

PRactical Resources for Christian Living

WESTERN RECORDER

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FOR THE RECORD

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Marriage Fest: 'If one person wins, the marriage loses'

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

CAVE CITY—When couples disagree, they shouldn't focus on "winning" an argument but on how to grow from the experience, say authors Otis and Deigie Andrews.

"It's not who can win the conflict but what can this marriage learn from it" said Mrs. Andrews, who with her husband leads a dozen marriage enrichment retreats a year. "If one person wins, the marriage loses."

In their concluding message at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Marriage Fest '98, held Sept. 25-27, Andrews referred to the "Matthew Principle," based on passages from Matthew 5:23-24 and 18:15-17.

The first is about a person who has offended his brother; the second outlines steps a believer should take when another person is at fault.

"When you put them together, it says something very important," he said. "No matter who has offended who, go and find them. No matter who the sinner is, there is no excuse for not resolving the problem."

The Andrews were keynote speakers at the first marriage festival sponsored by the family ministry department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The seminar attracted 250 people, according to coordinator Valerie Vincent.

In addition to general sessions, it featured a series of small workshops at the Cave City Convention Center. The festival will be back in Cave City next September, with separate meetings in the eastern and western regions planned for 2000.



MARRIAGE FEST '98 About 250 people attended the first marriage enrichment conference that was sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's family ministry department. The festival returns to Cave City next year, and regional meetings are planned in the east and west for 2000. (KBC communications photo by Larry Brannin)

The KBC organized the event in place of the Southern Baptist Convention's Fall Festival of Marriage to lower the cost and give it more of a Kentucky flavor, Vincent said.

"One surprise was how many people (130) were here for the 'early bird' workshops Friday afternoon," she said. "I realized these couples were excited and looking for everything they could get."

The keynote speakers exhorted the audience to consider ways of becoming better friends. The co-authors of "Husbands and Wives: The Best of Friends" said they wrote the book as a result of their own experience.

Despite being raised in the church and becoming Christians at a young age, a decade into their marriage of

32 years they were drifting apart from each other.

As Andrews recalled, "There was a lot of 'me' and not much 'we.' That's when we began our search for a better marriage."

"We realized we had control over what kind of marriage we had," Mrs. Andrews added. "We didn't have to just float along."

Their studies led them through the levels of friendship, from "chit chat" and social acquaintances to those with whom you share ideas and opinions.

The closest, intimate friends share inner feelings and value the other person, Mrs. Andrews said. She said that is the degree couples need to reach.

Characteristics of this friendship include:



- Duo: Men need space; women need to talk. *Page 8*
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■ A positive personal regard for the other person.

■ Trustworthiness. Even if you don't like what the other person says, you know it's the truth, they said.

■ Commitment to the relationship no matter what problems develop.

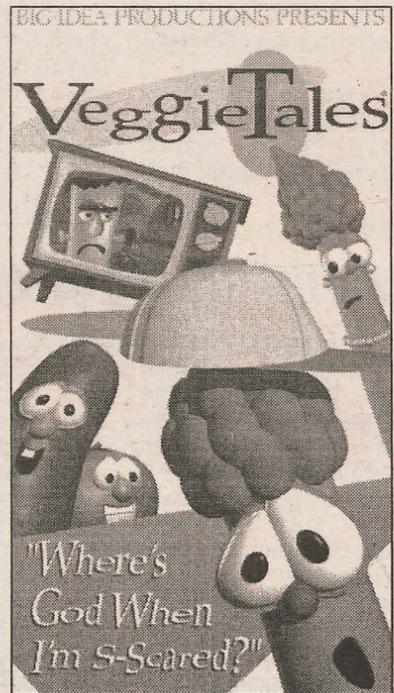
■ A sense of "we-ness." Andrews compared it to "The Little Rascals" gang that was always united.

■ Encouraging each other to do their best, with no jealousy of the other person's success.

■ Transcendence, which refers to the spiritual dimension of God's presence. "You come to understand there's something beyond you that's part of the experience," he said.

They also listed ways mates can become best friends, starting with the desire to be closer. Among other ways are respecting each others' differences, □ See Andrews: *We want ...*, page 8

Bible-based cartoons have kids watching all their veggies



VEGGIE TALES Mixing biblical wisdom with biting wit, "Veggie Tales" videos have sold nearly 5 million units. Some titles are among the top 25 kid videos, more popular than episodes of Rugrats and Teletubbies. (RNS photo)

By Steve Rabey
Religion News Service

CHICAGO (RNS)—"Eat your vegetables!" is the mantra millions of frustrated parents chant nearly every dinner hour. But for the past five years, kids haven't been able to get enough of "Veggie Tales," a creative video series that has sold nearly 5 million units and yielded a bumper crop of produce-themed products.

It all began in June 1994, when Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber—the animated stars of the series—served up "Where's God When I'm S-Scared?" Featuring vivid visual images, goofy gags, fast-paced action and witty songs like "God is bigger than the boogeyman," this initial Veggie Tales video went platinum—100,000 sales—through Christian bookstores alone.

Today, nine episodes are available in Christian bookstores, and four of these are being distributed to the mainstream market by Lyrick Studios, the company more famous for purple dinosaurs than talking vegetables.

As of early September, these four tapes were among the nation's 25 best selling children's videos, outselling popular titles in the Rugrats and Tele-

tubbies lines.

Some of the episodes are creative retellings of Bible stories. "Dave & The Giant Pickle" is an adaptation of David and Goliath; "Josh and the Big Wall" is a veggie version of the Israelites' attack of Jericho; "Rack, Shack & Benny" does the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, three Old Testament figures who were thrown into a fiery furnace for their obedience to God.

Others are inspired by secular sources. "Madame Blueberry" is loosely based on Flaubert's "Madame Bovary."

How loosely? "We skipped the part about the prostitute, and the suicide at the end," said 32-year-old Phil Vischer, the visionary behind the vegetables.

Vischer grew up in a single-parent home where TV was a frequent babysitter. He got his creative start studying puppets as a Bible college student, graduated to producing high-tech computer animation for corporate clients and founded his Chicago-based Big Idea Productions to market and produce his produce.

Persuasive without being preachy, the videos combine story segments and "Silly Song" intermissions to pro-

mote positive values like telling the truth, loving one's neighbors and forgiving wrongdoers.

"The series doesn't promote a religious message, but a moral message backed by religious values," said Dan Merrell, Lyrick Studios' senior product manager. "Plus, the programming is very good. They're funny, the songs are catchy and the animation is first-rate."

Still, Vischer believes his videos are powerful teaching tools.

"Every episode teaches a nugget of truth," he said, "a values-based lesson that is so concrete that a 4-year-old can pick it up, put it in his pocket and carry it around for the rest of his life."

And each tape concludes with one of the characters delivering the series' basic message: "Remember, God made you special and he loves you very much."

"If nothing else, if each child realizes that he or she is special and loved, this world will be a better place," Vischer said.

For more than 60 years, Disney has been the big banana of children's entertainment. "Mickey Mouse" was America's first animated super-celebrity, and Disney has long dominated □ See Parents' new ..., page 12

Moving? See page 4 (1006)

BAPTISTS

National CP giving sets record for fifth straight year

Georges sends Baptist workers into action

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—The killer wind and rain of Hurricane Georges has forced the largest mobilization of Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers since Hurricane Andrew in 1992, with 14 feeding units and nine cleanup and recovery units on site as of Oct. 2. The storm claimed more than 320 lives in its journey across the Caribbean and across southernmost Florida before making landfall on the Mississippi coast Sept. 28.

Most of the heaviest damage and loss of life occurred in the Caribbean. Four Southern Baptist disaster relief airlift feeding units are currently preparing meals for victims and relief workers in Puerto Rico, and a coordinated disaster response plan for the Dominican Republic, Haiti and other affected nations was still being developed late last week in assistance with the International Mission Board.

In the United States, Southern Baptist disaster relief coordinator Mickey Caison said the actual response needed was somewhat less than originally had been anticipated, and the need for food preparation by the 10 units initially activated should begin to taper off this week. An estimated 40,000 meals had been prepared through all of the activated units as of Oct. 2.

Contributions for Southern Baptist disaster relief projects may be sent to Disaster Relief, North American Mission Board, 4200 North Point Parkway, Alpharetta, Ga., 30022.

NASHVILLE (BP)—The Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program unified budget ended the fiscal year \$5 million ahead of last year and \$11 million ahead of budget.

When the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, the SBC Executive Committee in Nashville had received nearly \$160 million in undesignated Cooperative Program gifts.

That is \$4.58 million (2.95 percent) above last year's giving, which also set a record. The SBC's Cooperative Program allocation budget of \$148.19 million was surpassed by \$11.4 million (7.69 percent).

