



WESTERN RECORDER

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OR THE RECORD

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Changes at the Baptist General Convention of Texas led a Baptist editors' survey of top stories. *Page 2.*

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1997 brought collective yearning and morning. *Page 6.*

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Kentucky Baptists face tragedies & achievements in 1997

By David Winfrey
News Director

Years from now, Kentucky Baptists may regard 1997 as a year of achievements in the face of tragedies.

From a natural disaster in February to a man-made one in December, some of the incidents of the past 12 months are surely burned into the state's collective memory. Meanwhile, other events in 1997 will take time to develop and determine how they will be regarded years from now.

Below is a chronological list of 1997's top events for Kentucky

Baptists. While debatable, they certainly shaped what Kentucky Baptists did last year and what they will do for years to come:

■ **Rain, rain, go away.** Floods in late February and early March damaged thousands of homes and at least 21 Kentucky Baptist churches. More than 1,000 Baptists from Kentucky and elsewhere responded with

more than 163,000 hot meals, "mud-out" crews which cleaned 775 houses and construction teams afterward.

■ **Nailing down decent housing.** In June, Kentucky Baptists helped with Jimmy Carter's "Hammering in" See Bowling Green ..., page 3



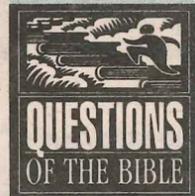
IN THE NEWS National attention focused on the students of West Paducah's Heath High School and their morning prayer group after the Dec. 1 shooting which killed three teens and injured five others.



COATS FOR KOREA Southern Baptist International Mission Board staff members (from left) Faith Bryan, Barbara Smith and Julie McGowan were among dozens of volunteers who packaged more than 40,000 coats collected by Southern Baptists to help North Korean famine-weakened children survive that country's harsh winter weather. The "Coats for Christmas" drive was sponsored jointly by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, North American Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union. (BP photo by Roy Burroughs)

A new feature

This week the Western Recorder introduces a new feature for 1998 called "Questions of the Bible." This series of 50 inspirational pieces will be written by 50 Kentucky Baptist pastors.



Each column will address one of the great questions contained within the text of the Bible. We begin this week in Genesis with the serpent's question to Eve, "Did God really say?"

Pastors writing for this series have been selected to represent a broad cross-section of Kentucky Baptists, spanning the diversity of geography, theology, politics, age and church size within the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

At the end of the year, all 50 columns will be compiled into a book, which will be available for purchase across the state.

See the first installment of "Questions of the Bible" on page 5.

Young adults looking for someone to look up to, advisers say

By Sarah Zimmerman
Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP)—To effectively teach today's young adults, trade the "show and tell" method for an approach that says "come and do," say several Baptist adult consultants.

Don't just show young adults pictures of mission fields, advisers explained; take them on a mission trip. Don't simply tell young adults to trust God in difficult situations; share life experiences that prove God's faithfulness.

Most adults in their 20s and 30s

can access a wealth of information with a few strokes on a computer keyboard. They don't need more knowledge, they need relationships, said Esther Burroughs, author and popular women's conference speaker.

Churches that foster relationships between mature adults and young people will find "another breath of God to make a difference," she said.

"Younger women are asking for mentors," said Laura Savage, adult consultant for Woman's Missionary Union. "They're saying, 'Don't talk to me about it, prove to me that your faith really does make a difference in

your life.'"

WMU is focusing on mentoring in the current church year by using the theme "Come Go With Me" and printing a series of articles about mentoring in its Missions Mosaic magazine.

While mentoring is getting fresh attention, the concept is not new. Titus 2:3-5 calls for godly older women to train younger women in self-discipline and family issues so that "no one will malign the word of God."

When families stayed in one geographic area for generations, such relationships occurred between aunts and nieces, grandmothers and granddaughters, said Chris Adams, wom-

en's enrichment ministry specialist for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. With today's families frequently moving from their ancestors' roots and with many families not having healthy relationships, such mentoring must be taught, Adams said.

The Heart to Heart program at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, is one example of a church facilitating such relationships. Once a year, profile sheets are distributed among interested women, asking them for basic information such as whether they are married or single, their age and hobbies. The profile

See Young seekers ..., page 9

Moving? See page 4 (0106)

BAPTISTS

Texas convention ranked top story by Baptist editors

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—A Texas Baptist plan distancing the nation's largest state Baptist group from the conservative-dominated Southern Baptist Convention led a ranking of top news stories in 1997 by Baptist state paper editors.

In an informal survey conducted by Associated Baptist Press, editors ranked the November adoption of a Texas Baptist "Effectiveness/Efficiency" report as the top story of the year.

The historic document affirmed "autonomy" of the 2.7 million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas and opened the door for the state group to appoint missionaries, offer options for theological education and publish its own Sunday school literature. Those activities traditionally

have been the domain of the SBC.

Texas conservatives said the plan distances the moderate-led state convention from the SBC and later organized their own alternative state convention, making Texas the second state (after Virginia) with separate groups relating to the national convention.

A Southern Baptist boycott of the Walt Disney Co. came in second in the editor survey.

In a 1996 editor's survey, a similar story also held the second spot. That year, the convention passed a resolution threatening a boycott unless Disney changed policies including offering domestic benefits to partners of gay employees and allowing homosexuals to hold "gay days" at theme parks. At its 1997 annual meeting in Dallas, the SBC followed through on that threat, urging 16 million Southern Baptists to "refrain from patronizing" Disney and its subsidiaries.

Editors ranked an assembling of a

million men in Washington at the Oct. 4 Promise Keepers "Stand in the Gap" rally as the third biggest story. The event was said to be the largest religious gathering in American history and perhaps the largest ever held on the Washington Mall.

Coming in fourth was a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in June striking down the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Rounding out the top five in the editors' survey was the official establishment of the North American Mission Board, the centerpiece of a denominational downsizing by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Other top stories in the editors' ranking were:

■ A demand by Chinese Christian leaders that Southern Baptists stop "clandestine" mission work in China and work exclusively with the China Christian Council. Officials at the SBC International Mission Board de-

nied that missionaries are in China illegally and said the agency intends to continue a "multi-track" approach in China.

■ Religious persecution overseas. The U.S. State Department issued a report detailing the plight of Christians. Religious groups, including evangelicals, sought to raise awareness about religious persecution abroad and pressured the U.S. to impose sanctions on nations which persecute Christians.

■ Continuing controversy over Mercer University President Kirby Godsey's book, "When We Talk About God... Let's Be Honest." One Georgia Baptist committee judged the book to contain heresy while another studied the Georgia Baptist Convention's historic relationship with the Baptist university in Macon.

■ Famine in North Korea and the successful cloning of the adult sheep Dolly tied for ninth in the survey, rounding out the top 10.



"Were the Apostle Paul to apply for membership in their group, he would be refused."

Southern Baptist missionary Jim Sibley, speaking of the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington after it asked the Southern Baptist Convention to recall a resolution on Jewish evangelism

"All of us know we are against the ordination of women. That's a foregone conclusion. To position ourselves against the ordination of women and then do nothing about this situation at Drakesboro First is hypocritical."

James Shutt, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Central City and leader of an effort to oust First Baptist Church of Drakesboro because the pastor's wife is an ordained minister

"It's like being born-again, again."

Carolyn Bradley of Grand Bay, Ala., who lost 21 pounds after joining a scripture-based weight-loss program

"If you're going to have a successful religious organization, this would be the next 10 years to do it."

Trend-watcher Faith Popcorn

"I've known churches that have lost more people over the color of the carpet."

Rex Horn, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., on whether his church experienced controversy due to the policies of church member Bill Clinton

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

Christian Life Commission President Richard Land

"Most people have heard about forgiveness, of course, and most of them would think it's a pretty good idea, but they don't necessarily consciously incorporate it into their lives."

Professor Bob Enright, director of the International Institute of Forgiveness

"The issue was not, 'Do you drink or not?' but 'Do you want it sold in Georgetown?'"

Greg Earwood, pastor of Faith Baptist Church and co-chairman of successful Citizens to Keep Georgetown Dry

"The abortion rights folks know it, the anti-abortion folks know it, and so, probably, does everyone else."

Ron Fitzsimmons, executive director of the National Coalition of Abortion Providers, admitting he "lied through my teeth" in a "Nightline" interview about partial-birth abortions, saying they were rare and only performed in extreme cases

"We're living in a culture that now looks on us (Christians) the same way we used to look at Mormons."

Leonard Sweet, dean of Drew University's Theological Seminary

"I will not someday stand before Jesus and say, 'I cared more about the traditions of my denomination than I did about lost people.'"

Lee Strobel, teaching pastor of Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago

"Dealing with the genetic code seriously impacts the whole meaning of what it means to be in the image of God."

Daniel Heimbach, associate professor of ethics at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

"Just in terms of allocation of time resources, religion is not very efficient. There's a lot more I could be doing on a Sunday morning."

Microsoft founder Bill Gates

"More Christians have died this century simply for being Christians than in the first 19 centuries after the birth of Christ."

Nina Shea, director of the Puebla Program of Freedom House

"Those old pews are the originals. They went through the 1937 flood—when they were found out in a field afterward—the 1945 flood and the 1964 flood. But I don't think they'll make it through this one."

Steve Boyd, pastor of Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, one of at least 21 Kentucky Baptist churches damaged by spring floods

"If you're ready to take off your clothes with somebody, it's kind of hard to take off that bracelet without thinking, 'Hmmm—what am I doing here?'"

