come. We have done all we can do to get ready. There is a real peace that comes when you know you have done all you can.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

A one-point Presbyterian

What's a guy who plans to be a Presbyterian pastor doing at Clear Creek? "Lord wanted me here," Kenneth Rose Jr. quickly states. "Unfortunately, the Presbyterian school I contacted didn't follow up like Clear Creek. Each letter I received from Clear Creek faculty and staff stressed the need for me to pray and do the Lord's will."

Rose became a Christian in Japan while in the Navy. Months later he told the base chaplain about his call to be a pastor. Chaplain Dan Stallard is a 1991 Clear Creek graduate, and one of our best "recruiters." Rose acknowledged a big adjustment from Japan to southeastern Kentucky, "But the Lord has confirmed the move in so many ways." We allowed him to move to

campus in the summer because his Navy discharge left him needing permanent housing. Within three days he had employment. "I was able to take a summer class in church history. Mr. Caldwell let each class member choose the topic for a research paper. When I presented my paper on the Presbyterians, the class was surprised. Most of them thought I was Baptist. I was surprised to discover one of the first students I met to be a five-point

Calvinist. But I don't accept all five points. These doctrinal differences are secondary to our unity in Christ and the need to tell others the good news," Rose said.

The Presbyterians in Pineville and Middlesboro are thrilled to have a ministry student to assist their churches. The two churches joined efforts and asked Rose to be their youth intern pastor. He works two Sundays a month with each congregation. The youth group has grown to 10, and five of those now attend Sunday worship.

Presbyterian policy requires a master of divinity before ordination. Rose already has inquired with Louisville Presbyterian and Union seminaries. Both affirm his training at Clear Creek.

Rose's home church is in Bristol, Va. One of the fastest growing churches in Virginia is Virginia Highlands Christian Fellowship in Abingdon with Clear Creek graduate Jimmie Davidson as pastor. Rose sometimes visits their 9:30 a.m. worship. "I leave all fired up and carry the excitement over to the Presbyterians."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Comic's clean routine has ulterior motive

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)—Neither his face nor his name is well known. But John Pate has rubbed elbows with several of Hollywood's bigwigs since he first became a comedian 20 years ago.

"I realized that God would not have me in comedy to be a household name," said Pate, who is also an assistant professor at California Baptist College.

Instead, Pate said, his comedy act plays second fiddle to his true purpose—to be an influential Christian in a field where Christianity does not flourish.

Pate said that early in life he asked himself, "Where could I have the most impact as a Christian?" He flirted with the idea of politics or sports but settled on entertainment when he realized he was funny.

As a novice comedian, Pate decided his act would be clean.

"I want people to see someone go on stage who is just as amusing as everybody who is dirty, and show them they can have a good time and laugh for 30 to 45 minutes at a clean act," Pate said.

Pate's reputation within the entertainment business has spread. At the same time, he has used his influence to share his faith with many well-known entertainment figures.

"I've had heart-to-heart talks with Robin Williams, Keenan Ivory Wayans, Robert Townsend and Jay Leno," Pate said. "It was just as easy to sit down and talk to Robin Williams as it was to talk with the busboy."

Pate said his philosophy has always been that as long as God provides the opportunities to share his faith, he will not back down.

WMU to encourage men behaving godly

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (BP)—Leon Castle might be mistaken for a military recruiter because he's constantly looking for a few good men.

He prepares them for battle, but not with guns and bombs. His recruits are armed with integrity and dependability and assigned to children's ministry.

When men are involved in children's education, "it communicates that spiritual things are important, that godliness is manly," said Castle, associate pastor at First Baptist Church of Charlottesville, Va.

Most children are taught by women in church as well as in preschools and elementary schools, Castle noted. In response, Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union is issuing a challenge for more men to be involved in missions and Bible education for children.

Bo Simms, director of the missions growth team for the South Carolina Baptist Convention, teaches Mission Friends with his wife, Charlene, at Shannon Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C. Mission Friends is the WMU coed program for preschoolers.

