

WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

Family facts don't always add up, Barna says

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

OXNARD, Calif. (ABP) — Churches have a huge opportunity to influence America's families, but they'll succeed only to the degree they help families minister to themselves, religion researcher George Barna insists.

Equipping families to minister to themselves is the first principle of how churches minister effectively to the family, Barna said recently during his nationwide seminar tour "Inward, Outward and Upward: Ministry that Transforms Lives."

"Family is important to Americans, but it remains an enigma," said Barna, head of Barna Research Group, which surveys trends and developments in American religious life.

"When asked whom they would want to have with them if stranded on a deserted island, 66 percent said their

family or spouse," he reported. But Americans' family practices contradict their professed beliefs, he added.

While more than 80 percent of married adults say they would marry the same person if they had the chance to do things differently, 60 percent of all new marriages end in divorce. And while more than 80 percent of adults say "marriage is a cherished institution," America has the highest divorce rate in the world.

"Four out of five adults describe family as one of their top three priorities in life," Barna said. "Yet we spend less time with family than we devote to television, our jobs or our hobbies."

Many U.S. families are in crisis, but family still matters, he claimed. "God created the family and still cares about it. Family provides a central influence on us during our formative years. Family will be the core of the future of the church in America."

In fact, family and church are linked inextricably, Barna said.

"There is no church for the future unless we pay attention to families," he said. "Families will be the core unit of spiritual formation,

because of the decentralization, fragmentation of society.

"That's scary," he added, "because very few families are prepared to be the

spiritual center of anybody's life."

Churches should "help families see themselves and their environment realistically," he said. "Help families develop creative solutions to their condition. Most can't think creatively."

Barna suggested nine operating principles for family ministry. If implemented, he said, they would provide a "profound reconstruction of family ministry." They are:

■ *Equip the family to minister to itself.* "The common approach is to hire [church] staff to minister to families, but it's more effective to train laity to minister to families," he said.

Most family programs in churches "make lazy, dependent families," he observed. "It's more effective to teach families to meet their own needs."

■ *Provide clear, specific, biblical foundations.* "We've got to base our

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Portrait of the family

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Faith can mix with politics, Kentucky's elected say

By Mark Wingfield
Editor

WASHINGTON—Is it possible to be an elected official and a Christian? Listen to the complaints of voters, and read the news of Washington scandals and indictments and you might think faith and politics are entirely incompatible.

That impression is false, according to members of Kentucky's national congressional delegation interviewed by the Western Recorder last fall.

"The vast majority of people in politics I know are people of faith," said Hal Rogers, a Baptist who has represented Kentucky's 5th Congressional District in the House for 17 years. "It's more rare that you see a person who's not of faith."

While the public gets the impression that all politicians are crooked, that isn't the case at all, Rogers said.

"You choose what you want to be and do," he explained. "You don't have to lie and cheat and steal, as sometimes politicians are thought of. Most are honest and fair."

Faith is a greater influence in Congress than he ever knew before arriving there in 1981, Rogers said.

"I'm a born-again Christian. That's who I am," said Wendell Ford, a Democrat who will retire this year after 24 years representing Kentucky in the Senate. Ford acknowledged that what he learned growing up in a Baptist church in Owensboro shaped his life.

"The church should not be into politics, but Christians should be in government," Ford said.

□ See "Kentucky politicians..." page 16



More than 10,000 teenage girls from Baptist churches across the United States and from seven other countries descended on Louisville July 1-4 for the National Acteens Convention. The girls not only learned about missions but did missions, leaving a positive mark on Kentucky. In between inspirational sessions in Freedom Hall, they fanned out across Kentuckiana to perform ministry at 220 sites. Their work ranged from painting fingernails of nursing home residents to cleaning up city parks to playing with children. Here, girls from First Baptist Church of Lewisville, Texas, paint the pillars supporting an I-64 overpass near the McAlpin Locks and Dam in the Portland neighborhood of Louisville. The bright paint was intended to cover up unwanted graffiti. **This week's Recorder features a special section on NAC, beginning on page 9.**

Moving? See page 4 (0714)

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ **New Orleans honored.** New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has been named "Employer of the Year" by the local office of the Association of Retarded Citizens because of the seminary's involvement in hiring people with mental retardation.

■ **LifeWay web address changes.** The Internet address for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, now renamed LifeWay Christian Resources, has changed to reflect the agency's new name. The new address for the publisher's web site is lifeway.com.

■ **VBS tops 3 million.** More than 3 million people enrolled in vacation Bible schools in Southern Baptist churches last summer, officials at LifeWay Christian Resources report. Also, more than 53,000 professions of faith in Jesus Christ were recorded in those VBS events. "VBS remains one of Southern Baptists' most effective evangelistic tools," said Becky Martin, VBS consultant with LifeWay.

■ **Couples renew vows en masse.** It was probably one of the biggest wedding ceremonies ever held in Louisiana, and it didn't have to be done. Twenty-nine couples renewed their wedding vows simultaneously at First Baptist Church of Ruston, La., June 28 in support of the covenant marriage law passed by the Louisiana legislature. Covenant marriages are unions requiring premarital counseling and tough grounds for divorce. Provisions exist for people who are already married—such as those who participated in the June 28 ceremony—to willingly enter into a covenant marriage under the law.

■ **Union profs win Templeton Award.** Two professors at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., are recipients of a 1998 John Templeton Foundation Science and Religion Award. The professors, Jimmy Davis and Hal Poe, are uniting two traditional "enemies" in their class, "Science and Faith: A Dialogue." Their course is among 93 classes named winners of the award this year. Poe is a former evangelism associate with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and former professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

■ **ABP launches magazine.** Associated Baptist Press has launched a new national magazine called FaithWorks. The Christian lifestyle magazine is to be published every other month initially and increase to monthly in 1999. The project also includes a companion web site, faithworks.com.

■ **SBC popular on Internet.** A live "webcast" of the busiest day of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting drew 2,275 visitors during the day—a strong debut for convention participation through the Internet. For those who missed the June 9 sessions as they occurred in Salt Lake City, all the action from the floor continues to be available on the North American Mission Board's web site, (namb.net). Of special interest is the full 31-minute presentation and debate of the amendment to the "Baptist Faith & Message" statement on the family, which is included as a separate item on the NAMB web site.



Emily felt God calling Earl to the altar

Tough Sarajevo ministry finally bears fruit

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

SARAJEVO, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries Bob and Jerry Worley are savoring the first fruit of 22 months of ministry in a war-ravaged suburb of Sarajevo.

It's a sweet, satisfying taste, they say—one they wouldn't be experiencing if Southern Baptists hadn't prayed for God's work in the war's aftermath.

In September 1996, the Worleys and three other Southern Baptist missionary couples transferred to Bosnia for six months to follow up on Baptist hunger ministries conducted during the country's 44-month ethnic war between Serbs, Muslims and Croats. They planned to use the calm that followed the Dayton Peace Accord to lay a groundwork for International Mission Board work in Bosnia.

The Worleys went to work in Dobrinja, a neighborhood on the front line of the battle for the Sarajevo airport. It was a virtual ghost town of bombed buildings, cratered streets and burned-out cars. After 27 years as missionaries to Spain, the

Worleys felt God leading them to give six months to the strategic opportunity in Sarajevo. But they stayed after their six months ended.

"We felt an overwhelming conviction that God wanted us to," Worley said. "We saw the overwhelming needs and felt the only hope for the people here is Jesus. The first conversion didn't come until after we made the decision to ask for a permanent transfer."

In June, the Worleys held the first baptism and conducted the first Lord's Supper for the fledgling congregation in Dobrinja. The seven new believers reflected the power of the gospel to overcome the most deep-seated ethnic divisions, they said.

One of those immersed in the waters of Lake Jablanicko was a 73-year-old Serb, a one-time communist partisan who fought for Marshall Tito during World War II. Two others were Serb widows who lost their husbands during the more recent civil war. Another two were Bosnian Muslims who survived the Serbian siege that devastated Sarajevo. The sixth was a Croat who fled the city during the war only to have his rural home shelled. The seventh

was an American who works for a U.S. company training the Bosnian army.

The day after the baptism, the group celebrated the Lord's Supper for the first time. Both events were filled with overwhelming joy, he said.

After the Lord's Supper, Sanjin Jeginovic, a Muslim who accepted Christ in December and is awaiting baptism, told Worley: "I have never experienced anything like this before. When you were standing there and breaking the bread apart, I realized that bread represented the body of Christ, which was broken for me. And since I am now one with Christ, I felt that every time you broke the bread you were breaking me apart!"

The prayers of Southern Baptists played a crucial role in bringing this vibrant new congregation to life, Worley said.

"God has allowed us to experience some wonderful times in the years we have served with the IMB, but the first baptism and celebration of the Lord's Supper would be very difficult to top," he said. "We are so grateful for you who made it possible through lifting us up to the Heavenly Father in prayer."

Kentucky-based Passport camp goes to Disney

ORLANDO, Fla. (ABP)—"They send you through the building in the dark. I've heard that this window comes flying at you. Then, they drop you three times and take your picture."

This isn't your typical church-camp experience.

These teenagers are attending Passport, a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship-affiliated camp with a missions focus. And they're waiting in line for the Tower of Terror at Walt Disney World's MGM Studios.

For the first time in its six-year history, Passport held two weeks of its summer camps at Disney World in Orlando, Fla. While campers obviously aren't observing the Southern Baptist Convention's boycott of Disney theme parks, products and subsidiaries, this goes beyond denominational politics and is not a statement on the boycott in any way, camp coordinators say.

"It wasn't in reaction to anything," said Colleen Burroughs of Louisville, Passport's vice president. "Both Passports that we've started, the regular camp and this one, have been an effort to create

something new as opposed to what's already in existence."

Burroughs and her husband, David, are members of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville. They plan and promote the camps from their Kentucky base.

In the past, Passport has been held at Stetson University in DeLand, Fla. The regular camp focuses on missions and includes a week-long project, such as building a home with Habitat for Humanity. The typical Passport camp focuses on mission action while the Disney camp emphasizes mission education.

The first day of Passport's Disney camp focused on American history and freedom. The camp met at the Hall of Presidents, and Disney facilitators discussed the importance of freedom. Adding a religious spin to the lesson, Passport leaders discussed the importance of religious freedom and the spiritual freedom experienced by Christians.

The second day of camp focused on multi-cultural education, and the camp met in the China and Morocco sections of EPCOT. Campers met

with cultural representatives from each country who discussed the nation's history and religion.

"We talked about Buddhism and what it's like to be a missionary in a Buddhist country or Islamic country," Burroughs said.

Camp director Rob Fox said the Disney environment offers hands-on opportunities and gives campers a lot of information at once. He said this helps keep the campers' attention, especially in their information-driven world.

"The way they see the world is so much different than the way I saw the world when I was growing up," Fox said. "They're exposed to so much more. It just seems like information abounds."

Another difference is women's active leadership roles. In addition to being Passport's vice president, Colleen Burroughs also served as the camp pastor.

Although it's not a big deal for most campers, using women in Passport's leadership roles is an intentional effort to challenge stereotypes such as women cannot serve as pastors, said David Burroughs.

Baptist youth will celebrate turn of the century

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—YouthLink 2000, a massive turn-of-the-millennium student celebration, promises to provide the kind of challenge today's Christian young people need to impact their world for Christ, according to several youth leaders organizing the event.

"All this generation of students is looking for is someone to point them in the right direction, to say, 'There is the hill: Go take it,'" said Keith Loomis, a student volunteer mobilization associate with the

Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

The Southern Baptist event will be held Dec. 29-31, 1999, simultaneously in seven U.S. cities: Atlanta; Anaheim, Calif.; Denver; Houston; Philadelphia; St. Louis; and Tampa, Fla. It will be devoted to celebration and praise, as well as commitment to evangelism and discipleship in the new millennium. As many as 200,000 students ages 13-22 are expected to participate.

Richard Ross, youth ministry

consultant for Southern Baptist's LifeWay Christian Resources, and Dean Finley, a student evangelism associate for NAMB, are co-chairs for YouthLink 2000.

To encourage early registration, YouthLink 2000 coordinators are asking for a non-refundable deposit of \$10 per person up to Dec. 31, 1998. For those who took advantage of last year's partial registration special of \$5, the deadline for payment of the \$55 balance also has been extended to Jan. 31, 1999.

KENTUCKY

Pastoral care conference: Laughter still best medicine

By Joyce Sweeney Martin
Staff Writer

LOUISVILLE—Thirty minutes of laughter each day may be just the prescription for healthier living, according to a Louisville doctor and humorist.

The benefits of laughter have been known through the ages, but only in recent years has the medical community gotten serious about it, Clifford Kuhn said.

Kuhn was the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Wayne Oates Institute in Louisville. The institute fosters education and dialogue about the connection between faith and healing. Oates, a former professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is a pioneer in the field of pastoral care.

Research, Kuhn said, repeatedly has proved that laughing reduces stress and boosts the immune system. And it's great exercise to boot.

"If you laugh 20 seconds, your heart rate increases and you get the same kind of response as from aerobic exercise," he said.

Laughter, Kuhn said, can be as simple as a smile or giggle or as raucous as a guffaw.

But not all laughter is healthy, he warned. Unhealthy laughter is filled with sarcasm and put downs, demeans another person and preys on the differences in people. It's laughing at someone, not with them and ultimately erects barricades between people.

On the other hand, healthy laughter is based on commonalities, not differences, such as common fears, hopes and joys, he said. Healthy laughter brings down barriers, increases understanding between people and helps unite them.

Kuhn's prescription for achieving 30 minutes of laughter a day? Three "HAS":

■ **Humor attitude.** "Your attitude determines how much you smile," he said. "You must be willing to laugh."

■ **Humor aptitude.** Collect an inventory of things that amuse you each day. Things like calendars with humorous sayings or a comic neck tie are excellent cues for laughter, Kuhn said.

■ **Humor activity.** Include regular activities in your schedule that make you laugh, he recommended. And train yourself to listen for the laughter of other people.

"I may be the only doctor who says, 'Open wide and say ha,'" he concluded.

Kentucky relief workers go to Boston area

By Karen Brown
KBC Communications Office

FRAMINGHAM, Mass.—A team of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief workers are helping with the clean-up after heavy flooding in the greater-Boston area recently.

A clean-up team of eight volunteers is working to remove the mud from homes. At least 200 homes need cleaning up.

"For now, Kentucky has the only Southern Baptist disaster relief team in the Boston area due to additional flooding in West Virginia, Ohio and the fires in Florida," said Larry Koch, disaster relief coordinator for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"Originally we heard that there were two counties that needed our assistance. Now we have heard that seven have been declared as disaster areas," Koch added.

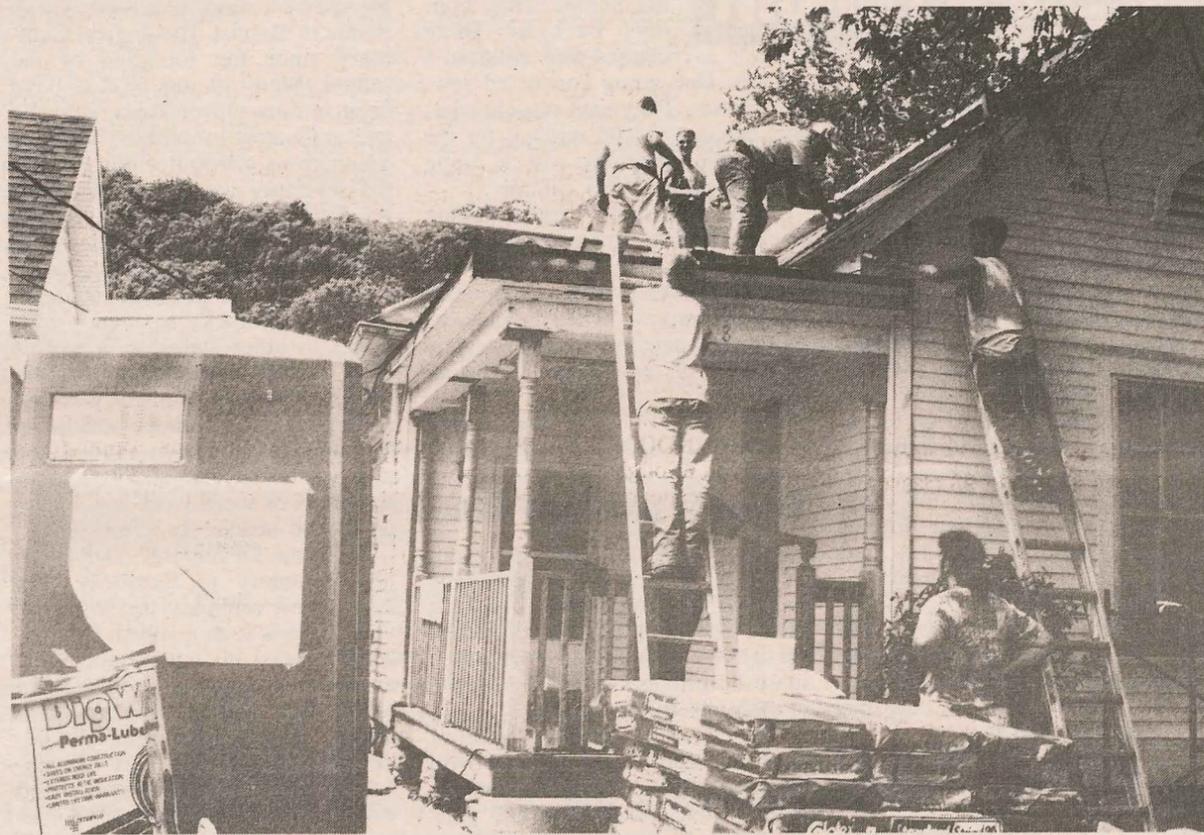
The Kentucky Baptist volunteers were requested by Ray Allen, evangelism director for the Baptist Convention of New England.