Michigan Youth Minister Greg Stauffer, explaining the significance of "WWJD" bracelets, which stand for "What would Jesus do?"

"Try to get up a trip to Russia, it's 'Let's go.' Try to get a trip to downtown Louisville and lots of folks are kind of busy that day."

Travis Collins, pastor of Mount Washington Baptist Church in Kentucky and a former missionary to Nigeria

"I prayed to God he wouldn't get up so I wouldn't have to hit him again."

Boxer Tommy Rodriguez, on how to mix being a good Christian with being a good fighter

"I literally see these blitz builds as a new and creative way to have revival."

Habitat for Humanity founder Millard Fuller

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

Mike York, pastor of Elkhorn City Baptist Church in Kentucky, whose church helped with flood relief in Falmouth and the Habitat blitz build

"I expect to fall over in the pulpit. I want to go out saying, 'Jesus saves!'"

Kentucky Pastor D.E. Jones, age 90

Overheard in 1997



"The pro-family and religious conservative movement has gone through a transformation on the question of race and reaching out to the truly disadvantaged."

Ralph Reed, then-executive director for the Christian Coalition, launching the Samaritan Project to assist minority communities with faith-based solutions to social problems while rallying blacks and others to the coalition's causes

"It's difficult to be heard as speaking with authenticity when you are speaking from an organization that is poorly perceived in black and minority communities."

Earl Jackson, director of the Samaritan Project, announcing that the group will be spun off as an independent entity



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KENTUCKY

Kentucky Baptists face tragedies & achievements in 1997

BLUEGRASS BURGOO

Continued from page 1

the Hills" project to build 50 houses in Appalachia. Kentucky Baptists sponsored four Habitat Houses and worked on several others.

■ **Two camps; one leader.** Rusty Ellison was elected the first president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc. The newest agency of Kentucky Baptists will oversee the development of Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek Baptist camps.

■ **Break out the White-Out.** Muhlenberg County Baptist Association failed in January to get a two-thirds vote to kick out First Baptist Church of Drakesboro for having an ordained woman in its congregation. In September a simple majority of messengers to the association meeting voted to strike the woman's name from its already published book of reports and ban churches that ordain women. The Drakesboro church was given a year to comply with the vote, but opted to withdraw from the association.

■ **For whom does the school bell toll?** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary announced in October it will expand Boyce Bible School to offer a four-year bachelor of arts degree in biblical studies. Undergraduate degrees are a relatively new field for the six Southern Baptist seminaries.

Campbellsville University already offered a bachelor's degree in Christian studies on Southern's campus.

■ **Stay the CP course.** Messengers to the annual Kentucky Baptist Convention failed to give a two-thirds majority to a motion changing the way churches qualify for representation at the meeting by giving to Baptist causes through the Cooperative Program.

■ **Parting ways.** Messengers to the convention approved a new agreement with Baptist Healthcare System. The new agreement states that the KBC will no longer appoint trustees to the hospital system, but at least 75 percent of the board will be Baptist.

Should the system be sold, an amount equal to past KBC contributions to the hospitals will be given to support Baptist causes and ministries.

■ **Shots heard 'round the world.** When Michael Cameal opened fire on a group of praying students in West Paducah, Heath High School had center stage of the nation's focus for the following week in December. Amid

the pain and questions, however, students and families worked to model the Christian beliefs that were discussed every morning before classes. Four of the eight students struck, including two who died, attended Kentucky Baptist churches.

■ **New coach.** Bill Mackey, 56, was elected executive secretary-treasurer for the Kentucky Baptist Convention in December. Called inclusive and "a man who has a vision for the future" by the search committee chairman, Mackey said his two themes will be building relationships with KBC churches and serving churches as they seek to minister.

■ **New group.** A group of 42 Kentucky Baptist conservatives voted in December to form Southern Baptists of Kentucky. The group will "pave the way" for changes that occur as new graduates from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary enter Kentucky Baptist churches, predicted President Mike Routt.

■ **Ben Elrod**, former president of Georgetown College, will address the college's annual Founders' Day convocation Tuesday, Jan. 13, at 11 a.m. in Hill Chapel.

■ **Cumberland College's** Mountain Outreach program distributed toys, clothing and house items to 392 families last month during its Christmas distribution. That was a 30 percent increase from the previous year.



"God can call the appropriate Scripture passage to mind right when it is needed to deal with any temptation the youth may face."

Jim Lowe, pastor of Pleasureville Baptist Church in Kentucky, on the importance of Bible drills



"I've not only changed, but I've had to repent and ask God to forgive me."

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Coordinator Dan Vestal on his switch from opposing women serving as pastors

"There is not much outside entities can do to rescue a dying church. It must begin inside."

Steve Welch, director of church strategies for Northern Virginia's Mount Vernon Baptist Association

"If we do not move to restore our nation to its roots in Christ, if we do not serve as active participants of the Great Commission here at home, the sad reality is that very soon we will no longer be able to serve the Great Commission abroad either. This is the job of the North American Mission Board."

Bob Reccord, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's new North American Mission Board

"If you're going to enter into a contract to raise kids, we're going to hold you to that because all the rest of us are going to be affected by your ability to hold to that commitment."

Louisiana state Rep. Tony Perkins, explaining a "covenant marriage" law making divorce more difficult for couples

"Our Lord died particularly for the sins of his elect people, accomplishing their salvation from beginning to end—and for no one else."

Fred Malone, pastor of First Baptist Church of Clinton, La., at the Southern Baptist Founders Conference, an annual meeting of Calvinists

"When I think that Jesus himself washed the disciples' feet, I'm proud that God has entrusted me with the responsibility of shining people's shoes."

Shoe-shiner Sylvia Hill, who uses her station at Boston's Logan Airport to share Christ with others

"I cannot help but think we are reaping some of the sins we have sown in the past, especially when I see the decline of the number of baptisms."

SBC President Tom Elliff



"He was one Christian going to another Christian according to the tenets of Matthew 18. How can you fault him for that?"

Crescent Hill Baptist Church Pastor Ron Sisk defending Paul Debusman, who was fired from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary after writing a letter to SBC President Tom Elliff

"Americans want leaders, but as soon as they get them, they have a compulsion to bring them down. And I think that's true in the church."

Dave Goetz, editor of Leadership Journal

"When you come home, you come home to your second job; not to read the newspaper, but to help your family."

Dallas Pastor Tony Evans at the Promise Keepers "Stand in the Gap" rally on the Washington Mall

"Many of the people I know on church staff would prefer not to have Sunday night services."

Bill Leonard, dean of Wake Forest University's divinity school

"I wish I had been out of the tent."

Former pastor Joel Gregory, expressing regret for siding with conservatives in the Southern Baptist Convention controversy who he thought were intent on "enlarging the tent"

"I don't know anything more greedy than Christians who are sitting in the church saying 'Feed me! Feed me! Feed me!' when there are thousands of hungry people outside."

Church consultant Reggie McNeal at the Church Health Summit in Bowling Green

"Even though I went off and got tattooed, I never pulled out of the church, never became disillusioned or had to go out on my own."

Preacher's kid Lisa York

"We consider that this is God's hands: your work and your construction teams."

Russian Baptist leader Nicolai Romenyenko, on the partnership between Russian and Kentucky Baptists

"What lessons are we teaching our children when love is measured by the gifts given?"

Kentucky Baptist Roderick Cyr, in favor of simplifying Christmas

"We're not pushing any agenda."

Disney Chairman Michael Eisner, responding on "60 Minutes" to the Southern Baptist Convention boycott

"The scholars have said for 200 years that America was not about race or a place, it was about an idea. We're about to find out. And we had best be ready."

President Bill Clinton, urging clergy to work for racial harmony

"He has a right to be wrong."

Dan Ariail, pastor at Jimmy Carter's church, after Carter said his church would have no interest in converting Mormons

"We just had to watch him shoot people from inside the glass doors. We just watched people fall and scream and run."

Heath High School student Brittney Thomas



"They say, 'I want to go to a place where nobody else wants to serve, and I'm willing to do what it takes for me to get there.'"

Mike Lopez, International Mission Board student missionary coordinator, noting the new breed of missions volunteers

"What we feel like we're doing is helping pave the way for the result of changes that are going to take place as a result of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary graduates entering Kentucky churches in the next several years."

Mike Routt, president of Southern Baptists of Kentucky

Overheard in 1997

OPINION

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Thank you

This time of year is known for giving and receiving gifts. I wanted to use this means to give Kentucky Baptists the most sincere thank you that I have in my heart.

As many know, in May my husband, Don Short, became ill. I wrote a letter to the Western Recorder telling about his illness and asking for your prayers. I was not prepared for the response, not only from Kentucky but throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. Cards, letters and phone calls from pastors, evangelists and church members reassured us they were praying for Don and my family.

Recently there have been many inquiries as to Don's progress. There are some improvements. He has come a long way.

At first, every day was very difficult. He seems to have some good days now. Don is still under a doctor's care every week dealing with the depression and burnout. I ask for your continued prayers as he deals with the issues that surface and for patience as God restores Don to complete wholeness. Until that time we are still clinging to Romans 8:28.

*Kathy Short
Eddyville*

Bible is the issue

Henlee Barnette has again reminded us (Dec. 16, page 4) of the issue that has divided both the Southern Baptist Convention and Kentucky Baptist Convention in recent years. "The conventioncrats," Barnette informs us, "have added a view that the Bible itself does not claim: that it is inerrant in science, philosophy, history, psychology and all areas of reality."