This marks the fifth year in a row for SBC Cooperative Program totals to set a record, a fact Executive Committee President Morris Chapman called "testimony to the health of our convention."

"Southern Baptists' love for missions and our cooperative efforts in sending missionaries, planting churches and educating ministers continues to be a vivid testimony of our love for Jesus Christ," Chapman said.

Convention policy calls for Cooperative Program gifts above the budget to be divided, with 50 percent given to all SBC agencies and institutions according to the regular budget formula and 50 percent divided according to a capital needs budget.

As a result of the overage, the SBC's two mission boards will share \$5.25 million more than called for in the regular budget. The International Mission Board gets half of all budgeted funds, and the North American Mission Board gets a little less than one-fourth. Other SBC agencies will share about \$450,000 in above-budget gifts.

Designated gifts also set a record for the year, topping last year's designated gifts by more than \$9 million. The 1997-98 designated gifts total was \$150.59 million, up 6.39 percent. Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions, world hunger and other special gifts.

\$750 million goal set for 2000

NASHVILLE (BP)—To mark the 75th anniversary of the Cooperative Program—Southern Baptists' unified means of financial support for ministry—a \$750 million goal has been set for the denominational year beginning Oct. 1, 2000.

The goal is to raise \$750 million on the state convention level in Cooperative Program receipts, gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions and all state missions offerings.

"Representatives from every state convention and every Southern Baptist entity have indicated initial interest in participating in the project," reported Morris Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

In his report to the Executive Committee's Sept. 21-22 meeting in Nashville, Chapman said, "We are praying for this celebration and promotion to inspire confidence in cooperation among Southern Baptist churches, state conventions and SBC entities while receiving gifts that will help build the mightiest missionary army ever known to mankind."

He called the \$750 million goal "reachable" but one that will require "sacrificial giving."

In the current year, the combined total of Cooperative Program giving on the state convention level and giving to the Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon Offerings is projected to be between \$550 million and \$600 million. Information was not immediately available about the combined total of giving to state mission offerings.

Influential North Carolina church votes to leave SBC

RALEIGH, N.C. (RNS)—After months of often agonizing debate, Raleigh's oldest Baptist church voted Sept. 23 to end its 153-year relationship with the Southern Baptist Convention.

The 264-23 vote at First Baptist Church came just three months after the SBC amended its doctrinal statement to say women must "submit ... graciously" to their husbands. But First Baptist members said the vote was as much a rejection of what they called "authoritarian trends" in the SBC as of the statement on women alone.

"What this is really about is our identity," said Mary Jon Roach, chairwoman of the church's denominational relations committee. "It's a matter of us saying to people around us, 'We don't approve of what the SBC is doing.'"

In the vote, the 1,350-member church stopped short of using the term "disassociate." Instead it said in its resolution, "Regretfully, we no longer identify our church with the Southern Baptist Convention."

Founded in 1812, First Baptist Church has been a state leader in building the Baptist faith. It helped

create the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; it gave Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest many of their early leaders and established 38 Baptist churches in and around Raleigh. It also is a church where women have served as deacons since 1874, and as ministers since 1982.

News of such a departure should not be surprising, said Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and one of the new SBC leaders put in place by conservatives.

"These churches represent a liberal direction that has been running against Southern Baptist conviction for the latter half of this century," Mohler said. "I am greatly saddened by churches that move away from Holy Scripture and evangelistic convictions."

Mohler predicted that only a few churches would follow First Baptist's lead.

"This is historically significant, but it's not statistically significant," he said. "The vast majority of Southern Baptist churches have made their convictions absolutely clear."

With about 16 million members and 40,000 churches, the SBC is the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

But at First Baptist, the denominational affiliation was deemed embarrassing and leaders said it had begun to prevent them from attracting new members.

"We're not ashamed of being Baptists. We're proud of being Baptists," said Matt Bullard, a deacon. "But we want people to understand what it truly means. I'm afraid a lot of people who come to town with no affiliation will probably say, 'I'm not going to a Baptist church. They're crazy.'"

Yet church members agonized over whether they should break away.

"This has been a very difficult decision," said Steve Sumerel, a member of the committee that drafted the resolution. "People have cried at these meetings. I still get choked up. It's like saying we're not a member of the family."

"There are some parallels between where this congregation is and the family around the bed of a beloved aunt on a respirator," explained Bullard.

"The family says, 'Surely, she's

going to live, she's going to get better.' Then it dawns on them: She won't get better. So they decide to disconnect her from the respirator and permit her to pass away. And then, and only then, do they say, 'She's passed away now, but really we lost her two months ago.' The Southern Baptist Convention has passed away. It's not going to get any better."

At First Baptist Church of Raleigh, women never were asked to submit graciously. They were asked to lead.

Among its early members was Thomas Meredith, who founded the Baptist Female Seminary that eventually became Meredith College in Raleigh.

In the late 1800s, Fannie Heck helped form Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary group of the SBC that has provided crucial financial and educational support for missionaries.

And in 1874, Pastor Thomas Pritchard decided four women should serve on the board of deacons—a bold move even by today's standards. Today, by church law, half the board must be female.

The current leadership of the SBC believes the Bible forbids women from serving as deacons or ministers.

WMU executive Dellanna O'Brien recovering from mild stroke

By Teresa Dickens
Woman's Missionary Union

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, continues to improve following a mild stroke Sept. 26. As of Oct. 2, she remained hospitalized and was undergoing extensive therapy in a Birmingham hospital.

O'Brien, 65, suffered the stroke at her home in Birmingham early Sept. 26. She was taken immediately to the hospital. While doctors suspected a stroke, tests did not confirm the diagnosis until Sept. 29. Her health was excellent; she had no symptoms of a problem prior to the stroke.

O'Brien took the helm of the national Southern Baptist missions education organization in 1989. Earlier, she was an educator and had served as a Southern Baptist missionary with her husband, Bill, in Indonesia.

National WMU President Wanda Lee, who also has worked as a registered nurse for 25 years, said she is pleased with the progress O'Brien has made since the stroke. Lee saw her Sept. 30.

"Dellanna is far ahead of most patients I've worked with this close to the stroke," Lee said Oct. 2. "She has good mobility and strength on her right side," which is the area of the body impacted by the stroke.

"I expect a full recovery," Lee said. "Part of my confidence comes from Dellanna's own spirit. She has her usual keen sense of humor, and the determination and energy required to work through the process. While it will be hard work, I believe she will do it."

Lee said that O'Brien has decided not to travel outside of Birmingham for the remainder of the year. O'Brien's engagements will be fulfilled by Lee and other national WMU staff as their schedules permit.

Lee also expressed appreciation for the outpouring of expressions of concern and pledges of prayer support. "Each expression has meant so much

to Dellanna and her family. We know it has made a difference in her recovery."

Because of the tremendous outpouring of support, the O'Briens have asked that in lieu of flowers and other gifts that contributions be made to the Dellanna West O'Brien Christian Women's Leadership Development Fund, a fund established earlier this year to honor O'Brien on her 10th anniversary with WMU. Send gifts to: WMU Foundation, Box 11346, Birmingham, Ala. 35202-1346.

Cards and notes may be sent to O'Brien at the WMU mailing address: Box 830010, Birmingham Ala. 35283-0010.

Wingfield named to Baptist Standard post

DALLAS—Western Recorder Editor Mark Wingfield has been elected managing editor of the Baptist Standard, the weekly newspaper affiliated with the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

Wingfield, 36, was elected unanimously by the paper's board of directors Sept. 29. He will begin his duties Nov. 1.

Wingfield will succeed editor-elect Marv Knox, who will succeed retiring editor Toby Druin Jan. 1, 1999.

In a memo to Kentucky Baptist Convention staff announcing his departure, Wingfield said the decision to leave Kentucky was "a long and difficult decision process for our family."

"Obviously, we have mixed emotions at this time: excitement about the new opportunities that await and sorrow at leaving a place we have loved dearly," he wrote.

Western Recorder Board of Directors Chairman Bill Thurman said the board regrets Wingfield's departure.

"This is something that we have known was a possibility for some time," he said. "Though we as a board certainly regret the fact that Mark will be leaving, we are certainly supportive of him in this difficult decision and wish he and Alison and the family well."

The Recorder board already has formed an editor search committee in compliance with the Recorder's by-laws and personnel policies. The Re-

order is an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and is governed by its own board. This board has the responsibility of naming a new editor, although that decision must be ratified by a simple majority vote of the KBC Executive Board.

Thurman will chair the search committee. Other members of the committee are Bill Marshall of Louisville, Jim Abernathy of Latonia, June Rice of Paintsville and Mark Boes of Cecilia. Nominations or resumes for editor candidates should be mailed to Thurman at 333 W. Vine St., Suite 207, Lexington, Ky. 40507



Wingfield

Thurman said the committee hopes to work quickly, "so any interested parties should send a resume as soon as possible."

