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Study: Holy Grail likely a simple clay cup

JERUSALEM (RNS)—The Holy Grail, the legendary communal wine cup used by Jesus at the Last Supper, was probably a humble clay cup.

That's the conclusion of research by Stephen Pfann, director of the Center for the Study of Early Christianity in Jerusalem.

Pfann, an American Bible scholar, studied pottery items used in ritual dinners by the Jewish sect at Qumran that created the Dead Sea Scrolls.

"They (the pottery items) are contemporary with those used probably by Jesus and his disciples, the closest thing that we have to it," he told Ecumenical News International.

Pfann said the pottery found in two pantries in Qumran was "thin-sided." It often was called "metallic ware ... It isn't metal but when you click it with your finger it gives a ring."

Pfann said there was scant evidence of wine cups being made of fancy material, despite popular historic images of the Holy Grail as an ornate metal cup, stone chalice or a goblet.

Jerome Murphy-O'Connor, a prominent scholar and priest at the Ecole Biblique (Bible School), a Catholic institute in Jerusalem, agreed the famous cup was probably not metal.

"The stuff at Qumran is probably the stuff that Jesus would have used," he said. "I would think that since they were poor people it would be what the poor had used, namely not a metal cup but a clay cup."

But a former curator of the Israeli Antiquities Authority disagreed. Fancy tableware would have been used during a Passover Seder like the Last Supper, said Joe Zias. A "pedestrian" clay cup would not have been appropriate at such a special meal.

Kentucky-Russia link fuels other success

By Marty Croll
SBC International Mission Board

MOSCOW (BP)—The race is on in Russia.

In this vast and complex republic where countless local kingpins resist the gospel, Baptists and other evangelicals are pitted against time to secure a foothold for the King of Kings.

Gone are the days of the glitzy, big-name crusades that came rushing in from the West to fill the spiritual vacuum just after the former Soviet Union declared religious liberty for itself in 1990.

Now it remains for Russian evan-

gelicals themselves to work for the conversion of their countrymen.

Since 1994, Kentucky Baptists have worked with their Russian counterparts to build church buildings, plant new congregations and work together in ministry, evangelism and some theological education.

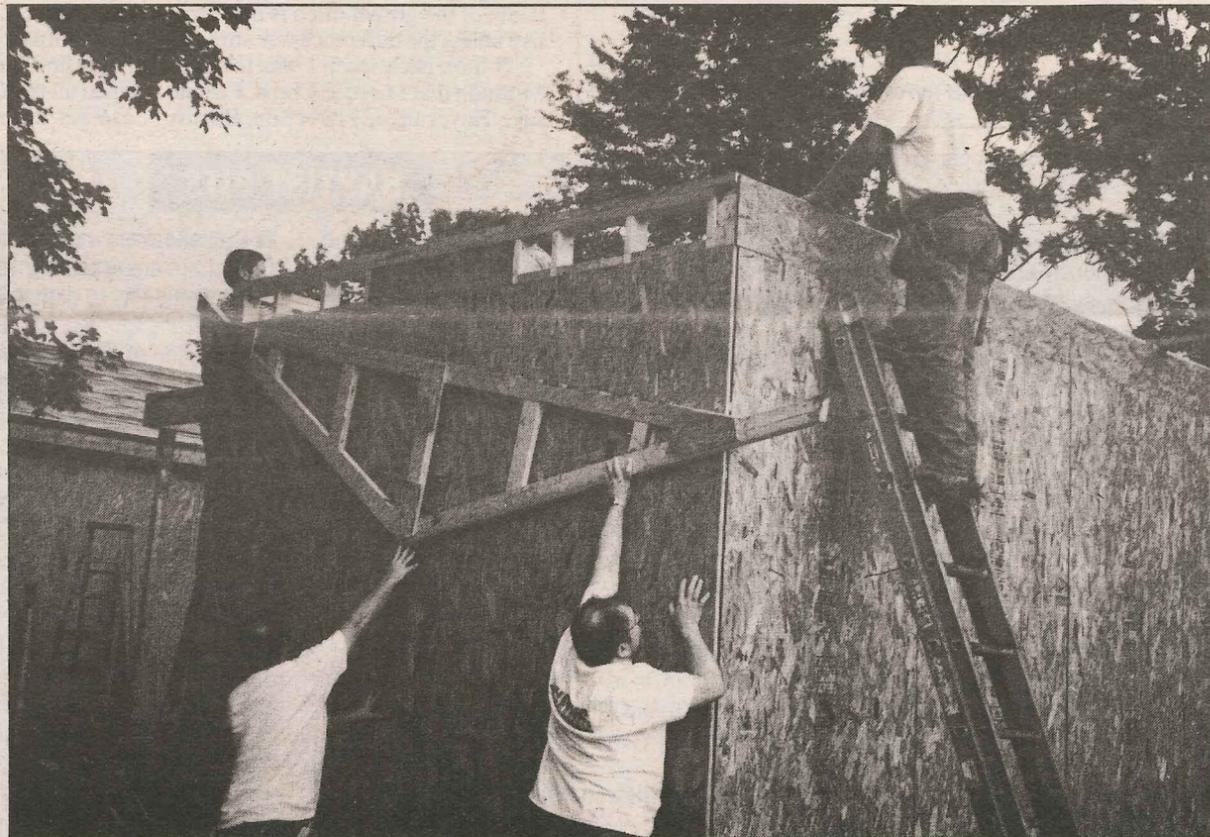
Both Russian Baptists and Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries say the five-year partnership, which ends this year, has paved the way for other partnerships.

Already, Alaskan Baptists have linked with Russian Baptists in the far eastern part of the country. Also,

the Baptist association in Dallas is partnering with Baptists in Russia's Ural mountain area, said Calvin Wilkins, director of the partnership missions for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

IMB missionaries say God's work is evident in Russia—despite the objections of resurgent nationalists and religious leaders who say that to be Russian is to be Orthodox and who eventually want all missionaries out.

"Almost every Sunday, at almost every service we attend where Russian brothers are preaching, one or two folks come forward and accept
□ See Goal: 800 Russian ..., page 9



RAISING THE ROOF Volunteers from Baptist churches in the Louisville area work May 29 on a Habitat for Humanity house in the city's Portland neighborhood. Eleven Louisville-area churches joined forces to build the house, with each church contributing a share of the cost for materials and the volunteer labor. Lisa Sturtivan, a working mother with two children, will move into the new house sometime this summer. Churches participating in the project were Highland, Ridgewood, Springdale, Melbourne Heights, Midlane Park, Deer Park, Hunsinger Lane, Walnut Street, Crescent Hill, St. Matthews and Broadway. The project was directed by Conway Stone, a motivational speaker and member of Highland Baptist Church.

Cordial clash predicted as Baptists go to Mormon country

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

SALT LAKE CITY (RNS)—Two of the nation's most aggressively evangelistic faith groups are gearing up for what could be a monumental case of tit-for-tat.

Southern Baptists are heading to Utah, a place they view as a new mission field. Mormons, long the majority in that part of the country, hope the Baptists' visit will provide an opportunity to dispel what they view as a caricature of their church crafted in part by Baptists.

One thing's for sure: A theological culture clash is about to unfold in Salt Lake City when the Southern Baptist Convention meets there for the

first time June 9-11.

"Baptists, I don't think, will apologize for going to Salt Lake City and evangelizing," said Phil Roberts, the director of the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's interfaith witness division.

"Maybe we're just in some way, shape or form returning the favor of the Mormons knocking on our door six days out of the week," added Roberts, referring to Mormon missionaries who go door to door.

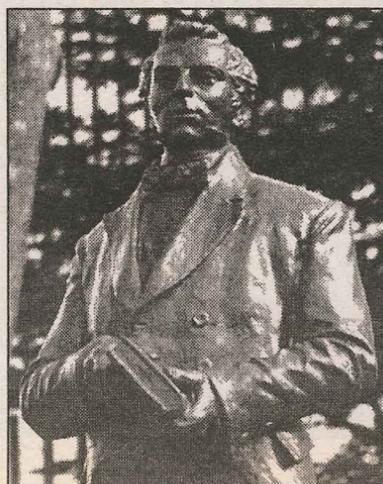
Stephen Robinson, an expert on Judeo-Christian scripture at Mormon-operated Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, agreed.

"Most of the Latter-day Saints that I know have been involved either themselves or sending their children

on missions in other parts of the world and feel that turnabout is fair play," said Robinson. "If we've been sending missionaries to their parts of the world, it's only fair that they should come to ours. I personally welcome them."

While Southern Baptists are gearing up for a Utah media blitz with television spots, offers of videos about Jesus and the distribution of evangelistic newspapers, leadership of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—as the Mormon Church is officially called—is reminding its members to treat the visiting Baptists civilly.

Mormon officials say they have no plans for counter-evangelistic efforts.
□ See Cordial clash ..., page 10



FOUNDING PROPHET Joseph Smith

Moving? See page 4 (0602)

BAPTISTS

Going to SBC? Here's advice on relating to Mormons

SALT LAKE CITY (BP)—If you're among the several thousand Southern Baptists headed to Salt Lake City next week for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, how should you interact with local Mormons?

A courteous and respectful attitude is essential, of course, according to several Baptist leaders, in reaching Mormons with the biblical gospel.

If you intend to engage in doctri-

nal discussions or witness to individuals who may be Mormons, these Baptist experts advise getting across a few critical beliefs that set Mormonism apart from historic Christianity. Among those are the doctrines of God, Jesus and salvation.

"If you're talking to a Mormon, the most important thing is to show that we as Christians worship eternal God who never was a man," said Rauni Higley, a former Mormon who with her husband, Dennis, now operates a Christian ministry to Mormons in Salt Lake City. "It is something that the Mormons really do not get."

Mormons teach that God once was a man, and Jesus was merely the first-born of billions of spirit-sons of God on earth. They teach Mormons can eventually achieve that same godhood, with responsibilities for entire worlds of their own if they are faithful to the church.

Higley said a conventional presentation of the gospel often is not effective unless the differences are stressed.

"I look back when I was told as a Mormon that I needed Christ. I would say, 'Hey, I already have him. But my

church is superior to yours because we have a living prophet,'" Higley said. "You witness to a Mormon about Christ and they just look at you and say, 'What do you mean?' ... You have to tell them, 'The Christ I am telling you about is different from the Christ you are talking about.'"

Higley advised against getting distracted by such issues as the life and character of Mormonism founder Joseph Smith or secret temple rituals.

Phil Roberts, director of interfaith witness evangelism for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, said the first thing in approaching an adherent of any faith group is to have a thorough understanding of the essential doctrines of Christianity. Also, Christians should understand the basic doctrines of Mormonism and be sure to have Mormons define the terms they're using.

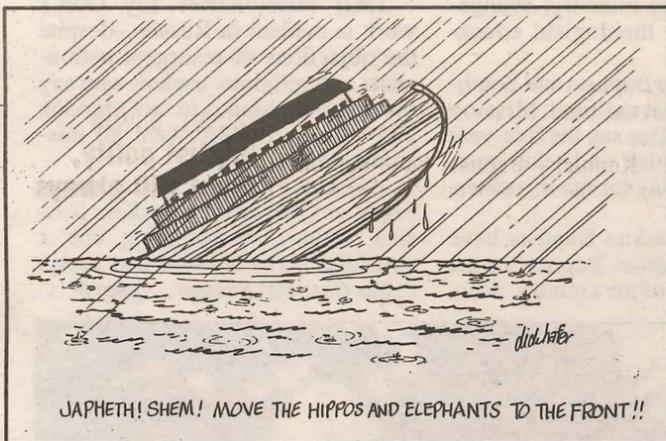
"When you listen at face value you might say, 'These are wonderful Christians.' ... Well if you understand the unique doctrines Mormonism holds and the fact that they've redefined all the Christian terms, then you can get to the heart of what they're

talking about," he said.

Roberts also advised stressing the nature of God and Jesus Christ in presenting the gospel, as well as the centrality of faith in salvation.

"For a Mormon, everybody is going to have a better life, even Adolph Hitler. But did he have faith? No. The word of God says 'By grace through faith we are saved.' We have to emphasize to the Mormon we are under condemnation, all have sinned and we must by faith have expectation of a better life to come." Hitler is one of many non-Mormons who have been baptized by proxy in a Mormon temple after their death.

The close presence to the SBC's meeting hall of Temple Square—a tourist attraction and focus of Mormon proselytization efforts—raises a different set of opportunities for interaction. Herb Stoneman, director of evangelism for the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, said while messengers might visit Temple Square out of interest, it should not be considered primarily as an evangelistic opportunity. The best interaction, he said, will come out in the city.



JAPHETH! SHEM! MOVE THE HIPPOS AND ELEPHANTS TO THE FRONT!!

BAPTIST BITS

■ **N.Y. elects executive.** Jerry Graham was unanimously elected executive director/treasurer of the Baptist Convention of New York May 16. Graham, who has been the convention's interim executive director/treasurer since September 1997, succeeds Quinn Pugh who retired in 1996. Graham comes from a 40-year career as an associational director of missions and strategist with the Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board.

■ **College to pay \$4 million.** After months of intense negotiations, Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon, Ga., has reached an out-of-court settlement with federal officials over claims that the school misappropriated financial aid grants in recent years. The college has agreed to pay the federal government \$4 million and implement a corporate integrity program involving Title IV and other student aid programs.

■ **Smith to lead Brewton-Parker.** David Smith, vice president for institutional advancement at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, Texas, has been named president of Brewton-Parker College in Mount Vernon, Ga. He succeeds Lynn Holmes, who resigned last November amid a financial crisis at the school.

■ **Transition in Texas.** Toby Druin, editor of the Texas Baptist Standard since Jan. 1, 1996, has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31. Druin has devoted most of his career to Baptist journalism, working for the North Carolina Biblical Recorder and Southern Baptist Convention Home Mission Board before becoming associate editor of the Baptist Standard in 1976. When he became editor in 1996, he hired the Western Recorder's editor, Marv Knox, as his associate.

■ **Canadian leader named.** Gerry Taillon is the new national ministry leader of the Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists. The native-born French Canadian, currently a national consultant for the Canadian convention, was elected May 26.

■ **Another nominee named.** Rick Ferguson, pastor of Denver's Riverside Baptist Church, will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention next week. He will be nominated by Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Baptist Church of Springdale, Ark. Ferguson, current chairman of the SBC's committee on order of business, will face at least one other candidate, former missionary Bill Wagner.

■ **CBF missionaries resign.** Pioneer Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries Jan and Kevin Rutledge are resigning, officials of the Atlanta-based Fellowship have announced. The Rutledges, who have served in the Czech Republic since 1993, resigned effective Aug. 1. The Rutledges have been in the United States since December because of visa difficulties and family health problems. They were among 20 Southern Baptist missionaries who left the SBC's Foreign Mission Board to jump start the Fellowship's fledgling missions team in January 1993.

■ **WMU launches O'Brien Award.** Woman's Missionary Union has launched a new award for women's leadership named in honor of WMU Executive Director Dellanna O'Brien. The annual award will recognize Baptist women who "demonstrate an ability to foster leadership in other women and who display the potential to be leaders in their community and the world."

■ **CrossSeekers event planned.** Organizers are expecting 10,000 or more college students to gather Sept. 4-6 at the New Orleans Convention Center for "Celebration of the Covenant," the first national CrossSeekers event. The meeting will feature popular Christian artists such as Steven Curtis Chapman, Jars of Clay, Third Day, Amy Morriss and Mercy Me, as well as speakers such as evangelists Dave Edwards and Anne Graham-Lotz. CrossSeekers is a discipleship initiative launched last summer by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. A CrossSeekers covenant calls collegians to a lifestyle of integrity, spiritual growth, an authentic and consistent witness, service, purity and Christlike relationships.

■ **Alabama conservatives organize.** Southern Baptist Conservatives of Alabama, a newly formed group within the Alabama Baptist Convention, has elected a steering committee and launched a membership drive. Steve Loggins, a leader of the group, said the purpose is not to take control of the state convention but "to be heard and to keep our state convention firmly attached to the Southern Baptist Convention."

■ **South Carolina CBF names leader.** The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of South Carolina has named Marion Aldridge as its first full-time coordinator. He has been pastor of Greenlawn Baptist Church in Columbia since 1984.

■ **Reynolds retires.** William Reynolds, editor of the 1975 Baptist Hymnal and a longtime leader among Southern Baptist musicians, has retired as distinguished professor of music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. Before teaching at

Southwestern, he was director of the church music department at the Sunday School Board. He is the author of 726 choral anthems, hymn tunes and children's songs.

■ **Missouri seeks racial inclusion.** A resolution to seek an increase in participation of racial minorities on Missouri Baptist Convention-related boards and commissions has been adopted by the convention's executive board. The author of the motion, Michael Haynes of North Kansas City, noted the current executive board is "lily-white."

■ **CBF appoints two to China.** The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has assigned its first career personnel to China to identify and focus on an unevangelized ethnic minority. David and Esther Hardee Abney, who have been CBF missionaries working with ethnic groups in Dallas since 1995, will transfer in mid-August to the city of Nanning in Guangxi, a southern province bordering Vietnam. The Fellowship initially will focus on the most neglected minorities in two provinces—Guanxgi for now and eventually Yunnan—using career personnel, volunteers and persons engaged in its Envoy (tentmaker) program. Three envoy teachers, who earn their own support, now work in China.

■ **Two endorsed by CBF.** Two former Kentuckians were among five people endorsed as chaplains or pastoral counselors May 18 by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Keith Parker, a retired missionary and former Kentucky pastor, and Andrew Lester, a former professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, were among the second group of chaplains and counselors endorsed by the Fellowship's new council on endorsement.

KENTUCKY

Mackey looks to the future & Kentucky's needs

Bill Mackey became the Kentucky Baptist Convention's new executive secretary-treasurer Feb. 1. Now that he's had time to settle into the job, the *Western Recorder* asked him to share some of his early thoughts and impressions through an interview in a straightforward question-and-answer format. The questions and answers are printed precisely as asked and answered.

Q. What are your first impressions of Kentucky Baptists upon returning to the state?

The strong focus on partnership missions has kept Kentucky Baptists working together and focused on a world in need of the gospel. Generally, Kentucky Baptists have done well at accepting differences and working together in missions. Kentucky Baptists are looking for God's direction for future ministry. Kentucky Baptists have strong and innovative institutions and agencies. It has been a very rewarding experience to reconnect with many people from my past service as a pastor in Kentucky.