Barnette's statement implies that the Bible errs in science, philosophy, history, psychology and certain areas of reality. To Barnette, the Bible is only "authoritative," "without any mixture of error for its matter," in matters of faith and religion.

This is, of course, theological double-talk. The Bible teaches that all Scripture is inspired of God, not just those fragments superficially dubbed as statements of faith or religion. Is the resurrection of Christ a matter of faith or of history? Both, most certainly. Indeed, the faith of the Bible is inseparably connected to the science, philosophy, history and psychology of the Bible. To artificially divide biblical faith from biblical (or true) history is a sham, intellectually dishonest.

The issue is the Bible, its complete infallibility and trustworthiness in all areas of reality. This issue, with its far-reaching implications, will inevitably generate the widest differences in all areas of reality: the person of God, the person of Christ, homosexuality, abortion, etc.

In the past, denominations began over honest differences concerning the Lord's Supper, church government, etc. Those issues pale in comparison to the issue of the complete trustworthiness of the Bible. If we examine this issue honestly and the massive differences of opinions, both theological and social, expressed in the Western Recorder, one easily may see two denominations (or perhaps

faiths) within both the KBC and the SBC. Until the issue of the Bible is resolved, the current conflicts will continue to rage.

*Russell Fuller
Wingo*

Dishonorable signing

I find Henlee Barnette's commentary (Dec. 16, page 4) illuminating and disturbing. Barnette approvingly states that former members of Southern Seminary's faculty, himself included, signed the "Abstract of Principles" while not holding to certain points in it. Signing that which one does not believe, regardless of the administration's knowledge and approval, is neither honorable nor ethical.

Barnette's use of an anecdote concerning John Broadus to justify his signing is unconvincing. Broadus refused to sign until the "original Abstract statement" was modified to accommodate his view. Unlike others, Broadus did not sign that which he did not believe.

Barnette's use of Broadus' "On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons" to attack those holding biblical infallibility fails because of Barnette's misunderstanding of both inerrancy and what Broadus meant by "spurious texts." Inerrantists do not believe "that every word in the Bible is ... to be taken literally." Scripture must be interpreted in light of its literary genre. Neither was Broadus denying the infallibility of Scripture in his warning against using spurious texts. "Spurious texts" are verses which have been added to the original text of Scripture and are, therefore, not authentic.

Barnette notes "that recently employed personnel" at Southern have openly declared not to be "five-point Calvinists." Accordingly, Barnette "assumes" that either they believe what they openly deny or they must have gotten "the same deal that (Dale) Moody and I got." Does not Barnette realize that many believe "election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life," as stated in the Abstract, without holding to limited atonement? These recent signers of the Abstract have signed that which they believe.

Sadly, those who now sign the Abstract, affirming its statements, are denigrated with the label "fundamentalists," while those who signed what they did not believe are praised as having "maintained their intellectual honesty."

*Bill Moore
Shelbyville*

Another splinter?

In a season when unity, peace and goodwill are resonating through our state, we Kentucky Baptists find ourselves making front page news in the secular media. Unfortunately, we are not on the front page because of our unity as Christians and our celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are not on the front page because of the good news that Jesus came for all people. Sadly, we again find ourselves front page news because we can't get along. Instead of proclaiming the Prince

of Peace, we now hear that another new "splinter group" is brandishing their swords and drawing new battle lines. A few years ago it was the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Today it is Southern Baptists of Kentucky.

The issues surrounding these rifts are not theological. They are political. The fuss is, and always has been, one for control and power.

I believe the vast majority of Kentucky Baptists are tired of the bickering from both sides of the political spectrum. So, for those who have, or want to "splinter" off of the Kentucky Baptist Convention or the Southern Baptist Convention and do your own thing, I say "go for it!" Make your break and move on. Quit embarrassing those of us who are committed to the ministry of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. Quit pushing your agendas on those of us who are not interested in joining your camp. Frankly, we have grown weary of your whining.

*Terrell Bradley
Lexington*

CP tied to churches

Regarding the article (Dec. 23, page 3) related to the formation of Southern Baptists of Kentucky: Could I offer one further expansion on the issue of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program percentage which needs to be stated when our 1996 reduction by 2 percent is mentioned?

There were two very important parts of the recommendation the convention approved in 1996.

First, the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program percentage was reduced to reflect the percentage decrease in church Cooperative Program contributions since 1987.

Second, the action based future percentage allocations to the SBC on the percentage of growth or decline in Cooperative Program giving from the churches.

Yes, the first year of change (1997-98) set the SBC percentage to 35 percent/65 percent, but based upon the churches' percentage of Cooperative Program giving compared to undesignated gifts, this ratio already has been raised for 1998-99 to give 35.244 percent to the SBC. We should know by May 1998, and maybe as early as March, if another increase reflected by the churches will increase the SBC percentage even more, or if it will drop as it had for eight straight years prior to 1996.

My point is that the commitment to reach the desired 40 percent/60 percent distribution is still present. The convention has allowed the churches to be in control of our increase or decrease in SBC Cooperative Program participation.

*Lowell Ashby
KBC business division director*

War of the fringes

The secular and denominational media are again feasting on the

fighting among the family of Baptists in Kentucky. A few years ago, a splinter group decided they needed a forum for their political agenda and began their own "Fellowship." Now, another splinter group, intent on power, control and a political agenda, has formed their own group.

Who are Baptists? I thought we were believers, worshipping in autonomous churches, committed to cooperation in missions and evangelism. What has happened to issues like the priesthood of the believer and soul competency? From all the publicity we see, it seems that we are minority splinter groups, staking our claim to positions on the theological left and right. I, for one, resent insinuations that I must be a card-carrying member of one camp to be "cooperative" or the other to be a true "Southern" Baptist. The actions of power brokers intent on control have embarrassed our work and are dragging the "family name" through the mud.

When God was angry with Israel, Moses pleaded for their forgiveness. He then asked that his own name be removed from God's book, if there was no forgiveness. If there is no room in Baptist life for those holding different views on issues not crucial to salvation, then perhaps those of us caught in the middle of the latest "war between the fringes" need to withdraw and let them have it!

*Bob Lowery
Central City*

Group not needed

I was saddened to read of another group forming to "promote" the Southern Baptist cause in the Kentucky Baptist Convention. This shows the further splintering of Baptists in Kentucky.

It creates a new group that will be vying for a limited amount of mission money in Kentucky Baptist churches. This is evidenced by the leadership of this new group's own giving to the Cooperative Program. The church I presently serve as pastor gives 27 percent of its undesignated offerings to the Cooperative Program. How can this new group educate my church any more about the Southern Baptist Convention?

I also was saddened by the need for this new group to demean the education of those who graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary before the present administration was put in place. Such terms as "liberation," "process" and "orthodox" are only exercises in rhetoric when applied to the theology that has been taught and is being taught at the seminary.

I graduated before Al Mohler became president. The core curriculum at the seminary at that time was not "process" or "liberation" theology but theology based on sound biblical study. The men and women who taught at the seminary were dedicated to such study.

Now is not the time to be forming new "splinter" groups in the Kentucky Baptist Convention, but instead we should be looking for ways we can unite in doing God's work.

*J. Dwayne Howell
Campbellsville*

HE SAID/SHE SAID

You go to the hardware store but you don't bring me flowers

HESAID



Mark Wingfield

Marriages are full of contradictions. For Exhibit A on this point, consider flowers.

Women expect men to bring them flowers, or at least have flowers delivered to them. This is seen as a sign of love and affection.

But women also expect men to be able to pay for the flowers. This is seen as a sign of responsibility.

So what I want to know is which is more important, showing signs of affection or signs of responsibility. You can't always have it both ways.

Alison is forever dropping hints to me that I don't bring her flowers anymore. But even more frequently than that, she's reminding me that we've allocated our financial resources right up to (or maybe beyond) the limit. Don't go spending money on things we don't really need, she warns as I head to the hardware store.

Is it just me, or should these two conversations have some bearing on each other? Maybe that's only a male way of thinking (or rationalizing, Alison might say).

My theory on flowers is that only men who are dating, newly married or whose children are gone from home are likely to be bringing home flowers on a regular basis, unless they just won the Publisher's Clearinghouse sweepstakes. You show me a guy who's raising a family and bringing home flowers every week and I'll show you a guy who's trying to make up for some really big goof or who's feeling really guilty.

After all, how many florist ads have you seen where a man comes home with flowers, steps over all the children's toys on the floor, rummages through the cabinets searching for a vase while children cling to his legs and then makes a beautiful presentation to his adoring wife. That's too far-fetched even for TV.

SHESAID



Alison Wingfield

Oh, baloney. A trip to our local grocery store for a small bouquet is not going to break the bank. And it doesn't have to be delivered by a florist to be special.

A trip to the hardware store is a different matter. Whenever Mark says he needs to pick up a few things there, I brace myself. A few things can turn into a major shopping trip when he goes to one of those mega home supply places.

He doesn't bring me flowers, but I do see a lot of tools and gadgets.

I'd even be happy with a single rose now and then. My small bud vases are sadly underused.

When it comes to the romance department, my creativity also has sadly fallen by the wayside. Cards were my main way to keep the coals burning. I used to occasionally place one on his pillow or at the dinner table. Now we're lucky to have the bed made or find the table amidst all the school papers and other miscellaneous stuff that gets deposited on it.

