



WESTERN RECORDER

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Kentucky
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FOR THE RECORD

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Bingham: Take freedom to the unchurched

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

ELIZABETHTOWN—Lincoln Bingham's grandfather was born into slavery. His memory was scorched with the terror of being pulled from his mother's arms to be auctioned off to the highest white bidder.

In a message at last week's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Bingham said he and his grandfather often talked about those difficult memories of the past, until his grandfather died in 1946 at the age of 100.

Bingham's grandfather told him first-hand experiences of reaction to President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863. But rather than being the happy stories that should have been told about a document proclaiming freedom, they often were stories of sadness, he said.

"The document that was signed to bring freedom—most of those who should have benefited never knew it existed," explained Bingham, pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Louisville.

His grandfather suggested four reasons why the Emancipation Proclamation did not free thousands of slaves for whom it should have signaled freedom:

■ Some never heard about the Emancipation Proclamation.

■ Some didn't understand the power of the document or the authority of the one who signed it.

■ Some believed it was too good to be true.

■ Some "heard and understood and believed the good news but would not receive the good news because they were satisfied" with their meager lot in life.

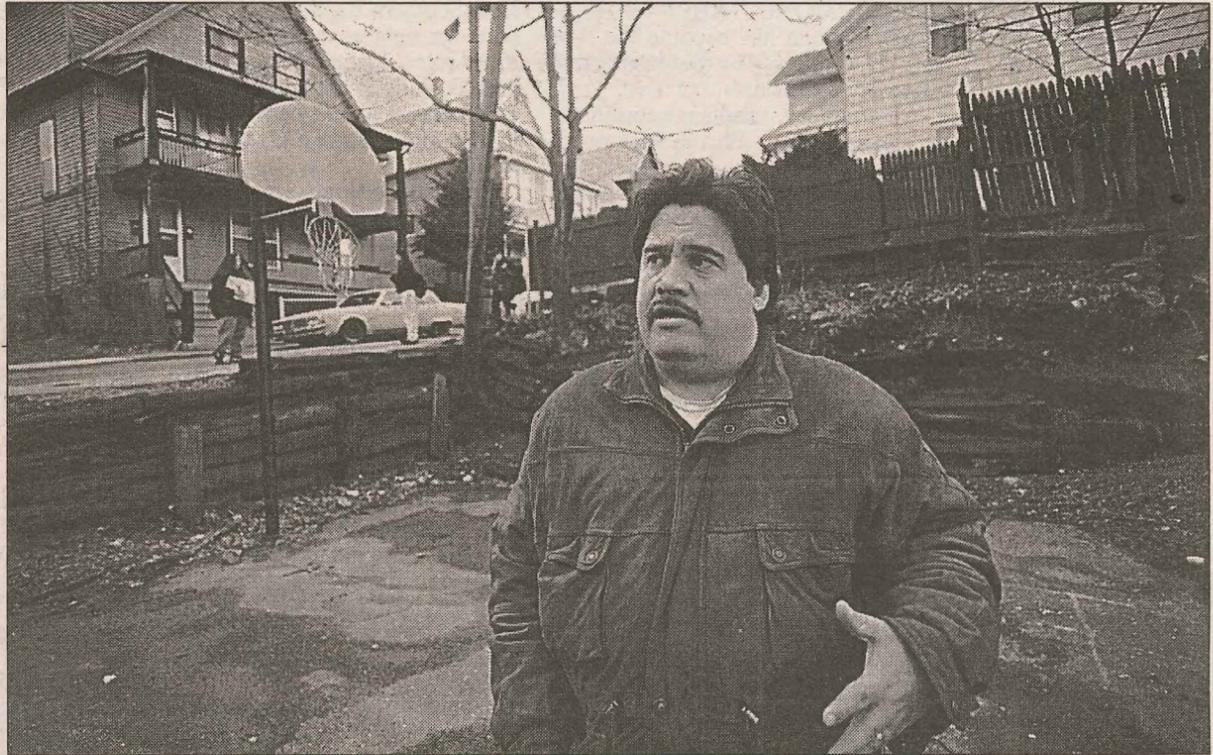
The same problems still plague people of all races today who fail to embrace the freedom offered by faith in Jesus Christ, Bingham said. "Nearly 2000 years ago, the chief executive of all creation ... purchased in his own blood the emancipation proclamation for every nation: Whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."

Many have not heard of God's way of freedom because no one has told them, Bingham declared. "We're to go tell it on the mountain, over the hill and everywhere, but most of us aren't telling it anywhere."

Others have not understood God's emancipation proclamation because the church as messenger has made it too complicated, he continued. "We have complicated a simple plan of salvation. ... It's not all that difficult to get saved."

Bingham said the simple message of God's salvation is that people are

□ See Bingham: Set people ..., page 8



NIC AT NIGHT Missionary Maner Tyson began a nighttime outreach to drug addicts and prostitutes after realizing his Connecticut community had two distinct cultures at day and night. The project is named "Nic at Night" because Nicodemus came to Jesus at night. Tyson is among the missionaries featured in the Southern Baptist Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 1-8. (NAMB photo by Mark Sandlin)

Tyson's take hotdogs, gospel to the street

By Lynne Jones
SBC North American Mission Board

WATERBURY, Conn.—If you're looking for Maner Tyson on Friday nights, you won't find him at home. Instead, he's out on the streets of Waterbury, Conn., looking for prostitutes and drug dealers.

But the former Kentuckian isn't a pusher, a pimp or a police officer. He's pastor of Waterbury Baptist Ministries, an inner-city church and Baptist center.

Tyson, who refers to himself as a minister trained in social work, is among the missionaries featured in this year's Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 1-8.

The Week of Prayer is part of the Southern Baptist Season of North American Missions, which includes the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering with a national goal of \$42 million.

At least once a week, Tyson walks through the Willow Plaza neighborhood around the ministry center. Once, Waterbury's wealthy lived here in freshly painted houses and worked in factories that made Waterbury the "brass capital of the world."

Now, some residents have renamed Waterbury the "welfare capital of the world." Willow Plaza looks like a poor community. But Tyson said it's really just poor. "There's no community," he said. "People reside here, they don't live here."

"There is an art to inner city ministry," said Tyson. "It's not a science. You don't treat everyone or every problem the same." Tyson contends

ministry must go beyond the occasional rescue.

"Sometimes you've got to stop pulling people out of the river long enough to go upriver and find out why they keep falling in," Tyson said. "Only by being in the community long enough do you realize how to deal with the people there."

Tyson was a social worker with 18th Street Baptist Church while a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

His wife, Rhonie Black-Tyson, was a social worker with United Crescent Hill Ministries and later at Bethel Flock Baptist Church, both in Louisville, while attending Southern Seminary
□ See In Connecticut, ..., page 7



Speaker: God can ease stress at church or work

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Time management, exercise and diet are three keys to managing stress, a consultant with the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board recently told students at Campbellsville University.

Norris Smith, a mediation and forced termination consultant for the board, noted that Campbellsville was a stressed city because of recent layoffs at the Fruit of the Loom plant. About 155 former employees now are taking courses at Campbellsville University.

But he said the techniques for handling stress are the same for anyone, be it laid-off factory work-

ers or church members facing tense times in their congregations.

"Pay attention to TED," Smith said, using the acronym for time management, exercise and diet.

Time management requires gaining control of one's schedule rather than letting the schedule be in control, he said.

Exercising three times a week for 45 minutes each and increasing the heart rate will provide great benefits for relieving stress, he added. "Let your body work for you."

Also, an over indulgence of saturated fats, salt, sugar and caffeine can create stress on the body, he

said.

Smith also encouraged people to get in touch with laughter. Humans are God's only creature created for humor, he said.

"Laughter is like internal jogging," he said. A good laugh can stimulate the brain, relieve pain and strengthen the immune system, he added.

Last, Smith said, take time to spend in prayer and meditation with God.

"Climb up in God's lap and let our Father put his arms around you. Let him nurture and feed you," he said. "You never get too old to climb up in the Father's lap."

Kentuckian is first chaplain endorsed by Fellowship

By Robert O'Brien
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

RICHMOND (ABP)—A Kentucky woman has become the first chaplain endorsed by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

Paula Peek, chaplain coordinator for Hospice Care Plus in Richmond, called her endorsement a "healing" moment in her struggle to become a woman minister in the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Fellowship's new council on endorsement approved Peek's application Jan. 22, making her the first chaplain to be endorsed by the Atlanta-based group. Since then four other candidates—all men—also have received endorsement by the council.

Reporting to the Fellowship's Coordinating Council Feb. 20, Ed Beddingfield, chair of the council on endorsement, termed it "significant" that

the first chaplain endorsed by the group was a woman.

The Fellowship, formed by moderate Southern Baptists in 1991, supports the right of women to minister in all roles, including the pastorate. That position is not popular with the more conservative leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The SBC's North American Mission Board endorses both men and women as chaplains, but with increasing scrutiny for doctrinal conformity.

Peek said the Fellowship's vote last summer to begin endorsing chaplains provided "a welcome and timely opportunity for me and others who do not want Southern Baptist convention endorsement. "Endorsement by CBF was healing," she said. "It acknowledged and blessed what I am and who I am as a woman in ministry."

Peek said her "healing" began when she attended her first state CBF meeting in Kentucky as a seminary student.

"CBF's support of women in ministry was healing and redemptive," she said. "I appreciated their encouragement and open-mindedness. The strong effort to include laypersons in key leadership seemed to embody the priesthood of the believer in a new way."

Peek grew up as the child of a now-retired pastor serving Southern Baptist churches in Virginia, Tennessee and South Carolina.

She said she considers herself "a daughter of Baptists, nurtured and disciplined by Baptists."

So Peek said she had no intention of walking away from Baptists, "even when many of my peers and colleagues, wounded by the changing en-

vironment in the SBC and in seminary, were going into other denominations."

She entered Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1991, before trustees elected a conservative president in 1993. The new president, Al Mohler, steered the seminary sharply to the right, causing tumult among a then predominantly moderate faculty and student body.

Immersed for the first time in SBC politics at the seminary, Peek said she experienced "difficulty and pain at a school in transition and turmoil." She grieved as "professors left, the role of women in ministry was devalued, the school shifted direction and a general feel of distrust, suspicion and division prevailed on campus."

During that time, though, she found her way to a calling to the chaplaincy and a master of divinity degree with emphasis in pastoral care and counseling.

While "a definite call of God" compelled her forward, Peek said she wrestled with denominational endorsement needed by chaplains to advance in their careers and gain necessary professional certifications.

"I felt trapped by the fact that my options were to leave Baptists or be endorsed by a group I could not in good conscience support," she recalled.

"But then, CBF's decision to become an endorsing body gave me a third option, encouraging me to keep moving forward and renewing my hope."

"I'm just one of many wounded women and many wounded Baptists who have chosen to maintain hope, move beyond the hurt and move ahead with their lives and ministries,"



Peek

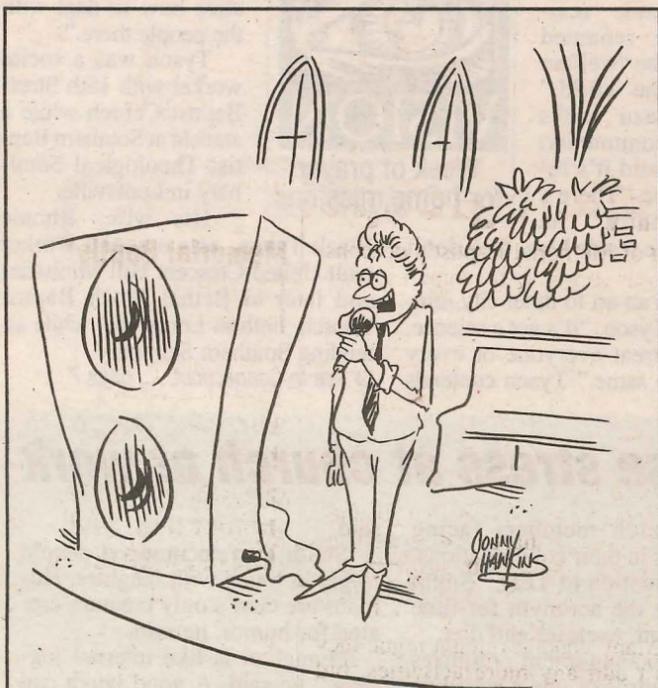
CBF adds annuity plan

ATLANTA (ABP)—The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has expanded services it offers moderate Southern Baptists to include retirement benefits and health insurance for ministers and other church employees.

The Fellowship's Coordinating Council approved two actions Feb. 19-21 in Atlanta offering new services to Fellowship-friendly churches.

One action authorized CBF officers to prepare, adopt and implement a retirement benefits plan for ministers and employees of "member churches and other affiliated organizations."

In the other vote, the Coordinating Council endorsed Humana Employers Health as a medical-plan provider for employees of churches and organizations related to CBF. Dental, life and disability coverages are also available under the arrangement. Churches will qualify for the program by contributing to the Fellowship's missions and ministry programs. The arrangement costs the Fellowship nothing.



"I not only pray that this song I'm about to sing will speak to your heart, but that it will spiritually rip you limb from limb and lay you barren, naked and writhing in conviction on the cold, dank, tile floor ... Amen, God bless you."

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Stassen installed at Fuller.** Glenn Stassen, former professor of Christian ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, broke with tradition during his March 4 installation to the Lewis Smedes Chair of Christian Ethics at Fuller Theological Seminary. Instead of giving the traditional lecture associated with such an installation, Stassen and a group of students presented a dramatic reading on the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, written by Stassen.

■ **Annuity Board names Jones.** Annuity Board President O.S. Hawkins has named two men to new roles in the agency's top management. John R. Jones, currently senior vice president and executive officer for investment services, has been named executive vice president and chief operating officer, succeeding Gordon Hobgood, who is retiring. Rodric Cummins, currently senior vice president and chief investment officer with the Baptist Foundation of Texas, was named to the post Jones will vacate.

■ **Southern starts institute.** The trustee executive committee of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has approved establishment of the Carl F.H. Henry Institute for Evangelical Engagement. President Al Mohler said the institute will hold annual conferences to which eight to 12 experts will be invited for dialogue and research. Their work will be published and presented at an annual fall seminar.

■ **Seminary adds faculty.** Three new faculty members have been named at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, two by presidential appointment and one by election of the trustee executive committee. Elected professor of Christian theology was Bruce Ware, currently associate professor of biblical and systematic theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Two appointed by Mohler are David Cook as professor of Christian ethics, under a joint appointment with Oxford University in England, where he is fellow and chaplain at Green College; Hal Ostrander as associate professor of Christian theology for

she said.

After she entered seminary, Peek became the first woman staff member of Ballardsville Baptist Church, a rural congregation in Crestwood. She served for three years as minister to children and youth.

Two days after graduation from seminary, she became the first woman to be ordained by the congregation. The Pentecost Sunday service on May 22, 1994, included participation by the children and youth and a laying on of hands by the entire congregation.

"I hardly remember what anyone said that day," Peek said, "but I'll never forget seeing and feeling the blessings of young and old, black and white, women and men, family and friends."

Since Peek's endorsement, four other candidates have been approved by the Fellowship.

"We have responded to 160 requests for applications for endorsement," Beddingfield said Feb. 20. "Of those 160, nine have come back to us as applications. Of those, we have endorsed five. Four are still in process."

The four others already endorsed are James Pruet, executive director of the Anchoring Place Therapy Group, in Spartanburg, S.C.; Timothy Madison, director of pastoral services at Valley Baptist Medical Center in Harlingen, Texas; Christopher O'Rear, a pastoral counseling resident in Nashville; and Garnett White, a practicing clinical psychologist in Richmond, Va.

In all, four of the first five chaplains endorsed by the Fellowship have ties to Kentucky.

Madison is a native of Cadiz and a former pastor in Bedford. He earned two degrees at Southern Seminary in Louisville. Pruet and O'Rear also earned degrees at Southern Seminary.

Boyce College of the Bible, coming from Dallas Baptist University.

■ **Foley elected at Mobile.** Mobile University trustees elected a new president for the troubled school Feb. 13, but the school's interim president and two other leaders resigned in protest of his lack of experienced in financial management. The new president is Mark Foley, executive vice president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Among the trustees resigning in protest was Walter Hovell, who has been serving as the school's interim president since the previous president was dismissed amid a financial scandal.

■ **Correction:** In the Recorder's Feb. 3 issue, a story on a new church-based seminary in Virginia incorrectly stated that Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tenn., is a church-based seminary. Although Mid-America has close ties with Bellevue Baptist Church, it is not based on the church or owned by the church.

Students make Moscow friends with 'idiotic smiles'

By LaRaine Dail
SBC International Mission Board

MOSCOW—Kentucky students armed with "idiotic smiles" recently sought to build bridges for sharing Christianity with Russian students.