Koch said the clean-up work consists of removing the mud from the homes, removing furniture and carpeting, washing down the walls with pressurized water, and if necessary tearing out the dry wall and insulation to let the inner walls dry. The walls and floor also must be washed down with a bleach solution to sanitize the flooded area.

The crew has representatives from Northern Kentucky, Wayne County, Elkhorn and Russell County Baptist associations.

The disaster relief volunteers are staying at "The Bunker" provided by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. The Bunker is an underground facility located in Framingham. The facility was built during the cold war as a shelter. It has sleeping accommodations for 16-20 men, 16-20 women, a kitchen and some offices.

The disaster relief teams are made up of trained volunteers from among the nearly 2,400 Baptist churches in the state. Training and coordination is provided by the KBC Brotherhood Department.



KENTUCKY CHANGERS A team of Kentucky Changers put a new roof on a house in Frankfort. More than 100 teenagers and their chaperones were in Frankfort June 27-July 4 to provide the labor for home repairs in low-income communities. This team had to remove six layers of roof materials before putting the new roof on. Other teens will work in Hopkinsville later this summer. Kentucky Changers is a co-ed missions and ministry experience for youth. (KBC communications photo)

Children's worker had a lot of mothering to offer

LOUISVILLE—Sit down for a chat with Helen Smith and you soon find out what it means to be rich in "life experience."

Since 1979, Smith has taken care of kids at Spring Meadows Children's Home, a Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children facility in Louisville.

There's no telling how many different titles she's had—house parent, child care worker, direct care counselor—but her job has remained essentially the same. She is friend, counselor, caretaker and example-setter.

"I was the first house parent on campus to have a co-ed cottage," Smith said. "And I did it alone."

Well, she did have a little help. Two dogs lived with her at the cot-

tage. "If there was any movement in the hallway (that separated the girls' and boys' rooms) those little dogs would hop out there and bark. They were on the alert, even if the kids were just going to the bathroom."

Smith's journey to Spring Meadows was a long, sometimes difficult one, but it gave her unique insights on young people who have been kicked around by life.

Smith's husband, a military pilot, was killed during World War II. He never met the son she was carrying.

Smith didn't remarry, and when she began her young people she told a friend, "I've got a whole lot of mothering I need to use up somewhere."

Friends and family helped take

care of her son, Dennis. Smith eventually directed preschool and children's ministries for several Baptist churches, including Fern Creek Baptist and Parkland Baptist in Louisville.

Tragedy returned her to Kentucky when her mother and nephew were killed in a car accident. Her son was also in the car and suffered a broken back. It's yet another lesson that draws her closer to kids in crisis. "I share with them the experiences I've had. I tell them that God's love is a permissive love and that he still lets you have your free will."

When conflicts arise in Hunter Cottage, where Smith now works part-time, she uses the same approach she did when she first came to Spring Meadows. "I tell the boys, 'let's talk' and 'we'll get through this together.'" The response is usually positive.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **Northern Kentucky Baptist Association** will host a family night at the Cincinnati Reds baseball game Aug. 14. Director of Missions Rick Robbins will throw out the first pitch and a Northern Kentucky Baptist will sing the national anthem. For more information call (606) 727-6522.

■ **Samford University** alumni, parents and friends in the Louisville area are invited to a fellowship July 27 at Cardinal Stadium before a Louisville Redbirds baseball game. For more information call Jack Stewart at (502) 244-1343, Vaughn Pruett at (800) 272-8907 or Jason Roberts at (502) 228-6300.

■ **Kentucky Baptists** with Internet access are invited to become part of Prayer and Praise Online, an Internet site for posting prayer requests and praise reports. This privately operated site may be reached at listbot.com/subscribe/prayerandpraise.

■ **Men's rally.** An interdenominational "Men's Praise & Worship Rally" is scheduled for Saturday, July 18, at 7 p.m. at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. The event is planned as a "warm-up" to the Promise Keepers stadium event July 24-25 in Indianapolis. Music and testimony will be provided by Marshall Kellum. Raymond Burr, president of Kentucky State University, will be the featured speaker. For more information, call (502) 896-8882.

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

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YouthFest decision

On June 26 and 27, approximately 4,000 youth gathered at Murray State University for YouthFest. I attended for the first time, although I am only 21. I attended as a chaperone, and got more out of it than some of the youth did.

My reasons for going were not the purest. I really wanted to go to see my favorite contemporary Christian artist, Clay Crosse, in concert. I started listening to Dave Edwards speak and was just in awe over what he said. He was talking about putting things before God; it could be anything from friends to drugs and alcohol.

I made my profession of faith when I was 6 years of age, and for a while was doing great. Then, I entered high school. I made a recommitment to Christ.

Then, this weekend, God was again speaking to me. While I was sitting listening to Dave speak, God was telling me that I was putting too much before him. So when the invitation was called, I just got up and went down, not even caring what others would think.

When everyone was down there and the invitation time was over, he had those who were making their first-time commitment to go to the back so they could talk to someone. Those of us left, he told us to make a cup out of our hands and pray. After he prayed he told us to lift our hands into the air, signifying to God that we were giving it all to him.

After that, even a week later, I still feel different. It is like he listened. He took my other priorities. It is a totally awesome feeling. I really hope that everyone has the chance to have that feeling.

I am glad that I made that trip, and I hope everyone else who went had a wonderful experience.

*Kevin Abner
Lexington*

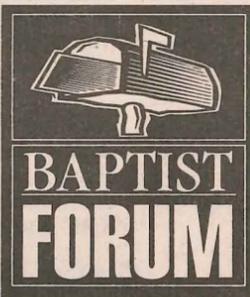
This is missions

The old log shack stands back several feet from the road. The grass is moved and trimmed so that I can tell someone lives there. The shack looks as if it once were a smokehouse or maybe a corn crib. It might once have been the log cabin of one of the founding fathers of the county.

The door is closed. The window is missing. Slats have been nailed across the window, with an open space of about 5 inches between each slat. As I drive by, I see the eyes of a woman looking through the slats. I see her hands holding onto another slat. Her red dress is pressed up against the window, looking outside.

When I see this, I know that I have found the place I am looking for. This is one of 21 homes in need of repair that are being helped by CedaRidge Outreach Ministry this summer. A nearby building has been cleared away, and the foundation soon will be laid for this couple's new home. It will be built by winter.

The home improvement project is an annual event at CedaRidge. This summer 17 mission groups from seven states will be here to work on projects like this. These groups provide their own materials and travel expense. They work long, hard hours. They repair roofs, mend plumbing, fix floors, rebuild porches and sometimes build houses. Motivated by the love of the Lord, the groups give unselfishly. When they leave, they always leave part of themselves behind. Usually they take a new idea of what missions is all about with them.



These groups do other mission projects while they are on the field. They bring puppets, clowns and singing groups to our nursing homes. They conduct backyard Bible classes and children's

classes. One group conducted sewing classes. They visit our churches and conduct special services for the youth. Eleven groups will be doing mission projects this summer.

This is missions. People helping people. People loving people. People sharing Christ with people. It is an example of one of my favorite missions verses: "They helped everyone his neighbors; and everyone said, 'Be of good cheer.'" (Isaiah 41:6)

*Janus Jones
Williamsburg*

There's another kind

There's a lot of confusion about Southern Baptists. You might be inclined to paint them all with a broad brush as narrow ultraconservatives anxious to forward a male-dominated hierarchy in the church and in the home.

But there is another kind of Southern Baptist. A Baptist who loves and worships a God who is color blind, status blind and gender blind. A Baptist who believes and loves the Bible and knows Christ came not to put people down, but to lift them up. A Baptist who sees Jesus Christ as the head of the church and head of the family. That Christ came not to have a first-class and second-class relationship between husband and wife, but that both be first-class spiritual partners in a marriage of mutual love, mutual work, mutual faithfulness and mutual decision making. That marriage decisions be led by the Holy Spirit and made in the best interest of the entire family.

And, speaking of family, this Baptist believes every person is made in the image of God with infinite worth, dignity and value. That a family may include a husband, wife and children; yet singles, widows, widowers and divorcees are also families whom God loves.

A Baptist who believes that Christ came to give every person a sense of significance. A Baptist who is not anxious to exclude but to include all persons in the family of God through faith in Christ Jesus alone. In that family the playing field is level. As the Scripture says

in Galatians 3:28: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Before you make up your mind about Southern Baptists, just remember that they don't all come in cookie-cutter conformity.

*Bill Sherman
Nashville*

New seminary

The deacon board of First Baptist Church of New Castle is endorsing the funding of the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky. We likewise encourage other churches and individuals to support this endeavor by their prayerful and financial support.

Our church has been greatly blessed by a strong relationship with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary since the founding of the school. Many of our pastors have been seminary professors, students and graduates. In addition to using Southern as a resource for pastors, the seminary has generously supplied us with ministers of music, youth and interim pastors as well.

We have been saddened as some of our best and brightest students have left Kentucky to attend seminaries in other states, as a world-class faculty was dismantled, the call of women to ministry was discouraged and limited, academic freedom has not been encouraged as in previous years and a wonderful school of social work was squandered and needlessly eliminated.

It is time for Baptists to support a new seminary in Kentucky. We need a new seminary that will provide students with a superb theological education in an atmosphere that encourages free and thoughtful scholarship and is founded upon historic Baptist principles. We believe the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky will be such an institution and we heartily provide our endorsement.

*Dave Charlton, pastor
Board of Deacons
Tony Tingle, chairman
First Baptist Church
New Castle*

Renounce war?

In his account (June 16, page 12) of his recent speech at the Woman's Missionary Union conference on violence, Tony Campolo was quoted to say, "We also have to be at peace with our enemies," and noted that many American Christians see no contradiction with wanting Rwanda and Bosnia to live in peace while glorifying American wars. He was further quoted, "If we want them to renounce war, then we have to renounce war, and we are not ready to do that."

Campolo can speak for himself, but not for everyone else. I know of no one, Christian or otherwise, who glorifies war, especially those who have been there. Should there ever be violent action? Was Lincoln justified by a war costing over 600,000 lives? Should the colonists have fought old King George? In this century, Americans have fought and

shed rivers of blood in five wars against different kinds of tyranny. Assuming Americans hadn't fought in those wars, one shudders to think of the location of international boundaries today, and which ethnic groups would have been completely annihilated. Indeed, even the United States would be a nation of slaves.

Christ said he came not to bring peace, but a sword (Matthew 10:34). People can interpret that as they will, but it's instructive that in the critical moment of the Last Supper, Christ told his disciples to arm themselves with swords (today's AK-47s), even at the expense of selling their garments (Luke 22:36). It's no wonder Peter cut off the guy's ear a few hours later. He also had seen the master put the lash to the temple defilers.

The nation should seek friends for making peace. It should never be at peace with its enemies—just distrustful, watchful and always militarily superior. Ask any historian—or Samson.

*James L. Clark
Lexington*

National sin

The abominable Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision made abortion America's national sin. That high court decision has resulted in the killing of more than 35 million innocent babies in the past quarter century.

A sin becomes a national sin when the government of a country legally approves the sin. That's what the Supreme Court of the United States did when it went beyond its judicial role and acted as a legislative body to make abortion on demand the law of the nation. With that one decision the Supreme Court began the erosion of the sacredness of human life. It started the spawning of the culture of death that is still growing and dominating the thinking of a generation of Americans.

Now rock and rap groups sing the songs of death and killing. Children's cartoons glorify killing. Drive-by shootings are common. Gang slayings take place practically every day. People consumed by road rage kill on the highways. Death doctors help people commit suicide, and mass shootings take place in the schools.

When confronted with the dangers of the culture of death, many young people respond, "So what? I'd just be dead." Others, aware of the drive-by shootings and killings in the schools, say, "I'm afraid."

"Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people" (Proverbs 14:34). National sin is so reprehensible that it ultimately leads to the destruction of nations that stubbornly refuse to repent. The record of history bears this out.

Has America's cup of iniquity run over? Has America already gone beyond the point of no return? Only God knows. But one thing for sure, "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether" (Psalm 19:9).

*William R. Hagan
Taylorsville*

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Ailing VCR sends Looney Tunes on an unscheduled vacation

SHESAI



Alison Wingfield

Life is abnormal at our house: The VCR became ill and has been taken to the electronics hospital. They said it will take 10 days for the technician to get to it. Sounds like a long time.

Thank goodness the VCR didn't go on the fritz when the boys were younger. Now that they live to play basketball and baseball outside, the lack of a VCR isn't so bad.

When they were teething toddlers, we came to rely on a "Barney Live" tape to get us through the middle-of-the-night agony of molars trying to break through. When those suckers were hurting the boys' gums, the only thing that would console them was some Tylenol and "Barney Live." To this day I can act out the whole thing and sing every song.

The Barney phase is long gone, only to be replaced by Looney Tunes. After we wore out every Barney video in the store, now we've rented every Looney Tune video. At least the boys now eat their carrots without complaining. They love to imitate Bugs Bunny's "Hey, what's up Doc?"

With the VCR gone, the biggest disagreement in our house is whether to watch cartoons or sports. Garrett has gone sports mad. The first thing he wants to see in the morning is the sports page. He reads all the scores to us. He'll ask me about different players, and I have no idea who he is talking about.

While Luke likes sports, he is getting a little fed up with Garrett. Any time the TV is on, Garrett wants to watch ESPN. He would sit through an entire World Cup soccer match if I let him. And he loves the sports news. Unfortunately, the ads on ESPN are not exactly kid friendly, so I have to monitor what they watch.

The best solution I've come up with is to shut it off and read some books.

You never know how much you use something until you suddenly don't have it. Which could be a good thing or bad thing, I guess. For example, now Alison and I have an absolutely impenetrable excuse for not letting the boys watch "Space Jam" for the 50th time.

But it also means we're fully dependent upon television programming now, which isn't such a good thing. Don't get the wrong idea;

we don't let our kids camp out in front of the television all day. But it is a pleasant part of modern living to be able to access some of the better children's videos and television programming occasionally—especially in the summer.

And I guess Alison and I use the VCR more than we think. I almost caught myself stopping by the video store the other day to rent a movie. Then I realized how stupid I would have felt had I plunked down my money and arrived at home only to be reminded we had no way of watching the movie. Habits.

Last time we went through a crisis like this the problem turned out to be dirt built up inside the VCR's mechanism. Perhaps it will be the same this time, and a thorough cleaning will put the picture back in focus.

That's true of humans too. Through the wear and tear of life, dirt builds up on our minds and spirits, causing us not to see or hear things as clearly as we once did. The good news is it doesn't take us 10 days to wait on a technician to clean us up. God has said he is ready to cleanse us anytime. All it takes is prayer.

That puts everything back in focus.

HESAI



Mark Wingfield

NAC showed us the future, and it's good

Anyone who thinks Woman's Missionary Union is just for little old ladies with blue hair should have been at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center the first week of July.

The only blue hair in sight was on a clown, and there were thousands of young women on hand to participate in WMU's biggest ongoing event.

The National Acteens Convention drew more than 10,000 teenage girls to Louisville for four days of inspiration, education and hands-on missions experience. That's six times the number of women who attended this year's WMU annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

Some have wondered whether WMU has a future, since the stalwarts of WMU's adult programs in many churches tend to remember first-hand what life was like before the Great Depression. What most people fail to see is the thousands of young people involved in WMU programs in local churches.