Q. You've just concluded your first Executive Board meeting. What are your impressions from that meeting?

The Executive Board meeting was a very positive experience; there was a wonderful spirit of cooperation. Exciting reports of Kingdom progress and challenging future plans were presented. Support of Kentucky ministries and world evangelization are on a record pace. It was a joy to be a part of the meeting.

Q. What are the top three or four positive things you gleaned personally from the listening sessions across the state?

The listening sessions were a learning experience as well as a wonderful opportunity to meet and listen to many Kentucky Baptists. I listened carefully and took personal notes that will serve as my point of reference. These focus group interviews allowed me to observe body language and voice tone, as well as what was said. I will not forget the persons who shared. Kentucky Baptists want to work together. God is at work in all size churches. Youth and young adults are responding to the gospel. Participants were pleased that listening sessions were being conducted. Churches have received real assistance from convention staff.

Q. What are the top three or four challenges you discerned from the listening sessions?

The challenge to reach young adults and youth effectively. How to assist the smaller membership churches. The need to include meaningfully all persons. How to communicate the mission of Kentucky Baptists to multiple generations in a changing culture. Developing values and mission statements to give convention staff direction into the future and priorities for ministries and services to the churches.

Q. One of the concerns cited in the

listening sessions was the appearance that most KBC activity happens within the "holy triangle" bordered by Louisville, Lexington and Bowling Green. Is this a real problem, and if so, how can it be addressed?

We want to be good servants of our churches and associations in all geographic areas of the state. We have learned, after a brief survey of convention staff-planned events, that 31 percent of all events were scheduled west of Owensboro; 44 percent of events were scheduled in central areas, including Bowling Green; and 26 percent of the events were scheduled in the east, including Lexington. Granted that a number of statewide events will be scheduled in the central areas, this is a good distribution of events. I am investigating ways our churches and associations can access our convention resources even more easily.

Q. What is the process by which all this information will be digested and put into action, and how quickly will any changes be made as a result?

The convention staff will be involved in a planning process over the next nine months. This information will be utilized along with other research such as the "Healthy Church" data and personal experiences of staff to establish some big objectives. These objectives will assist staff in determining priorities and services most desired by churches. A task force has been assigned the objective to discover the best options to assist Kentucky Bap-

tist Convention churches in reaching young adults. Their goal is to report by Dec. 1.

Q. Do you envision any significant reorganization of the Executive Board staff, and if so how soon?

I would like to have values and vision statements in place before decisions are made on organization. However, at this point, I do not anticipate significant reorganization.

Q. Nationally, we hear this described as a day of declining denominational loyalty. Is that true in Kentucky? And what does the KBC have to offer that is of benefit to Kentucky Baptists, Kentucky churches and the kingdom of God?

A decline in denominational loyalty is an opportunity to share our mission with more passion than ever. The KBC offers a strong mission emphasis and opportunities for people to get involved here and around the world.

A wide variety of creative programs (such as Gift Based Deacon Ministry) and other resources are available. A competent staff can offer customized planning and program design for each church. Assistance in developing and equipping leaders is available. There are conferences for inspiration and fellowship and learning from each other. Ministry and evangelism resources assist churches in reaching people for Christ. The opportunity to partner with directors of missions who are close to the churches is a significant opportunity for kingdom growth and ministry.

I am committed to working closely with our associations. In addition, there are strong institutions and agencies with visionary leaders who are committed to develop young leaders, make a difference for Christ and enhance the well-being of communities.

Q. You have said that God has given you a vision of Kentucky being united in mission and ministry in the future. Given the political division of the past and the current break-up of some other state conventions, how do you perceive this unity as possible? Can we all get along on the state level despite major differences on the national level?

Kentucky Baptists have demonstrated that we can work together without giving up our identity. Only God can bring his people together around his mission for them. Unity on mission is a spiritual experience in relationship to Jesus.

Q. Based on input through the listening sessions, what are some specific areas of political and/or theological disagreement that need to be understood or resolved between Kentucky Baptists? Where do the tensions lie?

The focus group interviews did not deal with areas of disagreement. As participants shared their hopes and dreams for the future of their churches, they discovered that they have much more that unites than divides. Kentucky Baptists expressed their desire to focus on what unites us in Christ. Given Baptist polity, there will always be differences. We don't have to give up our distinctives to cooperate.

Q. Based on input through the listening sessions, what are some specific things that unite Kentucky Baptists?

Kentucky Baptists are united by missions, history of cooperation, willingness to accept differences, a desire to reach people for Christ and discipleship.

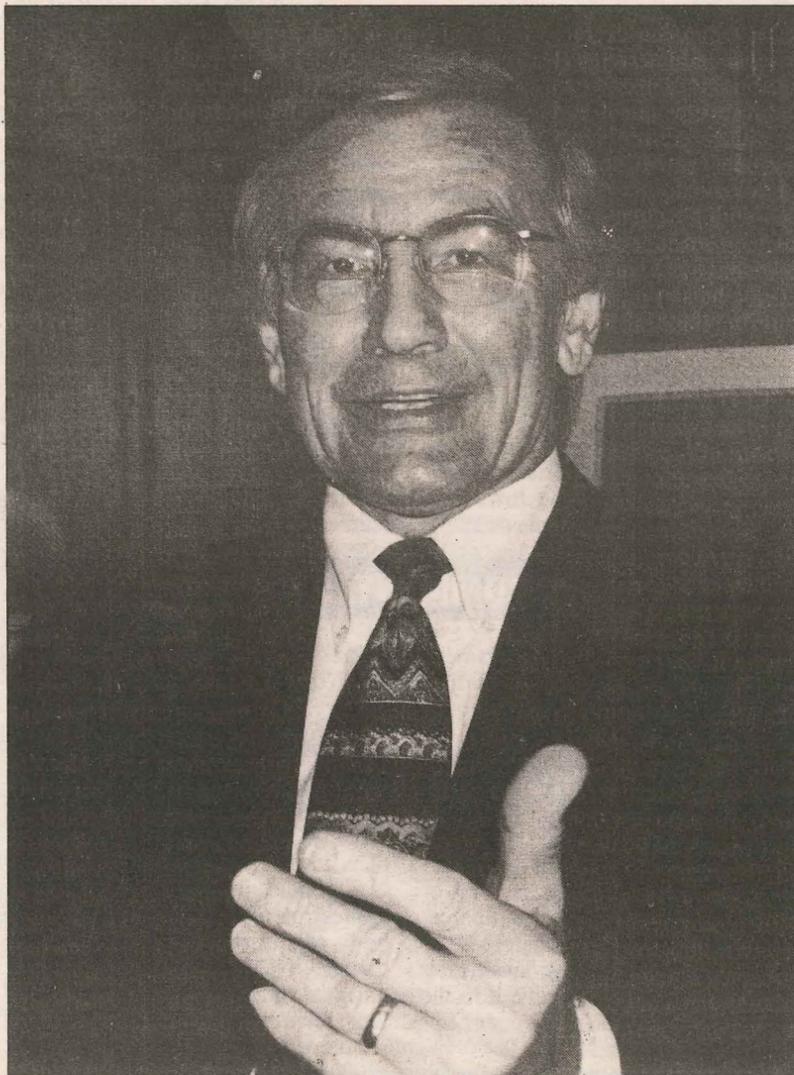
Q. One way the national SBC conflict has been seen in Kentucky is through differences of opinion about the changes at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Because of the seminary's geographic location and historical influence in supplying pastors of Kentucky churches, this is an issue of much discussion, with some people expressing greater confidence in the seminary and others expressing no confidence in it. How can the hurdle of different perspectives on theological education be overcome, and what impact will this have on Kentucky Baptist churches in the long haul?

I have not been here long enough to thoroughly answer this question; however, I can say the search committee requested that I seek to build a positive relationship with the seminary. I think there is great value in dialogue over common concerns and cooperation in every way possible.

□ See "Mackey" ... page 6



"Kentucky Baptists expressed their desire to focus on what unites us in Christ. Given Baptist polity, there will always be differences. We don't have to give up our distinctives to cooperate."



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

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Why another seminary?

At a time when Kentucky Baptists have launched Partnership 2000 to raise millions to support Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown College, some are advancing support for Baptist Seminary of Kentucky to be located at Georgetown, less than 100 miles from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. This new seminary is being advanced under a flag of feigned purity to "provide for the future of Baptists' missions and ministry."

Some Kentucky Baptists have been unhappy with Southern Seminary since Albert Mohler and the trustees have taken the seminary

into a conservative direction more attune with the majority of Southern Baptists across the Southern Baptist Convention. I would view the building of another Baptist seminary at Georgetown as an open declaration of war against Southern Seminary, and an enshrouded attack on faithful Baptists everywhere who have supported Kentucky Baptist institutions.

During the long years prior to 1979 when conservatives had little, if any, input in SBC affairs, they remained loyal to SBC institutions. They did not

form fellowships or build competitive institutions. Rather, they continued to give generously of their time and re-

sources that enabled the work of the SBC to grow and prosper at home and around the world. We can expect no less from all Southern Baptists today.

A Kentuckian by birth, I feel a kinship with Kentucky Baptists. Four in my family graduated from Cumberland College,

and a son received a master's degree from Southern Seminary and is currently completing requirements for a doctor's degree at Southern. I've

recommended Kentucky institutions to students that I've taught across the years. I want to continue supporting Kentucky Baptist institutions of higher learning in every way I can, but unwarranted attacks on Southern Seminary, I fear, will cause many Baptists to think twice and support for these fine institutions may dwindle.

Southern Seminary is an excellent school and deserves the support of Baptists everywhere. Too, the grand old school will survive all efforts to destroy her ministry as long as the truth of God's word dominates the mandate of the leadership and the faculty.

Lawrence H. Langford
Cincinnati

Should a convention employee be SBC president?

By Bob Terry

Predicting what messengers to the annual Southern Baptist Convention in Salt Lake City will do is dangerous. We are always full of surprises. Yet, one thing is next to certain. Paige Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, will be the next president of the SBC.

Patterson's candidacy was officially announced earlier this year by Georgia pastor James Merritt. But Patterson has been the candidate-in-waiting for two years. In 1996, Patterson and current SBC President Tom Elliff were the two men seriously considered for the office by a group of prominent pastors who met to pray about who should serve as convention president.

By Elliff's admission, Patterson agreed that Elliff should be the candidate that year. Elliff was subsequently elected without opposition.

Although Patterson serves as president of Southeastern Seminary, he is best known among Baptists as one of the leading architects of what has been called the "conservative resurgence."

But it is not Patterson's role in the controversy that raises questions about

his service as SBC president. It is his role as president of Southeastern Seminary.

Is there a conflict of interest between being president of an entity of the SBC and being president of the SBC at the same time? It is a serious question because the SBC president is a member of the SBC Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is the budget-making arm of the SBC. It also is charged with arbitrating differences between entities and making recommendations about entity program assignments, among other responsibilities.

SBC bylaws state, "No salaried official of the convention or of any of its agencies or any member of any board or board of trustees or commission of the convention or any salaried official of any state convention may be a member of the Executive Committee."

The words indicate a strong concern to prevent actual conflicts of interest. Members of the Executive Committee have been declared ineligible for membership when they have accepted calls to lead state entities or

to serve on the staff of a state convention because of this bylaw.

The bylaw would prevent an SBC entity employee from membership on the Executive Committee, if not for another phrase. The bylaw adds, "These restrictions shall not apply in case of the president, the president of Woman's Missionary Union and the recording secretary of the convention." These are the three persons who are members of the Executive Committee by virtue of office. They are full, voting members of the Executive Committee.

Thus, it is within the guidelines for the president of an SBC seminary or the president of one of the two mission boards to serve as president of the SBC.

Whether it is wise and appropriate is a different question. Should the president of an SBC entity serve on the budget-making committee of the convention? Should the president of an SBC entity serve on the committee that advises about questions of cooperation among the different entities of the convention? Should the president of an SBC entity serve on the committee that studies and recommends adjustments to SBC entities required by program assignments?

COMMENTARY

On the 50th anniversary of the state of Israel

By Tony Campolo

As Israel defies the pleas of the Secretary of State to abide by the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians, its prime minister finds that his most solid base of support in the United States is with fundamentalist Christians. Most people in the Arab world do not understand this and wrongly assume that it is the Jewish community here in America that is dictating Washington's Middle East policies.

In reality Jews make up less than 5 percent of our nation's population, and by themselves would have very little power to control what U.S. politicians decide. On the other hand, those Christians who consider themselves fundamentalists number at least 50 million and comprise up to 30 percent of the voting population of this country. It is the rabid pro-Israel stance of this latter group that gives the Israeli prime minister his stronghold when dealing with the White House.

The reasons fundamentalist Christians are so pro-Israel are multiple.

First there is a desire on the part of many fundamentalists to compensate for tolerating anti-semitism in their ranks over the years.

Second, there are many fundamentalists who point out the Bible teaches that whoever blesses the Jews will themselves be blessed (Genesis 12:3). Thus, there is a sense that it is in our national self-interest to be pro-Israel.

Third, there are many fundamentalists who believe that in supporting Israel, restoring the temple on Mount Zion and driving the Arabs off the land that was promised to the Jews, they are participating in the fulfillment of biblical prophecies and hastening the second coming of the Lord.

Against such arguments that champion the Israeli cause are the cries of the Palestinian people for justice. They correctly point out that the United Nations unfairly took away their land 50 years ago and gave it to the Jewish refugees who came out of Europe following World War II.

Even the most pro-Israel funda-

mentalist Christians have to agree that there is something wrong with diplomats meeting in Lake Success, N.Y., deciding that a people who lived on land for more than 1,000 years should suddenly be made into aliens in their homeland. And they ought to explain why they are not outraged when Israeli troops bulldoze the homes of Palestinians to make room for Jewish settlements. They ought to explain how they justify Palestinians being humiliated into

second-class citizenship in places which by all rights should be their own country.

As fundamentalist Christians give unquestioned support to Israeli Palestinians, ask why. Especially when a significant number of Palestinians are actually Christians. They ask if Christians in this country are aware that U.S. policies in Israel have led to the oppression of fellow members of the body of Christ. What is more, they wonder if Christians in this country are aware that the present government in Israel is curtailing the rights of missionaries to share the gospel with others and is being especially hard on

COMMENTARY

Messianic Jews.

At this stage in history I believe Israel should be guaranteed a homeland with safe borders. But I also believe Christians everywhere should call for justice for the Palestinians too.

Furthermore, there is no way we can send missionaries to Arab nations to declare that we love them in the name of Christ while we remain silent about the horrors endured by their Arab brothers and sisters in Palestine. It should be noted that half of all the foreign aid that our country gives away to the nations of the world goes to support the state of Israel.

It is our responsibility to call for the securing of the borders of Israel, while at the same time calling for justice for the Palestinians, which includes the creating of a homeland they can call their own. Also, we ought to require this nation that receives such massive economic support from the U.S. to be open to those who would seek to share the gospel of Christ. To whom so much is given, much is expected.

Tony Campolo is a popular author and speaker and professor of sociology at Eastern College in St. David's, Pa.

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Take me out to the ballgame, but please give me shade

HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

It's baseball season at our house. The basketball goal I thought we never would be able to pull Garrett away from has been virtually benched for the moment while we trample down the grass in the front yard running our makeshift bases.

The switch came the day our boys got a few pointers from an adult friend that enabled them to hit the ball with greater ease. Thank goodness for sports-savvy friends who can rescue a

knuckleball dad like me from having to dish out poor instruction.

Despite what everyone said, I know there's a reason I always played right field on the Little League team.

The amazing thing is that our nearly-6-year-old boys don't know the difference. To them, I'm the sports pro who has all the answers. And they take great delight in beating me when they can—which is most of the time.

Of course, maybe I do run a little slower than I could when chasing them from base to base. Or maybe I really am just getting too old to run that much anywhere. I keep trying to convince them just to practice batting and to stop running the bases.

Tonight three neighbor kids joined us for a kickball game, and I was glad for the change of pace and the relief players. I was still sweating like a summer missionary 30 minutes after we went inside, but it was a great kind of sweat.

Though so much in life has changed through the generations, there's still nothing to beat a friendly neighborhood ballgame. Summer's gonna be great.

SHESAI



Alison Wingfield

I'm not the world's best pitcher, but that's my job whenever we play. And, of course, the boys play on the same team, with Mommy as a team of one. Even when one of the neighborhood children comes over, it is always me against them. Try to get anybody out, or even get to bat with those odds. To complicate matters more, if the bases are loaded and no one's left on the boys' team to hit the ball, I get to toss the ball up and hit it myself, go get it and then

try to get somebody else out.

In addition to baseball, we have been playing kickball. At least I can roll the kickball better than I pitch a baseball. But the boys also can kick it better, so I am constantly running after the ball as they clear all the bases and get to home with ease.

We have ventured out to three Louisville Redbirds baseball games. The Birds lost all three, but that's not news.

It's fun to watch the boys get into the game. They are much more into it than I am. I think you go to a baseball game to chat and eat. The boys have got the eating part down, but they actually watch the game, not just the activity in between innings.

Some of our church recently went en masse to a game. What a neat experience. We had a big section to ourselves (not that there were many fans in the rest of the stadium on a weeknight). And it was fun moving around, talking to people, watching a few innings here and there, cheering and singing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" together. Everybody watched each others' kids and we all fellowshiped as well as had fun.

Of course, the boys already are ready to go to another game. And when they are not watching, they want to play. As the summer heats up, my enthusiasm for outdoor activity (except for swimming) diminishes greatly.

It's going to be a long summer.

Who is the Southern Baptist Convention?

Periodically we hear complaints from individuals who think we reporters and editors use too many labels and sweeping generalizations to describe the events and people around us.

For example, we may report that "conservatives" supported some cause or that "moderates" expressed some opinion or that "pastors" took some action or that "lay-people" did something else.

These, of course, represent the kind of shorthand necessary to help the reader understand general concepts without writing sentences too long to read. We try not to use pejorative words such as "idiot" and "ugly" except when quoting someone else. But even so, some people get offended when they think they have been wrongly associated with actions or words they do not affirm.

Take, for example, the person who holds a strong anti-abortion position but adamantly opposes violence. When the media correctly reports that "anti-abortion protesters" bombed a clinic, the peaceful protester feels like she has been painted with the wrong brush.