Six students were selected from Kentucky Baptist Student Unions to serve in Moscow two weeks during their winter break.

The team included Andrea Bayer of Murray State University, Ayse Boswell of Berea College, Shane Garrison and Matthew Miller of Campbellsville University, Kristy Reeder of Eastern Kentucky University and Cager Thompson of the University of Kentucky.

The team helped in the development of student ministry in Moscow. Student ministry is still new to Russia having started last May. The Kentucky students invited students to an upcoming evangelistic retreat. They

visited six universities and four dormitories, passing out information and tracts.

The team approached Russian students and handed them a flier to gain interest in the student work. "With an idiotic smile, some American just handed you this piece of paper," read the invitation.

This light-hearted approach was intended to disarm the defenses of Russian students. It often broke down walls of skepticism, brought laughter and interest in what the American students had to offer.

The Russian translator said she was amazed that the students were able to gain access to dormitories normally prohibited to foreigners and Russians alike.

One young man accepted Jesus as his personal Savior, and another student for the first time accepted the fact that God exists. Others stated that they have been wanting to learn more

about the Bible and religion.

The team also held seminars on life as an American university student for Russians interested in one day studying in America. They discussed topics such as application procedures, dorm life, Baptist Student Unions and culture shock.

The seminars served as tools to meet students and involve them in Bible studies.

Another way in which the students were able to further student ministry was through leading in worship at a youth service at Central Baptist Church of Moscow. The team signed and performed an interpretive movement to contemporary Russian Christian music as well as talked about Baptist Student Union ministries.

"It was one of the highlights of my worship experiences here in Moscow," said Ed Tarleton, a former Louisville pastor and mission administrator for Southern Baptist missionaries

in Moscow.

"Rarely have I seen a volunteer team have such an impact on a congregation. I believe what they shared that night will be remembered for a long time to come and will have a lasting impact," he said.

In addition to promoting student ministry, the team also ministered to the missionaries stationed in Moscow. The team sponsored a "Parents Night Out" and took 14 missionary kids to the circus, most of whom were under the age of five. It was a night both children and parents eagerly awaited. The children were shown love, and the parents benefited from a night to help them refuel for their ministries.

Bayer said the evening was a special night for the students as well. "I gained a new perspective on missions that night. I never realized the impact living overseas had on the children. I have a new understanding of what it means to be a missionary."

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Oneida Baptist Institute and Booneville-Irvine Baptist Association** will co-sponsor a free medical clinic March 19-21. Baptist Healthcare System will send a healthcare team that includes doctors, nurses, therapists, a dentist and others to provide a variety of medical services to local residents.

■ **Campbellsville University** announced that Joseph and Loretta Booher of Columbus, Ohio, have donated \$110,000 to establish a scholarship fund for Campbellsville University students who have a major or minor in history or political science.

Never stop reading, minister tells deacon and pastor retreat

By Ken Walker
state correspondent

BAGDAD—Despite leaving a small multi-housing ministry in LaGrange last year to pastor a church, Chris White still devotes one day a week to reading.

His new job took him further away from Louisville, but White said he still drives to Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's library for uninterrupted study and research.

"We need to be readers," said White, pastor of First Baptist Church of Carrollton. "We need to travel (through books). Our people need us to be that way."

White led a "Preaching Resources" workshop at the recent deacon/pastor/spouse retreat at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly. The event, which attracted 250 registrants, will be repeated Feb. 27-28 at the Jonathan Creek retreat center in Western Kentucky.

While emphasizing the Bible must

remain the top priority, reading other material gleans stories and illustrations that help sermons come alive, White said.

"There need to be some things that make us stop and think, even if we don't agree with them," he said. "When they move and shape us, it moves and shapes our preaching. Ideas are powerful and we are involved with ideas."

White attracted an eager group of listeners after delivering his sermon during Cedarmore's opening assembly. He said his two major illustrations came from a pair of books, "Les Misérables" and Edward Hoagland's journal of his travels to British Columbia.

At the urging of professor Wayne Dehoney, White started compiling a note-card file of vignettes while he was attending Southern Seminary.

The task was neither time consuming nor difficult, he said. White added that he makes notations on cards when he uses an illustration to avoid repeating a story to the same audience.

"The best sermons have illustrations and tools that take people somewhere," White said.

"You've got to have illustrations that move people on, but illustrations aren't the point. They have to get people to the truth of Christ on the cross," he added. "The scriptural basis has to be there. You can have all the illustrations you want, but without a scriptural basis it won't work."

Though admitting he constantly searches for illustrations in his reading, White said he also reads because he needs the discipline.

Pastors must be "fluent in other languages," he said, reviewing such best-selling novels as the New Age-influenced "Celestine Prophecy" or the story of adultery in "Bridges of Madison County."

Local librarians are some of pastors' best resources for discovering what books are popular, he added.

"I want to know what people are reading and why," said White. "When I know this I understand what people

are thinking. There's a message behind literature."

Besides the Bible, he recommended listeners read a balanced slate of topics, beginning with leadership, spiritual growth and pastoral care. He also suggested studies about preaching, church growth, administration, literature and history.

This doesn't require reading a 700-page book on each topic, he noted. Resources can include one article, a magazine devoted to the subject or cassettes. What's important is to cover a range of material during a year, he said.

Among the ministry publications he recommended were "Lectionary Homiletics," "Pulpit Digest," "Minister's Manual" and "Biblical Preaching Journal."

For sermon illustrations, he recommended such books as "The Book of Lists," "The 100" by Michael Hart, James Hewitt's "Illustrations Unlimited" and "Best of Leadership Illustrations."

Frankfort church reaches community through support groups

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

FRANKFORT—Ann Carter will never forget the crises-filled month in 1992 that emphasized the need for support groups at Memorial Baptist Church in Frankfort.

In addition to coping with a young man's suicide, four members called her to discuss problems at home, including marital infidelity, drug abuse and bulimia.

"I think the church is closing its eyes to the problems people have within the family," said Carter, wife of Pastor Bill Carter. "We have to give them tools to change. We have wonderful people but they were hurting."

That year Bill Carter attended a workshop on a variety of curriculum. He then led the church to offer support groups for a variety of topics.

Among them are conquering chemical dependency, breaking the cycle of hurtful family relationships,

divorce recovery, blended families and overcoming sexual abuse. The church offers approximately a dozen different groups throughout the year, most meeting for 13 weeks.

"Despite the stress involved, it's like getting a hug from God," said facilitator Ron Moore. "When you see God take the bad things in your life and make something good out of it, you can say, 'That didn't happen for nothing.'"

Moore is one of 18 members trained to lead discussions. However, facilitators do not act as counselors.

"None of our groups cure," said Mrs. Carter. "They open doors about how to address problems in our lives."

The ministry has spurred spiritual growth within the church, she added. Some participants have accepted Jesus as their personal Savior, and others have reconsidered their image of God, she said.

Franklin County judges have even ordered a couple of people to attend

groups. Roughly half of the participants come from unchurched backgrounds, she added.

Bill Carter said these groups have stimulated more lay involvement and changed his ministry, making it more people-oriented. And it doesn't require a lot of his time. "I just shared the vision and it became theirs," he said. "It's great to see lay people using their abilities and gifts."

Group coordinator Gil Newman praised the range of resources, noting that the state of Alabama requires prisoners to study "Making Peace With Your Past" as a condition of parole.

However, he cautioned that churches wanting to start groups must adequately train facilitators. Group leaders can cause more harm than good if they are not prepared to deal with problems and emotions that arise during meetings, he said.

It also requires church-wide support, he said. "Don't just spring this on your people," said Newman, chair-

man of Memorial Baptist's deacons. "This is very scary for some, especially if you're talking about wanting to minister to alcoholics or drug addicts on the street."

While intense difficulties may require professional counseling, Mrs. Carter said support groups can be more effective than one-on-one sessions.

Receiving feedback from others in a safe, confidential environment helps individuals look at themselves and consider ways they should change, she said.

Many churches might argue they can't add any more activities, but Newman said they should consider how to best meet their communities' needs.

"If your church is too busy to do something else, it may be time to evaluate your church programs," he said. "Often, church resources and time are spent on things that have lost their effectiveness."

Memorial Baptist Church in Frankfort will offer a small group leader training workshop March 20-21 at the church. For more information, call (502) 223-8215.

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

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Don Short restored

I am writing in favor of my friend and brother in Christ, Don Short. As most of you know, Brother Don has had a hard time with his health and through several months he has not been able to preach and do evangelistic work. Many of you have been praying for him and his family, and God has truly blessed him and restored him to good health and strength.

He is very anxious to get back into the work of evangelism and has preached here at Briensburg Baptist Church recently and at other churches in the area. I truly believe in the ministry of Brother Don and the gift God has given him. I absolutely believe that after this time of health problems Brother Don will come back with a greater testimony and a greater message than ever before.

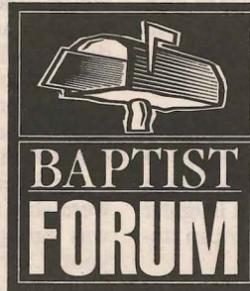
To all who serve full time in evangelism, my heart goes out to you because it is a tough road to travel. Not very many of us could live out of a suitcase and sleep in a different bed every week for 45 weeks of the year. Brother Don, we are proud of you and thankful to God for you and your ministry of

winning over 2,000 souls to Christ in one year. In order for Brother Don to be able to carry out his ministry, he will need the prayers and support from churches and his many pastor friends across the state.

Brother Don has not only been in evangelism here in the States, but has done international mission work in Africa and has gone with me twice to Trinidad, West Indies. Hundreds of people have been won to Christ through his international mission work.

I want the churches and pastors in Kentucky to feel free to call Brother Don Short concerning revivals and other evangelistic meetings. To God be the glory for all he has done.

C.C. Brasher
Benton



New seminary

The following open letter to Kentucky Baptists was adopted by Faith Baptist Church of Georgetown in business session March 1:

We believe the future of Kentucky

Baptists' missions and ministry will hinge on a fresh venture in theological education. Now is the time for Baptists in Kentucky to develop a new seminary to train both ministers and laity in studies at once biblically based, theologically rich, church-oriented and academically challenging.

This new institution should reaffirm Baptist beliefs in the gracious rule of God revealed in Christ through the Holy Spirit, the Bible as local authority in faith and practice, a free church in a free state and the local church as an autonomous body of Christians under the lordship of Christ.

In the providence of God this is a time of divine opportunities. Baptists in Kentucky should revive the rich heritage of quality seminary education that we have cherished through the years. We call on other churches and individuals to acknowledge the growing need for a new seminary for our state and surrounding region.

Bob Kruschwitz
Church moderator

Support bill

I am writing in support of House Bill 434. The education bill will assure access to education for low-income Kentuckians. This bill would continue support services for low-income Kentuckians while they are in school by using state dollars that are already targeted for this program.

The only way for families to get into self-sufficient jobs and earn a living wage is through education. The sponsors of the bill realize this and so sponsor the rest of society, as well as the Cabinet for Families and Children.

I would like to send my heartfelt thanks to the sponsors of this bill, Reps. Tom Burch, Greg Stumbo, Charles Siler, Joni Jenkins, Marie Rader, Barbara White Colter and Will Scott. These are people who know how important an education is to people in their areas.

I would like for everyone to call their representatives and senators and ask them to support House Bill 434, the education bill, so that Kentucky can move ahead and prosper. The legislative message line number is (800) 372-7181.

Sherri Barker
Prestonsburg

Who controls life?

By Samuel Atchison

In Lorraine Hansberry's classic play, "A Raisin in the Sun," there is a confrontation between mother and daughter in which we can find a clue to what is at the heart of our nation's moral crisis.

Set in Chicago in the late 1940s, the play addresses the hopes, values and slowly expanding options of a working-class black family in the post-war era.

At one point, Beneatha Younger, a headstrong college student, asserts—yet again—her intention to become a doctor. Her mother, Lena, a God-fearing former domestic, encouragingly agrees, providing "it's the Lord's will."

Incensed that a divine imprimatur might be needed to fulfill her dream, Beneatha shouts, "Mama, there simply is no ... God!" At that, the matriarch strides over to her insolent daughter, slaps her and forces the girl to repeat after her: "In my mother's house, there is still God."

At the heart of this incident, apart

from its racial and sociological trappings, is the age-old struggle over which is better, the old or the new. It's a struggle often waged as a battle between received moral authority and moral autonomy.

Specifically, Beneatha is excited over the possibilities now open to her, prospects not available to her mother's generation. As master of her own fate, she cannot allow anything, least of all the notion of God, to stand in her way.

Lena, on the other hand, while recognizing new vistas of opportunity, is loathe to proceed without the approval of the God who has always guided and protected her and her family. For Mama and those of her generation, God is not only real but the final authority in life.

Two generations later, the debate over ultimate authority still rages. It is apparent in the never-ending battle over abortion, where "choice" and

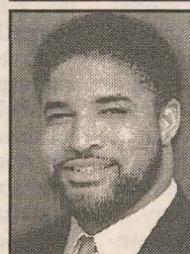
"accountability" often appear as non-compatible options. And it is seen in the controversy over human cloning, where for some the question of whether we can has become synonymous with whether we should.

It is even a factor in the public scrutiny of the sex lives of prominent figures.

For example, in summarizing the extra-marital activities of Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy and Franklin Roosevelt among others, New York Times columnist Anthony Lewis observed recently that "straying from the straight and narrow does not disable one as a statesman, a general or a civil rights leader. But somehow that reality has been overwhelmed in the United States in recent years by prurient interest in the sex lives of politicians."

Lewis said while President Clinton may be morally culpable if guilty of cavorting with and lying about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, his judgment should be left to the public,

COMMENTARY



Samuel Atchison

Thoughts on training future martyrs

By Erich Bridges

Training martyrs. Those words evoke images of Middle East terrorist groups preparing young zealots for suicide missions. But what awaits the increasing number of young Christian missionaries from the West now venturing into "The Last Frontier"—the most unreached and often most hostile areas of the world?

Missionaries and volunteers of Generation X (born after 1964) are enthusiastically responding to the call to reach unreached peoples. In 1997 alone, 108 new missionaries were assigned by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board to "Last Fron-

tier" areas and peoples.

Southern Baptists have a "whole crew of people that are literally willing to die for their people group," one IMB mission personnel specialist said.

The frequent declaration of students considering "Last Frontier" missions these days is: "I want my life to make a difference. I want a cause worth dying for."

Some of them may die for it. Amazingly few of the more than 13,000 missionaries sent abroad by Southern Baptists during the last 150 years have died violent deaths. Even fewer have died as martyrs for the faith.

But the IMB has joined many other Great Commission agencies in an

aggressive global strategy to evangelize thousands of people groups still untouched by the gospel. Many of those peoples live in deep spiritual darkness behind walls built by powerful religious and political powers—walls that may not be breached without bloodshed.

In most cases, the blood will come from local believers who give their lives while sharing—or refusing to renounce—their new faith in Christ. However, some missionaries will make the ultimate sacrifice. In a truly global effort to reach the unreached, it's almost inevitable.

In 1995 alone, 150 international missionaries from various countries were murdered on the field, according to mission agency reports collected by the Global Evangelization

Movement. While some probably were crime victims or targets of political violence, others undoubtedly died for the faith.

Still, are Southern Baptists ready for the martyrdom—however rare it may be—of some of their best young people? Or will we adopt a spiritual version of the "Vietnam Syndrome" still permeating U.S. military strategy? Traumatized by the disastrous Vietnam experience, American generals often refuse to commit forces to battle without an advance guarantee of overwhelming victory, with minimal or no losses.

That may or may not be wise in war. It's a recipe for timidity in missions. (BP)

Erich Bridges is a news writer and editor for the International Mission Board.

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Why are humans created with different operating speeds?

HESAIID



Mark Wingfield

There are two types of people in this world: the fast and the slow. Seems to me opposites attract.

Alison was cooking the filling for our favorite chocolate pie the other night, warming it ever so gently on a medium heat—a process that was taking forever.

I walked up to observe and she took the occasion to inform me that she was cooking the pie correctly, unlike yours truly, who she said always torches things on the stove in haste.

Not so, I demonstrated, reminding her that it was she, not I, who had encountered difficulty getting the pie filling to set in the past.

OK, that happened once, she admitted, but still insisted her slower method using a lower heat was preferable for perfect pies. Hogwash, I said.

The whole debate illustrates perhaps the greatest difference in our approach to most everything. She moves slowly and deliberately; I move quickly.

Why cook something for 10 minutes on low when you can accomplish the same thing in 5 minutes on high? My motto is: Life's short; make pies quickly.

Early in our marriage, this difference in perspective created some inevitable rubs. I couldn't understand why a simple task like brushing teeth took her twice as long as it did me. But after nearly 12 years of marriage, I guess we've adjusted our internal clocks to accommodate our differences in operating speeds. We don't seem to notice the difference all that much anymore.