When it comes down to it, maybe what's lacking as our marriage enters its mid-teen years is creativity. I'm not talking about greeting him at the door wrapped in cellophane or anything ridiculous like that. Perhaps we need to remember some of the little things we did as newlyweds, when we didn't have a dime. Foot massages, candlelight dinners (sans the kids), and walks around the block (with the kids) can go a long way toward keeping a relationship ticking.

And, of course, a small floral offering is always welcome.

What Kentucky Baptists face in 1998

What a difference a year makes. With the rapid pace at which our culture experiences change, the span of 12 months frequently brings significant twists.

Yet many of the changes we experience are not the result of overnight revolutions. Though we may suddenly awaken one day to understand that a change has happened, often it has been brewing for months, even years before.

And so it is as we look ahead to 1998. While it is impossible to predict the sudden changes that will jolt us, it is possible to predict what simmering issues carried over from the previous year have the potential to make waves:

1. *Relationship between the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention.* Though the formation of what we know today as the KBC predates formation of the SBC, the state and national bodies have been voluntarily interconnected since before most Baptists living today were born.

However, recent years of controversy within the SBC have weakened this bond. At the same time, national trends such as the declining influence of denominations also have impacted the situation.

As we enter 1998, Kentucky Baptists face pressure from all sides to re-examine this relationship. The SBC itself has undergone a massive reorganization that closed the Home Mission Board, the national agency most directly funding mission work in Kentucky in the past. The HMB's successor, the North American Mission Board, already is renegotiating missions priorities and funding agreements with all state Baptist conventions.

At the same time, moderates who disagree with the tactics and politics of the SBC's new conservative leaders continue to build their own new missions entity. This creates a strain on the state level, where most Kentucky Baptists want to continue working together yet clearly disagree on how to relate nationally.

Throw into the mix now a new group of conservatives within the KBC who have organized to promote the SBC's interests within the KBC.

All these forces will continue to push Kentucky Baptists to re-evaluate whether to relate to the SBC across the board without question, selectively or in some other way.

2. *Relationship of Kentucky Baptists to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.* Mixed in with the changing relationship between the KBC and the SBC is another

matter that hits closer to home and has the potential for more long-term impact.

For decades, Kentucky Baptist churches have depended upon faculty, students and graduates of Southern Seminary to serve as pastors and staff members. As a result of the SBC's changes, Southern Seminary has experienced a dramatic shift in theology, politics and focus.

What has not been determined is whether Kentucky Baptists want to experience the same change in their churches and will continue drawing upon Southern faculty, students and graduates in the same way. The new conservative group called Southern Baptists of Kentucky has rightly identified this as a watershed moment for the KBC.

3. *Resurgent Calvinism.* Kentucky Baptists have a front-row seat for a growing battle for the hearts and minds of Baptist theology. A new breed of Baptist Calvinists continues to gain influence to promote doctrines such as limited atonement and irresistible grace, which run counter to the "whosoever will may come" theology that has shaped Baptists and American evangelicals in the 20th century.

For political reasons, some want to deny this is a real issue. Yet ultimately Kentucky Baptists and Southern Baptists will have to answer this question anew for our generation: Did Jesus die only for the predestined elect or for all who might call upon his name?

4. *New leader, new vision for KBC.* It's been 15 years since the KBC prepared for a new executive secretary-treasurer. Next month, Bill Mackey will begin his mission in that role. While no one anticipates a revolution, every leader brings new insight and vision to the role. Mackey's job will be to help Kentucky Baptists set priorities for the future and determine how to make those goals reality.

5. *Redefining what church looks like.* Kentucky Baptists continue to be swept up in the national struggle to make the church more user-friendly. The worship wars, which have pitted traditionalists against proponents of contemporary musical styles, are far from over. Yet the struggle isn't just over music, but over the very concept of what a church should be and how it should present itself.

Of course, underlying all these issues is the one issue that is ever-present and should instruct our views on all else: How can we best reach our state, nation and world with the gospel of Christ?

— Mark Wingfield

"Did God really say ..."

By Bill Patterson

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" (Genesis 3:1)

The majority of questions in the Bible are asked by God. A considerable number are asked by people. But the first question in the Bible was asked by Satan. In Genesis 3:1 the adversary began his first assault on mankind by attacking the word of God.

Sometimes a student will ask a question because he or she wants to know. In that case, a teacher has the joy of helping the inquisitive grow. Other times questions are raised not because of a desire to learn but to discredit the teacher, raise doubt, cause confusion or draw attention. Satan knows what God said, but he wants us to doubt what God said.

If I were Satan (no comments, please) and I wanted to tempt people to turn away from God, I would not

begin by suggesting God is not real. I would begin by chipping away at the foundation upon which people believe in God. If only I could raise significant doubts about some of what God said, I would win. After all, if any of what God says is false, how can we be sure any of what he says is true? If the flood is fiction, how can we be sure the resurrection is reality?

Earlier this century, Bertram Russell was a well-known agnostic who tried to discredit Christianity by attacking the Bible. Russell and his wife lived openly immoral lifestyles. Late in his life, a friend of Russell's came to him with a strong, serious witness to the Lord. Russell listened carefully and replied, "I wish I could believe that."

His friend said, "But you can!" Russell answered, "No, if I believe in the Lord you teach, I would have to change my sexual morality."

Russell's problem was not intellectual. It was not that he could not believe. Russell's problem was moral. It was that he would not believe.

What do you do when a question comes to your mind about the validity

of God's word? If you genuinely want to know the truth and are willing to live by it, the Holy Spirit will reveal God's truth to you. Jesus said, "Seek and you will find."

This is not only an ancient difficulty. It is as recent as the annual "Jesus Seminars" which flippantly raise doubts about the validity of what Jesus said. It is as close as some modern pulpits and classrooms.

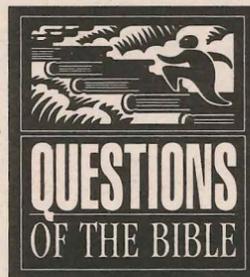
Recently, I led the funeral service of a dear friend who was a strong Christian. His family gained consolation in the word of the Lord, "I go to prepare a place for you." Based upon this and other words of our Savior, they know they will be with their loved one and with the Lord one day. But if God did not really say that, then will they?

This question gets at the heart of everything we deem dear. If God did not say his word, then how do we know we are saved? But God did say. He has given us the Bible, his holy word.

Adam and Eve fell because they listened to the father of lies rather than to the author of truth. God is as good as his word. May we write exclamation points rather than question marks over its pages.



Bill Patterson is pastor of First Baptist Church in Henderson.



1997 brought events of collective yearning & mourning



WASHINGTON (RNS)—In the world of faith, the past year was marked by events of sweeping religious and spiritual proportions, as masses of humanity gathered around the globe to publicly act out rituals of collective yearning and grief to a degree rarely, if ever, seen before.

From the hundreds of thousands of Christian men who gathered in Washington for Promise Keepers to the spontaneous, global grief over the twinned deaths of Princess Diana and Mother Teresa, Americans and others appeared gripped in the early stages of a spiritual revival that transcended traditions and institutions.

"Once again we have discovered that America is a very religious nation, but one less and less tied to historic labels," said David Neff, executive editor of Christianity Today magazine. "People looked to public rituals to help them understand the big questions, which is religion in its purest form."

Witness:

■ In Washington, an estimated one million Christian men assembled in October on the National Mall to pray and sing praises for more than six hours during the Promise Keeper's "Stand in the Gap" rally—possibly the largest religious event in U.S. history.

■ In London, and in countless cities worldwide, mourners gathered throughout September in public displays of grief over the untimely death of Princess Diana. Millions more watched her funeral broadcast live from Westminster Abbey.

■ In Calcutta, after hundreds of thousands queued up for days to view her lifeless body, Mother Teresa, the tiny Roman Catholic nun who ministered to the world's poor and dying, was laid to rest a week after Diana in a televised state funeral previously reserved for India's most revered and powerful.

However, huge displays of religious expression were not the only significant religion stories of 1997. There also was controversy and tragedy:

■ Henry Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention, USA, the nation's largest predominantly black denomination, came under fire for possible marital infidelity and mis-

use of church funds after his wife set fire to a luxury home he co-owned with a female church official.

■ Alabama Judge Roy Moore became embroiled in a yet-unresolved legal battle to keep a replica of the Ten Commandments on his courtroom wall. The brouhaha developed into a national debate that pitted church-state separationists against religious conservatives and Gov. Fob James, who declared he would call out the National Guard to stop federal authorities from removing the plaque.

Perhaps the most divisive issue in all of Christianity in 1997—and beyond—was an increased focus on homosexuality:

■ The nation's Roman Catholic bishops extended to parents and families of homosexuals an "outstretched hand" of support in an October pastoral statement that also reaffirmed church teaching that homosexual activity is a sin.

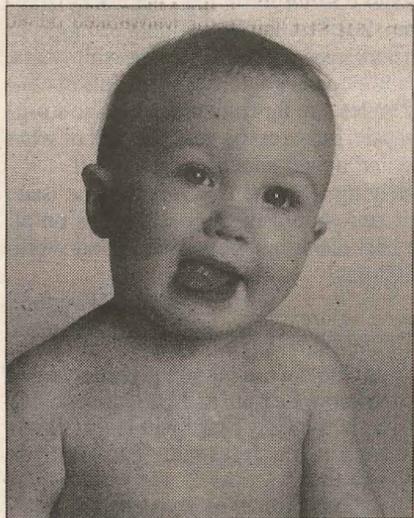
■ Episcopal bishops kept alive the issue of blessing same-sex unions in July when they approved a directive for the church's liturgical experts to continue a theological study of such blessings and to come up with recommendations for the next General Convention in 2000.