This difficulty with language and labels takes on added significance for Southern Baptists every year about this time, when the Southern Baptist Convention holds its annual meeting. Soon daily newspapers, magazines, radio programs and television newscasts will be full of reports about what "Southern Baptists" have done or said.

The problem is, "Southern Baptists" collectively don't make any decisions and don't issue any pronouncements. Messengers to SBC annual meetings—free messengers rather than delegates sent to vote a certain way—do take actions and issue opinions through resolutions.

What most people fail to realize or remember is that those actions and opinions represent only the views of the relatively few Southern Baptists who attend the annual meetings. Actually, it's worse than that. What comes out of the convention is the product of those who attend the convention and actually stay in the hall to vote.

There never has been any means by which all Southern Baptists, or even all Southern Baptist churches, could be polled as to what they believe or think the convention ought to say to the world. The supposedly representative sampling of Baptists who attend the annual meeting constitutes the closest thing to that.

EDITORIAL

This never has created a perfect situation, but things have grown more complex today because the diversity of perspectives and practices found in Southern Baptist churches is not represented in SBC leadership or on SBC programs or even in attendance at SBC annual meetings.

Most all moderates and many centrists, to use two of those necessary labels, generally have checked out of active participation in SBC events. Denied any meaningful leadership, they have chosen to do their own thing or just lay low.

That makes for more peaceful conventions, but it doesn't result in actions and resolutions that reflect the full panorama of who Southern Baptists are.

The fact that Paige Patterson, a conservative activist adored only by the furthest-right segment of the SBC, likely will be elected president without opposition illustrates who is voting at SBC annual meetings. And the fact that a study committee comprised of a mere seven people will present a major addition to the SBC's doctrinal statement says even more.

Note the statement of the chairman of that committee, reported on page 7, when he declined to participate in a Point/Counterpoint presentation on the merits of the proposed addition to the "Baptist Faith & Message." Rather than debating this in a state Baptist paper read by a wide cross-section of Baptists, the issue should be debated at "the convention itself," he said, meaning those relative few who will gather in Salt Lake City.

That says volumes about where the power lies in the SBC, and where the voice of the convention is generated. It's not in the local church and not in a free press.

In reality, the grassroots Baptists who read the Western Recorder and other state Baptist papers are the Southern Baptist Convention. But those who take the platform, and those who go to the conventions, are the ones who set the agenda and get quoted. By their silence, the other segments of Southern Baptists allow themselves to be painted with someone else's brush.

Southern Baptists will be depicted most accurately in the national media when all who claim to make up the body, all who send money to support the causes, work to influence the process and are given opportunity to contribute to the debate.

— Mark Wingfield

Where is your faith?

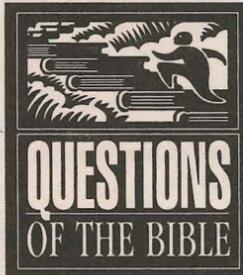
By Leslie Hollon

The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!" He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; the storm subsided and all was calm. "Where is your faith?" he asked his disciples. (Luke 8:24-25)

Deciding not to kill himself, my midnight caller opened his shotgun and handed me the shell.

As that Easter day dawned, this troubled seeker found faith beyond what he knew possible. The authority and power of the resurrected Jesus had made his life worth living. That shell now rests peacefully on my office shelf as testimony of one who found faith before it was too late.

Faith is not a one-size-fits-all. The same content, however, is present in all faith sizes, and that content is a trusting relationship in God. Believers determine the extent of their faith through freedom of choice. God grows our faith as we rest our head, heart, spirit and body into his care. Then God is faithful to have our faith grown to a size that fits whatever life circumstances storm our way.



The disciples did not choose for the storm of wind and water to blow them into anxiety overload, but they also knew it wasn't unusual for the east winds to suddenly create storm conditions over the Sea of Galilee. They should have been prepared, but they were not.

Upon being awakened from his nap by the anxious disciples, Jesus healed the raging winds and waves with authority and power. Once the storm was calmed, so was the disciples' soulful anxiety.

Jesus then posed a daunting question to his shipmates: "Where is your faith?" As the words rang in their ears, holy terror ran through their souls. They saw more clearly who Jesus was, and what they witnessed scared them. Their faith in him would need to grow more than they ever imagined. If they were going to follow the One whom "even wind and water obey," their faith size would have to yield totally and daily into God's trustworthiness.

Phillips Brooks, who suffered deep grief and depression as a pastor during the American Civil War, wrote, "Pray

not for easier times but to be stronger people." And from his faith in God while mourning the tragedies of war, Brooks penned "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

We, like the disciples, can pray away some but not all life-storms—nor should we pray them all away. Some storms are needed to get our attention so we can see ourselves and God more clearly.

Overcome by fear, the disciples were paralyzed by their ignorance in not knowing how to trust a seemingly inattentive and sleeping Christ. As Christ awoke from physical sleep, the disciples awoke in awareness that his power and authority never slept. Since it was Jesus who said, "Let's sail to the other side of the lake," it would be Jesus who would see them safely ashore.

A 70-year-old widow friend has, since her husband's death, kept a prayer prominently displayed in the gathering area of her kitchen. Each morning for 20 years, while drinking coffee, she has prayed, "Ain't nothing gonna happen today that me and the Lord can't handle."

Through tragedy she awakens daily to a clearer reality of Christ's authority and power, growing her faith to a size to fit the new day's demands.

Leslie Hollon is pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.



RESOURCES

This week's questions:

- How should divorced parents behave in front of their children?
- How can single church leaders achieve balance in their lives?

Q. My husband and I recently divorced. Our 5-year-old son, Josh, lives with me but spends time each weekend with his father. Josh seems to be adjusting fairly well, but anytime his father and I get together, we always fight, which upsets Josh very much. I don't want to cause problems for my son, but I'm still angry at my ex-husband. What can I do?

A. It's good that you see how your arguing could cause problems for your son. One of the most important, and unfortunately, most difficult challenges for most divorcing parents is to let go of their relationship as spouses and build a relationship of co-parenting in which they share parental responsibilities and decision-making in an atmosphere that is relatively peaceful.

For most divorcing couples this is a tall order. Here are some guidelines for making this happen.

- Don't argue in front of your son. Try to deal with high conflict issues when Josh is not around. His hearing

you fight about him might make him think he is to blame for your problems.

- Never use your son to deliver destructive messages to his father ("You tell him I said..."). Making the child a go-between for fighting parents places an unfair burden on the child. When you have something to say to your ex-spouse, say it directly to him.



- Refrain from criticizing your ex-spouse to your son. Your pointing out his faults will only make you look bad to your son and will undermine the relationship he needs to have with his father. Remember, whatever problems you and your ex-husband have, Josh

needs to feel free to love and respect both parents without feeling that he is betraying anyone.

- Seek counseling or a support group where you can work through the feelings you have, resolving them so they don't continue to create problems for you or your child.

- Continue to show love to your son and reassure him that you and his father will continue to be there for him. Your relationship as a couple has ended, but your relationship with him has not.

Following these guidelines will require a great deal of maturity and self-control on your part but will increase the chances that your child will adjust favorably to the divorce. — *Susan Howell*

Q. Help! I am a single adult who serves in a leadership capacity in my church. I'm always doing community projects and I am just exhausted. Give me some hints on how to achieve some balance in my life.

A. Jesus, our model single adult, never seemed to be in a hurry. We

don't see him running to and fro, putting in 24-hour ministry days. The Gospels record that "all the city" came to him for healing, yet he "healed many" and then moved on. He did not heal every disease, cure all the sick or raise all the dead.

He apparently slept well, even in the midst of a storm. His life was not filled with the worrisome sense of responsibility for the outcome of everyone else's. He was able to "consider the lilies," not "sweat the small stuff" and operate under a strong sense of the sovereignty of God.

Our Lord modeled the philosophy that putting in significant hours of time just "hanging out" with God was life's most worthwhile investment. His sense was that nothing of lasting value could happen without it.

He knew the limits of his humanity. He knew that God gives all the time needed to do his will, so he took the time to clearly understand it. He did not do everything. The Scriptures say that Jesus himself "did not baptize anyone." He delegated. He concentrated on growing the people God had given to him.

Do not allow society or even church to assume that because you are single you have no boundaries. Avoid the "1 Corinthians 7 Guilt Trip." You will do what you have to do more effectively when you have entered into the "Sabbath rest" which God desires for those who long to follow him. — *James Stillwell*

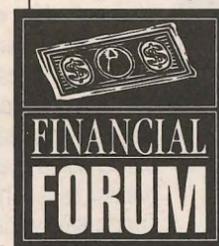
Family Forum writers are David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; Susan Howell, assistant professor of psychology at Campbellsville University; Wade Rowatt, director of the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center in Louisville; and Al Shackelford, editor of Mature Living magazine. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253 or e-mail us at wesrec@ntr.net.

CHURCH

Why offering envelopes?

By Doug Strader

Frequently, someone will ask me about the wisdom or value of using offering envelopes for all church members and attendees. Although many Kentucky Baptist churches do provide offering envelopes, many



others do not.

What are some of the benefits of using offering envelopes?

Using offering envelopes can reinforce the biblical teaching of regular, systematic giving. Paul admonished the Corinthians to give to the church weekly. If every member of the family has offering envelopes, they are reminded weekly that they need to give to the church.

When offering envelopes are used, it is convenient for the financial secretary to keep accurate records of the total amount given during the year. The secretary can send quarterly and yearly statements to each person who uses offering envelopes.

If a person uses charitable giving as a tax deduction, the church has adequate records to verify the amount claimed as a tax deduction.

Other factors related to offering envelopes:

- Several years ago envelope companies began to use envelopes the size of dollar bills, because people gave larger amounts when the envelope was larger.

- A few years ago envelope companies discovered that people gave larger amounts in pink colored envelopes.

- Churches also have discovered that if they have their envelope company mail the envelopes monthly or quarterly to every household people generally will give larger amounts. Presumably this is true because the monthly mailed envelopes remind the people each month that they need to give to the church.

For these reasons, it is a good practice to provide offering envelopes to all members and attendees, including older preschoolers, children, youth and adults.

For those 55 years of age and older, there may not be a need to have pink offering envelopes mailed to their house each month in order for them to give. But for those who are younger and may not have been taught biblical stewardship, offering envelopes may be the beginning point of developing biblical stewardship.

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

Introducing a new writer

The Western Recorder welcomes a new writer in the Family Forum series. Susan Howell will replace John Lepper as author of columns on marriage.

Lepper, who has served faithfully as a Family Forum writer since the column's beginning in 1992, has taken on a new responsibility with the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship which will require a redirection of his energies and preclude ongoing contribution to Family Forum.

The marriage beat will be taken up by Howell, who is assistant professor of psychology at Campbellsville University. She holds the doctor of education degree in counseling and master of education degree from the University of Louisville, as well as the bachelor of science degree in psychology and social work from Campbellsville.

Mackey looks to future and state's needs

Continued from page 3

Q. In the newly adopted KBC budget for next year, the allocation of funding from the North American Mission Board is reduced, which is causing a reduction in the number of Kentucky missionaries that can be supported. Is this a trend? What should Kentucky Baptists expect our relationship to be in the future regarding national support of in-state missions?

This was a budgeting adjustment on our part to better reflect our actual

usage of funds. I fully expect an increase in cooperative agreement and special project funds from the North American Mission Board in the future.

Q. What new networks of support or strategic alliances do you see emerging as a part of Kentucky Baptists' future ministry?

I look forward to continuing the heritage of working with African-American Baptists. Discussions are taking place concerning possible ministries.

Q. What new initiatives do you already have in mind or in the works that will benefit Kentucky Baptists?

A Women's Lifestyle Evangelism Conference has been planned jointly by the Evangelism Department and WMU, for March 15-16, 1999. Also, a Shepherding the Shepherd Conference for pastors and wives has been planned for Jan. 21-23, 1999, in Lexington. More details will be available soon.

Q. We read and hear much about innovative new models of doing

church and ministry across the country. How do these new ideas fit into the Kentucky context? To what extent is Kentucky's situation like or dislike other parts of the nation?

Kentucky has begun to feel the impact of cultural shifts as new people have migrated into the state and a new generation has become a factor. These changes present new opportunities for churches to relate the unchanging gospel to a rapidly changing culture.

Kentucky, like other states, has special concerns in dealing with change. Assisting congregations with intentional transitions will provide a significant opportunity. A special task force will be doing research and developing possible approaches to assist churches desiring to be more effective in reaching young adults.

Kentucky Baptists have some effective innovative church models, but they are not as widespread as some other states. The development of innovative models will require a deliberate and strategic process.

Kentucky has always had a pioneer spirit and I hope we can build on that strength as we look toward the future.



Should Baptists approve new article on family?

YES

Editor's note: For several years, the Western Recorder has used the Point/Counterpoint format to present debate on issues of current interest to Kentucky Baptists. We believe this offers a fair and balanced approach to discussing issues on which there are differing opinions, so readers can make up their own minds about where they stand.

So when the study committee charged with drafting an addition to the Southern Baptist Convention's "Baptist Faith & Message" released its proposal, we thought the Point/Counterpoint format would be the fairest way to present debate on this topic.

In that spirit, the editor first contacted Mary Mohler, the only Kentuckian on the seven-member committee, about writing an explanation of the committee's proposal for the Point/Counterpoint. She declined to do so, citing her unhappiness with an earlier Recorder editorial about how the special committee was appointed and her general displeasure with the Recorder's reporting about events at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, where her husband is president.

The editor then turned to Anthony Jordan, the special committee's chairman. Jordan is executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. By phone, Jordan pledged that either he or another member of the committee would write the requested commentary for our Point/Counterpoint. Based on this

agreement, the editor then enlisted Robert Parham, director of the Baptist Center for Ethics, to write the opposing side of the Point/Counterpoint.

However, on the deadline date agreed upon, a letter from Jordan arrived in the mail announcing that he, too, would decline to write in defense of the committee's proposal. The text of Jordan's letter is reprinted below:

I have weighed your invitation to do a pro and con article for your state paper. As I told you, my schedule between now and the convention is extremely heavy. I do not feel I can do this article. Indeed, if I were to do it for you I would feel obligated to respond to similar requests from others.

In addition, I prefer that the debate be left to Southern Baptists at large. We have made the Article available to all Baptists for their contemplation and deliberation. The proper place for this discussion is the convention itself. Do not see this as an attempt to put my head in a hole. I have and will continue to give interviews and answer questions when asked. At present I deem this to be the appropriate course of action for the committee and me.

I realize any group of Baptists called together to write such an Article might have written it with some variations from our statement. We do not claim that our Article is perfect. It is a

statement written by fallible men and women of faith. No doubt someone else could draft it somewhat differently and perhaps improve upon our document. However, we believe the Article is an accurate statement of biblical truth which has been affirmed by Southern Baptists historically.

Our responsibility was to write the Article and present it to the messen-

gers gathered in Salt Lake City. They will make the final decision as to the theological integrity of our statement and its appropriateness in reflecting the generally held doctrinal position on family by Southern Baptists.

— Anthony L. Jordan, executive director-treasurer, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma

Text of proposed Article XVIII of Baptist Faith & Message

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel for sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God. Both bear God's image but each in differing ways. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people.

A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family.

A wife is to submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being 'in the image of God' as her husband and thus

equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his 'helper' in managing her household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalm 78: 1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15, 17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

NO

By Robert Parham
Director, Baptist Center
for Ethics, Nashville

When Jesus told his followers to "be wise as serpents" in Matthew 10:16, he called for the practice of discernment.

Discerning Baptists would do well to practice serpenthood when they consider the proposal article to be added to the "Baptist Faith and Message" statement. After all, amending a 35-year-old statement is serious business.

Aside from the troubling questions about why the article is shared publicly only a few weeks before the annual convention and why a family article is offered in Salt Lake City (the heart of Mormonism with its nationally recognized commitment to family), Baptists must discern the content of the amendment.

The article does make some good points.

First, it rightly identifies marriage as a "covenant commitment." The Christian ideal of covenant contrasts the prevailing culture of divorce, with its concept of contract marriage and "me-first" individualism.

Second, the acknowledgment that husband and wife "are of equal worth" and "bear God's image" remedies slightly the harm caused by the 1984 SBC resolution that gave men more worth because they were "first in creation" and devalued women because they were "first in the Edenic fall."

Third, underscoring parental re-

sponsibility to model values and to offer discipline to children is an important but not exclusively Christian idea. Even many secularists call for greater parental leadership.

Fourth, the statement avoids the misreading of Scripture made by many conservatives who pontificate that the American nuclear family is the traditional family based upon the biblical family.

Fifth, the statement shuns the emotionally charged rhetoric of restoring the biblical family. Such rhetoric ignores biblical families that displayed harmful behaviors.

Recall that Abram lied twice about his wife Sarah, claiming she was his sister in order to save his own hide (Genesis 12:10-16, 20:1-8). Their son Isaac repeated his father's deceptive behavior with his wife Rebekah (Genesis 26:7-11). Amnon raped his half-sister Tamar. Tamar's brother Absalom murdered Amnon. Their father David offered no real discipline (2 Samuel 13-14).

No thoughtful Baptist wants to restore the biblical family of lying, deception, rape and murder. The drafting committee wisely averted such language and deserves credit.

But the statement retains serious flaws.

First, it ignores Jesus, defining family solely in terms of marriage, blood or adoption.

Jesus defined family in terms of



loyalty to God, not blood ties (Luke 8:19-21). At first blush, his definition of family as those "who hear ...

and do" God's word may sound anti-traditional family. Yet we know that Jesus told a parable about family (Luke 15:11-32), pronounced salvation on a household (Luke 19:9) and cared about his mother's family placement (John 19:26-27).

Jesus emphasized family turned Godward, not inward. Jesus spoke against the self-centered family (Matthew 20:20-23) and for the outwardly focused family (Luke 11:27-28). Jesus understood that self-centered, inwardly focused families were dangerous and destructive. He knew that God's kingdom came first.

Second, the statement asserts the husband "has the God-given responsibility to provide for ... his family," but fails to offer any biblical references to support its position.

The implication is that the husband is the breadwinner and the wife is the homemaker, a perspective rooted more in 19th century capitalism than in the Bible. The Bible has numerous references to women who worked outside the home: Hagar survived as a single mother (Genesis 21:15-21); Jochebed worked for Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2:8-9); and Lydia had an import-export business in dyeing purple cloth (Acts 16:14-15).