We have seen the future of WMU, and it is full of excitement.

Children and teenagers involved in WMU programs don't have an annual convention, but instead the teenage girls come together only once every four to five years. And you have to see it to believe it.

Imagine Freedom Hall about three-fourths filled with girls and you'll begin to get the picture. Then mix in mega doses of enthusiasm and lots of screaming, clapping and shouting. But even then you wouldn't be able to see the commitment these girls have to their faith, to learning about and doing missions, to making a difference in their world.

Through NAC, we have seen the future of WMU, and it looks better than many are predicting.

No one knows for sure whether these girls when they grow up will want to attend the type of WMU "circle" meetings their grandmothers did. But if you get hung up on that, you'll miss the point. What we can see clearly even now is that a future generation is being raised up with a concern for missions and a genuine commitment to Christ.

Our challenge is to find ways to continue discipling

them, empowering them and encouraging them. They've demonstrated that they're willing to study and willing to work if only given an opportunity. They will chart the future, with inspiration from those who lead them today.

We have seen the future of WMU, and it is built upon committed women who labor in their local churches without much acclaim most of the time.

They are the Girls in Action teachers, the Acteens advisors, the Missions Friends leaders. They are the women who traveled with Acteens to NAC in more church vans and

buses than you've ever seen in one place—because they think it's worthwhile to invest in the future of the church.

We have seen the future of WMU, and it is made strong by the commitment of Kentucky women.

The life-changing experiences that occurred at NAC could not have happened without the dedication of numerous Kentucky women, many of whom have committed the better part of the past two years in planning the event.

Southern Baptists, and Kentucky Baptists in particular, owe a debt of gratitude to Kym Mitchell of Shelbyville, on-site coordinator of NAC, and Julie Keith of Louisville, Acteens consultant for Kentucky WMU. Both were key figures in making NAC happen.

They were aided by dozens of volunteers from Kentucky churches who did everything from driving shuttles to teaching quilting to supervising off-site ministries. These volunteers were led by Mary Lou Crutcher, general chairwoman of the committee on local arrangements.

Kentucky Baptists can be proud of the hospitality extended to Acteens from across the nation on their behalf. And at the same time we should be grateful to the Acteens themselves for leaving their host city a better place than when they came.

We have seen the future of WMU, because it already has made its mark on Kentucky.

— Mark Wingfield

'Who ... can add a single hour?'

By Jim Abernathy

"Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" (Luke 12:25)

Is anything as elusive in our busy lives today as time? "There just aren't enough hours in the day," we protest. "Time is of the essence ... the hour is short ... time flies;" there are, it seems, a million such colloquialisms, in fact too many to include in this short space.

Time is the subject of our conversations, music and even public debates. Thus we often find ourselves wringing our hands in frustration because we feel helpless to control it. And we worry about time, as if our worrying could somehow multiply our options. In short, we seem to be controlled by the very thing we want to control, and the anxiety is robbing many of us of the joy of life.

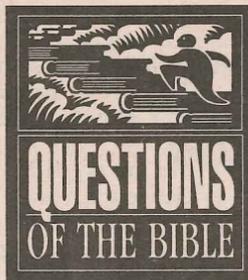
In the 12th chapter of Luke, Jesus looked onto the crowd and saw rich and poor, righteous and sinful, the

accepted and the outcast. But more importantly, as he looked into their hearts, he saw loneliness, doubt and fear. Then he said to them, "Do not worry."

Of these timely words, William Barclay writes, "Jesus never ordered any man to live in a shiftless, thriftless, reckless way. What he did tell a man to do was to do his best and then to leave the rest to God."

In this contemporary world where Christians and churches often get caught up in the whirlwind of statistics, black ink and political and theological correctness, Jesus calls those who will listen to a different view of life. He calls those who will listen to trust him. It can be a terribly frightening thing to do when money is tight, family relationships are strained and deadlines loom. However, I have found this journey of life to be most fulfilling when I trust God instead of the clock, or anything else that threatens to control me.

When our son, Clayton, was 2



years old and beginning to understand that Daddy was often gone, he did something one day that grabbed my attention. I stopped by the house one afternoon on my way to another meeting. I picked him up, hugged him, talked to him a moment, then set him down and prepared to leave.

Unimpressed by my hasty attempt at fatherhood, he grabbed my coat and would not let go. I pulled his little hand away and patted him on the head, but he quickly grabbed my coat again. This time he held on for dear life and said, "Daddy, coat off, coat off."

I quickly realized the depth of his dissatisfaction with me. He believed I would stay if I took my coat off. It worked. I took my coat off, sat down with him in my lap, and we rocked, talked and spent precious time together.

Time, or lack of it, is a great source of worry for us today. God, speaking through the Psalmist, said, "Be still and know that I am God."

Take time to intentionally listen to God. Then, trust him to be at work whatever the situation. That is time well spent.

Jim Abernathy is pastor of Latonia Baptist Church in Covington.



RESOURCES

This week's questions

- A friend who recently retired has started drinking and I fear he has become an alcoholic. Why would a person who never drank now drink liquor every day?
- How can I help my children understand baptism?

Q. I have a dear friend and fellow church member who recently retired. He has started drinking and I fear he has become an alcoholic. Why would a person who never drank now drink liquor every day?

A. This is indeed a problem, not only for your friend, but for an increasing number of senior adults. There are many factors, but the simplest reason seems to be boredom—they now have lots of free time but have not prepared for it.

Some psychologists note that depression comes because retirees are disappointed in what they expected from retirement. Their inability to adapt to a drastic change in schedule and lifestyle causes them to seek a release or escape.

You might carefully talk to your friend about this problem. Do not condemn or judge. Share your concerns about what you see and how this is affecting your friendship. Unfortunately, little can be done to help any addict unless that person realizes he has a problem and seeks help.

Pray for him.

Find things the two of you can do that are not near where alcohol is sold.

If you know of someone who has gone through a similar experience, include them in your activities.

Don't give up on him. Whether he realizes it now or not, as you see him through this, you truly are his best friend.
— Al Shackelford



Q. How can I help my children understand baptism?

A. Children take special interest in baptism because, like communion, it is a concrete, visual act of worship. The questions baptism raises—like “What are those people doing up there in the water?”—can lead to significant conversations and become important steps in your child's journey.

Read the story of Jesus' baptism to younger children, and talk about how being baptized is one way we follow Jesus and choose to be like him. Older children can begin to understand the symbolism of being buried and raised to a new life. They can see baptism as a reminder of what Jesus did for us, a reminder of

how Christians give up their way for God's way and begin a new life; a concrete way we follow Jesus and do something he did; a way to show others that we are believers and have chosen to follow Jesus. All ages can understand immersion as a way of showing that all of us is committed to Jesus—our head, our hands, our eyes, our feet, etc.

Most children will enjoy a visit to the baptistry with a minister or teacher. Make sure boys and girls understand there is nothing magic about the water and that being baptized doesn't make you a Christian.

When your child says, “I want to be baptized,” ask them why. Continue to explain that commitment to Christ must come first. Don't allow your child to make a commitment just so he or she can be baptized or take communion. — David Garrard

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.

FAMILY

Your house: Nest or nest egg?

By Jeremy White

For most people, a house represents their most important asset and their largest debt. The challenge is keeping the right balance between enjoying your living space and maximizing the return on your investment. Either extreme can tip you out of balance and cause problems.

People sometimes invest too much in a house they will live in for only a few years. For example, I knew a couple who bought the average-priced home of about \$70,000 in their neighborhood. They installed many new fixtures, renovated rooms and installed an in-ground pool.

After living there only two years, they transferred to another city for a different job. They sold their house for \$80,000. What appeared to be a \$10,000 gain was actually a \$20,000 loss. After \$30,000 of improvements, their total investment in that house was \$100,000.

Data from the remodeling industry show that different home improvement projects recoup widely different percentages of investment. For example, in-ground pools and fireplaces tend to return less than 50 percent of the amount invested. In other words, a homeowner spending \$12,000 for a new pool might sell the home for only \$6,000 more.

Projects with a high percentage of investment recouped include minor kitchen remodeling and a bathroom addition. Both of these recoup almost all of the amount invested.

If you always have wanted an in-ground pool, buy your next house with an in-ground pool. Your pool will in effect cost half as much as installing it at your current house.

Consider the following when making your renovation and home purchasing decisions:

- Decide how long you are likely to stay in this house.
- Determine the maximum likely sale price for your house.
- Invest an amount (cost + improvements) less than the maximum likely sale price.
- Make improvements that you can take with you first.
- Make renovations with the highest return value.
- Keep track of your total investment in your house.

Jeremy White is a CPA in Paducah and is a regular feature writer for Larry Burkett's "Money Matters" newsletter.



Should American flag be part of worship?

By Greg Burton

With the passing of this year's Fourth of July comes our nation's 222nd birthday. The Christian should be filled with gratitude for the freedom enjoyed by a people unencumbered by the oppression of many regimes around the globe. In spite of its flaws and scandals, America still is a beacon of freedom in the world.

In ballparks, fans will have the opportunity to join their voices in singing “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Children will return to school to open their day with the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. In patriotic festivals, many will offer a tear in homage to the symbol of our great nation with the stirring rendition of “Proud to Be an American” sung by Lee Greenwood. Veterans of all ages will recall their martyred comrades whenever they hear the snap of Old Glory unfurling its stripes on a breezy day. The flag is a special symbol to Americans, and so it should be.

A Christian should never have to face the question of respect for our nation's freedom or the appropriateness of being a good citizen. But should the American flag be a fixture in a Christian sanctuary of worship?

Such is the practice in many churches where the American flag is to the right of the speaker on the platform and often the Christian flag is to the left. Should the house of God include regular nationalistic patriotism or should it remain exclusive to the worship of God with total focus on God's kingdom, a kingdom without national boundaries?

God's word challenges the believer to “render unto Caesar that

which is Caesar's” and to live for God within the political structures in which we find ourselves. This task is far from burdensome for us, given the spiritual roots of our nation and the religious heritage that gave birth to the cherished principles of our earliest documents.

I grow weary with those who trash our nation and her rich history. The modern Christian missionary movement owes much of its success to the work of God through the tool of America and her freedom. But America and Christianity are not one

COMMENTARY

and the same. The “Baptist Faith & Message” declares the value of a free church in a free state. The church needs no favors from the state, simply the freedom to operate through the Holy Spirit, unhindered by government. The church owes the government nothing. Any nation who counts herself blessed owes God everything.

We are urged by Holy Scripture to view ourselves as “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging (exclusively) to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9).

The “holy nation” is not America, but the church. The first two commandments announce God's desire for his relationship with his people to be absolutely exclusive. The United States is a constitutional republic, not a theocracy, as was Israel. It should not be a part of our worship nor a focus of our attention.

Some might say the religious nature of our country makes the display of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance quite appropriate. Yet there have been other nations with

Christian heritage that chose paths which led to injustice and atrocities, even to the persecution of the followers of Christ, who once celebrated their nationalistic pride with a zeal very similar to that displayed in worship. In the sanctuary of our Lord, worship and loyalties should be expressed for God and his kingdom alone.

There are occasions during the year when a flag may be appropriate. Vacation Bible school is a good time to teach our children to be conscientious citizens of the United States as well as the church. Commencement is the opportunity for these children to show what they have learned, including Christian citizenship. The Fourth of July and Memorial Day are times when the church can focus on the grace of God blessing a nation. Such events remind us to pray for our land and her leaders.

But the symbol of our worship is not the Stars and Stripes; it is the cross. The pledge to the American flag is inappropriate in worship. Any pledge of allegiance in worship should be centered on God and God alone.

I am one of those people who stand at ball games and sing loud and clear those inspiring words penned by Francis Scott Key. My children are familiar with the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. My father served faithfully in the Korean Conflict. My uncle died in World War II. I am so very proud to be an American.

But when I enter the sanctuary of praise and worship to God, all other loyalties pause and my focus becomes exclusive. My statue of liberty is made of two pieces of rough wood and my pledge of allegiance is “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Greg Burton is pastor of South Jefferson Baptist Church in Louisville.

“The United States is a constitutional republic, not a theocracy, as was Israel. It should not be a part of our worship nor a focus of our attention.”

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Holocaust scholar declines post.** An internationally known Holocaust scholar has resigned as director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's new studies center following a furor within the Jewish community over past articles he wrote that were highly critical of Israeli policies toward Palestinians. In past articles, Roth, who is not Jewish, had compared Israeli treatment of Palestinians to Nazi treatment of Jews during the Holocaust, angering some Jewish leaders.

■ **Abortion drug funding challenged.** The U.S. House of Representatives adopted a measure to prohibit the Food and Drug Administration from using federal funds to develop or approve abortion-inducing drugs, including RU 486. An amendment to the 1999 agricultural appropriations bill prevents the FDA from using funds made available through the bill for testing, development or approval "of any drug for the chemical inducement of abortion." The House approved the amendment in a 223-202 vote and the amended appropriations bill, 373-48. The Senate has yet to take up the measure.

■ **PCA to study women in combat.** At its annual meeting this month, the Presbyterian Church in America voted to establish a study committee on the role of women in the military. Some in the denomination believe the Bible prohibits women in combat. Others are concerned about the close quartering of men and women in military life. The seven-member study committee will present its findings at next year's General Assembly in Louisville. Delegates also established an 11-member advisory committee to determine whether the six-day creation story in the biblical book of Genesis consisted of literal 24-hour days.

■ **Environmental ministries merge.** Two Christian ministries that have focused on environmental issues have merged. The Evangelical Environmental Network and the Christian Society of the Green Cross decided to combine their staff, publications and other projects. Evangelicals for Social Action is the parent organization of both groups. The merged ministry, Ecumenical Environmental Network, will be based in Wynnewood, Pa.

■ **Embattled Baptist leader indicted.** Henry Lyons, embattled president of the National Baptist Convention USA, was indicted July 2 on federal charges that he cheated corporations out of \$5 million to purchase personal luxuries. Lyons, the leader of one of the nation's largest black denominations, was named in 56 counts, including extortion, fraud and tax evasion. If convicted he could be sentenced to a maximum of 815 years in prison and \$25 million in fines. He was freed on bond after appearing in federal court, Associated Press reported. On July 6 he pleaded innocent.

■ **Inmates sue to use religious gear.** A group of prisoners has sued the Massachusetts Department of Corrections, saying they should be allowed to use American Indian ceremonial beads, headgear and herbs in prison religious ceremonies. The inmates' lawsuit claims that "just as Catholics use rosaries, Protestants use crosses and Jews use the Torah, the (plaintiffs) use ceremonial pipes, tobacco and natural smudge, etc., to express our religion." But a spokesman for the Department of Corrections

disputed the claim that any of the men are Indians.

■ **Alabama governor wins runoff.** In a primary runoff election heavy on religious politics and tainted by bitter attacks, Alabama Gov. Fob James emerged the victor in the state's divided Republican Party. With help from conservative Christians, James soundly defeated Montgomery businessman Winton Blount by a 14 percent margin. James' win came despite his being outspent by more than 2-1 by his opponent.

■ **Church campaign for handicapped launched.** The National Organization on Disability has announced a campaign that aims to commit 2,000 U.S. religious congregations to welcoming people with disabilities by the year 2000. Organizers hope houses of worship will pledge to accept people with disabilities and remove barriers to their full participation in worship services and leadership. Recommended actions include installing ramps, adding more accessible parking spaces, providing sign language interpreters and enlarging print materials.

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Two of the most important words in our Southern Baptist vocabulary are Cooperative Program. With its adoption in 1925, the Cooperative Program began a new way for Southern Baptists to support all their mission causes with one gift through their local church. Through the Cooperative Program our denomination cooperates as a missions team from the local church member, to the convention staff worker, and the missionary on the farthest field.

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'Fishy' situation: City facing lawsuit for Christian symbol

"Both of them had almost the exact same wording: 'Stay out of Republic; we know what you look like. Remember, Jesus loves you.'"

Gay Revi on threatening phone calls to the Ozarks ACLU

REPUBLIC, Mo. (ABP)—Critics say the small Southwest Missouri town of Republic is trying too hard to live up to its name—even pretending it is more sovereign than the U.S. Constitution.

Many city residents say a group of outside agitators is ruining the peace and quiet of their little community. It's all over a fish.

The Ozarks Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union is proceeding with plans for a lawsuit against the Springfield, Mo., suburb. ACLU officials say the suit will be filed on behalf of a Republic resident who has complained about the

city's logo, designed in 1990. The logo, which adorns city stationery and police cars, contains, among other things, a representation of the ichthus, the fish symbol used by ancient Christians as a sign of their faith.