Men involved in children's missions education "sets a pattern early in these children's lives about the importance of studying missions and being a missionary," said Simms, a former home missionary.

"My parents saw to it that I was involved in my day. I still remember the motto and rally cry for missions," he said. Simms said the coed leaders of his missions education class in Orlando, Fla., "planted a time bomb in my life that would go off many years later."

WMU preschool consultant Kathy Burns said children brought to church by both parents and taught by both men and women in their preschool years are much more likely to stay in church for the rest of their lives.

The prevalence of single-parent families is another reason men should be involved in children's education.

"Children need a male influence. It does so much for these children who



only see Mom as caregivers," said Marcia McQuitty, associate professor of childhood education at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and a former church preschool minister. "I always tried to get at least one man in each preschool class, especially in light of the many children who came without fathers in their homes."

Sylvia Deloach, WMU's children's consultant, said the same is true for older children. "I believe the ideal church classroom for first-through sixth-grade children would contain teachers of both sexes." She and her husband formerly taught children's Sunday school together. "The pooling of our gifts and interests made for much more creative teaching," she said.

Castle said men and women working together in children's education "gives a more balanced approach to life." One reason, he said: men are more apt to let children be risk-tak-

ers. Fields Young, third grade Sunday school department director at First Baptist Church of Shelby, N.C., said men are important in children's education because "women can't explain how men in the Bible think. Children need a man's perspective."

Young, a real estate manager and developer, also teaches children because he considers it a wise investment.

"I still remember verses I learned when I was 8 years old," he said. "Our children need to know how to find things in the Bible. When they're older and in some crisis situation, they will recall these verses."

Young likes teaching third graders because "that's one of the most formative years in a child's life. It's when many children come to know Christ."

Castle agreed. "When we teach children, they have it for the rest of their lives. We're enriching them with spiritual truths they'll have forever."

TOO FEW GOOD MEN
Aaron Hawley of Ruston, La., helps children attending day camp at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center this summer. WMU hopes its Dynamite Dads program will encourage more men to work in children's missions and Bible education. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Architect making Ridgecrest, Glorieta centers of attention

By Linda Lawson
SBC Sunday School Board

NASHVILLE (BP)—Developing a master plan for transforming Glorieta and Ridgecrest Baptist Conference centers for the 21st century has been a dream project for Davis Byrd, director of the Baptist Sunday School Board's church architecture services.

As a teenager, Byrd regularly attended Ridgecrest. He now regularly leads conferences at Glorieta. He is committed to the spiritual mission of both centers.

From an architectural standpoint, Glorieta and Ridgecrest represent distinct styles, opportunities and challenges, he said.

The master plan developed by Byrd and others focuses primarily on what he calls the "core campus" of each center, the site of most conferences and activities.

The master plan proposes remodeling and renovation of existing facil-

ities and some new buildings—plazas, chapels and youth conference centers at each location; a retreat center and hotel at Glorieta; and a lake and campus center at Ridgecrest that includes a hotel, dining and meeting facilities and a wellness center.

The plan was developed in conjunction with the capital campaign, "Renewing the Place of Renewal," being conducted on behalf of the conference centers.

"It's been fun to visualize what Glorieta and Ridgecrest can be," Byrd said. "One of our goals has been to help the conference centers be positioned in property and facilities to minister effectively to people in the future. We want to improve both the functional and aesthetic environments and also make the facilities and outdoor spaces more pleasurable for attendees."

At Glorieta, Byrd proposes enlarging New Mexico Hall to include dining and meeting rooms and adding an

outdoor plaza with benches and landscaping resembling those found in many New Mexico towns. The existing dining hall will become a wellness center.

But Byrd's favorite design at Glorieta is an area around the lake he describes as a "park-like urban environment" with plaza landscaping linking New Mexico Hall and a new hotel to be constructed near Holcomb Auditorium.

"Sometimes the huge openness at Glorieta can make you value human contact," Byrd said. "This whole area will become a magnet for people."