Third, the statement says the woman's role is "to serve as his 'helper' in

managing her household." Again, the emphasis falls on the wife as homemaker and denies the God-given potential for wives and mothers outside the household.

Interestingly, Proverbs 31 is cited to proof-text the article. Yet this Proverb celebrates an entrepreneurial business woman who is both wife and mother, and a far cry from the June Cleaver model for motherhood.

Fourth, the statement assigns the nurturing role only to the mother. Everyone from Promise Keepers to psychologists recognizes the critical importance of fathers nurturing their children in an increasingly fatherless America. A timely article would underscore the role of father as agent of nurture.

Fifth, it ignores pressing family problems and fails to offer biblical guidance for them. For example, offering a Sabbath ethic for time-starved, stressed out families (Exodus 16:22-30) and a manna ethic for insecure, over-consuming families (Exodus 16:13-21) would provide real help to contemporary families.

Sixth, the statement uses the image of submission, the same concept that Southern slaveholders used for slaves. Such an image relates more to the lordship of the husband than the partnership of the couple.

The fact that the article avoids the language of mutual submission—"Be subject to one another" (Ephesians 5:21)—limits the usefulness of the amendment for thoughtful Baptists who live in the 20th century and beyond.

KENTUCKY

Patriotic event a flag-waving success

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

"There are many things wrong with our country, but it was nice to celebrate the things that are right."

Ed Erwin, pastor of First Baptist Church of Shelbyville

SHELBYVILLE—Ed Erwin envisioned war hero Clebe McCleary appearing in his church after hearing him speak at Duke University five years ago.

When the dream came true, Erwin, a former North Carolina pastor, had moved to First Baptist Church of Shelbyville—and he was delighted with the outcome.

"This was one of the best services I've ever been involved in," Erwin said of the church's "God and Country Celebration" May 17.

"All I've been getting is wonderful feedback. Everyone loved it. One lady said we need more services like this across the country," he said.

Held to mark Armed Forces Day, the rally featured McCleary as keynote speaker. He addressed a leadership breakfast, the morning worship service and a community patriotic celebration that afternoon.

The Pawley Island, S.C., resident lost his left arm and one eye defending his Marine platoon during the Vietnam War. McCleary lat-

er recovered from nearly three dozen operations to run marathons, despite doctors saying he would never walk again.

His story is chronicled in the book, "Living Proof," and a movie titled, "Portrait of an American Hero."

University of Kentucky basketball player Allen Edwards also gave his testimony at the concluding event, which drew a crowd of more than 800. It included patriotic music by the Shelby County High School concert band and show choir.

"There are many things wrong with our country, but it was nice to celebrate the things that are right," said Erwin. "It was a fantastic day."

Government officials on hand included former Gov. Martha Layne Collins, who recognized all war veterans. Shelbyville Mayor David Eaton, city council members and various military representatives also attended.

About 700 people came to the worship service, which Erwin called an "Easter-size" crowd. Attendance was larger than at last May's popular Power Team cru-

sade, he added.

At the end of McCleary's sermon, a dozen people raised their hands indicating they wanted to accept Christ as their personal Savior. The church is making follow-up contacts, Erwin said.

In addition to the conversions, Erwin said the observance made a definite impact on the community, especially veterans.

"Too often they are overlooked," he said. "Whether they fought in Korea, Vietnam or the Persian Gulf, they felt appreciated."

"If you could have seen the pride and joy in the faces of these men and women, and to have the congregation celebrate and applaud them—it affected them. It gave me an inner joy."

The day was special to Erwin because of his father's four years of service in Vietnam, where the elder Erwin was wounded.

While the idea for the celebration began with his efforts to book McCleary, the pastor said, staff and members cooperated to turn the event into a major attraction.

"I would highly recommend this (kind of service) to all churches," he said. "It worked well for us."

BLUEGRASS BURGOO

■ **Students win honors.** Kentuckians recently received awards for academic excellence at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Bruce Truman, pastor of Owingsville Baptist Church, received the American Bible Society's "Scholarly Achievement Award" which recognizes excellence in biblical studies. Jayne Marcum Schweizer received the Broadman Seminarian Award, recognizing sound scholarship in biblical studies, exemplary leadership and a firm commitment to ministry.

■ **Correction:** Last week's article about the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship's spring meeting incorrectly identified two individuals elected to office. Bob Quisenberry is now moderator and elect of the organization, and Colleen Burroughs is moderator.

■ **Correction:** Side-by-side photos of Georgetown College's East Campus Athletic Complex and an artist's rendering of an update for the Campbellsville College science building were reversed in last week's Recorder.

Don't miss the opportunity to register!

YouthFest '98
Unleashing
the
Power

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes..." Romans 1:16

Registration Form

This form may be duplicated. Please print.

Note: Coolers, food, beverages and audio/video recording equipment may not be taken into the center. Smoking is not allowed. Photography is permitted.

Church: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Church Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ FAX Number: _____

Number of Tickets:

_____ X \$7 (postmarked on or before June 5) = \$ _____ Tickets are non-refundable.

_____ X \$12 (after June 5) = \$ _____

Our special needs are: # _____ seats for deaf interpretation # _____ seats for wheelchair access

Please make check payable to Kentucky Baptist Convention.
Clip and Mail Registration Form and payment to:

YouthFest '98
KBC Office for Evangelism
P.O. Box 43433
Louisville, KY 40253-0433

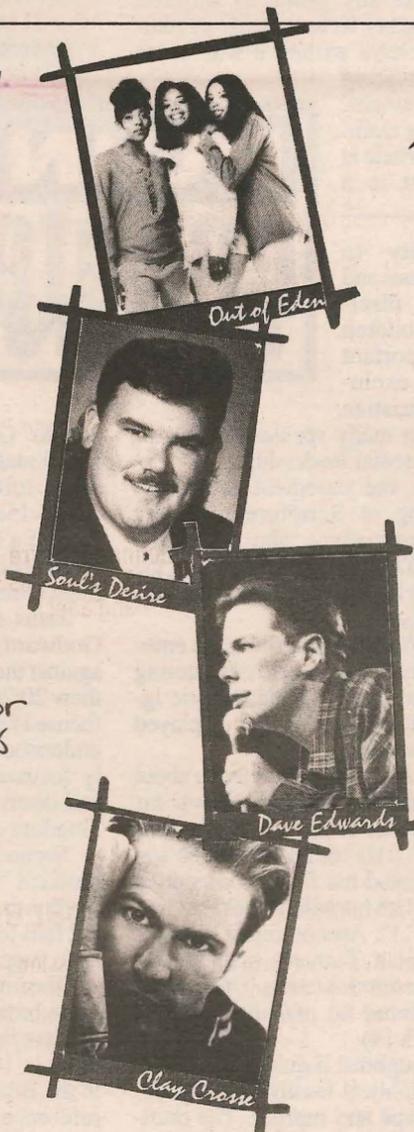
Here's a preview of what will be happening:

Friday, June 26th

4:30 p.m. (CDT) Registration
6:00 **Soul's Desire**-Praise/Worship
6:30 Youth Speak Out
6:40 SonShare Mission Team
7:05 **Out of Eden**
7:20 **Dave Edwards**, Evangelist
8:00 **Soul's Desire**
9:00 **Out of Eden** Concert

Saturday, June 27th

7:30 a.m. Registration
8:00 **Soul's Desire**
8:25 Son Bound Mission Team
8:40 **Soul's Desire**
8:45 Youth Speak Out
8:55 SonBurst Mission Team
9:10 CJ 2000/YouthLink 2000
9:35 **Soul's Desire**
9:45 **How do I tell someone about Jesus Christ?**
10:10 **Soul's Desire**
10:20 **Dave Edwards**
11:00 **Soul's Desire**
11:45 Lunch
2:00 p.m. **Clay Crosse** Concert



Youth Evangelism Conference
The Regional Special Events Center
Murray State University -- Murray, Kentucky

Kentucky

Summer 1998

Kentucky Woman's
Missionary Union
P.O. Box 436569
Louisville KY
40253-6569
(502) 244-6485
(888) 254-5726
Fax: (502) 244-6486

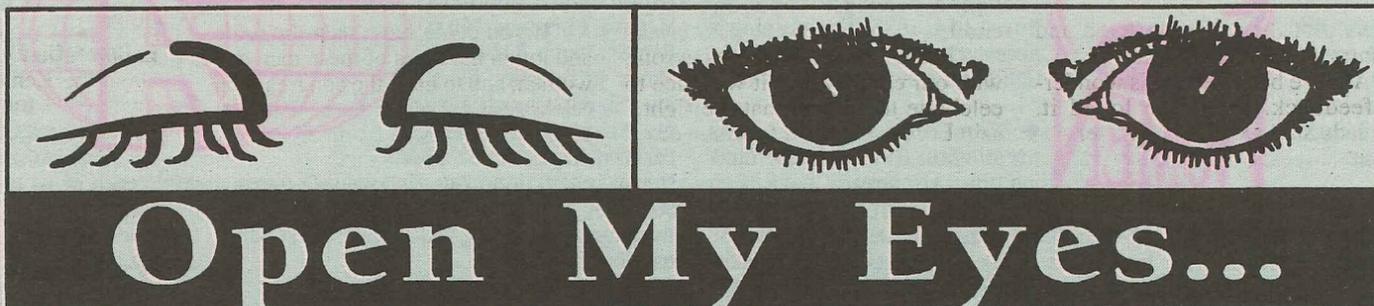
WOMEN'S OUTREACH

1998 Kentucky State Missions Season of Prayer Sept. 13-20

Music:
"Open My Eyes That I May See"
"Open Our Eyes, Lord"

Eliza Broadus Offering Goal:
\$750,000

Areas of emphasis:
Freeda Harris Baptist Center, Lookout
Jefferson Street Baptist Center, Louisville
Baptist Fellowship Center, Louisville



"Then their eyes were opened
and they recognized him."
Luke 24:31a (NIV)

to Missions in Kentucky...

WMU co-ed training



Sept. 12, 1998
First Baptist Church
Richmond, Ky
9:30 a.m.-12 noon



Are you looking for training in Adults on Mission, Youth on Mission or Children in Action organizations? Come prepared to learn how these organizations work and what they can mean to your church members. The registration fee is \$5. A registration form is on page 3A.



Women On Mission/Adults On Mission Retreats

Oct. 2-3
Cedarmore

Dr. Edna Ellison
Ministry Consultant
WMU SBC, Birmingham

Jenna McIntyre
Southern Baptist Missionary
Bangladesh

Oct. 9-10
Cedarmore

Barbara Joiner
WMU author & speaker
Columbiana, Ala.

Jenna McIntyre
Southern Baptist Missionary
Bangladesh

Oct. 16-17 & 17-18
Jonathan Creek

Laura Savage
Adult Consultant
WMU SBC, Birmingham

Caron Johnson
Southern Baptist Missionary
Brazil

Workshops also will be offered on each age-level organization and the co-ed groups. Other workshop topics include: beginning an infant resource project; spiritual growth; mentoring; spiritual gifts; innovation and creativity in missions; sessions with international and North American missionaries. The talent show will be back by popular demand—start working on your act now! To receive registration information, contact Denise Jones at (502) 244-6485 or (888) 254-5726.

A Personal Word

Who will train a new generation to be doers of the word and not hearers only?



Brenda Price
Interim Executive
Director
Kentucky WMU

The 95th annual meeting of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union is now a memory—but what a memory it is. The enlightening and inspirational messages, missions prayerwalk and informational conferences challenged us to look at and be a part of "Missions on the Brink."

One of the highlights of the annual meeting each year is the Saturday morning missions event for children. This year, as 300 members and leaders of Girls in Action and Children in Action paraded into the sanctuary to sing at the close of the session, I was reminded once again that this is what

we are all about as a missions organization. In 1915 Fannie E. S. Heck, a dynamic WMU leader, wrote "Plan not for the year, but for the years. ... Train the children for world-wide service." Our mandate to share Christ with the world is as clear today as it has been for nearly 2000 years.

But who will hear the call to missions in the years to come? Who will pray? Who will give? Who will go? Our children will, but only if we do our part today.

It is up to us to provide a way in which today's preschoolers, children and teenagers can be nurtured in mis-

sions attitudes and concepts that will lead them in developing a missions life-style as they grow into adulthood. Churches must provide missions education organizations which will focus on missions learning, giving, praying, ministering and witnessing.

Kentucky WMU is committed to assist in that endeavor as we train, equip and strengthen church and associational leadership through individual conferences or state-wide activities such as WMU SALT, coed leader training and Women on Mission retreats. While some activities focus on preparing adults to be better children's lead-

ers, others focus on children by giving them opportunities for missions learning and involvement.

This summer children will have opportunity to participate in GA, Acteens and Youth on Mission camps. Attending the National Acteens Convention in Louisville will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for girls in grades 7-12.

Will you be a part of the future of missions today? Will you pray this prayer: "Make me a do-er for thee, Dear Lord. A say-er won't get your work done. Amen."

IDEAS THAT WORK

Women on Mission

By Denise Jones

◆ **Missionary Parent's Fellowship.** Kentucky WMU is starting something new. International missionaries often have told us that one of the most difficult aspects of leaving home to serve in another country is leaving their parents behind. In response to this dilemma, Kentucky WMU is beginning a missionary parents' fellowship.

For several years, KY WMU has invited missionary parents to the missionary luncheon during our annual meeting. This annual gathering now will be expanded to provide more fellowship and support for missionary parents. If you know about a missionary parent who may not be on our mailing list, please let us know so that we may include him or her in our activities.

◆ **Baptist Nursing Fellowship.** The Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship has adopted a new mission project for 1998-99. During the next year, BNF members (as well as many Women on Mission groups) will partner with the Japan Baptist School of Nursing in Kyoto, providing prayer and financial support. The school's former director is Mary Lou Emanuel, an emeritus missionary nurse from Kentucky. At a recent dedication ceremony, the new school chapel was named for Emanuel in recognition of her invaluable contribution. Prayer guides are available by calling toll-

free (888) 254-5726.

As a result of the 1997-98 BNF mission project, more than 200 pounds of receiving blankets have been shipped to the Jibla Baptist Hospital in Yemen.

◆ Christian Women's Job Corps.

If you are interested in beginning a Christian Women's Job Corps program in your community, take note. National CWJC Certification Training is coming to Kentucky Nov. 12-14, 1998. This training is necessary to begin a CWJC site. Call me for more information.

◆ Women on Mission/Adults on Mission Retreats.

Outstanding speakers already have been confirmed for this year's retreats at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. Accommodations at these retreats fill up quickly, so make your reservations SOON. Call me at (888) 254-5726 for a registration form.

◆ **Co-ed Training.** As you begin to prepare for the new church year, you may want to consider beginning a co-ed missions organization in your church. Co-ed groups give you one more tool to use in educating and supporting missions. Remember the training session Sept. 12 in Richmond. A registration form is on page 3-A.



Acteens

By Julie Keith

◆ **NAC '98.** It's not too late to register for the National Acteens Convention, July 1-4, 1998, in Louisville. The registration deadline is June 15. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Acteens and advisors; so, get your girls excited about NAC and then send in your registration to Birmingham. Check out the NAC web page at www.nac98.com.

◆ Congratulations 1998-99

Snider-Creal Acteens Scholarship recipients: Meredith Ellen Burgher, Northside Baptist Church, Princeton; Melissa Chrisman, First Baptist Church, Richmond; Mindy Jo Doughty, Clark's River Baptist Church, Symsonia; Kristi LaShelle Henegar, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown; Andrea Honeycutt, First Baptist Church, Somerset; Jennifer McCutchen, Donaldson Baptist Church, Princeton; Kelley Travis, First Baptist Church, Murray.

◆ **1998 Kentucky Activator Teams.** Six Acteens groups will be on mission this summer as they serve as Acteens Activators. Pray for each of these groups as they serve God. If your Acteens group is interested in serving as an Acteens Activator team in 1999, contact the state office for information. *First Baptist, Murray*, Debbie Bell, Mississippi River Ministry; *First Baptist, Somerset*, Rhonda Hazel, Ocean City, Md.; *Magnolia Baptist, So-*

nora, Jamie Hines, Owen County, Ky. Fairgrounds; **Living Faith, Hartford*, Cathy Chinn; **Guthrie Baptist, Guthrie*, Sheila Brown; **Middleton Baptist, Franklin*, Karen Milliken. (*These three churches will serve together as an Acteens Activator team with Gus and Gloria Reyes in their migrant ministry in Westport.)

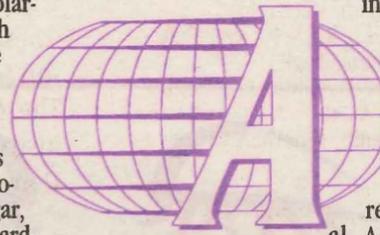


◆ Acteens Advisors

Retreat. Date: Nov. 13-14 Theme: "Transformed." Place: Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington. Cost: \$15 per person registration fee. The National Acteens Convention will

guide each of us to see how God changes us from the inside out. Come to this retreat and see how God can continue to change and transform us into his servants. The retreat will include fellowship, speakers, music, conferences and a swap shop. A registration form and hotel information will be in the next issue of *Kentucky Notes*.

◆ **1998-99 Kentucky Acteens Advisory Panelists Applications** deadline is Aug. 15, 1998. Applications are available from the Kentucky WMU office.



Mission Friends/Girls in Action

By Brenda Price

MISSION FRIENDS

◆ Can you say there is **A Place for You in Mission Friends** for every preschooler in your church? Are you reaching all ages of preschoolers? If your church already has Mission Friends for fours and fives, plan to organize **Younger Mission Friends** (babies and ones) and **Middle Mission Friends** (twos and threes). "I can't do it all," you may say. True, but as a preschool missions educator, you can be instrumental in encouraging your WMU director to enlist other teachers. As more Mission Friends classes are begun in your church, the better equipped you become to meet the needs of all preschoolers.

◆ Watch out for the **Surprise Package!** Since the new WMU church year will begin in September instead of October this year, there will be bonus material in the July-August issues of *Start*, *Start Resource Kit*, and *Mission Friends Share*. *First Steps in Missions* offers bulletin board ideas and reproducible sheets to supplement each unit. Use these bonus materials to enhance your teaching.