But it's curious to me that Alison can switch into fast gear when she really wants to. Put a novel in her hands and she'll flip the pages so fast it makes my head spin.

Guess that old saying's really true: You can't judge a book by its cover.

SHESAIID



Alison Wingfield

Oh, how soon we forget just who has had trouble with pies past. And just who got in a hurry (several times) and tried to put the whipped topping on before the pie was set. Or who forgot to set the Cool Whip in the refrigerator and had to whip it half frozen, thus ruining the consistency. I'll give you a hint: It wasn't me.

I think the tale of the tortoise and the hare could shed some light here. Slow and steady sometimes does get the job done—and done right.

I'll have you know my pie was smooth as silk.

Now that I've finished that pie in the face, I'll address some of his other misconceptions.

Being male, Mark tends to forget that we females have a much more difficult bedtime regimen. It is not just a matter of brushing our teeth. There's the makeup removal and the face washing and then the astringent and then re-moisturizing. It takes work to grow old gracefully.

It is true that I don't always move quickly. Just as Mark has learned to slow down (occasionally), I try to speed up.

When we used to take walks together (before kids) I had a tough time keeping up with him. Since he's 6 feet tall, his legs move a tad faster than my 5-foot-4-inch frame. But I learned to speed up and he learned to slow down so that our paces soon matched.

God does the same thing for us spiritually.

God sets the perfect pace for us. Occasionally he prods us to speed up and take advantage of a moment in time, while at other times he slows us down, reminding us to rest in him. We get in trouble both by getting ahead of him, or being too far behind, putting us in danger of missing the mark either way.

What's the future of Promise Keepers?

Bill McCartney says he's had a vision. He believes every evangelical church in America ought to give Promise Keepers \$1,000.

Well, you can't blame him for trying. But it does come off sounding like a miniature version of that 700-foot Jesus Oral Roberts claimed to have seen a few years ago in a fund-raising appeal for his City of Faith hospital.

It's no secret that Promise Keepers needs money. The motivational organization for men has taken a financial nosedive ever since it put on a multi-million-dollar extravaganza on the National Mall in Washington last fall and at the same time announced it no longer would charge \$60 a head for men to attend Promise Keepers stadium rallies.

Up to this point, I've been generally impressed with the fruit born of the Promise Keepers movement. The "Stand in the Gap" rally in Washington was a historic event that did a world of good.

I've taken some ribbing from friends and colleagues for speaking in favor of Promise Keepers. Some skeptics are waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for evidence that their suspicions will prove to be well-founded after all.

Could be that will happen in time, but I don't think McCartney's less-than-sophisticated appeal for donations is the sound of that telltale shoe hitting the floor. It is, however, the sound of a boomtown organization encountering its first big reality check.

Whether Promise Keepers can maintain its national influence as a donations-only ministry is a crucial question to be answered. Against the counsel of some of his advisers, McCartney took a gamble, and before long we'll discover the payoff.

What has to be understood about this episode—and some of the other oddities of Promise Keepers—is that this phenomenally successful movement is by and large the product of one man's vision and determination. As such, it has become a sprawling organization driven by the force of one personality. And that's awkward.

EDITORIAL

What was passable when Promise Keepers was a little-known movement in a corner of the religious world is not the same as what will be required for this organization to stay at the level of national attention it achieved in 1997.

For McCartney, it's like being the coach of an unnoticed small-town team that suddenly bursts into the national spotlight, with all the advantages and disadvantages that notoriety carries.

Although apparently motivated by genuine conviction and love for Christ, McCartney is no theologian; he doesn't claim to be. That has resulted in some occasional backtracking by the Promise Keepers inner circle to explain things McCartney or others have said in the past. But the flipside is that no theologian could have pulled off what this football coach has accomplished.

McCartney's lack of theological finesse has shown up all over the place, with the appeal for every church to give \$1,000 being only the latest. His reported views on heavy pastoral authority, which have not been much explored by the media, would be troublesome to many laymen. And his assertion that we ought to work for denominational "reconciliation" shows a naïve grasp of both history and biblical interpretation.

Perhaps the greatest question to be asked of Promise Keepers today is not whether the organization will make it financially, but whether it can make the leap from being one visionary man's brainchild to being the kind of trans-denominational movement it is trying so hard to become.

One secret to Promise Keepers' success so far has been its para-church nature, bypassing the gatekeepers and funding juggernaut of the local church. Appealing to churches to pick up the tab now carries strings and dangers of a different sort.

The bottom line is that the jury is still out on whether Promise Keepers will prove to be an enduring legacy or the national bus ministry of the '90s.

— Mark Wingfield

'What is your name?'

By Robert Baker

The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." (Genesis 32:27-28)

Like most of you, I have several names. To my immediate family, I'm called Bobby. My friends in high school addressed me as Robert. My acquaintances at college referred to me as Bob as do most of the folks with whom I minister and work.

My wife often calls me Rob. When I used to play organized sports, I was simply designated as Baker. My sisters sometimes use my middle name (which I dislike) and teasingly call me Bobby Gayle.

We ask the "what-is-your-name" question in order to find out what to call someone. For us, a name is an identification tag; a means of distinguishing one person from another.

In biblical times, however, a person's name was much more than a distinguishing identification tag. Rather, a person's name represented the very character and essence of the person. In

one sense, the name was the person. For example, the name Jesus means "God saves."

The name "Jacob" meant "trickster, cheater, deceiver." And Jacob certainly lived up to his name—cheating his brother Esau out of his birthright; deceiving his aging father Isaac into giving him the death-bed blessing which rightfully belonged to his older brother. Most all of his life, Jacob was a "Jacob." That is, until he encountered God who gave him a new name.

That brings us to our text. The man asking Jacob the "what-is-your-name" question was not just any man. The "man" asking the question was God.

Now, the Lord was not asking Jacob to tell him what he was called (the Lord already knew that). Rather, the Lord was asking Jacob what kind of person he was. The answer given was, "I'm a Jacob. I'm a trickster, a deceiver, a cheater." The question resulted in Jacob wrestling with God. Struggling with the kind of person he was. Grappling with the type of person which he—with God's help—could become.

As a result of that encounter with God, Jacob became a different type of person. So different that God gave him

a new name. No longer would he be known as the cheater-deceiver Jacob. From then on, he would be known as "Israel," which means "God prevails."

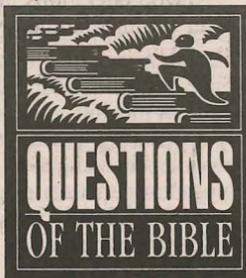
When we wrestle with God—when we have a life changing encounter with the Lord—we not only confess and own up to our true nature; we also become transformed people and are given a new name. We are called "Christian," a name which means "Christ's one." We bear the name which signifies that we are ones who belong to Christ—ones in whose lives God prevails.

There was once a little boy who learned the Lord's Prayer like this: "Our Father who art in heaven, how'd you know my name?" His wording may have been off, but the meaning behind the question was right on target. The all-knowing God certainly does know our name—not just because he is aware of what we are called, but because he knows our character and is fully aware of who we are.

The question God asked Jacob is a question God still asks us. Have you wrestled with God lately? Grappled with who you really are and who you—with the Lord's help—can become? Perhaps it's time for you to struggle with the question. What is your name?



Robert Baker—or Bobby or Rob or Gayle—is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington.



RESOURCES

This week's questions:

■ How can I help my children get more out of Sunday school?

■ Should singles ministers be single?

Q. How can I help my child get the most out of Sunday school?

A. Sunday school provides the main source of formal Bible instruction for most children. Assuming perfect attendance and no special programs, children spend about 52 hours a year studying the Bible and learning more about God and the Christian life. That's not a lot of time. Run the numbers and you will discover the percentage to be unbelievably small.

Here are suggestions for ways parents can help make the precious Sunday school hour meaningful:

■ **Partner.** Get to know your child's teacher. Share special needs, concerns and helpful information about your child. Pray for the teacher; ask how you can help.

■ **Rest.** Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep on Saturday night. As a rule, we don't let children stay up late on school nights. Surely Sunday school deserves the same.

■ **Breakfast.** Make sure your child eats a good breakfast on Sunday morning—and go easy on the sugar.

■ **Bible.** Make sure your child brings his Bible to Sunday school.

Don't allow stuffed animals, toys and other objects that will distract.

■ **Be on time.** Boys and girls who are late often miss an activity or other important piece of the learning experience planned for them.

■ **Pay attention.** Be alert for special emphases and events, and encourage your child to participate. Besides being fun, these build relationships that lead to better learning.

■ **Talk.** Ask your child what she learned, not what she made in Sunday school. Be familiar with the curriculum, and use Bible reading suggestions, stories and other take-home resources to reinforce the Sunday experience. — *David Garrard*



Q. Why do churches tend to call married people as single adult ministers and recruit married people to teach and work with single adults? This seems to be patronizing. Either help me understand why this is a good thing, or help churches understand why it isn't.

A. Just as one major liturgical Christian tradition will not allow its ministers to marry (and many married

people in those churches struggle with that fact), many single people in Baptist life struggle with what is sometimes a bias toward married ministers, even when working with single adults.

Churches should look for leaders who have a calling to and a passion for single adults, and a connection with the issues involved. For many, this will involve several years of life as a single adult—either previously or presently. For others, such as myself, it may be that God uses experiences such as coming out of a divorced or widowed home to sensitize to single adult needs and issues.

I have heard single adult speaker Harold Ivan Smith say there is no past that God cannot redeem and use for his glory. The present state of the minister (married or single) is not as crucial as God's calling to the task.

One big advantage of the minister (or teacher) being single would include an immediate credibility when it comes to day-to-day issues of singleness. Some see the advantage of marriage to be less confusion in social situations, such as dating.

God calls and uses a wide variety of people to equip single adults for ministry. Be open to whatever God may be doing in your midst. — *James Stillwell*

ESTATES

Some ideas for charitable bequests

By Laurie Valentine



The most common form of pre-planned charitable giving is a bequest to charity in your will. Bequests can take the form of a gift of a specific amount or asset or as a gift of all or a portion of the residue of your estate.

Naming a charity as beneficiary of a life insurance policy is another way to make a charitable gift at your death. If you are the owner of the policy at the time of your death, the death benefit will be included in your taxable estate, but your estate will be entitled to an estate tax deduction. If you transfer ownership of the policy to the charity more than three years before you die, the charity will receive the proceeds at your death and the death benefit will not be included in your estate for death tax purposes.

You also can make gifts at your death that will provide benefits to both non-charitable beneficiaries and charitable beneficiaries.

One way to do that is to make a bequest to a charity directing that a charitable gift annuity be established for the benefit of your spouse, child or other non-charitable beneficiary. Under a charitable gift annuity arrangement the charity agrees to pay the non-charitable beneficiary a fixed amount each year for life, in exchange for the charity's receipt of the bequest at your death. The annuity amount your spouse or other non-charitable beneficiary will receive depends upon their age at your death.

Bequests establishing charitable remainder trusts or charitable lead trusts are other ways to use a single gift at death to benefit both non-charitable and charitable beneficiaries. Charitable remainder trusts provide a designated income stream to one or more non-charitable beneficiaries with the remainder passing to one or more charities when the non-charitable beneficiaries' interests end. Charitable lead trusts provide an income benefit for up to 20 years to charity, with the remainder then passing to non-charitable beneficiaries.

Consider your Christian estate stewardship responsibility and determine which of these testamentary charitable giving methods you should use to accomplish God's purposes for your possessions.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Youth minister. Small rural Baptist church; \$100/week. 15-20 youth in grades 6-8 and 9-12 from different schools. Send resumé and cover letter by 3/15/98 to: S. Gardner, c/o North Fork Baptist Church, 3660 Rocky Branch Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

WANTED: Person to fill the position of associate pastor of music and youth. Exciting, growing church in central Kentucky is looking for a dynamic person to fill this dual-role position on its staff. This is a full-time position. If you are interested in applying for this position or learning more about the position, please forward a resumé to the Personnel Committee, Great Crossing Baptist Church, 1061 Stamping Ground Road, Georgetown, KY 40324, Attn: Rev. Art Hardin.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Rockford Lane Baptist, 2006 Rockford Lane, Louisville, KY 40216, Attn: Helen Abell.

FOR SALE: Baldwin church organ, manual type. \$500 or best offer. Call (502) 223-0138 or write Hillcrest Baptist Church, 684 Devils Hollow Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Southside Baptist Church is seeking a part-time custodian for 15-20 hours per week. Call Monday-Thursday (502) 363-3915.

SEEKING: Tomahawk Baptist Mission, a growing new work in Eastern Kentucky, is in need of an additional church van. If you could help in this regard, contact: (606) 395-0034 or (606) 298-7135.

SEEKING: Pastor; immediate opening. Bivocational or seminary student for small church nestled in a valley just 3 miles east of Dixie Highway on Highway 44 in Bullitt County, Kentucky. Interested parties may submit resumé to: Bruce Sanders, chairman, Pulpit Search Committee, 265 Cupio Lodge Road, West Point, KY 40177.

SEEKING: Resumés are being accepted by Spring Valley Baptist Church

of Las Vegas, Nv., for a minister of music. Send resumé to: Donna Pierce, Search Committee, 3135 S. Rainbow, Las Vegas, NV 89102. Phone: (702) 871-0150; fax: (702) 876-9383.

SEEKING: Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is accepting resumés for a full-time administrative assistant. Experience in Microsoft Word and Excel are required, experience in Microsoft Access is helpful. Please send resumé to: Administrative Assistant, Kentucky WMU, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music, Tunnel Hill Baptist Church. Mail resumé to: Karen Dingess, 803 Old Tunnel Hill Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

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

SEEKING: The Pastor Search Committee of South County Baptist Church is accepting resumés for a full-time pastor. SCBC supports a broad range of mission projects and is currently sponsoring two developing church programs in addition to a Filipino congregation that meets in our facility. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 5115 Butler Spur Road, St. Louis, MO 63128.

SEEKING: Red House Baptist Church is receiving resumés for the position of minister of education/music. Please submit your resumé to: Rev. Chris Kurtz, Red House Baptist Church, 2301 Red House Road, Richmond, KY 40475.

SEEKING: Youth minister for approximately 25 youth with good potential for growth in small southeastern community. Need to have genuine love for youth and a heart that desires to reach youth for Christ. Send inquiry or resumé to: Youth Search Committee, c/o First Baptist Church, 317 Madison St.,

Whitesburg, KY 41858. Telephone: (606) 633-2277.

SEEKING: Bogota Baptist Chapel is searching for a pastor able to live and work in a cross-cultural situation. Must have heart for missions, be out-going, people-person, like working with children of all ages. Feel the call? Please email Inge Ortiz at alortiz@impsat.net or Eric Leaver at leaverbunch@openway.com.

SEEKING: Florida Baptist Children's Home in Tallahassee, Fla., is looking for a Christian couple to work with children ages 6-18 years. The base salary for a house parent is \$14,635. Florida Baptist Children's Home offers an excellent benefit package including retirement plan, medical/disability insurance and paid vacations. Our campus is a beautiful, 35-acre facility located at 8415 Buck Lake Road in Tallahassee. If you think you would be interested in a Christian ministry serving families and children, please contact Chris Kretschman at (904) 878-1458 in Tallahassee for more information.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music and part-time youth minister for a healthy, growing church—two morning services. Send resumé to: P.O. Box 197, Rineyville, KY 40162, or call (502) 737-7361.

SEEKING: Far western Kentucky church accepting resumés for full-time pastor. Experience preferred, seminary degree needed. Send resumé to: Wickliffe First Baptist Church, P.O. 176, Wickliffe, KY 42087, Attn: Search Committee.

RETREAT: Myrtle Beach Ocean View Retreat. Youth, seniors and musical groups (groups of up to 50). 307 1st Ave., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577. Leave message: (803) 626-7069.

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

MISSIONS

In Houston, the Byrds make ministry a family affair

By Lynne Jones
SBC North American Mission Board

HOUSTON—When a national summit on volunteerism last year proclaimed all Americans should give time to causes they believe in, the concept was nothing new to Dorcas and Emerson Byrd, administrators of three Baptist centers in Houston.

"Ninety percent of all the work through (Houston's) Baptist mission centers is done by volunteers," said Mrs. Byrd. "We have approximately 60 groups from across the United States that visit us every year. We also use Mission Service Corps volunteers, summer missionaries, semester missionaries and local church members."

The Byrds are featured missionaries in this year's Southern Baptist Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 1-8.

Mrs. Byrd has been a Southern Baptist missionary since 1992. Emerson Byrd began working in the centers in January of last year.

Although the Baptist centers in Houston are widely known among Southern Baptists for their effectiveness, they minister in a community of overwhelming needs. Immigrants

from Central America and Mexico arrive with nothing. Through the centers they not only find clothing and food, but English and citizenship classes and medical help.

