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WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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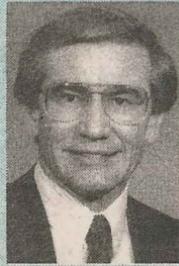
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KBC executive nominee called creative leader

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

A former Whitesburg pastor who currently serves as leadership development and evangelism growth director for South Carolina Baptists has been nominated to be executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Bill Mackey, 56, will be presented to the KBC Executive Board Dec. 8 by a 14-member search committee.



Mackey

If elected, he would succeed Bill Marshall, who retired after 14 years as KBC executive secretary-treasurer. Mackey would assume the post Feb. 1, nearly one year after Marshall stepped down.

Mackey is described by friends, colleagues and the search committee as a creative leader who will help the KBC position itself for the 21st century. In South Carolina, he has been part of one of the most widely lauded reorganizations of a state Baptist convention staff into leadership teams focused on serving the needs of local churches.

Search committee chairwoman Peggy Hicks of Louisville described Mackey "a man who has a vision for the future and knows who we are."

She said Mackey is "conservative but non-political."

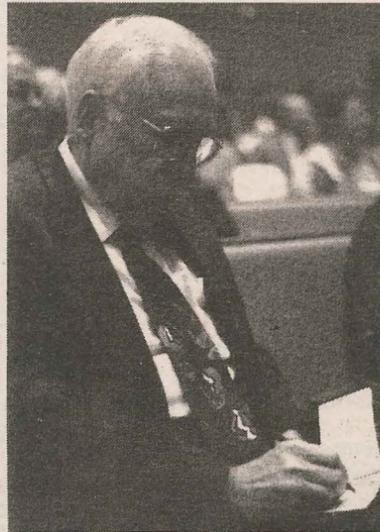
"He feels he's there for everyone," she said, explaining that meets the committee's profile. "Early on the search committee said we must find a centrist."

She predicted Mackey would be "inclusive" by relating to Kentucky Baptists of all political, theological and geographic categories, as well as of all church sizes.

Based on his experience in South Carolina and his training in leadership development, Mackey should help Kentucky Baptists "define our mission and goals" and keep the convention on track toward meeting those goals, she said.

In a meeting with Executive Board staff members Nov. 13, Hicks said Mackey will serve as a coach who will encourage staff members while at the same time holding them accountable.

She described him as gentle
□ See KBC executive ..., page 3



KENTUCKY BAPTISTS A total of 1,602 messengers attended the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 11-12 at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. ■ **Top left:** Curtis Warf, retired pastor of First Baptist Church of Richmond, votes on a constitutional amendment to change how churches gain representation at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. The amendment failed. ■ **Middle left:** Messengers sing hand-in-hand after President Floyd Price's address. ■ **Bottom left:** The Kentucky Baptist Chorale sings. ■ **Right:** Rusty Ellison tethers his hot air balloon at the corner of Man O' War Boulevard and Nicholasville Road. The balloon was inflated three times during rush hour at the busy intersection.



Kentucky Baptists reject CP amendment

By David Winfrey & Mark Wingfield
News Director & Editor

LEXINGTON—A constitutional change in the way churches gain representation to Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meetings failed to get the two-thirds majority vote needed for adoption Nov. 12.

A slim majority of messengers favored changing the KBC's constitution to include the words "and/or other convention work" alongside "Cooperative Program." However, the 298 to 271 vote was well-shy of the two-thirds majority required.

Impetus for the change came from moderates who want to continue full participation in the KBC but don't want to continue sending undesignated offerings to the Southern Baptist Convention. That led Bob Fox, pastor of West Point Baptist Church in Centertown, to propose a motion at last year's annual meeting to substitute the words "convention's work" for "Cooperative Program."

The KBC's committee on constitution and bylaws, which is charged with reviewing any proposed constitutional changes, offered a com-

promise wording that retained the words "Cooperative Program" while adding the reference to "convention work."

Committee members and KBC President Floyd Price, an ex officio member of the committee, argued that this compromise would benefit both moderates and conservatives. Not only would it have allowed moderates to give to the KBC without giving to the SBC, it would have allowed conservatives to give more money designated directly to the SBC without the KBC taking a percentage out.

The KBC's constitution provides that every church "in friendly cooperation" with the KBC may send two messengers to the annual meeting.

"One additional messenger of each such church shall be allowed for each additional 250 members, or for each \$250 contributed to the Cooperative Program during the fiscal year preceding the annual meeting," according to Article III, Section 2 of the constitution. "No churches may be allowed more than 10 messengers."

The proposed change would have added the words "and/or other con-

vention work" after "Cooperative Program."

The Cooperative Program is the KBC's unified funding plan, which also feeds national Cooperative Program funding of SBC missions agencies, seminaries and other entities.

Of undesignated money given by Kentucky Baptist churches to the Cooperative Program, 65 percent stays with Kentucky Baptist causes and 35 percent is sent to the SBC Executive Committee.

Paul Long, chairman of the constitution and bylaws committee, presented the committee's report during the final session of this year's annual meeting at Porter Memorial Baptist Church. Aside from his brief remarks, the committee did not speak to its rationale for endorsing the change.

Debate opened as Glen Armstrong, pastor of Beaver Dam Baptist Church, said his church consistently has ranked among the state's top 25 in Cooperative Program support yet he favored the change.

"I believe in the Cooperative Program," he said. "I also believe in the
□ See CP amendment ..., page 3

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **North Carolina** Baptists maintained a balance of power in their state convention Nov. 10-12 by choosing a conservative president to serve alongside a moderate-led general board. Messengers at the 167th annual session of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina elected Mac Brunson as president of the 1.2 million-member convention. Brunson, 40, is senior pastor of Green Street Baptist Church in High Point. Brunson's election marks the third straight year conservatives have won the presidency in North Carolina, a former moderate stronghold. In a nominating speech, Charles Page, pastor of First Baptist Church in Charlotte, said Brunson's election would continue a "balance" between conservatives and moderates on the state convention's general board.

■ **Louisiana Baptists**, in a move described as "unprecedented," elected Bob Anderson of Baton Rouge as president of their state convention after his nomination was approved by two warring factions and a "peace" group. The action was a departure from the fiercely contested presidential elections of recent years and comes after months of dialogue between leaders of both sides of the conflict in the state convention. "We must stop labeling one another and start finding ways to love one another," Anderson said.

Texans adopt sweeping changes; Dilday elected

By Greg Warner
Associated Baptist Press

AUSTIN, Texas (ABP)—Texas Baptists, who constitute the nation's largest state Baptist group, have approved historic changes sure to distance the group even further from the conservative-dominated Southern Baptist Convention.

Gathering in Austin for its annual meeting Nov. 10-11, the 2.7 million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas affirmed its "autonomy" and authorized Texas Baptists to appoint missionaries, offer new options for theological education, publish their own Sunday school literature and create mission partnerships with SBC and non-SBC groups, including the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Critics immediately denounced the changes as hostile to the SBC, the national body which represents more than 14 million congregants and which has steered a decidedly conservative course in recent years.

The changes are contained in the long-awaited report of a special Effectiveness/Efficiency Committee. The report drew criticism from SBC leaders as soon as it was released last summer and from conservative messengers at the Austin convention.

The report is "accusatory and contains a hidden agenda distancing the state convention from the national convention," charged conservative John Hatch, a pastor from Lake Jackson whose motion to delete the plan failed early in the BGCT meeting.

After lengthy debate and several attempted amendments, messengers later approved all 16 of the recommendations from the Effectiveness/Efficiency Committee, which was created two years ago to evaluate the BGCT's programs and relationships.

Also approved were 10 changes to the convention's constitution, bylaws and articles of incorporation, including one amendment that will link participation in the BGCT to churches'

financial support of the state convention rather than church size. However, those changes, which require a two-thirds majority, must be approved again at next year's meeting.

Texans Baptists also showed their independence from national SBC leaders by electing as their president Russell Dilday, a former SBC seminary president fired by conservative trustees.

"I've had both the experience of being fired and of being elected, and I enjoy being elected a lot better," joked Dilday, whose 1994 firing from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth ignited a firestorm of protest from Texas Baptists and others.

Backed by the state's strong moderate organization, Dilday garnered 71 percent of the vote over conservative candidate Ted Tedder, a San Antonio layman who drew 29 percent.

In a post-election press conference, Dilday said the sweeping changes approved by the Texas convention do not indicate "we are leaving" the Southern Baptist fold or becoming competitive with the national convention. "There's no competition between lighthouses."

Instead, he said, the changes show Texans' determination to set their own agenda and mission.

Outgoing Texas president Charles Wade appealed to Southern Baptist leaders "not to chide Texas Baptists for our determination to give our churches and their leaders freedom to make the decisions they believe are best for them in reaching out to do missions work in the world."

"Southern Baptists will have our support if they will focus on missions and evangelism, but they will drive more and more Texas Baptists away if they focus on requiring conformity as a condition for cooperation," said Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church of Arlington.

Among the highlights of the Texas changes:

■ The BGCT affirms its status as

Texas conservatives consider split

AUSTIN, Texas (ABP)—Conservatives "have in place all the machinery we need to begin an elementary convention in the state of Texas," Miles Seaborn told a gathering of about 400 unhappy members of the group called Southern Baptists of Texas.

They met late at night Nov. 11 after a long day in which they lost vote after vote on the leadership and direction of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

But Seaborn, president of the organization which has tried to steer the Baptist General Convention of Texas into sync with the rightward-shifted Southern Baptist Convention, stopped short of saying the group would split from the Texas convention. "It seems to us God is saying, 'Take a step in that direction,'" Seaborn acknowledged.

However, the most prominent voice in the room urged the group to continue its quest to gain control of the BGCT. Paul Pressler called for Southern Baptists of Texas to remain in the BGCT at least long enough to head off a proposal that would require churches to contribute to the Texas convention in order to send more than two messengers to its annual meeting.

"I am not willing to give up every Texas institution until we lose the bylaw amendment" on the mes-

senger requirement, said Pressler, a retired Houston judge who masterminded the conservatives' domination of the Southern Baptist Convention in the 1980s.

Pressler noted a BGCT constitutional change requires a two-thirds favorable vote at two successive BGCT annual meetings. Messengers to the Austin meeting approved the first reading of that amendment, 73 percent to 27 percent, the next morning.

"We will work to get messengers next year in Houston" to derail the vote on second reading, Pressler pledged.

But leaders of Southern Baptists of Texas have been preparing for another scenario, said Seaborn, retired pastor of Birchman Baptist Church in Fort Worth. "The officers have prayed, planned and laid out contingency plans," Seaborn reported. He noted leaders of the group have consulted with Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, a pro-SBC split from the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

The Southern Baptists of Texas board of directors, comprised of 20 pastors and 10 laypeople, strongly leans toward starting a new convention, Seaborn said. "Eighty-five percent of the board says it's time to set in motion another convention in Texas."

"an autonomous body" that will cooperate with organizations that "complement its mission and its statement of purpose."

■ The BGCT will appoint staff missionaries to "multicultural" groups in Texas and lay missionaries to other countries.

■ The BGCT will create mission partnerships not only with SBC missionary-sending boards but with non-SBC agencies, specifically the Coop-

erative Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist World Alliance, an international group of Baptist bodies.

■ The BGCT will begin a program of theological education for lay people and consider creating a Bible college with the help of the state's Baptist colleges.

■ The BGCT will publish Bible study and training material with a Texas focus and a clear commitment to Baptist principles.

Ouachita compromise rejected

NORTH LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (ABP)—Following a yearlong debate over Ouachita Baptist University's trustee selection process, Arkansas Baptists narrowly defeated proposed charter and bylaw changes which would have implemented a reconciliation agreement between the state convention and Arkadelphia school.

Debate over the issue began in October 1996 when Ouachita's trustees voted to resume responsibility for naming their own successors. That followed a dispute with a state convention nominating committee over proposed trustees. Last year's convention overwhelmingly adopted a reconciliation plan calling for future nominees to be selected by consensus.

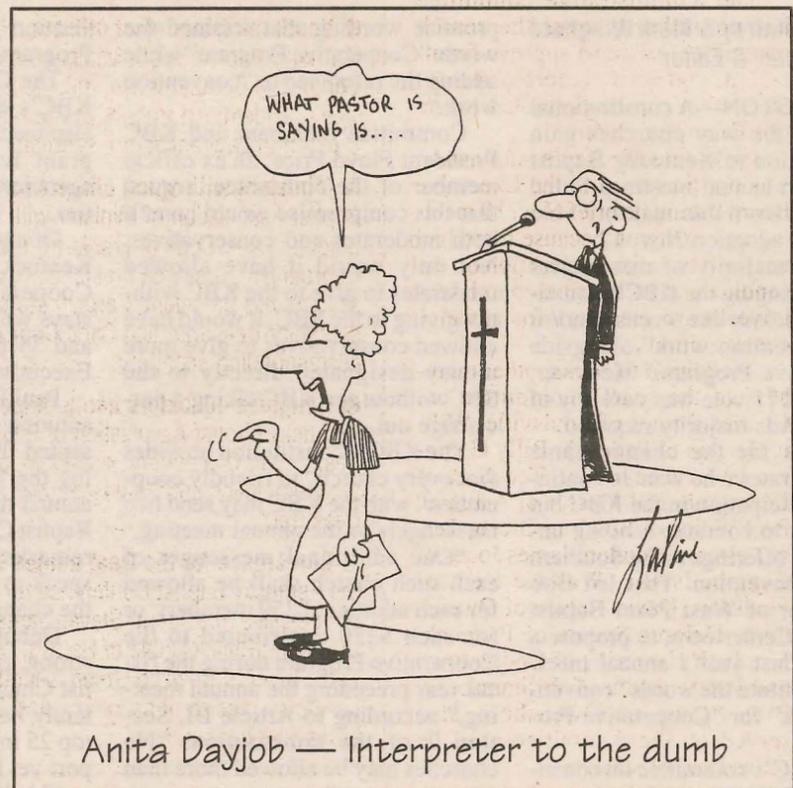
Implementing the reconciliation agreement, however, meant charter and bylaw changes which require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This year's convention voted for the proposals by a vote of 999 to 528—1.3 percent short of the needed 66.7 percent majority.