■ In spring, the presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (USA) adopted the so-called "fidelity and chastity" amendment for the ordained. Largely viewed by critics as a measure to bar homosexuals from the ministry, the General Assembly later adopted a softer proposal that substituted "integrity" for "chastity," and sent the matter back to the presbyteries.

■ The Southern Baptist Convention, in calling for a nationwide boycott of the Walt Disney Co., specifically cited the company's gay-friendly employee benefits as a concern and accused the media giant of promoting homosexuality at its theme parks and in its movies.

The year brought a mixed bag for religionists concerning public policy. The U.S. Supreme Court in June struck down the 4-year-old Religious Freedom Restoration Act, much to the chagrin of religious groups on both the right and the left.

The issue of religious persecution around the world continued to capture national attention in 1997 after a congressional bill was proposed in May to impose a variety of economic and other sanctions against foreign nations that persecute religious minorities.



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CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Small, rural Baptist church in Breckenridge County needs to fill a full-time ministry position. Please send resumé to: A. Hardcastle, Route 2, Box 54, Hardinsburg, KY 40143.

AVAILABLE: Experienced church hostess/food service director seeks part-time position with church in Louisville area. I have moved recently from First Baptist Church in Bowling Green where I was employed as the Food Service Director for several years. If you are in need of someone to help with your food service needs on a part-time basis, please call Susan Locke at (502) 796-9382 (home) or (502) 452-8326 (work). Specialties include (but not limited to): Wednesday evening meals, Sunday school parties, weddings, receptions, luncheons, etc.

SEEKING: Individuals with good school/community contacts to place and supervise an exchange student for \$825. (800) 964-4678.

SEEKING: Part-time associate pastor of worship. Send resumé to: Pastor Virgle R. Grant, Eastside Bethel Baptist Church, 1675 East Main St., Richmond, KY 40475, Fax to: (606) 624-9646. E-mail: EastsideBethel@CompuServe.com.

SEEKING: Campbellsville Baptist Church is now accepting resúmes for a full-time minister of students. Seminary degree preferred. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Campbellsville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 530, Campbellsville, KY 42719-0530. Resúmes will be accepted through Jan. 21, 1998.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for a healthy, growing church—two morning services. Send resumé to: P.O. Box 197, Rineyville, KY 40162.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and recreation. Experience and seminary needed. Send resumé to: Second Baptist Church, 308 S. Russell St., Marion, IL 62959.

FREE: Telephone system for church use. A Louisville Christian businessman is offering a free AT&T telephone system to a church which can use it. The system includes six lines and 12 phones. Church must arrange for installation—donor will provide free advice on installation. Interested church should contact Ed Mahanes, Compatible Communications, Louisville, (502) 897-5323. Note: Mr. Mahanes has helped several churches with these donations. Jim Hawkins, KBC.

FOR SALE: Allen MDS-45 organ. Two 61-note manuals and 32-note pedalboard. Tone card reader, total MIDI, MDS orchestral percussion sounds, console controller, digital reverberation, speakers and cables. Beautiful oak finish console, original documentation. Purchase price was \$42,000; asking \$25,000 (negotiable). For more information, contact Craig Sundheimer, First Baptist Church, 511 W. Arrington, Farmington, NM 87401; phone: (505) 325-4528; fax: (505) 325-4529; e-mail: FirstFarmington@CompuServe.com or Sundheimer@Juno.com.

SEEKING: Resúmes are being accepted by Green Valley Baptist Church of Henderson, Nevada, for a senior pastor and a minister of music by Jan. 15, 1998. Send resumé to Mike Parnham, chairman of senior pastor search committee, or Larry Reynolds, chairman of music pastor search committee, 270 N. Valle Verde Drive, Henderson, NV 89014.

SEEKING: CBF church accepting resúmes for full-time pastor with a vision for a growing area of Louisville. Send resumé to: Hillview Baptist Church, 5319 Dixie Highway, Louisville, KY 40216, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: Accepting resúmes for the following positions: full-time minister of youth and children, part-time director of music. Mail resumé to: Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 5664 Highway 56, Owensboro, KY 42301, Attn: Kenny Davis. Phone: (502) 771-4150; fax: (502) 688-0354.

SEEKING: Baptist church in Bowling Green looking for a part-time minister of youth to minister to approximately 40 enrolled youth. Send inquiry or resumé to: Greenwood Baptist Church, 5165 Scottsville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42104. Telephone: (502) 781-2378.

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

TOUR: 10 days, best of Israel and full-day London tour, \$1,799. Personally escorted by experienced staff. Call for dates and details: (800) 853-5337. Group rates available.

SEEKING: The Pastor Search Committee of First Baptist Church of Frankfort is accepting resúmes at this time. Mail to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 201 St. Clair St., P.O. Box 5008, Frankfort, KY 40602.

Pastor protests 'heavenly' beer ad

NEWARK, N.J. (RNS)—A Newark, N.J., pastor has mounted a campaign to protest a commercial that depicts beer drinking in heaven.

The ad, produced by Miller Brewing Co., features three beer-guzzling angels partying in the clouds. Edward Smart, pastor of Israel Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church, is lobbying to get the ad pulled.

"It's theologically dangerous to assume that angels in heaven ... are alcoholics," Smart said. The commercial "says that God sanctions beer, alcohol, substance abuse. ... God doesn't do that. I haven't read that."

Smart gathered 3,000 signatures on a petition and last week won a city council resolution condemning the ad from the Milwaukee-based beer company, the Associated Press reported.

Miller spokeswoman Gina Shaffer said the ad was not intended to be taken seriously.

The Minneapolis ad firm Fallon and McElligott created the commercial, which depicts three young men with wings and white suits dancing as they chug Miller Lite beer.

When the "angels" deplete their beers, they look down on Earth, create a gust of wind and cause a tree to fall in front of a Miller truck. When the bottles fall out of the back of the truck and float up to heaven, the party continues.



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A 'kingdom building' estate plan

Recently I received a call from a bivocational pastor I did not know. He was referred by someone who knew me and knew we could assist this pastor in his estate planning.

The pastor's school teacher wife had been killed in an automobile accident a couple of years ago. He wanted to leave a lasting legacy of their Christian testimonies "to continue building the kingdom beyond their lifetimes and until the Lord returned."

As a result of prayerful consideration, he had concluded church planting and ministerial education were the avenues through which this "kingdom building" plan best could be accomplished. We in the Kentucky Baptist Foundation were able to assist in facilitating an estate plan that will reflect in perpetuity his late wife's love for education blended with both of their commitments to Christ and his mission in this world.

Through this pastor's last will and testament a permanent endowment will be established, upon his death, which will bear his and his late wife's names. Half of the income will be used for church planting and half for the ministerial education of needy students at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

Any of the church planting funds not used in a given year will be add-

ed to the ministerial education portion. The principal will never be spent, and the foundation will invest the principal to grow so it will produce over time an increasing stream of income for church planting and ministerial education.

What an inspiration it was to listen to this pastor's story and to help him fulfill his stewardship dreams. How pleased I was Clear Creek was

part of our Kentucky Baptist family and worthy to carry-out this "kingdom building" estate plan.

Perhaps you have been prayerfully considering your estate stewardship dreams. If "kingdom building through training God-called servants" is a part of your consideration, I know of no better institution than Clear Creek in which to

place your confidence and trust in fulfilling that dream. President Whittaker would be honored to share directly with you how Clear Creek is equipping leaders in the churches and on the mission fields for "beyond 2001."

Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, and I are available to assist you. Call us toll free at (888) 254-5701.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Poll: More voice belief in God.** More Americans are voicing an unshakable belief in God and miracles, according to a new poll conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. This year, 71 percent of Americans said they have never had moments of doubt about the existence of God. In 1987, 60 percent of respondents said they had such absolute confidence. The number of Americans saying they were confident God is the power behind miracles rose to 61 percent in 1997, a significant increase from 47 percent a decade ago.

■ **Crucified Santa Claus draws protest.** A Catholic civil rights group has complained about a painting on display at a New York art school that depicts the crucifixion of Santa Claus. The artist, Robert Cenedella, said the painting is a satirical work about holiday commercialism. "I was not responsible for replacing Christ with Santa Claus," he said.

■ **Group tries to improve religion coverage.** The Trinity College Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life has received an \$895,000 grant from Pew Charitable Trusts to fund an effort designed to improve the coverage of religion by general media. The 3 1/2-year "Religion and the News Media" program will include various projects and conferences to bring together journalists and religion scholars.

■ **Florida school board requests dismissal.** A Florida school board has requested that a judge dismiss a lawsuit attempting to stop it from

offering a controversial Bible class. "The curriculum is constitutional, and this lawsuit is premature and has no merit," said Gene Kapp, spokesman for the American Center for Law and Justice. But People for the American Way's deputy legal director said there were no grounds to dismiss the suit.

■ **Islamic symbol vandalized.** An Islamic star-and-crescent display in Washington, D.C., has been vandalized in what U.S. Park Police are calling a hate crime. This is the first year the Muslim symbol has been erected during the December holiday season next to a Hanukkah menorah and Christmas tree on the Ellipse, a grassy area near the White House.

■ **Postcard campaign to start.** Anti-abortion Catholics are gearing up to flood Congress with postcards and letters in connection with the 25th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion. Beginning the weekend after Jan. 22, Catholics are being urged to send senators a message of encouragement to override President's Clinton's veto of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. Nationwide, dioceses have ordered more than 11 million postcards for the campaign.