In February, the ACLU asked the city to replace the fish from its logo and replace it with a secular symbol. The organization says use of an overtly Christian symbol to represent a government entity violates the First Amendment's clause against establishment of a religion.

On May 15, the city's aldermen voted to retain the symbol. ACLU

officials say the city never has responded to their requests directly. Many of the Christians who have contributed to the massive public outcry against the symbol's removal view the city's action as a direct defense of Christianity.

Bill Laffoon is immediate past church chairman for First Baptist Church of Republic. "Of course it represents a Christian symbol, but I don't think there's maybe but one or two people in the whole city opposed to it," he said.

ACLU board member Gay Revi said residents opposed to the symbol are afraid to speak up. "I think

it's safe to say right now there's a climate of fear for anyone who is different from the majority in Republic," she said. She said the Ozarks ACLU office has received two threatening phone calls "Both of them had almost the exact same wording: 'Stay out of Republic; we know what you look like. Remember, Jesus loves you.'"

Revi said Christians should recognize their religious liberty would not exist but for the First Amendment. "I lived in a Muslim country for 11 years, and I've seen what happens when government favors one religion over another."

Baptist school gets partial win in Sunday sports rule protest

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (RNS)—Two faith-based overland parks came one vote short of getting a controversial NCAA rule suspended, but the issue isn't settled and the schools are grateful for the support they've gotten.

Representatives of North Carolina Baptists' Campbell University and Mormon-supported Brigham Young University said they are pleased the National Collegiate Athletic Association must still reconsider its decision to eliminate the regulation accommodating schools opposed to playing championship games on Sundays.

The association's Division I schools had until July 6 to request an override of the April 22 decision ending the Sunday accommodation rule made by the division's board of directors.

If 100 requests had been received by that day, the decision to end the rule would have been suspended and the more than 300 members of Division I, which includes the largest colleges and universities, would have considered the matter themselves at the next NCAA annual convention in January 1999.

"We actually got 103 but four of them were past the 5 o'clock Central (Daylight Time) deadline," said Steve Mallonee, director of membership services at NCAA headquarters in Overland Park, Kan. "We ended up with 99."

Because more than 30 requests were received by the deadline, the board still must reconsider the action.

Representatives of the two schools who urged their colleagues at other institutions to seek an override were thrilled they received so much support and said they did not regret coming close to a suspension without getting it.

"We are not disappointed," said Tom Collins, athletics director of Campbell University, in a statement. "Just the opposite. ... I think that the support we have received shows that a variety of different institutions across the country respect the commitment that BYU and Campbell have for our institutional mission."

The Buies Creek, N.C., school, and Brigham Young University, a Provo, Utah, school operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, have been ardent opponents of the NCAA decision to end the Sunday accommodation rule.

According to NCAA regulations, the board must now reconsider its decision at its Aug. 11 meeting. If board members decide to maintain their stance, the active membership of Division I will vote on the issue at the annual meeting.

"We don't know whether the board is going to change its mind or not," said Mallonee. "I got to believe it's not going to be lost upon them the significant number of schools that disagreed with their action. What they do, I'm not going to try to speculate."

Mallonee said in the past the board's decision to eliminate the accommodation rule was motivated in part by a feeling it was not "sensitive to those whose Sabbath is not on Sundays."

Arrests rock Amish & Hutterite communities

LANCASTER COUNTY, Pa. (RNS)—Pennsylvania's Amish and Alberta's Hutterite groups usually seen by outsiders as largely immune to contemporary society's ills—have been rocked by legal problems generally unheard of in those communities.

Two Amish men were charged with distributing cocaine within their community, while 12 Hutterite men and boys have been charged with a series of sex offenses during

a number of years.

About 20,000 Old Order Amish, a strict Anabaptist sect who shun most worldly ways, live in Pennsylvania's Lancaster County, where they rarely make the news.

Recently, however, two Amish men in their 20s were charged along with eight members of a Pagans motorcycle gang for selling cocaine. The arrests shed light on a little-known Amish practice called "rumschpringes," or "running around."

It involves allowing Amish teenagers and young adults to spend several years driving cars, drinking and generally sampling the temptations of the modern world. If and when the young people decide to become baptized and rejoin the church, they revert to the sect's strict ways.

In Alberta, 10 men and two boys have been charged with 34 sex offenses ranging from incest to fondling the genitals of young girls.

New Michigan law to outlaw assisted suicide

WASHINGTON (BP)—Michigan's legislature handed prosecutors a new weapon in their battle against assisted suicide's leading practitioner, Jack Kevorkian, on the final day of the session.

The state House of Representatives approved a ban on assisted suicide with a two-thirds majority, meaning the new law will become effective Sept. 1. Michigan Gov. John Engler has promised to sign the legislation.

The new assisted-suicide ban defines criminal assistance as providing the means for a person to commit suicide, participating in the act or helping plan the death. It does not apply to withholding or withdrawing medical treatment. The bill calls for maximum penalties of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The Michigan legislature's action is noteworthy because Kevorkian has noteworthily habit of Kevorkian and promoting assisted suicide in the state the last seven years.

Kevorkian remained defiant after the legislature's action. "Tell them we will go to trial immediately after that law goes into effect. The Michigan legislature is a tool of the Inquisition. They would burn us at the stake if it wasn't for a jury," Kevorkian told the Oakland Press of Pontiac, Mich.

The new legislation, approved July 2, is intended as an improvement over a law that expired in 1994. Two juries acquitted Kevorkian under the previous law, while a third refused to convict him under common law. A fourth case ended in a mistrial.

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★ AUG. 20-30 ★

KY STATE FAIR

EVERYBODY'S STATE FAIR

The world comes to Kentucky during NAC '98

By Mark Wingfield & David Winfrey
Editor & News Director

LOUISVILLE—They came as clowns, cheerleaders, dancers, Southern belles and average people. Some walked in formation, some did cartwheels, others rode in cars.

They carried flags from 46 states and seven other countries, walking alongside missionaries who serve in America's inner cities and rural outposts of foreign countries.

They received ovations, non-stop waves of cheers, from friends and complete strangers who watched their festive parade through Freedom Hall at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center July 1.

They were the representatives of every state and nation among the more than 10,000 teenage girls attending the National Acteens Convention, held in Louisville July 1-4. And as they marched in the opening parade of NAC, Freedom Hall erupted continuously with the kind of enthusiastic cheers only 10,000 screaming teenage girls can make.

The parade of states and countries kicked off the four-day missions education experience, which is held only once every four to five years and is sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union. Acteens is a missions education organization in local churches for girls in grades seven through 12.

"God has brought us all here to do something through us," Sarah Groves, NAC coordinator, told the girls during the opening session. She was referring not only to what would happen inside Freedom Hall and the South Wing of the Fair and Exposition Center, but also to the impact the girls would make across Louisville and Southern Indiana through four sessions of service projects.

In the two days following the opening session, all 10,315 NAC participants fanned out across the area to clean up local parks and recreation areas, minister to children and senior adults, clean and paint ministry centers and perform a variety of other volunteer ministries at 220 sites.

This kind of hands-on local ministry was a new addition to NAC, made possible with extensive help from Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union and Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson.

"Do you know how long we have been waiting for you girls to come to our city?" Carol Butler, a representative of the mayor's office asked the girls in the opening session.

Butler lauded the girls for their "beautiful hearts" and energy.

"You are a part of something much larger than this one event," she said, referring to a nationwide movement to increase volunteerism.

"You are the future not just of our city and not just of your state, but of the world," she continued. "You have something only you can give that will

make the world a better place.

"Every single one of you will leave a permanent mark on the lives of people you will touch."

Outside Freedom Hall, NAC participants received high marks for their service ministry.

"They've done an excellent job," said Randall Harvey, director of Jefferson Street Baptist Center in downtown Louisville. "I've been very impressed with their work ethic. They've gotten more done than we expected."

About 200 girls worked at Jefferson Street Baptist Center during the two-day period, cleaning and painting the building that houses a long-standing ministry to Louisville's homeless.

Renee Bryant, director of Fern Creek/Highview United Ministries Inc., said the young women reminded her of when she was an Acteen in Irving, Texas.

Workers cleaned, painted and sorted food for the food pantry at the center, which offers assistance to individuals and families.

"Hopefully through the conference as well as the mission projects they'll see how volunteer mission projects really help the community," she said.

That was precisely the goal of organizing the thousands of hands-on ministry opportunities, said Julie Keith, Acteens consultant for Kentucky WMU and coordinator of the ministry projects.

"That was our whole intent, for people to come here and see needs and how to meet them and then go home and see needs and meet them," she said.

As an example, Keith cited the 40,000 items Acteens donated for the Infant Resource Project, a Kentucky ministry center that works with low-income mothers to provide basic necessities.

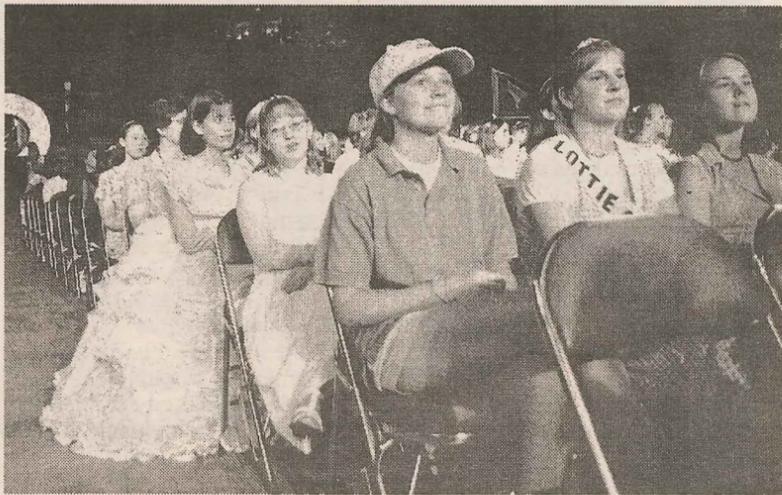
Many girls who worked sorting the donated goods for mothers and babies said they would like to go home and help start a similar effort, and Cathy Neel, director of the Infant Resource Project, received several invitations to come help them do just that, she said.

Neel also said the effects of NAC on Louisville will be long-lasting. "A year from now when I fill an order I still will remember NAC," she said. Not having to round up these items from other sources will free her time for other priorities, such as fund-raising and parenting projects.

Overall, the ministry projects were the highlight of NAC for many participants, Keith said. "They loved it."

Ministry also took place behind the scenes, inside the South Wing of the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center. Girls worked in shifts in sprawling areas marked off by curtains to stitch together quilts that will be sent to mission centers at home and abroad.

They sat in circles on the concrete floor, following the instructions of group leaders who taught them—



NAC ■ Left: The opening session of the National Acteens Convention featured girls dressed as Southern Belles, basketball players and in a variety of other symbolic costumes.

■ Below: Renee Mims, assistant Acteens leader for McDonald Memorial Baptist Church in Jonesboro, La., helps a child sew during a backyard Bible club.

■ Inset: Kelley Travis of First Baptist Church in Murray, a national WMU Top Teen this year, speaks during a NAC session.



many for the first time in their lives—to sew the quilts by hand. As they worked, they listened to the testimonies of missionaries who will use the quilts in their ministries.

By the end of the convention, the NAC participants had completed more than 1,000 quilts.

As a result the girls learned not only a new skill but a new idea for ministry at home as well.

"We've already thought about going home and getting the older women in our church to help us do this," said Jackie Grace, a member of New Hope Baptist Church in Cadiz, Ky.

Though ministry and service were highlighted throughout the convention, the girls repeatedly were told that what they do for others is important, but not the most important thing in life.

"Culture says we can be good people without Christ," Houston missionary Dorcas Byrd told the girls in one session. "As a Christian, I understand that the only way we can be good is if Jesus Christ is in us."

"It's not the good things we do that matter, but that we allow God to get the glory," she said.

Byrd told the teenagers they each have special value to God because they were created by him. "He has given you unique characteristics he wants you to use for his glory," she said.

Service should not be motivated by

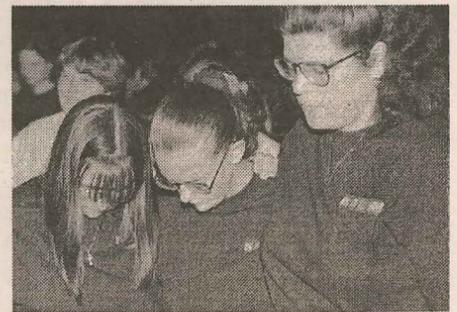
personal gain but by a desire to please God, Byrd explained. "God says to forget about what we want for ourselves and live for him. ... God in us can change us for the better."

In commitment services on Thursday and Friday evening, hundreds of youth and leaders came forward. Nearly 100 decision cards were completed, recording 13 professions of faith and 50 calls to missions and ministry vocations.

"NAC was an incredible experience," said Groves, the event's chief organizer. "I believe the Acteens made a difference in Louisville through the off-site ministry projects. I heard raving reports about the work they did. Even officials at the thrill park said the Acteens were the best teenaged group they had ever had in the park."

"Of course," Groves continued, "the true impact of NAC will be determined by the girls now that they have returned home. I pray that they will continue to live out what they learned and heard at NAC."

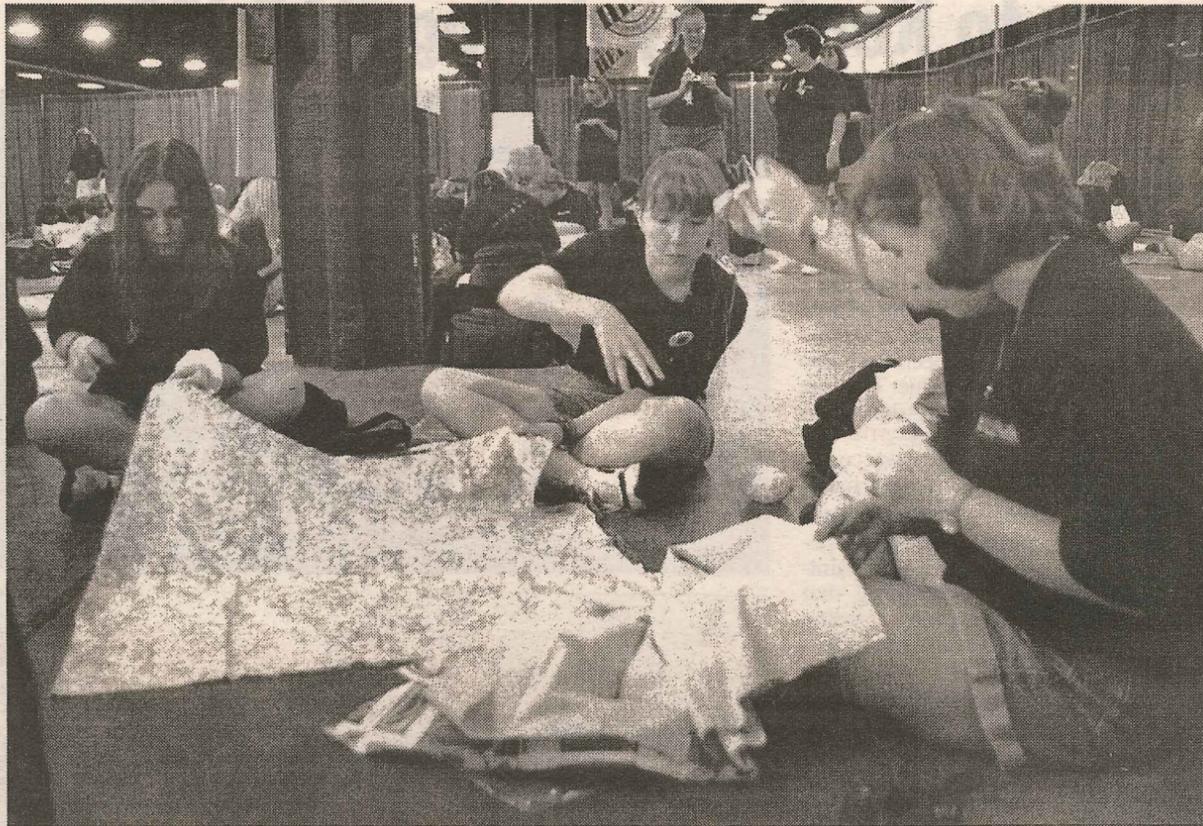
With additional reporting by Teresa Dickens of WMU



PRAYER TIME Acteens from First Baptist Church of Blue Ridge, Ga., huddle in prayer during a NAC session.