But the Byrds understand that these programs only scratch the surface of a much deeper problem. "We have to lead them to a personal relationship with Jesus," Mrs. Byrd said, "so that they can begin to make the right choices about their lives. That's what a Christian does."

The strategy of the centers is to impact residents of Houston's Near



BYRD'S EYE VIEW Dorcas Byrd is administrator of the three Baptist mission centers in Houston, but she said 90 percent of the ministry work is performed by missions volunteers. "Our work here is not just up to the person whose name is on the prayer calendar." (HMB photo by Lynne Jones)

Northside and Magnolia communities, encouraging a Christ-like problem-solving approach to everyday needs, helping families become stronger and more independent, and encouraging involvement in local churches.

"One of our desires is to see local churches become involved in our centers," said Byrd. "We're not a church here. There are some needs that only a church family can meet."

One local pastor, Pedro Tobias, volunteers regularly with the senior adults. He shares a devotional message at the weekly fellowship and is the spiritual leader on their quarterly retreats. Many who have accepted Christ through the ministry are now mem-

bers of his church.

"God has made it clear to us that this is a mission field for the local churches," Dorcas Byrd said. "Like other areas, though, the laborers are few."

That's why one of her primary jobs is to speak in churches about opportunities at the centers. "I love recruiting and training volunteers," she said. "It's a dream come true to work in a place where I can use my talents in finding people who want to be God's servants."

Byrd's gift and calling is in administration, an asset in the challenging task of running three centers simultaneously.

The Byrds have different gifts, but the same calling to ministry. Together with their daughter, Abigail, and soon-to-be new baby, they make work a family affair.

"We don't take our work home

What is Season of Missions?

Southern Baptists have supported a national offering for home missions since 1895.

Initiated by Woman's Missionary Union as the "Week of Self-Denial for Home Missions," the week acquainted women with the needs of Southern Baptist missionaries in the United States. It was led by Annie Armstrong, WMU's first corresponding secretary. In 1903, the offering was renamed the "Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions" in her honor.

Nearly \$700 million has been given to the offering during its 102-year history.

The 1998 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering supports a new Southern Baptist missions agency—the North American Mission Board. NAMB was created in 1997 when the resources of three former SBC agencies—the Home Mission Board, Radio & Television Commission and Brotherhood Commission—were combined. The primary responsibility of NAMB is to assist Southern Baptist churches in reaching the United States, its territories and Canada with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Southern Baptists support more than 5,000 North American missions personnel, most of whom are jointly appointed with state Baptist conventions. The 1998 national goal for the offering is \$42 million. The offering makes up 38 percent of the agency's budget and all the offering dollars are committed to supporting missionaries serving on the field and cooperative work with state conventions. The offering supports NAMB's two major thrusts: evangelism and church planting.

with us," Mrs. Byrd said. "We take our home to work every day. Working as a family is ideal for us."

As for the countless volunteers who make the ministries of the Baptist mission centers possible, "they're my family, too," she said.

"I hope that whenever anyone prays for Emerson and me, they pray for the whole team," she added. "Our work here is not just up to the person whose name is on the prayer calendar."

In Connecticut, Tysons witness to neighbors day & night

Continued from page 1

In 1991, while Tyson worked as a ministry consultant for Western Connecticut Baptist Association, the Tysons said they felt called to start a church through ministry in the inner city. A study of Waterbury highlighted three ministry needs: drugs, prostitution and a lack of activities for children.

The Tysons found an abandoned park. With the help of volunteers, they cleaned it up and began a backyard Bible club. Tyson told residents he planned to start a church in January of 1992.

"I was worried," he said. "I had never been a pastor." But, he took some personal advice from prayer and spiritual awakening leader Henry Blackaby.

"God is already there," Blackaby told him. "Walk the streets and find what he is doing and get involved."

The Tysons rented a former dance hall and gay bar on Main Street to use as a ministry center and church. One adult came to the first worship service, the rest were children. It was six

months before the first child accepted Christ, nine months for the first adult.

But Tyson was not discouraged. "You've got to believe in what God can do," he said. "When only two people show up, you've got to believe in the vision."

During the past six years, the center's ministries have grown beyond a full Sunday and Wednesday evening schedule. The center also offers a tutoring program for children and youth, art classes, youth Bible study, Kid's Club and their evening outreach called Operation Nicodemus (or Nic At Night).

"Nic At Night began one Christmas Eve two or three years ago," said Tyson. "We had a candlelight service and 75 people came. I was real excited driving home when I came to a stop at an intersection not far from the center."

At the intersection where Tyson waited for the light to change was another storefront church. Inside, boys and girls were performing a Christmas pageant complete with shepherds and angels.

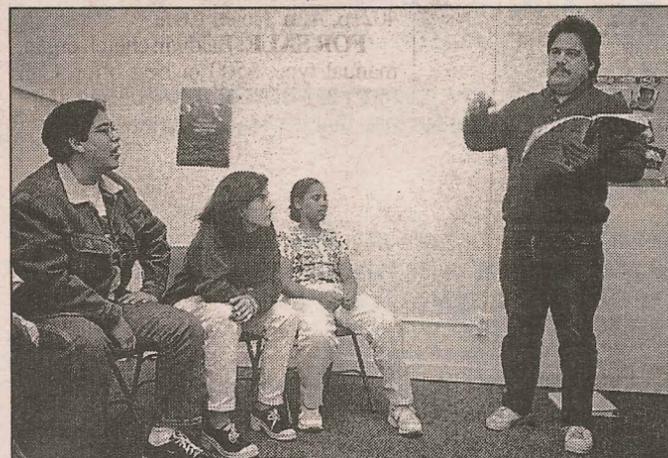
"They were at the part where the angels bring tidings of great joy," said Tyson. "I noticed a shadow across the street. There in the dark was a prostitute, just watching everything going on inside the church. That's when I realized that Waterbury has a day city and a night city."

Tyson decided that if the church was going to reach the people of the city, someone must step outside the building and meet the people where they were, when they were there—day or night. After much prayer, the Tysons began "Operation Nicodemus" on Friday nights.

"We call it Operation Nicodemus, or Nic At Night for short, because Nicodemus came to Jesus at night, in the shadows, and that's where we go on Friday night," Tyson said. "Every Friday night, we go out into the streets with hot dogs and the gospel."

The center also serves as a laboratory for hands-on mission work. Waterbury Baptist Ministries has benefited from hundreds of volunteers from around the world.

"It's dangerous to come up here,"



said Tyson, "because your life is going to change."

As each missions team leaves the center to go home, they pass a sign posted by the center's door. It encourages them to remember the needs of Waterbury and to get involved in local missions work.

Because, the sign and Tyson say, "There's a little Waterbury in every community."

TEACHER Tyson leads a Bible study at the Waterbury Baptist Ministry Center in Waterbury, Conn. (NAMB photo by Mark Sandlin)

EVANGELISM

CONFERENCE QUOTABLES

"You cannot discover who you are; you can only discover whose you are."

Jerry Pipes, director of family evangelism for the North American Mission Board

"Our worship has not reached its pinnacle until we are ready to worship with the sinners. We need to take the gospel to the workplace and the marketplace and not be ashamed."

Vocational evangelist Dale Rose

"It's not where you're from that counts; it's where you're going."

Lincoln Bingham, pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Louisville

"Have you ever noticed that when a well-known person dies, it is always assumed he's gone to heaven? ... The assumption is if there is a God, he's terribly lenient. ... Just once I'd like to hear someone say, 'He was a fine person, but he didn't make a place in his life for God. I know he's looking up at us from below.'"

Richard Allen Farmer, vocational evangelist and musician from Dallas

"Our people don't talk about Jesus because he's not their friend. If something is important to you, you talk about it."

Jerry Pipes

"I pray your commitment will be that no one in your community will go out into eternity without the opportunity to hear the gospel of Jesus."

Bill Mackey, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

"You cannot even pray the first word of the Lord's Prayer if you have prejudice in your heart. ... We need to learn to pray 'Our' for if the love of God is not in our hearts we'll never be able to pray with power."

Charles Roesel, pastor of First Baptist Church of Leesburg, Fla.

"I am afraid what is happening in the church is we are dealing with puppy love. We are infatuated with the idea of church activities."

William Sheals, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Norcross, Ga.

"The most miserable people on the face of this earth are Christians who are out of God's will."

Charles Roesel

"A lot of people are climbing the ladder of success, and when they get to the top they find it's leaning against the wrong wall."

Jerry Pipes

"The harvest has a down side: Not everybody is prepared for it. ... Celebrating the harvest is not just congratulating ourselves that we made the right choice."

Richard Allen Farmer

"Modern exorcists are trying to produce gospel results without gospel power."

William Sheals

"We sing 'When We All Get to Heaven,' and my question is, Don't you want others to go with you?"

Richard Allen Farmer

"We tend to underestimate our ability to handle suffering ... but we tend to overestimate our ability to handle temptation."

Charles Roesel

Mackey: Pray for Kentucky to have a miraculous work

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

ELIZABETHTOWN—"Let Jesus live in your heart in a fresh and new way," Bill Mackey urged Kentucky Baptists in his first address as executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Mackey, who began his new duties Feb. 1, spoke on the opening night of the annual Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, held at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

He told several stories of his own faith journey, beginning with his attending an Evangelism Conference in the same location in the 1970s. At the time he was a Kentucky pastor.

"I knelt that night and recommitted myself in faith to Jesus Christ," Mackey recalled. And that commitment set him on a new journey of deeper relationship with God that sparked his life and ministry, he added.

Bringing the story more up-to-date, Mackey told about a period of prayer and fasting in early 1997 in which he once again made a similar recommitment to seeking and doing the will of God in his life. He talked about the Holy Spirit making him aware of the drain of sin and of the perpetual need for Christ's atonement.

"It's in the name of Jesus that we have power and authority to deal with sin," he said. "As Jesus abides in us, we are able to be fully devoted to God."

He implored Kentucky Baptists individually to thirst for and protect their relationship with Jesus as the supreme thing in life. "Just as you would defend with your life your relationship to your spouse and children, so you must defend with your life your relationship to Jesus," he said.

Right relationship with God through Jesus should enable a believer to seek right relationship with others, Mackey said. "We love one an-

Bingham: Set people free with gospel

Continued from page 1

sinners, sinners need a way to be saved, and "Jesus is it."

Still others today believe God's offer of salvation is too good to be true, he said, citing the many ways people strive to achieve God's favor by their works. Yet God's salvation is free for all who will accept it, and it cannot be earned by any amount of good works, he said.

Finally, some today simply are not interested in God's offer because they've decided to be content with the less-than-ideal life they already have, Bingham said.

Speaking to a racially mixed audience, Bingham said the comparison of what the Emancipation Proclamation did for American slaves to what Jesus' death on the cross did for all sinners isn't a perfect comparison.

"Grandpa said it didn't take long for him to find out he wasn't really free," he said, recalling the racism,



MACKEY Jesus can "enable you to love people who are hard to love."

other not because we have the power and capacity within us, but because we have Jesus within us. The Jesus in me can identify with the Jesus in you.

"When Jesus is in your soul and permeating every part, he's going to enable you to love people who are hard to love," he explained.

Then, hesitating for a moment and explaining that it's sometimes hard to know how much of his personal conversation with God to share, Mackey told about a vision he had from God last fall.

Soon after the KBC executive secretary-treasurer search committee had contacted him, he experienced a vision from God that drove him to tears, he said. "The Lord began to reveal to me and show to me that he was going to bring Kentucky Baptists together."

This understanding "was so real and so awesome all I could do was get up and walk around the house with tears streaming down my face," he explained.

"I pray you will seek with me for God to do a miraculous work among us. ... It's not too hard for God."

Mackey acknowledged that he doesn't know whether this unity will be achieved during his tenure or even during his lifetime. But he said he believes God will bring it about.

Experiencing and living daily within the power of Christ's love naturally will lead to evangelism, Mackey told the conference. "When Jesus is dwelling in your heart in fullness, it cannot be contained. It has to be shared."

Jim Crowe laws and separate-but-equal practices that followed the abolition of slavery.

"But when he was 50 years old, he heard about Jesus," Bingham said, and found true freedom. "At age 50, he gave his life to Jesus Christ and then he cried, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, I'm free at last!'"

Bingham said the knowledge of what his grandfather had experienced as a slave and the injustice African-Americans continued to suffer caused him to be an angry young man. He asked his grandfather how he could claim to be free in Christ when he still was not fully free as a citizen.

"Boy, you don't know what freedom means," his grandfather told him. "I'm talking about real freedom. ... When I came to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of my life, I learned a new depth of freedom."

Mountaintop people needed in the valley

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

ELIZABETHTOWN—Experiences on the mountaintop and in the valley must work together in the Christian's life, Charles Roesel told participants in the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference.

Roesel is pastor of First Baptist Church of Leesburg, Fla., a church noted as a model for evangelism through ministry. The church offers extensive ministry programming ranging from care for the homeless to operation of a crisis pregnancy center and shelter for unwed mothers.

He spoke from Mark 9, the story of Jesus' figuration on the Mount of Olives, which was immediately followed by a confrontation with a boy possessed by evil spirits. From this chapter, Roesel extracted three thoughts about mountains and valleys:

■ "God does not want anyone on the mountaintop who's not willing to go in the valley."

He told the story of a young pastor at another church who led the congregation to begin reaching children effectively. Soon after, some church members began to complain that the children were putting too much wear and tear on the carpet.

The next Saturday, the pastor was found ripping up the carpet in the sanctuary. When asked what he was doing, he replied: "Anytime the carpet becomes more important than souls, we get rid of the carpet."

■ "God cannot use the man in the valley who's not been on the mountaintop."

Experiencing the power of God on the mountaintop is essential for survival in the valley, regardless of how well-intentioned one's ministry may be, Roesel said. "The greatest need of Southern Baptists is being filled with the Holy Spirit."

When a believer or a church "gets in the flow of the Spirit," four things happen, he said: (1) The Spirit will lead you to do some new things; (2) The Spirit will lead you to begin doing the old things in a new way; (3) Pastors will learn what it means to loose the laypeople for ministry; and (4) The Spirit will lead you to use God's resources wisely.

On the last point, Roesel talked about his church's intentional decision to offer multiple Sunday morning services rather than spend millions of dollars erecting a huge building. Because the church is debt-free, it can devote more time and resources to ministry and missions, he said.

■ "God wants the person in the valley with the mountaintop in the heart."

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NOTICES

Food for thought

WWJD about a changing Kentucky?

By Tony Hough

As a child of a small town in the Midwest, I grew up knowing nothing but pink-skinned people. I soon got used to seeing other kinds of faces when my family moved to a university town on my 10th birthday. Many were black, some were oriental and some were from the Middle East.

Moving to Louisville for seminary training in 1976, I daily saw people of different ethnic backgrounds. All the same, small towns any distance from our larger cities looked much more like the little town from which I had come. The majority of people were white. Although I often saw blacks, the predominant racial expression was pink-skinned folks like me.

Today the face of Kentucky—even in the most rural areas—is changing, prompted by population shifts, economic developments and political changes around the globe. Our greatest change has come in a dramatic increase in Hispanics. No one with sight and sense can

miss the number of copper-skinned

Spanish speakers present in most communities west of the mountains.

Most of these Hispanics came, beginning in the late 1980's, as migrant workers on farms. The 200 migrant workers of 1988 have swelled to approximately 25,000 workers a decade later.

With every passing year, perhaps 10 per cent of these migrants have remained as year-round workers with horse farms, agri-businesses, food processing plants, tree farms and light

industry. As their families have joined these workers, the Hispanic population has grown even more.

Even the tiniest communities of our western counties are experiencing the influx of Hispanics. Sebree, a town of under 1,500, recently welcomed 200 newly-relocated Hispanics related to a poultry processing plant near Henderson. A plant in Mayfield has employed so many Spanish speakers that a new Hispanic mission has met there for about two years. Plants are moving to other western Kentucky communities too.

In addition, many Hispanics have come, especially to our cities, because of political situations in the Caribbean and Central America. An estimated 500 Cubans refugees have arrived in Louisville in the past two years. For several previous years, scores of refugees from Bosnia and Somalia relocated to our state. Such developments, especially in smaller communities, often mean dramatic changes in tax structures, school systems and housing starts.

Even mountain communities have witnessed population changes. In the late 1980's, several towns

Continued on page 3-A



Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting April 24-25, 1998

Theme: Missions on the Brink

**Sessions 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. Friday;
8:50 a.m. - noon Saturday**

**Westport Road Baptist Church
9705 Westport Road, Louisville**

Friday Morning 8:50 a.m.