◆ Don't forget September is the **Week of Prayer and Offering for State Missions**. Mission Friends teachers can teach preschoolers about missions in Kentucky by using the state missions material prepared especially for them. Contact your WMU

director or Kentucky WMU office for details.

GIRLS IN ACTION

◆ Summer is an excellent time to involve GAS in **WorldVentures**. Encourage GAS to work on Activities by having special summer workdays. Plan a **WorldVentures Recognition Service** to recognize the work of girls who have completed their activities. Use the plan in the July-August *Aware* for ideas.

◆ **Missions Six** is coming for sixth grade GAS! The special event will be Sept. 25-26 (Friday, 6 p.m. - Saturday, 2 p.m.) at Cedar Crest. The program, designed for the older GA, will include meeting missionaries, "life after GA", campfire, ministry project, leader training and lots more. One adult must accompany every six girls. The cost will be \$25 per person which includes lodging and three meals. Begin now to inform sixth graders and parents about this special event. Further details will be available after July 1.

◆ In September children in your church will want to participate in the **Week of Prayer and Offering for State Missions**. The study material will focus on Baptist centers in Kentucky. A teaching guide is available by contacting your WMU director or Kentucky WMU office.



WMU Directors

By Anna Mary Byrdwell

Your responsibility as WMU director is so very important during this, the final quarter of 1997-98. This is the time in which you help formulate plans for the coming year—which begins a month earlier than last year:

◆ *Have you made a God-guided decision about whether you will serve as church WMU director for 1998-99?* ◆ *Is your leadership team prayerfully seeking to fill the responsibilities needed for successful missions education in your church for the coming year?* ◆ *This quarter you will meet with your leadership team to evaluate how plans were carried out during the past year. This is a time to celebrate successes, and rethink those plans that were less than successful.*

◆ Your associational WMU leadership team will have a training opportunity between Aug. 1 and 15, and will be leading a training conference for your church leaders. If you do not know the date/place, call your associational office or your associational WMU director. We want your leaders to feel confident as they begin the new WMU year Sept. 1. *Transformed* is the title of the emphasis. Your associational leader training is especially significant this year as we do not have a national training conference.

◆ You will have **three opportunities** to relate to your associational WMU director during these three months: (1) She needs your report for the year about the involvement of

your missions organizations, your needs and your statistical report; (2) Report to her your church's involvement in *Project HELP: Cultural Diversity* so she can report to Kentucky WMU; (3) You will receive (or have received) from your associational WMU director or your associational office your 1998-99 Church WMU Leadership Team cards. Please complete both sections and return to your association WMU director. She will forward the state portion to us.

◆ The success of the **Season of Prayer and Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions** in your church is so dependent upon you. You will receive your sample package during the last week of July. Samples of all age level materials will be included. Please order your materials promptly. We hope your church has set a challenging goal for the Eliza Broadus Offering and has planned innovative ways to reach the goal. Every subscriber to *Western Recorder* will receive the adult material in the Aug. 25 issue.

◆ Note information elsewhere in *Kentucky Notes* regarding the **Coed Training Conference**, Sept. 12 in Richmond.

◆ On Sept. 15, there will be a **missionary appointment service** in Louisville.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendar

June

- 7-8 WMU, SBC Annual Meeting
Salt Lake City
- 9-11 SBC, Salt Lake City
- 13-19 Jericho, Ridgecrest
- 15-19 GA/Acteens Camp, Jonathan
Creek
- 15-21 WMU Camp Staff Training
Cedar Crest
- 19-20 Mother/Daughter Overnight
Jonathan Creek
- 22-26 GA Camp, Cedar Crest
- 22-26 GA Camp, Jonathan Creek
- 26-27 Mother/Daughter Overnight
Jonathan Creek
- 29-30 Mother/Daughter Overnight
Cedar Crest
- 29-7/3 GA Camp, Jonathan Creek

July

- 1-4 National Acteens
Convention, Louisville
- 6-10 GA Camp, Cedar Crest
- 10-11 Mother/Daughter Overnight
Cedar Crest
- 13-17 GA/Acteen Camp
Cedar Crest
- 17-18 Mother/Daughter Overnight
Cedar Crest
- 20-24 Youth on Mission Camp
Cedar Crest
- 22-26 Baptist World Youth
Conference, Houston
- 24-25 Mother/Daughter Overnight
Cedar Crest
- 25 Baptist Nursing Fellowship
Luncheon, Hartford
- 27-31 GA Camp, Cedar Crest

August

- 1 WMU State Associational
Leadership Training (SALT),
Immanuel Baptist Church,
Lexington
- 3-7 GA Camp, Cedar Crest
- 8 WMU SALT, First Baptist
Church, Hopkinsville
- 9 Language Missions Day
- 15 WMU SALT, First Baptist
Church, Hazard

September

- 12 WMU Co-ed Training, First
Baptist Church, Richmond
- 13-20 Season of Prayer for State
Missions/Eliza Broadus
Offering

◆ **International missionary appointment service:** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Alumni Chapel, Sept. 15, 7 p.m.

Christian Women's Job Corps

**Christian Women's Job Corps
National Certification Training
November 12-14, 1998
KBC Building
Louisville, Kentucky**

CWJC National Certification Training is coming to Kentucky! If you are interested in starting a CWJC program in your community this training is of critical importance. One person from each CWJC site is required to receive certification. The cost for the training is \$80 which covers the cost of instruction, materials, meals and breaks. Please contact Denise Jones at 502/244-6485 or 888/254-5726 for additional information or registration materials.



Kentucky WMU wants to hear what your church did as a part of the 1997-98 Project HELP: Cultural Diversity emphasis. Unlike other Project HELP emphases, an offering was not collected. Please complete a Project HELP: Cultural Diversity church report form and mail it to your associational WMU director by Aug. 31, 1998. Questions? Contact the Kentucky WMU office.

KBNF Summer Luncheon

The Mississippi River Ministry will be the topic of the Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship summer meeting July 25 in Hartford. Sandra Waller, a registered nurse from Memphis, Tenn., will be the speaker. Waller serves as Health Care Coordinator of the Brinkley Heights Alliance of the Mississippi River Ministry. This ministry was featured in the video "A River Runs Through It," which was a part of the 1998 North American mission study. Waller will discuss her work through MRM and share practical ideas on how Kentucky nurses can become involved in similar ministries in their communities. Cost to attend the meeting is \$5 per person. Lunch will be prepared by Women on Mission members from Hartford Baptist Church who have asked each participant to make a donation to cover the cost of the meal. **NOTE: This program may be of interest to WMU members who are not nurses. Leaders, please encourage them to attend.** Use this form to register:

Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Luncheon
Noon-2 p.m., Saturday, July 25
Hartford Baptist Church

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Church: _____

Complete the registration form and mail with your check for \$5 per person to Kentucky WMU P. O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569. Donations will be accepted at the luncheon to cover the cost of the meal. Directions to Hartford will be included with your registration confirmation.

Coed Retreat Registration

Church Name _____

Association _____

Street Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Person completing registration form _____

Daytime phone number _____

Our church: currently has co-ed organizations
 is planning to start a co-ed organization
 is exploring the possibility of co-ed

Names of persons you are registering.

Please check 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

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

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

President's Perspective



**Peggy Hicks
President
Kentucky WMU**

Your vote of confidence for me as your president again means so much to me. Thank you for the privilege of representing you as president here in Kentucky and on the national level of WMU. As a state president one is automatically a vice president on the Executive Board of Woman's Missionary Union SBC.

These responsibilities I take very seriously and want to hear from you if you have concerns or suggestions for either board. The grass roots connections to you, the members of Kentucky WMU, are so important if WMU is to remain effective. Let me hear from

you and covenant with me to pray for WMU and all that we seek to do. Your strong support in this way will enable the staff and me to serve more effectively. May God richly bless us as we serve together to make missions education come alive in our churches. Our faithfulness to the missions task is essential to world evangelization. What an important task!

We also have a tremendous opportunity to get behind a campaign that will help many of our young people to receive an education in a Christian environment and be exposed to missions. Through Partnership 2000 Campaign

we can partner with our Kentucky Baptist colleges and help provide scholarships and missions activities on each of the campuses. We might even be able to endow a chair for missions. Our partnering will enable us to strengthen the missions environment that is present on all three campuses. What exciting possibilities are open to us to strengthen our Campus Women on Mission organizations and to encourage real involvement in missions experiences through our giving to the Partnership 2000 Campaign! The presidents have encouraged our involvement in strengthening missions on their campuses. Let's get behind

this campaign and help them go over the top. Our Christian institutions are so vital to the future of our nation, the world, and our churches.

Many exciting things are happening in WMU. New materials and books are available through WMU, SBC and the Baptist Book Stores. If you are an associational leader you will want to be in one of the SALT (State Associational Leadership Training) in August, so that you can help the churches in your association to be ready for the start of the new WMU year in September. How grateful I am for your commitment to WMU and world missions.

MISSIONS INFORMATION

Summer Camp

Pray for the 1998 Kentucky WMU summer camps and staff. Pray for: ♦ God's guidance, strength, compassion and peace for the campers and their families. ♦ That the love of Jesus Christ will shine through the hearts and actions of the staff and into the lives of the campers. ♦ That all those involved with camp will come to a new understanding and acceptance of what it means to follow Jesus. ♦ That we will live out the theme: "Every Day...God's Way."

Cedar Crest staff

Director: *Kim Davis*; assistant director *Shelby White*, Southern Seminary, Oak Hill, W.Va.

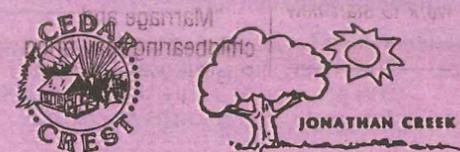
Counselors: *Lori Brown*, Murray State University, Williamstown; *Bethanie Butler*, Eastern Kentucky University, Frankfort; *Erica Butler*, Eastern Kentucky University, Frankfort; *Jennifer Duncan*, Morehead State University, Falmouth; *Jeannette Grace*, APSU, Hopkinsville; *Penny Gregory*, Morehead, Canada; *Tina Norris*, Berea, Marion, Va.; *Heather Stearns*, Campbellsville, Scottsburg, Ind.; *Esther Woodruff*, Berea College, Lawrenceburg.

Assistant Counselors: *Beth Bond*, Wheatley; *Ashley Curtis*, Louisville; *Amanda Fowler*, Stanford; *Mary Webster*, Hopkinsville

Unit Leaders: *Summer Bertram*, Georgetown College, Russell Springs; *Christina Gibbs*, University of Kentucky, Lawrenceburg; *Laura Morgan*, Lexington Bible College, Nicholasville.

Kitchen Coordinator: *Stacie Jarvis*, Berea College, Marion, Va.

Lifeguard: *Shannon Close*, Campbellsville University, Fleming, Ohio



There is still room for you at camp

- ♦ GA, Acteens or Youth on Mission: \$84 per person
- ♦ GA camp is for girls finishing 4th-6th grades; Acteens camp is for girls completing 7th-12th grades
- ♦ Youth on Mission camp is for youth completing 7th-12th grades
- ♦ Mother Daughter Overnights: \$21 per person. For girls completing 1st-3rd grade, with mothers
- ♦ Call the WMU office toll-free for registration materials: (888) 254-5726
- ♦ Call either Jonathan Creek or Cedarmore for space availability

Jonathan Creek

GA directors and program directors: *Joyce Paris*, Sturgis; *Melissa Norris*, Owensboro; *Kim Bone*, Nebo.

GA unit leaders: *Amy Beck*, Princeton; *Debbie Strait*, Madisonville; *Holly Henson*, Smithland.

GA recreation leader: *Brandy Day*, Sturgis.

Acteens director: *Beverly Winchester*, Murray.

Acteens program director: *Carla Houston*, Murray.

Acteens Mission Study Leader: *Paige Alcott*, Murray

Acteens worship leader: *Jennifer Atherton*, Paducah.

Volunteer counselors: *Kim Bone*, Nebo; *Teresa Burden*, Dawson Springs; *Donna DeRossett*, Albany; *Donna Gaston*, Gilbertsville; *Jewell Jackson*, Morganfield; *Tracy Johnson*, Elizabethtown; *Linda Jones*, Nebo; *Angela Lasley*, Bowling Green; *Lorelei Martin*, Princeton; *Cindy Miller*, Madisonville; *Jean Miller*, Elizabethtown; *Nina Moore*, Morganfield; *Zona Newton*, Barlow; *Mary Perino*, Ledbetter; *Kim Polley*, Wickliffe; *Joyce Reed*, Owensboro; *Ann Reynolds*, Corydon; *Christi Ritter*, Princeton; *Linda Strait*, Madisonville; *Evelyn Terry*, Bowling Green; *Barbara Watson*, Alvaton; *Linda Williams*, Elizabethtown; *Janna Willie*, Hardin; *Sharon Wright-Eisenhauer*, Sturgis.

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund

Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund
May 1, 1997 - April 30, 1998

Gifts in Honor

Gifts in Honor	Donor
Anna White	Donald White and children - Mother's Day
June Rice	WMU, Paintsville First Baptist Church
Anna Mary Byrdwell	Brenda Price-30th anniv. w/Kentucky WMU
Peggy Hicks	WMU, Walnut Street, Louisville
Sue Shaw	WMU Leadership Team, Calvary, Lexington
Ruth Milby	WMU, London First Baptist Church
Christine Blevins	Betty Hanna Circle, Olive Hill - "Service to your Lord and church"
Jane T. Kent	Maribeth Hambrick
Mary Pat Price	Maribeth Hambrick
Dr. Russell Bennett	Long Run Assn. WMU - Retirement
Charles Coots & Mildred Gannon	Jane T. Kent Mary Pat Price Maribeth & Horace Hambrick

Gifts in Memory

Gifts in Memory	Donor
Dr. Thomas Cox	Libby Cox
Dorothy Mitchell McFarland	WMU, Georgetown Baptist Church
Mary Boone	Mrs. Wade Bryant Hicks
John Hack	Mary Lou Crutcher Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Wilson Dr. & Mrs. Lloyd Birch Mike Tabor Mr. & Mrs. William W. Ellis Mary E. McCarty Dolores Spears Bryant & Peggy Hicks Dennis, Denise, & Will Jones Jim & Jo Pelham John & Kay Trisler Kathleen R. Hall Executive Board, KBC Kentucky Baptist Foundation Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union June B. Rice Brenda Price Julie A. Losch Maribeth Hambrick Blood River Assn. WMU Dianna Rowe WMU Leadership Team, West Union Assn. Dolores Gilliland
Jane Dejarnett	Carlann Harris Dolores & Bill Spears
Lemma Warren	Grober-Parrish BW, Hopkinsville First
Viola Barriger	WMU, Walnut Street, Louisville
Mary & Ira Porter	Maribeth Hambrick
Edwina Montgomery	WMU, Georgetown Baptist Church
Virginia Mills Venn Dempsey	Robert Venn WMU, Georgetown
Mrs. Harvie McDowell	Mrs. Carl Grace
Marie Purdy	WMU, Calvary, Lexington
Lydia Fischer	WMU, Calvary, Lexington
Marjorie Goranflo	WMU, Calvary, Lexington
Jack Hall	Dolores Gilliland Maribeth Hambrick
Harold Rice	Dolores Gilliland
William Ellis	Kathryn Akridge Dolores Gilliland
Elizabeth Pendergrass	Brenda Jean Price
Emmalene Caudle	Grober-Parrish BW, Hopkinsville First Jim & Jo Pelham

E-mail Kentucky WMU

Kentucky WMU staff members now have e-mail! You may contact them using the addresses below:

Gregg Bingham	gregg_bingham@kybaptist.org
Anna Mary Byrdwell	anna_mary_byrdwell@kybaptist.org
Kim Davis	kim_davis@kybaptist.org
Donna Dye	donna_dye@kybaptist.org
Denise Jones	denise_jones@kybaptist.org
Julie Keith	julie_keith@kybaptist.org
Sharla Pochodzay	sharla_pochodzay@kybaptist.org
Brenda Price	brenda_price@kybaptist.org
Doris Riddle	doris_riddle@kybaptist.org



The National Acteens Convention is less than a month away and Louisville is geared up to welcome the 10,000-plus Acteens and Acteens advisors to the commonwealth. As teenage girls and their adult sponsors look toward July 1-4, will you participate in the June 1998 NAC Prayer Focus? Each day focus on the listed need and see how prayer can change you and the Acteens from the inside out:

- ♦ Sunday: Ministry (on-site and off-site) ♦ Monday: National WMU staff, Birmingham, Ala.
- ♦ Tuesday: Local committee members; city of Louisville ♦ Wednesday: Acteens and sponsors
- ♦ Thursday: Program personnel ♦ Friday: State Acteens leadership
- ♦ Saturday: Associational and church WMU leadership

The official off-site ministry project for NAC is Infant Resource Project in Louisville. IRP serves young children and their parents who need assistance. The ongoing program exists to help lessen the devastating effects of poverty in the first three years of life. Each Acteens group is encouraged to bring new infant care items to be given to Infant Resource Project. Infant care items include: large disposable diapers (stage 4), baby toiletries (powder, shampoo or bath soap), plastic baby bottles, crib sheets, baby picture books, pacifiers, receiving blankets and diaper wipes. Make this a churchwide project so we can shower Infant Resource Project with these much-needed necessities.

NAC volunteers urgently needed: If you would like to serve as a volunteer for NAC, please contact Kym Mitchell at (502) 647-1806 or Julie Keith at (502) 244-6485 or (888) 254-5726. Volunteers are needed to serve as ushers and on-site quilt project helpers as well as in many other capacities.

Religion law's impact limited, monitor reports

MOSCOW (RNS)—A leading expert on religious freedom in Russia says the situation there deteriorated relatively little during the first six months that a law allowing officials to restrict religious minorities has been in effect.

"Overall ... religious freedom in Russia has not seen a sharp, systematic turn for the worse since September—so far," said Lawrence Uzzell, the Keston Institute's Moscow representative.

"What has happened since the law was enacted might be summarized as a slight acceleration in a negative trend that began about four years ago," Uzzell said in an April 23 article distributed via the Internet.

Uzzell has paid close attention to the Russian law for the London-based institute, which monitors religious rights in the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe.

The law established a religious hierarchy in Russia, with the Russian Orthodox Church on top. It was designed to protect Russian Orthodoxy from losing members to a variety of Christian and non-Christian groups that in recent years have gained growing numbers of Russian converts.