"We want them to learn the joy that comes from giving of themselves to someone in need."

Trudy Johnson



IN STITCHES Acteens from New Hope Baptist Church in Cadiz work on quilts during the National Acteens Convention in Louisville July 1-4. The West Kentucky teens joined thousands of other Baptist girls from across the nation to make more than 1,000 quilts for distribution through Baptist mission points.

Ministry keeps NAC girls in stitches

By David Wintrey
News Director

LOUISVILLE—A stitch in time could save lives as a result of the National Acteens Convention.

Missionaries around the globe will benefit from the work of the teenage girls who brought cloth and sewed quilts during the July 1-4 conference

at Louisville's Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center.

Each of the more than 10,000 participants was assigned a time to work on the quilts, said Trudy Johnson, special projects manager for Woman's Missionary Union.

The 18 Southern Baptist missionaries who helped with the massive project received most of the quilts for use in their work, Johnson said.

As they guided the teens in stitching fabric, the missionaries explained how the gospel helps stitch together the lives of those with whom they minister, from homeless men and battered women to families in poverty or victims of natural disasters.

"We want them to learn the joy that comes from giving of themselves to someone in need," Johnson said. "We've also taught them a very simple, easy-to-do project that they can do in their community."

Several groups said they wanted to go back home and duplicate the work for a ministry project in their area, Johnson said.

Some Acteens asked for leftover cloth and supplies so they could work on quilts during the ride back home, she added.

The Baptist Nursing Fellowship sent thousands of bandages with the fellowship's name and address for Acteens to use, "in case the girls pricked their fingers while sewing," Johnson said.

"We really did try to get everybody involved," she said.

Even the setting where they worked, the hard, cold concrete floor of the convention center, was meant to educate Acteens, she added. "We want to help them have some empathy for some of the people who will get their quilts."

Kentucky Women on Mission worked long and hard to organize the supplies and work area. Eveleen Caudill of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville said she hopes young girls learn about Women on Mission and consider doing similar projects when they get older to mentor young women.



Girls light the way for Acteen missionaries

LOUISVILLE (BP)—As they commissioned 430 volunteer short-term missionaries, participants in the National Acteens Convention demonstrated what it means to be the "light of the world" as Jesus commanded.

The commissioning service was held under what looked like a sky glowing with stars, as thousands of Acteens waved pin lights in the dimmed arena at Louisville's Freedom Hall. Leaders said the sea of lights illustrated the impact missions volunteers are having in 22 states and three countries this summer. The 430 volunteers will serve as part of the Act-

eens volunteer programs Acteens Activators, Acteens Activators Abroad and Acteens Interns.

A week prior to the convention, for example, five Activators from Kentucky helped Rolling Hills Baptist Church in LaGrange start a Women on Mission group in a trailer park where the church is located. The Activators from Living Faith Baptist Church in Hartford, Middleton Baptist Church in Franklin and Guthrie Baptist Church in Guthrie conducted vacation Bible school, worship services and a missions fair there.

Those preparing for upcoming Ac-

tivator trips also were commissioned.

During the service, the Acteens were encouraged to carry the light of Christ in whatever they do throughout their lives.

Megan Pieniazek, a state Acteens panelist from Adkins, Texas, said the experience of being an Activator the past two years has been an unforgettable and irreplaceable one in her life.

"To me, Activators is much more than a word. It is an opportunity ... to share God's love," Pieniazek said. "Activators allows us to be on fire for God and gives us the courage to let our light shine everywhere we go."

Florida Acteens pass off cross to Kentucky

LOUISVILLE—Kentucky Acteens left this month's national conference with more than good feelings or a sense of accomplishment from mission projects.

They also came away with a challenge from Florida Acteens, who encouraged them to take up their cross—literally.

Florida Acteens gave their Kentucky counterparts a seven-foot tall wooden cross that has been the inspiration for ministry projects throughout the Sunshine State the past two years.

The Crosswalk project was developed from an Acteen retreat and planning session, said Martha Clark, coordinator of the project in Florida and Acteens advisor at Long Avenue Baptist Church in Port St. Joe, Fla.

The Acteens wanted to find a way to get more Christian teenagers to be committed to ministry and to taking the Christian gospel to unchurched people, she said.

Through Crosswalk, Acteen groups displayed the wooden cross during ministry projects in the communities. Then they handed the cross off to the next group in another town.

The cross was used at health fairs, beach witnessing, a Tallahassee capital prayer meeting, day camps for migrant children, nursing home ministries and a variety of other projects, Clark said.

In all, about 100 churches from all 50 associations involved 1,000 Florida Acteens and 3,000 Baptists in ministry projects, she said.

About 10,000 Floridians and tourists were touched through the ministry projects, she added.

In giving the cross, the Florida group encouraged Kentucky Acteens to use it in their state mission projects before handing it off to another state's Acteens.

Kentucky Acteens coordinator Julie Keith said plans already are underway to use the cross.

Groups interested in sponsoring a Crosswalk project should contact Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union at (502) 244-6485.



CROSSWALK Kentucky Acteens accept Florida's inspiration for ministry work.

World Wide Web spins true tales of missions

By Mark Wingfield & David Winfrey
Editor & News Director

LOUISVILLE—How do you teach 10,000 teenage girls about world missions without taking them around the world?

You bring the world to them.

That's exactly what organizers of the National Acteens Convention did in Louisville July 1-4. They transformed a huge section of the South Wing of the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center into something called the World Wide Web.

This area wasn't just about computers, but it was about gaining access for the gospel through the tangled web of relationships, politics and barriers that exist around the globe.

The 10,000 girls attending NAC traversed two missionary mazes sponsored by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board and North American Mission Board, in which they passed through a maze of curtains to find various teaching points along the way. At each station, missionaries told their stories and involved the girls in interactive learning experiences.

At the Russia station, former Kentucky pastor Ed Tarleton, who now serves as a missionary in Moscow, attempted to demonstrate what it was like to be a Baptist in Russia during the reign of communism.

"How many of you would like to go to college?" he asked. A majority of the girls raised their hands.

"How many of you think you might be able to go to college?" Again, a majority raised their hands.

Then Tarleton used them to demonstrate the realities of life in Russia's

recent history. He asked a series of questions, and anytime a girl answered yes to the question, she had to sit down, indicating she probably wouldn't have been allowed to attend college in Russia.

"How many of you have fathers or grandfathers who are Baptist pastors?" he asked, and several girls sat down.

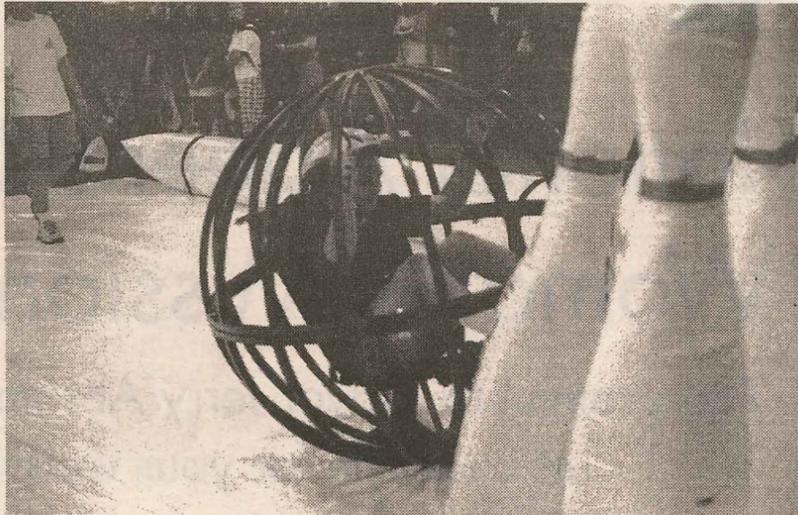
Then after a series of other questions, he delivered the final blow: "How many of you are members of Baptist churches?" And all the girls sat down, leaving no one with easy access to a college education if they had lived in Russia.

Elsewhere in the World Wide Web, NAC participants visited exhibits sponsored by a variety of Baptist agencies and Baptist schools. The Baptist college booths did a brisk business, providing an immediate reminder that the event was happening in Kentucky and not communist Russia.

Many of the exhibits were fun stations, including one where girls could get inside a steel cage shaped like a huge ball and become human bowling balls. Spotters pushed the padded cage down a padded lane to knock down 6-foot-high bowling pins representing different areas of the world.

World Wide Web organizer Rose Zamora of WMU's national staff worked more than two years to assemble the various aspects of the World Wide Web.

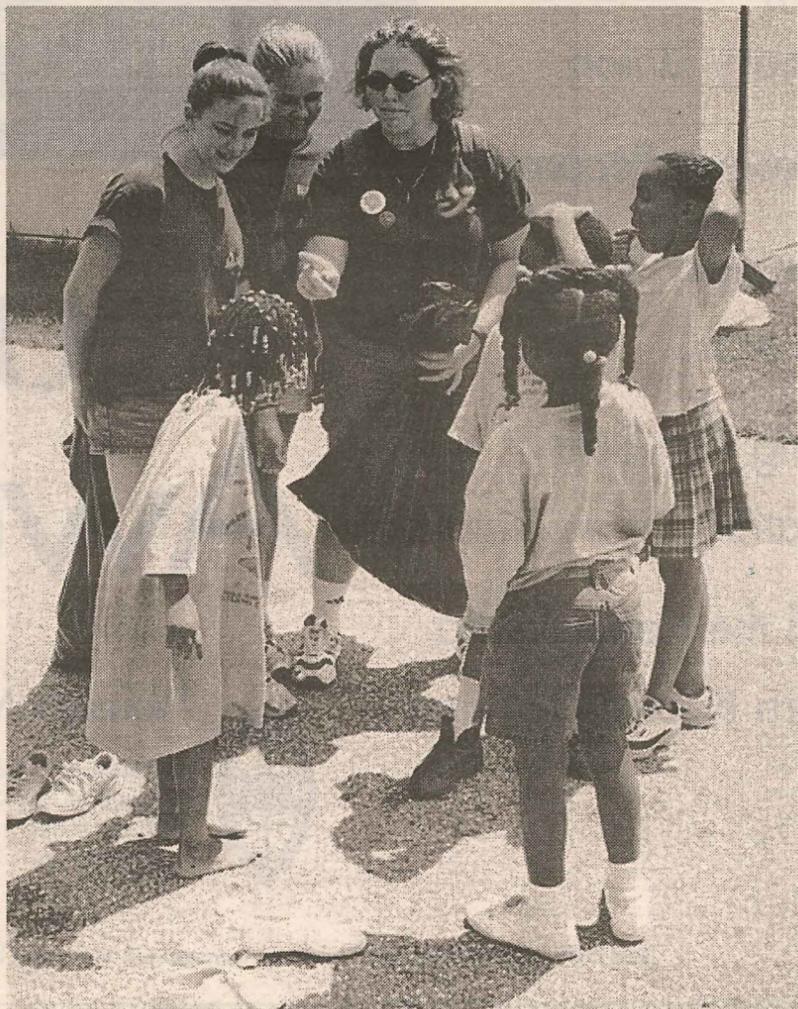
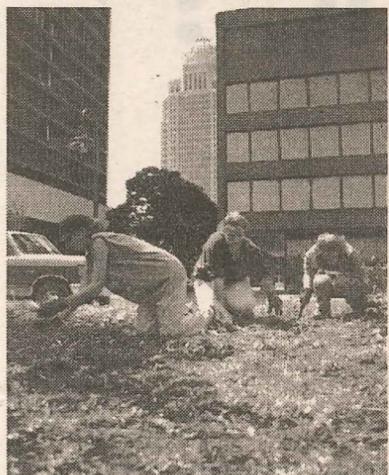
She said the sites were designed for Acteens to "be in an environment in which they will be able to hear and respond to God's call, whether it be to salvation or missions or both."

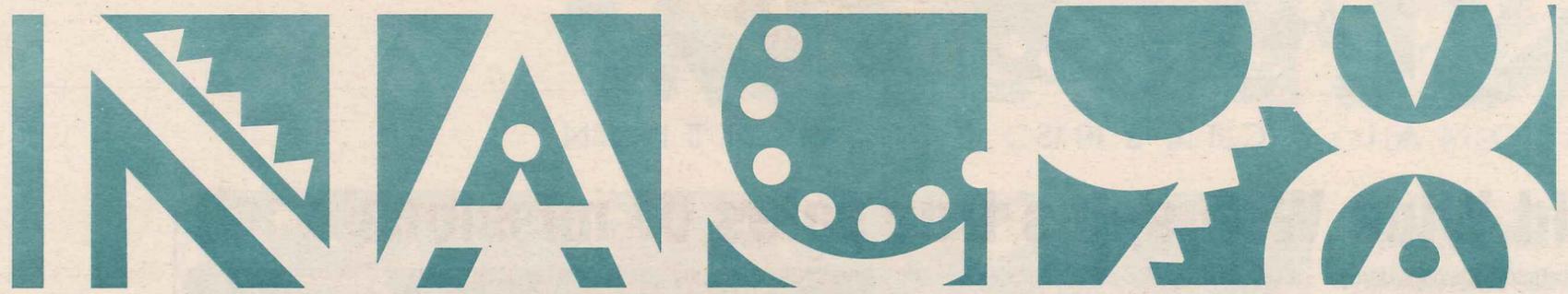


WEB SITES ■ Left: Mandy Collins of Huntington, W.Va., rolls across the rubber flooring of the human bowling ball event during NAC. ■ Below: Former Kentucky pastor Ed Tarleton, now a missionary in Russia with his wife, Teri, explains to NAC participants the difficulties of ministry in the former communist stronghold.



NAC SCENES ■ Far left: Dunamis, a Christian band from Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland, performs during an Ohio River "prayer cruise" aboard the Spirit of Jefferson. ■ Immediate left: Kentucky Acteens take a break from cleaning a local park to play with neighborhood children. ■ Bottom center: Autumn Alcott of First Baptist Church of Murray, a National Acteens Panelist this year, speaks during a NAC session. ■ Bottom left: Acteens from Central Baptist Church in Winchester clean up flower beds on Louisville's Belvedere, the high-rise park overlooking the downtown waterfront.





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ISSUES

Judges differ on abortion bans

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Federal judges in three states have taken sharply differing approaches to state-passed laws seeking to ban a controversial late-term abortion procedure.

A ban on the procedure, called "partial-birth abortion" by its opponents, has been the top legislative and political priority.

In Virginia, Judge Michael Luttig of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals allowed Virginia's ban on the procedure to go into effect June 30, lifting a lower court order that kept the law off the books while a suit challenges its constitutionality.

In Helena, Mont., District Court Judge Jeffrey Sherlock said June 29 that the 1997 law passed by the state legislature was vague and infringed on a woman's right to abortion.

U.S. District Court Judge Donald Graham in Miami issued a temporary stay blocking enforcement of the Florida law until a hearing is held on the ban's constitutionality.

Court: Christian songs OK for school choir

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court declined June 26 to hear a former Utah high school student's claim that her First Amendment rights were violated by the alleged promotion of religion by her music teacher.

Left standing were two lower court decisions dismissing Rachel Bauchman's federal complaint against choir teacher Richard Torgerson and other officials at West High School in Salt Lake City.

During the 1994-95 school year, Bauchman, then a sophomore, au-

ditioned and was admitted to Torgerson's choir class. At the end of the school year she filed a lawsuit charging that her First Amendment rights were violated by Torgerson's selection of Christian music for the choir to perform and the scheduling of performances at religious settings such as churches.

Bauchman also alleged that after she and her parents expressed opposition, the choir director criticized her in front of classmates and called attention before the class to the fact that she is a Jew.

After a federal district court dismissed her claim, Bauchman appealed to the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, where a three-judge panel voted 2-1 to uphold the dismissal. The full court declined to review the panel's ruling.

The appeals court said the choir activities did not have a primary effect of endorsing religion. A reasonable observer, the court said, would not see the inclusion of religious songs, along with a variety of secular songs, as advancement of religion.

Dress controversy goes to court

NASHVILLE (RNS)—A Pentecostal woman who says wearing pants contradicts her faith is suing to regain her machine operator job after being fired for wearing a dress to work.

Charlene McCormick said she believes she was fired in violation of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964. She is seeking back pay and unspecified damages.

"We believe you have to dress holy and look holy and walk daily with God," said McCormick, a member of a Pentecostal Holiness denomination. "We believe (wearing pants is) a sin, and the Bible says it's an abomination."