Music for Worship
Praying Around the World *Acteens Panelists*
Missions on the Brink of Lostness *Ken and Beth Perkins*

Special Recognitions *Peggy Hicks*
Ministers and Spouses, Directors of Missions and Spouses, International Missionaries, North American Missionaries, Parents of Missionaries, MKs, Volunteers, Office Volunteers, Past Presidents and Executive Directors

Development Specialist *Maribeth Hambrick*
Missions on the Brink of a New Relationship *Randy Foster*

Friday noon: Luncheons

DOM/Associational WMU Directors - invitation only
Missionaries, Missionaries Emeritus, Missionary Parents, and Program Personnel - invitation only

Friday Afternoon 1:15 p.m.

Music for Worship
Missions on the Brink of Personal Disaster *Johnnie Clark*
Missions on the Brink: A Biblical Foundation *Ken and Beth Perkins*

Creative Missions Experience
Variety of Workshops including Social Ministries, Lifestyle Witnessing, Christian Women's Job Corps, and much more
Missions Prayer Walk
(Meet the missionaries and others)

Friday 5:00 p.m.: Dinners

By reservation for Acteens, Youth on Mission, and Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Friday Evening 6:45 p.m.

Music for Worship
Greetings from Kentucky Baptist Convention *Bill Mackey, Gayle Toole*
Executive Director-Treasurer's Report *Brenda Price*
1997-98 State Acteens Panelists *Julie Keith*
National Acteens Conference *Sarah Groves*
Thank you from a Kentucky Missionary *Peggy Wakefield*
Missions on the Brink of Persecution *Ken and Beth Perkins*

Saturday Morning 9:00 a.m. noon

GA and Children in Action Missions Event

Saturday Morning 8:50 a.m.

Music for Worship
Praying Around the World *Acteens Panelists*
Missions on the Brink of a New Vision *Ken and Beth Perkins*

Business
Recognition of Retiring Board *Peggy Hicks*
Nominating Committee Report *Shirley Eastridge*
Election of Board and Officers
Installation of the Board *Bill Mackey*
Partnership 2000
Eliza Broadus Offering *Anna Mary Byrdwell*
Camp-The Missions Experience *Kim Davis*
Thank you from a Kentucky MK *Susan Atkinson*
Project HELP: Cultural Diversity *Julie Keith*
Missions on the Brink of a Breakthrough *Larry Wakefield*
Our Children - Our Future *Brenda Price*

A Personal Word



Brenda Price
Interim Executive Director
Kentucky WMU

Sometimes I think God makes spring just for me. After too long a wait, the blizzard blast of winter breaks way to the splendor of green grass and colorful blossoms adorning the earth. Perhaps it is that spirit of renewal that energizes me and sparks my enthusiasm. It is a time of anticipation of what God has in store for me in the days and weeks ahead.

Kentucky WMU begins spring with anticipation as time draws near for our coming together for celebration, inspiration and fellowship. The annual meeting, April 24-25, will be held at

Spring spirit of renewal for missions

Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville.

The gracious spirit of the members of the host church, led by Diane Goode, WMU director and general chairwoman, will welcome us to this special event. Our president, Peggy Hicks, along with our staff, have planned a program to bring us to an awareness of missions on the brink of a new millennium. International missionaries Ken and Beth Perkins and Larry and Peggy Wakefield will bring us to focus anew on the urgency of missions.

The Friday afternoon session will offer a variety of creative missions experiences. Breakout sessions will feature topics which will enhance our missions awareness and involvement. During the "Missions Prayer Walk Around," missionaries will share with us about their places of service and ways in which we can specifically pray for them and the people with whom they work.

Come anticipating what God will do in your life as together we renew our spirit of missions.

Coed Training

◆ The first Kentucky opportunity for coed training will be at Immanuel Baptist Church in Elizabethtown April 4 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Gain information, motivation and methods for leading Children in Action, Youth on Mission and Adults on Mission. Use the Coed Training Registration form on page 4 and send it along with your \$5 registration fee.

IDEAS THAT WORK

Women on Mission

By Denise Jones

So much to talk about, but so little space! Several opportunities are coming your way:

◆ Remember the **co-ed training session** on set for April 4 in Elizabethtown. Adults on Mission is an appealing missions organization for many churches. This training event is a wonderful opportunity to see if it will work in your setting and learn how to implement this organization in your church.

◆ Are you interested in learning more about **Christian Women's Job Corps**? Melanie Hammer, a certified project coordinator, will give an overview of this innovative program in a workshop on Friday afternoon during the Kentucky WMU annual meeting, April 24-25, at Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville.

◆ **Parish nursing** is an exciting ministry opportunity for nurses in your congregation. Polly Haigler, national Baptist Nursing Fellowship president, will lead a Friday afternoon workshop during the Kentucky WMU annual meeting. She will explain the benefits and blessings experienced by churches involved in this ministry. This workshop has been designed for WMU leaders and nurses.

◆ The **Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship** will hold its annual dinner meeting Friday, April 24 at 5 p.m. during the Kentucky WMU annual meeting. Cost is \$7. A registration form is included on page 4-A of *Kentucky Notes*. Polly Haigler, national Baptist Nursing Fellowship president, will be the speaker.

◆ Help us gather **missionary information!** Many missionaries serve in dangerous situations. In recognition of this fact the Southern Baptist International Mission Board will no longer provide the names of Kentucky-born missionaries serving in Level 2 or 3 (dangerous) countries. This means these missionaries often serve without our knowledge, prayers or financial support (new appointment and Christmas gifts from Kentucky WMU). In these situations, we also are not able to minister to missionary parents or children or provide information to WMU members which would allow you to do so.

If you know about a missionary who is serving in a dangerous setting, and both you and the missionary are comfortable with providing us with basic information, please contact us at the Kentucky WMU office.



Acteens

By Julie Keith

◆ **Acteens/Youth on Mission Dinner** at the WMU Annual Meeting. Make plans now to attend this dinner on Friday, April 24 at 5:00 p.m. at Westport Road Baptist Church. This is the first time that the dinner will include both Acteens and Youth on Mission groups. Come and meet the Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panelists and the National Acteens Panelist and three National Top Teens from Kentucky. Use the reservation form on page 4-A.

◆ **National Acteens Panelist and Top Teens.** Autumn Alcott has been chosen as a 1998 National Acteens Panelist. Charity Gardner, Andrea Honeycutt and Kelley Travis have been chosen as 1998 National Top Teens. Congratulations to each of these young ladies for being chosen for these national Acteens honors.

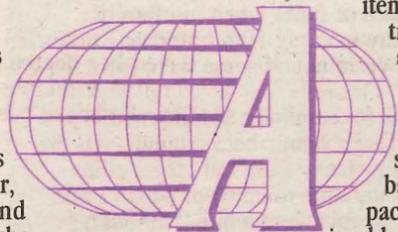
Autumn Alcott is a 12th-grader from Murray First Baptist Church and has been in Acteens for six years. Charity Gardner is an 11th-grader from Shelbyville First Baptist Church and has been in Acteens for four years. Andrea Honeycutt is a 12th-grader from Somerset First Baptist Church and has been in Acteens six years. Kelley Travis is a 12th-grader from Murray First Baptist Church and has been in Acteens for six years.

◆ **NAC '98 Update.** A Kentucky NAC T-shirt

order form was mailed to every church Acteens advisor in the January camp mailing. Shirts are \$8 each, and orders must be in the WMU office by April 6.

◆ Each Acteens group coming to NAC is being asked to bring new baby items for our adopted ministry project, **Infant Resource Project.** Baby items needed are: large disposable diapers, baby toiletries (powder, shampoo, bath soap), baby bottles and nipples, pacifiers, crib sheets, receiving blankets, baby socks, sleepers, baby toys, baby picture books, and diaper wipes.

◆ Encourage your Acteens to participate in the **NAC Reconciliation Interpretation Contest.** Acteens are invited to enter one essay, poem, photograph, drawing, piece of original music, or video that explains what reconciliation means to her. Cash prizes will be awarded for each category! All entries must be postmarked by April 1 and sent to NAC Reconciliation Interpretation Contest, 100 Missionary Ridge, Hwy. 280 East, Birmingham, AL 35242-5235.



Mission Friends/Girls in Action

By Brenda Price

MISSION FRIENDS

Has your Mission Friends organization survived the winter? Let your church know it is alive and growing into spring by involving more preschoolers in missions education. Your Mission Friends organization cannot grow without a continuous, intentional effort of enlistment. Use a variety of methods to show your continuing interest in a prospect:

◆ Using ideas in *Start*, continue the yearlong enlistment plan "A Place for You."

◆ Send the child a colorful card addressed just to him or her.

◆ Visit the child and parents in the home. Explain the Mission Friends organization. Take a copy of *Share* and a Mission Friends cup or button to the prospective member.

◆ A "Garden of Mission Friends" can be a refreshing spring bulletin board display. Cut flowers from bright-colored paper. Place the name or picture of each child on a flower. Mount flowers as in a garden on the board. Cut grass from strips of colored paper, and add the caption: "Garden of Mission Friends."

Some preschoolers and their families will respond readily to an enlistment effort, while others may require long-term cultivation. Your sincerity and motivation in enlisting a preschooler in Mission Friends will become evident as you make enlistment a continuous effort.

GIRLS IN ACTION

◆ **Come, Go With Me to the GA and Children in Action Missions Event, Saturday, April 25, 1998, at Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville.** Because both Girls in Action and Children in Action are a part of WMU, this special event is planned during the WMU annual meeting. The event begins at 9 a.m. and concludes around 12 noon (EDST). While the general meeting is in session, the children and leaders will have their own event with opportunities for meeting missionaries, singing and having all kinds of fun. The event will be held in the church gymnasium. Children are encouraged to wear tennis shoes. (See the map to the church on page 4 of *Kentucky Notes* for directions.)

No pre-registration for the event is required. However, the cost is \$1 per person and to be paid on arrival.

GA and Children in Action members and leaders can be involved in a ministry project by bringing canned food (one per person) to the Missions Event. The food will be distributed to programs for families in the Louisville area.

◆ **Don't forget GA camp.** Two state camps, Cedar Crest and Jonathan Creek, offer opportunities for all Girls in Action members. Inform your GAs and their parents about the dates and cost of camp. Registration forms were mailed to church GA directors in January and church WMU directors in February.



WMU Directors

By Anna Mary Byrdwell

The snow is past (we hope) and spring is just around the corner. The anticipation of Easter, new growth, longer days—all these can go together to create a sense of joy in service to God and involvement in missions.

◆ I hope you will ask others in your church to **Come, Go With Me to the Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting** in Louisville at Westport Road Baptist Church April 24-25. Make your hotel reservations now.

◆ Keep in mind that the **new church year** starts Sept. 1. Your WMU leadership committee should be at work enlisting 1998-99 leaders. Most people are more willing to serve if they know they have time to pray about the responsibility, get training and be prepared.

◆ Would a **co-ed group** help some who are not involved in missions education to become involved? Encourage someone from your church to attend the training at Elizabethtown April 4 or make plans for the training event at Richmond in September.

◆ You recently received a package of materials which included your *Project HELP: Cultural Diversity* report form. This is to be completed and given to your associational WMU director. Let others know how your church is involved this year in *Project HELP*.

◆ **Associational Emphasis Week** is May

17-23. Call your associational office to inquire about any special plans. Consider doing something nice for your director of missions, or perhaps for members of your associational WMU leadership team. They work hard all year to help churches in your association. Find a way to express thanks to them.

◆ I know some WMU directors who are on cloud nine with plans for their Acteens and participation in the **National Acteens Conference** to be held in Louisville in July. I hope you are too. Every teenaged girl would benefit from being a part of this group of 14-15,000 who will come to the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center, July 1-4. Help your girls save or earn their money. Encourage your church to give toward their cost.

◆ With no national or regional WMU training this year, you will want to be sure to know when **associational training** will be offered. Watch for training helps and suggestions in *Dimension*. Your recent mailing had resource team information. Do you need to make plans for a resource team member to come to your church to provide specialized training? We want to be of help to you as you begin the new year in which "Transformed" is the emphasis. Allow God to transform you, and you will make a difference.



UPCOMING EVENTS

WWJD?

Continued from page 1-A
began to see Asian Indians immigrating by families and developing medical practices in doctor-poor areas. Central Kentucky towns are not exempt from similar changes. Since the arrival of the Georgetown Toyota plant and supporting industries, several communities in the region have witnessed a notable increase in Japanese executives and their families.

To paraphrase Dorothy in "The Wizard of Oz," "We're not in Kentucky any more." Or are we? Yes, the face of our commonwealth is changing. No, pink-skinned people are not quite so predominant any more. But this is Kentucky. And it is the place where God is working—even among people unlike many of us. So WWJD? What would Jesus do in the face of all this change? He died for these new Kentuckians. He loves them. They are uprooted and unsettled, needy and hungry for the very stability the good news of Jesus offers.

Yes, this is still Kentucky. Let us, as Kingdom people, join God in doing good works; let us tell our new neighbors the good news. Let us put aside fears and frustrations we may feel with all these changes. Let us help make peace between different racial groups during the challenging days ahead. That's what Jesus would do.

To receive a copy of census information listing the number of culturally diverse people in your county, contact your associational WMU director. Please remember to return your Project HELP report form to your Associational WMU Director

Camp Update

Good news for Jonathan Creek campers

How do GA week-long campers and GA mother/daughter overnight campers spell relief? The dormitory and the dining hall at Jonathan Creek are now air-conditioned. So, moms and daughters, don't let the summer heat keep you away from camp.

Camp directors at Jonathan Creek:

◆ We are happy to have **Joyce Paris**, Ohio Valley Association WMU director, as GA camp director for the first two weeks of camp this summer. Joyce is certified to teach K-4 and received her degree from Western Kentucky University. A member of Grangertown Baptist Church, she has been a part of WMU camp for 17 summers.

◆ **Melissa Norris**, Daviess McLean associational GA consultant for seven years, will serve as GA camp program director for the first two weeks of camp and camp director for the last week. Her love for children and missions is obvious in her work these last five years as GA director at Walnut Memorial Baptist Church in Owensboro and in her service at camp for six years. She is currently pursuing an elementary education degree at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro.

◆ **Beverly Winchester**, a youth leader at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, will direct Acteens Camp at Jonathan Creek. She has served five summers at camp and is looking forward to another. Her experience as a seventh and eighth grade math teacher and her previous work at camp make her uniquely qualified to direct camp.

Every Day ...



God's Way

What's happening at Cedar Crest?

◆ Acteens will have an option to spend a night in the great outdoors or try out Cedarmore's new hiking trails. (All activities are supervised.)

◆ GAs will enjoy schedule changes that add variety and choices.

◆ GA Mother/Daughter Overnight is a great 23-hour retreat for moms and their first-through-third grade daughters. This summer, one overnight is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday.

◆ Kentucky WMU camp has gone co-ed! For one week, Youth on Mission campers will attend special seminars early in the week and then lead a day camp in the community at the end of the week. Youth will also do regular camp activities: swimming, recreation, worship, devotions, campfires, hiking and Bible study. Seminars focusing on planning, leading and organizing mission trips and projects will be available for leaders.

It's time to register for WMU summer camps

Week-long Camp: \$84 per person. Mother/Daughter Overnight Camp: \$21 per person. Price includes meals, lodging and program fees. Linens are not provided. For camp dates, registration and promotional materials, volunteer or paid staff applications, contact Kim Davis, Kentucky WMU Camp Specialist, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569. Local calls 244-6485, in-state toll free calls (888) 254-5726, or e-mail: KYWMUCAMP@juno.com.

Camp staff needed

If you love children and want to make a difference, volunteer one week or more for GA or Acteens camp at Jonathan Creek. At our overnight staff training retreat in May, you will meet other women interested in working with children, while you learn about the camp program and prepare to lead children in Bible study and other camp activities. It will be a week worth remembering.

Summer staff applications for Cedar Crest will be accepted until all positions are filled. Positions available include: assistant counselor, counselor, unit leader, kitchen coordinator, lifeguard and volunteer nurse which is usually a one week commitment.

DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT	DATE	EVENT
March 1-8	Week of Prayer for Home Missions/Annie Armstrong Offering	April 4	Co-ed Organization Training, Elizabethtown	25	GA/Children in Action Missions Event
5-8	BNF National Annual Meeting, Atlanta	24-25	Kentucky WMU Annual Meeting, Louisville	May 15-16	Camp Staff Training, Jonathan Creek
6-7	Creative Ministries Festival, Louisville	24	BNF Dinner	15-16	KBC SALT, Cedarmore
		24	Acteens/Youth on Mission Dinner	June 7-8	WMU, SBC Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah
				17-23	Associational Missions Emphasis Week
				30	KBC SALT, First Baptist Church, Madisonville

President's Perspective



Peggy Hicks
President
Kentucky WMU

One might say that this is a state of the union message—our Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. Brenda Price has done an effective job as Interim WMU Executive Director-Treasurer. She is providing good leadership and has kept us moving. She is to be commended for handling this position so capably and keeping up with her responsibility for GAs and Mission Friends.