"It is difficult (though not impossible) to find examples of foreign missionaries whose rights have become more restricted in the last six months specifically as a result of the new law. It is much easier to find cases of indigenous Russian religious minorities whose freedoms are shrinking," Uzzell said.

Overall, he added, application of the law has been based on the whim of local authorities and political connections, "including connections to foreign states with which Moscow values good relations."

Goal: 800 Russian churches in 2 years

Continued from page 1

the Lord," said missionary Ed Tarleton, who directs IMB efforts in Russia. "That starts adding up when you consider multiple services across the whole country."

Tarleton and 52 other IMB missionaries work in Russia at the invitation of the Baptist union.

During the next two years, the union wants to increase the number of its member churches from 1,200 to 2,000. IMB missionaries fully support that goal, said Tarleton, a former Kentucky pastor.

Missionaries are helping develop new churches, training pastors to start churches on their own and strengthening existing churches by disciplining new believers. They also are helping set up partnerships with Southern Baptists.

Tarleton said he sees the same story repeated throughout Russia: young churches, young pastors, new Christians. In recent months he visited three churches. One was less than five years old, the other two were barely more than two years old. All three claimed memberships of 100 to 150 but attendance of about 250. The youngest church was started with the pastor and his wife and one other couple.

"In each of these, about 90 to 95 percent of all church members are new believers," Tarleton said. "These are people who have come to the Lord during the past two to three years—a wide range of ages and both men and women."

Russian Baptists know they must act fast while nationalists are still held at bay.

Because the Russia Baptist Union predates the formation of the Russian Federation by more than 15 years, it is considered a legitimate religious group under restrictive laws passed by national lawmakers last fall. That gives IMB missionaries a platform from which to work, at least for now.

It also protects Russian Baptists working to build church buildings and plant new congregations.

"The urgency they feel is in getting land and church buildings," said Mike Norfleet, IMB strategy associate for central and eastern Europe. "What they're saying is, 'We've got to get buildings built now, because



RUSSIAN CHURCH The 19th century Russian Orthodox Church "Spilt on the Blood" in downtown St. Petersburg. Russian Baptists are concerned that laws attempting to establish Russian Orthodoxy as the state church would limit their work to start new churches and build new buildings. (RNS photo)

it will be very difficult for communists to take them away from us if they do get control again."

Baptists aren't happy with recent setbacks to the religious freedom that washed in on the waves of democracy. No one knows for sure how Russia will implement a law it passed last fall establishing repressive guidelines for church registration and activities.

Already some localities have acted vigorously to enact the law—even before receiving written instructions from the federal justice department. In addition, localities and provinces—including Moscow and St. Petersburg—have used new local laws or executive orders to repress free worship.

Local officials also have blocked church programs and events, or denied groups the right to worship in leased buildings. The once-simple

public processes of obtaining missionary visas and building permits have taken on cumbersome new dimensions.

At the union's 30th annual congress in Moscow this year, delegates stressed the rich 131-year Russian Baptist heritage and called for equal treatment with the Orthodox.

For now, while a window is open, Baptist delegates urged churches to move fast. Pastors want help. "At the congress, I was approached by numerous senior pastors saying to me, 'Please get us our own Southern Baptist missionary to work in our city,'" Tarleton said. The IMB already has 135 requests for new missionaries on the books for Russia.

"Despite all the obstacles we have here, the potential and freedom to grow are still overwhelming," Tarleton said.

"It's amazing to see how quickly the interest in English kind of goes by the wayside and studying the Bible becomes more important to them," said Mrs. Covington. "Almost immediately they start to attend our Bible studies and other activities."

"It's been exciting to see how many have come to know the Lord from that start," she said.

A central part of the Khabarovsk ministry is the Christian Student Center. Started by IMB workers who first came to the area in 1993, the center provides young believers a place to fellowship, to grow and to bring friends who are not Christian.

"Usually a student ministry grows out of a local church ministry," said Covington. "In this situation it has been just the exact opposite. We began with a student ministry."

Since students knew nothing about Christian church life, it was easy to form them into a church body, he added. "We began to meet just on Sunday mornings with them and conduct a small worship time. And then with the sponsorship of the local Baptist Union, we decided this is a good place to start a new church."

Adapted from the February 1998 edition of the International Mission Board's "On Mission With God" video series.

Survey: Orthodox church has little influence

NEW YORK (RNS)—Although the Russian Orthodox Church remains the dominant faith among Russians, it exerts minimal influence on the values and behavior of young believers, according to research by a Columbia University professor.

Half of young Russians consider themselves religious, but few attend church regularly after they marry because church-sponsored family activities, such as Sunday school, do not exist, said sociologist Susan Goodrich Lehmann.

Lehmann's findings were based on a survey of 3,400 Russians aged 17 to 32.

"Marriage and childbearing may bring Russian couples (but) without the widespread availability of religious instruction for children or other social benefits from church involvement which we typically find in America, the parents' interest in the church is not sustained beyond a child's first five years," she said.

In the survey, Lehmann said, she found that 13 percent of those surveyed said they both believe in and actively observe religious rituals. Another 37 percent reported they believe in religion but do not take part in rituals. The rest reported being non-religious.

Among Orthodox believers, Lehmann said, 26 percent said they never attend church and 54 percent said they attend only for family celebrations or on religious holidays.

Russian students line up for English lessons, stay for Bible study

By Gunther Friedrichs
SBC International Mission Board

KHABAROVSK, Russia (BP)—For decades, communism was the bedrock of Khabarovsk, an industrial city in the Russian Pacific.

But communism's failure has left many people as empty and barren as the trees that tower over them through the dark Russian winter.

That ideological vacuum among residents of cities like Khabarovsk leaves room for an interest in spiritual matters, especially among students.

Home to more than a dozen learning institutions or colleges, Khabarovsk is a magnet for the

young of Russia's Far East. And as joint ventures with American firms emerge, students are taking note—and rushing to learn English with help from people like Randy and Robin Covington, Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries.

The Covingtons don't advertise their classes because the response is too overwhelming. But they've found that many students who hear about them by word of mouth are interested not only in learning English, but in learning about God as well.

Several students have become Christians and a new church very different from other traditional Russian Baptist churches.

Cordial clash predicted as Baptists go to Salt Lake City

Continued from page 1

"One of our articles of faith is that we claim the privilege of worshipping God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and we allow all others the same privilege," said Mormon Church spokesman Don LeFevre. "So the last thing the church would want to do is be confrontive or contentious."

About 12,000 delegates and guests to the annual meeting of Southern Baptists are heading to a region that includes only 153 of the denomination's more than 40,000 churches.

Through an effort dubbed "Crossover Salt Lake City," about

2,500 Baptists are set to arrive early or stay after the convention to introduce Mormons and non-Mormons alike to Baptist beliefs about Christianity through block parties and door-to-door and one-on-one evangelism.

Southern Baptists and Mormons agree on most social issues. Both vehemently oppose abortion and pornography, for example. But theology is another matter.

Southern Baptists rely solely on the Bible as their volume of Scripture, but Mormons believe that both the Bible and the Book of Mormon—a translation by church founder Joseph Smith of gold tablets he said an angel revealed to him—are the word of God. They also consider two other books—including writings and revelations of Smith—as additional scripture.

Mormons believe the dead are able to enter God's kingdom when they are baptized by proxy. They also believe that all people have the potential to become gods. Baptists and many other Christians consider those beliefs unbiblical.

Southern Baptists, with a total of 9,000 domestic and foreign missionaries, admit to admiring Mormons' contingent of 58,000 missionaries, most of whom are young men.

"Mormons have created a missionary culture ... where they basically

expect their kids to go and we've created a culture where the exceptions are the kids that go," Roberts said. "I think somehow or another we have to turn that around."

As the Baptists train their flock for next week, Mormon Church leaders say they are prepared to be good hosts.

Speaking at his church's annual General Conference in April, Mormon President Gordon B. Hinckley offered some advice to his "saints," as Mormons refer to themselves.

"We acknowledge without hesitation that there are differences between us," he said. "I hope we do not argue over this matter. There is no reason to debate it. ... We must not become disagreeable as we talk of doctrinal differences. There is no place for acrimony."

But observers of the two movements say clashes between the two groups—whether theological or verbal—are inevitable.

"I predict that each side will start out their comments in a lovey-dovey way," said Anson Shupe, a sociology professor at Indiana University-Purdue University in Fort Wayne, Ind. "Then they'll pull off the gloves."

Baptists will probably accuse the Mormons of being a "cult" and Mormons could respond that Baptists' words are "just hate talk," Shupe said. His predictions have, in part, al-

ready come to pass.

The presidents of both denominations have engaged in verbal sparring, prefacing their remarks with pleasantries about being entitled to their opinions.

"We don't go around running down any other church," Hinckley told a gathering of 12,000 Mormons at an Atlanta gathering in mid-May.

Countered SBC President Tom Elliff: "The teaching of Mormonism clearly states their belief that theirs is the only true church and that all others, including Baptists, are apostate."

Shupe said Baptists will have to work harder than Mormons to avoid the appearance of being belligerent.

"The Baptists are much more likely to see this as a challenge," he said. "Mormons have a garrison mentality, where it's them against the world and it's been that way for the last century."

Whether the words are formal or informal, kind or unkind, come late June, when the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention is history, little may have changed.

"I don't think either side is amenable to real dialogue. They want to convert the other side," said Shupe, the sociologist. "You're not going to end up with a bunch of ex-Baptists joining the Mormon Church or vice versa."

KNOCK KNOCK A pair of Mormon missionaries visit a woman in Germantown, Md. Baptists are scheduled to knock on a few doors during Crossover Salt Lake City, an evangelism blitz prior to the annual Southern Baptist Convention. Mormon leaders promise to be welcoming, but a cultural clash is expected. (RNS photo)



CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth. Send resumé to: Cornerstone Baptist Church, 4451 Winchester Road, Lexington, KY 40509, Attn: Personnel Committee

SEEKING: Minister of education for rapidly growing congregation (199 new members in '97). Primary responsibilities include implementing improvements in education program and equipping teachers and leaders. Secondary responsibility will be associate pastor. Learn more about us at our website: www.fbcmaryville.com. For consideration for this exciting role in our ministry team, please send a resumé of experience, education and testimony in confidence to: Search Committee, P.O. Box 309, Maryville, IL 62062.

SEEKING: Full-time secretary. Send resumé: Personnel Committee, Farmdale Baptist Church, 1238 Durrett Lane, Louisville, KY 40213-2080.

SEEKING: Full-time preschool/children's minister for rapidly growing congregation (199 new members in '97). Primary responsibilities include developing and administering education programs for children birth to fifth grade. Learn more about us at our website: www.fbcmaryville.com. For consideration for this exciting role in our ministry team, please send a resumé of experience, education and testimony in confidence to: Search Committee, P.O. Box 309, Maryville, IL 62062.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and children, and full-time minister of music and education. Interested persons should send resumé to: Latonia Baptist Church, P.O. Box 15103, Covington, KY 41015, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Ashland, Ky., is seeking a full time minister of music. Applicants should be energetic, responsible and possess leadership qualities. The position requires blending of music and ministry. Prior experience is desirable, but not required. Interested parties should submit resumes to: First Baptist Church of Ashland, P.O. Box 787, Ashland, KY 41105.

WANTED: 21 new/used church pews 14 feet long. Contact Tish Kneller, (502) 245-5695 after 8:30 p.m. or write to P.O. Box 43004, Middletown, KY 40243.

AVAILABLE: Minister called of God to preach and pastor a body of believers. For resumé, call (502) 875-7979 or write to: Larry E. McPherron, 7979 Owenton Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth/children. Good opportunity to expand to full-time. Send resumé or contact: Harry Hargis, FBC, P.O. Box 241, McDowell, KY 41647. (606) 377-6168, 377-2476.

SEEKING: Full-time secretary for the church music department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Competitive compensation package. Contact administrative services department at (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro, Ky., is seeking full-time associate pastor of worship/music. Must be gifted in leading praise and worship style services in a seeker-sensitive environment. Significant experience and education expected. Send resumé to: Bellevue Baptist Church, 519 W. Byers Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303, or fax to (502) 685-5134.

SEEKING: Part-time ministry assistant for rapidly growing congregation (199 new members in '97). Primary responsibilities include counseling, senior adult ministry and some visitation. Learn more about us at our website: www.fbcmaryville.com. For consideration for this exciting role in our ministry team, please send a resumé of experience, education and testimony in confidence to: Search Committee, P.O. Box 309, Maryville, IL 62062.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/worship. Contact: Pastor André Dugger, (615) 865-6262, or send resumé to: Grace Baptist Church, 1510 Old Hickory Blvd., Nashville, TN 37207.

NEEDED: Vineyard laborers. Come plant seeds of "love, joy, peace, ... and self-control," and watch them grow in children's lives. Make a difference with your life. Come join our caring professional team. Florida Baptist Children's Home, Tallahassee, needs a Christian couple without children. Excellent pay and benefits. Call Doug McWhirter at (850) 878-1458 for information. Pray for us.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church, Barbourville, is looking for a minister of students. All applications and/or resumes need to be sent to: FBC, 201 N. Main St., Barbourville, KY 40906, Attn: Search Committee.

TOUR: 10-day Holy Land tour, Nov. 2-11. First class—only \$1,795. Call Pastor Studie, (502) 247-8331.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of youth. Good potential for growth in youth department. 15 to 20 per week. Send resumé or contact: Rodney Groff, 175 Mexico Road, Marion, KY 42064; (502) 965-9026.

FOR RENT: 40-foot entertainer's bus for rent by small groups; driver included; rent from one weekend up to one year. 16 seats, 6 bunks, shower, lounges front and rear. Ride in comfort, arrive in style. Day: (606) 292-8877; Night: (606) 485-4889.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Leitchfield, Ky., is seeking a full-time minister of music. Responsibilities include: sanctuary choir, graded choir program, handbell choir, youth instrumental ensemble, traditional and contemporary music services. Applicants should send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 106 East Walnut St., Leitchfield, KY 42754.

SEEKING: Two staff positions for Highland Baptist Church, Louisville: Part-time minister of outreach (10-12 hrs/week); part-time minister of administration. Send resumé to: Personnel Ministry Group, HBC 1101 Cherokee Road, Louisville, KY 40204.

FOR RENT: Sanibel Island, Fla., 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo available for vacation rental. Large pool, tennis courts, screened porch, lovely secluded beach, bikes, canoe, kayak. Weekly rates—May through mid-December: \$615. Call Pat Owen, (502) 895-8752 (home), or 897-5079 (office).

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for worship services and choir. All inquiries please respond to: Mt. Freedom Baptist Church, 100 S. Lexington Ave., Wilmore, KY 40390.

RETREAT: Glorieta Conference Center. Stay with family spring, summer, fall or winter. Call (800) 797-4222 to make reservations or for information.

Lawmakers debate abortion consent laws

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A congressional hearing May 21 turned into a debate over the necessity of laws requiring parental consent for a minor to have an abortion.

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., has proposed a bill that would make it a crime to transport a minor to another state to circumvent one state's parental notice or consent laws regarding abortion.

Representatives heard testimony from women who learned their daughters had been taken to other states for abortion only after medical complications developed.

Critics argued the bill, known as the Child Custody Protection Act,

would make girls who fear the consequences of informing their parents about pregnancies seek dangerous alternatives, including self-induced abortions.

"The bill tells them to fend for themselves without any help from a responsible adult," said Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y. "It tells them, 'Don't tell your grandmother. Don't tell a friend. In your greatest hour of need, you are on your own.'"

The bill would make it a federal offense for anyone other than a girl's parent or guardian to transport her out of state for an abortion if such action would circumvent parental involvement laws in her home state.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., and House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., promised fast approval of the legislation so that it might be sent to the White House this summer.

White House officials have said the proposal raises enforcement, policy and constitutional problems.

Teresa Stanton Collett, a law professor at South Texas College of Law, said the bill would not prevent anyone from aiding a girl in a decision about a crisis pregnancy. "It merely requires any person assisting a young pregnant girl to abide by the state law of the girl's residence," Collett said.

Clinton vetoes voucher bill for Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON (RNS)—President Clinton vetoed a bill providing vouchers to aid parents of poor children in Washington, D.C., to attend private or religious instead of public schools.

The bill would have set aside vouchers of up to \$3,200 for 2,000 local children to use at private, religious or suburban public schools. Another 2,000 District of Columbia students would have received up to \$500 in aid for tutors or other after-

hours assistance. The children would have been picked through a lottery.

Clinton said the bill would have undercut public education.

"We must strengthen our public schools, not abandon them," the president said in a statement. "Although I appreciate the interest of the Congress in the educational needs of the children in our nation's capital, this bill is fundamentally misguided and a disservice to those children."

The House passed the voucher bill

with a 214-206 vote, linking it with the Republican's election-year message of repairing public education by enabling more parental choice, expanding local control and minimizing direct federal involvement.

House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, said, "It says a lot about the character of our president that he would stand in the schoolhouse door and deny D.C.'s most vulnerable children the opportunity for a decent education."

Faith-based drug programs would benefit from bill

WASHINGTON (ABP)—House lawmakers have introduced a bill designed to revitalize low-income communities through tax breaks and business incentives. It would also allow communities to fund faith-based drug rehabilitation programs.

Sponsors of the American Community Renewal Act introduced similar legislation last year. That measure failed to gain momentum, partly because it included a controversial education-voucher plan.

Voucher initiative was removed this year to make the bill less controversial.

But the bill includes another provision expected to raise similar concerns about the separation of church and state. The bill would allow up to 100 communities to give public grants and vouchers for drug-addiction treatment that could be used at faith-based facilities which view evangelism as part of their treatment.

Sponsors of the plan say it would allow government to support programs that have a better track record of solving drug addiction problems. Leaders of religious programs stood with sponsors of the bill outside the Capitol to announce its introduction.

Rep. James Talent, R-Mo., said the voucher provision would be permissible because a recipient would get to choose where it is used. "If that's unconstitutional then putting your Social Security check in the collection plate is unconstitutional," he said.

But critics of the bill argue that government funding of religion, even in the form of a voucher, may create an excessive entanglement between church and state.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Religious persecution act passes house.** Legislation targeting persecuted religious minorities abroad passed the U.S. House of Representatives May 14 with broad bipartisan support, despite the Clinton administration's opposition to the measure. The bill, the Freedom from Religious Persecution Act, passed on a 373-41 vote. The White House has signaled its intention to veto the bill, claiming it could hinder U.S. foreign policy. A competing Senate measure introduced by Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., has the support of the influential chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C.