The lawsuit, filed recently in federal court in Nashville, states McCormick was working for TAD Staffing Services employment agency in April 1996 when she was told to begin working as a machine operator at the Robert Bosch Corp. plant in Hendersonville, Tenn.

After working in that capacity for a few days, her supervisor sent her home, saying her dress posed a safety hazard because it might get caught in the machinery, Associated Press reported.

McCormick was assigned to another job in a different department of the plant. But the personnel director saw her wearing a dress and told the temporary agency to fire her, the lawsuit charges.

A spokeswoman for Robert Bosch Corp., which is based in Broadview, Ill., said the company does not comment on pending lawsuits.

Religious reaction split on Clinton's China visit

WASHINGTON (RNS)—American religious leaders split along generally predictable lines in assessing President Clinton's performance during his recent trip to China and the human rights comments he made there.

Comments by conservative religious broadcaster Pat Robertson provided the only surprise about the president's nine-day visit.

American religious opinion on U.S. policy toward China is split.

Moderate and liberal groups tend to support Clinton's belief that full

U.S. engagement tempered by diplomatically acceptable criticism of the often harsh limitations Beijing imposes on religious and political freedoms is the best way to encourage greater democracy in China.

More conservative groups tend to be highly critical of White House China policy, saying trade issues have been elevated above basic human rights and that Christians are among those most persecuted by Beijing.

Despite his frequent verbal attacks on Clinton, Robertson agreed

with religious moderates on the president's China trip in a Wall Street Journal column.

Criticizing an isolationist strategy toward China, Robertson said it was "not moral, neither is it realistic. China is simply too big, too important and too powerful to wish away."

"Leaving a billion people in spiritual darkness punishes not the Chinese government but the Chinese people," he added. "The only way to pursue morality is to engage China fully and openly as a friend."

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WORLD VIEW

■ France is seeking to collect about \$50 million in back taxes from its Jehovah's Witnesses after lifting the movement's tax-free status. French tax agents—in declaring Jehovah's Witnesses a "sect" rather than a "worship association"—want to collect taxes amounting to 60 percent of the individual donations made during the past four years by the group's 200,000 members in France.

■ For the first time this century, Great Britain's Jewish population has dropped below 300,000. A new demographic study shows there are 285,000 Jews in Britain, down from 308,000 a decade ago. The study by the Board of Deputies of British Jews blamed assimilation, intermarriage and low birth rates for the decline. About 44 percent of British Jews currently marry non-Jews. If the present trend continues, the study also said, Britain's Jewish population will dip below 200,000 within the next 25 years.

■ A national referendum to ease access to abortion in overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Portugal failed to draw the required number of voters to legally settle the issue. With just 32 percent of Portuguese voting last month, 51 percent voted against the measure. Under Portuguese law, women can be imprisoned for up to three years for having an illegal abortion.

Update: At least 18 Christians reported held in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (RNS)—Nine more Filipino and Dutch Christians reportedly have been detained in Saudi Arabia, raising the number of foreign Christians believed held there to at least 18.

The Christians—all of whom were working in Saudi Arabia—reportedly were involved in illegally distributing Bibles and other Christian literature in the staunchly conservative Muslim kingdom.

Saudi Arabia allows no Christian missionary efforts, or even public expressions of Christianity, including worship services or the wearing of a cross.

In June, 11 Christians—10 Filipinos and one Dutch national—were detained, although two Filipinos were released later. One Filipino woman detained was pregnant and reportedly gave birth to a girl while in custody. It was unknown whether she and her child were still being held.

Dutch and Filipino embassy officials in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, July 8 reported the latest roundup of Christians. Eight Filipinos and one Dutchman were seized in the second wave of detentions.

Saudi officials have declined to comment.

Freedom House, a Washington-based religious rights group, has urged President Clinton to protest what it termed "this outrageous persecution of Christians for religious reasons."

Troops help free U.S. missionaries who were kidnapped by Guatemala gunmen

QUATEMALA CITY, Guatemala (RNS)—Guatemalan troops and police freed a group of U.S. missionaries who were held hostage briefly by a gang of heavily armed men in the northern rainforests of the Central American nation.

Authorities in Guatemala City said it appears the kidnapers had asked for \$300,000 for the release of at least four American members of a missionary family that had lived near the border of Mexico for more than 20 years.

The six-hour ordeal concluded with a daring commando raid June 29 by a patrol that happened upon the hostages and their abductors.

The former hostages are associated with Nueva Vida, or New Life, an independent Mennonite group established 24 years ago by

Elam and Barbara Stoltzfus.

Darrell Yoder-Bontrager, an official with the Mennonite Central Committee's Latin America department, said July 1 the family has no official connection with the committee, but is likely Mennonite.

During the raid, one soldier was wounded and one of the Americans also might have been injured. The kidnapers got away.

"We still don't have any more information but I believe the hunt goes on (for the kidnapers)," said a spokesman for the Defense Ministry.

There were conflicting details about the incident. Newspapers reported the four U.S. hostages and eight co-workers were freed while their kidnapers attempted to get them to cross a river near the Guatemala-Mexico border.

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A new face and a new place

As I have written many times in the past, I am continually aware, week after week, that God's hand is upon us as we seek to lead Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore into a new century.

Another example has just taken place. Jack Ellerbrook has come from Milan, Ill., to serve as our new director at Cedarmore.

Ellerbrook and his wife, Shirley, began their ministry early in June, just in time for camp to begin. He brings a strong background in business and longtime lay ministry in and through the local church.

Kentucky Baptists are blessed to have a team of the Ellerbrooks' caliber to lead Cedarmore in the years ahead. They come with a deep and profound sense of call and both are looking forward to many years of service as we seek to bring renewal to Cedarmore.

When you visit our facilities, you'll get a chance to meet them and welcome them to Kentucky. I know you will fall in love with both Jack and Shirley. The Ellerbrooks bring a warmth, friendliness and a love of God and people that is a necessity in conference and camp ministry.

Recently at Jonathan Creek we saw a significant miracle take place as a group of volunteers worked around the clock to complete the new Lone Oak First Baptist Church Retreat Center.

What an effort it took to get the beautiful new facility ready on Monday, June 29. We had guests coming that afternoon, and there was a buzz of activity as last-minute details and punch-list items were completed. I never have been more proud of a group of workers who gave so much of themselves in the heat as we fought the clock and deadline.

I won't begin to mention names because someone would be left out, but words can't express my gratitude for this group going the extra mile as volunteers. We'll have more details about this lodge in the days ahead. In the meantime, if you're in the area of Jonathan Creek, come by and see it. What a place it will prove to be in the years ahead, with a view of the lake. You're going to love it!

God continues to bless us.

Rusty Ellison is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Box 37, Bagdad, Ky. 40003. Call (502) 747-8911.

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MINISTRY

Baptists help families sort through wildfire ashes

By Ashlee Ross
Associated Baptist Press

ORMOND BEACH, Fla. (ABP)—The kitchen at Rima Ridge Baptist Church is no bigger than the average home kitchen, but that didn't stop members from feeding 160 firefighters a day during the recent rash of wildfires.

Church members cooked and served every day for two and a half weeks, during the worst of the fires.

Three times the church itself had to be evacuated as the wildfires crept closer. But each time, when allowed to return, church members resumed the feeding operation for firefighters, police and rescue workers.

Dennis Belz, director of missions for Halifax Baptist Association, said the church's work was amazing. "The church members have really kept it going," he said. The church has fewer than 100 members.

Aside from workers, a mandatory evacuation forced all of Flagler County's 40,000 residents out of their homes for three days. They returned July 6 not sure what they would find.

Some were fortunate, but 46 families found their homes completely destroyed. Another 179 residences were damaged. A total of 49,000 acres of land were charred in Flagler, the hardest-hit county.

The Salvation Army supplied the church with the food. By July 9, with most of the nearby fires contained,

the firefighters moved out of Flagler County, and Rima Ridge Baptist Church closed down its meal service.

The church was among many Baptists offering relief after the fires.

The Florida Baptist Convention designated \$30,000 for those who had lost homes. Joe Courson, church annuity director for the Florida Baptist Convention, and Dennis Belz, missions director for Halifax Association, which covers most of Flagler County, drove around Palm Coast's hardest-hit areas looking for people who needed money.

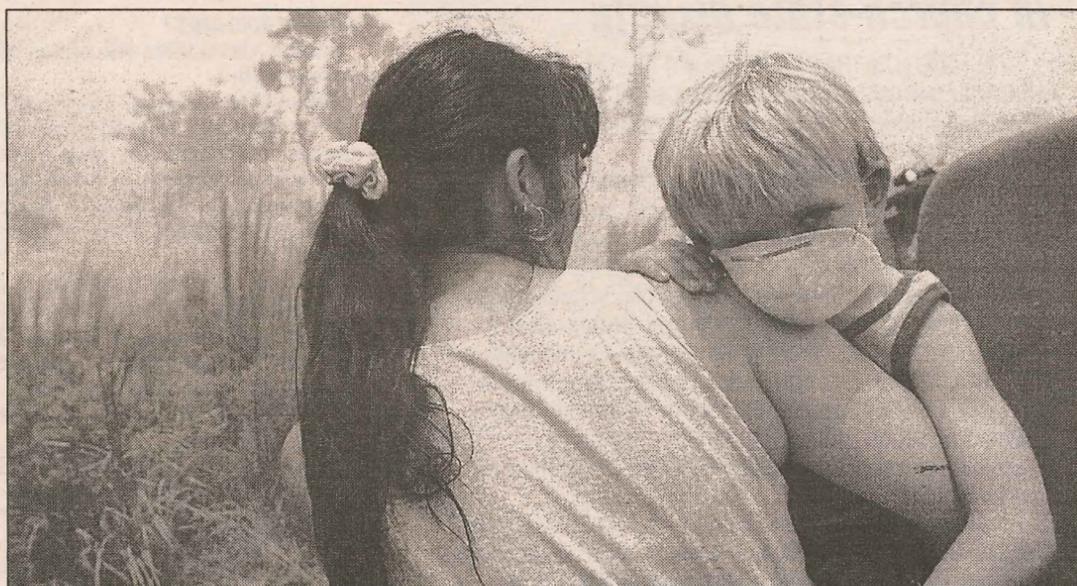
"What we want to do is, in the spirit of Christ, go and help those who are in need," Courson said. "Sometimes, you just need some real cash in your hands. A few dollars can make all the difference in the world."

Courson and Belz gave away money—up to \$300—to anyone whose house had been destroyed, not just to Baptists or churchgoers.

Most were grateful for the money, but some refused to take any and even blamed God for their situation.

"I think that's the first reaction people have," Courson said. "You would have a hard time convincing me that God caused this. I believe out of all of this, God is going to work good."

Counselors available at Palm Coast's First Baptist Church are preparing for the same tough questions: "Why did God let this hap-



pen?" "God has allowed things to happen," said David Thomas, music and youth minister at the church. "He didn't start the fires. He didn't set the fires. But it should be used as a wake-up call for our state and our nation."

The Palm Coast church has set up a distribution center and a feeding line for firefighters and residents. Members from different churches in Halifax Association are volunteering their time to work in the center.

"Whatever we have, we'll give it to them," said Joe Church, a contract worker for the Florida Baptist Convention and a leader of disaster-

relief training. Thomas said Christians must meet people's physical needs before dealing with their spiritual needs. "I think the most important thing as Christians is to demonstrate the love of Christ," he said. "Christ dealt with people's physical needs many times in his life."

The convention's disaster-relief team is well-seasoned, having ministered in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew in August 1992.

"Even with this situation, it's not over," Belz said. "This is lingering for weeks. What we need is a disaster to relieve a disaster—about 10 inches of rain."

FLORIDA WILDFIRES
Bobby Peterson, 5, of Pierson, Fla., wears a protective mask to filter the smoke from wildfires as he clings to his mother near their home July 4. More than 1,900 fires have hit the state since May 25, feeding off thick scrub produced by El Nino rains over the winter and turned into fuel by a months-long drought. Florida Baptists ministered to families through food, counseling and financial help. (Reuters photo)

Summer at Cumberland

By Robert Dunston

Something exciting is always happening at Cumberland College. Summer is as busy a time as the fall and spring semesters.

Our graduate program in education is offering May, June and July terms to help elementary and secondary teachers meet students' needs through new educational techniques and greater understanding of the educational process. We also offered a June term for undergraduates seeking to get ahead in academic work.

Summer also is a time for us to have a variety of groups on campus. We began the summer with Girls State. For the past several years Girls State has used Cumberland's outstanding facilities to provide an experience in government and good citizenship for hundreds of girls.

Our athletics programs also stay busy during the summer providing special camps for young people to sharpen sports skills. Our coaches and students in basketball, football, soccer and wrestling are giving of themselves this summer so that youth can enjoy good fun and health through athletics.

Something new this summer is an Elderhostel service program. A group of older adults from around the nation will be on campus for a week working with our Mountain Outreach program to build houses and learn about the Appalachian area.

Many of our summer activities specifically focus on Christian growth and ministry. Mountain Outreach is bringing in groups from 11 churches this summer to build three homes for three families who do not have adequate housing. Appalachian Ministries is bringing in four church groups to help conduct vacation Bible schools in our area.

Binghamtown Baptist Church held its Main Event Youth Camp: Champions for Christ program at Cumberland during the last week of June. As in previous years, young people came to know Christ as Savior and all who attended experienced a deepening of faith and commitment. Our annual pastors/staff/family conference in July will round out a summer of ministry in Christ's name.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Come kick the tires

In some ways, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is an investment. Since 1869 people interested in the well-being of children in need have "deposited" money, land, clothes, food, time and talent with KBHC in the hopes that something good would grow from those gifts.

It has. The continued support of Kentucky Baptists tells me that you think so, too. Still, I wonder sometimes how many people are aware of the scope of their investment.

Do you realize that 3,300 children and families were touched by KBHC last year? Do churches who faithfully promote the Thanksgiving Offering year after year know there are eight residential facilities from Morehead to Mayfield that take care of young people in crisis? Have the Acteens, RAs, senior adults, WMUs and Brotherhoods across the commonwealth ever met a child touched by their support of KBHC?

If you answered "no" to any question, why not take a trip July 18 to Child Care Day at Glen Dale Children's Home? Here, on this campus that has sheltered so many hurting hearts, you can see

up close what your investment in Baptist child care is all about. You can see the cottages where the kids live. You can talk to the young people, listen to their stories and hear the difference your gifts and prayers are making.

This is also a great time to get your questions answered about our KBHC programs. What is foster care all about? Tell me about Special Needs Adoption. Is there a Cornerstone Counseling office near me? What does it mean to be a Visiting Resource to a child on a residential campus? How long does a child stay on a campus? Where does he go to school? Where does she go to church?

Child Care Day is fun, too. There are games, animals to pet and lunch with the kids. Call (800) 456-1386 to let us know how many people are in your group and to get directions to Glen Dale. The event begins at 10 a.m. EST and usually winds down at 2:30 p.m.

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

Alabama politicians take stage in church-state dispute

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Alabama's elected officials, already at the center of some of the most bitterly contested church-state issues, are continuing to take their views to the national stage.

On June 25, two freshman House members from Alabama launched separate volleys, with one calling for legislation that would allow states to post copies of the Ten Commandments in public places, and the other holding a rally for a New York City public school teacher fired for leading her students in prayer during class.

Alabama has been ground zero in the church-state war since Roy Moore, a county judge, refused to remove a replica of the Ten Commandments from his courtroom, sparking a dispute during which Gov. Fob James threatened to bring in the National Guard to protect the court-displayed plaque.

In addition, U.S. District Court Judge Ira DeMent has blocked DeKalb County school employees from engaging in prayer and other religious practices in the public schools and ordered employees to take training on church-state separation.

Rep. Robert Aderholt, R-Ala., said his Ten Commandments bill would block the federal courts from having any say on matters of religious expression in public places.

His proposal drew an immediate response from Gary Bauer, president of the Family Research Council, who accused the federal judiciary of doing "great damage to the cause of religious freedom." Bauer said Aderholt's bill is "a measured yet firm response to a pattern of judicial over-reaching that ... is at variance with our history."

But Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, criticized the proposed legislation. "Rep. Aderholt apparently wants to turn court-houses and public schools into churches," Lynn said.

Kentucky politicians say they have faith

Continued from page 1

Similar views were articulated by others as well.

"What I believe affects how I vote," said Jim Bunning, a Republican who currently represents the state's 4th Congressional District in the House but is running for the Senate. "Those are my core principles. They've got to be there."

"I'm one who can't separate my Christian beliefs" from work as a congressman, said Bunning, a Catholic. "I don't want to separate them. I believe the moral law affects the legal law."

"It definitely not only is possible but is essential to be a person of faith, because of the pressures of this job and the way you're pulled in so many directions by so many different groups," said Ed Whitfield, a Republican who represents Kentucky's 1st Congressional District in the House.

"If you do not have a foundation based on some principle, particularly Christian principles, you do have great difficulty in political life," explained Whitfield, a Methodist who attended Wesley Theological Seminary before entering law school.

Yet even having a moral foundation doesn't mean lawmakers always agree, noted Ann Northup, a Republican who represents the state's 3rd Congressional District in the House.

"If you put all the most moral people into a room, they wouldn't always agree on what public policy should be," she explained.

In reality, public service and the church have a lot in common, said

Northup. "Being in public service, there's something religious about that. Service is what it's about."

Rogers agreed. "The only reason to be in it is to improve the lives of people."

And being a person of faith is the best basis to represent the people of Kentucky, added Bunning. A primary question he asks about every piece of legislation is, "Does this serve the majority of my constituents?"

"When I look at the people of faith in Kentucky, I don't think that would be a conflict" to examine issues from a faith perspective, he said.

The perception that all politicians have their hands out to the highest bidder may be true of a few but is not true of the majority, Northup said.

The pressure to raise funds is intense, she admitted, noting that she had to raise \$1 million in 1997. But that money doesn't come with strings attached, and if it does, an elected official's faith should provide the moral background to refuse such contributions, she added.

"Out of all the people who have given me \$1,000 or more, only one person has called me and reminded me of that and asked me to vote a certain way," Northup recalled. "I said, 'Can I send your money back?'"

All the Kentucky legislators interviewed for this article said that while faith informs their day-to-day work, the tough issues related to faith and legislation usually crop up only on certain high-profile issues.

As perennial examples they cited

abortion and school prayer. Most said they have well-settled opinions on both subjects, opinions that have become well-known in campaigning.

In addition to abortion and school prayer, Bunning also cited the issue of the United States granting Most Favored Nation trading status to China, which he views as an issue with moral ramifications.

"I am against that because I believe the communist Chinese government treats their people inhumanely and they do not have true freedom, freedom to practice their religion," he explained.

Bunning said the business community which normally supports him complains about his stance on this issue, but his "gut" feelings just won't let him support endorsement of China.

Rogers and Ford both cited the landmark welfare reform legislation passed a few years ago.

Although Rogers ultimately voted for the legislation, "that was a tough vote for me with my district being one of the poorest in the nation," he said.

"Sometimes what is in the best interest of the nation may not be in the best interest of your district," Rogers said. "There are no easy votes in Congress."

Editor's note: Interviews for this story were conducted throughout the fall of 1997, before the talk of the nation focused on allegations of moral impropriety by the president. In fairness to those interviewed, and to prevent confusion with the extensive debate occurring on that subject, the story was held.

Building names

Several hundred people normally visit our school each year. As we take these guests on a tour of our campus, we usually know what they are most interested in. We can expect certain questions because many others have asked the same things before. A question that is sometimes asked is "How do you come up with the names for your buildings?" I normally smile, because I know they expect me to say that we name our buildings in honor of those who have made large financial contributions to our school.

Most people are surprised when I tell them that we normally name our buildings in honor of those who have given of their lives in the service of this ministry. I am not saying none of our buildings are named for those who may have made large financial contributions. But I will say that most of the time they have made not only a financial investment in this ministry, but an investment of their lives in one way or another. We have named buildings in honor of volunteers, faculty and staff, and other friends who have given years of their lives so we could minister to countless youth.

We are always seeking to improve and add additional classrooms for our students. For the past 15 years our print shop was using two rooms which used to be classrooms. The print shop has needed more room for quite some time, but there was no other space available. We decided to build a new print shop in a location that would not serve us well for other uses, and thereby get back the two classrooms the print shop had been using.

It has taken us nearly a year to complete the

project with the help of a lot of volunteer labor. We were finally able to move into our new print shop last week. We are busy now converting the old space into two new computer labs.

Let me get back to naming the building. It was with great pleasure that I asked the trustees to name the new print shop building "John and Erma Smith Hall" in honor of two of our most outstanding staff. The Smiths came to Oneida 24 years ago to work as house parents in our dorm. Smith was also our drafting teacher. He has always been in the classroom, and was dean of boys with Mrs. Smith. Eventually Smith was able to devote all of his time to the classroom and Mrs. Smith became dean of students.

Space does not permit me to describe their work and the dedication these two have had for the Oneida ministry. Over the years they have taken literally hundreds of boys, girls, faculty and staff to the doctor's office or the hospital. Many of those trips were made in the middle of the night. Even if they had missed four or five hours of sleep to perform these duties, they always had to be back on their regular jobs bright and early the next morning. I can honestly say that no two people have given more of their time and talents to this ministry during the past 50 or so years, and frankly I am not aware of any couple ever giving more in the history of the school.

God has truly been gracious to us by providing this dedicated couple for our ministry.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Campus chapel renovation started

A charitable gift annuity established by Murray resident Mabel Rogers will fund renovation of Clear Creek's chapel. This gift honors the life and marriage of Hillard and Mabel Rogers. These Calloway County natives married September 5, 1931. Hillard died in 1978. The gift also expresses appreciation for the ministry of Murray First Baptist. The Rogers joined the church in 1935. She vividly remembers her conversion "on the mourner's bench." H.C. Chiles, who taught at Clear Creek after his retirement, baptized her. She did a mission trip to the Northern Cheyenne Indians in Montana. We also enjoyed a trip to Israel. She sang in the sanctuary choir until recently and now enjoys the senior adult choir.

During my years as pastor in Murray, I went each December to Clear Creek for the turkey project. In 1979, Mrs. Rogers was in the group that accompanied me. She still remembers the campus facilities needed improvement. "Because of the Depression I only received one year of high school. I've been impressed with Clear Creek and the work it does with adults. A traditional college

would not meet their needs. I'm glad to have a part in encouraging these adults to get a college education," she said.

For years chapel services have been in the building erected in 1957 for the furniture factory. When the factory relocated to London the pew assembly room received student made pews, musical instruments and a pulpit area. Everything else remained the same including the green factory windows. The renovation adds faceted glass windows depicting the life of Christ and biblical teachings. The new interior includes a raised panel wood ceiling with new lighting and a redesigned pulpit area. A 15-foot extension provides seating for 50 people. Students provide most of the labor with some assistance from volunteers. Work continues into the fall semester, necessitating a temporary meeting place for chapel.

This charitable gift annuity provides life income for Mable Rogers and meets a significant need for Clear Creek. To God be the glory!

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

FAMILY

Parents & children express unique desires for family

OXNARD, Calif. (ABP)—Parents and their children hold unique desires for their families, researcher George Barna reported.

Barna Research Group, which Barna heads, surveyed family members nationwide to determine how churches can minister most effectively.

What parents said they want

■ **A safety net.** "Parents need a process or group to provide support and security during crisis," he said. "Historically, this has been provided by the extended family. But not today. 'The replacement today is—or can be—the church,'" he said. "Some say the church provides it."

■ **A process for building foundations for their children's lives.** Parents are looking for ways to incorporate moral values and self-esteem in their children, he said. They're also seeking ways to help their kids handle their emotions.

■ **Parenting skills.** "Most parents raise their children the same way they were raised, like it or not. They don't have a plan, a strategy for raising their kids," he said. The skills parents say they want are better communication, the ability to make home a positive environment, conflict resolution, time management and financial management.

■ **The courage and process to make necessary lifestyle changes for the good of their families.** Problems include how to have time together as a family, how to blend family and career, and how to pay for college, Barna reported, noting: "These problems are predictable. They're also avoidable."

■ **Emotional support during times of family crisis, confusion, anxiety.**

■ **A reliable adviser to help think through issues and philosophy.** "Fewer than 10 percent of parents articulate their values," he said. "Less than 40 percent pass along values as their parents did. Parents need a safe sounding board — not lectures on how to be a parent, but interaction."

■ **A true partnership in marriage.**

What children said they want

■ **Unconditional love and a sense of feeling connected.** "Most children feel they have to earn their parents' love and acceptance," Barna said. "This is debilitating."

■ **Better communication with their parents.** "They think their parents are too busy to get beyond superficial communication," he said. "They also think their parents are overly critical," which impedes effective communication.

■ **More time with their parents.** Mothers spend less than two hours in "meaningful interaction" with their children each week, and fathers spend less than an hour, Barna's research shows.

■ **More trust and freedom from their parents.** Children want to be "respected for who they are," Barna said. They already have more material things than previous generations, partly because both parents typically work, but they really want respect.

■ **A "deeper sense of purpose in life."**

■ **Greater acceptance of their friends by their parents.** "Today's kids are abundantly relational," he observed. "So, they take rejection of their friends personally."

■ **Greater emotional closeness.** "They're seeking unity, understanding and security," Barna said. "They want a family they can be proud of."

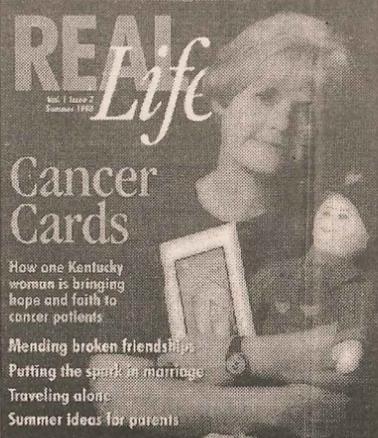
■ **Deeper respect and tolerance between their parents.** "Most kids today fear their parents will divorce," he said.

■ **Less financial stress.** Children indicated they wish their families had less debt and more savings.

■ **Physical safety.** Children express a high degree of concern about crime.

Does your church want to reach families?

Real Life is the magazine designed to help Kentucky churches reach families.



Help families minister to themselves, Barna suggests

Continued from page 1
family ministry on the Bible, not on cultural fears," Barna stressed.

■ **Achieve impact by pursuing goals and plans for families.** About goals, Barna said, "If you don't specify it, you won't reach it, ... and fewer than 5 percent specify goals."

■ **Develop a family ministry that includes all family members.** "Every member of the family must be equally esteemed," he urged. But many churches fall short of that ideal because they focus their "family" ministry strictly on adults.

■ **Every ministry effort must reflect the uniqueness of that congregation and its families.** A "cookie-cutter" approach to family ministry won't work, Barna said.

A church cannot import another congregation's programs and expect them to meet the needs of its families. Each church setting and each church's collection of families and family needs is specific and needs specific attention.

■ **Effective family ministry requires multiple approaches to family development.** "You can't do it from the pulpit," Barna warned.

"People learn in different ways," he said, so they need different avenues to learn how to make their families stronger.

Mentors or coaches—experienced, wise individuals who are knowledgeable and trained to help families—can make a significant impact on church families, he advised.

■ **The senior church leader (usually the pastor) must be an outspoken champion of families.**

"This sets the tone for the ministry of the church," he said. "If the pastor is silent or minimally supportive, families will suffer."

■ **The church must pray with, for and about families—constantly.** When the future of families is at stake, prayer matters most, Barna declared. "Prayer is the single coordinate related to the effectiveness of family

ministries. That's true for marriage too."

■ **All legitimate families—regardless of configuration—should receive the church's support.** This includes a range of situations, from couples with children still at home, to single-parent and blended households, to widowed adults living alone, he said.



Five cautions on family ministry

Churches seeking to offer family ministries must heed several cautions regarding family ministry, said George Barna. He offered five caveats for churches considering new family ministries:

■ **Don't call it "basic parenting skills."** "No American wants to admit they're a bad parent." Research shows parents are least-interested in family ministry when it's labeled "basic parenting skills."

■ **Boomers' and busters' learning styles differ.** "Busters prefer an interactive approach, don't like absolutes, are process driven and are highly relational; they like leaders who will admit mistakes," he said. Boomers, on the other hand, prefer recommendations regarding the best practices for parenting, seek efficiency and positive outcomes, and like "polished, professional" leaders. Churches should tailor their approaches to meet the specific needs of these families.

■ **"Women are the key to successful family ministry, but men want to be included."**

■ **Although parents want family support, they are wary of accountability.** "They don't like evaluation and pressure. They fear being found out as failures," he said. Instead, churches should offer "soft accountability" through private, helping relationships, he said.

■ **Families "will accept help from anyplace that seems legitimate," so the church competes for their loyalty.** "Time is of the essence," he said, urging churches to get ministries available as soon as possible, before families opt for other resources. "The more you provide valued help, the more you'll be trusted, and the more opportunities (for effective ministry) you'll have," Barna stressed.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ God's leadership in selecting field coordinators for the Kentucky mission partnerships with Tanzania and Poland, which will begin in 1999.

■ The Kentucky construction and evangelism team in Orekhovo-Zuevo, Russia, July 8-21.

■ Three churches in Maine Baptist Association that currently are looking for pastors.

■ Faith Baptist Church in Warwick, R.I., as the church looks for a pastor.

■ The ministry of John and Joanne Tracy at Barre Baptist Fellowship in Vermont.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Ann Tatum

■ **BEAVER DAM**—Glenn Armstrong, pastor at Beaver Dam Church, recently was recognized for completion of 31 years of ministry.

■ **FORDSVILLE**—Jeff Stewart of Providence graduated from Mid-Continent College in Mayfield.

■ **GRAND RIVERS**—Sugar Creek Church called Gordon Holland as pastor.

■ **HARTFORD**—Bill Holladay resigned as pastor at Adaburg Church.

■ **HENDERSON**—Former Kentucky Gov. Brereton Jones was the speaker at Community Church for the June 28 morning service. John Dunaway is pastor.

■ **HORSE BRANCH**—Claud Smith, pastor of New Zion Church, recently celebrated 36 years in the ministry.

■ **HORSE CAVE**—Horse Cave Church called Robin Waggoner as minister of music/education. Waggoner previously was at First Church in Belle Glade, Fla. Horse Cave Church also will celebrate its 130th anniversary Aug. 9. Former pastors Leon Larimore and Joe Vetter will speak in the 11 a.m. service. The Blackwood Brothers quartet will be in the 2 p.m. service. Kevin Denton is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Shively Heights Church had Steve Davis and the Crossgate Baptist Church drama group from Mississippi in their service July 12. Allen Bonnell also discussed his mission trip to Guatemala.

Third Avenue Church has two summer missionaries, Summer LeBouef from Nichols State University in Louisiana and Andrea Guidry from the University of Southwest Louisiana, to assist with their vacation Bible school July 26-30.

■ **MIDDLETOWN**—Woodland Church has called James Taylor as minister of music and worship.

■ **MARION**—Bill Chase resigned as minister of music and youth at Marion Church. He will be going to High Point Church in Mayfield as associate pastor and minister of music.

■ **PADUCAH**—Charles Powell resigned after 13 years as pastor of Park Avenue Church. He is available for pulpit supply and interim. He may be reached at (502) 442-0048.

Paul Blizard resigned after five years as pastor of Reidland Church. He has accepted the pastorate of Memorial Baptist Church in Berkeley, W.Va. Also, Reidland Church ordained Joe Ballard to the deacon ministry June 20.



OCEAN BAPTISM Retired Kentucky pastor Eugene Enlow baptizes Nancy Masuda in the Pacific Ocean off Waianae, Hawaii, June 21. Enlow is one of several Kentuckians who recently have served as interim pastor of Mount Kaala Baptist Church and Makaha Valley Chapel in Hawaii. The Hawaiian congregation was constituted as a church last year after years as a mission. Other Kentuckians who have helped the church in recent months include Eldred Taylor and Russell Bennett.

'Death of God' theologian van Buren dies

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. (RNS)—Paul van Buren, a leading proponent of the controversial "death of God" school of theology of the 1960s, died June 18 of cancer. He was 74.

Van Buren, a retired religion professor, was one of three principal Christian theologians identified with the "death of God" movement, although he rejected the term.

Trained in the philosophical method of linguistic analysis, van

Buren said it was problematic to speak meaningfully about a God for whom no sensory verification is possible.

With transcendent "God talk" ruled out, van Buren built a faith on ethical behavior based on the historical Jesus.

Theologians critical of van Buren's methodology and thinking countered that if faith is stripped of its mysticism, there is little left of religion.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Full-time church secretary. Send resumé: Personnel Committee, Woodland Baptist Church, 809 N. Pope Lick Road, Louisville, KY 40243, or call (502) 245-6398.

FOR RENT: Very nice 2-bedroom apartment in Crescent Hill. Air-conditioned, built-in bookcases. Mention "seminary." Asking \$550 per month, utilities not included. (502) 558-2929.

SEEKING: Minister of music, Bullittsburg Baptist Church, Burlington, KY. Send resumé to: Search Committee, 2616 Bullittsburg Church Road, Burlington, KY 41005, or call (800) 537-0786.

SEEKING: Bivocational minister of music and youth. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, Auburn Baptist Church, 500 Ensley Ave., Auburn, IN 46706.

SEEKING: Calvary Baptist Church is seeking someone to lead the youth ministry in a full-time position. Please send resumé to: Youth Search Committee, P.O. Box 1524, Glasgow, KY 42142.

SEEKING: Youth and children's ministers for small, ready to grow rural church. Husband and wife preferred; others considered. Send resumé to: Youth/children Search Committee, Glens Creek Baptist Church, 4678 Steele Road, Versailles, KY 40383. (606) 873-4097.

SEEKING: Beechmont Baptist Church is accepting resumé for the position of children's minister. This person will be responsible for all children's worship and activities. This is a part-time position, 15-20 hours per week with good pay. Mail resumé to the church at 4574 South Third St., Louisville, KY 40214.

SEEKING: Fern Creek Baptist Child Development Center is currently looking for preschool teachers for the 1998-99 school year. Hours are MWF, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. We also are seeking a director for an after-school program; hours are M-F, 3-6:30 p.m. We offer competitive wages, a friendly environment and other benefits. Please contact Debbie Gorbandt or Linda Barnes, (502) 239-0316.

SEEKING: Part-time secretary in Executive Office of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Computer and word processing skills required. Attractive salary. Contact administrative services, KBC, (502) 244-6468.

WANTED: Couple for light maintenance and lawn care for 40-unit Louisville condo complex. Apartment and utilities furnished; retirees welcome. (502) 456-4701.

NEEDED: Organist for Wednesday choir practice and Sunday service/s. Contact Chevy Chase Baptist, P.O. Box 22113, Lexington, KY 40522-2113, or call the church office at (606) 266-2601.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music with knowledge of contemporary worship methods and experience in leading Sunday and Wednesday night music. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Davis Memorial Baptist Church, 9550 Bluegrass Parkway, Louisville, KY 40299.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of children with gifts and abilities to love and care for our children of Davis Memorial Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Davis Memorial Baptist Church, 9550 Bluegrass Parkway, Louisville, KY 40299.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and/or youth. Resumé only: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 64, Vandalia, MO 63382.

FREE: Christian company will create and host a free web page for your church. PlanetCraft (502) 243-0302. rod@planetcraft.com.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and activities. Growing county seat church with excellent recreational facilities. Send resumé to: Search Committee, Columbia Baptist Church, 201 Greensburg St., Columbia, KY 42728.

SEEKING: Minister of Music. The First Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tenn., is presently searching for a minister of music. This historical congregation has a strong music ministry. This position will be one of six full-time pastoral ministers. FBC is a regional congregation averaging 600 to 650 on Sundays with a resident membership of 1,400. Inclusive in its theology and creative in its approach to ministry, FBC is seeking a high-energy person who reflects this perspective. Applicants should be comfortable with liturgical and contemporary services. Resumes should be mailed to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 401 Gateway Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37402.

SEEKING: Part-time or interim minister of music. If interested, contact: Parkway Baptist Church, 1915 N. Broadway, Lexington, KY 40505. Phone: (606) 299-8445.

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

FOR SALE: 1994 Toyota Camry XLE (owner received company vehicle). V-6; power sunroof, windows, locks, mirrors; cruise control; 100,000-mile extended warranty transferable to new owner. Mint condition, 68,700 miles, \$14,000. Call evenings: (502) 895-9594.

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 (base salary for each house parent: \$14,635). Call Doug McWhirter at (850) 878-1458 for information. Pray for us.

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: Associate pastor/minister of youth and education for a growing church located 7 miles from Rough River State Park. The church has contemporary worship services including praise bands. This is a full-time position with primary responsibility for an existing high school youth group. Applicants should be energetic, creative and responsible. If interested in becoming a part of this multi-staff ministry, please send resumé to: Associate Pastor Search Committee, Corinth Baptist Church, P.O. Box 9, McQuady, KY 40153.

Tighter visa rules put squeeze on Israel volunteers

By Elaine Ruth Fletcher
Religion News Service

JERUSALEM (RNS)—They were dubbed the "golden angels" by one grateful client and were awarded a civic prize for their charity work.

Still, Carl and Marlene Bennett of Denver, Colo.,—who operate a free home repair program for needy Jerusalem families under the auspices of a local Christian charity—have been told by visa authorities they have overstayed their welcome in Israel.

The Bennetts' situation is an example of the increased pressure Christian organizations in Israel are feeling as visa permits for critical foreign staff become harder to obtain.

In general, the gradual tightening of visa policies means volunteers such as the Bennetts, who in the past could come to Israel for two years or more to work in unpaid church posts, now are being asked to leave after six months to a year.

Long-term working papers and clerical visas—two other categories of foreign Christian workers here often obtain—also are becoming harder to get in some cases, Christian groups say.

"The trend has been to get less and less time. The Ministry of Interior is trying to clamp down on foreign workers," said Charles Kopp, who heads the United Christian Council of Israel, an evangelical group representing 26 Protestant church organizations.

Burdensome visa restrictions have long been a fact of life for foreign Christians working or volunteering in West Bank Palestinian church institutions and who Israeli officials often accuse of being anti-Israel.

But now, even church groups that are ardent supporters of the Jewish state are encountering new obstacles to their operations.

"It's true that in certain periods in the past when there weren't so many tourists, volunteers and foreigners who wanted to stay, we weren't as strict. We were more generous. But today we are being more careful," said Batya Karmon, who oversees the interior ministry's visa operations.

In general, Protestants have a harder time getting long-term visas than Orthodox Christian and Catholic clerics, who serve centuries-old Arab congregations. Orthodox and Catholic clerics arriving here from Greece, Europe and Russia usually are allowed to stay indefinitely, said Uri Mor, head of the Israeli Ministry of Religious Affairs' Christian communities department.

"There is a quota for the ministers in the Protestant churches," said Mor, adding that it is a longstanding policy. "Some of the Protestants are missionaries, and the Ministry of Interior doesn't want to encourage missionaries in the country ... although we give them enough people so they can operate."

Ironically, the new visa restrictions coincide with a major Israeli

drive to prepare Christian churches and sites for a flood of pilgrims expected in 2000, the end of Christianity's second millennium.

"On the one hand," observed Kopp, "we're being asked by the Ministry of Tourism and just about everyone else to gear up for the year 2000, and on the other hand, the Ministry of Interior makes it hard for us to retain staff that are reliable."

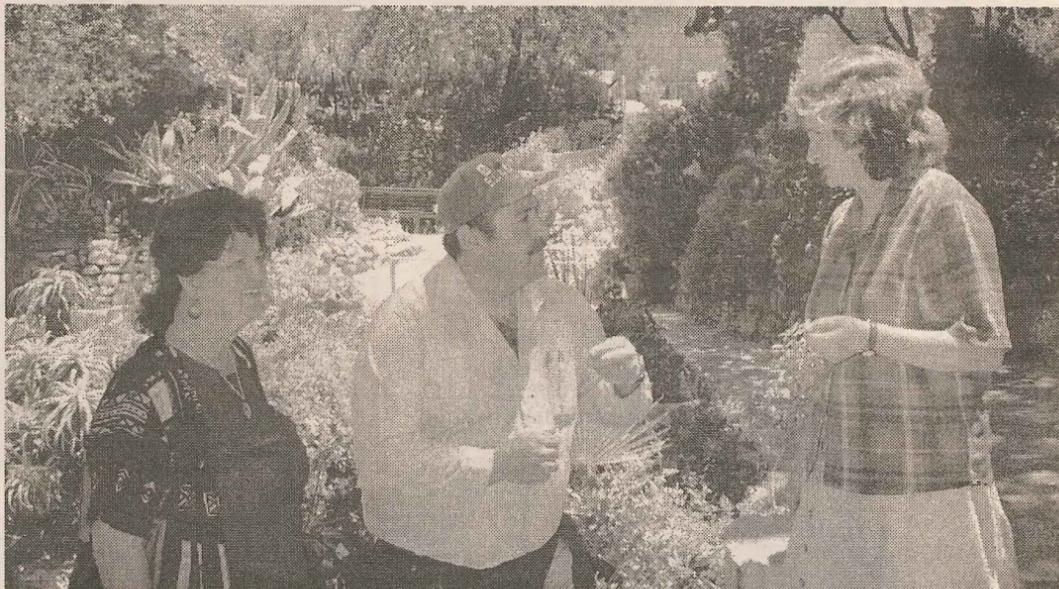
The foreign volunteers may serve as unskilled maids and cooks in a church hospice—or as skilled church artists, craftspersons and tour managers.

As Israeli society has become overwhelmed with tens of thousands of low-paid Asian and African laborers, public and political sentiment has turned increasingly against the rising number of non-Jews who might try to settle here, and thus dilute Israel's "Jewish" character.

As a result, immigration officials have become more aggressive in their attempts to have veteran church volunteers sent home, and for newly arrived volunteers to stay for shorter periods—even if their jobs cannot realistically be filled by an Israeli or Palestinian.

"We can't ignore things in one sphere, and then be particularly strict on the other," said visa official Karmon, explaining why the policy also should apply to church staff.

In fact, the number of foreign church-related staff and volunteers



in Israel and the Palestinian territories at any one time is insignificant in comparison to the number of foreign workers on commercial work permits. Foreign church staff of all kinds numbers only about 10,000, said Mor, of the religious affairs department.

Meanwhile, an estimated 100,000 foreign workers from Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe live here—tens of thousands illegally.

The evangelical organization Bridges for Peace distributes hundreds of food packages to Jerusalem's needy, arranges free home repair projects for the elderly and distributes welcome gifts and Jewish Bibles bearing an Orthodox Jewish

seal to new Russian immigrants. The massive operation is aided by little more than a dozen foreign Christian volunteers, who initially come to Israel for a month or so, but sometimes stay longer.

One of those volunteers is Carl Bennett, a 68-year-old homebuilder from Denver, who entered Israel with his wife, Marlene, in January 1997 for a second stint as manager of the organization's free home renovation project, which has repaired hundreds of Jerusalem dwellings since it began in 1993.

"We were under the impression we could stay for 27 months, but when we went back to get our visa renewed this spring, they told us, 'you have to leave,'" said Bennett, who has appealed that decision.

"They told us we had to leave because they have so many foreigners coming in and taking jobs," he said. "I could understand that, except that there is no one to replace us. We don't get paid; in fact we bring our own money into the country."

Jerusalem's famous Garden Tomb site is another one of the institutions affected by the new policy. Revered by many Protestants worldwide as Jesus' burial ground, this garden sanctuary in the midst of downtown Jerusalem is managed by a British Christian society and hosts more than 250,000 visitors annually.

Yet, one of the Tomb's three top administrators, a British national named Liz Woods, has been told by the interior ministry she must leave the country after five years in her post—triggering quiet Christian protests.

"If Protestant evangelicals have a holy site then it's the Garden Tomb," said Kopp, who has put his prestige behind Woods' case.

Israeli immigration officials, however, fear the continuation of long-term visas like Woods' eventually spur requests for residency, a phenomenon they want to discourage.

"Our problem is that when we see that the volunteers are here for a long time, we are afraid that eventually they will want to stay," Karmon said. "So we try not to let people stay for too long of a period."

VEXING VISAS Liz Woods, administrator for the Garden tomb, speaks with tourists. Woods, a British national, is among those being told they must leave Israel, triggering protests by Christians. (RNS photo)

Proposed Israeli law protested

By Elaine Ruth Fletcher
Religion News Service

JERUSALEM (RNS)—Christian groups worldwide are mobilizing to protest a new initiative in Israel's parliament to outlaw missionary activity in Israel, even though government officials say the legislation has virtually no chance of becoming law.

The new controversy surfaced in late May when the Knesset (parliament), with the OK of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, gave preliminary approval to a bill to impose a three-year prison term and a fine of up to \$14,000 on anyone found "preaching with a view to changing another's religion."

Netanyahu and his aides later issued disclaimers saying, in effect, the preliminary vote was "automatic" and "inconsequential" and the proposed bill would not receive the government's support in any final vote.

Aides indicated the preliminary vote was necessary to consign the measure to committee—from which it will never emerge.

Despite those assurances, the government's support for the bill in a routine, preliminary vote has triggered reactions worldwide—from rank-and-file church leaders to heads of state, such as the pres-

ident of Norway.

"I'm not reassured at all," said Charles Kopp, who heads the United Christian Council in Israel, representing 26 Protestant church groups. "I'm concerned it (the bill) could pass in some form."

In a June newsletter, Kopp called on Christians around the world to e-mail Israeli Knesset members in protest and to lobby their own governments to protest the proposed legislation.

Such campaigns are unusual for evangelical groups that consider themselves staunch supporters of Israel. In fact, Kopp, in his appeal, urged Christians to express their concerns "in a way that it will be evident that you protest as a friend of Israel."

"We never want to put a negative spin on things," said Clarence Wagner, Jerusalem director of Bridges for Peace, an evangelical group with theological views that largely coincide with Netanyahu's hawkish political outlook on retaining West Bank land.

Wagner said he does not believe the anti-missionary bill will gain the votes needed to become law. Still, he said he was "astonished" it garnered support from Netanyahu and members of his ruling coalition in the preliminary voting.

Our Students Tell Our Stories

Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown College

"Georgetown College is committed to providing a well-rounded academic experience, both in and out of the classroom. The faculty and staff offer a very supportive environment and an abundance of opportunities for each student. I feel confident and well-prepared as I look into the future, and I attribute much of that to my decision to attend Georgetown College."

Jackie Gist, Senior
Business Adm./Ethics &
Media Studies Major



"Campbellsville University has offered me an environment to grow intellectually, socially and spiritually. From nationally acclaimed athletic programs to challenging academics, this beautiful Southern Baptist campus is one I have grown to call home.

Following the wise footsteps of my great-grandparents, grandparents and mother, I am certainly proud that I will

one day be a fourth generation alumnus of this leading educational institution. Campbellsville offers a Christian education and atmosphere like no other and is constantly evolving to present the most current facilities and opportunities to its faculty, staff, and students. It has proven to be more loving and giving each new day, and I thank God for Campbellsville University."

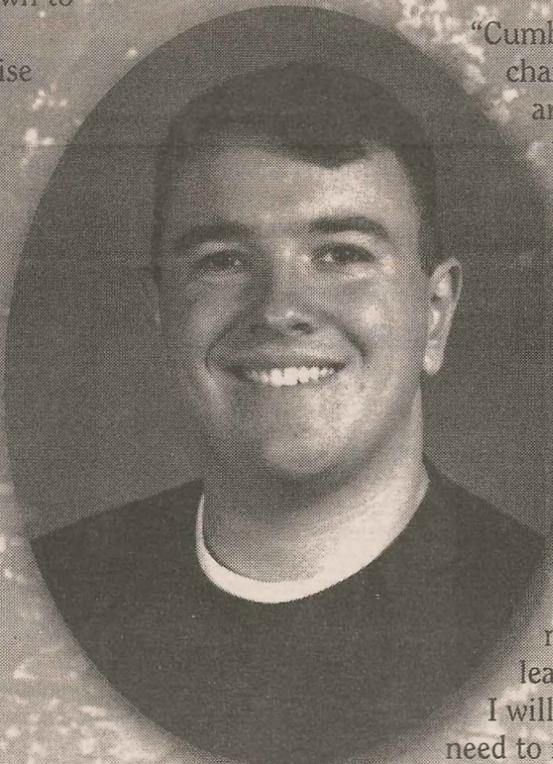
Kelli Ann Corbin, Sophomore
Biology Major

These students' words could be multiplied over and over again in the lives of other students at Kentucky Baptists' three liberal arts colleges. Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown believe that every qualified student should have the opportunity to experience our tradition of academic excellence and Christian values. That's why we've embarked on PARTNERSHIP 2000, a three-year effort primarily aimed at providing students scholarships, grants and other forms of financial aid.

"Cumberland College has changed my life. When I first arrived at Cumberland, I wasn't living for Christ, although I was a Christian. Through the influence of other students I became more spiritual, more focused and my professors have helped me to grow in my spirituality and have even shown a personal interest in my growth. Cumberland College has nurtured not only my intellect, but also my spirit. I know that when I leave here

I will take with me the skills I need to face the challenges of a continually advancing society."

Travis Masters, Senior
Business Administration & Political Science Major



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