Our accountant, Donna Dye, has been helpful and they work together well on budget preparation and other things that make the office run smoothly. Our entire staff have exhibited such a great team spirit. We have been short-staffed during this time, but have managed well. How grateful I am for all of them and all that they do. They each carry so much responsibility.

The search committee for Executive Director-Treasurer is processing possible candidates for the position and are moving effectively. Continue

State of the union: What's happening in Kentucky WMU

to pray for them in their search.

In our national WMU Executive Board meeting in January we were given much to think about and to respond to. Dellanna O'Brien reminded us of the many changes related to the development of computer technology. We must factor into all our planning the multiple contributions of computers in marketing, leadership training, dissemination of information, the establishment of new audiences and the formation of networks. Our Kentucky WMU Executive Board has begun to address some of these areas for the future of our work.

The future of missions in our individual lives, and in the life of our church and denomination has to become a major concern for those of us committed to missions. We have rejoiced over the churches that have gotten many of their members involved in missions experiences. This often results in a greater concern for worldwide missions and praying and

giving to missions. What will keep this missions spirit alive is to provide missions education for all ages.

O'Brien also reminded us that since Sunbeams was launched a hundred years ago, WMU has demonstrated its concern for the development of individuals committed to a missions lifestyle, beginning with our children. Until recently we very nearly had a corner on the Wednesday night time slot for missions education.

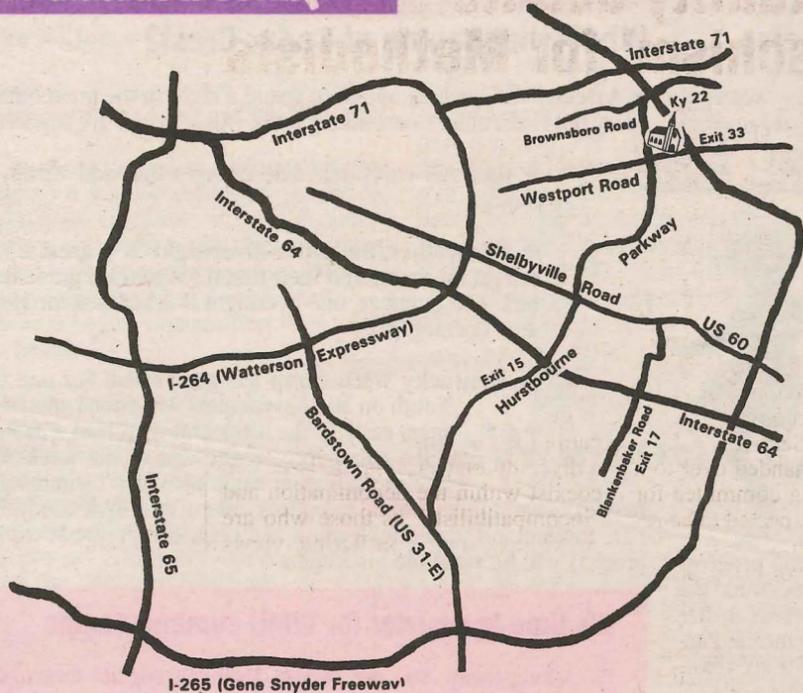
She is right, for we are aware of some churches that have opted for AWANA or Teamkids. These both provide additional Bible education and memorization that are good, but they do not have a strong missions component. There is no other opportunity for missions education and experience. Many among this generation of children and youth are growing up with little or no knowledge of SBC missions. Our real concern is what will be the results of the lack of missions education.

Where will the church find missions commitment and leadership? Where will missions impact the lives of youth that will result in their being called as missionaries? Where will the burden for a lost world be generated? The responsibility for missions education has to be the concern of all of us. It seems imperative for those of us who have grown up in the spiritual and missions education nurturing of age-level missions organizations, to become strong voices in our church for the preservation of missions education. It is urgent for us to get serious about our missions responsibility.

Our annual meeting is planned to create missions awareness, challenge, and inspiration. See this as an opportunity to invite young women to experience what we are all about. Our speakers, the breakout sessions, and the music will be outstanding. You will not want to miss a single session as we encounter missions on the brink of a new millennium.

MISSIONS INFORMATION

Map to annual meeting



◆ From I-65 (Elizabethtown) at Exit 125, go east on Snyder Freeway, 23 miles to Exit 33, Go west on Westport Road 1 mile; church is on the right. ◆ From I-64 (Lexington): Turn north at Exit 19 on Snyder Freeway, go 8 miles to Exit 33, then west on Westport Road; church is 1 mile on the right. ◆ From I-71, turn south on Snyder Freeway; take Brownsboro Road (Exit 35) to the right, pass the shopping center, turn left on Hurstbourne Parkway; church is on the left, a little more than a mile. ◆ Suggested hotels are at Exit 15 or Exit 17 on I-64. Westport Road Baptist Church is on the northeast corner of Westport Road and North Hurstbourne Parkway.

Create a float for NAC

NAC 98 will begin in grand fashion with a NAC Parade. We are looking for interested local Acteens groups that would like to sponsor a float. We need floats in the following categories:

- ◆ NAC 98
- ◆ NAC WorldWide Web
- ◆ NAC Insight/OuttaSight
- ◆ Acteens Activators/Acteens Activators Abroad/Acteens Interns
- ◆ StudiAct
- ◆ NAC On-site Ministry (quilt making)
- ◆ Inside Out (NAC 98 Theme)

If your Acteens group is interested, please send a roughly sketched design of the float you would like to sponsor to: Rhonda Reeves; P.O. Box 830010; Birmingham, AL 35283. Entries will be received through March 30, 1998.

Floats will be selected from the entries received and confirmed by April 15, 1998. WMU will provide selected groups with \$75 per float. Each Acteens group sponsoring a float will be responsible for making/building/decorating their float and for determining who from their group will ride on the float.

Co-ed training registration

Please check the session you wish to attend: Elizabethtown Richmond

Church Name _____
 Association _____
 Street Address _____
 City, State & Zip _____
 Person completing registration form _____
 Daytime phone number _____

Names of persons you are registering. Please circle workshop participant will attend

Name _____ Children in Action Youth on Mission Adults on Mission
 Name _____ Children in Action Youth on Mission Adults on Mission
 Name _____ Children in Action Youth on Mission Adults on Mission
 Name _____ Children in Action Youth on Mission Adults on Mission

Total Amount Enclosed (# of participants X \$5) = _____

Please send your completed registration form along with your check to: Kentucky WMU, P. O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

Hotels for WMU annual meeting

Wilson Inn East
 9802 Bunsen Way
 Louisville, KY 40299
 (502) 499-0000
 \$47 + tax double
 \$57 + tax suite
 cut-off date 3/24/98
 use code - KWM

Louisville Marriott East
 1903 Embassy Square Blvd
 Louisville, KY
 (502) 499-6220
 \$79 + tax flat rate
 cut-off date 4/10/98

Fairfield Inn
 9400 Blairwood Road
 Louisville, KY 40222
 (502) 339-1900
 \$67 + tax flat rate
 cut-off date 3/24/98

Microtel
 1221 Kentucky Mills Lane
 Louisville, KY 40299
 (502) 266-6590
 1-888-333-8188
 \$55.95 + tax double
 \$40.95 + tax single
 cut-off date 4/1/98

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 1902 Embassy Square Blvd.
 Louisville KY 40299
 (502) 491-2577
 \$69 + tax flat rate

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 9700 Bluegrass Parkway
 Louisville, KY 40299
 (502) 491-4830
 \$79 + tax flat rate
 cut-off date 3/25/98

Comfort Suites Hotel
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 Louisville, KY 40299
 (502) 266-6509
 \$69 + tax flat rate
 cut-off date 4/1/98

Travelodge, Hurstbourne
 9340 Blairwood Road
 Louisville, KY 40222
 (502) 425-8010
 \$40 + tax flat rate
 cut-off date 3/24/98

Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
 1325 Hurstbourne Lane
 Louisville, KY 40222
 (502) 426-2600
 \$79 + tax flat rate
 cut-off date 4/10/98

Days Inn
 1850 Embassy Square Blvd.
 Louisville KY 40299
 (502) 491-1040
 \$45.95 + tax flat rate
 cut-off date 4/1/98

When making hotel reservations, please state that you are with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union in order to receive the listed rate.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship

Polly Haigler, National Baptist Nursing Fellowship president, will be the featured speaker at a dinner meeting at Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville on April 24. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. To register, complete the form below and send to KY WMU, P. O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569 by April 10. Include a check for \$7 per person made payable to Kentucky WMU. No refunds will be available after April 17.

Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City, State & Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Church _____
 Association _____

For additional reservations, please reproduce this form.

Acteens/Youth on Mission Dinner

Friday, April 24, 5 p.m. (EDT)
 Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville

All Kentucky Acteens, Acteens advisory, Youth on Mission leaders, and teens are invited. Cost: \$7 per person. Use this form to make reservations:

Please make reservations for _____ people.
 Total amount enclosed \$ _____
 Person sending reservation: _____
 Home address: _____
 Church: _____
 Association: _____
 Daytime phone number: _____

Reservations must be in the Kentucky WMU office by April 10. No refunds after April 17. Make checks payable to Kentucky WMU. Mail to: Acteens/Youth on Mission Dinner; Kentucky WMU; P.O. Box 436569; Louisville, KY 40253-6569

WMU national annual meeting

WMU's national annual meeting will be held in Salt Lake City at the Salt Palace Convention Center, with sessions Sunday, June 7, at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Monday, June 8, 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Featured leaders include Tony Campolo, Beverly Scott, Fermin Whittaker, Jerry Rankin, Robert Reccord, Brian Bakke, Cynthia Clawson and Max Lyall.

Americans United warns of danger to churches in Christian Coalition plan

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The Christian Coalition's new strategy to recruit 100,000 church liaisons by November 2000 to assist in the group's voter registration and education efforts could endanger the tax-exempt status of many churches, a critic has warned.

The Christian Coalition's Feb. 18 announcement drew swift criticism from Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

"TV preacher Pat Robertson is clearly desperate to get his Christian Coalition political machine back on track and he's turning to churches to do it," Lynn said.

Christian Coalition Executive Director Randy Tate said the Families 2000 initiative is designed to "ensure that local, state and federal elected officials in both parties will be held more accountable to the voters than ever before on pro-family issues."

According to a coalition press release, the strategy is directly linked to the coalition's national legislative priorities, which include a ban on "partial-birth" abortions,

approval of school vouchers and a "religious freedom" amendment to the Constitution.

The press release also stated that churches "will now serve as the primary source of people interested in ... the non-partisan voter registration and education efforts of the coalition."

But Lynn charged the initiative would jeopardize the tax-exempt status of churches which use the coalition's voter guides.

"The coalition's voter guides are slanted in favor of certain candidates," Lynn said. "As such, they are partisan material that should not be distributed in churches."

Lynn noted that even some conservative evangelicals have issued warnings about church distribution of voter guides. He said that David Gibbs of the Christian Law Association advised participants at the annual National Religious Broadcaster's convention that churches can lose their tax-exempt status if they fail to adhere to IRS regulations, which say voter guides must be accurate, broadly based and cannot be distributed only at election time.

Homosexuality debate could create 'schism' for Methodists

DALLAS (RNS)—The issue of homosexuality is so divisive within the United Methodist Church it could "harbor the danger of explicit disunity or schism," according to a new church report expected to be finalized early this month.

The draft document, titled "In Search of Unity," was prepared Feb. 19-20 during a "theological dialogue" in Dallas that included 23 participants who expressed a wide range of views on homosexuality, according to United Methodist News Service.

It now has been handed over to a four-member steering committee for final editing and is expected to be released in early March.

"We're all weary of being preoccupied with the issue of homosexuality, but that is the issue the church is preoccupied with, and to ignore that is to ignore what is going on out there in the church," said Maxie Dunnam, president of Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore and a member of the steering committee.

"We believe we may experience substantive disagreement around a variety of theological faith (issues); the meaning of the incarnation; and our views of the saving work of

Christ, to name a few," the paper states.

"All these arise out of differing understanding of Scriptural authority and revelation. However, in this document, we have turned to the practice of homosexuality as illustrative of our divergence because it is one of the most visible presenting issues in United Methodism today."

Both viewpoints on the role of gays in the life of the church are presented in the paper, which describes "compatibilists" as those who believe that a diversity of views on the issue can coexist within the denomination and "incompatibilists" as those who are convinced such conflicting views make it "unfaithful, impractical, or unadvisable" to remain in the same denomination.

The issue touches virtually every aspect of Methodist life because the denomination has adopted a statement declaring homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching" and barring the use of any church funds for projects that might promote homosexuality. In addition, a church trial is expected to begin this month involving a Nebraska pastor who performed a same-sex blessing ceremony.

Conference on Cults

Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses

Witnessing to the Occult

Witnessing to the New Age Movement

Witnessing to Mormons

Monday, March 23, 1998 - Mid-Continent Bible College

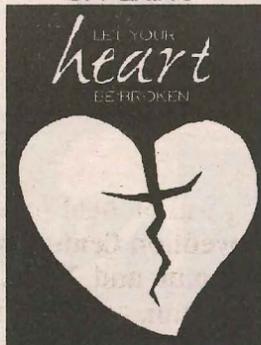
7:00 - 9:15 p.m. (CDT) 99 Powell Rd. East, Mayfield

Tuesday, March 24, 1998 - First Baptist Church, Madisonville

7:00 - 9:15 p.m. (CDT) 246 North Main St., Madisonville

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Bill seeks to protect churches from seized offerings

By Kenny Byrd
Baptist Joint Committee

WASHINGTON (ABP)—Federal bankruptcy laws must be reformed to avert an "avalanche" of lawsuits demanding churches forfeit contributions given by individuals who later file bankruptcy, witnesses told lawmakers at a Feb. 12 hearing on a pending bill in Congress.

The Religious Liberty and Charitable Donation Protection Act is sponsored by Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, and Rep. Ron Packard, R-Calif. It would bar bankruptcy courts from confiscating contributions to religious organizations and other charities to pay creditors.

The measure would protect contributions up to 15 percent of the debtor's annual income or more if the debtor can show giving more than 15 percent to charities has been a consistent practice. It also would allow religious or charitable contributions to be included in the budget of a debtor after bankruptcy has been filed.

Courts recently have ruled that donations to churches are not protected from creditors because church contributors do not receive anything of reasonably equivalent value in exchange.

So-called "fraudulent transfers" are forbidden in bankruptcy law to protect creditors against debtors giving away money to avoid paying their debts.

But sponsors of the bill and religious leaders told the House Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law that courts have misinterpreted portions of the bankruptcy code in applying them to charitable gifts.

"Many of our churches and charities across this country live hand to mouth," Packard said. "What comes into the collection plate on one day is usually spent the next."

"When a creditor is allowed to sue a church or charity in order to recover a donation made possibly months earlier, the church or charity is usually put in a position of hardship," he said.

Stephen Goold, senior pastor of Crystal Evangelical Free Church, said his church's six-year battle to keep \$13,450 in tithes given by a couple during the year before they filed for bankruptcy "was the first in what has become hundreds of bad applications of good law."

Goold told lawmakers the church has spent more than \$300,000 in the protracted legal battle, which is still pending.

But Stephen Case, speaking on behalf of the National Bankruptcy Conference, opposed the bill. He said Congress "should not slice up our fraudulent transfer laws with special-interest exceptions, no matter how deserving the special-interest groups may be."

Case also said the bill would create "an opportunity for persons filing personal bankruptcy to stop off at the local charity and make a donation on their way to file bankruptcy."

A scholar of constitutional law disagreed.

"If I understand federal bankruptcy law, why would I drop off money at a charity on my way to the courthouse? I could drop it off in my retirement plan and then I could keep it," said Douglas Laycock, professor at the University of Texas Law School in Austin.

The current law already allows

courts to recover donations made to defraud or hinder a creditor, he noted.

"If I've been going on for years putting five dollars in the collection plate and all the sudden, before I file for bankruptcy, I clean out my last account and give 15 percent of my last year's income to my church, the trustee and the bankruptcy judge will look at the timing, the amount, the circumstances, the change in pattern and say ... 'you had the actual intent to defraud your creditors,'" Laycock said.

"So the fraud scenario is not going to happen," Laycock said. "What is going to happen is that the routine demand that churches refund contributions ... will come to an end."

Laycock said the fact that "courts cannot constitutionally quantify the value of religious benefits and services does not mean that these services have no value."

Steven McFarland, director of

the Christian Legal Society's Center for Law and Religious Freedom, said creditors have not been similarly able to recover funds spent at entertainment facilities such as casinos.

"The bankruptcy code must be amended out of simple fairness to the church. Presently, a debtor can blow all [his or her] money on wine, women and dance the night before filing bankruptcy and the creditor cannot recover that money," McFarland told Associated Baptist Press after the hearing.