■ **"Choose Life" license plate vetoed.** Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles vetoed an anti-abortion specialty license plate that would have said "Choose Life." Chiles said he vetoed the plate because of its potential for divisiveness. A group called Choose Life Inc. collected 10,000 signatures and paid \$30,000, both of which are required in Florida to get a specialty plate with legislative approval. Money collected from sales of the plate was to be distributed among private groups that help women seeking to put children up for adoption.

■ **Oregon church ministers after shooting.** Valley Hills Community Church drew about 150 worshipers for Sunday worship May 24 in the park near Thurston High School, site of the May 21 shooting frenzy that left two Springfield, Ore., teens dead and 22 others injured. Valley Hills, a new Southern Baptist congregation, usually meets in the auditorium and cafeteria at Thurston High, but the school was still a yellow-taped active crime scene that Sunday. More than 50 media organizations were on hand for the service. About \$800 was collected for families of the victims.

■ **Federal abortion clinic law stands.** A federal law protecting access to abortion clinics withstood a Supreme Court challenge from North Carolina anti-abortion protesters. The protesters argued the 1994 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act discriminated against abortion opponents and also that Congress overstepped its authority to regulate interstate commerce when it passed the law. The court rejected these arguments without comment.

■ **Blast may have killed church bomber.** An explosion in a garage May 28 killed a Danville, Ill., man whom the FBI wanted to question in a local church bombing four days earlier. FBI spokesman Don Berez would not call the man a suspect, but said he was "another individual on an extensive list of people to contact regarding" the bombing at First Assembly of God Church, according to Associated Press. That blast injured 33 people and blew open a church wall.

■ **736 conversions registered at Detroit event.** Organizers of an inner-city Detroit evangelism conference registered 736 people converting to Christianity May 10-15. Joe Ryckman, director of missions for Greater Detroit Baptist Association, said he was overwhelmed by the response. "I wish every pastor could have been here. Times like this make Christians realize what Christ has really called us to do."

■ **Update: Show with gay Christ figure gets threats.** After initially scrapping plans to produce a new play that features a homosexual Christ-like figure, the theater now says it will host the show. "Corpus Christi" features a lead character who embarks on a spiritual journey and ends up having sex with disciples who follow him. "In our 25-year history, we have never censored a play nor turned a play down because of content," said Lynne Meadow, Manhattan Theater Club's artistic director. The theater received many protests and five specific death threats, said Barry Grove, the theater's executive producer.

■ **New TV network geared to families.** A new television network is scheduled to debut in September with family-oriented programming that excludes gratuitous sex and violence. Pax NET is the creation of Lowell Paxson, who owns 78 TV stations. Paxson, who made his mark by launching the Home Shopping Network, told the Washington Post the new channel will feature "programming that any member of the family can watch without being offended. Our promise is no gratuitous sex, no violence, no obscene language."

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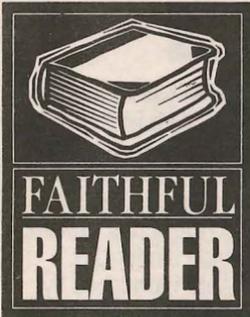
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BOOKS



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

Sinners in the Hands of an Angry Church: Finding a Better Way to Influence our Culture. Dean Merrill. Zondervan Publishing House, 1997. 183 pages. \$12.99. ♦♦♦ (out of five)

Knowing Dean Merrill's religious pedigree is important if we are to understand that this book is not another moderate/liberal critique of right-wing Christian political activism. Merrill has served as an editor for David C. Cook and the Christian Herald, as well as having been vice president of the resource group at Focus on the Family.

Coming from within the political activism of the Christian right, Merrill accomplishes three things in this brief, but pithy book: he offers us a look at his personal journey in re-examining how Christians can best influence our culture; he submits an insightful critique of the world view of many well-meaning but misguided Christians (on both the left and right wings of Christian politics); and he presents a Biblically-based alternative for influencing our culture.

Merrill's chief critique of many politically active Christians is that their world view is not biblically sound. He argues that many have succumbed to "New Evangelical Deism," which affirms on one hand that "our God reigns," but then acts as if, "there's nobody here to manage things but us. We're in charge for the foreseeable future."

He challenges Christian political activists, on both left and right, to

make sure their perceptions of God's work in the world, our history as a nation and what is going on in the world are based on sound judgments and discernments. *Jim Holladay*

Preaching from the Minor Prophets: Texts and Sermon Suggestions. Elizabeth Achtemeier. Eerdmans Publishing, 1998. 143 pages. \$14. ♦♦♦

Elizabeth Achtemeier bemoans the fact that most people in the pew hear few sermons from the Minor Prophets. Her book is an excellent resource to help preachers mine the wealth of material from the Minor Prophets.

Achtemeier's name is synonymous with excellent scholarship and practical helps for sermon preparation. This book is not a disappointment.

"Preaching" is not intended to replace commentaries on the Minor Prophets, but to point to "preachable" texts and themes within them. With a chapter devoted to each minor prophet, Achtemeier summarizes the historical and theological contexts and then offers guidance on selected texts. A "Features" section emphasizes aspects of the selected texts and then depends on the preacher to be drawn into the rest of the text of each book. Lastly, she offers sermon titles with homiletical exposition.

As a sermon preparation tool, Achtemeier's work is splendid. Sound biblical interpretation stands behind

all that Achtemeier suggests. She writes in a simple and straightforward manner that provides the preacher stimulating insights into the Minor Prophets and the task of proclaiming the message today. *Wayne Hager*

Crashing Without Burning: Life After Failure. David Matthews. Peake Road, 1997. 114 pages. \$16.95. ♦♦♦

David Matthews knows failure. Pastor of one of the most prominent Baptist churches in the South, the affair Matthews was having with a church member was made public, and his life changed forever.

Matthews seeks to "speak redemptively to some of the things those who have experienced serious failure have in common." After 12 years of wrestling with his moral failure he shares his experience of being led by faith to a new place of hope.

Failure is the death of an intention. Matthews classifies failures as either "power" or "moral." Power failures are really beyond our control, but moral failures we bring upon ourselves. This distinction is important to Matthews because he sees a real blurring of the lines in our society. In facing moral failure, one must see the essential spiritual nature of the failure and acknowledge the human capacity for irresponsible behavior and destructive choices.

Matthews concludes that God never forsakes the failed person and through faith one can be led again to a new hope for life. The book is a good resource to put in the hands of those who desire to make a fresh start after serious failure. *Wayne Hager*

Anointed Expository Preaching. Stephen Olford with David Olford. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1998. 368 pages. \$24.99 ♦

Stephen Olford is acknowledged by many in the evangelical world to be one of the premier expository preachers. His son David is president of the Stephen Olford Center for Biblical Preaching. Together they have written a thoroughgoing manual that urges preachers to remain faithful to a style of preaching that exposes Scripture "instead of imposing upon it."

This manual looks at the three sides of the preaching task. Part one deals with the person and work of the preacher. The Olfords contend that a man (and they do mean "man") who fails to be faithful to his calling and work as pastor loses credibility as a preacher of the word.

Part two examines the preparation it takes to preach expository sermons, while part three gives attention to the content and act of preaching. Throughout the last two parts, they witness to the hard work it takes to preach faithfully. For example, they recommend that a pastor begin preparation on a sermon at least a week and a half before it is to be preached.

Unfortunately the book falls short of what is promised in the title. I found the book boring, cumbersome and repetitive. The language is often preachy, telling us what we ought to think and do, without providing helpful illustrations. Better books on expository preaching are available. *Jim Holladay*



Honoring two juniors

By Robert Dunston

Each year at Cumberland College's Honors Day convocation, we recognize the accomplishments of our students. Two of the special awards we present go to juniors who have demonstrated the potential for outstanding service to God and others.

Dana Junker, the daughter of Daniel and Linda Junker of Corbin, received the A.T. Siler Service Award. Junker, a music education major, serves as president of the chamber choir and as chaplain of the chorale. For three years she has sung with Abundance, bearing witness to her faith in Christ at many churches. Junker is also a member of the All-Collegiate Choir.

Junker's smiling face and willingness to use her time and talents for God have blessed many. She is one who does not hide her light under a basket but lets it shine forth to draw others to Christ.

Jammie Woodyard, the son of Wendel and Vicki Woodyard of London, received the T.E. Mahan Service Award. Woodyard is a health education major. As a member of Cumberland's baseball team he has been an inspiration to his teammates. His involvement in Fel-

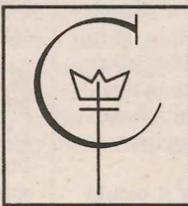
lowship of Christian Athletes has extended his witness to others on campus as well. Woodyard has been instrumental in organizing and publishing a weekly newsletter to inform all of us on campus of the activities of Baptist Student Union, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and Campus Crusade.

Woodyard has demonstrated the power of cooperation among groups seeking to serve Christ. While the Christian ministries on Cumberland College's campus always have worked very well with one another, Woodyard has helped all of us realize the wonderful work God is doing here as he works through so many students to touch lives.

Our Cumberland College students are involved not just in academic pursuits but in service to Christ and to others. They are learning to manage their time and talents so they can effectively prepare themselves for even greater service while simultaneously ministering during their college years. Our students inspire one another and our faculty and staff to greater service for the Kingdom of God.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



James Forrester, Jesus freak

If you had attended Hardee County Senior High School in Wauchula, Fla., when I did during the turbulent years between 1964 and 1968 you couldn't help but know James Forrester.

Forrester was a "Jesus freak" before his time. He was the guy who carried a Bible to school, had a kind demeanor and made no excuses for his Christian commitment.

To 99.9 percent of us in the small school with Forrester, he was "someplace most of us did not want to go." You couldn't help but admire him for taking a stand; you just didn't want to stand with him.

We viewed Christianity during my high school days as "stuffy" because that was usually the way it was presented. Now the old gospel story is presented in new good-news mediums, from more contemporary music, to drama, magic and comedy.

James Forrester was extremely sincere with his faith and determination to live it among his peers. The problem was he just did not relate to who and where we were. I appreciate him very much today but couldn't understand him then. Thank God we

have awakened to the fact that there are many ways to share the gospel, making it easier for people of all ages to understand its significance for them today.

Centrifuge, a week-long camp/celebration of the gospel for young people, is a great example of how far we've come. Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's experience

last year at Campbellsville University was the first time an official Southern Baptist Convention Centrifuge team shared its talents and energies with youth from residential and foster care. The week made a "good news" impression on everyone attending.

Guess what? Centrifuge and Campbellsville have agreed to do it all again this year! Last year it all was made possible

because so many of our friends across the state donated dollars for food and other expenses related to the camp. I want to thank our supporters in advance for what they will do this year to make Centrifuge 1998 even better than 1997.

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

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

MISSIONS

How would your congregation respond after a disaster?

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Southern Baptist disaster relief officials are looking to train both families and churches to be more intentional in their response to disaster situations.

Through a new training initiative called the Disaster-Prepared Church, leaders hope to prepare Christians to meet needs and use the opportunity to share their faith.

"What we want is for churches to be able to respond and not react,"

said Mickey Caison, Southern Baptist disaster relief coordinator and an adult volunteer mobilization associate for the North American Mission Board.

The disaster-preparedness training for both churches and individuals already has been piloted in several states, and training seminars in churches and associations soon will be offered nationally.

On the family level, Caison said the goal is to encourage families to examine the possible disasters they might face in their area, and make detailed plans for how they will re-

spond—including escape routes, shelter locations and a post-disaster meeting place.

Another component is a "disaster kit" containing food, water and supplies for the entire family for three days. During a major disaster, Caison said it often takes three to seven days for a family to have resources available.

"We're trying to help families look at that period of time and develop a strategy of how they would survive," he said. "In addition, we want families to minister during those times. We want believers to understand that there is a process in which not only can they survive, but they can minister to neighbors and friends around them."

The church-preparedness training, which probably will involve key leaders on an association-wide basis, will take the same concept of preparedness to the church level. Included will be assistance in devel-

oping response plans to disasters in the community—from a single-home fire to a catastrophic earthquake—and in the church itself.

When a tornado threatens to strike during a worship service, for instance, it is important that leaders have a predefined plan for getting people to shelter quickly. And churches will be more effective in mobilizing for possible relief responses if thorough plans already are in place.

Disaster-preparedness training has been offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Red Cross, Caison said, "but none of them are looking at the aspect of ministry during that period of time."

"We want to develop a leadership base ... so that when a state's resources are overwhelmed, we can bring in additional leadership from neighboring states to help provide that continuity," he said.

2,000 become Christians from El Nino in Ecuador

GUAYAQUIL, Ecuador (BP)—The rain wouldn't stop and the flood waters rose, forcing thousands of people from their homes.

It doesn't sound much like a prime evangelism opportunity, but more than 2,000 people accepted Christ during a two-week period earlier this year as a result of flooding caused by El Nino storms.

Linda and Guy Muse, Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionaries to Ecuador, have safely weathered more than 50 inches of rain in the past five months—well above Ecuador's annual average of 43 inches.

Muse helped coordinate a ministry to Ecuadorians who did not fare as well. Sprawling slums have been built in areas vulnerable to widespread flooding and mudslides, which displaced an estimated 20,000 people and killed 222. Thousands of others stuck with their meager possessions despite rising water.

"If they leave their homes, they will be looted," Muse said. "The water is contaminated, and it presents some serious health issues."

Health needs prompted a volunteer team of medical professionals from the United States to spend two weeks in Guayaquil seeing more than 5,000 patients from all parts of the country. More than 2,000 accepted Christ as Savior.

"Some people stood in line for 24 to 48 hours to receive medical attention," Muse said. "We counseled with every one of them and shared the gospel with everyone that came through. Their physical need made them very aware of their spiritual need."

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Singles and stewardship

Jesus' call to integrate into our lives Christian financial stewardship practices is a call to each of us regardless of our financial circumstance or marital status. I believe God's purposes for our possessions, however great or small, change as the circumstances of our lives change.

Single adults, particularly those who have never married, often put-off that aspect of Christian stewardship we call Christian estate and incapacity planning. They conclude they (a) don't have enough possessions to worry about yet, (b) will get around to it later or (c) will wait until they marry and start a family.

Recently we had the opportunity to advise a single in his early 30s. He had a good job, two life insurance policies, the beginnings of a retirement account and a checking account. He rented an apartment. His mother and father were deceased, but he had two siblings and some close friends he wanted to include in his estate plan. He had determined God's purposes at this point in his life, and he wanted to put in place a plan that included provisions for (a) his siblings, (b) his close friends and (c) those Baptist causes dear to his heart, particular-

ly his home church where he was reared and the church where his membership would be at his death.

Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, was able to show him how to structure his estate plan to accomplish his/God's purposes and to minimize any taxes payable at his death. This included advice about which assets to give to family, to friends and to his favorite Baptist causes. Most people do not realize the difference it makes in death taxes to distinguish which assets to give to individuals and which to give to charitable organizations. An effective Christian estate plan should coordinate one's will with one's life insurance and retirement account beneficiary designations. And, a plan like

this is revocable and amendable so changes can be made as one's circumstances change.

Let me suggest you prayerfully read Matthew 25:14-30 and Luke 12:35-48. Then call toll free Laurie Valentine or me toll-free at (888) 254-5701 and give us the privilege of assisting you. There is no cost or obligation.

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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PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ A refreshing vacation for St. Petersburg missionaries Joe and Gloria DeLeon as they spend time in the States.

■ Dick and Marilyn Beaudoin of Moscow ask for prayers for patience.

■ International Service Corps missionary Ginny Parrish as she teaches English at the seminary in Moscow.

■ Someone to replace International Service Corps missionary Jane Meredith in Penza, Russia, when her teaching term ends this summer.

■ Dick Risas, director of missions for Massachusetts Baptist Association, and his wife, Lila.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **CYNTHIANA**—Cynthiana Church will celebrate the 20th anniversary of "Little Switzerland," its 16-acre recreational park June 7. **Bill Jagers** will speak. For more information, call (606) 234-1575. **Wayne Spivey** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Cave Springs Church recently called **Jeff Morris** as pastor. He previously was pastor at Gupton Grove Church in Quality.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Joy Wallace** resigned as minister of music at Mel-

bourne Heights Church to pursue a doctor of musical arts degree at Cincinnati College's conservatory of music. **Ken Orr** resigned as minister of education and leadership development to take a position with a computer firm in Jeffersonville, Ind.

Cloverleaf Church will host Stillwater of Hopkinsville in a gospel music concert June 14 at 6 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Baptist Tabernacle called **Micha-**

el Shell as pastor May 17. Shell previously was youth director at Mount Zion Church in Elizabethtown.

Lyndon Church called **Wendy Amiet** as minister to youth. She is a student at Southern Seminary. Amiet will begin her new ministry June 1.

■ **MORGANTOWN**—**Frank Dorris**, pastor of Big Muddy Church, has resigned and is available for supply and interim work beginning July 1. Contact him at 108 Deer Pond Drive, Morgantown, Ky. 42261; (502) 526-2514.

■ **PLEASUREVILLE**—Copper Church recently called **Herb Slaughter** as pastor.

■ **SHELBYVILLE**—Graefenburg

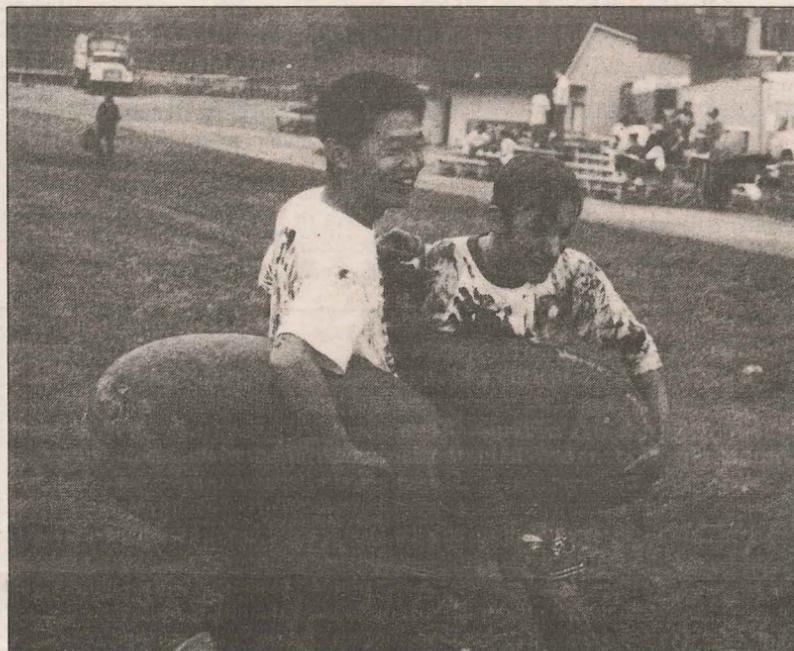
Church called **Russ Brown** as pastor. ■ **SOMERSET**—First Church will host Larnelle Harris in concert Aug. 23. For more information, call (606) 678-5106.