■ **New Jersey abortion law still on hold.** A federal judge ruled Dec. 24 that New Jersey still cannot enforce its ban on the controversial late-term procedure opponents call "partial-birth abortion." A U.S. District Court Judge blocked the law from going into effect pending a full hearing on the ban's constitutionality.

Disney World's lines got a lot longer due to protesters

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (RNS)—Visitors to Disney World often have to put up with long lines, but this one was different.

About 75 protesters tied up traffic near Orlando, Fla., Dec. 29 as they criticized the gay-friendly policies of the Walt Disney Co. The unusual protest near the entrance of Walt Disney World caused a minor slowdown for thousands of tourists.

The protest could be the start of demonstrations at Disney and other locations by Operation Rescue National, a Texas-based anti-abortion group that is expanding its focus to include homosexuality, the Washington Post reported.

Protesters also caused a nearly two-mile traffic jam on one of the

busiest highways in Central Florida, an Osceola County Sheriff's spokeswoman said.

Philip "Flip" Benham, 49, executive director of Operation Rescue National, and two others were jailed, police said, after they refused to comply with an officer's order to stop distributing literature at a traffic light.

According to Associated Press, Benham said the protesters may establish a "presence" at Disney's theme parks, especially during the next Gay Days in June, when thousands of gays and lesbians are expected to visit Orlando theme parks. Their activities would include buying tickets to enter the parks, reading from the Bible and passing out literature, Benham said.

Scientology, IRS reach agreement

WASHINGTON (RNS)—The Church of Scientology has paid the U.S. government \$12.5 million as part of a 1993 settlement with the Internal Revenue Service establishing the controversial group's tax-exempt status.

The settlement has ended a dispute between Scientology and the government stretching back to 1967. At that time, the government argued Scientology should lose its tax-exempt status because it was a for-profit business that enriched church officials.

The church responded with an aggressive counter-offensive. The group and its members filed more than 2,200 lawsuits against the IRS and agency officials. As part of the settlement, Scientology agreed to drop the suits and stop aiding members who had filed the suits. In exchange, the IRS ended its audits of 13 major Scientology organizations.

The 1993 agreement represented a sharp reversal for the IRS, which for 25 years refused to give Scientology the blanket tax exemption it routinely gives churches.

Food for thought

By Robert Dunston

In March 1997 a new organization began at Cumberland College. Will Jones created Food for Thought for high school young people. Participating students receive leadership training, learn about agriculture, make new friends with older members of their community and develop an understanding and appreciation of the history of their community.

The first phase of the program consists of several months of leadership training. Students meet together every other week to learn about leadership, develop their own leadership skills and become part of a team.

During the second phase the students identify senior adults willing to accept home-grown vegetables in exchange for stories about themselves and their communities.

During spring and summer the students work in the third phase of growing vegetables. The students plant and tend a variety of vegetables and quickly become aware of the work involved in growing food. As they tend their crops, they also learn and employ positive environmental practices.

The final phase of the program is the exchanging of produce for

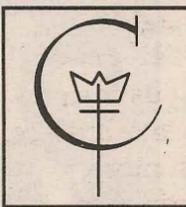
stories. Vegetables are delivered to the senior adults who elected to participate. In return, the adults share stories that bring the history of their communities to life. Both the students and the adults make new friends and create a bond that draws generations closer together. Students collect, edit and distribute the stories to others in the community.

Since last March, Jones has spoken to more than 5,000 high school students about the program and about Cumberland College and our commitment to service and leadership. More than 130 students from seven high schools participated in the program last year and talked with 25 senior adults. The program continues to grow and involves students, staff, teachers, administrators and parents.

Food for Thought is another Cumberland College program making a difference by training young people and giving them a sense of their place in their communities. For more information, contact Will Jones at 7890 College Station Drive, Williamsburg, KY 40769, or at (606) 539-3514.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Nevertheless opportunities

I've never really liked New Year's resolutions. It seems to be just another opportunity to start something I'll never finish that will end up making me feel guilty.

Nevertheless, a new year provides a point to look back at last year's successes and failures, gather all the will and faith we can muster and move forward with greater determination. It is a nevertheless opportunity.

Aren't we all glad when Jesus approached his nevertheless opportunity, saying, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done," (Luke 22:42) he, unlike his ancestors of old, chose the will of the Father rather than his own?

The year of our Lord 1997 is over. Nevertheless, 1998 is upon us. It's kind of like reaching the summit of the ridge, looking from whence we came and forward to what lies ahead. The calendar forces us to take stock of what we did or did not do last year and see the opportunities of a new year.

At KBHC, we cannot do less than we did last year. The opportunities to touch children and families are even greater before us in

1998. Last year we ministered to 3,300 children and families. Nevertheless, there are that many more to reach this year. Last year 142 children made professions of faith in Christ. Nevertheless, many heard the gospel and did not respond. The labor pool for workers is shrinking. Nevertheless, we believe God will call forth workers to help fulfill our ministries. This year our revenues are reduced by \$1 million. Nevertheless, we have hope that God's people will make up the difference.

I don't like New Year's resolutions. Nevertheless, I do appreciate renewed dedication to our Lord and the mission of the church. December 1997 is behind us and gone forever. Nevertheless,

January 1998 is here ushering in a new year of nevertheless opportunities. I can hardly wait to see what happens.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

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/>

CHURCH

Why should you have a will?

By Laurie Valentine

"You own stuff. ... You will die. ... Someone will get your stuff." Jane Bryant Quinn

Making a will allows you to choose who gets your "stuff" and how and when they will receive it after your death. The "stuff" that passes under your will is your individually owned assets and assets payable to your estate or executor. Distribution of jointly owned property, life insurance proceeds and retirement survivorship benefits is not, generally, controlled by your will.

Will distribution provisions can include specific bequests of particular assets or amounts, as well as general bequests of personal property and the residue of your estate.

By making a will you may include non-family beneficiaries, such as your church or other Baptist causes, in your distribution plan. If you have not made a will, Kentucky law provides for distribution only to your relatives.

Making a will also allows you to provide for special needs of your beneficiaries. Children or grandchildren may be too young, or your spouse or other adult beneficiaries may not be capable of managing what you want to leave to them. If you have not made a will, Kentucky law provides only for outright distribution of your estate to your heirs, even if some are too young or otherwise not capable of managing what they are to receive. A trust provision in your will may be just the answer. The beneficiary will receive the benefits of your gift without the burden of its management.

At your death someone must determine what you own, settle your final debts, file tax returns and then distribute your estate. You may choose who will handle these important duties by making a will and naming one or more persons to serve as executor.

If you do not make a will, the court and your heirs will select an executor. This might cause delays in getting the estate open and in handling certain matters that could arise during the estate administration process.

Most importantly, making a will enables you to practice your Christian stewardship not only during life, but also at your death.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



Coalition's Samaritan project spun off

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (RNS) —The Christian Coalition has decided to drop its year-old Samaritan Project, an effort to assist minority communities with faith-based solutions to social problems while rallying blacks and others to the coalition's conservative causes.

On Dec. 31, the project—first announced last January—became an independent entity led by Earl Jackson, who served as the group's director while it was under the wing of the Christian Coalition.

"It's difficult to be heard as speaking with authenticity when you are

speaking from an organization that is poorly perceived in black and minority communities," said Jackson, adding that while he is "proud" of his connection with the coalition, he thinks the separation is best.

In fact, Jackson said he recommended spinning off the project before the April announcement of the departure of Ralph Reed, the former coalition executive director.

The change in status for the Samaritan Project is part of a larger reorganization undertaken by coalition officials after watching revenues drop last year from a record high in 1996 of

\$26.5 million.

Arne Owens, spokesman for the conservative political advocacy group, compared the Samaritan Project's independence to that of the Catholic Alliance, a lobbying group originally founded by the coalition but which became independent in the fall of 1996.

"We got it up and running and we believe it's time for them to operate independently," Owens said. "We believe that as an independent entity, it will be ... more effective in building relationships with representatives of minority communities."

The change is part of a larger reorganization undertaken by coalition officials after watching revenues drop last year from a record high in 1996 of \$26.5 million.

Young seekers outnumber available mentors

Continued from page 1

sheet also asks women what they would like to have in their Heart to Heart relationship, said Sue Yowell, volunteer program director.

Maturity and life experiences are considered when making matches, she said. Someone who has been married several years might be matched to a newlywed, for example, regardless of their age, so that the woman who has been married longer can share insight into such subjects as developing family traditions or getting along with in-laws.

Travis Avenue hosts an annual meeting for the women to meet their mentoring match, but after that there are no meetings. "They can do anything together. We encourage them to call each other every week and to get

together every several weeks and to pray for each other every day. This is a ministry of friendship and encouragement," Yowell explained.

The formal mentoring process works, Yowell said, because "women need women. It helps to have someone confirm you and be your sounding board."

People can mentor others even if churches don't have a formal process, Burroughs added. "To find a woman to mentor, just go by the nursery Sunday morning and notice the young mother with drooped shoulders."

Having a mentor helps young people find hope and inspiration, Adams said. "God placed a mentor in my life, and I saw how she was making it through some impossibly difficult situations. I saw her go through it with

hope and trust." When Adams experienced a similar family situation, she said she was comforted by knowing "somebody else has walked in my shoes and made it."

Most places with organized mentoring programs find more young people seeking guidance than mature people willing to give it. At Travis Avenue, older women frequently are assigned two younger women, Yowell said.