At Ridgecrest, with its "close, contained environment," Byrd has designed an outdoor plaza linking Pritchell Hall, Spilman Auditorium and the new campus center that backs up to Interstate 40.

"This plaza will have an openness to the sky that's a counterpoint to the tree-covered environment of the rest of the conference center," he said.

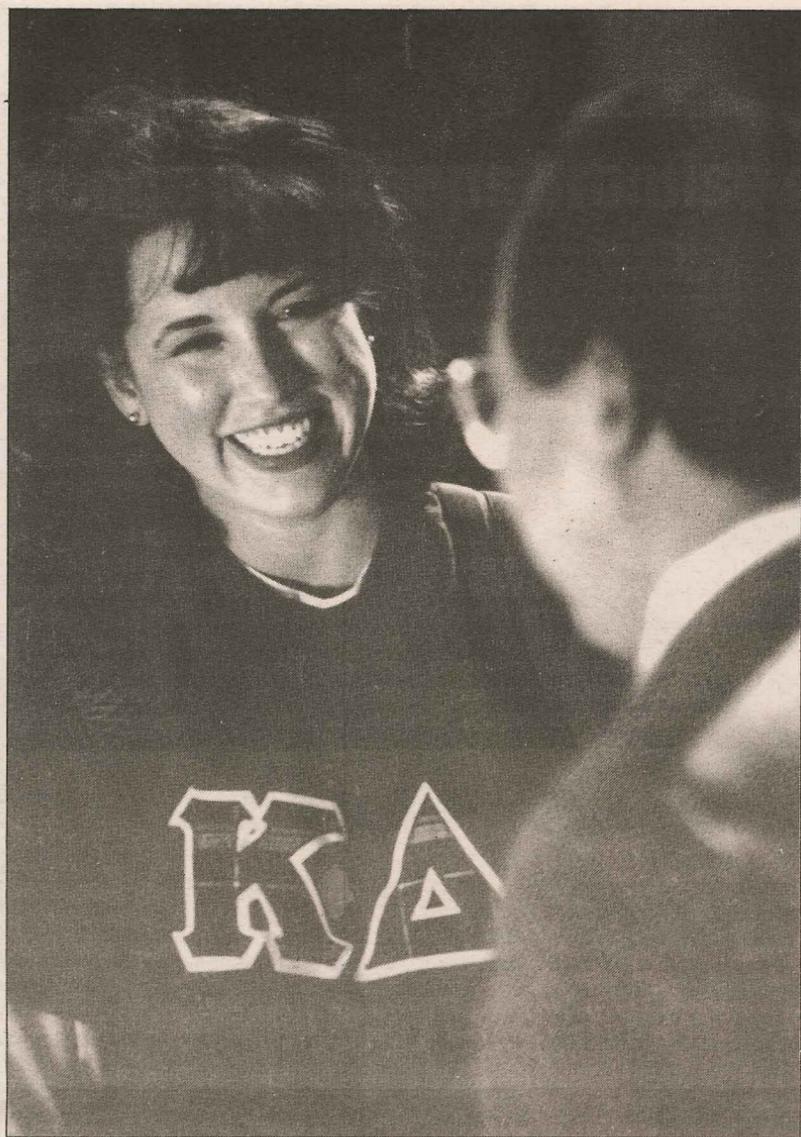
Chapels to seat about 175 people for small conferences, weddings and other events are proposed for both conference centers. The contemporary designs using glass extensively are identical, but construction materials will reflect the unique locations of each center.

"The identical design is a subtle way of linking the two conference centers," Byrd said.

The master plans have been designed to provide "exciting and welcoming outdoor spaces," Byrd said. "We wanted to provide a stimulating and exciting environment with places for reflection and repose."

New and renovated facilities "will accommodate a more energetic approach to programming. There will be indoor and outdoor spaces where people of imagination can find a wide variety of things to do as part of the spiritual renewal they experience at the conference centers," Byrd said.

"We want to improve both the functional and aesthetic environments and also make the facilities and outdoor spaces more pleasurable for attendees."
Davis Byrd, director of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's church architecture services



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