Wingfield's departure for Texas will mark the second time for he and Knox to work together. Knox brought Wingfield to the Recorder in 1991, when Knox was editor. Wingfield became editor of the Recorder after Knox joined the Baptist Standard in December 1995.

"I could not be happier about the election of Mark Wingfield as managing editor of the Baptist Standard," noted Druin, the Standard's retiring editor. "I feel it is an answer to prayer."

"The pairing of Marv Knox and Mark Wingfield brings to Texas Baptists an absolutely superb team of jour-

nalists who also are exemplary Baptist Christians and churchmen. I feel that under their leadership the future of the Standard is assured as the bellwether publication of Texas Baptists and Baptists around the world."

"The entire board was very impressed, not only by Mark's journalistic background and his dynamic

Christian witness, but also by his great energy and vision," noted Danny Andrews, chairman of the Standard's board of directors and editor of the Plainview Daily Herald. "We know he will be a tremendous asset to the Standard and Texas Baptists, working alongside our new editor, Marv Knox."

Prior to joining the Western Recorder, he was associate director of news and information at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta, director of news and information at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and assistant editor of the Baptist New Mexican in Albuquerque.

During Wingfield's tenure at the Recorder, the paper expanded to working with five state Baptist conventions in "new work" areas to help publish their monthly newspapers. Wingfield also led the Recorder last year to launch Real Life, a quarterly full-color features magazine for use by churches in outreach.

Stanhope plants hope in Dominican Republic

By Wally Poor
SBC International Mission Board

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic—Jim Stanhope was a pastor of churches in Kentucky for 18 years; now he's teaching others how to start churches in the Dominican Republic.

"My idea of a church planter is not only to plant churches yourself but primarily to teach other people how to do it," said Stanhope, who left the pastorate of Highlands Baptist Church in Lexington in 1994 to become a missionary. "My main goal is that I want to see churches established."

That happens not just through addition but through multiplication.

That's why he's working with Gethsemane Baptist Church in Santo

Domingo teaching evangelism. Each Sunday, he takes a group from the church with him to a place called Monte Plata. There they observe Stanhope and practice what he has taught them about sharing their faith.

That's no different from what he did as a Kentucky pastor, he said. "Whenever I did anything I tried to take someone along. I wanted somebody to observe what I did and how I did it."

This learning technique is producing results in Santo Domingo, a city of 2.5 million people. A recent convert, Domingo Martes, already has won another resident of Monte Plata to faith in Christ and now is discipling him.

The work in the Dominican Republic still is slow, though, he said.

"The people of the Dominican Republic are hungry for the gospel, but it's not like some people in the States think, that you just walk out and thousands of them come. There may be places in Latin America where that's so, but not here."

Finding those who not only will respond to an invitation to faith but who are serious about becoming disciples of Christ is a lengthy process.

Stanhope said he and his wife, Karen, are learning to depend on God's help in their role as missionaries appointed by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

"As a pastor I depended on the Lord, but not nearly to the extent that I do here," he said. "A lot of time is spent simply surviving. So we're learning as we go."

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Enrollment up.** Campbellsville University has reported a record enrollment this fall of 1,660. That's a 150 percent increase in the past 10 years, according to school officials.

■ **Adoption orientation.** Anyone interested in adopting children with special needs is invited to an orientation session hosted by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children Oct. 13 in Louisville. Children with special needs include those who are fragile either mentally or physically, as well as those who are physically and mentally healthy but are older, part of a sibling group or of a racial minority. Most of the year, 200 special needs children in Kentucky are waiting for adoptive parents. Those attending the 7 p.m. orientation session will be under no obligation to pursue the program. For more information, call (800) 928-5242 or 568-9115 in the metro Louisville area.

■ **Recital hall dedicated.** Campbellsville University marked its annual Heritage Day Sept. 23 with dedication of the Gheens Foundation Recital Hall, part of a recent addition to the Gosser Fine Arts Center on the university campus. Guest speaker was Marilee Hebert-Slater, associate director of Actors Theater in Louisville.

■ **Georgetown dedication set.** Georgetown College will dedicate its new Anna Ashcroft Ensor Learning Resource Center Oct. 9 at 10 a.m. Keynote speaker will be Thomas Gerety, president of Amherst College in Massachusetts. The building has 55,000-square-feet of finished space with room for expansion. It houses 240,000 volumes, study and reading areas, a café and instructional areas.

■ **Hunger concert set.** Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville will sponsor the "Hunger Has a Cure" concert tour Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m. with Jerry Leggett. Leggett performs a variety of musical styles, including inspirational ballads, rock and roll and joyful music celebrating global peace and harmony. Tickets at \$7, with a special \$4 price for students. For more information, call (502) 893-3095.

■ **Christian lawyers meet.** Louisville Christian Lawyers, a non-profit corporation with a mission of helping lawyers integrate their spiritual and professional lives, will hold its fall meeting Oct. 7 at the Louisville Hyatt Regency, 320 W. Jefferson St. Featured speaker will be Doug Cobb, president of Greater Louisville Inc. For information about the event or the group, call Charles Keeton at (502) 568-0257.

■ **Pastor Appreciation Day set.** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will present Stephen Olford on campus Oct. 15 during the annual "Pastor Appreciation Day." Olford, a nationally known authority on preaching, will speak in a chapel service at 10 a.m. and in a lecture at 2 p.m. Pastors also are invited to a free luncheon at which seminary President Al Mohler will speak. Mohler and Olford will lead an open forum for pastors at 3 p.m. To make reservations for the free event, call (502) 897-4121.

■ **Homecoming set.** "The Year of the Tiger" is the theme of this year's homecoming at Georgetown College. Various events are planned Oct. 9-10. For details, call the college at (502) 863-8174.



GEORGETOWN MISSION TEAM Eight Georgetown College students who participated in a mission trip to Temuco, Chile, were featured in a recent chapel service at the college. The "Spiritual Awareness Week" chapel, coordinated by the Marshall Center for Christian Ministry, featured comments by the students and Patricia Cooper, associate professor of Spanish and a leader of the trip. Shown at the chapel service are Jean and Grundy Janes, former missionaries to Chile; Cooper; Shannon Ott; John Haney; Kristen Calhoun; Chris Vaughan; Karen Calhoun; Kelly Horseman; Talona King; and Amy Lockwood.

The prescription's right but the phone number is wrong

A printing error on a mailing could have lots of Kentucky pastors calling a Iowa drug company for all the wrong reasons.

Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board staff recently discovered that letters mailed to all Kentucky Baptist pastors about an upcoming conference have the wrong phone number on them.

The mailing is to promote the "Shepherding the Shepherd" conference, Jan. 21-23 in Lexington.

The addition of new prefixes for toll-free calls contributed to the mix-up. To register or get more in-

formation, pastors should have been encouraged to call (888) 254-5712. Instead, the letter listed the more common 800 area code.

The conference is designed to help pastors and their spouses "enrich their relationships, be renewed in their faith and calling and gain new awareness of how to assure the spiritual and relational health of pastor and family," said Bill Mackey, KBC executive secretary-treasurer.

The weekend event will feature pastor and Christian humorist Charles Lowery and Christian au-

thors Calvin and Barbara Miller.

Also on the program are Reggie McNeal, an author and director of the leadership development team of the South Carolina Baptist Convention; and Ray and Anne Ortlund, authors and conference presenters through Renewal Ministries.

Seventy percent of the costs for the conference are being covered by KBC Cooperative Program funds and a grant from Baptist Healthcare System.

The conference cost per couple is \$145 and includes meals and lodging.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Accountability

A few years ago I attended a session in the chapel of Southern Seminary in which Al Mohler fielded questions from students about various concerns at the seminary. One young lady took to the microphone and asked, "Dr. Mohler, how do we as students hold the seminary accountable to us for the education we have come here to receive?" Mohler then responded in no uncertain terms that the seminary was not accountable to students.

It is ironic that seven new Southern Seminary faculty members have made a statement to the effect that signing the "Abstract of Principles" evidences in part that they are "accountable to (the) student body which deserves to know that to which its faculty is committed" (Sept. 22, page 7).

Luther McIntyre
Louisville

On dispensing grace

I read with interest and approval Bob Browning's column (Sept. 29, page 4). I would like to add an addendum.

Genuine repentance is arrived at with difficulty because we assume that since God loves us we can meet the terms of 2 Chronicles 7:14 at any moment. Since he is God, he is obligated to restore us. In Hosea 6, God quickly saw through that ploy. He is not a heavenly vending machine dispensing grace in the instant of our whims.