"In fact, the only place they can recover money is the church," he added.

Some creditors are handing out credit cards "before you even ask for them," McFarland said. "So don't cry to me when one of these guys goes bankrupt. The church—what are they going to do? Run credit checks will they pass the offering plate?"



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NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Holocaust Museum director ousted.** The director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington has resigned under pressure, some of it stemming from his recent refusal to receive Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat as an honored guest of the museum. Walter Reich—a child of Holocaust survivors and a psychiatrist by training—resigned Feb. 18. In January, Reich, not knowing that Arafat already had been invited to tour the museum by State Department officials, declined to escort the Palestinian leader, reportedly because he did not want to thrust the museum into a highly charged political situation.

■ **New idea: Consecrated virgins.** At a time when the number of priests and nuns is on the decline—the result of aging and the fact that fewer young Catholics are taking up vocations—the Roman Catholic Church is encouraging people who choose less traditional ways of pursuing a spiritual life. One of those is a new concept called "consecrated virgins," women who pledge lifelong chastity and service under the guidance of a bishop without joining a religious order or leaving their secular jobs. About 80 Catholic women in the United States have taken such a vow.

■ **Conspiracy in new fires?** Authorities are investigating a possible conspiracy in a recent spate of arsons at five white churches in North Carolina. Sheriff's Capt. Johnny Phillips, who is leading the investigation of the most serious recent fire in Gastonia, N.C., said there have been similarities in the cases that have prompted suspicions of a conspiracy but he declined to describe them. Other sources said the arsonist or arsonists used similar materials and methods. Two of the churches targeted were Baptist congregations.

■ **Baptist leader arrested.** Henry Lyons, president of the National Baptist Convention USA Inc., has been arrested on charges of racketeering and grand theft following a seven-month investigation by prosecutors in St. Petersburg, Fla. State prosecutors accuse Lyons of crimes including stealing nearly \$200,000 intended for burned churches and using the convention's name to swindle nearly \$3 million from corporations. They also say he hid \$4.8 million in a secret bank account with no records of where the money came from or how it was spent. Lyons turned himself in Feb. 25 and was released on \$100,000 bail.

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Millennium*

April 27-29, 1998

(Monday evening—
Wednesday morning)

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Bible Teacher:
Peter Rhea Jones

Other Speakers:
Andy Lester
George Hunter, III
John Killinger
Nikky Finney, Poet
Bill Crouch

Registration fee: \$50

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or registration, contact:**
Elaine Suderman
(502) 863-1537

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William H. Crouch, Jr.
President

Evangelicals called to prayer and fasting

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (RNS)—It may seem a hard sell: asking Americans to fast and pray for 40 days, not unlike Jesus in the wilderness.

But Bill Bright, the evangelical Christian leader who founded Campus Crusade for Christ International, believes more than 2 million Americans will do just that this month.

Bright and other evangelical leaders are calling on Christians to "pray America back to God" in a nationwide fast from March 1 to April 9, a period overlapping much of the season of Lent—the 40-weekday period between Ash Wednesday and Easter.

Bright said he sees signs of that revival already. He cited Promise Keepers' success in gathering hundreds of thousands of men in prayer at the "Stand in the Gap" rally in Washington, D.C., last year. He said intensive prayer, repentance and fasting still are needed.

"Throughout history, whenever there is something really seriously wrong, or a desperate need arises, God seems to raise up people to fast and pray," Bright said in an interview.

Bright likens fasting's effect on

prayer to the atomic bomb's effect on World War II—it brings just as dramatic a result. "Fasting with prayer opens the floodgates of heaven."

Pray USA!, the organization coordinating the fast, recently sent letters to 250,000 Christian leaders and pastors to promote the fast.

Fasting is more frequently associated with Roman Catholicism, Orthodox Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Its new popularity among evangelicals is due in part to Bright, who has written extensively about his own fasting experiences.

Bright said when he did his first 40-day fast in 1994, "God impressed upon me that our nation was losing its soul. With all our wealth and power, we have become morally and spiritually bankrupt."

He said God called him to fast at that time for the United States, and for the fulfillment of "the Great Commission," Christ's command to take Christianity to all nations. Bright said during his fast, God revealed that a great spiritual revival would occur.

Bright said the year 2000 has divine significance and God is preparing to pour out "his spirit on the world in a way that's never happened before." Bright said he views the fast as an opportunity for Christians to draw closer to "the great heart of God," to unite in experiencing the most powerful of all the Christian disciplines, to humble themselves before their Creator.

Ken Hepner, pastor of Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church in

Mechanicsburg, Pa., said he tells congregants fasting can take a variety of forms: abstaining from all food, taking only juices and other liquids, eating just one meal a day or abstaining from particular foods.

Hepner, who said he did three extended fasts last year, said fasting can be physically grueling. But when you deny your body food, he said, you can feel your hunger for God. And you learn your strength to endure comes not from yourself but from God.

Fasting shows "the spirit of God is really the strength of the Christian," Hepner said.

Southern Baptist pastor Ronnie Floyd has become one of the most outspoken advocates of fasting in Baptist circles. Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark., said he began to fast one day a week in 1990, when his wife was diagnosed with cancer, which she survived.

Floyd said he completed his first 40-day fast in 1995 and repeated that discipline in 1996. "Prayer and fasting have been a gateway through which God has done many marvelous and wonderful things in my life, my family's lives and my ministry," he said. "I have resolved that I will not face a major decision in the future that affects my personal life, my family or my ministry without first seeking the Lord's will and purpose through prayer and fasting."

Materials for PrayUSA! '98 can be ordered by calling (888) 327-8464.

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

Bill Bright and other evangelical leaders are calling on Christians to "pray America back to God" in a nationwide fast from March 1 to April 9, a period overlapping much of the season of Lent.

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SBC annual meeting in Utah called 'divine appointment'

NASHVILLE (ABP)—This year's Southern Baptist Convention in Salt Lake City will be a "divine appointment" for Baptists, Utah-Idaho's top Baptist executive told Southern Baptist leaders Feb. 16.

"Utah has never experienced what they are getting ready to experience this summer," Jim Harding, executive director of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, said in a report to the SBC Executive Committee. "There has never been a major evangelical group come into Utah and do what we are planning to do this summer."

"It is an answer to prayer ... for Southern Baptists to center their great resources on this area," Harding said. "There's so much more than a meeting going to take place this summer. ... This is, my friends, a divine appointment, I am convinced."

Harding likened ministering in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints stronghold to being in a foreign country. Baptist pastors cannot be bivocational because they and their families will be "blacklisted" by Mormon employers and unable to find secular work, he said. "There is a spiritual cloud of oppressiveness that I can only describe to you. You would have to experience it to understand it."

When Baptist leaders first began discussing holding a convention in Utah, Harding said, he was asked why Southern Baptists should go there. "The reason Southern Baptists must come to Salt Lake City is if we are who we say we are, and that is a people on mission for Christ, we must go where we have never been before and share the gospel."

Harding asked Southern Baptists to begin praying for evangelistic outreach at the annual meeting.

"I plead with you to go home ... to your friends, to your churches, to your associations, to your states and begin bathing the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention and everything associated with it ... begin bathing it in prayer as never before."

Texas Baptists shun gay deacon's church

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (ABP)—The Baptist General Convention of Texas has distanced itself from an Austin church that ordained a homosexual as a deacon.

The state convention's executive board voted Feb. 24 no longer to accept contributions from University Baptist Church in Austin. The board also asked the church to stop publishing materials indicating it is affiliated with the state convention.

The action additionally called on the convention to decline funds from "any other church which openly endorses moral views in conflict with biblical teaching."

While the rebuke is intended to separate the convention from the church, the only mechanism for an official ouster is to refuse to seat messengers at the state convention's annual meeting.

The Austin congregation has not sought to enroll messengers at the convention since 1995, the year it ordained a gay deacon.

That fall, the church was removed from Austin Association, and the state convention created a committee to consider whether to amend its constitution to ban churches that ordain homosexuals.

In 1996, the BGCT declined to amend its constitution, noting the convention's credentials committee already had authority to refuse seating to messengers from churches per-

ceived to deviate from standard faith and practice.

However, the convention approved a statement saying homosexual practice is "contrary to God's purposes and thus sinful" and "in conflict with the Bible."

The issue resurfaced last fall, when convention leaders learned the church listed its affiliation with the BGCT on the Internet while also reporting the church has ordained a gay deacon and news about a homosexual group that meets at the church.

In early February, the BGCT administrative committee voted unanimously to present the recommendation considered by the executive board Feb. 24.

Two factors shaped that decision, reported administrative committee chairman Charles Davenport, pastor of First Baptist Church in Tullia.

"The convention clearly has spoken on the issue of homosexuality," Davenport said, through the 1996 statement and other resolutions.

In addition, the Austin church "clearly affirms a position—through the election of a homosexual as deacon and through public media—that is in conflict with the convention position," he said.

"If the church was simply ministering to the homosexual community, we could commend them for their effort," Davenport insisted. "But clearly, their position goes beyond ministry to homosexual persons and becomes an affirmation of their practice."

Although the church has an "autonomous right" to determine its ministries, "we need to remember that the convention also is an autonomous body and has the right and responsibility to determine those who will participate," he added.

The action is not "singling out homosexual persons for particular condemnation," Davenport said. He encouraged Texas Baptists to "lovingly minister to them and their families in the same way we minister to all persons."

Larry Bethune, the church's pastor, pleaded with the board to defeat the proposal.

"It sends one more damaging, damning message to homosexual persons and their families," he said. The action sounds "a message that can only be heard as hatred in the name of Christ."

"You may not all agree with the way our church ministers with gays and lesbians and their families—in fact, we don't all agree at UBC—but we are creating one of the few safe places for your Baptist homosexual children to work out their salvation with fear and trembling," he said.

The proposal also should be defeated because "it's not Baptist," since it overrules the autonomy of an individual congregation, Bethune added.

"Will we require all churches to agree on a matter of biblical interpretation?" Bethune asked. "If so, how long will the list be, or is this the only issue which will be used like a creed as a test of orthodoxy?"

Hall of famers

By Robert Dunston

On Saturday, Feb. 21, Cumberland College inducted five individuals into the Cumberland College Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame.

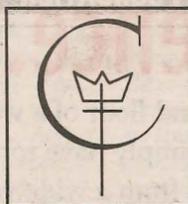
David Keith Banks, played golf for Cumberland College from 1981 to 1986 winning 16 tournaments. Three times he won the Kentucky Independent College Tournament and was selected four times as All-KIAC. Following graduation, Banks played successfully on the Hogan and Canadian professional tours and taught at David Ledbetter Golf Academy in Orlando, Florida.

James Crawford, played basketball at Cumberland College in the early 1980's helping his team win the 1980 district championship. That same year he was selected as KIAC Player of the Year. The following year he was All-KIAC and All-District. Twice he scored 35 points per game and three times gathered 17 rebounds in a game. Crawford toured for a time with the NAIA All-Stars team in Australia and currently plays for the Perth Wildcats.

Dr. O.J. "Doc" Helvey founded Cumberland's judo program. In 1970 the team won its first major tournament and would go on to win

the men's and women's National Championships eight times. The 1984, 1988 and 1992 Olympic teams featured Cumberland judo team members with one winning a bronze medal. Three times Helvey was honored as National Collegiate Judo Coach of the Year. He also served as the NAIA representative on the Olympic Committee and as coach of the World University Games.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Soni Smith was the first Cumberland College basketball player to score 2,000 career points. Seven of the records she set at Cumberland still stand including single-game scoring and scoring in a season. Her awards include being honored as All-Conference, All-District and All-American.

Wade "Scotty" Perkins played basketball for Cumberland from 1946 to 1948 finishing his academic career at Georgia Teachers College. In 1951 the New York Knicks drafted Perkins, and in 1954 he was selected for the U.S. team for the Pan Am Games. He has been honored once as Georgia Junior College Coach of the Year and twice as Regional Coach of the Year.

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



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Future in question for all-volunteer Promise Keepers

Virginia Culver
Religion News Service

DENVER (RNS)—Experts on Christian marketing and fund raising predict tough times ahead for Promise Keepers in the wake of the organization's decision to become completely donation-based.

Meanwhile, founder Bill McCartney recently told a group of pastors that he believes God wants every Christian church to contribute \$1,000 to the evangelical Christian men's group.

The Denver-based ministry said Feb. 18 it will lay off its entire 345 paid staff members March 31 and continue operations with volunteers.

"It's a step of faith, because even though it may not make sense on paper, it makes spiritual sense," said Mark DeMoss, whose organization has done public relations work for Promise Keepers. "I think it's certainly possible they can bounce back, or possibly not bounce back."

DeMoss' agency represented Promise Keepers for the past three years, but their contract ended Jan. 31 primarily because of the ministry's financial problems.

"Quitting cold turkey like this is

up for debate, and this will put the organization in a tight squeeze," said Paul Nelson, president of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, a kind of Better Business Bureau for evangelical organizations.

"But there's a lot of good will out there and Promise Keepers has been good for the country," Nelson said, so the organization can be optimistic about getting donors.

Everyone in the organization—from founder Bill McCartney on down—will now receive no salaries or honorariums because leaders feel they can attract more men—especially "lukewarm Christians or non-Christians"—if there is no charge for attending events.

Until last fall, Promise Keepers charged \$60 for the stadium events they held around the country. But leaders announced then they would no longer charge admission, even though 72 percent of their income had come from registration fees.

Promise Keepers gets good marks from the Washington, D.C.-based Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, which acts as a watchdog to make sure its members adhere to the ECFA rules for



UNCERTAINTY Leaders are unsure how many staff will hold on at ministry's headquarters as volunteers. (RNS photo)

evangelical non-profits.

He said his organization knew in advance what Promise Keepers planned. "Their board members are highly reputable and they have networked with people on this to get advice," he said. However, his organization gives no advice.

"It will take an awful lot of donations to fuel this operation," said Nelson. He declined to say how much Promise Keepers officials earned, but added, "There are no obscene salaries."

McCartney proposed a new way of receiving donations in a speech Feb. 19 at a Promise Keepers clergy conference in St. Petersburg, Fla.

"What I'm going to say right now is hard, but I believe it's what God has given me to say," McCartney told the audience of 3,000, according to the St. Petersburg Times. "I believe that every church that names the name of Jesus is supposed to give Promise Keepers \$1,000."

Fund raising for any group, secular or religious, isn't easy, said Sylvia Ronsvalle, executive vice president of empty tomb inc., a Chicago organization that researches church giving.

"Churches are at a crossroads. Americans no longer give to churches because it's the right thing to do," said Ronsvalle. "The idea of the culturally good American giving to church and charities has been eroded. Now the attitude is, 'What's in it for me?' Guilt no longer works."

DeMoss said Promise Keepers has made a "dramatic reversal" in its operation, an "overnight approach, rather than a gradual shift," such as just cutting registration fees in half.

"By now they would have collected several million dollars in advance registration for this year's events," he said. "One of the dangers of success for a ministry is when it has the perception of being cash rich. People read about that in the newspapers and view the organization as rich. But the money came in and went out. There was no extra."

Money-raising efforts will have to make that clear to donors, he said. "It'll take a while for the word to sink in."

DeMoss said he probably wouldn't have come up with the donor-based system for Promise Keepers, "but if I had been on the board, I have so much respect for Bill McCartney and his genuine devotion to following God's leading that I would have supported this decision."

PK schedule released for 1998

Despite financial setbacks that have resulted in laying off the entire paid staff of Promise Keepers, the organization has announced its schedule of stadium conferences for 1998.

The conferences will be free, rather than costing \$60 per person as in previous years.

The planned dates and locations are:

- May 15-16, Detroit.
- May 22-23, Little Rock, Ark.
- May 22-23, Los Angeles.
- June 5-6, Fresno, Calif.
- June 12-13, St. Petersburg, Fla.
- June 12-13, Knoxville, Tenn.
- June 19-20, Columbia, Mo.
- July 10-11, Philadelphia.
- July 17-18, Minneapolis.
- July 24-25, Indianapolis.
- July 31-Aug. 1, Eugene, Ore.
- Aug. 7-8, Omaha, Neb.
- Aug. 14-15, Grand Rapids, Mich.
- Aug. 21-22, Houston.
- Sept. 18-19, Tucson, Ariz.
- Sept. 25-26, Milwaukee.
- Oct. 2-3, Columbia, S.C.
- Oct. 9-10, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- Oct. 9-10, Sacramento, Calif.

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A growing number of Kentucky Baptist churches are becoming aware of the excellent church investment management service of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. More and more churches and associations are using this service, and I would consider it a privilege to present the details to the appropriate group in your church. There is no cost or obligation for the 45- to 60-minute presentation.

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Call (888) 254-5701 to arrange a presentation.

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

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Barry Allen

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- The Ivanosova, Moscow, church where International Service Corps volunteer Joyce Arkebauer is a member.