Some older adults hesitate to be mentors because they don't want to brag or appear to have all the answers, Savage said. Others don't want to be mentors because they feel like they've already performed their share of service. "I tell them that God didn't call Moses until he was in his 80s," Savage said.

"To find a woman to mentor, just go by the nursery Sunday morning and notice the young mother with drooped shoulders."

Esther Burroughs, author and popular women's conference speaker



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PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Missionaries Matt and Carol Spann as they host a Christmas party Jan. 7 for their Russian neighbors and friends who are not believers.

■ Russell and Melinda Kyzar in language school in Moscow.

■ Tatiana, the first person to become a believer through church planting efforts in Lyublino, Russia. Pray for her husband, Sergei, who is not a believer.

■ A new Boston radio program featuring Boston Baptist churches and ministries.

■ Walter Johnston, pastor of Towerhill Baptist Chapel in Lawrence, Mass., who underwent angioplasty Christmas week.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BEDFORD**—Scotty Foster recently resigned as youth minister at Bedford Church.

■ **Cal Hampton** resigned as pastor of Pleasant View Church, effective Dec. 21, to become pastor at Green River Church in Waynesboro, Tenn.

■ **BENTON**—Russell Liever resigned as pastor at First Missionary Church, effective Dec. 14, to become pastor of First Southern Church in Clarksville, Ind.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Meadowview Church dedicated its newly remodeled youth and fellowship building Dec. 17.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Harrods Creek Church will ordain William Ensley, Jack Ervin and Michael Jordan to the deacon ministry Jan. 18.

■ **HARDINSBURG**—Don Bleak resigned as pastor at Hites Run Church, effective Dec. 28, to become

pastor at Immanuel Church in Havre, Mont. He will begin his new ministry Jan. 11.

■ **LEWISPORT**—Lewisport First Church called Arthur Morris Jr. as pastor. He previously was pastor at Island Church.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host the Perry Sisters of Ceredo, W. Va., in concert Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. Call (502) 367-0218.

■ Belmar Church will host contemporary Christian singer Marshall Kellam in concert Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. Call (502) 253-0879.

■ **SACRAMENTO**—Sacramento Church called Darrell Eldridge as pastor. He previously was pastor at Mt. Eden Church in Hawesville. He began his new ministry Jan. 4.

■ **STURGIS**—First Church called Don Phelps as pastor. He previously was pastor at First Church in Barlow.

Muslim officials in Pakistan throw Christmas party for Christians

LAHORE, Pakistan (RNS)—The Muslim government of Pakistan threw a first-ever Christmas party for Christians Dec. 22. Government officials decorated a tree with lights and tinsel and passed out presents for the first time since Pakistan was created as a Muslim homeland 50 years ago.

A tent on the lawn of the Punjab governor's mansion was draped with a huge red banner wishing a merry Christmas to Christians, the Associated Press reported.

"Let there be no doubt there is no room for discriminatory practices or prejudiced attitudes in Pakistan," said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the devout

Muslim leader of the conservative Pakistan Muslim League.

"Anyone who spreads hatred in the name of religion is not a true Pakistani," he said.

His speech, which included references to equal opportunity for everyone, was cheered by a crowd of about 2,000, most of whom were poor Christians.

After the speech, they shared a meal with the prime minister and received a \$70 Christmas gift, pricey in Pakistan where the per capita income is \$480.

There are about 4.5 million Christians in mostly Muslim Pakistan, just 3 percent of the country's 140 million people. Other minorities represent about 2 percent.

California court to decide if Scouts must acknowledge God

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (RNS)—The California Supreme Court was to hear oral arguments earlier this week in a case testing whether the Boy Scouts can refuse membership to young men who refuse to acknowledge a duty to God.

In 1991, twins Michael and William Randall were expelled from their Cub Scout troop for refusing to say the part of the Boy Scout oath requiring them to affirm a duty to God. A superior court judge and an appeals

court both have backed the boys.

But because of different decisions in separate cases by other California courts, the state Supreme Court has agreed to take the case and hear arguments, the Los Angeles Times reported.

At issue is whether the Boy Scouts violated California's civil rights act, which bars businesses from discriminating on the basis of religion. Some state courts in the past have ruled the Boy Scouts should not be considered

a business establishment subject to the civil rights law.

Attorneys for the Boy Scouts said having the Randalls in the organization violates its constitutional right to freedom of association and their refusal to acknowledge God violates "a core Scouting value."

The Scouts have won the support of California's attorney general, Dan Lungren.

Lungren, the state's top civil rights official, has filed a brief with the Su-

preme Court urging it to rule against the Randalls on the grounds the state's civil rights act "cannot restrict the right of private groups from expressing their own ideas."

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Three sing their way to state

Each year the Kentucky Music Educators Association hosts the All-State Chorus and All-State Band concerts in conjunction with their annual conference in Louisville. The chorus is divided into three groups: a full-voice choir of soprano, alto, tenor and bass; all women with two soprano parts and one alto part; and all men with two tenor and two bass parts. It is a great honor for a student to be selected for All-State.

The selection process is started by school choir directors. They make the "first cut," narrowing their interested students to just 15 percent of their total enrollment. Five Oneida Baptist Institute students were chosen. Ace, a tenor, came to OBI in the seventh grade and is now a senior. Aaron, a bass, came to us in the eighth grade. He is a senior and an honors student. Amy, a soprano, has been at Oneida three years. She is also a senior and an honors student. Jessica E., a soprano, came to OBI this year and is a senior. Jessica L., also a soprano, enrolled with us this year as a junior and is an honors student.

All five students travel almost every Sunday with the Oneida choir to sing for various churches. Many of those trips begin at 6 a.m. and may entail 12 to 15 hours on the road. Our choir sang for the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Lexington in November.

These young people were given a difficult, college-level, Baroque-style piece containing strong independent and moving parts. At the district audition in October, the students performed in quartets before judges who would hear every performer in every district. Each individual was also asked to sing a portion of the music alone, demonstrating his or her personal vocal charac-

teristics and abilities. Of nearly 1,700 students competing statewide, 825 young men and women were selected for placement in one of the four categories as "best-of-the-state."

After the auditions, our five students were very anxious to learn the outcome. Every day, they asked OBI choral director Tim Cochran if he had received the scores.

It was an exciting day when the scores finally arrived. The top three were Jessica E.'s 97A, Ace's 97A and Jessica L.'s 96A. Though Amy's and Aaron's scores were lower, we are very proud of them and their efforts.

This was not the end. Once all the auditions are completed, the state choral chair numerically audits all scores. He looks at the number of slots allowed for each voice and applies the top scores to those slots until they are filled. He then informs all participating schools of the "cut-off" scores for each voice in each choir. Jessica E. leaped and screamed with joy when informed the cut-off score for the full-voice choir was 97A. Ace's 97A earned him a seat in

the all-men's choir, and Jessica L.'s 96A was more than enough for the all-women's choir cut-off.

Now these three will begin preparing for the opportunity to work with some of the most qualified choral instructors in the country. They will learn their music in advance and attend one district rehearsal in January. All of their work culminates at the convention, Feb. 4-7. The choirs will rehearse an additional 15 hours, ending with the concert on Friday, Feb. 7, at the Kentucky Center for the Arts in Louisville.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Men on Mission

The Clear Creek Brotherhood provides a good example for mission involvement. President John Jones, a sophomore from Richmond, Ind., reported, "Through the love of God, we were able to see the power of God come to life for many in our community. Because men of God were willing to volunteer time to help those in need, lives were touched and experienced the love of God."

Russ Wallace, John Little, Barin Bolin and Don Bentley built and installed a ramp for an elderly woman recently confined to a wheel chair. The men laid a concrete sidewalk for safe access to the street. Keith Schraub and Ron Garrett cleared trash and mowed her lawn.

Ralph Reagan spearheaded a project to purchase and deliver five truck loads of firewood to a woman needing winter heating fuel. Dan Howard coordinated the messy task of getting aluminum cans to the recycler. He was assisted by Terry Woodbury, Steve McGaughey, Stewart Skaggs, Steve Willie, and Chris and Isaiah Mullins. The proceeds helped Kevin and Anya Kramer with their expenses to Russia to see her ill mother and for evangelistic outreach during the summer visit.

Brotherhood encouraged spiritual development through two prayer conferences. These included faculty and staff speakers and plenty of prayer time. Several men journeyed to Washington for the Promise Keepers Standing in the Gap rally.

Todd Davis and Barry Proctor unloaded a semi-truck of merchandise for Interfaith of Bell County, a

community relief agency. Residents who attend worship and discipleship classes at Bell County Forestry Camp, a minimum-security facility 12 miles from campus, received "Experiencing God" Bible study workbooks.

The annual fall festival for campus children included a game booth manned by Gus Wilbanks, Ken Clark, Russ Wallace and Todd Claypool, assisted by Jessica Wright and Leslie Foster. The group also sold Cokes and hot dogs.

The year closed with an emphasis on the Lottie Moon International Mission Offering. Brotherhood joined efforts with the campus Woman's Missionary Union to exceed our campus goal and gave more than \$700.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

Amistad Committee sowed seeds of social-justice work

By Gerald Renner
Religion News Service

HARTFORD, Conn. (RNS)—The committee formed to fight for the freedom of the Africans who rebelled on the slave ship "La Amistad"—the basis for the new Steven Spielberg film "Amistad"—left a historic legacy still evident today in the social-justice efforts of the United Church of Christ.