Hosea 14 reveals steps to genuine repentance. We are to return to the Lord with a contrite spirit, turning from sin and trusting the Lord. Then

God will restore us. As his love meets our genuine surrender, he will heal us.

Something even more troubling than our attempts at incomplete and insincere repentance is our understanding of God's judgments. Because of his love for us, his judgments are always remedial. Perhaps the only thing worse than the judgments of God is the lack of them. In Hosea 4:13-14, we find this charge: "Therefore your daughters shall commit whoredom, and your spouses shall commit

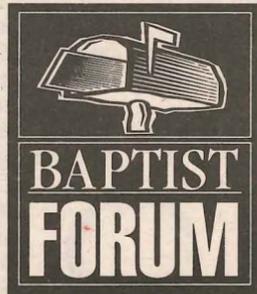
adultery. I will not punish your daughters when they commit whoredom, nor your spouses when they commit adultery."

Testimony for the reality of such a circumstance is found in Romans

1:28-32: "God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despisers, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

If we have not already crossed this line as a nation, we are quickly approaching it. Our names must be at the top of our own prayer lists as Bob Browning suggests.

Larry Brown
Cromwell



The virtues of sexual fidelity

By Mike Clingenpeel

Current events force American conversation in a particular direction. Like it or not, the publication of the Starr Report summarizing the investigation of President Clinton has directed our national conversation to issues of character. It is a strange moment when Americans mention adultery, honesty, confession and forgiveness as earnestly as Dow Jones, inflation and interest rates.

Our excessively frank national discussion of the president's sexual proclivities rightfully condemns adultery. Even those who regard his sexuality as a private matter stop short of condoning his behavior.

What seems missing is the opposite—a case for the virtues of sexual fidelity. The problem is not that marital fidelity gets bad press, so much as it gets no press.

So many Washington adulterers are being outed in this painful and bizarre episode that it seems an appropriate time for someone to voice a rationale for sexual relations only with one's spouse.

Why be faithful?

The obvious and primary reason for sexual fidelity, for Christians at

least, is obedience to the Bible, which clearly forbids sexual infidelity. God chose to include one commandment in a brief list of 10 requiring the community to keep sex exclusive to marriage. Fidelity is essential in human relationships and community.

Unfortunately, while this argument seems reasonable for those of us who try to give the Bible authority over our conduct, it is not convincing to people who do not accept the Bible.

So I give voice to another rationale for sexual fidelity—the blessings that result from a committed marriage.

One blessing is the physical and psychic safety that results from such exclusivity. Promiscuous sex can injure or kill. Sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, make their way through a population where people have multiple sex partners. Safe sex is a misnomer, but sex solely with one's spouse is as close as it comes.

Another blessing is the honesty it allows in the marriage. Adultery is, at its heart, a lie. It is being dishonest to one's marriage vows, the kind of dishonesty that must be kept from the other at all costs. From the moment fidelity is sacrificed, so is honesty in the relationship. Also from that instant

the lie haunts the one who crafted it.

A third blessing of sexual fidelity is the trust it builds in a marriage. Trust is the most essential building block in any relationship. Remove it, as adultery always does, and the foundation of the marriage is seriously weakened. It can be rebuilt, but the trust is never again the same. Trust can be violated in other ways, but in few as quickly and completely as with infidelity.

A final blessing of sexual fidelity is the contribution it makes to fulfillment in marriage. A counselee once told me casual sex is like eating junk food—it looks and tastes good at the time, but it never satisfies the deeper human hunger or desire it seeks to fulfill.

Human intimacy involves mind and spirit, not just one's body. The hunger for intimacy that leads people to marry is rarely found in momentary encounters that seek to satisfy only the physiological dimension of our humanity.

These blessings are not achieved because a man and woman pony up 20 bucks to the county clerk, take a license to a preacher and say "I do." Fidelity, like any virtue, grows over time. It is the product of practice. Sexual fidelity in marriage is more effort than serendipity.

On vacation last month our family

happened on a gymnasium where the Harlem Globetrotters were practicing. For half an hour we watched as they worked to spin basketballs on their fingers, pass them off their elbows and shoot half-court hook shots. When they take center court later this year their act will be perfected—the shots will go in, the passes will be accurate, the dribbling will mystify. But the impressiveness of their brief performance will be in direct proportion to the hours of repetition in a quiet gym with only a handful of people watching.

Sexual fidelity is a habit of the heart forged by the repetition of a thousand quiet acts of faithfulness. It is always a work in progress. But it is a blessing that our society desperately needs.

No one knows how or when this sad political episode in Washington will end, nor do we know whether it will weaken the sexual mores of our culture. We can hope it will deepen our national resolve to clean up our act.

Perhaps the relentless barrage of sex, lies and videotape will help us see sexual fidelity for what it is—God's sensible formula for happy, healthy relationships.

Michael Clingenpeel is editor of the Religious Herald in Virginia

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Hunger relief

It is easier to handle immense problems by ignoring them or just putting on our safety blinders. This seems to be a comfortable way for most American Christians to deal with world hunger. We can manage until we are hit with the facts:

■ 20 million North Koreans go to bed hungry every night, and many have been eating grass, tree bark and even soil.

■ 24 people die every minute due to starvation or hunger; 18 are children under age 5.

■ 450 million people, one quarter of the developing world, suffer from malnutrition.

I became convicted about this issue myself late on a recent Tuesday night as I was returning from an associational meeting in Hopkinsville. I stopped at a restaurant to eat dinner

and had just finished an order of pancakes and bacon when I read the disturbing facts listed above from the materials prepared by the KBC hunger awareness team.

The thing that disturbed me most about myself is that I often have found a way to generally ignore this problem. The material also led me to discover several other things:

■ We have so much. There is enough grain in our world to feed every man, woman and child 2,500 calories per day. The average American consumes a ton of grain each year.

■ The world has so little. Most North Koreans get a ration of 3.5 ounces of rice per day—one quarter the number of calories a body needs. Fifteen million children die from

hunger or hunger-related diseases every year.

■ We can't get the food to those who need it as a nation due to the fragile balance in our world economy, or so we are told. But we can do something as individuals. And what we can do we must. "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, 'Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled'; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are



Bill Mackey

needful to the body; what doth it profit?" James 2:15-16.

I plan new steps to help me grow in awareness and sensitivity:

■ When I thank God for my meals, I will pray for hunger needs.

■ I plan to give consistently to

meet needs and extend the gospel. The Southern Baptist hunger funds go directly to hunger needs. None is spent in administration. Some charities request \$20 to feed a youth for a month. Our missionaries can feed two street kids a month for \$16.66. Because Christian love is demonstrated in the name of Jesus, new believers are forming churches.

■ I plan to eat less. Many of us have health problems because we eat too much, while the world dies of hunger. Sacrificing one meal per month could be enough to feed a hungry child for a month.

Excellent materials have been prepared for information on world hunger and promotion of the world hunger emphasis Oct. 11. One word of warning: The facts in the materials may disturb your dinner.

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

HE SAID/SHE SAID

Decision-making styles may differ, but we somehow end up in the same place

SHE SAID



Alison Wingfield

Adapting to change, even good change, never is easy.

When Mark and I began praying about whether or not to move to Texas, I confess I didn't pray very hard at first. The thought of making any kind of change, particularly when it involved real estate transactions, had me wanting to throw up and/or go hide in a corner. And Texas, of all places, where the temperatures this summer have been unbearable (they tell me it's a dry heat, but 100 degrees is 100 degrees).

How do you pick up and move away from a neat house, a wonderful church, special friends, a good neighborhood (with lots of trees, something a little lacking in Dallas) and a great school? Let me tell you, the decision has not been easy.

Mark makes decisions differently than I do. Once he decides something is right, he jumps on it full speed ahead. On the other hand I come to conclusions by stages, weighing all the options and looking at all the different angles before coming to any decision.

But we both agonized over whether moving to Texas was the right decision. After seven years in Kentucky, we've put down some strong roots, nurtured by many of you. Our twins were born here, and some of you helped us through that first incredible year. My mother died, and we were surrounded by God's love poured out from you.

Yet we both feel God is leading us to Texas. And, true to form, Mark was quicker to acknowledge that. But he patiently waited for me to come to the same decision. Which I did.

Why is it that just when I was feeling really settled and a part of a community, God chose to send us somewhere else? I don't know, but if Texas is going to top our experiences here in Kentucky, it's going to take some doing.

HE SAID



Mark Wingfield

If you really want to know someone, walk with them through a major decision-making process. Everybody takes a different approach and proceeds on a different timetable.

I learned this lesson on a pastor search committee once. There was about a two-month lag between when the first person realized any step was right and the last person came to that awareness. I remember thinking I sure would hate to go shopping for a

refrigerator with this group. We would've starved before we decided which model to buy.