- The 20 projects planned for this final year of the Kentucky/Russia partnership.

- Preparations for the Kentucky/New England partnership trip to Greece, April 25-May 9.

- English as Second Language teachers needed in Baptist ministries at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

- **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University recently named **Joan McKinney** director of public relations and marketing. McKinney previously was news writer, public relations assistant and assistant director. Also, **Nancy Money** of Hodgenville has been appointed director of development.

- **FISHERVILLE**—Green Hills Church will host **David Livingston**, pastor of Gethsemane Church in Louisville, in concert March 6 at 7 a.m.

- **FALMOUTH**—Turner Ridge Church will hold revival services March 29-April 3 at 7 p.m. **Todd Toole**, pastor of Hickory Grove Church in Independence, will be the evangelist. **Norman Workman** is pastor.

- **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood Church called **Richard Long** as minister of youth. Long began his new ministry March 1.

- **GEORGETOWN**—**Nancy and Chip Miller** of Louisville spoke to more than 150 students at Georgetown College recently on "The Human Face of AIDS." The Millers told of their experiences and those of their son, Stephen, who died of the disease in 1989. The presentation was sponsored by the Georgetown College Marshall Center for Christian Ministry.

- **LOUISVILLE**—Ridgewood

Church is presenting a family forum series on parenting concepts March 8 at 6 p.m., led by Pastor **Louis Twyman**, certified marriage and family therapist. Call (502) 935-1952 for information and registration.

- **McDANIELS**—Rough River Church will host **Mark Lanier** in a gospel music concert March 15 at 6 p.m. **George Tichenor** is pastor.

- **MIDDLEBURG**—Middleburg Church recently called **Tim Roberts** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Pilot Church in Eubank.

- **PHILPOT**—Dawson Church ordained **Robert Cook** to the deacon ministry Feb. 15. **Craig Bratcher** is pastor.

- **POOLE**—Poole Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary March 15. Former pastors **W.C. Campbell** and **Melvin Williams** will speak at the all-day event. Revival services will be led by **Bob Walters**, **Alan Kazee** and **Chris Reynolds** March 16-20. Call Pastor **Jeff Burke** at (502) 639-9165 or (502) 533-9993 for more information.

- **SCOTTSVILLE**—Scottsville Church honored **Jeanne Hurt** on her retirement March 1 after serving 31 years as church secretary.

- **WALKER**—Walker Missionary Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary June 14. **William Mixon** is pastor. For more information, call (606) 546-4286.

Religious class injunction appealed

FORT MEYERS, Fla. (RNS)—The School District of Lee County, Fla., has appealed an injunction by a federal judge who blocked its plans to offer an elective course on the New Testament.

Wayne Perry, public information officer for the district, which is based in Fort Myers, said the appeal was filed Feb. 19.

"The appeal has been filed, but if they reach a settlement, they will withdraw the appeal," he said.

District officials have been attempting to negotiate with a group of parents and other county residents who are concerned that the curriculum violates the separation of church and state.

About 150 students at seven of the district's eight high schools are enrolled in the controversial Bible history classes.

U.S. District Judge Elizabeth Ko-

vachevich decided Jan. 20 to permit the first of two courses, which covers the Old Testament, to be taught.

But the judge questioned whether the second course, which includes the New Testament teachings on miracles and Jesus' resurrection, can be taught as secular history.

The Old Testament classes, which started Jan. 22, are being videotaped so plaintiffs in the lawsuit can see how the instruction is being handled.

Perry said teachers are supposed to treat the Bible's discussion of events as "one account of a historical fact but not a literal account."

He said teachers were concerned about the cameras, but have begun adjusting to their presence.

"The first week or two, they were very conscious of the cameras and so were the students," he said. "Now that they've been doing it for a while, it's not quite a distraction."

Family Life Conferences Offered

March 20 & 21

Three family life conferences are being offered by Henderson Memorial Church in Hopkinsville. These are: 1. Single Parenting; 2. Parenting; and 3. Marriage Enrichment. Topics include: Room Cleaning 101—How to Involve Teens; Hi, Bill, meet Sue, you know, your wife; Child Discipline—What works, no designer jeans please; I can't do this alone—A single parent laments; and others. Bonus conference for military spouses included. Dr. Ron Mumbower, head of family life and help ministry at FBC, Jackson, Miss., will lead. Ron was recently published in the Jan. 18 issue of "Pursuits" teacher's Sunday school lesson. Call (502) 886-3223 for free brochure.

Senior night, part 1

It is that time of the year when we begin to think about graduation. About 60 of our students will graduate in May. Some have been here seven years, while others have come just this year.

We had our final home basketball game last week. This is always "Senior Night," and our students are even more pumped up for the game than usual. It is also a time to honor those seniors who have been a part of our winter sports and co-curricular activities, including basketball, swimming, cheerleading and band.

Chris is the most senior of the seniors. Chris came to Oneida from Texas in 1992 when he was repeating sixth grade. We were told Chris was "very friendly and never met a stranger" and "always wants to please." His parents said Chris was a pleasant child but had always struggled with grades. They believed smaller classes and more individual attention would be a big help academically. We tested Chris and came to the same conclusion. Chris just missed being on the honor roll the first quarter of the sixth grade, but made the honor roll the rest of the year and finished with a 3.75 grade point average. He did so well his parents kept him home the next year to see if he could do as well there.

As happens so many times, his grades began a downhill spiral. Chris returned to Oneida at the beginning of his freshman year. His grades began to improve immediately, and he finished his freshman and sophomore years with 3.75 and 3.0 grade point averages respectively.

Chris was diagnosed with diabetes his sophomore year and had to return home that summer. He was unable to come back to Oneida until his senior year. He failed to make the honor roll the first quarter this year, but made the honor roll at the end of second quarter. Chris has been involved

in band, drama and swimming, and he is a Baptist Student Union leader. He plans to attend a college in Texas this fall.

Mike came to Oneida in 1993 in the seventh grade. Like Chris, Mike was struggling academically. Mike admits to being lazy and has never made the grades he is capable of making. He decided to return to public school his freshman year. A serious car accident requiring more than 300 stitches in his head caused him to think about Oneida again. He believed he would be a lot safer here, so he returned for the second semester. Mike has been involved in baseball, basketball, drama and wrestling at Oneida. He will graduate with about a 2.5 grade point average.

Andy also came to Oneida in the seventh grade. We were told Andy had a "hot temper, low self-esteem," was "rebellious and belligerent." He also was making failing grades, but his parents believed he could do much better. His grades did improve and Andy had a 2.88 grade point average by the end of the eighth grade. Improvements in the other areas were not as good.

For various reasons, Andy did not return his freshman year. Two years later we got a call from his mother saying Andy desperately needed to return. His grades were very bad and his other problems were much worse. We agreed to take Andy back his junior year, but on a strict probation. While there definitely have been ups and downs, Andy has made much improvement. He has been active in band and drama, and is a small group leader in BSU. Andy is making average grades, and it is my opinion that if Oneida had not forgiven him "70 times seven" he wouldn't have made it through high school.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

A life transformed by love

A popular song title, "What's love got to do with it?" introduced the senior chapel message of Maryland student Alan Bandy. Love made the difference in his life.

At age seven, Bandy's fighting parents divorced. "Bitterness hid Mom's love. After I was held back in second grade, other kids teased me a lot, and by high school I felt empty and like a nobody," Bandy said. A psychiatrist accused him of

quences."

Necoe's dad gave Bandy a surprising word, "God told me he had something else in store for you." He started attending church and a weekly Bible study with the pastor. In September 1991, he became a Christian—"overwhelmed by the presence of God." In the following months the Lord delivered Bandy from drugs and alcohol. He announced a call to preach in 1992 and heard about Clear Creek from his pastor, a 1973 graduate.

"The school catalog said students couldn't smoke; that was the most difficult part of the Lord's deliverance," he said. Bandy took college courses, read many books, studied the Bible and worked at a Christian book store. In August 1994 he enrolled at Clear Creek and the next year he and Necoe married.

The Lord restored his relationships with his parents. "My time at Clear Creek has revealed God more completely. I realize there is so much I don't know," Bandy said. The immediate future includes Mid-America Seminary and overseas missions. God used many people to accomplish what Bandy describes. "I am a life transformed by love."

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

'God wins' anniversary debate on theism

By Sonya Jongsma
Religion News Service

MADISON, Wis. (RNS)—Does God exist?

Two prominent contemporary philosophers recently took up the question before an audience of 4,000 in Madison, Wis., to commemorate a famous debate on the subject 50 years ago.

In 1948, unbelieving philosopher Bertrand Russell and believing philosopher F.C. Copleston debated this perennial question on a BBC broadcast.

This time, renowned philosopher Anthony Flew and Christian philosopher William Lane Craig drew a diverse crowd from across the United States and England for the event with two unlikely co-sponsors—the Veritas Forum, made up of local church organizations, and the Freedom From Religion Foundation, the Madison-based national atheist organization.

At the end of the evening, audience members—believers and non-believers, skeptics and faithful—seemed to agree God won. Craig, they said, had the more eloquent debating form and clearer, if not always mind-changing, arguments.

Self-described atheist and mathematics professor David Moulton, for example, acknowledged that although Craig's arguments didn't change his mind, he was disappointed with Flew's defenses.

"In terms of technical debating, Dr. Craig did a better job," Moulton said.

Craig led off the debate with five arguments, clearly explained and de-

finied, to prove "theism is more plausibly true than atheism."

His arguments, which he described as independent from each other but making a powerful case when taken together, were:

- The universe exists, so it must have a cause.

- The complex order that exists in the universe is so highly improbable it points to a designer of the cosmos.

- There exists universally accepted moral values.

- Historical evidence supports Jesus' resurrection, a divine miracle that is evidence of the existence of God.

- God can be immediately and personally experienced.

Flew, billed as the atheist in the debate, apologized from the outset for taking a more defensive approach.

In his opening statement, rather than laying out his position, Flew responded to Craig's first speech.

"I'm not going to try to show that there is no God, but that there are no sufficient reasons to believe there is," he said.

Both men appeared to be operating under the assumption that the God being debated has the attributes of the God described in the Bible. Flew, who quoted Aquinas, Luther and Calvin, attacked Christian doctrine as part of his defense against the probability of the existence of God.

"If God was omnipotent, shouldn't you expect results?" Flew asked. "Obviously he's not interested in human behavior. It's not compatible with your beliefs to have a torturer run the universe," he said. Flew called the idea of hell completely unjust and told

the audience: "The God Dr. Craig is asking us to believe in is a sort of cosmic Saddam Hussein."

Craig criticized Flew for straying from the debate topic and trying to prove the non-existence of hell rather than the non-existence of God. "It isn't that God sends people to hell, but that people of their own free will reject God," Craig said.

Seeming at times more agnostic than atheist, Flew described people as "finite, limited beings" who can't know anything outside of the universe.

"We're all creatures and our only experience has been in this universe. Craig and others are too bold to think they could know the cause of the universe," Flew said.

However, Flew did admit the validity of several of Craig's arguments, including that the universe must have had some sort of cause, and that morality is not subjective.

Jon Dahl, one of the debate organizers and head of a campus Christian group, said the debate achieved its goal: to bring up the big questions and get people talking about them. He called the debate a "creative, non-conventional way to reach out to the community."

If audience members had to name a winner, most said it would be Craig.

Judy Hoggatt traveled to Madison from Milwaukee to hear the debate. She said a debate over the existence of God can't really have a winner.

"Neither of them can really prove their side—that's not what faith is," she said. "There is no tangible evidence; we have to believe based on faith."

English churches using Diana tragedy to boost attendance

LONDON (RNS)—Churches in England are mounting an advertising campaign hoping to tap into the spirituality manifested in the outpouring of grief after last year's death of Princess Diana to encourage the notoriously non-church-going English to think about going to church at Easter.

The Easter poster campaign launched by the Churches' Advertising Network features a bank of floral tributes like those placed outside Kensington Palace following Diana's death, as well as at other recent sites of public mourning, such as the massacre of schoolchildren in Dunblane, Scotland, and the blowing up of the PanAm airliner over Lockerbie.

The posters carry the slogan: "If all this started you thinking, carry on at church this Easter."

The campaign is designed to awaken the interest of those outside the church. It is a low-cost operation dependent on Christians in the advertising industry giving their services free and making available billboards that have no commercial bookings during the two weeks before Easter.

The campaign also offers material to individual churches and congregations to use at the local level, and 36,000 information sheets and order forms have been sent to churches throughout England.

It has the support of the Church of England, the Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, Baptist churches and the Salvation Army.

According to one of the chief organizers, Robert Ellis, communications officer for the Anglican diocese of Lichfield, the effort is not merely a "bums-on-pews" campaign.

Instead, he said, it has four main aims: "to keep the rumor of God alive; to shift people's image of the church as middle-class, pompous, irrelevant and out of touch; to try to underline the spiritual message of ... Easter; and to extend a welcome."

In 1996, the network's Christmas campaign ran into criticism over its poster with an image of Mary and the slogan: "Bad Hair Day?! You're a virgin, you've just given birth, and now three kings have shown up."

Thomas Nelson survives bumps to be key Christian publisher

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

NASHVILLE (RNS)—Two hundred years ago, a man named Thomas Nelson wanted to put books into the hands of the common people of Scotland. Now, the company still bearing his name is a key player in an American industry striving to make Bibles and other Christian literature more accessible to average consumers.

"In the past, Bibles were made basically at the whim of scholars, what they thought was important," said Sam Moore, CEO of Thomas Nelson Publishers in Nashville.

Moore, who as a recent immigrant from Lebanon sold Bibles door to door to pay his tuition, said he learned everyday people wanted Scriptures that weren't just for scholars.

"My dream was to make a Bible that the average person can understand," Moore said in a recent interview.

His dream came true by taking advantage of "niche" marketing, in which numerous Bibles and other products have been created and aimed at specific categories of people, such as students, women, children and Af-

rican-Americans.

But Moore, 67, has accomplished much more.

His company, with net revenues of \$243 million at the end of fiscal 1997, not only is a premier Bible publisher, but also produces Christian books, children's materials and gifts that fill the shelves of Christian and secular bookstores. Thomas Nelson is the only Christian publishing company traded on the New York Stock Exchange.

The company Moore has shaped into a publishing powerhouse began 200 years ago, when an 18-year-old Scottish man opened a second-hand bookshop in Edinburgh. One of Nelson's aims was to publish classic literature, such as English preacher John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" and the Bible in inexpensive editions so "common folk" could purchase them.

Today, Moore sees parallels between his work and that of Nelson.

"He was my hero," Moore said. "When I read the story about this company, I felt pulled toward him. What this man is about, that's what I am about. ... This is a man who's trying to meet the needs of the people."

Moore is particularly proud of the company's production of the New

King James Version, now the third best-selling Bible in the evangelical Christian market. The linguistic revision, finalized in 1982, took seven years to complete and has sold about 30 million copies.

"I felt grateful to God for allowing a company like Thomas Nelson to update the Holy Scripture for the average layman in their language, in their tongue," Moore said.

Though the NKJV was a success, Moore admits to making many mistakes during the nearly three decades he has led the company.

He said his biggest blunder related to a translation the company decided not to publish—the now-popular New International Version.

"The NIV was offered to us first and we didn't take the translation," he said. "This is the best-selling translation now."

Moore said his company chose not to upset its relationship with the American Bible Society—with which it was working on another Bible project—and his financial officer didn't think it feasible to work on two translations at the same time.

Zondervan Publishing House, now a division of HarperCollins, got the NIV instead.

"If he had been able to get the NIV ... that could have really changed the whole direction of his company," said Bruce Ryskamp, president and CEO

of Zondervan. "The NIV is very foundational to Zondervan."

In Christian publishing, Zondervan, Thomas Nelson and Word are known as the "three big guys," said Publishers Weekly's Garrett. When Thomas Nelson bought Word in 1992 from Capital Cities/ABC, the purchase greatly increased Nelson's clout and placed Word's music as well as its publishing divisions under one umbrella.

"Since they acquired Word, they are by far the largest Christian publisher," Garrett said.

With the acquisition of Word, Thomas Nelson now publishes best-selling authors such as evangelist Billy Graham, fiction writer Frank Peretti and Dallas Theological Seminary president Chuck Swindoll.

But the company had trouble meeting the challenge of competing in the music industry, which was about a third of its revenue. In 1997, Thomas Nelson sold the Word Records and Music division to Gaylord Entertainment Co.

Ross, of the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association, called Moore the "quintessential evangelical entrepreneur" who, like others, has had his ups and downs.

"The mark of success ... isn't if you don't fall down," said Ross. "It's whether or not you get back up. Sam's been able to do that in a sterling way."



Moore

"The NIV was offered to us first and we didn't take the translation. This is the best-selling translation now."

Sam Moore, CEO of Thomas Nelson Publishers

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