Camp Ground Church recently called **Douglas Williams** of Knoxville, Tenn., as pastor.

■ **WEST PADUCAH**—Mount Zion Church ordained **Chad Davidson** to the gospel ministry May 31. Davidson is minister of music and youth at Bellview Church in Paducah.

CORRECTION

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Pleasant Hill Church celebrated the 50th anniversary of its facilities April 16.



FIELD DAY Oneida Baptist Institute celebrated its annual field day May 7. ■ **Left:** Toyota Takita (left) and Ace Choate engage in some "sumo wrestling." The recent rains only added to the challenge. ■ **Above:** Elias Israel (right) and Blake Barfield try to hoist a not-so-little hog during the pig wrestling event. The pigs were raised on the school's farm. (Oneida photos by Denise Spencer)

The class of 1998

What a special blessing it is for any school to conclude the school year with a graduation program. Like most of the seniors, we have mixed emotions about graduation. We are happy to see these young people reach this special milestone. At the same time, we will miss seeing these students next year. We have had many of these seniors for the past four or five years. Some in the class of '98 have been here since the sixth grade.

We have seen them grow physically, mentally, socially and spiritually. Two or three in the class are well over six feet tall. One is going into the Marines. Another has a job in Louisville. Several have made a lot of progress socially. When they came to us we knew they did not make friends easily. A person can be really unhappy when he or she does not have many friends. I am thinking of one in this class who was very smart, was involved in various athletics and was a pleasant person to be with. She never created any problems for anyone, but was not able to meet and keep friends. At graduation she acknowledged her gratitude for growing so much socially while at Oneida Baptist Institute.

It is always exciting for me to see the academic progress these students have made. Historically, about half of our students are making failing grades when they come to Oneida. Normally, their low grades are not the result of being weak students, but are the result of serious personal or family problems. Many of these students begin to make progress within the first month or so. Others take a little longer to develop better study skills and to get motivated. There are some who are truly weak students and will be part of our tutoring program until they can succeed in regular classes.

Keeping in mind that about half of our students are doing very poor work academically when they come to us, it is rather amazing that over half of this class received advanced diplomas.

To receive an advanced diploma, a student must meet all standard diploma requirements. Additionally, he or she is required to take algebra 1, algebra 2 and geometry, plus an extra year of science, social studies and fine arts and two years of a foreign language.

One of the seniors who came to OBI five years ago said, "I could have been doing a lot better, (back home) but I lacked the motivation and self-esteem to do so. I think the most ironic thing is that a once-failing child has taken every advanced placement course Oneida has to offer." What an honor to recognize all those students who received advanced diplomas. You may be interested to know 78 percent of the 1998 class plan to continue their education, and 10 percent are entering the military.

For the first time in recent memory, we had graduation on Saturday. Traditionally our graduation and baccalaureate services have been on Sunday. We did this to make it easier on the families who have to travel long distances to get here. Often those folks had to miss work on Monday because they got back home too late for work the following day.

It was truly a special day for all of us. We look forward to having these students visit us in the years to come. The odds are pretty good that some in this class will return to be a part of the Oneida ministry. Currently 27 of our faculty and staff are Oneida graduates.

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

Through flood and fire

The water leak started the day Charlie and Pat Dean moved into Moore Hall. Other residents were not surprised. The building has the name "drip pan hall."

The Deans' children, Sarah, 9, and Leah, 7, thought the water was fun to walk through. "We adjusted and it was contained near one wall," Mrs. Dean observed. Maintenance

employees finally located a water pipe pinhole leak. The apartment now bears another name.

"We call it the Shadrack Shack—it was on fire but didn't burn," Mrs. Dean said. While she was visiting their home church, Dean had a grease fire. During the recent heavy rains they received a warning that if the water rose two more feet residents would evacuate. "We've been through the flood and the fire," Dean declared. You can understand their excitement when volunteers started remodeling Moore Hall. The structure received a new roof, windows and vinyl siding.

The Deans grew up in Jackson County. He came to Clear Creek after eight years on police forces in Lexington and Versailles. "I was saved at age 15 but put the Lord on the side for many years. Our pastor James Allen got us involved in dis-

cipliship courses at New Hope Baptist Church," he said. Dean became a deacon and both of them had leadership in Sunday school, Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action. Mrs. Dean was vacation Bible school director. Last October Dean baptized their daughters in a service that featured four deacons baptizing family members. An "Ex-

periencing God" Bible study group became a turning point. "I think the course should be required of every Christian," Mrs. Dean testified.

God uses their training and experience. Mrs. Dean, a registered nurse, assists in the campus medical clinic. Dean works on the campus security patrol. Charlie will go to Alaska in June as part of a student mission team. "This is my first opportunity beyond the local church," he noted.

With more family time at Clear Creek the Deans have become closer to each other and to God. "We are thankful for salvation and the honor of serving the Lord," Dean said. "After years of working with some of the worst people, it is great to be here with some of the best."

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

Military chaplains gaining new recruits for Christ

By James Dotson
SBC North American Mission Board

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (BP)—The Sunday morning All-American Service at Fort Bragg is no ordinary U.S. Army chapel service.

Chaplains often wear jeans.

A praise team, accompanied by drums and guitar, leads worship.

Video clips and live drama highlight message themes.

Most significantly, many young, single soldiers are in attendance—many of whom have made new or renewed commitments to Christ as a result of their involvement.

Those changed lives were precisely what the chaplains had in mind when they started the service about a year and a half ago. And despite the risky departure from military tradition, their success has been noticed.

"I really think this concept is going to be not only the accepted method, but probably the directed method of chapel service in the Army to come," said Lt. Col. Jerry Graham, leader of the team of chaplains responsible for the service.

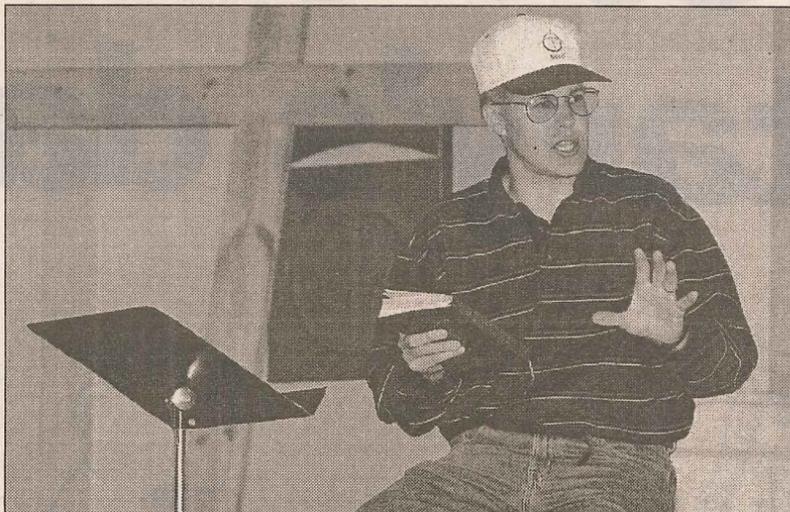
"We're going to have to understand that we must focus on our target audience, and that is the single soldier. And the more we focus, the more services we are going to do like the All-American Service."

Graham was one of four Southern Baptists on the original team of six chaplains who started the service. Although Southern Baptist military chaplains are commissioned and compensated as officers, their ministries are endorsed and given non-financial support by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

The idea for the All-American Service grew out of a shared burden for the thousands of soldiers around them who didn't attend chapel.

"We noticed out of 100 to 150 people, we could literally count on one hand the number of young single soldiers in that service," said Capt. David Mikkelson, another Southern Baptist on the team who now has primary preaching responsibilities.

Those attending chapel "were mostly officers and senior enlisted and their families ... in their 30s, 40s and 50s," Mikkelson said. "God just impressed on our hearts this was not why we came to the Army. I didn't come



INNOVATIVE WORSHIP Capt. David Mikkelson often preaches in jeans and a baseball cap during the All-American Service at Fort Bragg. The service, with video clips and other high-tech support, is an effort to attract non-Christian single enlisted people to a worship service. "I didn't come here to just maintain the status quo," Mikkelson said. (BP photo by James Dotson)

here to just maintain the status quo."

Army chapel services normally come in just a few flavors, Mikkelson explained. There are services for Catholics, Protestants, the African-American community and occasionally for other groups with special needs. But he used an analogy by California Pastor Rick Warren for why they started an entirely new service.

"It's like a radio station trying to attract listeners by playing every style of music," Mikkelson said. "If every song changes style, who's going to listen? Nobody. So it really backfires."

Capt. Dave Shoffner, another Southern Baptist who previously had started several nontraditional services in California, was the initial "senior pastor." Graham said he initially was mystified by such concepts as video clips during a service, but he soon became convinced the idea would work.

"The bottom line for me is just using a different method, but proclaiming the same message," Graham said.

They even gained approval to use the Hall of Heroes, a memorial to war heroes, for the services. "We intentionally chose this building because it is not a chapel building," Mikkelson said. "It's informal, comfortable and also very identifiable. ... The soldiers know where it's located."

Each Sunday morning the military

auditorium is transformed into a worship center. Signs are posted out front, equipment is set up and even the straight rows of chairs are curved toward the center to encourage participation in worship.

Chaplains occasionally walk through the barracks encouraging soldiers to come as they are. Informality is the rule, but the service, with computer graphics and other high-tech support, requires more preparation than traditional chapel services, chaplains said.

Relationships are of primary importance to the target "baby buster" generation, Mikkelson said, so there is ample fellowship time—whether through refreshment time after each service, monthly outdoor dinners during the summer or small groups that meet during the week.

Mikkelson said targeting busters also requires a complete change in how the truth in Scripture is presented. Chaplains can't assume soldiers believe in the authority of the Bible. Initially, biblical truth often is accepted only on the basis of its perceived relevance to daily life.

"After a while they kind of scratch their head and say, 'This must be true; it works,'" said Mikkelson. "And when they get to the point when they say, 'I want to follow this Jesus that you're talking about,' then you can

lead them in the traditional doctrines of Scripture."

A "biblical exploration" class is offered after the service each Sunday, and leaders are working to begin ongoing discipleship opportunities.

Chapel services are generally a secondary responsibility for military chaplains, who are kept busy with counseling and other full-time responsibilities for between 500 and 1,000 soldiers and their families.

The All-American Service chaplains specifically volunteer for the extra duties, however. Specialist Luke Heibel, who has attended for many months, said that sort of dedication doesn't go unnoticed.

"They just try to get on everybody's level," he said. "They can understand a lot of the doubt and the negative stereotypes of Christianity. They can understand how contradictory (the gospel) is to the world. And they really try to relate it to you."

"It's strengthened my faith, it's convicted me in a lot of ways and it's motivated me to get involved in a lot of ways," he added.

The service also has helped Heibel introduce others to Christ. "I have a hard time witnessing to people a lot of times, but I know that if I bring them there they are going to get a good gospel message and a good perspective of how real Christians are."

Sgt. Michael Hayhurst, sergeant in charge on the leadership team, said the service allows many nominal Christians who "start hanging around with the wrong crowd" to discover their own Christian identity.

As of early April, 21 people had made first-time commitments to Christ, and 73 had made recommitments. More than 600 first-time visitors have filled out attendance cards at the service, but chaplains believe about 1,000 people actually have attended. Attendance currently averages about 100 and is growing.

Mikkelson said their detractors still see the service format as a dangerous concession to culture—"that we are changing church to match the world."

"Of course we'd all like to see the church impact the culture ... but in order to do that we have to gain a hearing," he said. "So we remove as many barriers as we can so that they can come in and hear the message of Christ."

"We remove as many barriers as we can so that they can come in and hear the message of Christ."

Southern Baptist chaplain David Mikkelson

Girls in Action use e-mail parties to learn about missionaries

By Dana Williamson
Oklahoma Baptist Messenger

McLOUD, Okla. (BP)—When Lottie Moon was a missionary in China, it took months to receive mail from the United States. Today, correspondence around the world is almost instantaneous.

A group of Girls in Action from First Baptist Church of McCloud, Okla., discovered the miracle of electronic mail and of Baptist missions when they sent messages to 15 missionaries during an e-mail party at the home of their GA leader.

Lynette Weaver, whose brother, Monte Erwin, is a missionary in Riga, Latvia, said her mother and brother

have been carrying on Internet conversations since he's been in Latvia.

"He told me how he wanted me to get on the Internet because it is so wonderful for him to be able to communicate with us in that way," said Weaver, whose husband, Dan, is pastor of the McCloud church.

Weaver said when her family began their e-mail correspondence with Erwin earlier this year, he noted how messages from the States were helping his family deal with culture shock.

"That gave me the idea to send messages from our GA group," Weaver said. "We thought it would give our GA program a little boost and also help our girls learn more about the countries we sent e-mail messag-

es to."

Erwin sent Weaver e-mail addresses for 15 missionaries. Among the areas represented were Poland, Scotland, Mexico, the Caribbean and New York.

The 20 girls gathered at the Weaver home, decorated banners with greetings for the countries to which they would send messages, ate foods from those countries and settled at the computer to send messages.

"My brother sent the girls a special e-mail which arrived at the time of the party," Weaver noted. "He talked about how much he thought Lottie Moon would have enjoyed e-mail."

Weaver said the girls sent messag-

es to the missionaries through an Internet site that has animated greeting cards.

"We have received several replies from the missionaries," Weaver said. "They have all really appreciated what we did. They have shared prayer requests, told about themselves and the work they do. It has really been an education for our girls."

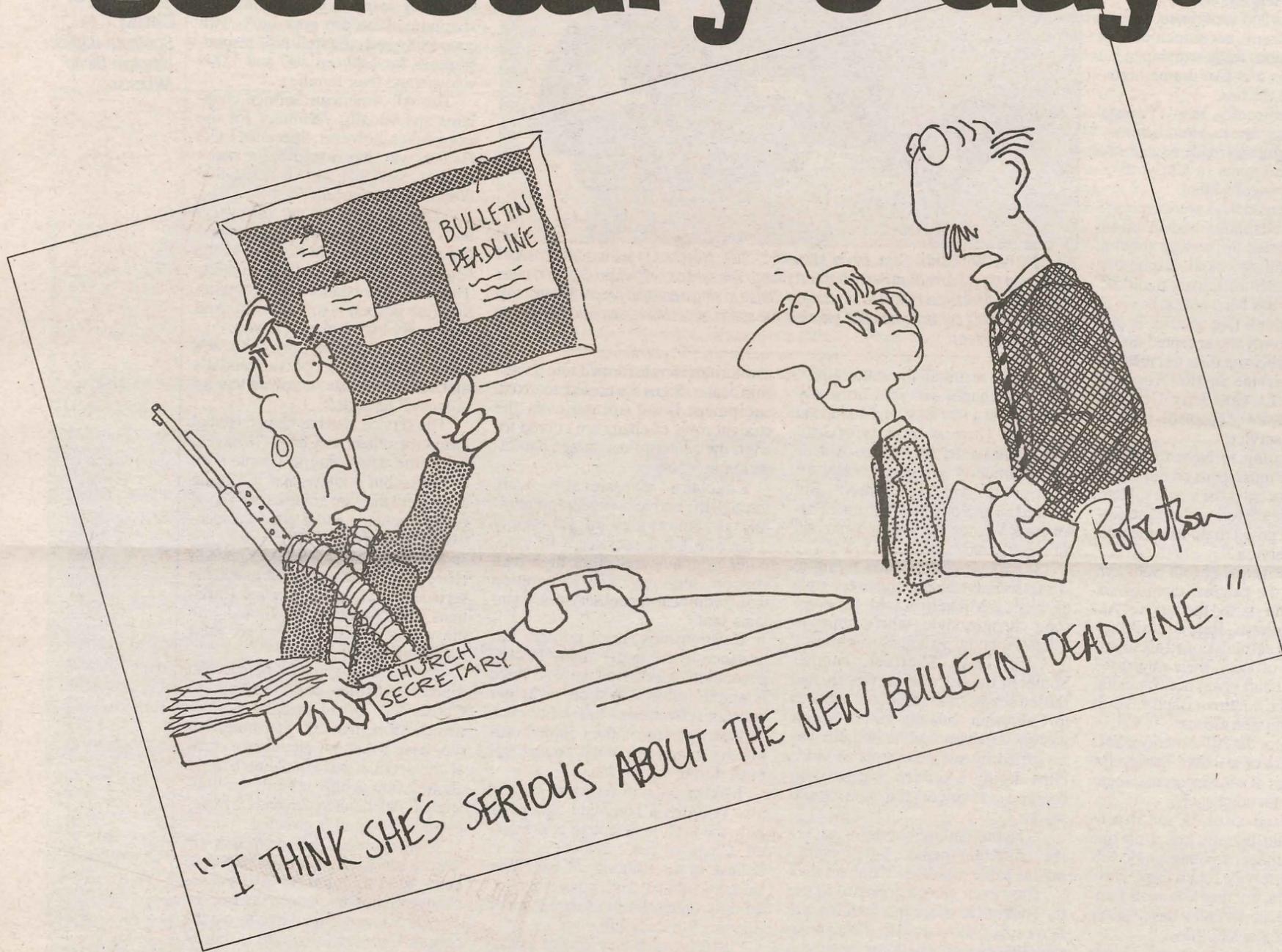
Weaver noted the girls are going to continue to learn more as additional replies come in.

"One of the missionaries in the Caribbean is desiring an ongoing relationship with her GA," Weaver said. "We will continue to use e-mail as a method of educating our GAs on missions around the world."

"We will continue to use e-mail as a method of educating our GAs on missions around the world."

Girls in Action leader Lynette Weaver

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