Alison's right that I'm the one-minute manager in our household and she's the "I'm not going to consider another change unless I have to" personality. That's probably a good balance, though. I spur her on toward considering things she otherwise would avoid, and she puts a reign on me to keep me from running over a cliff.

God's not only got a sense of humor, he's pretty smart to pair up opposite personalities sometimes.

One of the keys to surviving in marriage is learning how to read the signs. Alison has learned, for example, that if I say I'm thinking about doing something, that means I've actually got the car warmed up and I'm headed out the door. And I've learned that if she says "I just can't deal with this," it doesn't mean she's ruled it out but that she's chewing on it and I should check back in later.

What brings things to a screeching halt, though, is when you face a decision between two good choices. That's where we've been this summer.

The redeeming thing about such a situation, though, is that both the quick decision-maker and the slow decision-maker must face the awareness that they need wisdom from beyond themselves. God seems to like this too, because it causes people of all personalities to look to him.

Church's ministry costs more than money

We had a budget brainstorming session at our church on a recent Wednesday night. It wasn't a time to vote on next year's budget, but rather a time to dream together about what we'd like to do as a congregation with the resources we have.

Many important issues were raised: the need to give more to missions, a desire to buy economical vans to replace an aging church bus, pushing ahead on debt retirement, making sure we're paying staff adequately, how to make local missions and evangelism a greater priority.

There was even a lighthearted moment when the budget chairman misunderstood a comment about the need for a 16-passenger van, thinking the person said the church ought to purchase two 16-passenger fans. Never let it be said that all church budget meetings are boring.

Amid all the discussion of how to spend more money, it occurred to me that some of the most important and effective things a church does don't cost anything.

For example, it doesn't cost anything to personally invite someone to Bible study or worship.

It doesn't cost anything to sing a song of praise to God.

It doesn't cost anything to develop a friendship with a non-Christian at work, school or in your neighborhood.

It doesn't cost anything to visit someone in the hospital.

It doesn't cost anything to call a homebound church member for a visit.

It doesn't cost anything to pray.

It doesn't cost anything to read the Bible.

Now obviously it does cost money to keep a church going. In fact, it costs a lot of money. Don't use this as an excuse not to give to the church unless you're fond of brush arbor meetings (year-round) and volunteer preachers who don't have to be paid.

The bottom line is that an effective church ministry is made up of things that cost money and things that don't. Being too cheap will get you nowhere,

but so will the reverse. Recently I asked a friend what a certain church in another state was doing in a particular ministry and the friend replied: "I don't know, but I'm sure they're throwing lots of money at it."

A wealthy church does not necessarily make a wealthy ministry. In fact, one of the problems of the modern church is a not-so-subtle mentality that we can pay someone to do whatever ministry ought to be done.

EDITORIAL

Certainly there are many essential ministries that pastors, church staff members, missionaries, secretaries and other skilled individuals make happen. We are blessed to have access to people who devote their lives to God's work. We should make the most of these opportunities.

But regardless of how many staff members you hire, how much literature you order or how many buildings you build, no church will have a vital ministry without the personal involvement of its members.

While modern forms of advertising have great potential to expand the reach of the church, word-of-mouth continues to be the most effective means of promotion available.

While television and radio ministries offer some worthwhile benefits, there never will be a replacement for the personal touch of worshipping together as a community of faith and interacting as real, live people.

While buildings are important for church ministries, they will be vacant without the personal involvement of people.

So this fall, as your church discusses its budget, make a pledge to give in two ways. Give financially, because that's important and the Bible tells us to do so. But plan also to give of yourself by saying yes to a teaching responsibility, by singing in the choir, by working on maintenance projects around the church, by working with youth, by volunteering in the church office, by telling your neighbor or coworker or classmate about the love of God. It takes both kinds of contributions for the offering plate to be full.

— Mark Wingfield

A message from the editor

Apart from this week's editorial, I want to offer a personal word to Kentucky Baptists explaining more about the news account you'll read on page 3.

Last week, the board of directors of the Texas Baptist Standard elected me managing editor of that publication, effective Nov. 1. That means I'll be leaving the Western Recorder staff at the end of this month.

This was not a decision made easily or lightly. Alison and I struggled with this most of the summer and finally came to the conclusion that accepting this new opportunity was in line with God's leading in our lives.

In the current context, the opportunities facing the Baptist Standard and Texas Baptists are profound and will influence Baptists well beyond the Lone Star State in the years ahead.

Some may suggest that the decision to move to Texas was a foregone conclusion, since Marv Knox, the new Baptist Standard editor, and I had

worked together here at the Recorder. That wasn't the case at all. I honestly thought I would serve out most of the remainder of my career in Kentucky with the Recorder. In fact, I swore I would not be going to Texas.

Chalk another one up for the "never say never" category.

Others may suggest that I'm leaving the Recorder because of pressure from critics or because of conflict with the leadership of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. That's not the case either.

Kentucky Baptists have wisely set up the Western Recorder as a newspaper with not only the possibility but the expectation that the editor will be free to express his or her convictions in uncensored editorials. Criticism comes with the territory, and anyone who attempts to write newspaper editorials in a time like this without drawing some criticism probably isn't saying anything worth reading.

The Western Recorder is governed by a strong and able board of directors, a group of 12 people you have

elected through the Kentucky Baptist Convention. They will continue working to ensure that Kentucky Baptists have an unfettered voice for balanced news reporting and all perspectives.

The editor search committee already elected by the Recorder board is outstanding. You can have complete confidence that they will handle this task well.

The staff remaining at the Recorder also will continue their pattern of excellence. Mauri Smith will give stellar leadership as the Recorder's interim chief executive officer, and David Winfrey will continue putting together quality content on the Recorder's pages.

Although my departure is still a few weeks away, I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to Kentucky Baptists for all you've given me and my family during the seven years we've been with you. These have been some of the best and most productive years of our lives, full of experiences and people we will treasure for a lifetime.

— Mark Wingfield

RESOURCES

Volunteers needed in Bangladesh

LOUISVILLE—Jim McKinley is looking for a few good men with strong backs, passports and availability.

The former missionary to Bangladesh is searching for eight men to travel there by mid-October to test and purify water wells. Thousands have been destroyed or damaged by recent floods covering two-thirds of the nation.

The disaster threatens 20 million people with starvation and may leave 30 million homeless, he said.

"We're treating this as a life-and-death emergency," said McKinley, a member of Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville.

McKinley is working with Mickey Caison, director of disaster relief for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board, to find volunteers.

A strong farmer would be perfect for the mission, he said. It will include traveling by motorcycle and sleeping on a cane mat on dirt floors. The cost will be approximately \$2,000, plus a \$45 visa fee to enter the country.

The water testing kits are fairly easy to use and training will be provided. It is urgent to get there because people who lack adequate drinking supplies will rely on contaminated flood water, McKinley said.

Those who go ultimately will help save thousands of lives, he said. Interested volunteers should call Caison at (800) 462-8657, ext. 6442, or McKinley at (502) 423-9116.

Q. So many people are divorcing today. I think couples are just selfish. Why can't people seem to get along and stay married?

It alarms many of us that divorce seems to be almost the norm nowadays rather than the rare exception. It's hard on couples, their children, extended families and of course society as well.

It's hard to say exactly why divorce has become so prevalent, but it does seem that our society is more focused on the individual than it used to be. For instance, rather than denying oneself individually for the ongoing of the relationship, couples today are more likely to let go of the relationship in favor of the individual.

Ideally there should be a balance between one's individual needs and the needs of the couple, but that balance seems difficult for many couples to achieve. There are those who take a tremendous amount of abuse for the

sake of preserving a marriage while others don't want to give up anything individually for the sake of their marriage. Obviously either extreme is not healthy for individuals or society.

Learning how to balance one's individual needs while maintaining commitment to another person and relationship is difficult and takes great commitment for both husbands and wives.



Couples who seem to balance individuality and "couplehood" successfully put equal weight on the individual needs of each spouse, rather than allowing the needs of one spouse to dominate. For these couples, each spouse feels free to pursue those things which enrich

his or her life individually (education, work, hobbies, talents) while receiving support from the spouse for doing so.

Successful couples also seem to place a high commitment on the marriage itself. For many couples this commitment includes a belief in mar-

riage as a covenant with God as well as with a spouse. It also involves a commitment to working out relationship problems when it would be easier to be more individualistic. This includes the realization that being all we can be individually often means doing all we can within our relationships, particularly with our spouse.

There are so many times when choices have to be made regarding when to focus on individual needs, and when to de-emphasize individuality for the good of the marriage. It takes work on a daily basis and commitment from each spouse to make it work effectively. — Susan Howell

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

Are you in financial bondage?

By Jeremy White

Many definitions of financial freedom exist today and most of them are faulty. From people selling "business opportunities" to those selling financial products, everyone seems to promise fi-

nancial freedom.