The Amistad Committee sowed the seeds for construction of a network of schools for freed slaves in the South after the Civil War, for church support for the civil rights movement and for shaping the UCC's current social-justice ministries.

Among the many who have benefited from the committee's legacy is Andrew Young, who worked with Martin Luther King Jr. in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Young, the former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and mayor of Atlanta, credits the Amistad Committee's legacy for providing him with an education and paying for his field work as a civil rights organizer.

"Ministries to bring about justice, to advocate on behalf of the homeless poor, to march against racism and sexism, to insist upon human rights throughout the world, to end environmental devastation are all part of the continuing (Amistad) event," states a UCC brochure.

While the Amistad Committee's work remains largely unknown to most Americans, that's hardly true for New England Congregationalists and UCC members, said Davida Foy Crabtree, the UCC's Connecticut conference minister, headquartered in Hartford. Amistad Sundays, during which the slave ship rebellion is remembered, is an annual feature of many Connecticut UCC churches.

Crabtree, for one, said she first learned of the Amistad Committee's work as a girl growing up in Litch-

field, Conn.

But like most retellings of the story of the La Amistad African captives, director Spielberg's film does not make clear the central role of Congregationalists, Crabtree said.

Most references to church involvement in the case—which centers on about 40 West Africans sold into slavery and their legal struggle in the United States to regain their freedom—usually mentions "evangelicals" or Christian "abolitionists" without noting the Congregationalist ties, said Crabtree.

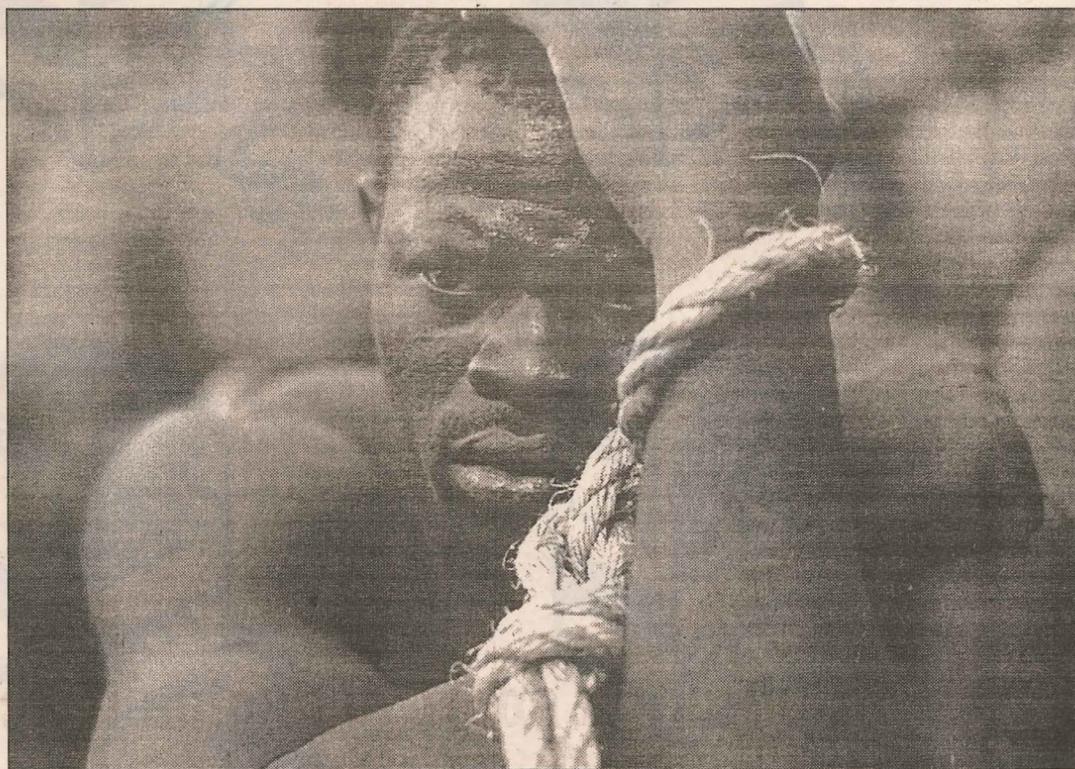
Most Congregational churches—which can trace their American roots back to the early Puritans—were part of a 1957 merger into the UCC, a mainline Protestant denomination with national offices in Cleveland. Today, the liberal UCC has about 1.5 million members and about 6,100 congregations nationwide.

Oil paintings of the Amistad episode and its key African and Congregationalist protagonists grace the sixth-floor conference room of the UCC building in downtown Cleveland.

The UCC's social-justice ministry legacy grew out of the formation of the Amistad Committee in 1839, a week after the Spanish ship's African captives had gained control of the vessel in a brief but bloody revolt. The committee provided for the defense of the Mende tribesmen, who had rebelled against enslavement and were jailed in New Haven, Conn., where they were charged with mutiny, murder and piracy.

The committee's organizers included Lewis Tappan, a prosperous evangelical abolitionist; Joshua Levitt, a lawyer and Congregational pastor; and Simeon Jocelyn, a white Congregational minister who led a black Congregational congregation in New Haven that is today the Dixwell Avenue United Church of Christ.

Other Congregationalists were intimately involved in many ways. A



Yale theology professor, Josiah Willard Gibbs, visited the men in jail and learned to count to 10 in Mende. He walked the docks of New York repeating the numbers until he found a man who understood Mende and brought him to Connecticut to act as an interpreter so the Africans could tell their story.

Yale Divinity students provided tutoring, and a woman was employed to teach the Mende children. The First Church of Christ, Congregational, in Farmington, Conn., arranged for the Africans to be guests of the town after they won their case and were freed from jail.

When former President John Quincy Adams argued the Africans' case successfully before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Amistad Committee—not the United States government—raised the money for the Africans to sail home to what is now Sierra Leone.

Following the case's successful conclusion, the Amistad Committee did not disband. Instead, its members helped create the American Missionary Association in 1846, the first anti-slavery Christian mission society on American soil.

Within five years after the Civil War, the association founded 300 mission schools for blacks. Those schools have flowered into such institutions as Howard University in Washington, D.C., and Fisk University in Nashville.

"These schools influenced my life time and time again," Andrew Young, a Howard graduate, wrote in his 1996 autobiography, "An Easy Burden."

The American Missionary Association continues as a division of the UCC's Board for Homeland Ministries and is concerned with ministries among the poor, immigrants, the disabled, the elderly and AIDS sufferers.

AMISTAD Actor Djimon Hounsou portrays "Cinque," the leader of an African slave rebellion, in Steven Spielberg's new film "Amistad." The Amistad Committee, formed to fight for the slaves' freedom, began a network of efforts that is still evident today. (Reuters photo)

Septuplet family signs deal with Christian artists agency

CARLISLE, Iowa (RNS)—The now-famous family of septuplets in Carlisle, Iowa, has chosen a Nashville company that represents Christian artists to be its agent.

Wes Yoder of the Ambassador Artist Agency announced last month that he has signed a deal with Bobbi and Kenny McCaughey giving him the exclusive right to represent their family.

The agency will "take care of any literary interests that will come from publishers, any dramatic and film rights, and commercial endorsements, photo rights, that sort of thing," Yoder said.

It also will handle the family's media relations, which currently includes fielding as many as 100 calls a day from reporters seeking information on the 10-member family, Associated Press reported.

The McCaugheys received inter-

national media coverage when they became parents of the world's only surviving septuplets Nov. 19.

Ambassador represents Christian recording artists including Susie Luchsinger and Rebecca St. James. The deal with Ambassador was signed in the Sunday school classroom of the McCaughey's church, Missionary Baptist Church of Carlisle.

"Any deal has to meet three criteria," Yoder said. "Will it strengthen the marriage? Is it good for the McCaughey family? Can it be done with integrity and will it honor God?"

Yoder said the agreement put a moratorium on further video and photographs of the family before Jan. 1 so the family could celebrate Christmas in peace.

No decisions have been made about commercial endorsements, or book and film rights, he added.

TV writer: Stereotypes keep clergy and media apart

ATLANTA (BP)—Stereotypes of entertainment professionals as guiltless sin-promoters as well as stereotypes of clergy as hypocritical money grabbers are barriers keeping the two groups from having meaningful relationships, a Southern Baptist motion picture writer and producer said.

John Lewis has worked in the entertainment industry more than 25 years, writing live-action stunt shows, television specials, screenplays and animated features.

Lewis also is related to several Baptist pastors and for years has written and directed dramas for Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

"The whole time I've had a secular career, I have also been in ministry, applying professional standards to Christian drama and taking my Christian values into the secular world," he said during the National Drama Festival at First Baptist Church of Atlanta.

Lewis, and his wife, Nancy, assistant to the executive producer at the soap opera "Days of Our Lives," each have had opportunity to correct stereotypes of Christians held by some

entertainment executives. Lewis said he feels the widely publicized moral failures of some prominent television evangelists have contributed to the perception by some that all evangelical Christian leaders are hypocrites.

The respect and credibility they have built through living their faith openly has led to ongoing opportunities, John Lewis said. "Nancy is now the person whose opinion is asked when something in a script is felt to be a possible problem for Christian viewers of 'Days of Our Lives.'"

Lewis said the blanket assumption that all Hollywood entertainment people are evil is inaccurate. In addition to those who are active Christians, he said, there are many who have family values but are not Christian.

"These are nice people, unsaved, but nice. They respect us and share our values," he said of his colleagues.

"When you don't judge, it has a disarming effect on them," he added, "because it's the hypocrisy that turns them off."



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