In an interview after the annual meeting, state convention executive director Emil Turner said: "The historic relationship between Arkansas Baptists and Ouachita Baptist University has been set aside by the outcome of the votes on the amendments. However, this does not mean that we do not and cannot have a relationship with Ouachita."

"Right now and in the immediate future, our relationship consists of the convention's vote to fund Ouachita through our budget process and to elect Ouachita's trustees for this year."

While "the future components of that relationship are not yet clear," Turner emphasized that "my desire is for our convention to continue to be related to this institution."

Ouachita President Ben Elrod said: "We have no desire to be alienated from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, and the events of the past week will not deter us from our mission of serving the Baptist churches of our state and region."



Anita Dayjob — Interpreter to the dumb

CP amendment fails to get two-thirds vote

Continued from page 1

autonomy of the local church and the right of each church to do missions and support convention-sanctioned ministry causes as they feel led by God to do and still be able to participate fully in Baptist life."

Changing the constitution, he said, would have allowed churches to put their mission dollars "where their hearts are."

"The result will be greater resources for church missions and not less," he said.

Armstrong also said the change would have allowed the KBC to "enlarge the tent." He called adoption of the change a "conciliatory move, not a divisive one."

Others disagreed.

"I don't want to go back home and be a part of backing away from the Cooperative Program in any way," said Michael York, pastor of Elkhorn City Baptist Church. "I just don't like the taste it would leave in my mouth."

York said the SBC's ministries are "the most diverse anywhere."

Eddie Reynolds, pastor of Bullitt Lick Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, said the change would become a source of division for Kentucky Baptists.

"I believe in unity. I believe in cooperation. I was taught to give even when I didn't like where all the funds were going to," he said.

Reynolds said when the requirement for Cooperative Program giving was added to the constitution it was an attempt to exclude churches who were designating their money away from Southern Baptist agen-

cies and institutions. In that earlier day, Baptist conservatives who now control the SBC disliked the convention's moderate leadership and often gave only minimal amounts to the Cooperative Program.

"If we vote for this motion, we have to say 'I was wrong' to the churches we excluded before, when this provision was put in," he said.

"Designated giving is a double-edged sword," he added. "It might help me this time, but later on it might hurt."

After Armstrong spoke for the motion and York and Reynolds spoke against it, KBC President Price ruled that no more debate could be allowed unless someone would speak for the amendment. A messenger called for the question, and a ballot vote was taken.

Prior to the annual meeting, Reynolds was author of an article critical of the proposed change published in a new independent newsletter based in Mayfield. In the October issue of Faith and Freedom, funded through tax-deductible contributions to Graves County Baptist Association, Reynolds argued the change would open the door to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship advancing in Kentucky.

"What will the Kentucky Baptist Convention do with the undesignated money they receive if this amendment passes?" Reynolds asked in the article. "Will they begin to allocate funds for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship?"

Reynolds warned that passage of the constitutional change "could spell the end of the Kentucky Baptist

Convention as we know it."

Reynolds urged conservative churches who believe in the Bible as "God's infallible, inerrant, inspired word" to bring messengers to the KBC annual meeting to defeat the proposal and elect officers sympathetic to the conservative cause.

The moderator of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship also distributed a statewide communication about the proposed constitutional change prior to the annual meeting.

A Nov. 3 letter mailed to supporters of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship from Bob DeFoor, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church, outlined support for three candidates for office and for the constitutional change.

"The present constitution requires contributions to the Cooperative Program as the only financial way to qualify as a messenger," DeFoor wrote. "Not even the Southern Baptist Convention requires that, for their constitution only says 'convention's work.' By adding these words to the KBC constitution, it would make it easier for churches to be part of the KBC while not being forced to support the SBC."

"This would be helpful to the KBC, to black Baptist churches or ethnic churches as well as CBF-related churches," he added.

In addition to Long, other members of the constitution and bylaws committee that recommended the compromise amendment were David Gray, Donald Phelps, Wyman Copass, Frank James, Shirley Taliaferro, Mike Rust, Eddie Brown and Joyce Graham.

KBC executive nominee called creative leader

Continued from page 1

but firm, creative, innovative, a good communicator.

"He is a man of integrity," Hicks said. He also is a "proven leader," she added. "He knows how to lead."

Mackey has served on staff of the South Carolina Baptist Convention since 1979, first as evangelism director and since 1992 as director of the leadership development and evangelism growth team.

In the South Carolina structure, that team includes units for leadership development and pastoral ministries, personal evangelism and Brotherhood.

As part of that structure, he recruited to his staff as a leadership development consultant Reggie McNeal, who was a keynote speaker at the KBC's Church Health Summit in Bowling Green last month.

Mackey has planned many church growth and evangelism conferences for South Carolina Baptists, drawing upon nationally known speakers such as Rick Warren, Kennon Callahan, George Barna and Os Guinness.

Mackey moved to South Carolina from Kentucky, where he was pastor of First Baptist Church of Whitesburg for 10 years, from 1969 to 1979.

During his tenure there, Sunday school enrollment grew 200 percent, missions expenditures grew 386

percent and 520 people were baptized. Also during that decade, the Whitesburg church birthed three mission congregations.

Prior to his Whitesburg pastorate, Mackey was associate pastor of First Baptist Church in Middlesboro for three years.

Mackey earned the associate of arts degree from North Greenville College, the bachelor of arts degree from Furman University, the bachelor of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has received additional education at Fuller Theological Seminary, the Center for Creative Leadership and Daniel Management Center at the University of South Carolina.

Mackey and his wife, Kay, are members of First Baptist Church of Columbia, S.C., where he has been deacon chairman, an equipper in Continuous Witness Training, chairman of the personnel committee and a member of the finance committee.

Mrs. Mackey is a school teacher. They are the parents of two adult daughters, Anonda Knowles and Beth Wooten.

Search committee chairwoman Hicks announced the committee's selection of Mackey in a meeting of Executive Board staff Nov. 13, fulfilling an earlier pledge that staff members would be told first about any nominee.

Packets of information about the nominee were mailed Nov. 14 to all Executive Board members.

Hicks said the search committee met Nov. 10 with the Executive Board's administrative committee, which acts as the board's personnel committee.

The administrative committee has no authority over the search committee, but must approve financial arrangements before a recommendation can be presented to the full Executive Board.

Hicks said Mackey's nomination was not presented to the Executive Board during its brief Nov. 10 meeting in Lexington because there had not been time for information on the candidate to be distributed to Executive Board members for advance consideration.

In addition to Hicks, other members of the search committee are Charles Barnes of Louisville, Willis Henson of Paducah, Billy Compton of Elizabethtown, Ted Sisk of Lexington, Bill Messer of Ashland, Paul Welch of Bowling Green, Terry Lester of London, James Jones of Campbellsville, Wallace Kent of Frankfort, David Nelson of Owensboro, Delores Spears of Paducah, Maribeth Hambrick of Georgetown and James Taylor of Williamsburg. Bret Robbe of Owensboro also served on the committee until he moved out of state.

CONVENTION NOTES

■ **Messenger totals.** This year's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington drew 1,602 registered messengers, 19 more than registered at last year's convention in Bowling Green. With the addition of 366 Porter Memorial church members and 44 visitors, total attendance this year was 2,012.

■ **Appointments made.** Outgoing Kentucky Baptist Convention President Floyd Price named four men to the KBC committee on committees Nov. 11. Bill Shoulta of Louisville was named to fill the unexpired 1998 term of Rusty Ellison. Named to fill 2000 terms were Quentin Lockwood of Ashland, Jeff Roberts of Middlesboro and Jim McKenzie of Hopkinsville.

■ **Resolution expresses thanks.** The Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board Nov. 10 adopted a resolution of appreciation and affirmation for the staff of the KBC Executive Board. The resolution commends the staff for commitment, hard work and good attitude during the interim period without a permanent executive secretary-treasurer.

■ **Churches added to KBC.** Twenty congregations were granted full affiliation with the Kentucky Baptist Convention during last week's KBC annual meeting, and another three were taken in under watchcare status. Those coming in with full affiliation include Antioch Baptist Church of Louisville, Canaan Missionary Baptist Church of Louisville, Belmar Baptist Church of Louisville, Burnett Avenue Missionary Baptist Church of Louisville, Eagle Heights Church of Somerset, Elim Baptist Church of Louisville, Forest Baptist Church of Louisville, Greater Good Hope Baptist Church of Louisville, Greater Salem Missionary Baptist Church of Louisville, Immanuel Baptist Church of Corbin, Immanuel Baptist Church of Madisonville, Kenwood Baptist Church of Crestwood, Little Zion Baptist Church of Burgin, Mount Nebo Baptist Church of Louisville, New Beginning Baptist Church of Louisville, New Life Baptist Church of Radcliff, Parkway Baptist Church of Bardstown, Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana Bet-El of Oak Grove, White Hall Baptist Church of Richmond and Victory Baptist Church of London. Churches received under watchcare status are Cooper Chapel Road Baptist Church of Louisville, Living Faith Baptist Church of Utica and New Work Fellowship of Hopkinsville.

■ **Music ministers elect officers.** New officers of the Kentucky Baptist Music Conference are Dave Love of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, president; Randy Holt of Lone Oak First Baptist Church in Paducah, vice president; Roxanne Nanny of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, secretary-treasurer; and Tim Shockley of Graefenburg Baptist Church in Waddy, member at large.

■ **Youth ministers elect officers.** New officers of the Kentucky Baptist Youth Ministry Association are Scott Wiggins of Elizabethtown, president; Joe Ball of Hopkinsville, vice president; Art Rogers of Russellville, editor; and David Preston of Lawrenceburg, secretary-treasurer.

■ **Ministers with aging officers named.** The Kentucky Baptist Association of Minister with the Aging named new officers: Larry Cook of Frankfort, president; Wayne Moore of Georgetown, first vice president; Ron Wilburn of Georgetown, second vice president; Carolyn Monday of Frankfort, secretary-treasurer; and Carla Cook of Frankfort, corresponding secretary.

■ **Religious educators name officers.** New officers of the Kentucky Baptist Association of Religious Educators are Tom Pelphrey of Owensboro, president; Jeff Hicks of Louisville, president elect; and Paul Radosevich of Paint Lick, secretary-treasurer.

■ **Conference for the Deaf names leaders.** New officers of the Kentucky Baptist Conference for the Deaf are Tim Bender of Louisville, president; Steven James of Lexington, first vice president; Richie Noble of Hazard, second vice president; Beth Driver of Bowling Green, secretary; Connie Dotson of Lexington, assistant secretary; and Sandy Johnson of Louisville, treasurer.

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

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The blood of Christ in Northern Ireland

By Tony Campolo

There is a wall in Belfast, Ireland, that separates the Catholic neighborhood from where the Protestants live. It is as ugly and obscene as the Berlin Wall once was, and it is a testimony that when people hate, they do so with the greatest intensity when they hate in the name of Jesus.

Last month I was invited to Northern Ireland to help tear down that wall. I was asked to speak at a prayer breakfast at the Stormont Hotel. It was just across the road from where the peace talks between the British government, the Unionists and representatives of the political wing of the IRA were to be held. It was a prayer meeting that brought together members of the Westminster Parliament as well as members of the Dail, the Parliament of the Republic of Ireland.

Prior to the breakfast, I met for prayer with some of the key Protestants of Ulster, as well as with several priests and nuns. It was inspiring to listen to their intense pleadings to the Lord for peace. To hear nuns and priests, along with Protestant pastors, praying together in the name of Jesus provided me with a burst of hope for their troubled land.

That hope was severely challenged, however, when a few minutes later I headed toward the hotel for the prayer breakfast and encountered Rev. Ian Paisley and his angry followers. These sincere but obstinate brothers let me know in no uncertain terms that in their opinion Catholics and Protestants praying together blurred the line that separated truth from falsehood.

Paisley challenged me by asking if I would declare the mass a pagan ritual and any mention of Mary to be idolatry. I responded by saying that, actually, I was planning to talk about Jesus and how he prayed for his followers to be "one."

A Paisley associate shouted back "Which Jesus?" as he pointed out that St. Paul once said there would be those who would preach another Christ than the one who had first been delivered to the church (2 Corinthians 11:4).

"I was going to talk about the one who said, 'Love your enemies,'" I answered. "I was planning to talk about the Christ who said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers' and 'Judge not that ye be not judged.'"

Needless to say, that answer didn't end the discussion.

I'm sure Paisley and his followers deemed me shallow because I refused to take their sectarian differences seriously. That is because I believe only Christ matters.