Financial freedom is not measured by wealth or by whether you have a boss. Financial freedom is the peace and joy that result from acting as a faithful manager of God's resources. It is a condition of the heart confirmed by your lifestyle and your balance sheet.

Financial bondage is the absence of financial freedom. This bondage is marked by financial frustration, stress and problems.

Although you may intuitively know if you are in financial bondage, check yourself against the following signs. If you recognize that several of these signs apply to you, then you have completed a necessary first step, a diagnosis, toward your financial ills.

Signs of financial bondage:

- You are ashamed before God and man of your giving record.
- You dread opening the mail or answering the phone for fear of creditors' contacts.
- You do not save regularly.
- You regularly pay finance charges on credit cards.
- You would have to sell assets immediately if you missed a paycheck.
- You use spending as emotional and psychological therapy.
- You find yourself saying, "I don't know where all the money goes."
- You frequently buy items on impulse.
- You spend significant time and energy thinking and worrying about your finances.
- You have no idea of your total assets and total liabilities.
- You have obtained or considered a consolidation loan to pay off other debt.
- You are frustrated with your financial position, yet have no plan to improve it.

Next month, I will share the signs of financial freedom. Edmund Burke masterfully summed up this topic, "If we command our wealth, we shall be rich and free; if our wealth commands us, we are poor indeed. We are bought by the enemy with the treasure in our own coffers."

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah

Islam growing faster than Christianity

NASHVILLE (BP)—It's unlikely Islam will overtake Christianity in sheer numbers in the 21st century, but Islam remains the world's fastest-growing religion, a strategist for LifeWay Christian Resources told a group of state Baptist newspaper editors Sept. 21.

Cliff Tharp of LifeWay's strategic information and planning section presented more than a dozen religious, social and demographic trends expected to affect American society as it enters the next millennium, including the continued growth of Islam.

Muslims currently number about 1.2 billion worldwide, Tharp said. That's nearly 20 percent of the world's population and double the total adherents in 1970. The number is expected to grow to 2 billion by 2025.

Estimates of the number of Muslims in the United States range from 3 million to 8 million, a small number in the contest of the religion's worldwide membership. But the Muslim growth rate in the United States is rising, Tharp said, pointing out:

■ 950 mosques and Islamic centers currently are located in the United States.

■ 350 Muslim student associations and professional organizations are active in America.

■ 60 private Islamic elementary and secondary schools are in operation in the U.S.

Revenues from oil-rich Muslim nations are fueling the U.S. growth, Tharp said, adding the Islamic faith also seems to be filling a "spiritual vacuum" for some Americans, particularly African-American males.

In comparison, Southern Baptists are plateaued as a denomination, Tharp said.

"We're adding 250 to 300 churches a year, but when you index it to the U.S. population, our growth is basically flat," he explained.



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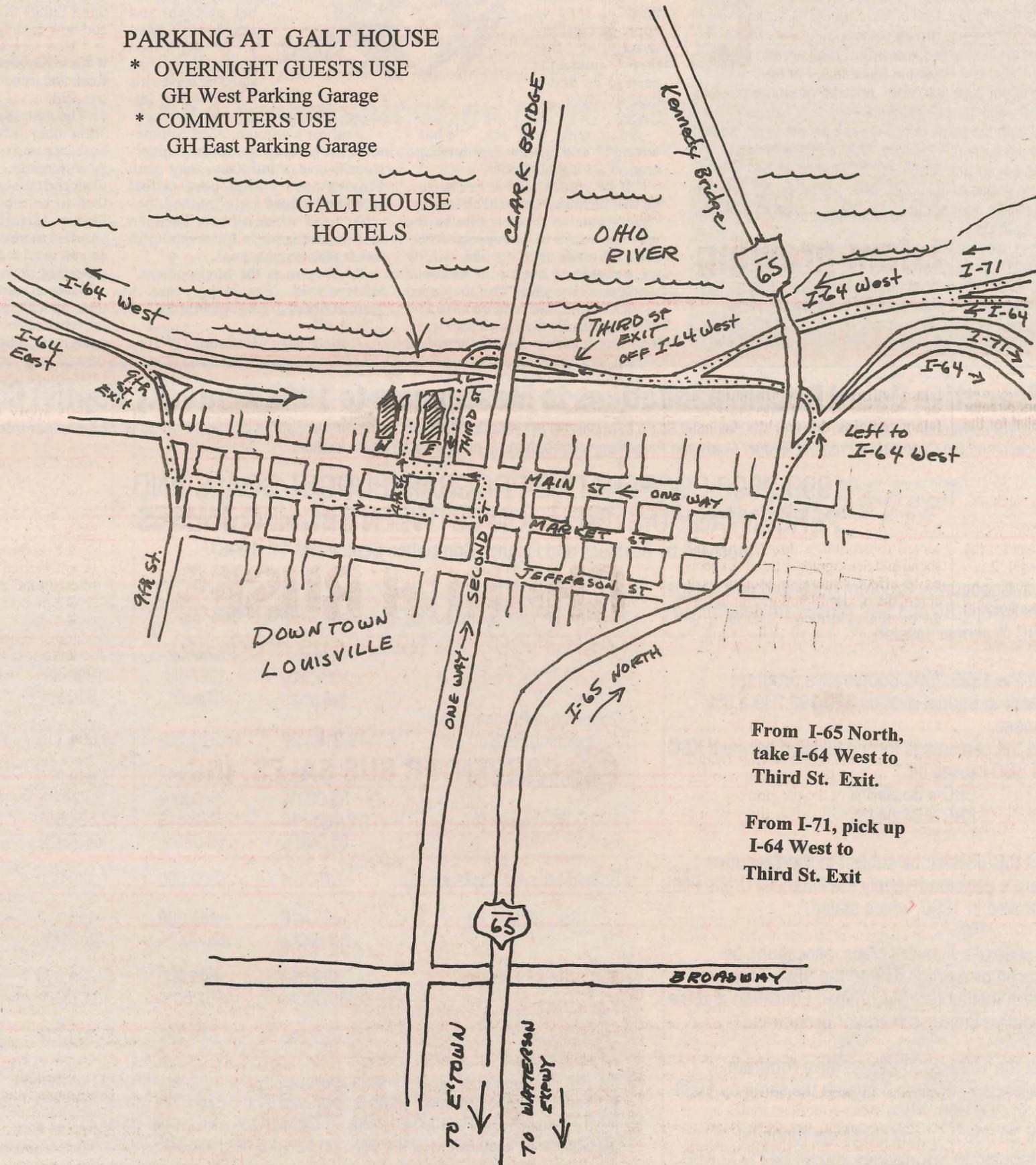
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FAMILY

Andrews: We want couples to be proactive, not reactive

Continued from page 1

honoring each other and celebrating the relationship.

Making time for each other is vital, Andrews said. He added that the average American couple spends just 37 minutes a week focusing on each other. Discussing household bills, children's school activities and other minutiae doesn't count, he said.

"The biggest problem in marriage today is a lack of time with each other," he said after the seminar. "Next is being over-committed and insensitivity to each other's needs."

The couple, who spoke at the Southern Baptist Convention's first Fall Festival of Marriage in 1979, say marriage enrichment has grown considerably since then.

Now there are nearly two dozen SBC festivals and others operated by states and Baptist associations, Andrews said.

"It's helped our own marriage," added Mrs. Andrews—a former church minister of education and social worker.

"We deal with the same things we ask people to do, so we keep our issues current," she said. "We're aware of what marriage can be, so (the seminars) minister to us."

The couple hopes to open their own retreat center. They've purchased land an hour south of Atlanta and hope to build a lodge there by 2003.

"In a sense, we're doing divorce prevention because people are made aware of what they can do," she added. "What leads to divorce a lot of time is people don't do anything to maintain the marriage. We want people to be proactive instead of reactive."

Duo: Men need space, women need to talk

By Suzanne Darland
State Correspondent

CAVE CITY—Why do couples argue or have difficulties? Because they're wired differently, David and Penny Hudson told an audience at the recent Marriage Fest conference.

"Men need space and silence when they're thinking about a problem," said Mrs. Hudson. "But women misinterpret the silence."

Women might think they've done something wrong or that their husbands need to be drawn out of their silence.

So a wife will ask, "What's wrong?" and follow her husband around asking questions.

"If he wasn't mad at her before, he will be then," she said chuckling. "She wants to support him in the way she wants to be supported herself." Women tend to like talking their problems over with someone who cares, she said. "But they need to understand that men want to feel they can handle their own problems. Too much caring makes them feel

smothered."

Likewise, men are unsure how to handle their wives' musings about problems, Hudson said.

"Men want to fix the problem. Then husbands are confused when wives don't appreciate this gesture of love," he said. "So if his wife says 'I'm depressed,' instead of empathizing, a man tends to say, 'What have you got to be depressed about?"

You've got a great life.' He thinks he solved her problem and she doesn't have to be depressed anymore, but instead he leaves his wife feeling un-

heard."

And for a woman, deep communication—being heard and understood—brings intimacy, they said. Women have a deep need to feel loved and valued and cherished. Another need women have that men tend to disregard is for meaningful touch that is nonsexual.

"Affection is the environment," Hudson said. "Sex is the event. A woman needs to feel one in spirit before sex."

Added Mrs. Hudson: "Wives

smother their husbands with affection because that's what they want."

At the same time, she said, the typical wife "doesn't understand her husband's deep need for sex. A husband smothers his wife with sexual advances because that's what he needs. When he wants sex and she doesn't, he misunderstands and feels rejected just as a woman feels rejected when she's not communicated with."

One place to start, the Hudsons said, is with a daily ritual they practice. At the end of the day, each tells three things that happened that day and how each feels about them.

"Most wives would fall over dead if their husbands came home from work and said, 'Can we talk?'" Hudson said.

The couple quoted from the creation story in Genesis 2 to remind husbands and wives they were created differently. Adam had a task, to work and take care of the garden. Men tend to be more task oriented than women, Mrs. Hudson said. And men are often more competitive than women and need to be admired for something they do well, she added.

Women were created to be in relationship with men. They feel successful, when relationships with others are going well, Hudson said.



KBC Executive Board Recommendations to Messengers to 1998 Kentucky Baptist Convention

Article VIII of the convention constitution calls for the Executive Board to publish in the Western Recorder its recommendations 30 days in advance of the annual meeting. The following recommendation on the Cooperative Program Budget Goals and Percentage distributions is presented for consideration:

1999-2000 COOPERATIVE PROGRAM BUDGET GOALS AND PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN SBC/KBC CAUSES

(Approved by Business and Finance Committee September 11, 1998)

The annual Cooperative Program goals and percentage division between KBC and SBC causes are determined by the KBC in annual session.

- That the 1999-2000 Cooperative program Operating Budget goal be \$20,192,239 a 3% increase.
- That the percentage for the division between KBC and SBC causes be:*
SBC = 35.358%
KBC = 64.642%

That this division be subject to the Executive Board's decision to apply the Financial Crisis Plan approved in 1990, which stated:

"In case of a financial crisis, allocations be reduced proportionately to the SBC, Kentucky Baptist institutions of Christian Education and the Executive Board staff and/or programs."

- That the 1999-2000 Cooperative Program Challenge Budget goal remain the same as 1998-99, \$1,300,000.
- That 35.358% of any challenge funds be distributed to SBC causes and 64.642% to KBC causes.

Business & Finance Committee, September 11, 1998

Illustration

	ACTUAL 1997-98 RECEIPTS	APPROVED 1997-98 BUDGET	APPROVED 1998-99 BUDGET	PROPOSED 1999-2000 BUDGET
Cooperative Program Goal				
A. Operating Budget	19,219,722	19,219,722	19,604,116	20,192,239
1. SBC Causes (a)	6,726,903 35.000%	6,726,903 35.000%	6,909,275 35.244%	7,139,572 35.358% (d)
2. KBC Causes (b)	12,492,819 65.000%	12,492,819 65.000%	12,694,841 64.756%	13,052,667 64.642% (d)
B. Bold Mission Challenge (c)	675,474	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,300,000
1. SBC Causes (a)	236,416 35.000%	455,000 35.000%	458,172 35.244%	459,654 35.358% (d)
2. KBC Causes (b)	439,058 65.000%	845,000 65.000%	841,828 64.756%	840,346 64.642% (d)
Total CP Goal	19,895,196	20,519,722	20,904,116	21,492,239

- (a) The Distribution of these items is approved by the Southern Baptist Convention.
(b) The distribution of these items is approved by the Executive Board, Kentucky Baptist Convention.
(c) If Challenge Goal is attained, total CP through the SBC would equal 35.358%.
(d) Subject to Executive Board's decision to apply the Financial Crisis Plan approved in 1990.

*Subject to approval of recommendation by Executive Board to Convention in November.

FAMILY

Pair urges families to explore life beyond television

CAVE CITY—Killis and Melani Sinkhorn don't recommend throwing away the television. But they do believe couples should limit the time devoted to it.

"The average adult spends 30 to 40 hours a week in front of the TV and for children it's higher," Sinkhorn said from his research on television's influence.

"That was startling. Where's the time for your spouse and children?"

Rather than just warning of television's dangers, the Frankfort-area couple explored alternatives during Marriage Fest.

Quoting from Psalm 101:3, "I will set before my eyes no vile thing,"

Sinkhorn encouraged couples to consider what example they set by the programs they watch.

"We are our children's gatekeepers," said Sinkhorn, a member of Buck Run Baptist Church.

"What we put before them is what they're going to absorb. In the last 40 to 50 years TV has really taken over our lives."

Drawing from "Moments Together for Couples," a devotion book written by Dennis and Barbara Rainey, he offered these guidelines for family viewing:

■ *Treat it as a privilege.* Instruct

your children to ask permission to watch.

■ *Make TV off limits in two rooms:* where you eat meals and the bedroom.

■ *Agree on the number of hours and types of programs.* The Sinkhorns limit viewing to one or two hours a day.

■ *Don't let children watch a video unless you know its content.*

Mrs. Sinkhorn said that as a child she only watched one show after school. After an early dinner, the family spent the evening playing ball,

mowing the yard, gardening or in other family-oriented activities. She tries to follow the same pattern with their three children.

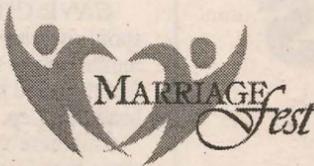
"Part of a family is doing things spontaneously," said Mrs. Sinkhorn, a home school teacher and entrepreneur. "When we wash the car every one gets wet before it's over."

They also promote spiritual time, she added.

Nurturing steps are vital to family life, she said. "What we want you to be aware of is not that TV is bad," said Mrs. Sinkhorn. "But if you even carve out one evening a week and make time for your family, it's going to make a huge impact."

"If you even carve out one evening a week and make time for your family, it's going to make a huge impact."

Melani Sinkhorn



Pastor & wife: Good communication more than just small talk

CAVE CITY—Too often marital communication is like sugar water, says Skip Alexander. It doesn't provide much nutrition.

The longer a marriage, the stronger the tendency for couples to use only small talk, discussing bills or messages left on the answering machine, said Alexander, pastor of West Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville.

In a workshop at Marriage Fest, he and his wife, Leigh Anne, reviewed four major styles of communication.

"A lot of couples have problems

communicating because they're not on the same level," he said. "All of these are important for marriage and communication. Marriage really involves a lot of talk."

The styles outlined were:

■ *Small talk.* Sociable conversation about routine information requires the other party to use conventional listening, acting as a relaxed sounding board.

■ *Control talk.* When one person tries to direct, advise or persuade, the other person will react to the statements. The danger of such discus-

sions, Alexander said, is they can develop into "fight" talk.

■ *Search talk.* Discussions that seek to uncover information or clarify important issues requires exploring listening and sincere interaction.

■ *Straight talk.* This gets to the heart of a matter while being sensitive to both partners' feelings. It requires attentive listening.

One couple with seven children asked about the wife's need to talk over the day's events that happened while her husband was at work.

Alexander said the woman might

need to engage in some small talk when she first sees her mate. "A husband who works a conventional job would probably not like to hear a bunch of control talk when he comes home."

Likewise, he told the woman's husband. "A wife needs adult talk that isn't about 'Power Rangers.'"

Mrs. Alexander agreed. "I'm a stay-at-home mom. If we're talking about home, I'm controlling the situation. But if we're talking about church, he is. It's an equally-shared kind of control."

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When:

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5:15 to 6:30 PM

(Immediately following the afternoon session).

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Cost of Laity Dinner is \$10.

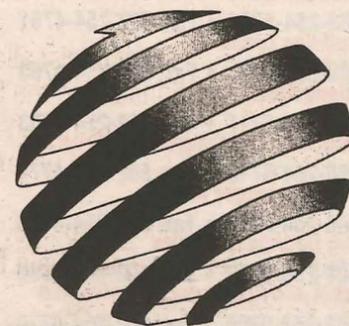
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When:

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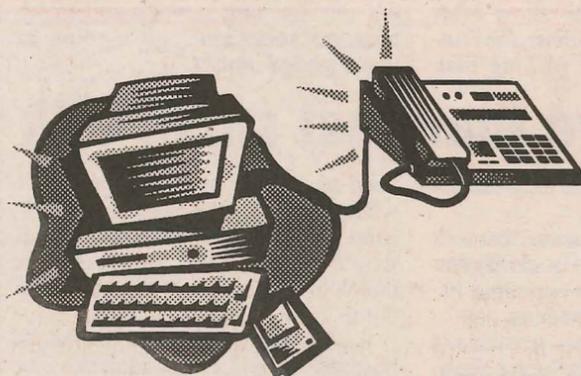


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Spiritual intimacy key for families, missionaries say

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

CAVE CITY—During the rough spots of their 43 years of marriage, Sarah Bivins took comfort from the fact that God had led her to marry her husband, Lee.

But there's more to a healthy marriage that just sticking together, say these former Kentucky Baptist missionaries, who led a workshop on "Growing Spiritual Intimacy" at Marriage Fest.

"We talk about marital intimacy because we believe they're very spiritual relationships," Bivins said.

Their life has included a call to Israel as agricultural missionaries in the 1960s, where they had to hide under their house seven times during the famed "Six Days War."

They also matured greatly in the Mideast in their spiritual walk. Among miracles Mrs. Bivins described was God speaking to her and promising she would give birth to a daughter, which came to pass.

Today they are marriage enrichment facilitators at cleftRock Retreat Center in Mt. Vernon.

"The most productive is what I call a working dialogue," Bivins said afterward. "We have an issue we need to deal with and say, 'Let's talk about

it.'"

Citing work by a co-founder of the marriage enrichment movement, David Mace, Bivins said studies of thousands of marriages show all couples experience similar problems.

The difference between those who divorce and those who stay together come from three primary "coping" skills, Bivins said:

■ **Commitment.** Couples commit not just to the length of the marriage, but to making it the best possible marriage, he said. This requires an intentional effort and wisdom.

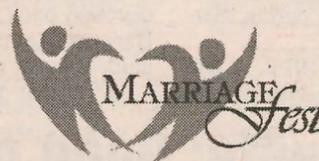
■ **Communication.**

This involves concentrating on one's mate and showing concern for his or her well-being.

■ **Conflict resolution.** When anger takes over, it opens small gaps that can eventually divide couples emotionally and destroy intimacy, he said.

The principles he outlined for resolving discord include not attacking the other person, not defending your own actions and explaining your feelings instead of pointing a finger.

Forgiveness is another element of achieving spiritual intimacy, Bivins said. Years ago he realized in saying the Lord's Prayer that while he thought he had forgiven others, he had failed to forgive Sarah for her trespasses against him.



Are you robbing God?

My late father's favorite Scripture was Malachi 3:10, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, ..."

As I think back upon my early years, I can vividly recall his stewardship testimonies. He convinced me by his words and deeds of his understanding of holy Scripture that giving anything less

than one-tenth of my income was robbing God. He more than tithed his income and profits from his business.

My mother did not work outside the home, and he provided her an allowance on which to manage the household needs; she gave a tithe of that allowance.

I also remember my father checking my church offering envelope after I received my first real paycheck. Guess what? I had included a tenth.

How fortunate and how grateful I am my parents taught me and held me accountable in the matter of Christian financial stewardship. It became a way of life for me since childhood, and I have been able to prove both the reason and the promise Malachi gave the people of God about tithing (Malachi 3:6-12).

The tithe principle was born in

an agricultural setting. If there was going to be a future crop, some of the current year's harvest had to be saved for seed. If everything was eaten, that is, if everything was taken out and nothing put back into the cycle, the entire process would collapse.

The tithe was the "seed fund," and it is a principle that applies to

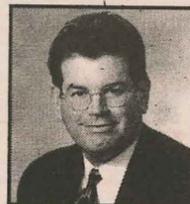
all of life. If you are not putting back into the process of life, you are a taker—a free-loader—a burden on the process.

Many of us ought to put back more than a tithe. What Zacchaeus did in giving half of what he had to those who did not have enough is not out of the question for some Kentucky Baptists.

Robbing can be taking from another by force. The more subtle truth is we rob God by failing to give back to him what has been entrusted to us.

Please give Laurie Valentine and me the privilege of assisting you in giving back what God expects of you. Call us toll free at (888) 254-5701.

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Barry Allen

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

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Couple offers three ways to keep a marriage fresh

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

CAVE CITY—The Marriage Fest workshop for marriages of between 11 and 25 years was titled "Comfortable Love," but Steve and Joy Hadden know this middle passage can be the most dangerous.

Six months after their wedding, Joy Hadden's parents divorced after 25 years together.

"There are dangers here," said Hadden, pastor of Crestwood Baptist Church in Crestwood.

"Cracks (in relationships) can grow until they become canyons. It's important to refocus and determine where you want to go."

"A marriage requires hard work, perseverance and

patience," Mrs. Hadden said. "But remember where you are headed. What is the vision you have for your home?"

The important thing for maturing marriages is keeping "first things first," said Hadden.

Some ways of keeping priorities include maintaining one's identity as an individual, accepting inevitable losses (such as parents dying or children moving away), practicing forgiveness and maintaining an intimate relationship, he said.

While the latter includes physical relations, that isn't the whole picture. Intimacy includes feelings of being connected and deep understanding, he explained.

Such closeness will help couples weather life's storms, Hadden said. "Crisis will either destroy you or generate new intimacy and growth," he

said. "Divorce is often the result of not making it through these tough adjustments."

That's a major reason for mid-life affairs, he added. "Because people can't deal with hard issues, they deal with surface ones. But the end is worth shooting for."

Referring to a book on the death of love, he noted that failing marriages go through five stages. Starting with disillusionment, they progress through hurt, anger, ambivalence and disaffection.

Hadden suggested three steps to keeping marriage fresh:

■ **Prayer.** People must determine whether they want to get closer to God than anyone else, he said, adding that it takes hard work.

■ **Review wedding vows.**

Couples should ask whether grudges and resentment have replaced the love, honor, cherishing and loyalty they promised to each other, he said.

■ **Never give up.** As a pastor, Hadden said people share disappointments and failures with him, saddened by the harvest they have reaped. But "I believe in resurrection," he said. "Jesus was resurrected from the dead, and out of the ashes we can rebuild."

Mrs. Hadden encouraged couples to explore voluntary simplicity, such as going on walks or having a picnic in place of expensive outings.

She also recommended protecting one's home from outside intrusions. Ideas included not always answering the phone and leaving white space on the family calendar so there is free time.



Monica Haydon

By Robert Dunston

Monica Haydon, the daughter of Jessie and Betty Haydon of Springfield, spent her second summer in a row in Vermont this year. Last year as a summer missionary she traveled to a different church each week. One of those churches, the Baptist Fellowship in Randolph, asked her to return this summer and work with them. Haydon agreed, and she and a partner from Oklahoma ministered through the church in a variety of ways.

Haydon's and her partner's primary responsibility was with the youth. The church's youth program is staffed by volunteers throughout the school year. Those volunteers welcomed a short break. In addition, the church wanted to expand its summer youth program to include daytime activities, when the other volunteers would be unable to help because they were working.

The summer youth program proved to be challenging and fun. A special "water day" was scheduled for one summer day. Despite temperatures in the 60s and mist and rain, the weather could not dampen the good time. A scavenger hunt and mountain hike were additional fun events the youth and summer

missionaries enjoyed.

Youth devotions held each Wednesday evening and a special Bible study for youth provided opportunities for in-depth spiritual growth. The youth group included 20-25 young people, most of whom did not have strong contacts to the church. In most cases they did not attend Sunday services but only

came on Wednesday evenings and for other special, planned weekday events. Haydon and her partner were able to build upon the diligent work of the church members in reaching out to these young people.

Haydon enjoyed being able to spend the entire summer in one place with one group. She built

relationships with the youth and even did a little recruiting for Cumberland College. One of the seniors from Randolph will be visiting Cumberland in the next few weeks.

Haydon, a junior majoring in religion, plans to attend seminary but is considering volunteer service through the Southern Baptist International or North American Mission Board immediately after graduation.

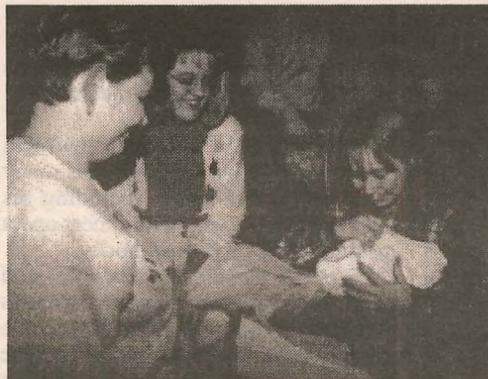
Robert Dunston is chairman of the religion department at Cumberland College, 6000 College Station Dr., