

PRactical RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

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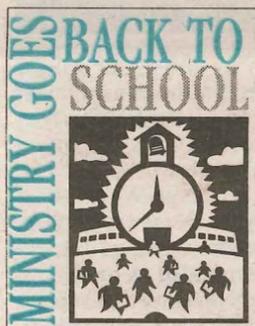


FOR THE RECORD

Changes for Texas?
A committee recommends the Baptist General Convention of Texas publish its own Sunday school material. *Page 2.*

Women's ordination
Muhlenberg Association voted to bar churches that ordain women. *Page 3.*

Editorial
Conflicting views on Communion. *Page 5.*



Page 6.

Sports ministry
Youth from a Kentucky church recently attended a camp in Baltimore to learn to conduct sports clinics. *Page 7.*

Books
"How to Increase Giving in Your Church" and "Practical Praying" are among the books reviewed this week. *Page 12.*

Do Christianity & bone-crushing tackles mix?

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (ABP)—Flamboyant sports star Deion Sanders' much-publicized decision to become a Christian has sparked a debate: Will his devotion to Jesus turn "Prime Time," as he is known, into Deion meek and mild?

Don't count on it, warn four Texas football legends who also happen to be Christians.

"There isn't any question that you can be a Christian and be a football player," said Tom Landry, an All-Pro defensive back for the New York Giants and longtime head coach of the Cowboys.

Any insinuation to the contrary is "absolutely ridiculous," added Bill Glass, a Baylor University standout who played defensive end for 12 seasons with the Cleveland Browns in their glory years.

"I was always irritated, from the time I was in college and especially in pro ball, by the inference that you're a weakling if you're a Christian," Glass recalled.

But since Sanders, a two-sport professional athlete who plays baseball for the Cincinnati Reds and football for the Dallas Cowboys, recently announced he had turned to Christ, Spirit-inspired softness has been a recurring theme of media reports.

Can an athlete be a good Christian and still excel in a violent sport?

"This question is as old as the game of football," answered Grant Teaff, former Baylor coach who now directs the American Football Coaches Association in Waco, Texas.

□ See *Can Sanders ...*, page 8

'Celebrate Life' still strong after 25 years

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

After seven or eight years of seeking fame and fortune as an actor in New York City, Ragan Courtney wrote and starred in a play that opened on Broadway. One week later, the play closed, and he was devastated.

He immediately went to the Caribbean island of Antigua to rest and collect his thoughts. While there, he became so depressed he decided to kill himself.

"I thought I would swim out into the Caribbean as far as I could and that would be it," he recalled. "But as I started to step out into the ocean, I remembered all the childhood songs I had been taught—even 'Jesus Loves Me'—and realized I was about to throw away something God thought was so worthwhile he gave his Son to save."

It had been a dark, gray day, but at that moment the clouds broke and the young actor looked up to see a brilliant sunset.

"I began to weep," he explained. "I had been a nominal Christian. I knew there was a Jesus and a God and a devil. I knew about Jesus, but somehow I didn't know him. I became a Christian at that point in my life, by myself, praying out loud to God."

Courtney, who had been raised in a Baptist church in Louisiana, walked up out of the water a "newborn creature," he said. "I realized that what had happened to me was I had been born again."

He immediately sat down and put his discovery into words on paper: "He's the wind I soar on; He's the grass I run through; He's the one I turn to when I have to laugh or cry. He's the light of my world; He's my priceless pearl; He's my answer to why, he's my friend even after I die. He's the sun I sing in; He's the sea I swim

in; He's the mountain I climb to when I want to reach a new high. Jesus my Lord."

Courtney returned to New York and a short time later was asked by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board to write the drama and lyrics for a new youth musical to be called "Celebrate Life." He was to collaborate with Buryl Red, a composer transplanted from Arkansas Baptist roots to New York City.

The words Courtney had penned with water-soaked hands that day of his conversion became the opening □ See *After 25 years ...*, page 10



MAY I PLAY? A young boy watches over a fence as Crosspoint activities begin at Harbor Heights Park in Baltimore. Youth from First Baptist Church of Williamsburg were among the groups who were taught to use sports clinics to share their Christian Faith. Story on page 7. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Churches can minister to latchkey children

By Ken Camp
Baptist General Convention of Texas

WACO, Texas (ABP)—The Biblical mandate to care for those who cannot care for themselves extends to latchkey children, said a church and community ministries director.

Jana Young of Dallas Baptist Association admitted that not all churches can offer full-scale programs for young children who must spend part of their days at home alone.

Still, she said, any church can help working parents. She offered these suggestions for churches of any size:

■ **Volunteer.** Donate time to a local elementary school or middle school. Read to young children or help a child in a remedial class with

his assignments.

■ **Befriend a single parent.** Include the child of a single parent in family outings to a museum or ball game. "Involve men from the church to provide positive male role models for children in single-parent homes," Young added.

■ **Open the church library.** Rather than locking it up six days a week, make the church library available as an after-school study hall for children who may have no other quiet, private place to complete their homework. If a church offers tutoring, do it in the library where reference books and tables are available.

■ **Teach a hobby class.** "Some common skills of the past are becoming lost arts," Young said. Senior adults or homemakers could teach crocheting, embroidery, sew-

ing, cooking or woodworking to children whose parents may never teach those crafts.

■ **Help families before school.** Make the church available as a drop-off for children whose parents have to report to work early. Offer the children a breakfast snack, a brief devotional, a ride to school and the assurance that caring Christian adults will be praying for them.

"There are probably senior adults in your church who are up every morning by five o'clock," Young said. "There are parents who have to be at work before the school day begins who need a place to take their children. There are church vans that could be used to take those children from the church to the school. There's got to be some way to put all those things together."

Student prayer event Sept. 17

Teenagers worldwide are expected to gather at school flagpoles once again Sept. 17 for "See You At The Pole."

The annual student-led prayer effort is intended to mobilize student prayer efforts and bolster the organization of Christian clubs.

Officials said as many as 2.5 million students participated in 1995, with indications of continued growth last year.

The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board has sponsored a web page (www.syatp.org) for learning more about the event and for sharing information and results.

Moving? See page 4 (0902)

BAPTISTS

Texas committee calls for publishing new literature

Mohler calls for 'deadly seriousness'

LOUISVILLE (BP)—"Deadly seriousness" is the manner in which both professors and students should undertake the task of theological education, declared President Al Mohler in an Aug. 26 address at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Preaching from 1 Corinthians 4:1-12 on the gravity of the ministry and theological education, Mohler led the seminary community in the annual convocation service to begin the academic year. During the convocation, newly tenured faculty signed the "Abstract of Principles," the seminary's confession of faith adopted as a part of its original charter in 1858. The occasion was made even more noteworthy by the signature of T. Vaughn Walker, professor of black church studies, as the first African-American to sign the document.

DALLAS (ABP)—A Texas Baptist committee is recommending that the state convention publish its own church literature emphasizing Texas missions and Baptist distinctives.

The material could supplement or replace products of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, which the committee claims are increasingly geared and marketed toward a non-Baptist audience.

The 20-page report of a committee named to study "efficiency and effectiveness" of the Baptist General Convention of Texas calls for increased emphasis on reaching the state's growing non-Christian population.

A huge population influx has turned the traditional Baptist stronghold from "the missions base" to "a mission field," the committee reported. The unchurched population of Texas is greater than the total population in 42 of 50 states and in 143 countries.

To address the growing unchurched population, the report calls on Texas Baptists to magnify multicultural and family ministries, theological education and "partnership missions," involving volunteers to travel abroad for hands-on international missions experience.

It also notes that growing numbers of people who join Texas Baptist churches come from non-Baptist backgrounds. They need "literature that is rooted in Scripture, that emphasizes missions and that honors Baptist distinctives and history," the report adds. But it notes, "It is unrealistic to expect such material from those who must provide for the entire nation and who increasingly focus on a non-Baptist market," an apparent reference to material produced by the Sunday School Board.

The committee recommends "that literature and other resources for Sun-

day school, discipleship training, missions organizations and other Bible study groups be developed as either a supplement to existing materials or a substitute for existing materials."

It urges that the literature "provide information on Baptist missions (with a special emphasis on Texas missions), Baptist distinctives, stewardship, ethics and other subjects." And it calls for the literature to be delivered "as inexpensively and soon as possible."

Jimmy Draper, president of the Sunday School Board, objected to parts of the Texas report.

"While the report does not specifically name the Sunday School Board, it suggests that the best possible biblically based materials to meet the needs of Texas Baptists cannot be provided by a national entity. We take exception to that," he said in a prepared statement. "We have the ability to customize resources for a geographical area such as Texas and even for individual churches."

"The report also suggests, without naming us, that we are 'increasingly' focusing on a non-Baptist market," Draper continued. "That is not accurate. Serving Southern Baptist churches is our No. 1 priority. Our conservative, biblically based materials, including their references to Southern Baptists, are increasingly appealing to non-Baptist churches because they are relevant to life needs, high in value and quality, and assist churches in making disciples better than any other resources available."

The full efficiency and effectiveness report will come as a recommendation at the state convention's annual meeting Nov. 10-11 in Austin.

The committee clusters its recommendations for convention messengers in five categories: ministry to families, multi-cultural ministries, theological education, partnership

missions and "biblically based, Texas-focused literature."

Among specific recommendations, the report calls for the state convention to:

■ Appoint missionaries for outreach to different cultural groups, especially in cities.

■ Emphasize multicultural hirings for staffs of the state convention and agencies.

■ Develop programs of theological education for lay church members and ministers unable to attend seminary.

■ Establish a system to permit "lay envoys" to be trained to minister on international mission fields.

■ Expand partnership missions to include not only the SBC's International and North American Mission boards but also the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Baptist World Alliance.

■ Explore membership in the Baptist World Alliance, an organization of national Baptist bodies worldwide.

■ Affirm the convention as "an autonomous body which will support mission causes in Texas, the nation and the world" and will "cooperate reciprocally with organizations and affiliations that complement its mis-

sion and its statement of purpose."

The study's context includes Southern Baptist Convention developments that have left many Texas Baptists feeling disenfranchised, said BGCT President Charles Wade.

"There's no question Texas Baptists have seen what has happened in the SBC and said this won't happen in Texas," he said. "We're going to protect Texas from a control mentality. We're going to do our very best to maintain an openness to every Texas Baptist who wants to participate and help. We're going to do our best to see that everybody has a part."

Even in that context, the committee's report does not conflict with the SBC, Wade added.

"This document says we are not in opposition to the SBC," he said. "We want the SBC to do what it does as well as it can. We're not in opposition to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. We're willing to help them where we can."

"But Texas Baptists will go their own way. We'll work with those who want to work with us, but we will not be held hostage to the demands of those who would tell us how we must operate."

Dilday to be nominated

ABILENE, Texas (ABP)—Russell Dilday, former president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will be nominated for the presidency of the Baptist General Convention of Texas this fall, according to Hardin-Simmons University Chancellor Jesse Fletcher, who will nominate him.

Dilday was a political lightning rod among Texas Baptists in 1994, when Southwestern trust-

ees fired him in one of the climactic chapters in the conservative domination of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dilday, 66, now teaches at Baylor University's George W. Truett Seminary in Waco. He is expected to receive the endorsement of Texas Baptists Committed, a moderate political organization that supports BGCT leadership, when the convention holds its annual meeting in Austin, Nov. 10-11.

Professor who cited censorship faces termination

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—A faculty member who accused Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary of academic censorship in a recent book has been removed permanently from classroom duties and faces firing, faculty sources say.

Jeff Pool, an assistant professor of systematic theology at the seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, was not in classes when the fall semester opened Aug. 25. Pool was scheduled to teach four courses, which now are being taught by graduate students or other faculty.

According to faculty members, Pool was barred from teaching courses at the last minute by administrators angry over "Sacred Mandates of Conscience," a book released this summer examining the Southern Baptist Convention's "Baptist Faith and Message" doctrinal statement.

Both Pool and Tommy Lea, dean of the seminary's School of Theology, declined to talk about the particular aspects of the case. Both confirmed attorneys for Southwestern and for Pool were negotiating a resolution to the situation.

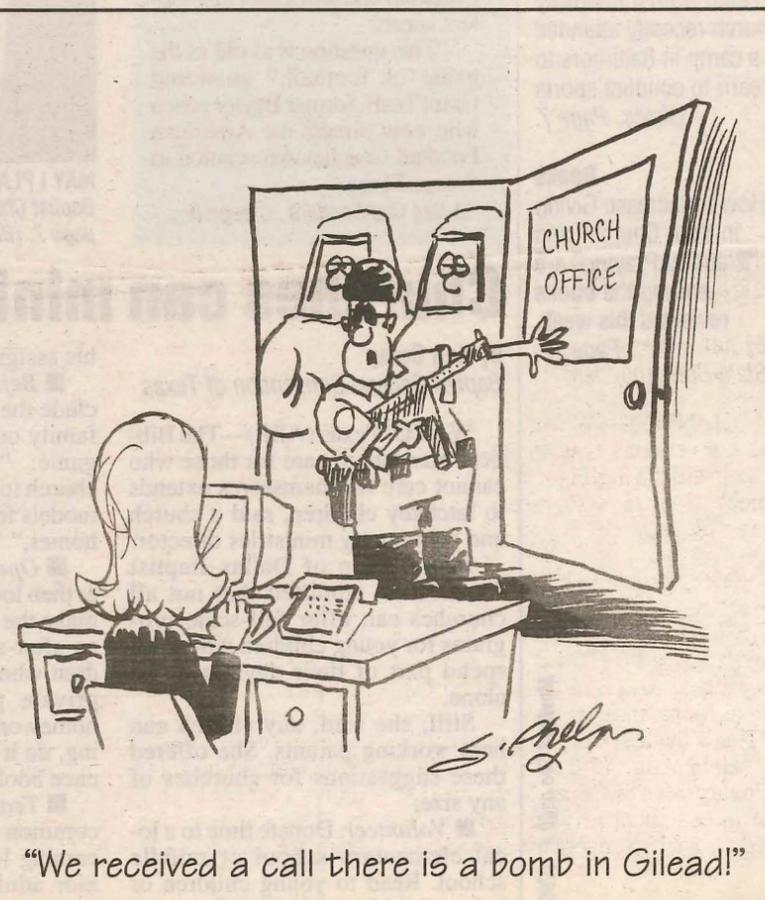
"All I really can say is that I'm not out (of the classroom) because I requested to be out," Pool said.

But several colleagues on the faculty confirmed that seminary administrators, in a letter to Pool earlier this summer, threatened to fire the professor, then sought instead to deny him tenure. Either way, Pool is not expected to return to the classroom, according to the faculty sources, who, fearing reprisal, spoke only on the condition of anonymity.

The book that apparently instigated Southwestern's action contains articles Pool originally edited for an issue of the seminary's *Southwestern Journal of Theology* last year. Claiming Pool's use of authors identified as "moderates" would alienate trustees and other conservative SBC leaders, seminary administrators suspended the journal.

Pool turned to Smyth and Helwys Publishing in Macon, Ga., which published the rejected articles in a book that made its official debut at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's annual general assembly in June.

In a preface to the book, Pool decried the seminary's refusal to publish the journal as "academic censorship." Seminary officials denied the censorship charge, noting they waived rights to the rejected articles and returned them to the authors.



"We received a call there is a bomb in Gilead!"

Association votes to ban churches with ordained women

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

MUHLENBERG COUNTY—The name of an ordained woman will be stricken from an already published Book of Reports for Muhlenberg County Baptist Association, and the church where the woman is a member has one year to come in line with "the position of the association" or be removed from membership.

During the association's annual meeting Aug. 28 at Cedar Grove Baptist Church, messengers dealt for the second time this year with concerns about First Baptist Church of Drakesboro. Angie Flack, the wife of pastor David Flack, is an ordained pastoral counselor.

She was ordained by a North Carolina church several years before she and her husband moved to Drakesboro. The Drakesboro congregation knew of her ordination and has supported her ministry as a pastoral counselor, although she holds no official position with the church.

When the association gathered information for its 1996 Book of Reports, the Drakesboro church listed Angie Flack under the category of "Ordained Ministers Other than Pastors." David Flack said not to list his wife's name there would have been untruthful.

However, when the association published her name in the book, which was distributed at last year's annual meeting, several pastors began a campaign to have the Drakesboro church removed from the association.

The issue first came to a head Jan. 21, when a motion was presented to the association's executive board to oust the church. At that time, the moderator ruled that a two-thirds vote would be necessary to remove a church. The motion to expel Drakesboro received a simple majority of support but not the required two-thirds majority.

The matter continued to simmer during the next seven months, with churches on both sides of the issue withholding contributions to the association and one church leaving the association in protest of the way women are treated. Muhlenberg Association does not allow women to serve as messengers.

In the opening session of the Aug. 28 meeting, a motion was presented by Carl Nelson, pastor of Roland Memorial Baptist Church of Greenville. His three-part motion asked that: (1) the association "affirm its stand against the ordination of women"; (2) the name of Angie Flack "be stricken from the minutes of the 1996 annual meeting and all churches be notified to amend their copies"; and (3) that no name of an ordained woman be listed in the minutes of an annual meeting in the future.

Nelson explained that his motion was "not directed to any one church" but was an attempt to help the association "make a strong stand against women's ordination."

Immediately after Nelson's motion was made, Tony McCall, pastor of Nelson Creek Baptist Church in Central City, offered an amendment. The amendment had two parts: (1) that any church that "goes against the position of the association in the future on the ordination of women" automatically lose membership in the association; (2) that First Baptist Church of Drakesboro be placed under watch-care status for one year, and then be removed from the association if the church has not "met the position of the association."

McCall urged messengers to "stand for the word of the Lord" and not tolerate the ordination of women. "This is not that I may bully or push my personal convictions on you, but to bring healing to this episode that has divided us," he said.

Another messenger asked McCall to define "the position of the association" as used in his amendment.

"We as an association have always in the past disagreed with the ordination of women," McCall responded.

Bob Kubasch, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, spoke in favor of McCall's amendment, explaining that the association has "no right to dictate to that church" but that the church has no right to "force on this association" tolerance for the ordination of women.

Tolerating a church with an ordained woman could lead to other problems such as acceptance of homosexuals and divorced pastors, Kubasch said.

Allen Black, pastor of Martwick

Baptist Church, spoke against the amendment, which he said was "trying to establish a creed we must follow in order to be an association."

"Each church is free to do its work without interference," he said. If the amendment is passed, "not only does Drakesboro lose its autonomous status, but so do all the other churches."

James Shutt, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Central City, then spoke in favor of the amendment. "To stand for something does no good unless we're willing to do something about it when a violation occurs," he said.

"This is a biblical issue," he added. "A member church has gone on record ... saying they support the ordination of women. The Bible does not teach the ordination or call of women."

After Shutt's comments, someone called for the vote on the amendment. David Flack asked for a roll-call vote. Moderator Leroy Rearden ruled that could not be done because he didn't have a list of messengers. Instead, Rearden said, the vote would be taken by secret ballot.

While a tellers committee counted the vote on the amendment, the overflow crowd of messengers and visitors sang "Oh, How I Love Jesus" and Rearden led a prayer.

Rearden then reported that the amendment had passed, with 126 votes in favor and 100 in opposition. He declared a simple majority vote was all that was required.

Debate then began on the original motion as amended.

Bob Lowery, pastor of First Baptist Church of Central City, spoke against the motion.

While noting that he never would support the ordination of women in his own church, the association must allow churches the right to make their own decisions, Lowery argued.

"I fear we strain at gnats," he said. "We're talking about striking somebody's name out of a Book of Reports. I thought our job was to make sure names are written in the Book of Life."

Shutt then spoke in favor of the motion, arguing that "if we're going to do one thing today we ought to do it all. ... Let's go ahead and finish the job."

David Flack spoke against the motion. "Certain men are attempting to control churches in Muhlenberg County Baptist Association," he warned. "This vote decides whether to allow a few pastors in the association to control your church."

Messengers should see that the Drakesboro church isn't the only church threatened, he said. "This vote will end nothing. It will only begin the process of who's next."

Flack noted that Muhlenberg Association is one of "only four or five" among the 78 associations that relate to the Kentucky Baptist Convention which will not allow women to serve as messengers. "Are we really proud of that?" he asked.

Loud shouts of "Amen!" erupted from many of the male pastors and messengers.

A ballot vote was again taken. While it was counted, Director of Missions Ken Abbott preached the annual missions sermon, emphasizing the importance of the association in Baptist life, the autonomy of the local church and the urgency of fulfilling the Great Commission.

After Abbott's message, Rearden reported that the motion had passed, with 136 votes in favor and 93 against. Again, only a simple majority vote was necessary, he ruled.

Messengers from four churches asked that the minutes record their votes in opposition to the motion: First Baptist Church of Greenville, First Baptist Church of Drakesboro, Martwick Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Central City.

After the meeting, David Flack said he did not know what action his church would take next. However, the congregation remains supportive of his ministry and of Angie Flack's ministry, he said.

About 20 members of the Drakesboro church were present. Many lined up to speak to and hug Angie Flack, who had not been able to speak in her own defense because as a woman she was not allowed to be a messenger.

"I am saddened that the association has chosen to compromise their integrity by adopting this motion," David Flack said, explaining that striking his wife's name from last year's Book of Reports is a blow against truth and a revision of history.

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Musicians Dick and Mel Tunney** will sing at Lyndon Baptist Church Monday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m. to benefit victims of the spring floods. Tickets cost \$10 per person, with proceeds going to the Kentucky Interchurch Disaster Recovery program. For more information, call (502) 425-7150

■ **Bonnie Moore**, a 1997 summer staff member at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center and a student at Campbellsville College, received a Holcomb Scholarship in recognition of outstanding service in the preschool area. Holcomb scholarships are given annually to staff at Glorietta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest Conference Centers and are named in honor of the late T. L. Holcomb, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, 1935-53. Moore is a member of Palestine Baptist Church of Campbellsville.

Revival helps unite 3 counties, director of missions says

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

CLINTON—While the number of conversions was small, Charles Blair said the highlight of West Kentucky Baptist Association's recent revival was stirring cooperation among churches.

"Counting people who put up the tent, parking attendants, choir and ushers, we had about 100 volunteers and averaged 300 (in attendance) every night," said Blair, director of missions for the three-county association. "That's the real story to this event."

Held Aug. 17-21 in the Fulton County town of Cayce, it was the first of three annual revivals that will be held in each county of the association.

Next year's meeting will be in the Hickman County town of Clinton. Carlisle County is the host in 1999.

This effort grew from a desire by Andy Martin, pastor of West Hickman Baptist Church, to see area Kentucky Baptist churches sponsor a crusade, Blair said. It was the first association-wide rally since 1981.

The association's executive committee and evangelism director David Gossum agreed the best way to proceed was holding one in each county, with host churches planning the respective revivals.

These three are preliminaries to the "Celebrate Jesus 2000" simultaneous revivals set for the turn of the century. Blair said materials for that event from the Kentucky Baptist Conven-

tion helped spark participants' imaginations.

While most volunteers came from churches in Fulton County, others took part, he added.

Large contingents came on Sunday and Wednesday nights from several congregations outside the county, and Leland King of Bardwell Baptist Church in Carlisle County led the music.

The association's children's and youth choirs performed, as did "Hands of Praise," a sign language ensemble directed by Melanie Martin of West Hickman Baptist and Pastor Hershell Spears of Mount Carmel Baptist Church.

Bob Morrison, director of missions for Little Bethel Baptist Association,

preached each evening. Two people accepted Christ as their personal Savior and 15 others made various commitments, such as to go on short-term mission trips.

Aside from those decisions, Blair said there was tremendous value in the area's relatively small churches coming together.

"When you have 30, 40 or 50 in church and two or three youth, you can get the feeling, 'We're all by ourselves.' It's good for them to see there are others who feel the same way they do."

He said he expects more churches and people to get involved next year, including independent and African-American congregations. "We have good fellowship with folks."

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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'Egoistic exclusivism'

Bill Streich, the trustee of the North American Mission Board who made the motion that any employee of that organization attending the Reconciliation '97 conference should be fired because they would be mixing with Catholics and Christians of other denominations (Aug. 19, page 5) reflects the egoistic exclusivism of our Southern Baptist Conventionrats. They even practice the same policy toward their own brothers and sisters in the Baptist faith as seen in their attitude and action against the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

This spirit of narrowness and self-centeredness is expressed in the old Calvinistic Baptist hymn: "We are the Lord's elected few, Let all the rest be damned; There's room enough in hell for you; We won't have heaven crammed."

Henlee Barnette
Louisville

Article questioned

I am writing concerning the article "Calvinist Speakers defend 'limited atonement' belief" (Aug. 5, page 2). As one who attended that conference, I was disturbed by the presentation in the Recorder.

The first thing that disturbed me was the tone of the article. It was presented as a news report and yet its whole tone was editorial and opinion-based. The tone was controversial and the piece presented the conference as if "limited atonement" was the main topic discussed.

The major topic of the conference was revival. Much of the article was devoted to dissecting and spot-printing Fred Malone's and Phil Newton's sermons and nothing was said about the wonderful preaching by Ian Murray (the main speaker) and others. Nothing was said about the prayer rooms being

absolutely full of people fervently seeking God for revival.

The second thing that disturbed me was the falseness of some statements in the article. It is not true that all or even most Calvinists believe that "God also predestined some people for damnation." It is not true that Calvinism "runs directly opposite the prevailing 'whosoever-will-may-come' belief of most contemporary Southern Baptists."

I believe every person who was on the program practices the free offer of the gospel indiscriminately. One of the books most highly recommended by speakers and leaders alike was "Spurgeon versus Hyper-Calvinism," by Ian Murray, a book that defends the free offer of the gospel in a most enthusiastic way.

Michael G. Morrow
Paducah

Change happened

September promotion time reminds me how important Royal Ambassador boys are and how influential they can be.

Almost 11 years ago, Andy Arbaugh and Wade Denton asked me why it was that they were in a seventh grade class in junior high but were "stuck" in sixth grade classes at church. As their 24-year-old RA leader at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, I said I didn't know but would find out. Church leaders told me they promoted all classes in October, in concurrence with the convention. The official Southern Baptist Convention calendar annually scheduled Sunday school preparation week ending the first Sunday in October.

In continuing my search for an answer, I wrote the Sunday School Board. A department director promptly responded, citing five reasons for an October promotion date. The last and seemingly strongest reason was that it was compatible with the literature quarters. Understanding the cost

efficiency of promoting at the beginning of a literature quarter, I realized the only way the annual promotion date would be changed would have to include changing the literature quarters.

So, as a Northeast Park Church messenger to the 1991 SBC in Atlanta, I moved that both occur. This motion was referred to the Sunday School Board. Several people told me it would never happen because "it's always been that way."

The rest is now history.

The new seasonal quarterly literature and September promotion demonstrates the board is open to innovation and how local churches, through their messengers, comprise the pinnacle in our denominational structure. We also should not forget to credit RAs and their questions.

J.D. Strouth
Evansville, Ind.

Fight TV filth

The fall television season is about to begin. I believe it is time for us to gather together and arm ourselves for the fight of the century: a Christian value system. Surely I am not alone in wishing to confront the immorality, misguided values, filthy language and distorted precepts which are influencing our minds.

Through series of letters to the editor, letters, phone calls and other methods of contacting advertisers and distributors of programming, we must make a stand for a godly value system in what we watch and read. This will need to be an ongoing campaign done by you and me, as we are responsible for what our children and grandchildren see and hear. It's time to stop thinking someone else will do the work to stop the filth.

Let your views and comments be made known concerning these issues. The only way we can do this is to start speaking up, now. We must develop a "do-it-ourselves" mindset to protect and guard our children and grandchildren from the enemy of distorted values and unnatural lifestyles.

Frances Carroll
Paducah

Will she have any stars in her crown?

By Marv Knox

"Molly, do you want to go to outreach visitation with me?" I asked our 10-year-old. "You might win another star in your crown if you go."

"What's a star in my crown?" my daughter asked, driving a dagger right through the 1956 Baptist Hymnal, if not through my heart.

Obviously, the child never has sung the old standby, sung a million times by the faithful during Sunday evening worship services: "Will there be any stars, any stars in my crown?"

Undoubtedly, she hasn't heard that "When We All Get to Heaven" (What a day of rejoicing that will be!), everybody Up There will be wearing crowns. And we'll know who the missionaries, Woman's Missionary Union presidents and Sword Drill winners were by the vast number of stars (or maybe diamonds) Jesus will

have affixed to their crowns.

You see, my kids—like zillions of Baptist children and teens today—are missing a significant spiritual dimension because they're not growing up on the great old hymns we sang in the halcyon days of my youth.

It's like church historian Bill Leonard observed: "We've got an entire generation that doesn't know how to raise their Ebenezer." The opening line of the second stanza of "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" proudly proclaims, "Here I raise mine Ebenezer, hither by thy help I've come."

Back in the glory days of hymn-singing—when we knew, and sang, all five verses of "Just As I Am" umpteen times at every altar call—kids learned most of their theology from the hymnbook.

For example, we knew without a doubt that "there's power, power, wonder-working power in the blood

of the Lamb."

There were melodies within our hearts because Jesus, Jesus, Jesus was the sweetest name we knew.

Even if we couldn't exactly explain the Trinity, we knew to the bottom of our vocal chords that it was "Holy, Holy, Holy." And if we couldn't understand some of the things we felt about the Lord, we anticipated that "bye and bye, when the morning comes, ... we will understand it better, bye and bye."

Don't go thinking I'm a praise-chorus curmudgeon. Times have changed, and praise choruses reach the souls of countless people. I even like some of them.

But I just can't help thinking that kids like mine need a steady, balanced diet of solid hymns. When I was a kid, most of us memorized far more hymn stanzas than Bible verses.

And we were blessed by them. They put stars in our crowns.

Marv Knox is associate editor of the Texas Baptist Standard and former editor of the Western Recorder

TEENS

Teens' clothes

By Wade Rowatt

"Teenagers dress so differently today," complained the mother of two young boys. "They dress so tacky, even at church."

Teens wear clothes that say something about themselves. Their hyper-color, message-strewn T-shirts, baseball caps, designer jeans, name-brand shoes and special hair designs fit together like pieces of a puzzle. To them, it all makes sense. To

grown-ups, it's a mystery.

Some families fight about what youth can and cannot "wear out of this house alive." Why all the fuss? What should adults do?

Let's not get too bent out of shape until we know what is in their clothes. Ask them what they like about how they are dressed. See what it says for them.

Clothes can say, "I belong to a certain group, and we dress like this." Some adults wear uniforms to identify themselves. Teens dress to say, "I belong to this or that group." Or "I label, tag and advertise myself to the world as this kind of person."

Clothes also call out, "Look at me." Adults drive antique autos, luxury sedans and customized trucks or vans to be noticed. Some teens wear bright, crazy, wild, different clothes for similar reasons. They want attention.

Clothes express how we feel. Teens get into jeans to feel young. They wear T-shirts with printed messages to express how they feel, to give a testimony or to stand up for a cause. Some youth become untidy when they feel down, blue or sad. They "spiff up" as they perk up.

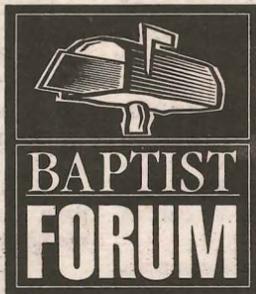
Clothes say a lot about teenagers. Ask adolescents to tell you what it means to dress in a certain way. Listen. Try not to argue, but let them know how you feel. Teens need the freedom to make a statement with their clothes, just like they need space to grow up. Of course, we can expect them to "keep it within decent limits."

One last thing: Don't make too much of how a teen dresses. One girl recently explained to me, "I got this sweatshirt on sale. It was the only thing clean. It doesn't mean anything."

(Reprinted from WR, Oct. 13, 1992.)

Wade Rowatt is director of the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville.

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



HE SAID/SHE SAID

Sing unto the Lord a new song, but please don't make us laugh

SHE SAID



Alison Wingfield

Music evokes powerful memories for me. I can hear a few bars of a song and be transported back to another time immediately.

Just reading some of the lyrics to "Celebrate Life" in this issue of the Recorder brought back the memory of my youth group in Albuquerque, N.M. I can see and hear those teenage guys (half of whom I had a crush on) singing "He's the wind I soar on ..." And I see the face of our music minister who

taught me music can be a powerful ministry.

Harold Walker made sure the notes were right and taught us the correct way to sing. But he also pointed out the message of the music. He encouraged us to sing with our hearts as well as our voices. And he made us laugh.

Different music ministers have introduced me to a wide variety of church music. I've learned you can worship through them all.

Music also can be just plain fun.

I grew up on a steady diet of musicals outside the church—from "The Sound of Music" and "Oklahoma" to "Fiddler on the Roof." "The Sound of Music" is still my all-time favorite movie musical. I'm a sucker for good, simple tunes and a happy ending.

Music often touches my soul like nothing else can. I think God uses music to reach us on a different level. It convicts us, uplifts us, causes us to reflect, brings us to a state of worship. No wonder David wrote his reflections, praises and complaints as songs.

HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

Music does make wonderful contributions to our lives, but it also can be the source of great humor—especially at church.

Grady Nutt taught many of us as teenagers, college or seminary students to play "Second Hymn." It's a game you play when you're bored stiff in a church service. One person selects a hymn title from the hymnal, and then the second person finds an appropriate hymn title to match with it. For example, "In the

Garden" and "Oh, Why Not Tonight?"

Sometimes the humor at church comes because people are so predictable. When I was a kid, one layman in our church always substituted when the music minister was away. And every time he substituted we would sing "Whosoever Meaneth Me." I guess this stuck in my mind as a child because I always wondered which whosoever was going to be meaneth to me.

Other times the humor is the result of unpredictability: the soloist whose spirit is far sweeter than the sounds she produces, the choir that gets lost halfway through an anthem, the organist who hits a really sour note loudly and right in the middle of the pastoral prayer.

You're not a true veteran of church humor, however, until you've had to get up and leave a service to keep from shaking the pew with your stifled laughter. I've been there, and I'll testify it is impossible to stop giggling once you start.

A friend recently shared a tape recording of a service where such an experience happened to her. A well-intentioned violinist played an offertory that would not end—and in a style that was painful to hear.

After the first few verses, despite their best efforts to be reverent, grown men made their way to the foyer, doubled over in laughter. Many in the congregation grabbed for a Bible to start reading the most sobering passage they could find as an antidote to their giggles.

We Baptists may not be charismatics, but no one can ever accuse us of not knowing how to shake a pew.

Why Baptist babies don't take Communion

While the lines between Christian faiths are blurring today more than ever before, in some respects Baptist distinctives are coming into sharper contrast against the beliefs of other denominations.

This is the era in which evangelicals and Catholics are working together, in which politics of both the left and right have united new affinity groupings that transcend all denominational lines. For example, ultra-conservative Baptists often seem to have more in common with ultra-conservative Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Catholics than with moderate or liberal Baptists.

Yet every once in a while we're reminded why those denominational lines were drawn in the first place.

While we find unity in affirming Jesus Christ as Lord, significant theological differences remain between Baptists and Episcopalians, Baptists and Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians, Baptists and Lutherans, Baptists and Catholics. To those who take their faith seriously, these are not mere trifles.

Last month the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America began serving Communion to baptized infants cradled in their parents' arms. Paul Nelson, the denomination's director of worship, called this switch "a theological reclamation of baptism as full entry into the life of the church."

Baptists would agree with that statement, except for the fact that Lutherans practice infant baptism. Baptists, true to our name, believe deeply in the practice of baptism only for those who have willingly professed Christ as Lord. Therefore infant baptism is seen as having no value or effect.

With its latest move, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has given even more weight to the assertion that infants receive eternal insurance from the fires of hell simply by being sprinkled at a baptismal font. Such a position has absolutely no foundation in Scripture.

Nor does the assertion that infants receive any benefit from taking Communion.

While the difference between the Baptist and Lutheran positions on infant baptism may be more widely understood, the average Baptist would be hard-pressed

to explain the difference in views on Communion. Yet the difference represented here is of enormous proportions.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—like Roman Catholics and most mainline Protestant groups—emphasizes the substance of the Lord's Supper while Baptists emphasize the symbolism. Lutherans believe in something called consubstantiation, the notion that the body and blood of Jesus are present with the elements of the Lord's Supper.

Roman Catholics go a step further, with a belief called transubstantiation, which holds that the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Christ.

Baptists do not agree with either of these positions. We see the bread and cup as symbolic reminders of the body and blood of Christ. According to Baptist doctrine, Communion has value not because of what we ingest by partaking of the elements but because the elements remind us of the body and blood of Christ as sacrifice for sin.

Thus, to Baptists the idea of an infant taking Communion is as ludicrous as an infant being baptized. How can partaking of Communion remind an infant of Christ's sacrifice when the child has no capacity to understand Christ's sacrifice?

As Herschel Hobbs pointed out in his book titled "What Baptists Believe," the question of differences in viewpoint on Communion ultimately lead back to differences in viewpoint on baptism. "Christian groups generally are agreed that baptism must precede the Lord's Supper," he wrote. "With this Baptists agree. The question is not Communion but baptism. What is New Testament baptism?"

Once you assert that baptism is intended only for those who willingly and cognitively commit their lives to Christ, you settle questions not only of baptism but Communion as well.

The next time you feel fed up with your church or denomination and flippantly assert that maybe you'll just become a Lutheran or Presbyterian or Episcopalian, think again. The difference may be greater than you can believe.

— Mark Wingfield

At the tone, leave your message ...

By Carey Newman

"I have had a regular prayer time for 15 years. It started as part of a commitment I made during a spiritual renewal weekend at my church. Over the years I have kept adding different things to my devotional time—a Bible reading schedule, a specific prayer list, prayer guides. I have even found myself feeling a tremendous amount of guilt if I didn't pray at the same time, in the same place and in the same way." My friend looked at me and said, "Gosh, my prayer time has become so stale, so routine."

Prayer certainly is a mystery. God desires to hear from us; yet the Bible says he knows what we need even before we ask him. Jesus endorses the regular and methodical practice of the spiritual disciplines; yet who can deny that the Spirit inside of us spontaneously cries out to

God? We are told that prayer is the way to discover God's mind and will; yet prayer is the very way we are to change things in our lives. Prayer is indeed a mystery.

Several things can and should be said about prayer.

First, there is no such thing as wasted prayer. All prayer is important, and none more important than that offered in sincerity.

Second, there is no secret to prayer: there is no time more sacred than any other; there is no place which God deems more special; nor are there any magic words which will guarantee God's attention and action. There is just dependence and trust upon an all-powerful and merciful God.

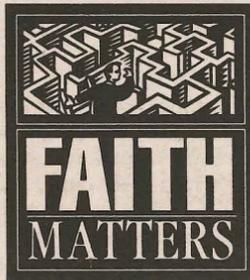
Finally, prayer grows out of and deepens a relationship with God. It should never be viewed as a means to an end. It is an end in itself.

In the last couple of weeks I have

found myself on the phone to some large companies and institutions. My attempts to pierce the corporate armor were met with stiff resistance. First, I had to weave my way through the labyrinth of the voice mail options. Then I had to run the gauntlet of administrative assistants. Only when stamina and ingenuity were applied did I finally get to talk with the person I needed. Gone, long gone, are the days of picking up a phone and getting in contact with someone else immediately.

We often complicate our attempts at prayer by thinking there is a certain protocol. We should resist these ideas that we have to do this first, this second and so on. Notwithstanding any number of (sometimes) helpful practices, the fact of the matter is simple: God is always ready to listen to us. There are no spiritual hurdles we must first clear. We can speak to God without any formal approach or even discipline.

I told my friend to dream great dreams and pray great prayers. *No matter where we are or in what position we find ourselves, God grants us immediate and direct access through prayer.*



Educator: Public schools need Christian volunteers

By Linda Lawson
SBC Sunday School Board

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Gussie Tonne taught in public schools for 23 years, but when she talks about the importance of Christians volunteering their time to help children and teachers, she speaks with the fervor of an evangelist.

"Cooperation between churches and schools is needed to make schools once again community schools," said Tonne, a member of the Southern Baptist Educators Fellowship. "We have public schools that are saying, 'Come help us.'"

Tonne described how St. Paul's Catholic Church and Westview Baptist Church in Belleville, Ill., have provided facilities and volunteers for two inner-city schools.

St. Paul's began by offering their gym to one school so its students could participate in the city basketball league. Church members provided shoes and uniforms. Members also assisted the parents' association in renovating a former crack house and then a second building which became a computer center after another volunteer wrote a successful grant appli-

cation for 20 computers.

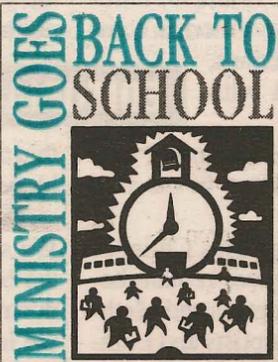
At another school, the principal invited Westview Baptist to provide volunteer grandparents to "adopt" students for the annual Grandparents Day. Next, GAs and Acteens held a lunch and Easter egg hunt for students and their mothers. Each child received clothes and shoes, and each mother took home a box of groceries. A clothing closet for students followed, and then volunteers went into classrooms to read to the children.

Results have included higher student test scores and increased involvement by neighborhood children and their families in the churches.

At Westview, the children's choir grew from eight to 40, Tonne said. "Every time the children sing, the parents come to the church."

Acknowledging that some administrators don't want the public coming into their schools as volunteers, Tonne said "the community has to help in softening up the administrators."

Christian lawyers can be a valuable resource to educate administrators what is and is not allowed in the schools, she added.



10 steps to school ministry

Gussie Tonne, a former school teacher and a member of the Southern Baptist Educators Fellowship, offered 10 necessities for a successful school ministry:

- Enthusiastic leader who believes in children and their worth and who can inspire others. "The leader must believe children can improve."
- Receptive school.
- Written orientation materials for volunteers with clearly stated parameters.
- Types of assistance that match the skills of volunteers.
- Vote by the church to start and maintain the ministry for the long term; regular reports and recognition.

■ Uniforms such as a polo shirt for volunteers, preferably in the school's colors, with identity such as "Friends of" with the school name.

■ Insurance requirements that are learned and followed by all participants.

■ An expectation of eventual increased expenses for children/youth activities at the church.

■ Continual promotion of the ministry.

■ Prayer for all plans, activities and people.

"God works in the most marvelous ways," Tonne said. "Bathe the ministry in prayer, and you'll get into that school in ways you never thought possible."

Options for involvement in public schools are only limited by creativity, Tonne said. Suggestions include:

- Assist students with math drills.
- Work with computers.
- Assist with research and special projects.
- Teach music, art or sports/games classes in schools that do not have paid teachers for the tasks.
- Supervise playgrounds.
- Provide magazines such as National Geographic.

■ Staff or assist in school libraries.

■ Share personal experiences of travel, world events, earlier times. "Teachers appreciate volunteers who can share firsthand experiences about the Depression, World War II or Vietnam," Tonne said.

She also suggested that churches offer their facilities for special events, such as concerts. "When parents have been in your church even for a school event, they will think of you when they have a spiritual need."

Christian youth may discover new calling to 'net ministry'

ANAHEIM, Calif. (RNS)—It was clear that Jesus had entered the high-tech '90s at last month's Harvest Crusade Christian concerts in Anaheim, Calif., as nine workers wore credentials with the job description "Internet Ministry."

During four nights, the free Harvest Crusade concerts attracted a total of 142,500 people to Anaheim Stadium. But thousands more from Malaysia to Hungary clicked onto the Internet to catch the all-music Christian gathering, now in its eighth year and run by Harvest Crusade Fellowship, a 12,000-member, Riverside, Calif., megachurch.

This year, organizers spent \$30,000 on a concert-specific web site.

"We have nine people, eight computers," said Dan Carley, the 22-year-old president of Trinet, a Christian-oriented computer company, who ran the web site from the stadium's press box. "Our goal and purpose is to take the technology that is available today and really use that for ... getting the message of Jesus Christ out on the Internet."

By the event's close, the number of hits on Harvest Crusade's web site (www.harvest.org) totaled 820,768.

Does your church playground need a checkup?

FRANKFORT—Churches with playground equipment should take precautions to check the equipment's safety and surroundings, according to a Kentucky public health department official.

"The important thing is to attempt to have the playground at the church as safe as could be expected, as it is at a school," said Patty Sewell, coordinator of the Kentucky Safe Kids Coalition.

Nearly 200,000 children in America are treated in emergency rooms each year for playground equipment injuries, according to Kentucky's Department of Public

Health.

More than 70 percent of all playground-related injuries involve falls to the ground.

To ensure a church playground is safe, the Kentucky Safe Kids Coalition offered these guidelines:

- Check playground surface. Asphalt or concrete are dangerous. Grass and soil are better, but can become compacted and be dangerous also. If well-maintained, deep beds of shredded mulch, pea gravel or other loose surfaces are safe, but they must be replaced or maintained by leveling or raking to remain so.
- Install slip-resistant surfaces on

climbing and gripping handles.

■ Install protective barriers around elevated platforms.

■ Paint equipment to prevent rust, which can cause weakened structures and broken, sharp edges.

■ Remove potentially hazardous parts, such as protruding bolts or sharp corners. Close all S-hooks completely.

■ To prevent entrapment, make sure the equipment has no openings between 3.5 and 9 inches.

"The most important thing to consider where there are children playing is adult supervision," added Sewell.

Churches that link teens & adults will prosper, youth leader predicts

By Dan Martin
General Baptist Convention of Texas

ARLINGTON, Texas (BP)—Churches can flourish by linking adults and teens in meaningful relationships, youth ministry leader Richard Ross told youth leaders.

"Churches which open the door for adults to move to the front lines of youth ministry will prosper," predicted Ross, a Southern Baptist Sunday School Board staff member associated with the True Love Waits teen abstinence campaign.

"Volunteers no longer want routine, administrative roles," Ross said during Baptist Youth Days at Six Flags over Texas amusement park.

"They want to feel a personal call to their own ministries with youth.

These volunteers want (professional) ministers who will train them and open doors to them," he said.

Many volunteers will lose interest if they are simply helpers of professional staff ministers, Ross said.

"Teenagers are desperate for a sense of community, and this trend will continue to grow," Ross added, saying young people will be drawn to churches that exemplify the scriptural description of Christian fellowships: "See how they love one another."

Ross encouraged the leaders to direct their teenagers toward service. "Leaders who assume teenagers are too self-centered to serve will miss an important trend. Service projects can be a form of outreach, and some secular groups are tapping into this trend better than some churches."



REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children announces a position opening for a Northern Kentucky Regional Administrator to develop and manage child and family services. Qualifications: Master's degree in Social Work or human services field, minimum 12 years experience in child and family services including supervision and budget management and the ability to support the Christian mission of the agency. Send resume to:

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
Audrey Puryear
Vice President for Program Services
10801 Shelbyville Road
Louisville, KY 40243
EO/AA Employer M/F

YOUTH

Williamsburg youth conduct Baltimore sports camps

By Terri Lackey
SBC Sunday School Board

BALTIMORE (BP)—Slum housing. Rodent-infested living quarters. Low wages. Crime-ridden inner-city neighborhoods. God's mission field. Youth from First Baptist Church of



SECRETARY

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is seeking a secretary for its Communications Department. Requires excellent clerical, computer, communications and interpersonal skills. Must be well organized and pay attention to detail. High school graduate with 2 years office experience. Excellent benefit package. Send resumé to:

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
J. Harned
10801 Shelbyville Rd.
Louisville, KY 40243

EO/AA Employer M/F

Williamsburg were among five groups to minister and learn to conduct Crosspoint Christian sports clinics at a training camp in Baltimore this summer.

Nine Southern Baptist young adults served as staff for Crosspoint, a Southern Baptist Sunday School Board-sponsored project that used sports camps to reach unchurched youth for Christ.

In the mornings, Crosspoint staff trained visiting church groups how to conduct sports camps; in the afternoons and evenings, trainers and trainees practiced what had been taught.

The training was formative for First Baptist's youth because many already were active in sports, said Doug Adkins, minister to youth and college students.

"It was important for our kids because they realized that they may not have a talent in singing or in creative ministry but that everyone could use youth sports to help open a door with kids," he said.

The experience also gave many students an eye-opening experience of urban life, he added. One public area where the sports clinics were held was called "Needle Park" because Crosspoint staff had to scour the field to pick up drug users' needles, he said.

The Crosspoint staff stayed in Baltimore nine weeks, traveling to conduct three-hour sports camps in seven different areas that ranged from hard-core inner city to more affluent neighborhoods.

The camps included songs and games, sports time, Bible study, skills training time for drama, creative recreation, puppetry and sign language, and challenge time, the final application of relating the day's events to Jesus.

To establish relationships with the kids, the staff visited each site at least once a week, sometimes two and three times.

"The wealthier-class children require a different type of ministry than the poorer children," said Crosspoint staff director Sandy Maddox. "With the wealthier, we try to teach them that being a Christian is nothing to be ashamed of. With poorer kids, we're just trying to show them that we know life is a struggle and that there is someone who loves them and can help them through it—God."

Adkins said students from First Baptist already are discussing ways to apply what they've learned.

"We hope to be able to do some of those things with people in the future, not just in our church but throughout



our whole county," he said. "Several of them commented that they would love to work with Crosspoint in the future."

Relationship-building is what the whole project is about, said Ellen Udavich of Baltimore Baptist Association.

"It's about meeting unchurched kids, building relationships with those kids, building relationships with their families and then getting a chance to share Jesus. We just have to keep talking and loving and modeling."

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey

CROSS TRAINING Youth from First Baptist Church of Williamsburg teach basketball skills to children in Baltimore. The Williamsburg youth learned how to conduct Christian sports clinics this summer from Crosspoint staff. (Photo by Doug Adkins)

CLASSIFIED ADS

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: 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: 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: 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: 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: 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.

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.

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 Saturday, Sept. 27. Dinner will be served after the morning worship service Sept. 28.

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

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

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth and recreation. Christian leadership training desired. Salary \$150/week. Resumé to: Personnel Committee, Highland Park First Baptist Church, 7321 Billtown Road, Louisville, KY 40299.

SEEKING: Interim administrative secretary. 35 hours per week. Send biographical sketch or resumé to: Long Run Baptist Association, 2722 Crittenden Dr., Louisville, KY 40209.

SEEKING: First Baptist, Winchester, is seeking a full-time minister of education and youth. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 113, Winchester, KY 40392.

FOR SALE: 15-year-old Kimball organ; perfect condition. Nine pedals on floor, two keyboards, 20 accompaniments. Will deliver. \$500, make offer. Call (502) 367-8810 anytime.

SEEKING: Preschool director for Rainbow Nursery School of West Broadway Baptist Church. Competitive pay with flexible hours. For more information contact the church office: (502) 491-1920, or send resumé to 8420 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40220.

SEEKING: Wonderful opportunity for minister of music and youth at a well-established Southern Baptist church with a large family life center. Qualified persons with experience please send resumé to: P.O. Box 3705, Highway 266, Corydon, KY 42406.

FOR SALE: 1989 Chevrolet 15-passenger van. Fully loaded, excellent condition, less than 30,000 actual miles. Asking \$8,000. Call after 6 p.m. (606) 267-2503 or 267-3091.

SEEKING: Terrill Road Baptist Church of Scotch Plains, N.J., is seeking a minister of education and students. The church ministers in a suburban town of 25,000, 25 miles west of New York City. Having recently celebrated our 30th anniversary, the church is looking forward to future ministry and growth in partnership with the person the Lord has for us. Masters of Religious Education preferred. Interested persons may submit a summary of their experience and training by Nov. 1 to: Search Committee Chairman, Terrill Road Baptist Church, 1340 Terrill Road, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. All submissions will be confidential.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Louisa, Ky., is searching for a full-time minister of youth. Send resumé to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 301 West Pike St., Louisa, KY 41230, or fax: (606) 686-3072.

SEEKING: Lowell Avenue Baptist Church of Campbellsville, Ky., is accepting applications for a part-time minister of youth and recreation, working with young people in grades 7 through 12. Send resumé by Sept. 21, 1997, to: 420 Lowell Avenue, Campbellsville, KY 42718.

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

FREE: Seven boxes (3,500 sheets) of high-quality carbon paper. Call: (502) 937-2404.

Can Sanders be a good Christian and still hit hard?

Continued from page 1

"And the answer is extremely simple," he added. "As Christians, we believe God gives us certain talents. We treasure them because they're a gift from God, and we use them to the best of our ability."

"I don't see any contradiction there at all," added Neal Jeffrey, who as quarterback led Baylor to a Southwest Conference championship under Teaff in 1974.

"A man who is possessed by the Spirit of the living God and wants to reflect Christ plays well," said Jeffrey, who played two years in the National Football League with the San Diego Chargers and now is associate pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas. "He plays hard, aggressive and tough, yet he plays within the rules."

The key difference is priorities, said Landry, an active Methodist layman in Dallas.

"When you're a Christian, your priorities are right," he said. "God is first, family second and football third. You can be on the right track and still play the game as tough as you want to play."

In fact, Christian ballplayers live under a biblical mandate to excel, noted Glass, who now lives in Cedar Hill, Texas, and heads an evangelistic ministry for prison inmates. "The Scripture says that whatever you do, do it with all your might," he said. "If you don't play with all your heart, you better get out, or you'll get killed."

"You don't play dirty or illegally, but you play with all your heart," added Glass, who played in four Pro Bowls. "I prided myself on being very aggressive and very tough."

Glass pointed to premier NFL stars who aren't shy about expressing their faith.

"Reggie White (defensive end for the Green Bay Packers) is a committed Christian, a minister

and a very effective leader," Glass said.

"Mike Singletary (retired linebacker for the Chicago Bears) is probably one of the toughest individuals I've ever met—All-Pro for 12 years—and he goes with us into prisons to minister."

Asked about divine intervention, Teaff said he doesn't think God empowers one team over another.

"People would ask me, 'If you're a Christian, why doesn't God let you win?'" Teaff remembered. "Well, the answer is that on the other side of the field are coaches and athletes whom God loves too. God doesn't give a hoot and a holler about who wins. He cares about who plays the game."

And God cares about the witness of Christians who play the game, the players and coaches said.

"For a man to play a sport like football, which is highly competitive, and yet stay in control physically, emotionally and spiritually is a great testimony," Jeffrey said. "A true champion stands up humbly and says, 'I serve a great God, and he has blessed me, and I want to honor him.' And he does it in a way that brings honor to God."

As an outstanding high-profile player, Sanders can provide a witness in the locker room, Landry noted. "The other players respect Christians as long as they live what they believe. ... I would give (Sanders) a chance to prove he's a Christian, and I think the players will too."

In that light, "it's very important for Deion to be the best he can be" as a high-profile Christian athlete, said Glass, who offered Sanders advice from a big brother in Christ: "Don't get weird on us; Christianity is not for weirdos. You want to be wonderful, not weird. Be better because you're a Christian; you're representing Jesus Christ. And don't become a wuss on us now."

Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 1:11)

An eight-day tour of modern Turkey and the sites of the ancient cities where the seven churches were located. This tour will complement other Bible land tours and enhance your knowledge of the New Testament. Hosts: Stuart and Jan Cundiff, who resided in Turkey for six years. The Cundiffs are familiar with the language and customs. Stuart is an associational missionary in Indiana; Jan serves as associational language missions director. Dr. John Polhill, professor of New Testament at Southern Seminary, will be the Bible Study leader. Dates for the tour are April 22-29. Cost from Chicago is \$2,099. A four-night Istanbul/Cappadocia extension is available for \$549.

\$100 early-bird discount available with \$500 deposit made prior to October 22.

For more information, call the Cundiffs at (812) 546-6343 after 5 p.m. (est). Send a legal-size SASE for brochure to JSC, Box 160, Hartsville, IN 47244-0160.



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Pastors, please join us for a special Southern Seminary Pastor Appreciation Day September 16

10 a.m. - Seminary Worship Service, Alumni Memorial Chapel
Special guest speaker: Dr. Tom Elliff, President
Southern Baptist Convention

11:15 a.m. - Pastor Appreciation Lunch, Heritage Hall
Speaker: R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President
"The Church in the Midst of Culture Shock:
Trends, Trials and Tough Issues"

1 p.m. and 2 p.m. - Ministry Seminars:

Closing the Back Door: Church Growth That Lasts
by Thom Rainer, Dean, Billy Graham School

Changing Worship Styles: Changing Tastes or Something Deeper?
by Lloyd Mims, Dean, School of Church Music and Worship

Preaching that Draws the Net: Evangelism Through Biblical Preaching
by Tim Beougher, Billy Graham Professor of Evangelism

Life on the Line: Critical Ethical Issues and the Christian Pastor
by Ben Mitchell, Assistant Professor of Christian Ethics

3 p.m. - Open Forum with Tom Elliff

Luncheon reservations requested by September 11.



The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
2825 Lexington Road · Louisville, KY 40280
(502) 897-4121 · 1 800 626-5525, ext. 4121

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

WOMEN'S NEWS

National Acteens Convention July 1-4, 1998 Louisville

Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center

Each National Acteens Convention is four days of fun and fellowship, hands-on missions activities, and spiritual challenge for any girl. While the event targets Acteens, girls who are Acteens-age but presently not involved in the organization also are invited to attend. More than 15,000 girls and their advisors from all over the world attend this life-changing event which is held every four years. NAC is truly an experience of a lifetime.

Pre-registration for the 1998 NAC to be held in Louisville opens Jan. 2, 1998. Pre-registration is required. The registration fee is \$80 per person and includes convention admission, program materials, theme park and concert admissions, and a NAC T-shirt. The fee does not include housing, meals, insurance or transportation. Registration and housing forms will be available in the January 1998 *Accent Leadership Edition* magazine. For more information, contact Kentucky WMU and the NAC World Wide Web sit at www.nac98.com.

Eliza Broadus State Missions Week of Prayer September 7-14

1997 Offering Goal: \$700,000

- ◆ Ministering to residents of multifamily housing, 95 percent of whom are unchurched.
- ◆ Touching the lives of people who are down on their luck and need food and clothing.
- ◆ Helping individuals and their families who have been affected by AIDS.
- ◆ Taking the gospel to people who call the deep hollows of Eastern Kentucky home.

Praying and giving are two important ways you can participate in these and many other ministries throughout the state which are supported by the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering.

The theme for this year's prayer and offering emphasis is "Let Your Heart Be Broken." Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union invites you to become a part of these ministries by letting your heart be broken as you pray and give.

Come Go With Me

Women On Mission Adults On Mission Retreats

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Oct. 3-4 — Cedarmore

- ◆ Deborah Davis
Missionary to Latvia
- ◆ Dawn Phillips
Writer, *Come, Go With Me*
materials

Oct. 10-11 — Cedarmore

- ◆ Beth Perkins
Missionary to Kenya
- ◆ Renee Kent
Curriculum writer for WMU and
author of the *Kelly Series* books
Book in progress: *Creating
Dynamic Women on Mission
Groups*

Oct. 17-18 and 18-19 — Jonathan Creek

- ◆ Charolette Rock
Missionary to Argentina
- ◆ Charlene Gray
Curriculum writer for WMU and
author of *Children of the Call*

Workshops also will be offered on each age-level organization and co-ed groups. Other workshop topics include: missions in Russia; spiritual growth; stress management; spiritual gifts; developing leadership skills; Christian Women's Job Corps and much more. Call the Kentucky WMU office for more information.

A Personal Word

To God be the glory, great things he is doing through Kentucky Baptists



Kay Trisler
Executive Director
Kentucky WMU

As we begin a new year in WMU, I am very thankful to be a Kentucky Baptist. For the past year, I have felt a great sense of cooperation as WMU has worked together in the missions effort with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

My channel of service has been through WMU for many years, but my love for Baptists and what our programs mean in the kingdom's work have been influenced by many other areas of Baptist life.

When I see former denominational leaders like James Whaley, I am reminded of his influence on our young lives as he gave the charge to those of us who participated in state Bible

drills. Then he and his wife, Wilma, welcomed our WMU Starteam to Kenya in 1987. Today the Whaleys, in retirement, still are doing unique missions ministry through their church in Louisville. They are just two of many who have influenced our work as Kentucky Baptists.

Through the leadership of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Executive Board and staff we are working together with a cooperative spirit:

◆ There will be many opportunities in the months ahead for WMU and Brotherhood to work together in missions.

◆ Kentucky Baptists are realizing the need for unique ministry to wom-

en and Kentucky WMU has been and will continue to be part of that.

◆ The KBC missions division and Kentucky WMU are working together to ensure that allocations to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions reach all areas of our state where there is need.

◆ Kentucky WMU has trained 12 specialists who form a Resource Team that will be available to provide training or assistance in addition to that provided by our staff. We believe local churches will benefit greatly from the work of this Resource Team.

◆ Great news! Kentucky Baptists already have given thousands of dollars above last year's totals to the An-

nie Armstrong Easter Offering, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and through the Cooperative Program.

A very special thank you to four of our Kentucky Baptist family who prepared excellent material for promoting the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions 1997-1998: Alison Wingfield, writer of the *Western Recorder* insert containing material for use by adults; Art Rogers, associate pastor at First Baptist Church of Russellville, writer of youth material; and our own Brenda Price, writer of children and preschool materials.

To God be the glory, great things he is doing through Kentucky Baptists.

IDEAS THAT WORK

Women on Mission

By Denise Jones

◆ **Woman's Missionary Union** is gearing up to meet a tremendous challenge. In the coming years thousands of women and their children will leave the welfare rolls due to recent reforms in the U.S. welfare system. A recent study found that a woman must earn more than \$7 per hour to meet the basic needs of a family of three; however, the majority of women on welfare today are qualified for minimum-wage level jobs only. Although training programs are available for these women, transportation concerns, child care needs, health problems and a variety of personal situations make participation difficult if not impossible.

To help meet this need, national WMU has developed Christian Women's Job Corps. This innovative program, which has received national recognition, pairs one woman in need with a Christian mentor. The two women sign a covenant which can last from one to three years. In this agreement, the mentor provides encouragement to her protégé and creates a network that can help with logistical concerns so the protégé can focus on moving from dependency to self-sufficiency. Bible study is a central component.



To date, five pilot projects have been conducted across the nation by WMU. Results have been strong. Individuals involved in these pilots recently shared their expertise with nearly 200 participants at a training session in Birmingham, Ala. Kentucky women who attended the meeting are excited about the possibilities for ministry through Christian Women's Job Corps. We will begin working in the coming months to implement Christian Women's Job Corps here in Kentucky. Watch *Kentucky Notes* for updates.

Be sure to remember:

- ◆ Eliza Broadus State Missions Week of Prayer, Sept. 7-14.
- ◆ Women on Mission/Adults on Mission retreats, Oct. 3-4 and Oct. 10-11 at Cedarmore and Oct. 17-18 and Oct. 18-19 at Jonathan Creek.
- ◆ 1997 Baptist Women's Day of Prayer, Nov. 3, sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance Women's Department. "Celebrate the Peace of Christ" is the theme and program materials will be included in an upcoming issue of *Dimension* magazine.



Acteens

By Julie Keith

◆ **Come, Go With Me** is the theme for the 1997-98 year. You will have many opportunities to go with your Acteens and explore missions as you delve into *Accent* magazine.

◆ **NAC '98 update.** If you did not receive a NAC mailing in July, please contact our office. The Kentucky WMU office has four copies of the '98 NAC Promotional Video. Your church may borrow these as a way to promote NAC.

The NAC Reconciliation Interpretation Contest is sponsored by Project HELP: Cultural Diversity. Each Acteen is invited to enter one essay, poem, photograph, drawing, piece of original music or video that explains what reconciliation means to her. Cash prizes will be awarded for each category and winning entries will be displayed at NAC. All entries must be postmarked by April 1, 1998. Each entry must be clearly labeled with the Acteen's name, address, phone number, Acteen advisor's name, church name and address. Mail entries to: NAC Reconciliation Interpretation Contest, 100 Missionary Ridge, Hwy. 280 East, Birmingham, Ala. 35242-5235.

All Kentucky NAC T-shirt design entries must be in the WMU office by Sept. 30. NAC scholarship and housing forms must be in the Kentucky WMU office by Oct. 3. If you have questions about NAC, contact me at

(502) 244-6485 or visit the WMU web site at www.nac98.com

◆ 1998 Acteens Activators

Teams. The Acteens Activators/Activators Abroad program provides a chance for girls to go out on a team and actually do missions. Teams work side by side with home and foreign missionaries. In 1997, 13 Kentucky Acteens Activators served around the United States. (See the back page of *Kentucky Notes* for more information about the Kentucky State Acteens Activators Team.) Applications and a new Activators brochure are available from Kentucky WMU. Applications for 1998 must be postmarked by Dec. 15, 1997.

◆ **Acteens Intern.** The Acteens Intern program is an opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to serve God through summer missions. Applications are in the November *Accent* magazine.

◆ **National Acteens Panel.** Each year six Acteens are selected by national WMU to be National Acteens Panelists. An application form is in the October and November *Accent* magazine. An additional 20 outstanding girls are selected as Top Teens.



Mission Friends/Girls in Action

By Brenda Price

MISSION FRIENDS

◆ **Come, Go With Me** to begin an exciting year in Mission Friends as you lead preschoolers and their parents to know about Jesus and his mission. Be sure you have the *Mission Friends Guide*, *Mission Friends Planbook*, *Start* magazine and *Share*. In addition, *First Steps in Missions* will be great to have to supplement *Start* study units.

This quarter, take Mission Friends on an exciting trip to Indonesia by using the Southern Baptist international mission study unit in *International and North American Mission Studies for 1997-98 Teaching Guide for Preschoolers*. The unit can be taught during a churchwide study or during any regular preschool class.

Need suggestions for Christmas or birthday gifts for preschoolers? Encourage parents, grandparents and friends to give one of the many delightful books produced by WMU, SBC as a gift for that special preschooler on their list. The newest releases include *All Kinds of Families*, *Bush Station Boys* and *Down African Roads*. For a complete list, see the WMU materials catalog in the *1997-98 WMU Year Book*.

Plan now to attend the **Mission Friends and GA Leaders Retreat** March 13-14, 1998, at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly. The retreat will begin with supper Friday at 6 p.m. and conclude at 1 p.m. Satur-

day. Kathy Burns, preschool specialist on the national WMU staff, will be the featured speaker. A registration form is included in this issue of *Kentucky Notes*.



GIRLS IN ACTION

What challenges await you as you begin a new year in Girls in Action! Be the best leader you can be by:

- ◆ Reading *Girls in Action Guide*, which helps GA leaders know how to organize, plan and lead Girls in Action.
- ◆ Using *WMU Year Book* to help you know month by month what is in store for GA.
- ◆ Setting goals and determining action plans by using planning forms in *Girls in Action Planbook*.
- ◆ Becoming familiar with *Aware* magazine and using one of the teaching plans in it, along with *Discovery* for grades 1-4 and *GA World* for grades 5-6.
- ◆ Introducing GAs to *World Ventures*, the new individual achievement plan which replaces *Missions Adventures*.
- ◆ Participating in the **Mission Friends and GA Leaders Retreat** March 13-14, 1998, at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly. The retreat will begin with supper at 6 p.m. Friday and end at 1 p.m. Saturday. The retreat will feature Kathy Burns from the national WMU staff, along with opportunities for enrichment, inspiration and fellowship. Use the registration form included in *Kentucky Notes*.



WMU Directors

By Anna Mary Byrdwell

◆ **Come, go with me.** Have you considered the opportunity that you have as WMU director in your church to be used by God during this year?

◆ You can say "Come, let's pray for state missions causes and give to the Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering. Let's meet our goal—and go over it."

◆ Pray for guidance and start a new Mission Friends or GA organization—and begin a life-long missions experience for these children.

◆ Promote and attend your associational training conference. Bring training closer to home with the plan on pages 27-29 of your July-August-September *Dimension* magazine. *The Leadership Team Resource Kit* for this quarter has additional training helps.

◆ Start something new involving people in your church who are not already doing missions. Work with your pastor, church missions committee, and Brotherhood director. Your pastor already may have received a packet of materials that suggests 14 different possibilities. (Some associational directors of missions have distributed these to their churches. If you do not find one, contact our office.)

◆ Encourage someone in your church to get training at the Sept. 25-27 literacy workshop to teach English as a Second Language. Peo-

ple from all over the world are making Kentucky their home—and some have distinct communication needs. Attend the Sept. 25-27

Literacy Workshop at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. Participation in this workshop will help your church open doors to ministry with people who normally would not attend your church. Contact Grundy Janes, Kentucky Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, Ky. 40253 or call (502) 245-4101 for additional information.

◆ When you share the WMU report with your church, always express thanks to those who serve as leaders and who give financially to missions. Let the church know that missions is the responsibility of everyone, and the entire church can rejoice in accomplishments of any.

◆ Give your full support to Acteens leaders and help make plans for your teenage girls to participate in next year's National Acteens Conference at Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville, July 1-4, 1998.

Literacy Workshop
Sept. 25-27
Severns Valley Baptist Church
Elizabethtown



UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendar

September

- 7-14 Season of Prayer for State Missions/Eliza Broadus Offering
26-27 Language Leadership Conference—KBC Building

October

- 1-4 Tenth Continental Assembly, North American Baptist Women's Union—San Diego
3-4 Women on Mission Retreat—Cedarmore
10-11 Women on Mission Retreat—Cedarmore
11 Baptist Nursing Fellowship Session at Women on Mission Retreat—Cedarmore
12 World Hunger Awareness Day and Offering
17-18 Women on Mission Retreat—Jonathan Creek
17-18 Ministers' Wives Retreat—Cedarmore
18-19 Women on Mission Retreat—Jonathan Creek (new date)

November

- 3 Baptist World Alliance, 1997 Baptist Women's Day of Prayer
10-12 Kentucky Baptist Convention—Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington
16-19 International Mission Study
30-12/7 Week of Prayer for International Missions/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Ministers' Wives Retreat

Oct. 17 - 18, 1997
Cedarmore Baptist Assembly
Keynote Speaker: June Rice
For information, contact Peggy Berry: (502) 245-4101

Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Because of the extreme poverty in Yemen, newborns often leave the hospital without a blanket. Ruthie McConnell, a furloughing missionary nurse to Yemen, shared this need at a Baptist Nursing Fellowship dinner meeting earlier this spring. To help meet this need, members of the Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship decided to collect blankets to send to the Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen.

If nurses in your church or association decide to participate in this project, they may bring blankets to the BNF session at the Oct. 10-11 Women on Mission Retreat at Cedarmore or send blankets directly to Yemen. Blankets should be sent to Ms. Kathy Gariety, Jibla Baptist Hospital, P. O. Box 70080, Ibb, YEMEN REPUBLIC. Please note that "surface mail" will be slower, but much less expensive.

Mission Friends and GA Leaders Retreat Registration

Mission Friends and GA Leaders Retreat ♦ March 13-14, 1998

Send to: Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Box 37, Bagdad, Ky. 40003-0037

Lodging: Boone Lodge (Cost includes three meals and a \$4 program fee per person)
2 per room, each person \$40.50
3 per room, each person \$39.50
4 per room, each person \$37.50

Church _____

Person Sending Reservation _____

Telephone (daytime) _____

Address _____

Additional Persons _____

NOTE: \$19 per person registration fee must accompany reservation. Cancellation must be made two weeks prior to event for full refund; or 48 hours in advance for a \$7 refund.

Plan ahead for summer camps

Whether you want to send your children and youth to camp or be a part of the staff for 1998, remember to put camp in your plans for next summer.

Jonathan Creek

May 15-16 Staff Training
June 15-19 GA/Acteens
June 22-26 GA
June 29-July 3 GA

June 19-20 Mother/Daughter
June 26-27 Mother/Daughter

Cedar Crest

June 15-21 Staff Training
June 22-26 GA
July 6-10 GA
July 13-17 GA/Acteens
July 20-24 Youth on Mission
July 27-31 GA
August 3-7 GA

June 29-30 Mother/Daughter
July 10-11 Mother/Daughter
July 17-18 Mother/Daughter
July 24-25 Mother/Daughter

GAs: girls who have completed grades 4-6

Acteens: girls who have completed grades 7-12

Youth on Mission: youth who have completed grades 7-12

Mother/Daughter: girls who have completed grades 1-3 and their mothers

Thank You!

Here's a great big "Thank You" to all those who helped to make 1997 summer camps special.

Jonathan Creek Central Staff. GA Camp: Ann Carr, Amanda Coke, Holly Henson, Melissa Norris, Renee Smith, Debbie Strait, Abbie Whitley, Annie Whitley, Kellie Williams. **Acteens Camp:** Kim Day, Carla Houston, Beverly Winchester.

Jonathan Creek Volunteer Counselors: Kim Bone, Debbie Brown, Teresa Burden, Donna DeRossett, Maggie Evans, Glenda Garland, Becky Holland, Jewell Jackson, Christy Lovett, Estie McMackin, Arlene Miller, Cindy Miller, Jean Miller, Brucie Moore, Zona Newton, Mary Perino, Renee Ramsey, Martha Smith, Linda Strait, Mandy Waldrop, Linda Williams, Janna Willie, Sharion Wright-Eisenhauer.

Cedar Crest Staff: Summer Bertram, Beth Bond, Becky Bretz, Tamara Brobst, Christina Brown, Erin Burnett, Michelle Burton, Jenny Cahal, Hope Casey, Evie Cash, Diana Detterick, Valerie Gosser, Heather Green, Cheryl Kincaid, Beth Logsdon, Amy Marshall, Becky Noe, Shannon Patterson, Joy Polk, Candace Rosser, Tiffany Smith, Angela Stanifer, Heather Stearns, Angela Tallent, Jackie Lynn Watson.

Cedar Crest Volunteer Nurses: Randi Gerretson, Lois Gosser, Amy Key, Carolyn Maddux, Linda Russell.

President's Perspective



Peggy Hicks
President
Kentucky WMU

The disciples were busy at their nets when the Master said, "Come, go with me." God's call was to walk with him, to learn from him, to be empowered by him. They didn't know they had discovered what going with him involved, and his imperative to reach a lost world was made clear. That clarion call is no different for us today.

Understanding the invitation should have us feeding the spiritually and physically hungry, providing for the homeless, ministering to many groups of people in our midst — deaf, migrants, persons with AIDS, children with special needs. Kentucky Baptists

Throughout WMU, missions is our major concern

have sought to do this through the state mission offering—the Eliza Broadus Offering. The offering provides for missionaries, special ministries and projects and missions activities. Our promotion of and giving to this offering are essential.

In December, we will take a look at the international missions area that beckons us to "come go" around the world and minister in Christ's name. Many years ago Lottie Moon, missionary to China, in her plea for prayer and money to send missionaries, opened a way for many who could not go to provide for those who could re-

spond to "Come, go with me"—to the ends of the earth. You continue to be a part of all this through your support of the Lottie Moon Offering and the Week of Prayer for International Missions. How urgent it is for us to promote this offering.

Ask God to show you how to give of your time, resources and abilities as you share his love. These are serious and exciting times for missions. Churches must be made aware of what happens when we do not reach our special missions offering goals or the Cooperative Program goal.

Missions is our major concern. In WMU seedbeds—Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Acteens, Women on Missions, we cultivate God's eternal design that all peoples of the earth may know him. Missions awareness is cultivated through our organizations. That is why it is important that our leadership be strong and well-trained and know how to motivate and involve people in missions, especially keeping the focus on reaching people for Christ beyond the local church.

Thank you for all you are doing for Christ in your part of Kentucky. What a joy to work with you.

MISSIONS INFORMATION

Acteen Activators

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union sent out the first-ever Kentucky Acteens Activators State Team this summer. The team was composed of 11 Acteens and four adults. They are:

Name	Church	City
Jennifer Atherton	Lone Oak First Baptist	Paducah
Melanie Boren	New Hope Baptist	Cadiz
Laura Cooley	Junction City First Baptist	Junction City
Angie Fortener	Hartford Baptist	Hartford
Ashley Godwin	Westport Road Baptist	Louisville
Jessica Jones	Second Baptist	Mortons Gap
Megan Holbrook	First Baptist	Mt. Vernon
Missy Mahurin	St. Matthews Baptist	Louisville
Crystal Rose	Bethel Missionary Baptist	Benton
Destiny Yates	First Baptist	Walton
Diana Yates	First Baptist	Walton
Adults		
Sheila Brown	Guthrie Baptist	Guthrie
Cathy Chinn	Living Faith Baptist	Hartford
Julie Keith	Westport Road Baptist	Louisville
Freida Tackett	Cynthiana Baptist	Cynthiana

Our Acteens Activator team had the privilege of doing missions day camps in five churches. We worked in two churches in Massachusetts: First Baptist Church in Sudbury and Bay Community Baptist in Swansea; and three churches in Connecticut: Gallup Hill Baptist in Ledyard, Welcome Baptist in Hartford and Southbury Baptist in Southbury. We interacted with 74 wonderful children throughout the week. Our team worked alongside Paul and Peggy Grossman, missionaries to Burkina Faso. The missions day camps were coordinated by Ina York, camp director in New England. We were responsible for crafts, games, music, face painting and clowning. God allowed us to have a wonderful missions experience as we served him as the Kentucky State Acteens Activators Team.



First Row (kneeling): Diana Yates, Sheila Brown, Freida Tackett, Megan Holbrook, Crystal Rose, Jennifer Atherton. Second Row (standing): Jessica Jones, Destiny Yates, Cathy Chinn, Ashley Godwin, Angie Fortener, Laura Cooley, Missy Mahurin, Melanie Boren, Julie Keith.

Kentucky WMU announces

KENTUCKY WMU RESOURCE TEAM

Trained and equipped to help Kentucky churches do missions

Purpose: Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union seeks to equip associations, churches and individuals in being radically involved in the mission of God. One equipping method Kentucky WMU uses is providing a state-wide network of trained individuals who can assist churches and associations in their areas. When the plan is fully implemented, each of the eight areas of the state will have a resource team member for each age level, a team member for each coed organization and a general WMU team member.

Qualifications: Resource Team members are individuals with expertise and knowledge in a given area of WMU work and who currently are working in the respective age level or area.

When you want help:

- ◆ Contact the Kentucky WMU office at least one month before the meeting for which you need assistance.
- ◆ Complete the request form specifying the age level and type of training needed.
- ◆ Churches and associations are encouraged to provide \$.20 per mile travel expenses, and meals and lodging if needed. An honorarium may be appropriate, based on services rendered and available financial resources.



Standing: Sue Theis, Bettie Wright, Dee Rheame, Lillie Cox, Etta Butcher, Shirley Taliaferro, Jo Pelham, Joni Breeding; Front Row: Bonnie Cecil, Tanya Koch, Brina Stephens, Pat Reeves

To help your coed organizations

◆ Leaders can experience a 45-minute overview of Children in Action, Youth on Mission or Adults on Mission during the fall Women on Mission Retreats at Cedarmore or Jonathan Creek.

◆ Resource team members and WMU Staff are equipped to assist you.

◆ Two specialized conferences are planned for 1998: April 4, 1998, Immanuel Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, and Sept. 12, 1998, First Baptist Church, Richmond. Sessions will be 9:30-12 noon Saturday morning for all leaders of Children in Action, Youth on Mission and Adults on Mission. There will be a time of sharing ideas and experiences, gaining new insights and enthusiasm, and strengthening coed participation in the local church.

◆ Please think about mission education/participation needs in your church. Are there people who might become involved in a coed organization? Introduce them to this concept and the materials available. Contact Kentucky WMU for a starter packet for any of the organizations. Remember, the ultimate goal is to help all people *understand and become radically involved in the mission of God*. Will this be of help to one of your churches?

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

ISSUES

RECOGNITION OF DECEASED KENTUCKY BAPTIST LEADERS

The 1997 KBC Obituaries Report will include information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptist in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, September 1, 1996 through August 31, 1997.

These persons would be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has significantly benefitted our state convention fellowship and mission programs.

We need your help to gather the following information:

1. Full name of deceased
2. Date of birth
3. Active or retired status in last position held in city, state where located
4. Name of church where member, association, state where located
5. Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

Please forward this information before September 2 to:

Executive Office
Kentucky Baptist Convention
PO Box 43433
Louisville KY 40253-0433
ATTN: Obituary Report

These obituary entries will be reported to the 1997 KBC annual meeting in Lexington. You are an important part of our network to gather information on those servants who deserve to be remembered among Kentucky Baptists.

Courts offer 2 different rulings on religion-based schools

MILWAUKEE (RNS)—Courts in Wisconsin and Minnesota have issued rulings in two separate cases on public aid to schools with religious bases.

In Wisconsin, the State Court of Appeals ruled the voucher system used by parents in Milwaukee to send their children to private schools, including religious schools, is unconstitutional.

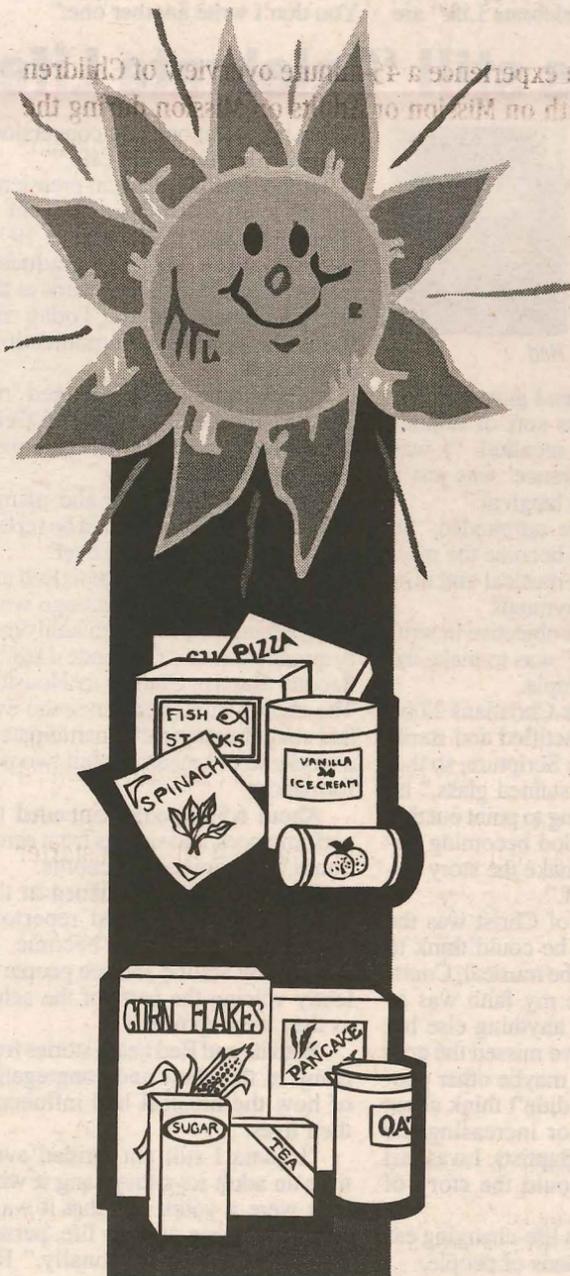
The ruling upheld a decision by a U.S. District Court that said the voucher plan violated the state's constitution because it clearly represented government assistance to religion and as such was a violation of the separation of church and state.

In Minnesota, however, a federal appeals court said a school district may operate a one-room elementary school for members of the Christian Brethren, a Christian sect that opposes the use of computers and other modern technology.

In a 2-1 decision, a three-judge panel of the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said a lower court erred last year in ruling the school unconstitutional.

To accommodate several Brethren families in Vesta, Minn., officials of the local school district agreed in 1993 to reopen a closed one-room elementary school for about 20 Brethren children. Officials have testified the curriculum taught at the school—by a public school teacher—is the same as at the district's other elementary school but without the high-tech equipment.

Officials said no religious instruction takes place and no religious materials are present.



It's Round-Up Time!

September is 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!

Most Needed Items:

Canned fruit, pie filling, fruit juice, vegetable or corn oil, salad dressing, mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, breakfast cereal, pancake syrup, jam, jelly, dill and sweet pickles, pickle relish, spices and seasonings, canned soup, mild salsa, sloppy joe mix, spaghetti sauce, dried pasta, water-packed tuna, sugar-free drink mix, cake and brownie mix, cake frosting, sugar (white, brown, and powdered), casserole mix, microwave popcorn, foil, food storage bags and plastic wrap. Also, personal care items such as soap, shampoo and toothpaste.*

* Health regulations prohibit us from accepting home-canned foods or dented cans.

Please pack items in sturdy boxes!

For more information call:

1-800-456-1386

or (502) 245-2101

See our web site at <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc>



Simplicity, timeless subject key to musical's success

What is "Celebrate Life?"

- The best-selling church musical of all time.
- The most frequently performed musical in Southern Baptist churches this century.
- A product of the early 1970s, when church youth choirs were big and church music styles were beginning to change dramatically.
- A Southern Baptist product that has gained widespread acceptance and usage in other Christian churches, including Roman Catholics.
- One of the first church musicals for which an accompaniment track was sold.

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

Retelling the simple gospel story in the style of a classic Greek drama accompanied by timeless music is the secret to the success of "Celebrate Life," according to a number of music professionals and the musical's own authors.

"Simplicity" is the key, according to Mark Blankenship, director of music ministries for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, which first published the musical 25 years ago. "It's not complicated to do. Four characters carry the whole drama. The music is easily learned and sung."

But the most important thing, Blankenship said, is the musical is based on the life of Christ. With that context, it is usable at Easter, Christmas or any time of year, he added.

Kentucky composer Phillip Landgrave agrees with that assessment.

"It was a timeless subject. It was not centered on the latest fad text-wise," said Landgrave, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the composer of numerous songs and musicals himself. "A presentation of the gospel with the four Gospel writers being the four narrators certainly has

a timeless quality to it."

Buryl Red, who wrote the music for "Celebrate Life" to accompany lyrics and drama by Ragan Courtney, believes the musical has been so successful because it "connected with people."

"The story is told beautifully by

Ragan's language.

The way he put it together, it connects in a very personal way, in a way that makes you feel like you understand it individually, that you were there personally. But it also still is very respectful, so that you don't hold it so much in awe. You do come away with a renewed respect and sense of wonder."

Musically, Red said he tried to write solid songs that felt contemporary but would not feel old-fashioned a year later.

"When I wrote the music, I wanted it to have a connection with the past. My intention was not to break with the past and be revolutionary. My intention was to honor the past but at the same time be in the present. Then I also hoped it would sort of be con-

nected to the future."

While "Celebrate Life" may be remembered by many as an early form of contemporary Christian music, its music actually spanned a variety of styles, Landgrave explained. "The music was a blend of popular and traditional idioms, many of which are

nothing more than "an odd collection of songs knitted together by a few lines of dialogue," said Elwyn Raymer, former Sunday School Board music editor.

The difference with "Celebrate Life" is that it was written as an entity to have a "togetherness, a tight linkage" between all elements, he explained.

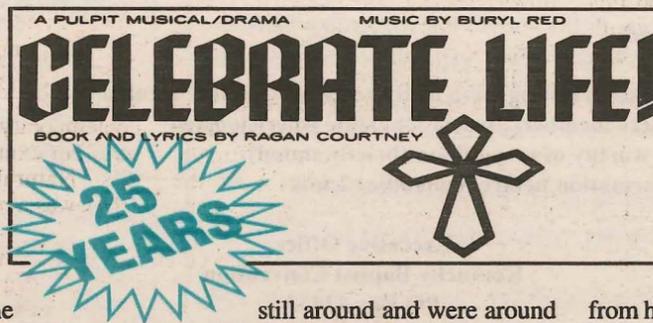
Raymer said both Courtney and Red drew upon the influence of New York theater as well. "They were in that world, and yet they were solid Southern Baptist Christians."

Courtney said he approached "Celebrate Life" from his theater background and realized the way to make it work was to imitate Greek theater. "Church is basically Greek theater," he explained.

Thus to do a life of Christ story, he set up the four gospel writers as narrators, with the story expanded by a chorus.

Red said people often ask him why he and Courtney don't write another musical like "Celebrate Life."

His response: "Write another one? There's not another story. This is it. You don't write another one."



still around and were around before we ever got there."

For example, the opening processional is a modified chant followed by "The Truth Shall Make You Free," which is a breezy pop-style song. "The Song of Mary" is a ballad, and "The Three Kings" is a zany pop piece. Other musical styles used reflect the influence of choral anthems, as in "Prayer for Peace," and soft rock, as in the climactic "He Is Alive."

Many youth musicals published before and after "Celebrate Life" are

Musical almost wasn't published

NASHVILLE—The best-selling church musical of all time nearly didn't get published 25 years ago because an executive with Broadman Press didn't think it would break even.

"In retrospect it's kind of funny. But at the time we were very upset," explained Elwyn Raymer, a Kentucky native and Georgetown College graduate who was one of the key players in bringing "Celebrate Life" to Southern Baptist churches.

In 1972, Raymer was music editor in the church music department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. He and others in that department had been working with Buryl Red and Ragan Courtney to create the new youth musical.

The musical had been approved in concept as a 48-page piece. What Red and Courtney finally turned in was 148 pages in printed form.

Raymer recalls that when he and William Reynolds, who then was editorial director in the church music department, took the manuscript to Broadman, it was rejected. Broadman at the time was the Sunday School Board's publishing division.

Because the final product was three times the size of what had been projected and because recording it would take two records rather than one, the Broadman official feared the numbers just wouldn't add up. Yet Raymer and Reynolds were convinced they had a winner in "Celebrate Life."

"I remember Bill finally throwing down the gauntlet," Raymer said. "He said, 'If you won't publish it, Raymer here will send it to his colleagues at Word and they'll publish it on our recommendation alone.'"

With that, the Broadman executive recalculated the numbers, added \$1 to the sales price and declared it could break even, Raymer said.

Reynolds, who later became head of the church music department and now teaches at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, wouldn't talk on the record about Broadman's near-miss, but he did say he knew "Celebrate Life" would be a big seller with big results.

And any doubts about whether the musical would break even were put to rest immediately, he added. "It has outsold everything the board has done. It has gone like wildfire."

Although exact sales totals for "Celebrate Life" are not available from the board, estimates range from 400,000 to half a million copies.

After 25 years, Baptists still 'Celebrate Life'

Continued from page 1

lines of a song called "The Truth Shall Make You Free," one of 15 songs in the new musical.

It's been 25 years since "Celebrate Life's" contemporary retelling of the life of Christ was published with Courtney's words and Red's music. Yet virtually any baby boomer who was raised in a Southern Baptist church has either sung or heard the music.

Courtney recalls several years ago performing at a Sunday School Board-sponsored event at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville to introduce the new Baptist Hymnal. Someone suggested he ask anyone in the vast audience who ever had sung in "Celebrate Life" to raise their hands.

"Everybody raised their hands," he recalled with astonishment.

"It is probably the strongest Christian musical for church usage in this century," said Mark Blankenship, director of the Sunday School Board's music ministries department.

Although exact sales figures were not available from the board, Blankenship said "Celebrate Life" has sold thousands more copies than any other church musical in history. And it still sells well today, he added.

By some estimates, "Celebrate Life" may have sold nearly half a million copies. That compares to church musicals today that are considered successful if they sell 30,000 copies.

From the day of its premiere, "Celebrate Life" met with "wild acclaim," explained Elwyn Raymer, who in 1972 was music editor at the Sunday School Board and today is an executive with BMG Music.

Neither Courtney nor Red had any idea their work would become classic in the church music world.



Courtney



Red

"I remember when I gave (the lyrics) to Buryl, I was sort of embarrassed," Courtney recalled. "I was afraid 'In Remembrance' was just a little ditty he would laugh at."

Those fears were unfounded. "In Remembrance" has become the most popular song of the musical and now appears in several hymnals.

Courtney said his objective in writing "Celebrate Life" was to make the gospel plain and simple.

"Somehow we as Christians 2,000 years later have sanctified and sterilized every bit of the Scripture, so that it has become like stained glass," he said. "I've been trying to point out that the incarnation is God becoming human. So I tried to make the story human and not so stiff."

Telling the life of Christ was the most natural thing he could think to use as material for the musical, Courtney said. "Because my faith was so new, I didn't have anything else but that. I thought, if I've missed the gospel all these years, maybe other people have as well. I didn't think about saving the world or increasing the ranks of Southern Baptists. I was just telling as best I could the story of Jesus."

The result was a life-changing experience for thousands of people.

"There were lots of decisions for Christ," said Raymer, the former music editor. "Churches would always

report rededications and conversions in the use of 'Celebrate Life.'"

At the time the musical premiered during a student missions event at Glorieta, N.M., in December 1971, Linda Lawson had just graduated from college and started work at the Sunday School Board. Today she heads the board's communications department.

"Celebrate Life" changed my life," she recalled. "Because of 'Celebrate Life,' I understood the Resurrection in a whole new way."

Lawson's experience and memory of "Celebrate Life" could be reported many thousand times over.

That came home again to Red and Courtney just a few weeks ago when they participated in a 25th anniversary production of "Celebrate Life" at Second Baptist Church in Houston. The church invited anyone who ever had sung the musical to participate in a weekend of rehearsals and two performances.

About 6,500 people attended the performances, and singers from across South Texas joined the chorus.

Courtney said he realized in that setting what a standard repertoire "Celebrate Life" has become. "I would look around and see people silently voicing the parts of the actors as they were spoken."

Both he and Red heard stories from many in the choir and congregation of how the musical had influenced their lives.

"I guess I still am thrilled every time an adult says they sang it when they were a youth and that it was a major influence on their life, personally and even professionally," Red said. "The most satisfaction is that I still hear it day in and day out from adults."

MUSIC

'Good News' was bad news for music traditionalists

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

The day of the big youth musical may seem as far away to some Southern Baptists as bell-bottom pants and leisure suits, but the influence of that genre on church music is heard even more loudly today.

"Celebrate Life," which marks its 25th anniversary of publication this year, wasn't the first major youth musical, but it is the best-known and most-used.

By most accounts the first youth musical published for use in churches was "Good News," which premiered in 1967.

To many traditional church musicians, "Good News" was bad news because it brought influences of secular music to bear on church music.

"Good News" and its predecessors did for church music what Elvis did

for the blues: Many more people were interested, especially many more young people, but the product never was the same again once it met up with rock and roll.

"This was the beginning of kind of catering to youth in the churches," explained Jim Cordell, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church music department. "To me the downside is it has separated them into almost a para-church organization. Before this, they were integrated into the life of the church."

As a result, baby boomers who were raised on youth musicals have not gained an appreciation for the standard choral repertoire of the church, he said. "Some youth choirs went down the road of doing nothing but musicals. The danger in that is you don't build good choral tones. You've got to do a variety; there's got to be a balance."

Other critics see the drive for churches to offer "seeker" services and contemporary worship styles today as natural outgrowths of the earlier youth musical movement. And adults who grew up in youth choirs that sang musicals often don't want to join adult choirs that primarily sing traditional anthems.

On the flip side, however, youth musicals opened the door for many more young people to remain active in the church and find a place where they could identify, according to Phillip Landgrave, professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The youth musicals of the late 1960s and early 1970s were a "positive effort not only to reach youth but to identify with youth," Landgrave said. "It gave them a voice."

To understand the cultural context in which church youth musicals developed, Landgrave and others said, take into account the influence of popular youth touring groups called "Up With People" and similar groups that popularized a kind of wholesome youth folk music.

Some religious youth musicals were written as specific antidotes to contemporary threats to the youth culture. For example, Ralph Carmichael's "Natural High," published in 1970, was a response to the drug culture.

But making the transition into the church with even wholesome contemporary music did not happen without conflict, Landgrave recalled. "There was a problem for some people who held on to tradition at all costs," he noted.

Also, the guitar "had gained some reputation with rock music," he added. "To see a guitar in the sanctuary was tantamount to some people thinking they were going to do rock music, which by definition was considered by some to be anti-Christian."

"Many people at the time were very upset if you brought an acoustic guitar into a church," confirmed Elwyn Raymer, a Kentucky native who in the 1970s was music editor for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. "It wouldn't matter if you sang



a nice rendition of 'Silent Night.' They thought it said in Scripture that you couldn't do that with a guitar."

William Reynolds, former head of the Sunday School Board's church music department and now a professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, recalled a youth group from Houston that learned this lesson the hard way.

The youth group traveled across town to another Southern Baptist church to present the musical "Good News." After the third song, the pastor of the host church stood up and kindly asked the choir to leave, explaining, "We don't sing that kind of music in our church."

Yet today, the music of "Good News" and "Celebrate Life" looks tame in comparison to contemporary worship trends, noted Raymer, who now heads the contemporary Christian division of BMG Music in Nashville.

"At the time it was very trend-setting. But you look at the music now and you think, really?"

Early youth musicals

- *Good News*, 1967, by Bob Oldenburg
- *Purpose*, 1969, by Phillip Landgrave
- *Tell it Like it Is*, 1969, by Ralph Carmichael
- *Life*, 1970, by Otis Skillings
- *Now Hear It Again*, 1970, by Bob Burroughs
- *Natural High*, 1970, by Ralph Carmichael
- *Celebrate Life*, 1972, by Ragan Courtney and Buryl Red

RON WILBURN

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40th Anniversary Concert
Sunday, Sept. 14
6 p.m.
Gardenside Baptist Church
1667 Alexandria Drive
Lexington
(606) 277-7391

Cathy Sue Smith

By Robert Dunston

We at Cumberland College are delighted to have Cathy Sue Smith on campus this year as our missionary in residence.

Smith serves with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in Cainta, part of the huge metropolis of Manila in the Philippines. Her ministry is at Faith Academy, where she teaches second grade.

Faith Academy provides education from kindergarten through high school to the children of missionaries who serve throughout Southeast Asia. The school has 626 students from 26 countries and whose parents represent 87 Christian missions groups. About a third of the students live at the school and thus are separated from their parents by many miles. Smith supervises these dormitory students as well as helping coach women's soccer and basketball.

Smith graduated from Cumberland College in 1989 with a bachelor of science degree in elementary education having concentrated in elementary, special and early childhood education. She taught elementary school for several years and completed a master's degree in education at Western Kentucky Uni-

versity. During this time, she was pursuing her dream to serve in foreign missions. Upon completing six months of training at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Smith was appointed to the Philippines as an elementary teacher. This past June, she completed her first four-year term at Faith Academy.

We rejoice at what God has done in Smith's life. She accepted Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord during a campus revival here at Cumberland College. While she was a student here, God called her to foreign missions. She responded by serving two summers as a summer missionary in Israel and then by dedicating her life to full-time foreign missions service. Her story shows how God is working at Cumberland College to touch and change lives.

Smith would love to speak about the work God is doing in the Philippines. Having known her for more than 10 years, I think you would be inspired by her testimony and Christian spirit. Contact Smith by calling her at (606) 539-5185 or the school's religion and philosophy department, (606) 539-4261.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



State missions deserves your support

Jesus said to his apostles, "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." This teaching is one that continues to motivate and encourage Kentucky Baptists to continue cooperating in missionary, educational and benevolent endeavors for the cause of Christ in our local communities, state, nation and to the ends of the earth.

September reminds me of Kentucky Baptist state missions. Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union gets the credit for implanting this in my memory and keeping my state missions awareness heightened. WMU also gets the credit for the statewide educational, prayerful and financial support of state missions, particularly through the week of prayer and the Eliza Broader Offering for State Missions.

How fortunate we Kentucky Baptists are to have the quality and variety of state missions organizations that are extending on a daily basis our hands and feet in touching peoples' lives for the cause of Christ. What we could never do alone we are doing together through these organizations. Although space will not allow, I wish I could testify on every organization's behalf how each is fulfilling its state missions

calling. In addition to Kentucky WMU, here is a list of the ones whose boards are elected by the Kentucky Baptist Convention and which deserve your and my financial support: Campbellsville University, Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Cumberland College, Georgetown College, Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly, Kentucky Baptist Convention State Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, Oneida Baptist Institute and Western Recorder.

The current financial requirements to keep our Kentucky Baptist state missions family productive are: \$165 per minute, \$10,000 per hour, \$240,000 per day or \$87 million per year.

Please call Laurie Valentine or me at (502) 244-6466 to discover how you can provide lasting support and make a permanent investment in one or more of these state missions organizations. Even if you need income from your state missions investment, there is a way for you to give now.

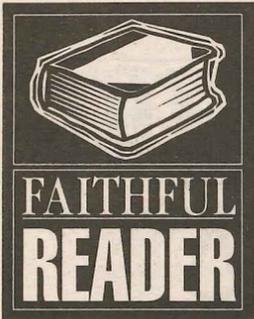
Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, 10605 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40223.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

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

The Church's Portraits of Jesus. Linda McKinnish Bridges. Smyth and Helwys, 1997. 116 pages. \$11.95. ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

If you have ever wondered why there are multiple Gospels, this book is for you. If you have ever wondered why Jesus seems different in each Gospel, this book is for you. If you have ever tried to answer the above questions for someone else, this book is for you. In other words, anyone interested in the study of the Gospels will find this book useful and interesting. Bridges contends that each Gospel paints a picture of Jesus that reflects the distinctive background and needs of a community of the early church. Bridges uses the analogy of viewing multiple portraits in a gallery in order to help us approach each Gospel and its meaning. Her analogy helps the reader understand that the meaning of the text is not only in the portrait painted but also in the effect of the portrait on the viewer.

Her final chapter encourages every reader to answer the question, "Who is Jesus Christ, anyway?" Bridges' work is solid scholarship and yet maintains easy accessibility for the person in the pew. Preachers will find the book useful because of the splendid stories Bridges weaves into her exposition of the teachings and perspective of each Gospel. The book is ideal for both individual and group study. *Wayne Hager*

How to Increase Giving in Your Church. George Barna. Regal Books, 1997. 184 pages. \$17.99 ♦♦♦♦
Sometimes George Barna's writ-

ings about the life and ministry of the church come too close to doing church by statistics. That is, find out what people want or what the limits of their tolerances are, and tailor the church's programs, worship and ministry to those wants or limits.

Happily, "How to Increase Giving" does not fall into that trap. True, the book is based on 11 nationwide surveys during a four-year time frame, interviewing more than 10,000 adults. While most of those surveyed indicated that they regularly gave to churches and other charities, a sizable number indicated they never contribute to those organizations. Their responses provide a fascinating look into the minds of those who do and do not give, and this is a significant contribution.

But, Barna is not content simply to report on the attitudes of people about giving. Nor is he willing to reduce his prescriptions for increasing giving to pandering to the lowest common denominator. As in many of his other works, Barna does argue that those who plan giving campaigns should consider seriously what the surveys say. However, he further argues that church leaders should challenge many attitudes people bring to the question of financial stewardship.

This is one guide that would benefit any person responsible for some aspect of the church's finances. *Jim Holladay*

Practical Praying. Linette Martin. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1997. 179 pages. ♦♦♦♦

"It is wise to ask yourself from time

to time, 'Why do I want to pray better?' If the main purpose is to achieve internal quietness, you are looking for a nice religious feeling rather than contact with the dangerous, living Christ."

Throughout this book, Linette Martin contends that the challenge of prayer is to offer all of who we are, at every time of our life, in every way we can to the God who "...is absolutely uncontrollable and absolutely good."

Martin's practical guide to developing a life of prayer is based on the fundamental assumption that prayer is not easy, and that a life of prayer takes time to develop.

In the 18 pithy, yet succinct chapters, Martin offers practical suggestions, with solid spiritual rationale, for using one's whole self in the discipline of prayer. I found myself being disturbed and challenged by her insights and suggestions.

Those of us in the free-church tradition, with its emphasis on informal prayers, should hear her discussion of the strengths and limitations of extemporaneous praying and learn the benefits of using written prayers from the history of the church. As a pastor, I found myself more than a little uncomfortable with her indictment of "prayer as gossip" during many prayer meetings.

I almost put the book down early on when she dismissed the need for a conversion experience as a foundation for a vital prayer life. I am glad I didn't let that stop me, because it became clear that she is convinced conversion and prayer go hand in hand. *Jim Holladay*

Power-Packed Promises: From God to Me—From Me to God. Andy Holmes, illustrated by Rob Suggs. Baker Books, 1997. 95 pages. \$12.99. ♦♦♦♦

A growing and important area of Christian publishing is devotional books for children. Twenty years ago the only Christian books available for children were illustrated Bible story books and children's bibles. Today, a parent can choose from a wide variety of books geared specifically for a devotional time.

This latest offering from Baker Books picks up on the popular theme of God's promises and explores promises through 10 levels. Each level includes an introductory lesson with a "power-packed principle," followed by four devotions that further develop the principle.

The unique feature of this book is that with each promise from God a suggestion is made as to the promise the child can make back to God. For example, when the promise from God is that even the smallest deeds of kindness will be remembered and rewarded by God, the child is encouraged to promise to be kind to others. An illustration is given for each "power-packed principle" that teaches how to communicate the principle in sign language.

The fast-moving devotions are application stories and not the re-telling of a Bible story or passage. Scripture references are provided for parents and children who want additional devotional reading in Scripture. The target age for this book is 5 to 8. *Wayne Hager*

Do you need a will?

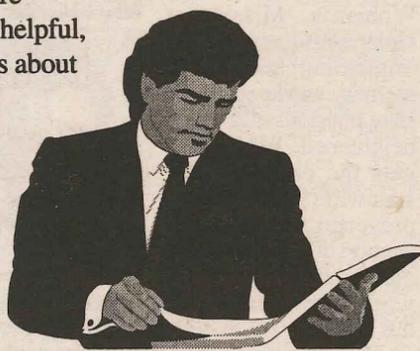
In life, each of us makes a number of important decisions. Choosing a spouse, church, career, home, physician and hospital, as well as many other decisions, has a daily and direct impact on the quality of our lives. The impact on one of your most important decisions will not be realized until after your lifetime.

If you do not have a will, the state in which you live could decide how your estate will be distributed after your death. With a will, you decide those and other important matters.

The first step in thoughtful estate planning is the decision to have a will. Baptist Healthcare Foundation has a number of helpful, easy-to-understand brochures about wills that underscore the importance of wise estate planning. Even if you already have a will, these brochures contain concepts about planning and the related benefits to family as well as to charitable organizations that you care about.

If you would like a free copy of any of these brochures or if you have questions about the importance of thoughtful estate planning, please contact Baptist Healthcare Foundation. We will be happy to assist you without cost or obligation.

Baptist Healthcare Foundation
4007 Kresge Way
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 896-5035 • (800) 224-4745



Home missions, KBHC style

Missions is the language of Southern Baptists. Our denomination began as one "doing missions." A recent restructuring of our home and foreign mission boards has not changed the concept, even though I still don't have the new names down pat.

We have directors of missions, Women's Missionary Union, and the Lottie Moon foreign and Annie Armstrong home missions offerings. We enjoy world missions conferences where we hear of exciting work by missionaries at home and abroad. I am for it all.

Have you ever thought about how helping children can be another way of doing missions?

Right now KBHC needs missionaries to become involved with us in many different ways. Yeah, we need real live missionaries to work as direct-care staff and help meet the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of children in care.

We need missionaries who will become foster families and give young people Christian homes. So many children can benefit from foster care, and we just don't have enough homes.

We also need missionaries

who are willing to adopt children with special needs. These children may be medically fragile or have severe emotional problems stemming from abuse.

We also need missionaries who will commit to lead Bible studies, take on special projects and visit our children regularly. Our staff stays so busy dealing with day-to-day care, and we need your involvement in giving our children spiritual growth opportunities.

You don't have to go far to be a missionary for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. But remember, where we do missions is not what makes us missionaries. It is what we do for others in Jesus' name.

Interested? Give us a call. We can help you find a place to do missions at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children whether it is for a day, a week or a year. You'll be making a difference in some mighty precious lives.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

PERSONAL FINANCES

What influences your spending personality

By Don Spencer

Each of us is different in the way we approach life and in the way we relate to people. That's a part of our personalities.

Likewise, we have differing personalities when it comes to spending money. All of us make money mistakes. The trick is to learn from those mistakes and not overdo them.

Does one or more of these spending personalities describe you?

■ **Impulsive Buyer.** These are often the "last of the big time spenders." They seldom comparison shop. They buy on a whim. They are the most likely to "blow the budget." Tip: Leave the store. Most of the time you won't return to buy the product.

■ **Hot Potato Buyer.** This spender will put off making decisions. They wait until the pressure mounts. Then, they react impulsively. Tip: Take the time needed to educate yourself before making important spending decisions. Then make the decision, and do it.

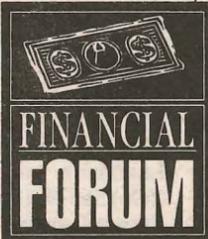
■ **Fanatical shopper.** This shopper spends excessive energy just to save a few dollars. Tip: Remember, time is money. Don't spend \$10 worth of time to save \$2.

■ **Esteem buyer.** This shopper buys to gain approval of peers. This is the one who, eager to gain approval of a spouse after a fight, will frequently buy expensive gifts, even if the fight was about overspending. Tip: Gain your own esteem by conquering spending mistakes.

■ **Overdone buyer.** This person spends excessively on a habit or hobby, often at the expense of other family needs. Tip: Identify the underlying cause, such as boredom. If necessary, ask a friend or professional for help.

■ **Balance-it-to-the-penny buyer.** This is the analytical, detail-oriented person. Planning is critical in his or her thinking. Often, this person will spend too long studying and planning when he should get on with it. He tends to be rigid and sometimes legalistic. Tip: Be flexible. Act in faith. Take some risks. Sometimes, lower your standards.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department.



Coalition lists fall priorities for Congress

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The new president of the Christian Coalition last week elevated legislation to combat religious persecution overseas to the top of his organization's list of congressional priorities.

Don Hodel said the Religious Right's leading advocacy group would emphasize the issue because "it is an international crisis and U.S. inaction is a disgrace." Hodel added that the group remains committed to its previously announced agenda for the 105th Congress.

That agenda—unveiled in January by former Executive Director Ralph Reed—included an emphasis on tax cuts and other economic initiatives designed to aid families. It also includes efforts to reach out to inner-city minorities through faith-based anti-crime and anti-drug programs.

Hodel also said passage of the Religious Freedom Amendment, which would allow prayer in public schools, and education reforms designed to increase local control would also be coalition concerns when Congress reconvenes after Labor Day.

Hodel's comments drew immediate criticism from long-time coalition critics.

"There's a great irony here," said Carole Shields, president of the liberal People for the American Way Action Fund. "The Christian Coalition today proclaims its desire to fight for religious liberty abroad. But with the same breath it renews its assault on religious liberty at home."

Shields was referring to the coalition's support for what she called "captive" school prayer.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Alabama residents oppose Disney boycott.** A third of the people in an Alabama survey said they agree with a Southern Baptist boycott of the Disney Co., but nearly half of boycott supporters said they have taken no steps to implement it. According to the survey by Southern Opinion Research in Tuscaloosa, Ala., about 57 percent of those polled said they disagree with a decision by the Southern Baptist Convention to urge its members to boycott Disney. Among those who described their religious affiliation as Baptist, 52 percent said they oppose the boycott.

■ **Meanwhile, Focus backs it.** Focus on the Family's James Dobson announced last week his support of the protest of the Walt Disney Co. A Focus on the Family news release said Dobson is joining the Southern Baptist Convention and others in boycotting. Dobson announced the decision on his daily broadcast, aired on nearly 2,000 radio outlets to an estimated 3 million to 5 million listeners weekly.

■ **Non-profits object to subpoenas.** Non-profit groups as diverse as the Christian Coalition and Americans United for Separation of Church and State are complaining that the U.S. Senate committee investigating campaign finance has subpoenaed information unrelated to the committee's work. James Bopp Jr., an attorney for the Coalition and the National Right to Life Committee, said he is especially troubled by Republicans on the committee targeting groups they consider liberal, while Democrats target groups they deem conservative.

■ **Clinton hears anti-death penalty plea.** While on vacation attending an outdoor service in Oak Bluffs, Mass., President Clinton heard John Miller, chaplain for the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, make a sermon plea that convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh be spared the death penalty. "When the state

supports execution, it invites an ongoing cycle of violence," Miller said. Before McVeigh's arrest, Clinton pledged to seek the death penalty for those responsible for the bombing.

■ **Religion news show premiers.** "Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly," a new program produced by the New York public television station WNET, premiers Sept. 5. In addition to reporting on the nation's top religion and ethics stories, the show will include profiles of people of faith, and provide religious and ethical viewpoints on domestic and foreign events. KET has scheduled the show for Wednesdays at 1 p.m., starting Sept. 24.

■ **Opposition to vouchers waning?** Opposition to public funding of private education appears to be softening, according to a new Gallup survey. In 1993, less than one fourth (24 percent) of respondents favored public funding of private education, while 74 percent opposed it. This year, 44 percent of respondents favored the idea, while 52 percent opposed it.

■ **Religious groups stress dignity of work.** The National Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice, a group seeking to reinvigorate the partnership between religion and labor, said about 500 congregations across the country focused on the dignity of work and "God's call for justice in the workplace" in Labor Day weekend sermons and worship services.

■ **Black Baptist group claims bankruptcy.** The Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention, the largest black Baptist organization in the state and an affiliate of the National Baptist Convention, USA, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. The convention's membership includes about 900 churches with a total of 420,000 members. The bankruptcy filing was blamed on the financial decisions of past leaders of the convention, who were voted out of office in November 1995.

Church Health Summit '97

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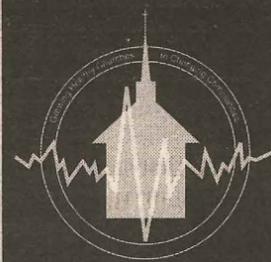
"We do not have to go to a business meeting to decide if we are going to begin a new ministry. They see a need, pray about it, and talk about it. If they feel God is in it, they do it."

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PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

- Irina, the Russian secretary for the Kentucky partnership office in Moscow, as she moves to Jackson, Tenn., to study at Union University this fall. Wisdom for Bob and Nancy Walden as they seek a replacement.

- The Baptist church in Pskof, Russia, which recently celebrated its 110th anniversary.

- Antonio and Andrea Aro and the Brazilian Bible study group that meets in their home in Brighton, Mass.

- Iglesia Bautista El Calvario of Chelsea, Mass., and Iglesia Bautista Fundamento Ferme of Lynn, Mass., as the two Spanish churches seek a pastor.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

- **BENTON**—Bethlehem Church called Jack Kee as pastor. He was ordained to the gospel ministry at Gilbertsville Church July 27.

- **FRANKLIN**—Blackjack Church called David Renfroe as pastor. He previously was pastor at Welfare Church in Jamestown. He began his new ministry July 20.

- **LEXINGTON**—Chevy Chase Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sept. 27-28. A reunion/fellowship will be Saturday at 7 p.m. Dinner will be served after the Sunday morning worship service.

- **LOUISVILLE**—Dallas Vincent recently retired as pastor at Ormsby Heights Church. He will be available for interims, supply preaching, reviv-

als and Bible studies. He will reside in Louisville and can be reached at (502) 937-7003.

Harry Gibson, age 89, longtime member of Walnut Street Church, died Aug. 21. He taught Sunday school over 30 years and was a deacon for 12 years. Gibson is survived by his wife, Margaret; one son; two daughters, and two grandchildren.

Cooper Chapel Road Church will host La Gran Festival Hispana family picnic Sept. 14 from 1 a.m.-4 p.m. at McNeely Lake Park. For more information call Ruth Pascual (502) 955-7933 or Gus Reyes (502) 222-7841.

- **McCREARY COUNTY**—Forty members of First Church in Whitley City, First Church in Stearns and Be-

Barbers appointed missionaries

RICHMOND, Va. — Former Shepherdsville pastor Garry Barber and his wife, Judith, recently were appointed to serve as Southern Baptist missionaries to the Ukraine.

Barber, who served more than two years as pastor of Sunnyside Baptist Church, will serve in general evangelism.

"Specifically, I be-



Barbers

lieve that God has called me and gifted me to train and disciple church leaders and pastors cross-culturally," he said.

Mrs. Barber will serve in church and home outreach evangelism. "We are all excited about the path God has shown us and our future in building his kingdom overseas," she said.

Ribbons, corndogs and "antelope"

On August 23, some of our faculty and staff children made what has become an annual trip to the Kentucky State Fair. It was our third year to compete in the fair's spelling bee, and for the third year in a row we brought home a blue ribbon.

Our 15 young people comprised the largest group of participants we've ever taken. They were accompanied by enough teachers and parents to supply an ample cheering section.

The group left Oneida at 7 a.m., and excitement levels were running high. After all, this would be more than a spelling competition. A trip to the fair means many things: candied apples and popcorn, exhibits of crafts and cooking, rides on the midway and, of course, savoring the sights and smells of cattle, sheep and swine.

Oneida Baptist Institute Chaplain Michael Spencer had told the student body that his favorite part of the fair is biting into "the world's best corndog." Sixth-grader Zech Siler began making plans in advance. In the van halfway to Louisville he asked, "Now where did Mr. Spencer say we could get one of those corndogs?"

Once at the fairgrounds, the group had plenty of time to enjoy the rides and exhibits before the first spelling bee of the afternoon. Children participating in the bees are grouped into three categories, based on the school grades they completed last spring. Our biggest group this year was in the 5th and 6th grade division.

The Kentucky State Farm Bureau sponsors bees both on weekdays and weekends. We always go on a Saturday, when attendance is up and the competition is fierce. This year was no exception.

In a practice round, the children told their names and the school they attend, then spelled a warm-up word. The contest began in earnest on

the second round. Our younger students spelled bravely, but were eliminated one by one.

When our fifth and sixth graders began their bee, they knew they were our last hope. By the time only four children were left standing, three of them were from Oneida. Their teacher, Elizabeth Buckner, realized victory would be ours. "I knew by then that at least two of the three winners would be from Oneida."

Cliff Godbold finished fourth, and Noel Spencer earned the third-place ribbon. That left Veronica Bowling to battle an opponent from another school. Veronica is the niece of our late president, Barkley Moore. She attended the spelling bee two years ago when her brother, Will, participated. But she did not want to take part herself. Last year she entered the bee and did quite well. This year, though shy and soft-spoken, Veronica was a force to be reckoned with.

When only two contestants remain, the rules change. Veronica had to spell correctly any word her opponent missed, then successfully spell another word in order to win. When the other student missed "macaw," Veronica set things straight. Then our adults held

their breath as the announcer stated "antelope." Veronica thought for just a moment before beginning; "a-n-t-e-l-o-p-e." Yes! She had won.

Middle school principal Ed Lowdenback was quick to praise all the students who took part. "I'm proud of our teachers and our students for the quality of their participation," he said. "I think the bee has helped our kids want to do better in spelling."

And did Zech ever find that corndog? "Oh, yeah!" he exclaimed, eyes shining. "It was good."

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

the Church spent nine days in July on a partnership mission trip at Gallup Hill Baptist Church in Ledyard, Conn. The Kentucky team led vacation Bible school, backyard Bible clubs, an evangelistic crusade, a youth rally, door-to-door canvassing and magic shows. More than 50 people made professions of faith in Christ during the effort. Larry Frisby, associate pastor at First Church in Whitley City, was team leader.

- **MURRAY**—Flint Church called Timothy Franklin as pastor. Franklin began his ministry July 13.

- **OWENTON**—Pleasant Ridge Church held groundbreaking ceremonies Aug. 17 for a new fellowship hall and extra Sunday school rooms. David Wotier is pastor.

- **PRINCETON**—First Church will celebrate homecoming Sept. 21 to honor the 20th anniversary of Pastor Bill Tichenor. Events include a homecoming choir consisting of cur-

rent and former choir members, 10:30 a.m. worship, dinner and an afternoon program at Caldwell County High School. Call (502) 365-5591 for more information.

- **SALYERSVILLE**—First Church called Interim Pastor Matthew Gulion as pastor. He began his new ministry in mid July.

- **SMITHFIELD**—Smithfield Church recently ordained Robert Cantrall to the gospel ministry. Cantrall is a student at Southern Seminary and serves as associate pastor/minister to young adults at Immanuel Church in Shepherdsville.

- **STANFORD**—Freedom Church will host a women's retreat 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 6. Marilyn Huffman of Lexington will be the speaker. Call (606) 365-8012 for more information. Stuart Dawson is pastor.

- **STURGIS**—Grangertown Church called Dale Hanson as pastor. Hanson began his new ministry Aug. 17.

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CONTACT: David J. Riffe ACSW, LCSW
Registered with Long Run Baptist Association

Welcome to the class of 2001

The new term started Aug. 25. We are thrilled with 42 new students who completed orientation. These first-time students represent another successful year for our admissions process. They come to us from seven states. Kentucky leads the way with 23 students, followed by Tennessee (11), Ohio (four) and Virginia (two). We have one student each from Georgia, Texas and West Virginia. Seventeen new students are single; 25 are married. The married students have 37 children, ages 1 to 20. Twenty-two of these children are girls, and 15 are boys.

Last year Clear Creek trustees revised our admission policy regarding younger students. The catalog now reads, "Although Clear Creek's historic emphasis is theological education for the adult student, we recognize God calls individu-

als when they are younger. Applicants below age 21 are considered for a special admissions status. Some previous college is helpful. Primary concern of the admissions committee will be the spiritual maturity of the individual." The first requirement of any applicant is "evidence of divine call" to God's work. The average age for the class of 2001 is 28, with only six students below age 21. The oldest student is age 52. Six students are in their 40s,

while seven are in their 30s.

What job skills does this class bring? Previous employment includes computer programmer, pastor, theater, mechanic, career missionary, electrician, land surveyor, store clerk, mechanical contractor, insurance, department store manager, construction, auto detailer, typist, amusement park worker, nail technician, carpenter, grocery stocker, factory assembler, military,

security, family services, truck driver, real estate agent and clerk. Twenty-three of the group have some previous college work.

We may have our first father-daughter team enrolled. After 10 years as a Tennessee pastor, Jerry Lusk followed God's leadership to secure additional training. His 18-year-old daughter, Jessica, is also a student with us. Younger sister Gin-

ger, 16, recently returned from summer missions in Timbuktu. Twenty-year-old Daniel "Jeremiah" King returns to familiar sights. His father is a 1992 alumnus and recently graduated from Southwestern Seminary.

Pray for these new students and the many adjustments they have to make.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

IDEAS

Music minister says lead or get ready to lose worshippers

Unless worship services "start somewhere and go somewhere," younger participants will lose interest, a veteran music minister told his peers.

Norman Behymer, minister of music at Council Road Baptist Church in Bethany, Okla., said many worship services cause younger people to "lock out emotionally" because the services do not flow.

"For something to flow, it has to start somewhere and go somewhere," Behymer said. "School musicals flow, television presentations are cohesive. Why can't worship be the same way and have energy?"

Behymer was quick to point out that taking people to the throne of God does not mean using "bigger and better music Sunday after Sunday. It is an attitude that directs people to the Lord Jesus. Worship should be a fresh encounter every week.

"If you are bored or frustrated with your services, that isn't bad," he advised ministers of music. "God is about to do something in your heart to lead your worship in a new direction."

Migrants offer opportunities for ministry

There are more than 1 million migrant workers in the United States, which translates to more than 1 million ministry opportunities.

"Whatever the form of the ministry, it has consistently resulted in professions of faith," said Donoso Escobar, immigration and refugee associate for the North American Mission Board.

"Evangelization fleshes out the gospel by presenting migrant workers with tangibles of God's individualized love," he said.

Prayer ministries rewarding, but hard work

Carrying on a divine conversation with God is both spiritually rewarding and personally fulfilling, but it also is tough work, said a leader in the field.

"Real prayer is hard work, and a church cannot rely solely on faith to keep a prayer ministry alive," said T.W. Hunt, author of several resources related to prayer.

For a church to have a healthy prayer ministry, it must have a staff who base their lives on prayer and whose meetings "are permeated by prayer," said Hunt, who recommends two types of prayer ministries for churches—intercessory and watchman.

In an intercessory prayer ministry, people gather at the church to pray in groups. In a watchman prayer ministry, they pray in their homes during an hour assigned to them each week. The result is that someone from the church is praying around the clock.

Hunt suggested a church participate in both an intercessory and a watchman prayer ministry. "But if you can only do one, do a watchman because it involves more people."

Leaders know whether it's yesterday, today, tomorrow

"What time is it?"

Effective leaders must know the answer to that question, said Gary Fenton, pastor of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala.

"Tomorrow is the world we have to live in if we want to be leaders. It may only be 1997, but the 21st century has already started. Almost all of the projections for the next century have already happened."

Fenton offered suggestions for how "tomorrow thinkers" can focus on the next generation:

■ *Look at the basic demographics of an area or region.* He said one Baptist campus ministry in Texas is developing plans to use senior adults in its program because of the population explosion in the latter group forecast for their region.

■ *Look for significant generational changes.* Quoting studies by the U.S. Navy, Fenton said Americans are moving from a society of linear, rational thinkers to one composed of non-linear thinking people.

■ *Try to interpret the impact of technological changes.* The computer has not only changed communication but how people expect results, he said.

"People expect immediate response, and that desire for speed doesn't stop when they leave their computer. ... More than ever before, we're going to have to be ready to give an answer about our beliefs. We need to be anticipating the questions people are going to ask."

Quiet listening can minister better than nervous chatter

"How are you feeling?" isn't usually the most appropriate opening line when

visiting someone experiencing poor health or the death of a family member, according to Bob Sheffield, a consultant in the Baptist Sunday School Board's pastor-staff leadership department.

Instead, begin by expressing friendship and concern for the person's situation. If people who are ill or bereaved want to express how they feel, he said, the words of support provide that opportunity but do not demand a response the person may not feel up to giving.

"The key element we bring to any caring situation is the ability to listen," Sheffield said. Good listeners, he said, look at the person speaking, pay close attention and react responsively. They do not interrupt the speaker, but are

sensitive to what the speaker is saying. Likewise, good listeners do not rush the speaker. They ask appropriate

questions, are emotionally controlled and do not have a hidden agenda.

Churches advocating change must be healthy

An African-American church must register a healthy pulse, be of sound mind and purpose, and have a strong pastor if it is to serve as an agent for change in its community, a professor and pastor said.

"A healthy church is a change-agent church. A healthy church is always growing," said T. Vaughn Walker, professor of black church studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and senior pastor of First Gethsemane Baptist Church in Louisville.

"The No. 1 issue of many churches is their need to change—to adapt to the communities' needs," Walker said, adding African-American churches come from historical and traditional backgrounds—"the churches that have the hardest times changing."

"I suggest the issue for churches that want to become change agents is that they become balanced and healthy," Walker said. "The African-American church has always been a holistic church, meaning it always believed in ministering to the whole person. It now has to develop a holistic strategy for healthy church development."

Church history doesn't have to be 'dry as dust'

Stories about people can prevent a

church's history from being "dry as dust," said Pat Brown, a media and church history consultant for the Baptist Sunday School Board

"History is not just facts; it is stories," Brown said. "And compiling stories is a good way to start a history."

While the style, size and cost of a printed church history can vary greatly, Brown encouraged all churches to reaffirm their roots and tell the story of who they are as a family of faith, if only in duplicated and stapled form.

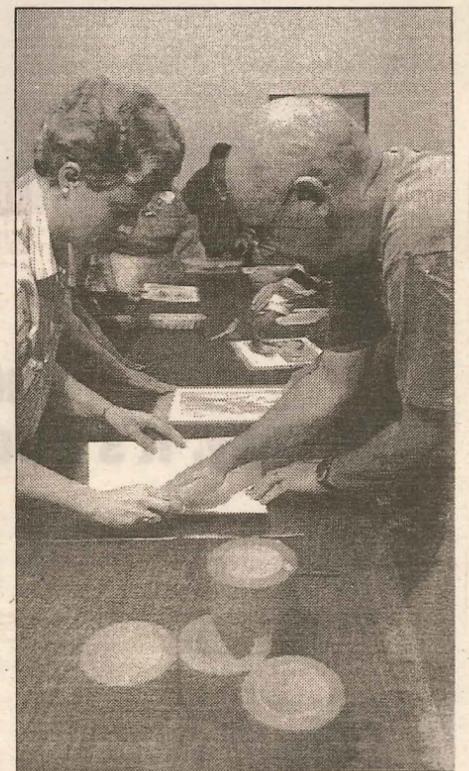
And she urged churches to publish a history that is "user-friendly, not a scholarly document. Far better to have a collection of stories with a timetable in the back than to have something so detailed that no one wants to read it."

Be creative and flexible to reach inner-city

Churches can combine creativity with flexibility to reach urban residents, said New York church planters Linda and Larry Holcomb.

They listed four keys to effective ministry: pray, know the needs of your community, be creative and flexible, and don't be afraid to experiment.

Among their creative ideas: gaining permission from coffee house owners to bring in music for entertainment and church members who are customers and seek out relationships with others in the audience. They also have conducted vacation Bible school in city parks and used public libraries to host dialogues on community-interest issues.



FINAL TOUCHES Cindy Steer (left) of Grapevine, Texas, and Kent Shirley, missionary to Bolivia, finish laminating a picture for an education kit. The kits the volunteers made during Jericho week will be used on mission fields in North America and overseas. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

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