Those who are in Christ, who believe in him with passion, who struggle with him through doubts, uncertainty and even through despair, are my spiritual brothers and sisters. Some of them are Protestants, and some of them are Catholics, but I count all them as Christians. I met some of them at this prayer breakfast. Four of them gave their testimonies.

There was a young Protestant whose wife and newborn child were blown apart by an IRA bomb. There was a Catholic couple whose only son

COMMENTARY



Tony Campolo

The bewildering ethics of compensation

By Tom Ehrich

I wanted to write about the corporate executive who earned more than \$200 million last year, but then my car burned to a crisp. I had just pulled in front of the house when I noticed flames behind my 5-year-old son's head.

"William!" I shouted. "Get out of the car!"

I wrestled him out of his seat belt and carried him across the lawn. Firefighters came immediately. Three men who earn less in a year than Walt Disney Co.'s CEO earns in an hour tackled a real-life problem, at the risk of their own safety, and prevented a small disaster from spreading.

Meanwhile, Disney's Michael Eisner makes cartoons, crafts clever tie-ins with burger chains, runs amusement parks and sells the illusion, "When you wish upon a star, makes no difference who you are."

What is wrong with this picture? The ethics of compensation is bewildering. Yes, I know about shareholder value and job creation. But we're still talking cartoons. And judging by Fortune magazine's survey of large companies last spring, Disney's record, unlike its CEO's salary, isn't a top performer. The highest return to investors was turned in by Gillette Co., which pays

its CEO a mere \$7 million.

Meanwhile, schoolteachers earn \$35,000 a year, even though their efforts do more for America's future than any number of cartoon characters. In fact, the people who truly contribute to our safety and quality of life—such as teachers, firefighters, trash collectors, farmers, carpenters, plumbers, computer programmers, police officers, newspaper reporters, violinists, and the men and women whose hands actually produce the cars we drive and the houses we live in—are some of the lowest-paid in society. Not the bottom, of course. Bottom pay is reserved for those who care for children.

Then, in the distorted ethics of pay, we have professional athletes. Basketball player Larry Johnson earns more in a year than a school principal could earn in three lifetimes, and Johnson isn't even playing well. Every time baseball's Albert Belle faces a pitcher, he earns a year's worth of minimum wage that we pay a day-care worker.

What are we saying about our values? In the town where I live, a pastor has built a ministry to recovering addicts that changes lives and leads them into productive employment. He would have to work more than 500 years to earn what actor Jim Carrey was paid for a moronic movie that bombed at the box office.

was killed by an ultra-Unionist bullet. And there was a Protestant woman whose policeman husband was still in a coma after taking a bullet to the head from a Catholic extremist.

Each in turn told how their faith has held fast through their suffering and how they have found that through Christ there is deliverance from the destructive effects of hateful vengeance.

Finally, there was the testimony of a Catholic woman whose husband was machine-gunned to death as he sat beside her in their car on the way to church. They were waiting for a traffic light to change when a carload of Protestant gunmen pulled up alongside them and opened fire. Their three children were put into shock as they witnessed their father riddled with bullets.

But this young Catholic wife was devoid of bitterness. She said: "As I saw my husband's blood pour out over the Bible that lay on the car seat between us, I could only think of the blood of Christ. I thought of how that blood not only covered my husband's sin, but also covered the sin of the men who shot him."

She then went on to say that she prayed daily for her husband's assassins, hoping they might come into a personal relationship with Christ, because she believes only a relationship with Christ could save them.

When she finished, a member of Parliament sitting next to me whispered in my ear, "When are those extremists who stir up hatred going to step aside and let Christians like these have the peace they long for?"

That's a good question.

Tony Campolo is a professor of sociology at Eastern College in St. David's, Pa., an author of multiple books and a frequent speaker at evangelical gatherings.

Are we saying that 90 minutes of comedy matters more than human lives? Are we saying that being entertained matters more than freedom of the press, safe elevators or flour for bread? Are our lives so empty that we will pay Michael Jordan ten times the annual payroll of an entire elementary school just to play basketball?

Think of the enormous bucks that go to those who manage money—not to make a product or to create wealth, but just to move money around. Green Tree Financial's CEO Lawrence Coss earned more than \$141 million last year. The CEO of Merrill Lynch earned more than \$11 million.

While money managers are buying \$120,000 Porsches, wage earners stand before the jelly display and agonize over supermarket-brand jam at \$2.19 or the name brand at \$2.59.

When my car burned, Capt. R.W. Bennett and his colleagues in the Winston-Salem Fire Department came to my rescue. My son was unharmed. Later he watched a Disney video. It began with artful previews and product promotions urging him to want more and more Disney products. For that manipulation of my child's mind, Michael Eisner earned \$204,236,801 last year.

But my thanks and respect go to the three men who actually helped our lives be better. (RNS)

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

MARRIAGE

'Love grows when it is nurtured'

By John Lepper

Soon after moving to our present home, I planted some apple trees, thinking one day we would have apples. But life is so hectic that I never seemed to remember that apple trees need care. Last year we had an abundance of apples. However, we had one problem: A bumper crop of wormy apples is of little use.

Husbands and wives who pay attention to cultivating the fruit of the Spirit have a greater possibility of growing in their relationship. It is no surprise that love leads the Apostle Paul's fruit of the Spirit list. Love is the summing up of all true spiritual life. It is the bedrock of marital love.

However, many false kinds of love exist in our world. The word love is used, abused and misused. Paul reminds us in Romans 12:9: "Let love be genuine." Jesus provides married couples with a clear example of genuine love.

Jesus exhibited warm, compassionate feelings at the death of his friend Lazarus. We observe his tenderness toward his mother even while he hung on the cross. Married couples feel a deep bond of affection and attachment, and this bond grows as love is cultivated and nurtured.

Love is more than a feeling, however. It is also an action. In fact, the focus of love in the Bible is more on action than feeling. Throughout his life Jesus was self-giving. In his death, he gave his all. It was not enough for Jesus to say he loved, he lived it. His life was filled with unselfish care for those around him.

Genuine love that lasts has Jesus as its example and enabler. Jesus said: "A new commandment I give you, that you love as I have loved." Couples love as Jesus loved by engaging in large and small loving behaviors.

As married couples we may find it difficult to love our spouses in the same unconditional and self-giving way that Jesus loved. We are reminded that Jesus is also our enabler. He gives us the ability to love our spouses as he loved us. We have the strength of the Spirit of God in our large and small problems.

Couples who cultivate the fruit of the Spirit have an advantage. By nurturing love, the first fruit, we model the love of Christ. The Christ kind of love then becomes both the seed and the fruit in our homes.

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



HE SAID/SHE SAID

If King Luke ruled the castle, only three laws would matter

SHE SAID



Alison Wingfield

Kings and castles are the latest playtime fad at our house.

When the boys aren't jousting or fencing with each other (usually with those cardboard tubes from paper towel holders), their play knights are warding off an attack by "bad guys"—which could be anyone from pirates to Batman and Robin's archnemesis, Mr. Freeze. Our children's play knows no historical time boundaries.

When they started hurting each other I suggested they practice jousting with a chair, pretending it was a quintain, which the real knights used to practice.

Bad idea. I had to rescue the poor chair, it was knocked over so many times.

In between all the blood and guts stuff, some fresh air came through. One day "King" Luke declared my office (of course, where else would he go?) as his kingdom and wrote out some rules which he pasted on my wall.

He had written some rules on three pieces of paper and then taped them together. They read: "Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not hurt."

It's nice to know they are absorbing some of their Sunday school lessons and our Bible readings.

One of Garrett's recent home projects also was about a king. He used a lunch sack, coloring it like a puppet, then he cut part of the bottom off and taped it to the top of the "head" which he colored a face on. When I asked him to tell me about his creation, he told me it was God. He had colored the middle of the sack yellow for God and then alternated red and green stripes, because they are Christmas colors, and that was when Jesus was born. The part on top of the head of the puppet was a crown for Jesus the King.

HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

Another tale of the reign of King Luke was that immediately after writing his laws, he informed me that I had "hurt" him recently when I snatched him away from knocking the stuffing out of his brother. I had broken one of his laws, he said, and I shouldn't do it again.

I reminded him that in our castle even the king has a dad who must protect him from hurting other people. I don't think he was convinced about that, but at least he didn't sentence me to the

dungeon.

While we have our share of imaginary kings and castles, an amazing amount of the boys' play comes directly from what they learn at church or read in Bible stories.

On a recent Sunday night while they were splashing in the bathtub, Luke decided to baptize himself. He sat quietly for a moment, then plunged his head forward into the water and back out. Garrett quickly picked up the idea and repeated it, although Luke splashed him with a cup of water in the face immediately afterward. I guess he wanted to make sure Garrett covered all the modes of make-believe baptism.

I laughed at their antics in a proud sort of way. But as I did, I wondered how our churchgoing children will be viewed by the other children at their school as they grow older.

Will they be perceived as odd? Will they be labeled as from a "religious" or "fundamentalist" family because they talk about church and their father works for a Baptist newspaper?

Finally I decided that while teaching our boys to use their imaginations we need to instill in them courage. Their imaginary jousting with knights and knaves is feeble preparation for the real battles that lie ahead.

Somehow, through it all, we must teach them how to put on what the Apostle Paul called the "full armor of God." For the real battles of life are not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities and powers of this dark world.

KBC messengers want to stay the course

When put to a vote, Kentucky Baptists appear to want to stay the course. That is the most obvious message to be found in last week's annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. In fact, "stay the course" is the very phrase new KBC President Gayle Toole used to describe his mandate in a post-election interview.

For several years now as pressures have come upon state Baptist conventions from both the left and the right, messengers to KBC annual meetings have continued to walk right down the middle of the road, refusing to have their agenda changed by the new conservative leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention or the appeals of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Some might say that's naïve, because the national landscape for Baptists has changed so dramatically. However, the intent appears to be to keep the KBC a place for all Kentucky Baptists without catering to any one side of the national Baptist battles.

For the most part, KBC presidents elected over the past decade have been true centrists, reflecting this theme. And so it continues this year, with the election of a veteran pastor who says he is open to dialogue with those on the left and the right but is beholden to neither.

The failure of the proposed change in the KBC's constitution must be understood within this context of recent KBC history. Clearly there was a push from advocates of the new SBC to avoid watering down emphasis on Cooperative Program dollars flowing from Kentucky to Nashville. But that alone is not what kept the amendment from passing. If exit polls had been taken at the close of the Wednesday morning session, many others who voted against the change probably would have cited heritage as their reason. Even among Kentuckians who are not thrilled with what's happened in the SBC, there are plenty who still perceive the Cooperative Program as a sacred instrument.

Obviously, not all Kentucky Baptists share that sentiment. But in reality, the failure of the constitutional amendment does not prohibit their full participation in the KBC. Nor does it prohibit the participation of conservatives who also want to continue funding their independent missionaries, like the former Kentucky pastor who spoke on this year's Pastors' Conference program.

Most participants in the Pastors' Conference probably thought Harold Cathey was a missionary appointed

by the SBC International Mission Board. IMB representatives on hand were quick to point out he is not.

It is ironic that the group most vocal in opposition to tinkering with the words "Cooperative Program" in the KBC constitution, when given free reign to plan a program, chose as their missionary speaker a person not supported by the Cooperative Program.

Had a missionary affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship been placed on the program, howls of protest would have been heard. The sacredness of the Cooperative Program would have been cited to keep away this "competitor" for missions money.

But there really is no difference between inviting an independent missionary to speak and inviting a CBF missionary. Kentucky moderates, while perhaps disappointed in the vote on the constitutional amendment, should be heartened that apparently the door has been opened to hear from missionaries other than those supported solely by the Cooperative Program.

One final note on the Pastors' Conference: An interesting pattern has emerged in recent years that should be familiar to anyone who's witnessed the transformation of the SBC since 1979. While the KBC has stayed the course, the Pastors' Conference has taken a wide swing to the right, with a preaching lineup this year that emphasized many of the standard themes of SBC conservatives as they marched from SBC Pastors' Conference office to SBC office.

Having the newly elected president of the Pastors' Conference nominate the outgoing president of the Pastors' Conference for the KBC presidency—one day after both had a major platform in the same room—is a page ripped directly out of the SBC play book.

There were two different crowds in Porter Memorial Baptist Church for the Pastors' Conference and the KBC. That's true in large measure because moderate and centrist pastors have stopped attending the Pastors' Conference, have given it over to one partisan group.

It took only 76 pastors to elect a new president for next year's Pastors' Conference—76 out of 2,300 KBC churches. Even adding in the 51 pastors who voted for another candidate, that's not broad participation.

The future health and direction of both the Pastors' Conference and the KBC will be determined by who decides to participate in the process.

— Mark Wingfield

Did Jesus intend the church?

By Carey Newman

The coffee had been poured and there was a lull in the dinner conversation. My friend then said, "The other day I had a frustrating conversation with a co-worker. At one time he was an integral part of a local church. But, now he refuses to attend because, as he puts it, 'Jesus never intended to start what we now know as churches.' I was flabbergasted. I didn't know what to say, especially since I do see the point he was trying to make."

To demonstrate that the Gospels do not present Jesus as the founding pastor of First Church of Jerusalem proves very little. In fact, it would be foolish to try and legitimate our current church structures by appealing to Jesus. He knew nothing of choirs, pipe organs or well-crafted liturgy. Neither, apparently, was the lonely prophet from Nazareth much interested in executive boards, yearly budgets and multi-level staffs replete

with interns and job descriptions.

As important as these are to our attempts to be faithful to the call of God, they cannot (and should not) be proof-texted by the Gospels.

A more serious question, however, is this: "Did Jesus intend to found a new community?" Despite the fact the word "church" only occurs twice in all of the Gospel literature (both times in Matthew), the answer to this question is an overwhelming yes:

(1) Jesus willingly participated in the baptism of John. John's baptism was a call to Israel

to live as Israel of the new age should. In other words, those being baptized by John were showing, by their obedience, that they belonged to the new and true Israel. By submitting to the baptism of John, Jesus overtly connected his ministry with John's summons for a new Israel to be carved out of existing Israel.

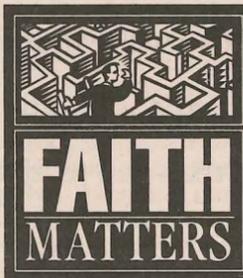
(2) In his words and deeds Jesus embodied what this new community

was to be. Jesus put flesh on the bones of what a community of the faithful was to look like. Forgiveness, sacrifice, preferring one another, prayer, compassion were to rule in the kingdom.

(3) Jesus called 12 disciples to follow him. Two points should be made here. First, the disciples were to live out the way of being Israel that Jesus was embodying. The formation of a group of followers was Jesus' way of extending the mission of his new community. Second, the number of disciples, 12, intentionally recalls the 12 tribes of Israel, and thus was a way of asserting, symbolically, the identity of a new community.

(4) The Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples both underscored and anticipated their own, separate communal identity after his death. One of the ways the new community which had formed around Jesus was to maintain its identity was through the regular celebration of this special meal.

I told my friend to sleep well and worship often, for the church is a community of disciples who adopt Jesus' sacrificial ways of living as the way to express their identity as God's people.



NATION

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Clinton criticized for speaking at gay event.** President Clinton was sharply criticized by social conservatives for agreeing to speak at a fund-raiser for the Human Rights Campaign, a gay civil rights organization. "The president's action is an unfortunate misuse of the highest office in the land," said Robert Knight, director of cultural studies for the Family Research Council, a Washington-based advocacy group. Clinton was also criticized by the Traditional Values Coalition, a faith-based conservative advocacy group, and the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

■ **Bishops to study 'meatless Fridays.'** Roman Catholic bishops in America voted to study the possibility of bringing back "meatless Fridays" as a public expression of the church's opposition to legal abortion and other "attacks against human life and human dignity." "Our people are waiting for a way in which they can publicly affirm their faith" and "show their opposition to the culture of death," said Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit.

■ **Bob Jones Jr. dies.** Bob Jones Jr., chancellor and chairman of the fundamentalist Christian Bob Jones University in Greenville, S.C., died Nov. 12. He was 86. Jones, who preached daily at the university's chapel service and spoke at Bible conferences around the globe, was diagnosed with abdominal cancer in September, the Associated Press reported. Jones, an unabashed fundamentalist, once said he would "as soon speak to the devil himself" than speak to Pope John Paul II, who had come to visit South Carolina, AP reported.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: A dually-alligned CBF and SBC church is looking for a half-time minister to youth. Community-located church, solid foundation and great potential; salary and insurance provided. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church Shepherdsville, P.O. Box 26, Shepherdsville, KY 40165.

SEEKING: The Pastor Search Committee of Ormsby Heights Baptist Church of Louisville is accepting resumé at this time. Mail to: Pastor Search Committee, c/o Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, 2120 Lower Hunters Trace Road, Louisville, KY 40216.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 577, Lebanon Junction, KY 40150; phone (502) 833-4954. Resumé will not be accepted after Nov. 30.

SEEKING: East Bend Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky is seeking a pastor. If interested, send resumé to: Harry Utley, 6126 Rabbit Hash Road, Union, KY 41091, or phone (606) 586-8492.

SEEKING: The Pastor Search Committee of First Baptist Church of Frankfort is accepting resumé at this time. Mail to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 201 St. Clair St., Frankfort, KY 40601.

WANTED: Anything you have from a chair to a bus to help a new mission work in Harrodsburg. Call (606) 865-2584.

SEEKING: Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union Executive Director-Treasurer Search Committee is accepting resumé for this position from Nov. 1 to December 15, 1997. Minimum qualifications: Master's degree, five years related experience, working knowledge of WMU's organization and function. Forward resumé to: Jo Pelham, chairwoman, 109 Winona Court, Hopkinsville, KY 42240-5256.

SEEKING: Baptist church in Lexington seeks to fill a full-time ministry position with an emphasis in youth and church-wide education. Send resumé to P.O. Box 22113, Lexington, KY 40502-2113.

SEEKING: Valley View Baptist Church in Vine Grove, Ky. (within the Radcliff/Fort Knox area), is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Valley View Baptist Church, 501 Valley View Drive, Vine Grove, KY 40175.

NEEDED: Organist, part-time (Wednesday evenings, Sunday mornings and evenings). If interested, call: Parkway Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky., (606) 299-8445.

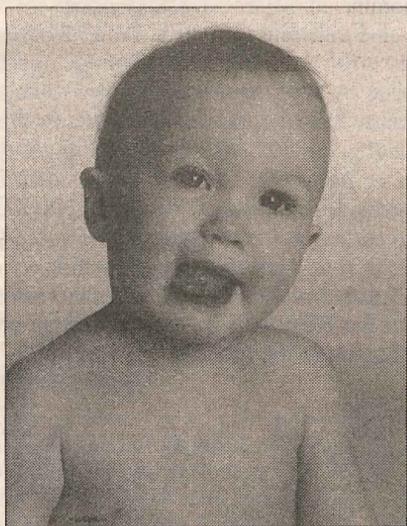
SEEKING: Growing church in Northern Kentucky seeks full-time minister to students. Send resumé to: Rev. Todd Toole, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, 11969 Taylor Mill Road, Independence, KY 41051.

FOR SALE: GMC 4905, 42-passenger, air-conditioned, restroom, refreshment center, video system, less than 30,000 miles on 8V-71 Detroit Diesel engine. Extremely well maintained. Coach is in beautiful condition inside and out. Completely updated and refurbished less than four years ago. Must see to appreciate. Asking \$49,000. Call (606) 277-7391, ask for David.

SEEKING: High Point Baptist Church, located in Mayfield, Ky., is accepting resumé for the position of full-time associate pastor/minister of music. Please forward resumé to: Gary Sanderson, 1510 Waverly Drive, Mayfield, KY 42066.

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

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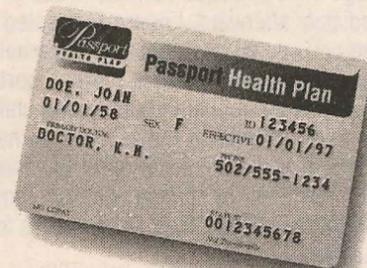
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Veteran Kentucky pastors elected to convention posts

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

LEXINGTON—Three veteran Kentucky Baptist pastors who have served lengthy tenures in their current churches were elected to the top offices in the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 11.

Gayle Toole was elected president in a race with Richard Oldham. Toole is pastor of Edgewood Baptist Church in Nicholasville. Oldham is pastor of Glendale Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Toole received 642 votes (58 percent) to Oldham's 463 (42 percent).

Although not identified with Kentucky Baptist moderates and not running as a moderate candidate, Toole had been endorsed by leaders of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship. He was widely considered to have drawn support from moderates and centrists in the convention.

He was nominated by Ted Sisk, former pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, who described Toole as "a man of God ... and a man of integrity ... who will be fair to all."

Toole's nomination had been announced months in advance by Sisk, and until the week of the convention he was the only publicly identified candidate.

Oldham was nominated by Mike Routt, pastor of Rose Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Ashland and a leader of Southern Baptist conservatives in Kentucky. One day earlier, Routt had been elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference after preaching a sermon in which he outlined five points of liberalism to identify those who disagree with the

conservative turn of the national convention.

Routt, who is one of more than 200 people called into vocational Christian ministry under Oldham's long-term pastorate at Glendale, described Oldham as "the godliest man I've ever met."

Toole has been pastor of Edgewood Baptist Church since 1973. He previously served Hebron Baptist Church in Hebron, Poplar Grove Baptist Church in Glencoe and Concord Baptist Church in Verona. He has been extensively involved in the work of the KBC and Elkhorn Baptist Association, serving on the Executive Board of both organizations.

In an interview the day after his election, Toole cited missions and evangelism as two hallmarks of the KBC's value to Kentucky churches. He described the KBC as healthy and vital.

He pledged to be a "listener" with an open ear for all Kentucky Baptists but noted that his goal is to "stay the course." Toole said he believes the KBC is on the right path.

In the interview he expressed support for a proposed constitutional amendment that would have allowed churches to gain representation to the KBC not only on the basis of gifts to the Cooperative Program unified budget but also on the basis of gifts to the "convention's work." That motion received a majority of support but not the two-thirds majority required for adoption.

Toole said his church continues to support the Cooperative Program, but he believes churches that choose out of conscience not to support all the national ministries of the Southern

Baptist Convention should not be penalized on the state level.

"We need to leave the churches free," he said. "Then we can accomplish more missions."

Toole said Kentucky Baptists always have been a diverse people, even from their beginnings. "Somehow we need to work that out so we can reach people for Christ," he said.

Toole described himself as a coach-player who takes a team approach to ministry. He said he hopes to lead the KBC to continue to strengthen its ability to help churches do ministry better.

The race for KBC first vice president began as a three-way contest and required a run-off.

Charles Midkiff, pastor of First Baptist Church of Greenville for 20 years, ultimately was elected in a run-off with Ron Shaver, pastor of Little Flock Baptist Church in Louisville. Midkiff received 232 votes (54 percent) to Shaver's 197 (46 percent).

The first round of balloting also included Glenn Durham, a layman from First Baptist Church of Loyall. In that race, Durham received 278 votes, Midkiff 282 and Shaver 379.

Midkiff was nominated by Bruce Queen, pastor of Second Baptist Church in Greenville. Shaver was nominated by Craig Loscalzo, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Durham was nominated by his pastor, Jack Helton.

Don Mantooth, pastor of First Baptist Church of Morehead for 15 years, was elected second vice president. He ran against Jack Studie, pastor of Sharon Baptist Church in Murray.

Mantooth received 297 votes (64 percent) to Studie's 164 (36 percent).

Presidential profile: Gayle Toole

■ **Occupation:** Pastor of Edgewood Baptist Church in Nicholasville since 1973.

■ **Education:** Bachelor of arts degree from Georgetown College; master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; doctor of ministry degree from Lexington Theological Seminary.

■ **Previous KBC service:** Executive Board, Georgetown College trustee, committee on committees, committee on nominations chairman.

■ **Family:** Married to Jo Ann Toole; they are the parents of one son, Todd, who is pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Independence.



Mantooth was nominated by Greg Earwood, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown. Studie was nominated by Paul Blizard, pastor of Reidland Baptist Church in Paducah.

The convention unanimously re-elected its secretary, Wilma Simmons of Ekron, and assistant secretary, Joe Priest Williams of Louisville.

KBC OFFICERS *Outgoing KBC President Floyd Price (behind pulpit, right) hands the gavel to incoming President Gayle Toole. Officers on stage are (from left): re-elected Assistant Secretary Joe Priest Williams, re-elected Secretary Wilma Simmons, Second Vice President Don Mantooth, First Vice President Charles Midkiff, Toole, Price, outgoing First Vice President Paul Welch and outgoing Second Vice President Steve Hadden.*

Healthcare system agreement adopted with no discussion

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

LEXINGTON—After 20 months of negotiations and legal maneuvering, the Kentucky Baptist Convention has reached an agreement with Baptist Healthcare System regarding the future relationship between the two.

Although the KBC no longer will elect trustees for the hospital system, system trustees have agreed that at least 75 percent of the board shall always be Baptists. The board also has outlined provisions for what would happen to the system's assets in the event BHS were sold or dissolved.

In March 1996, BHS trustees notified the KBC that the hospital chain was exercising its right to end the covenant agreement between the KBC and BHS. The primary effect of that decision was to ensure that BHS in the future would elect all its own trustees. Under the covenant, the KBC has elected 75 percent of the 24-member BHS board.

Although BHS was founded and funded in its early years by the KBC, in recent years the system has become virtually self-supporting financially, receiving only \$5,000 per year from the KBC.

Kentucky Baptists began raising money in 1907 for what would be founded in 1924 as Kentucky Baptist

Hospital in Louisville. Through the years that one hospital has grown into a statewide system of five hospitals and related health care services.

A historical document presented to messengers at last week's KBC annual meeting in Lexington noted: "The Kentucky Baptist Hospital, now Baptist Healthcare System Inc., maintained significant ties with the KBC. It is important to note that much of BHS' funding in the early years was provided by the KBC. It is fair to state that BHS would not exist today were it not for the efforts and support of Kentucky Baptists and the KBC in these early years."

At the time the BHS board voted to end its covenant agreement with the KBC, the reasons given were to better position the system to confront "rapid changes taking place in health care" and "to protect its work from being undermined by the kinds of struggles taking place in other Baptist institutions."

The latter was explained to be a reference to the successful efforts of conservatives in the national Southern Baptist Convention to gain control of SBC agencies and institutions and change their directions and philosophies. Although successful on the national level, such a movement has not occurred among the agencies and institutions of the KBC.

Soon after BHS trustees announced their desire to dissolve the covenant, the KBC Executive Board appointed a special committee to negotiate a future relationship between the KBC and BHS.

That committee reported to the KBC during last week's annual meeting with a four-page report which was adopted by messengers with no discussion. The committee was chaired by Charles Barnes, a Louisville layman.

Barnes noted in the report that the committee focused its discussions with BHS representations on two primary concerns: future use of the name "Baptist" and protection of the KBC's investment in health care ministries if the system were sold or dissolved.

"While the KBC and its committee would have preferred that the covenant agreement not be terminated, the committee's primary objective was to enhance, if possible, the relationship and ministries of the KBC and BHS with any changes that would be made," the report said.

As a result of the negotiations, BHS trustees took several actions, the report said:

■ Changed the BHS Articles of Incorporation to provide that "at least 75 percent of the members of the board shall be Baptist."

■ Changed the Articles of Incorporation to provide that "upon a sale of substantially all the assets of the corporation not in connection with a dissolution" the BHS board will determine the value of past financial contributions by the KBC. An equivalent amount from proceeds of the sale would be used at the discretion of the BHS board to "support Baptist causes and ministries."

■ Changed the Articles of Incorporation to provide that upon dissolution of the corporation the BHS board after paying all liabilities will give 50 percent of the remaining assets to the KBC.

■ Asked the KBC executive secretary-treasurer to attend and report at each BHS annual board meeting.

The committee report concluded that while the final outcome is not what it would have preferred, the termination of the covenant agreement "was procedurally and legally proper."

The committee further reported that, though not fully satisfied, it has performed "all due diligence on behalf of Kentucky Baptists" in this matter.

Messengers approved a request that the committee continue its work one more year in order to apprise the new KBC executive secretary-treasurer of the situation and clarify any remaining issues.

Messengers address gambling, abortion, persecution

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

10 reasons to oppose gambling

An attachment to the resolution adopted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention on gambling outlined these 10 reasons why Kentucky Baptists should oppose the expansion of gambling, especially casinos:

1. If you gamble you lose money.
2. Gambling is not just recreation.
3. Gambling is addictive.
4. Gambling keeps bad company.
5. Gambling is economically destructive.
6. Gambling entices the young.
7. Gambling-induced poverty is a drain on the rest of society.
8. Gambling brings little development.
9. Gambling is against your religion.
10. Nothing of excellence has ever been produced at a slot machine.

LEXINGTON—Messengers to last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting expressed opposition to gambling and partial-birth abortions as well as support for Louisiana's new covenant marriage law and federal legislation intended to combat religious persecution worldwide.

The convention also heard several motions, including one to amend the KBC constitution regarding the way members of the KBC Executive Board are nominated.

The gambling and abortion issues were addressed through resolutions; the marriage and persecution issues were addressed by adopting motions from the floor requesting convention officials to write letters to specific elected officials.

The resolution on gambling originated with the KBC's public affairs committee. It was adopted on a show-of-hands vote.

The resolution asks "all citizens of the commonwealth, all members of the Kentucky General Assembly and the governor ... to protect our state from any expansion of gambling, including video lottery terminals, and to restrict the operations of all types of gambling currently provided in the commonwealth."

It specifically appeals for opposition to the legalization of video lottery terminals, which some legislators have proposed adding to the Kentucky Lottery's authority.

An addendum to the resolution prepared by the public affairs committee lists 10 reasons to oppose gam-

bling, and especially casinos.

The resolution on partial-birth abortions was presented by Rick Reeder of Mayfield. It was adopted with a small amount of opposition. A similar resolution was adopted at last year's annual meeting.

This year's resolution notes that messengers "reaffirmed the sanctity of life and registered opposition to abortion on demand in general (except where the life of the mother is clearly endangered) and partial-birth abortion in particular."

So-called partial-birth abortions have been under attack nationwide by a coalition of groups ranging from conservative religious organizations to health organizations. The United States Congress twice has passed legislation outlawing the late-term abortion procedure, but President Bill Clinton vetoed the first bill and also is expected to veto the latest version.

The KBC resolution notes that the Kentucky General Assembly in its 1998 session will consider a bill to ban partial-birth abortions in Kentucky, as well as other legislation that would regulate abortions.

The resolution calls on the General Assembly "to enact legislation as soon as possible in 1998 to ban the procedure known as partial-birth abortion without the 'health of the mother' clause." It also asks the General Assembly to favorably consider other legislation "that would further protect the unborn."

The action on worldwide religious persecution originated with a motion by John Lawler of Louisville. His motion asked the KBC Executive Board to send a letter to U.S. senators Wendell Ford and Mitch McConnell

asking them to vote in favor of the Freedom from Religious Persecution Act currently under consideration in Congress.

The bill would impose economic sanctions on nations that allow religious persecution and would establish a new federal office to monitor religious persecution issues. While agreeing that the problem of religious persecution in many Muslim-led and communist-led countries is severe, the U.S. religious and political communities are divided over how to respond. The State Department has expressed opposition to the bill, arguing that automatic sanctions could make the situation worse rather than better.

Lawler's motion requesting the letter to Sens. Ford and McConnell passed without discussion.

The motion on covenant marriage originated with Steve Treats of Paducah. He explained that the state of Louisiana recently adopted a two-track option for marriage licenses, with one being called "covenant marriage." Couples who choose the covenant marriage option agree to stricter terms regarding the possibility of ever getting a divorce and the means by which a divorce may be attained.

Treats' motion asked that the KBC president write a letter to elected officials expressing support for adoption of a similar covenant marriage law in Kentucky.

The motion was adopted without discussion.

In other action at last week's convention, messengers:

■ Heard the first reading of a proposed constitutional amendment offered by Mark Baldauff of Harrodsburg. Baldauff proposed that Article

7, paragraph 2 of the KBC Constitution and Bylaws be amended to say that "each district association shall nominate one person" for each vacancy on the KBC Executive Board.

The Executive Board is made up of representatives from every association, with the number of seats allotted on the basis of an association's size. Currently, the constitution requires that associations nominate two individuals for each vacancy. The KBC committee on nominations then chooses one nominee from among the two suggested.

Baldauff's motion was referred to the KBC's constitution and bylaws committee, which is required to review and comment on all proposed constitutional amendments.

■ Referred to the Executive Board a motion requesting the KBC develop a program to help churches and families dealing with homosexuality. The motion was made by Donna Lawler of Louisville.

■ Heard, but could not vote on, a motion by Eddie Reynolds of Shepherdsville regarding the nomination of at-large members to the Executive Board. Reynolds attempted to make his motion during the Wednesday morning report of the committee on nominations, which was not allowed because no new business may be introduced in the convention's final session.

However, KBC President Floyd Price and Interim Executive-Secretary Jim Hawkins both assured Reynolds his concern would be addressed. Reynolds' motion asked that members of the committee on nominations not be eligible for nomination as at-large members of the Executive Board.

Three KBC schools launch joint \$45 million campaign

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

LEXINGTON—A first-of-its-kind joint effort to raise \$45 million for Baptist higher education was launched Nov. 11 by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's three liberal arts schools.

Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown College are joining forces in the two-year venture called Partnership 2000. The three schools made a joint presentation to the KBC annual meeting last week and hosted a joint breakfast for alumni and friends.

Snatching a page from "The Three Musketeers," Campbellsville College President Ken Winters declared the three schools will be "one for all and all for one" during this effort. But that doesn't mean the three schools won't continue to compete academically and athletically, added Bill Crouch, Georgetown College president.

Former Kentucky governor Martha Layne Collins and Roy Honeycutt, former president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, are co-chairs of the campaign.

Proceeds from the campaign will be divided equally among the three schools, with the bulk of the money invested with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for student scholarships.

Each school also has targeted one capital project which will be funded out of the first money raised.

If fully funded, Partnership 2000 will provide \$15 million for each school.

During the joint presentation to the KBC, Gov. Collins said Partnership 2000 is "something I believe in very strongly. I am here today because I'm concerned about the future of higher education in the commonwealth of Kentucky."

She lauded the KBC schools for their preparation of students for "Christian ministry and for Christian citizenship."

Collins described the many challenges facing teenagers and young adults today and concluded that Christian higher education is an essential ingredient in offering hope and moral training.

Honeycutt also talked about a "nation in dire need of Christian values." Baptist schools such as Georgetown, Cumberland and Campbellsville are "values schools," he said.

The KBC annual meeting presentation concluded with students from each college asking everyone in the audience who had attended or supported one of the schools to stand. Long, colorful ribbons then were handed from person to person until they stretched all across the main floor



ONE FOR ALL Georgetown College President Bill Crouch explains at a Partnership 2000 breakfast how the three Kentucky Baptist schools will work together in a \$45 million fund-raising drive.

and balconies of Porter Memorial Baptist Church.

The student emcees explained that this symbolized the "network of partners" the schools have across the state. Everyone in the congregation then was asked to stand and take hold of the ribbon as an affirmation of the campaign.

At the Partnership 2000 breakfast, President Crouch of Georgetown explained that the campaign will seek contributions from churches, individuals and corporations. The Baptist schools will seek 100 partner church-

es, he said.

Partner churches will receive specific benefits, he said, including access to Christian Youth Corps volunteers, presidential passes for all athletic events on the campuses, pastoral discounts at campus book stores and \$1,000-per-semester scholarships for students from those churches.

To qualify as a partner church, a congregation must make a gift of at least \$25,000 over a three-year period and involve at least 25 percent of the church's Sunday school membership in giving to the campaign.



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Floyd: Avoid the insignificant, pursue God's mission

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

**"Jesus has truck drivers and ditch diggers and farmers and teachers and who knows what else out there. He needs all of us to speak the language of the world to tell them God loves them, Jesus saves."
KBC President Floyd Price**

LEXINGTON—Stop focusing on the insignificant and use diversity as a strength to go about mission passionately, Kentucky Baptist Convention President Floyd Price urged in the annual president's address Nov. 11.

Price, pastor of Scottsville Baptist Church in Scottsville, presided over the meeting at Porter Memorial Baptist Church and delivered the president's address.

Drawing upon a theme of family, Price told his own story of feeling like a "child of divorce" as on the national level Southern Baptists have fought and split in recent years.

"My family of love suddenly became filled with bitterness and strife," he explained. "The great divorce took place where it never should have. Among those claiming closeness to God there was division, suspicion and derision.

"Suddenly I was in pain," he said. "I was hurting and confused and had all the symptoms of a child of divorce."

Price made passing references to four issues related to SBC conflict, noting first that in the previous years of alleged liberalism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary he "received a high-quality theological education." Despite criticism that led SBC conservatives to take over the seminary's board of trustees and make sweeping changes, he said he learned at the old Southern "to know Jesus more than ever before in my life" and "to love the Bible, appreciate it and baptize my preaching in it."

He also expressed his pain at the recent treatment of seminary reference librarian Paul Debusman, who was fired apparently for writing a personal letter to SBC President Tom Elliff. "I am broken-hearted to see an elected leader of Christian people lead in instigating the firing of someone who had a different opinion rather than to offer love and grace and service with encouragement."

Price also expressed the pain he felt several years ago when the SBC's Foreign Mission Board attempted to copyright the name "Lottie Moon



PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS Drawing from a theme of family, Price said he has felt like a "child of divorce" as on the national level Southern Baptists have fought and split in recent years. "My family of love suddenly became filled with bitterness and strife."

Christmas Offering" without consulting Woman's Missionary Union, the women's auxiliary that leads the annual offering effort.

Further, he expressed dismay at the reported salaries of administrators at the SBC's newly formed North American Mission Board. "I was appalled, and still am, when I saw the runaway salary escalations that have produced salary packages that exceed \$175,000 for those who lead us in reaching the lost and feeding the hungry," he said.

Through the pain felt from the SBC, Price said he became more grateful for his home in the KBC. "I thank God that he has provided this child of divorce a place to call home, a family of support."

Price said in the KBC he has seen "conservatives, moderates, people who don't know the difference and people who don't wear any labels holding hands and praying for Russia to be saved. They rolled up their sleeves and built churches and taught Bible school and preached the gospel."

He cited the KBC's advances in Brotherhood ministry, student ministry, Christian education, children's home ministry and more.

"Kentucky Baptists, we are on a mission and we need to stay the course together," he admonished. He then

outlined a three-point "formula for staying the course."

First, he said, Kentucky Baptists must stop focusing on what's insignificant. Price cited the Apostle Paul's advice to the early church at Rome to "accept him whose faith is weak without passing judgment on disputable matters." Paul wanted the church members to know that though they came from different backgrounds and had different opinions on some matters, they served the same Christ and had the same mission, Price said.

"Insignificant things separate and do not include," Price warned. He cited Jesus' admonition to the Pharisees for keeping the letter of the law while lacking love and mercy and kindness.

"The simple word 'love' that is authored by God and exemplified by Christ is inclusive," he said. "Other words, phrases and ideas are exclusive, and Jesus did not come to separate us but to use us together."

Second, Price said, Kentucky Baptists should rejoice in their diversity and use that as a strength rather than a weakness. He cited Jesus' prayer recorded in John 17 that all his disciples "may be one."

"We have in this state churches that are supported with salaries and monies that come from tobacco and whis-

key," Price noted. "We also have churches that, when put to the question, would think that is scandalous. We have churches that wave their hands when they worship and others that are very subdued. We have pastors who wear robes and others who wear sweaters. We have some churches that will explain to you how to be saved from the Book of Romans; we have other churches where you must come to the altar and let the Holy Spirit alone save you. We have some churches that have women deacons and some that think that is an abomination. We have some that use King James version only and some who use all versions. We have some churches that have many doctors and lawyers and some who just tell jokes about them.

"But let me tell you, there are people who have been saved by grace through faith in the living Christ in every one of these places," Price said to loud applause from messengers.

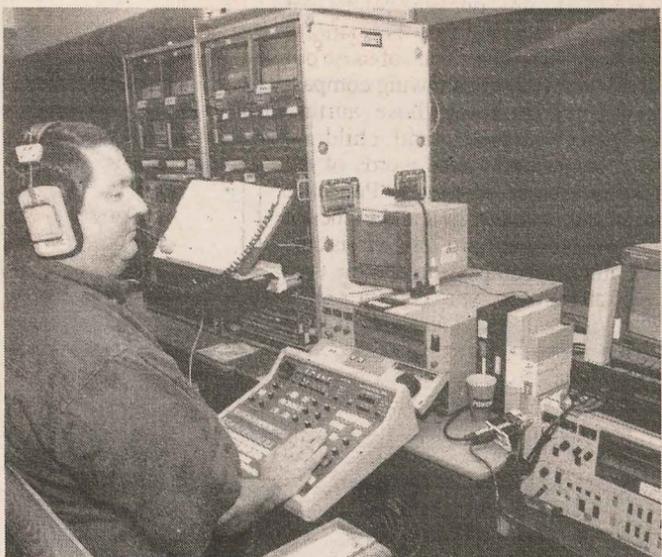
"We are such a diverse group of people. Knowing that, we need to use this God-given diversity to reach people for Jesus," he declared. "Jesus has truck drivers and ditch diggers and farmers and teachers and who knows what else out there. He needs all of us to speak the language of the world to tell them God loves them, Jesus saves."

With this much diversity, Kentucky Baptists should be able to reach everyone in the commonwealth with the gospel, Price said. "Everybody here speaks somebody's language."

Finally, Price said, Kentucky Baptists must go about their mission with passion. He cited the steadfast determination with which Jesus walked toward the cross as a model.

"Kentucky Baptists, don't lose your passion to win souls to Christ. Don't get caught doing other things. Don't trifle with your calling."

He urged Kentucky Baptists not to look out side windows but to press ahead with God's forward call. "Why are we so concerned about what other people, churches and groups are doing? God has called us to be his voice, to tell the good news. We need to be about doing that and let him do with us all he can."



HI-TECH Larry Brannon of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's media department operates some of the electronic equipment used for this year's annual meeting Nov. 11-12. More than \$200,000 worth of equipment was used to provide multi-media support to the program.

Pollard: Don't make Christianity a toy gospel

LEXINGTON—Modern Christians are treating the gospel like a toy, resulting in ineffectiveness and despair, Frank Pollard told messengers to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting Nov. 12.

"We have reduced the gospel; we have reduced sin and called it a trifle while Jesus calls it a tragedy," said Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., and longtime speaker for the "Baptist Hour" radio program.

"If you don't believe sin is very important, you won't believe the Savior is very important," Pollard warned. "We have made the gospel into a little toy."

Likewise, "the church has become like a little doll house with stained glass windows," he added.

One example of the way the church

misunderstands and misapplies the gospel is the way the church prays, Pollard said. "Isn't it amazing how we Christians spend so much more time praying to keep people out of heaven rather than praying to help people get to heaven?"

Understanding and emphasizing the authentic gospel is the key to "find the fire" of the Christian faith, Pollard said, drawing upon Romans 1:1-7 as his text.

The real gospel faces the reality of sin, he said.

"Sin is a very serious thing. There is a force in this world, a force of sin. ... There is a force in us which is the power of sin. ... Sin is rebellion, rebellion

against God," he declared.

However, Pollard pointed out a difference between sin and guilt. "God is not about making people feel guilty but about changing their lives."

He said Jesus invites his followers not to a condemnation but to a resurrection.

Also, the real gospel is not about partisan politics, Pollard said. "We can't make Jesus into a right-wing Republican or a left-wing Democrat. ... He is too big for us to make a toy of him."

The Jesus of the gospel is the only hope for the world, Pollard said, explaining that whatever life's question, Jesus is the answer.



Pollard



GOING & GOING & GOING ... Former Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Marshall makes a surprise visit to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting Oct. 12. The pink bunny was seen several times during the meeting, after which President Floyd Price would note that after 160 years the KBC is still going. (Photo by David Winfrey)

Pierce: The name of Christian game is involvement

By David Winfrey
News Director

LEXINGTON—Churches must involve their laity if they are to achieve their maximum impact for the cause of Christianity, James K. Pierce said during the convention sermon at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting last week.

"The name of the Christian game is involvement," said Pierce, pastor of the host church, Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

Citing Ephesians 4:11-12, Pierce said the role of church staff is to prepare the laity for service in Christian ministries.

"From the Scripture, it should be crystal clear to us that it is God's intention that every Christian be a minister, or a servant," he said. Instead, however, "we have subordinated and eliminated the laity, and that was never God's plan."

Pierce said today's churches have less enthusiasm than they did during Southern Baptists' boom years of the 1950s. "We were ready to take on the world in those days and we did," he said.

"I've wondered many times since those days what's happened to change that," he said. "Are you aware that 70 percent of Southern Baptist churches (today) are either plateaued or declining?"

Meanwhile, he said, churches have more resources than ever before. Interest in religion is at an all-time high, but morality is at an all-time low, he added.

Pierce said he's concluded that the reason is a decline in the involvement of church members. "Those of us who are called to ordained ministry may not have done a really good job of training our lay people for ministry and service."

Drawing on a sports analogy, Pierce said, "Christianity has become in many instances the world's largest spectator sport."

Church members flock to the "arenas" on Sunday to watch the "professionals," pastors and musicians, perform.

"Christianity has become largely a religion of one day, Sunday, and one building, the church," he said. "Some of our best players are sitting on the



Pierce

sidelines."

The role of ministers should be to act as coaches, he added, getting the laity "off their blessed assurance and onto the firing line."

But too often, he said, new church members are not involved in ministries six months after they join. "Most of the time, it's because we still haven't enlisted them."

Pierce asked pastors to consider the impact their churches would have if every member were a minister working in the community.

"That's what God intended," he said. "I'm convinced that many if not most of God's laypeople are willing to serve is only they are asked."

The Great Commission is an occupational, not just geographical command, he said. "Pray for your church that they catch the vision of the laypeople in the first book of Acts."

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The meetings on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday are from 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:00 p.m. The Saturday meeting is from 9:00a.m.-11:00 a.m., with a continental breakfast being served at 8:30 a.m.

Thanksgiving and children

Thanksgiving means different things to different people, but for us Kentucky Baptists it means expressing our gratitude to God and to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

This year KBHC President Bill Smithwick is challenging our Kentucky Baptist family to give \$1 million through the Thanksgiving Offering. My family will be giving, and I encourage you to do the same. Every Kentucky Baptist man, woman, boy and girl should experience the joy of giving for this Christ-centered ministry which provides care and hope to hurting families and children—last year more than 3,300. What a difference we are making in the lives of these children, and it takes all of us

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

praying, giving and volunteering to meet the challenges of this kind of specialized ministry. If you need information about the variety of services we Kentucky Baptists provide through Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, all you need to do is call (502) 245-2101 and ask.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is pleased to be the fiduciary of endowment and trust funds that benefit in perpetuity our children's homes ministry. Included among these endowments are two scholar-

ship funds that give priority to students who have been served by the Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children and who attend Campbellsville, Cumberland or Georgetown. The late Francis and Ruth Moore and the late Guy Billington Sr. included provisions in their estate plans to endow such scholarships.

Perhaps you would like to know more about how you can leave a lasting legacy of your love for Christ and hurting children. If so, please call Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, or me at (502) 244-6466.

May each of us do our part in showing compassion for those hurting families and children, and in the words of the apostle Paul, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows" (2 Corinthians 1:3-5).

Happy Thanksgiving.

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

Hull: Christians must listen for hurting world's SOS

By David Wintrey
News Director

LEXINGTON—Christians must respond quickly to the needs of others even when it is not convenient, but the payoff of seeing lives changed makes the effort worthwhile, Bill Hull said.

"How many times is God's calling not on our timetable?" asked Hull, professor at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala. Hull addressed the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting at Lexington's Porter Memorial Baptist Church Nov. 11.

He contrasted the responses of two cruise ships when the Titanic sank 85 years ago and compared them to Christians' responses to the spiritual needs of non-Christians.

The Carpathea turned around from its route and raced four hours to the disaster site. Crew and passengers helped in the rescue that saved 704 of the Titanic's 2,207 passengers, Hull said.

The Carpathea's response, Hull said, proves three things:

■ **Tragedy occurs at inconvenient times.**

"When the message came, they did not have the option of waiting on the next eight-hour shift."

■ **Ministry requires a team effort.** All of the Carpathea's crew and some passengers were called on to help rescue and care for the shipwreck's survivors, Hull said. "We can't save the world by ourselves," he said, speaking specifically to pastors.

■ **The price is worth the excitement of seeing a life changed.** The Carpathea did not reach its intended vacation destination, but crew and passengers never forgot the excitement of being

part of the rescue effort, Hull said.

Helping a person become a Christian is equally exciting, Hull said. "If you've been a midwife to that new birth, you will never forget it."

The second ship, the California, was as close as four miles to the tragedy, Hull said. The ship had dropped anchor, warned other ships of the icebergs and was waiting for morning to set sail again, Hull said.

The California's log book notes that the crew counted six flares shot from the Titanic, but didn't learn what they meant until about three hours after the ship had already sunk. When the red running light disappeared, crew members assumed the ship had sailed away, Hull added.

Hull drew three spiritual lessons from that ship:

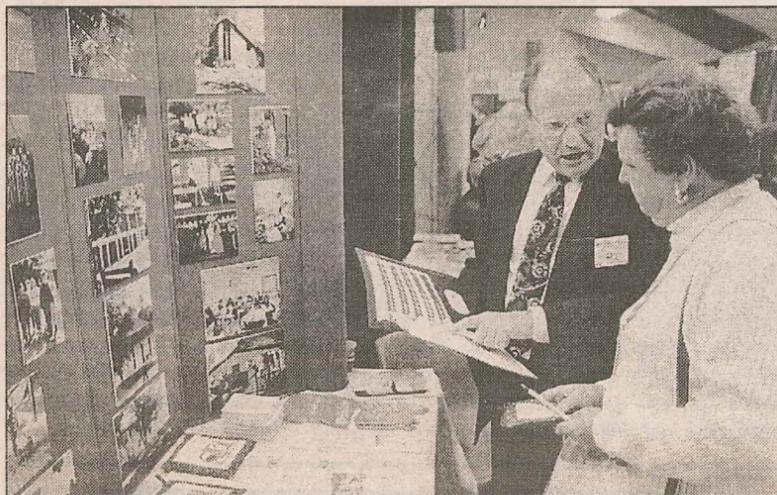
■ **Christians can be deceived by their own sense of spiritual security.** The California's crew assumed that because they were safe other ships must be as well, Hull said. Christians run the same risk, he added. "We project our sense of security on other people and assume they are secure."

■ **Christians can fail to recognize the spiritual needs of others.** The California was a six-ton ship, but the Titanic was 46 tons and considered unsinkable, Hull said.

"Today our churches are getting in danger of getting intimidated by the fast-lane crowd," he said. "It is so hard to believe the high and mighty can't take care of themselves."

■ **Christians should look for signs of help from others.** Too often, Hull said, Christians fail to recognize the calls of help from people.

"We don't realize that even the beautiful people send out the flares," he said.



CONVENTION SCENES ■ Top: Rebecca McCoy-Reese and Charles Reese perform a skit during the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. ■ Above: W.F. Underwood, president of Oneida Baptist Institute, shares information with Shirley Jarvis, a messenger from Calvary Baptist Church of Central City.

Gina Roy

By Robert Dunston

Gina Roy, daughter of Delbert and Marie Roy of Fayetteville, Ohio, spent her summer in Baton Rouge, La. Roy had never lived in such a culturally diverse area and found working with different racial groups in a sometimes tense atmosphere to be quite challenging.

On Sunday mornings Roy taught children's church. Each Sunday night she taught TeamKid classes for fourth through sixth graders, leading crafts and Bible lessons.

She helped with two day camps. One of the camps was for church children and followed the plan of vacation Bible school. The other camp was conducted in an inner-city setting and focused more on academics. Children age five to 15 attended, and many could not read. Roy and her team members taught reading and basic math. "It was rewarding teaching kids to read," she said.

Two children stand out in her memory. Once when working with a 5-year-old boy named Chris, Roy told him he was special, but Chris answered, "No." Another little boy named Mikey was difficult to control, but he stayed very close to the workers wanting them simply to

touch him and show him love.

Roy said the needs of the children and her own needs in ministering to them caused her to depend daily upon God. She developed a "real love for the Bible ... It was no longer a 'should' (study) but a 'have to.'"

Roy also stated, "I was out of my comfort zone, so I had to put my desires aside. God blessed me for it."

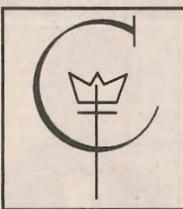
Roy also found support through her fellow team members. On weekends they met together to pray, praise God and share their concerns and joys.

Though the work was very demanding, Roy found it to be very rewarding. She developed perseverance, and she learned that her commitment to God was first and foremost in her life.

Roy's testimony reminds us that often we learn some of the greatest truths when we seek to minister in difficult places and in difficult circumstances. Christian ministry requires courage and can only be done by the power of God. We thank God for Roy, her work and her insight.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



God's dividends

Through the Apostle Paul's writings, the Macedonians perhaps have become Scriptures' most famous givers.

Paul tells us in the eighth chapter of 2 Corinthians that this church gave to his ministry "beyond their ability, begging us with much entreaty for the favor of participation in the support of the saints."

This time of year, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children asks much from our churches. With our goal for the 1997 Thanksgiving Offering set at \$1 million and with the appeals from other worthy causes, we know believers are looking for guidance regarding how much to give and to whom.

Naturally, I see KBHC as a great investment because of the children. Young people touched by God's love, changed by Christ's sacrifice and healed by the Holy Spirit are a great testimony to sacrificial giving. Our daily news exposes atrocities against children and leaves many of us feeling helpless and hopeless to fight back. And honestly, the problems are severe. That is why our offering goal is \$50,000 higher than last year's.

But this is not a losing battle we are fighting.

Scripture also tells us of other dividends to sacrificial giving. "The one who scatters, yet increases all the more." I don't see that verse from Proverbs 11 as a discussion of financial diversity. I think it refers to God's dividends. They are blessings that come through relationships, peace and, yes, sometimes money, because you dug deep, gave willingly and asked God to multiply what you contributed.

We have great Macedonian-like givers in Kentucky. The greatest sound in the world for us is when our phones ring and we hear "How can I help?"

We are accountable to God and to you as to how we use those gifts. For nearly 130 years you have considered us a worthy investment. As you make your plans for holiday contributions, please remember us and remember the children. Thank you.

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

FAMILY

Here are more tax changes to look out for

By Jeremy White

In recent columns, I have updated you on two major tax changes: selling your home tax-free and a reduction in the tax rates on capital gains. While these are the most far-reaching, they are not the only changes for 1997. With less fanfare last year, Congress passed several tax changes effective for 1997. Here's a brief summary:

■ **Full IRA contribution for non-working spouse.** You can make a deductible contribution up to \$2,000 for a spouse's individual retirement account even if the spouse had no earned income. Previously, you could only contribute \$250 for a spouse who had no earned income.

■ **Tax credit for adoption expenses.** If you choose to adopt a child, you qualify for a new tax credit (which is better than a tax deduction), up to \$5,000 for the adoption expenses for each child.

■ **Increase in health-insurance deduction for self-employed individuals.** The 30 percent deduction will increase in 1997 to 40 percent. This percentage will gradually increase to 100 percent by the year 2007.

■ **Employer-paid tuition benefits now excluded from income.** If an employer pays for or reimburses you for any part of college or technical tuition, then you do not include this as income. This provision is retroactive to 1995. You will be taxed on graduate course reimbursement after June 30, 1996.

■ **Long-term care services and insurance deductible.** You may deduct payments for your long-term care services or insurance as medical expenses, subject to medical expense itemization rules. Likewise, certain benefits received under a long-term care policy are tax-free.

■ **Penalty-free early withdrawals from IRAs for medical expenses.** Beginning in 1997, you may make early withdrawals from IRAs without the 10 percent penalty if the funds are for medical expenses or for unemployed people paying medical insurance premiums.

See your tax adviser to save the most for your situation and to comply with the law. Here's the goal: Render to Caesar only what Caesar requires so that you can render more to God.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. He presents financial seminars and workshops at churches and conferences.



Revival theme for pastors' conference

By David Winfrey
News Director

LEXINGTON—Preaching and prayers for revival were the order of the day for the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference Nov. 10.

Messages on topics ranging from the purpose of the church to the way to personal revival were featured during the event, which had the theme "Revival into the 21st Century."

■ Independent missionary Harold Cathey said Matthew 16 reveals that the church is to be God's dwelling place, army, witness and moral voice on earth.

"It's time we stand up and let everybody know where we stand," said Cathey, a missionary to Uganda and former pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland. "Let the church be the church and we'll change the world for Jesus."

■ Mike Routt, pastor of Rose Hill Baptist Church of Ashland, preached from Acts 16, saying that worshiping, witnessing and winning are all possible in the midst of adversity.

"When we worship in the menace of adversity and when we witness through the maze of adversity, we are going to be winning over the menace of adversity and all of a sudden God's going to minister to our hearts," said Routt, who later was elected president of next year's Pastors' Conference.

■ Bill Elliff, pastor of First Baptist Church of Little Rock, Ark., preached from the Beatitudes, outlining the path to personal revival. Elliff spoke in place of his brother, Southern Baptist Convention President Tom Elliff, who couldn't attend because of a death at his church.

The poor in spirit recognize their depravity before a holy God; those who mourn are grieved by the things that grieve God; and the meek recognize their spiritual weakness, Elliff said.

"It is God's responsibility to bring revival, but it is our responsibility to aggressively cooperate with God if we are in any way going to be in a position to be ready when that revival comes," he said.

In a second sermon, Elliff used Luke 13 as his text to list three things a Christian must surrender to God to prepare for revival: (1) Relationships. "Are we more interested in pleasing God or pleasing men?" he asked. (2) Physical body. Too many Christians have allowed comfort to get in the way of their dedication to God, he said. (3) Possessions. "Somewhere along the way, there's got to be men who are going to say, 'I will not serve two masters.'"

■ Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, spoke from John 6:35-69 on the "universal positive principle of the atonement" and the "universal negative principle of the gospel."

While declaring that there are no loopholes in God's plan and that "everyone who believes" in Jesus will be brought to God, Mohler also asserted that Jesus said "no one can come to me unless the Father draws him."

He also spoke of the "substitutionary nature of the atonement," saying this is not just one model of Christ's

atonement among many others but the only valid model.

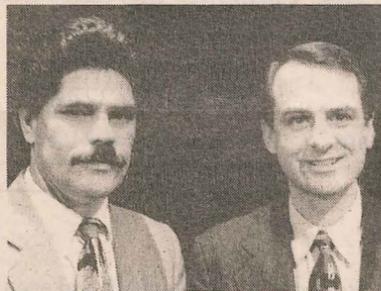
Though it is a difficult thing to bear, "Jesus knew from the beginning who it was who would not believe" in him, Mohler said.

The passage in John 6 from which he preached is one too many Christians want to explain away as meaning something other than what Jesus said, Mohler asserted. "One of the most dangerous things you'll ever hear in life is, 'Yes, that's what he said, but here's what he meant.'"

Modern Christians stand in danger of making "a compromise here and a compromise there and eventually the whole (gospel) is given away," he warned.

In the election of Pastors' Conference president, Routt defeated Jeff Eaton, pastor of First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg. Although the count for the show-of-hands vote was not announced, Pastors' Conference President Richard Oldham later told the Recorder the vote was 76 to 51.

Mark Payton, pastor of Gethsemane Baptist Church in Danville, was elected vice president, and Geoffrey Lacefield, pastor of Cloverleaf Baptist Church in Louisville, was elected secretary.



Routt criticizes QUACKs

LEXINGTON—For all the current discussion among Baptists about five-point Calvinism, one Kentucky Baptist pastor says there should be a five-point definition for liberalism.

Preaching at the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, Mike Routt said people who "follow the path of righteousness" will be labeled troublemakers.

"If you stand against liberalism, you're going to be labeled a troublemaker," he added, listing such topics as abortion, homosexuality and the Southern Baptist Disney boycott as examples.

In a veiled reference to the Western Recorder, Routt said a newspaper editor is claiming that five-point Calvinists are graduating from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and splitting churches.

"I believe that's a bunch of hogwash," Routt said. "But even if they do split churches, there'll be something to split."

"Liberal" churches, he said, are dead and have nothing left to split.

Five-point Calvinist doctrine is defined according to the acronym TULIP, which stands for: Total depravity of people, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace and perseverance of the saints.

Following the acronym for QUACK, Routt said liberals: Question the authority of the Bible, embrace universalism (the belief everyone will go to heaven), accommodate society and culture with issues such as women's ordination and gender-neutral Bibles, condemn conservatives and kill churches

"I'm going to be labeled a troublemaker, aren't I?" Routt said.

PASTORS' CONFERENCE

■ Top: New Vice President Mark Payton and President Mike Routt. ■ Above: Independent missionary Harold Cathey. ■ Far left: Bill Elliff, pastor of First Baptist Church of Little Rock, Ark. ■ Left: Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

- Russian churches as they help new believers learn more about being Christians.
- Two 1998 Kentucky construction teams needed for Gatchina Baptist Church near St. Petersburg.
- That many of the Russian prisoners with whom Christians are ministering will become believers.
- Mark Bryant, a church planter in Maine Baptist Association.
- Spencer and Leslie Stith, church planters in Waltham, Mass.
- The overwhelming ministry needs on New England college campuses and the few campus ministers who serve there.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

- **ALEXANDRIA**—Main Street Church will host a retirement reception to honor Pastor **Calvin Perry** in the family life center Nov. 30 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Perry, whose retirement will become effective Dec. 31, has served the church 30 years.
- **ANNVILLE**—Bond Church celebrated its 75th anniversary Sept. 27.
- **BOWLING GREEN**—First Church called **Mark Hopper** as pastor. He previously was pastor at First Church in Frankfort. He began his new ministry Oct. 27.
- **CROMWELL**—**Conrad Barnes** resigned as pastor at Mount Zion Church.
- **FINCHVILLE**—Finchville Church ordained **Mary Elizabeth Dunn**, minister of music and creative arts, to the gospel ministry Nov. 2. **Scott Patton** is pastor.
- **FRANKFORT**—Memorial Church recently called **John Martin** as part-time minister to children.
- **HOPKINSVILLE**—Concord Church ordained **Shane Suiter** to the gospel ministry Nov. 9.
- **LEBANON**—Lebanon Church ordained **Jeff Long** as deacon Oct. 26. **Wesley Noss** is pastor.
- **LONDON**—Jackson Memorial Church celebrated its homecoming Nov. 9.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Portland Avenue Church recently called **Mark Erion** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Baptist Tabernacle Church.

First Middletown Church will host the Campbellsville University Chorale in concert Nov. 22 at 7 p.m.

Ormsby Heights Church called **Doug Walker** as interim pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—First Church recently called **Phil Bradley** as associate pastor/minister of education and outreach director.

Sharon Church dedicated its family life center Nov. 16. Former pastor **Jack Geruin** was guest speaker.



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'Yeah! No work today!'

At just a few minutes past eight this morning, I heard several boys run past my office window shouting "Yeah! No work today!" I knew that could only mean one thing; the yard crew had been called off.

All our students have choices about the jobs they are required to have. Many students prefer an inside job. For the boys, this allows them to pick one of 10 major buildings on our campus to clean. Most jobs require they work after school for about one and a half hours a day and four hours Saturday morning.

The other choice is an outside job, which may mean working on the farm, the mowing crew or the yard crew. Needless to say, if you have an outside job you must contend with the weather. During the summer you are going to have to work where it is hot and humid. During the winter you may have to shovel snow and ice.

While weather conditions may not always be the best, there is one benefit to working outside: rain. You can nearly always count on the fact that if it is raining or seriously threatening rain, the yard and mowing crews will get the day off. Any day is a good day for rain, but if it is 8 a.m. on Saturday there is no better news than, "No yard crew today because of rain."

That was the news the yard crew got today. As they made their way to work, they were pleased with the overcast conditions and the promise of rain. The only question was: Would it rain soon enough? A rain after noon would not do them any good. It had to rain soon.

As the boys lined up for roll call, they made sure the person in charge was aware of the threat of rain. "We don't have to work today, do we?"

"You do know it is going to rain hard, real soon, don't you?" "Is it really true that if it rains you don't have to work?" one new boy asked. He had only been here for about a month, and it did not rain much in October. He had not yet enjoyed the benefits of a rainy day.

There is one little twist. From time to time on days when it is threatening rain but no big drops have come yet, you may get the day off if you do not have any "hours." Hours are given to students

who have misbehaved, and they will have to work off some of those hours if they are going to receive all the privileges other students have. If you have hours you may be "campused," which means you are grounded until some of those hours are worked off.

The boys have no idea what criteria we may use to call off work for the day. On a few occasions, after the roll is called (to make sure everyone has shown up, because some will presume there is no work on this wonderful rainy day) they may hear the words, "If you do not have any hours you may leave, but if you do have hours you will have

to stay."

Several will leap into the air with great excitement, while others will drop to the ground with a moan. "Can they do this?" "Is this really fair?" "If I had known this was going to happen, I would have worked those hours off earlier."

While I did not hear the moans from those who had to work, I did hear the shouts of joy from those who got the day off as they ran past my office window.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

■ **MILTON**—Milton Church recently called **Scott Jablonski** as part-time youth minister. He is a student at Southern Seminary.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Walnut Memorial called **Bill Castlen** as part-time senior adult minister, effective Jan. 1. Also, **Judy Allen**, part-time senior adult director, will become senior adult director of activities Jan. 1.

■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church ordained **Danny Adams, Jeff Garner, Charles King, Tommy Morreau** and **Stan Spees** as deacons Oct. 19.

■ **UTICA**—Barnetts Creek called **Raymond Ward** as pastor. **Merle Ford** recently resigned as pastor.



CONVENTION MUSIC The Kentucky Baptist Singing Women perform Nov. 11 during the Kentucky Baptist Convention. They were among several groups to sing during the two-day event. They were directed by Susan Stewart.

Gardenside Baptist Church 40th Anniversary Celebration

with

1st Pastor

Roy Fowler

Sunday, November 23, 1997

10:45 a.m.

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Preparing to reach others for Christ

First-year student **Ralph Reagan** remembers 94399 as his prison number. But the memory of his deliverance from sin and of the doors God miraculously opened fill his eyes with tears of thanksgiving.

The story brought tears of joy to me as well. In 1983, Reagan pleaded guilty to a felony charge in the courtroom of Tennessee's third district judge. Reagan refused his lawyer's plea bargain. "I have a lawyer with higher authority than you, and he said I won't be going back to jail," Reagan told the shocked attorney.

Reagan remembers the full courtroom. The judge took off his glasses, rubbed his eyes and said, "There's something telling me I've got to let you go; I'm overturning your sentence and assigning five year's probation." The judge was the only one in the state who could make such a decision.

Reagan's wife, **Carrie**, faithfully prayed for him during his imprisonment and was there at his release. "My wife is behind me 100 percent, and we have three great children and a granddaughter," Reagan said. Seventeen years have elapsed since his release. This year he completes a required ministry internship at their home church, First Baptist

Church of Crossville, Tenn. "The church really loves us and gives so much encouragement." In 1995, Reagan had a five-week mission assignment in Haiti. "I wanted to stay. The burden for the lost became so heavy. But I always faced the wall of no education," Reagan acknowledged. While in Haiti, a hand wound developed a severe blood

infection. Seventeen bags of antibiotics didn't solve the problem, Reagan recalled. "A pastor laid hands on me and prayed for healing, and four hours later my temperature was normal and the infection gone. I went straight to my pastor and told him I needed education to remove the stumbling block to do God's will. He immediately called Clear Creek."

Reagan resides in **Kelly Hall** Monday through Friday and commutes weekends to Crossville. "The calling to minister is a call to prepare, and for me it is the strongest call. I will soon complete my first year and continually thank and praise God for his blessings. It is wonderful to be in classes where the professors are sensitive to the working of God."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Home business cooking up a new way to share faith

By Michael Paquette
Religion News Service

MINNEAPOLIS (RNS)—In a way, you could say Bill Heiland has shared his faith with millions around the world during the past decade. But he's neither an evangelist nor a pastor—he runs what he calls "God's cookie business."

Heiland is the founder of Evangelistic Foods and the creator of Scripture Cookies, a fortune cookie with a Christian twist. Instead of a Chinese proverb, Heiland's cookies contain one of 420 different Bible verses.

Since starting the Minneapolis-based cottage industry in October 1987, Heiland—with the help of his wife and 14-year-old son—has sold more than 5 million Scripture Cookies nationwide; he's even shipped cookies as far away as Asia.

"An Indonesian guy was getting married, and for the wedding he ordered 5,000 cookies," Heiland said with a chuckle. "I said, 'That sounds like one big wedding.'"

Scripture Cookies are also a big hit at church retreats.

"They're used as icebreakers for people to open up and share about the verse or pray about the verse," said Heiland, who describes himself as a charismatic Roman Catholic.

Folks have ordered them for baptisms and confirmations; have served them with Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners; and have even doled them out to Halloween trick-

or-treaters because the cookies come individually wrapped.

And each year, Scripture Cookies are served at the Lutheran Church-sponsored pagoda selling Chinese food at the Minnesota State Fair, Heiland said.

But mostly Scripture Cookies are found in Christian bookstores, usually perched near a cash register, where they sell for 25 cents each.

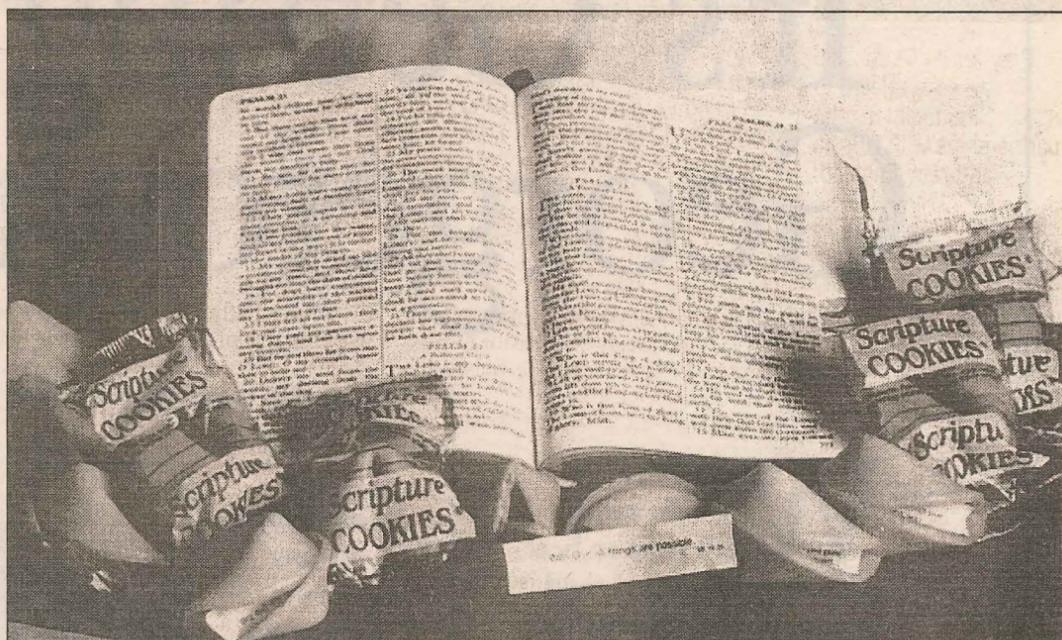
The cookies are made by a fortune-cookie manufacturer, but Heiland supplies the Scripture inserts, which are printed on large sheets that must be cut, sorted and stacked so they can be fed into the machine that stuffs the cookies. A pool of about 15 aging nuns from a Benedictine priory in St. Paul have volunteered to help handle the small slips of paper.

"Be self-controlled and alert (1 Peter 5:8)"; "Wait on the Lord (Psalm 27:14)"; and "A cheerful heart is good medicine (Proverbs 17:22)" are some examples of the divine directives encased in the cookies.

Heiland said that when it comes to his sweet endeavors he's more concerned about his Christian witness than his profit margin.

"I try to run my business as a Christian," he said. "So I give people a full refund, including shipping, if they are unhappy ... for any reason. ... And they don't have to return the product since the money's not an issue for us."

Heiland has other sugary ideas



about how to spread the gospel. He's also developed Sweet Words Lollipops, which sell for 15 cents each. The pops come in five different flavors and have one of 100 different Bible verses especially for children on the stick.

"But they don't have the same surprise element as the cookie," he said.

Also in the works are plans for a low-priced after-dinner mint with a Bible verse printed on the inside wrapper. Heiland says he focuses on cheap sweets because he's more interested in spreading the word of

God than making a buck from the venture.

"There's a lot of other things I could be doing that are more financially rewarding. But I like this," said Heiland, who is also a self-employed statistical analyst.

Meting out the godly goodies is his personal, preferred method of evangelizing, says Heiland, who has given his cookies to cab drivers and flight attendants.

"I'm not good about talking to someone and asking them if they are saved," he said. "But I can hand them a cookie."

SCRIPTURE COOKIES

A fortune cookie with a religious twist, these contain one of 420 different Bible verses rather than a Chinese proverb. Information about them is available at (800) 743-0142.

Meal for homeless impacts guests & church members

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

FORT WORTH, Texas (ABP)—The first time Alvin Hanson came to Broadway Baptist Church's Agape Meal for homeless people, he followed a map a friend drew for him.

The second time, he followed his heart.

"A guy drew me a map and told me I should come here," Hanson recalled. "I came skeptical, but I saw love here. It changed my life."

With the help of Christian friends at the downtown congregation in Fort Worth, Texas, Hanson turned his life around. He's joined the church and sings in the choir. He helps the less fortunate.

And he's one of hundreds of homeless people touched by Broadway's Thursday night Agape Meal ministry.

Most of them haven't joined the church like Hanson, but about 250 people regularly attend the family-style meal served by church members, Pastor Steve Shoemaker reported. And many more have found Christian love, compassion, help and food in the church's fellowship hall on Thursday nights.

Broadway started Agape Meal about two and a half years ago, Shoemaker said.

Church members felt compelled to action by the needs of people just be-

yond the walls of their building, he said. Then they were inspired by a similar ministry conducted in a tough Washington neighborhood.

"We try to make it a really nice meal," Shoemaker said. "We use tablecloths and cut flowers and serve good food—better than we serve our own members on Wednesday nights."

The meal draws an average of 200 "guests" from the community and 40-60 church members who prepare and serve the meal and sit at tables with the guests.

After dinner, all who want to stay spend about 45 minutes in worship, which involves both church members and guests in planning, leadership and participation.

Prayer time is a highlight, as people voice prayers for their deepest needs. Some speak about their battles with alcohol and drugs; others mention their desire to be reconciled with family, to hold down a job, to get well.

Broadway members agree Agape Meal is a highlight of their week, a moment of community they anticipate eagerly.

"It's led to a remarkable transformation in the lives of our volunteers," said Carrie Zimmerman. "They've seen a section of the world they wouldn't see anywhere else. Once our neighborhood guests enter our doors, everybody's on the same level. It's a picture of the wholeness of Christ's ministry."

This saloon can help you wet your spiritual whistle

HUNGRY HORSE, Mont. (BP)—A converted saloon now serves as a house of worship in Hungry Horse, Mont.

Bibles line the mirrored showcase where amber-colored liquor bottles once stood. A secret gambling room, visible from a steel-shuttered peep hole in the door, accommodates the pastor's office. A horse trough serves as a makeshift baptismal pool.

At least 60 percent of the members of Hungry Horse Baptist Church have become new Christians since the congregation began meeting in the renovated bar located on the town's main street.

The congregation previously had met in an inadequate rented facility at the back edge of town. No one seemed to notice it was there, and no one seemed to care.

In November 1996, attendance had dwindled to three: Pastor Andrew Goodwin, his wife and an elderly woman. Then several people to whom the pastor had ministered made professions of faith. The nucleus began to grow.

Five months later, the local bank, which for two years had been holding title to the bar, reduced the asking price from \$400,000 to \$178,000.

The pastor contacted the bank's loan officer to express interest but learned several roadblocks faced the church, including a requirement that a liquor license be purchased with the building and that \$25,000 in earnest money was due within two weeks.

The church had no savings, but for six days the small band of believers marched around the old saloon, praying that God would open the

tightly closed door. On the seventh day they marched around the building singing "Victory in Jesus."

Miracles began to happen. Just before the bank's deadline, church members raised \$27,000 and moved to purchase the saloon. Then the bank agreed to sell the liquor license separately and lowered the sale price to \$135,000. The church took immediate occupancy, destroying the liquor that was still showcased on the wall.

During the process, the struggling congregation attracted visitors and new members, averaging more than 60 people in worship each week.

The location of the building has proved beneficial. Tourists on their way to Glacier National Park stop by for free coffee, soft drinks, tracts, Bibles and information. The building is large enough to accommodate a community clinic operated by a local hospital. In addition, a community food pantry and a day-care ministry operate in the building. In short, the old saloon has once again become a gathering place for the town's residents.

This past summer, Vickie Grazett was among seven members of First Baptist Church of Forest City in Altamonte Springs, Fla., who traveled to Hungry Horse to help renovate the saloon into a church sanctuary. The group painted, mudded the drywall and provided personal encouragement to the congregation.

"The love in that church is phenomenal," Grazett said. "It was worthwhile to see the difference in the church there and the way we perceive churches here—how little the people have and how happy the people are."

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We're bursting at the seams! It's time to beat the competition and send in your application for the Fall 1998 semester.

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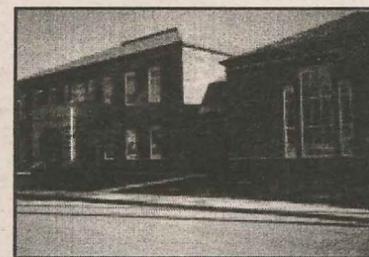
For optimal consideration, don't wait to apply! The deadline is Feb. 1 to apply for Pastors' Christian Leadership Scholarships and academic scholarships. And to see the campus firsthand, come to our next Visit in Person Day on Feb. 7 or set up a personal tour. For more information, call the Office of Admissions at 800-788-9985.

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The new \$12 million Learning Resource Center will be opening in the fall of 1998. With 5,000 square feet and state-of-the-art technology, this magnificent building will change the way our students learn for years to come.



The new Anne Wright Wilson Fine Arts Building houses art studios, a computer imaging lab and one of the largest art galleries in Central Kentucky.

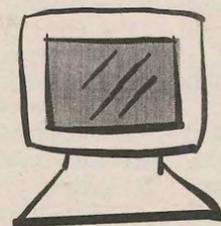


The new Athletic Complex includes Rawlings Stadium, a leadership center and apartment-style housing for juniors and seniors. During the summer the complex is home to the Cincinnati Bengals Summer Training Camp.



The Marshall Center for Christian Ministry is helping students prepare for Christian leadership and service in the global mission of the 21st century.

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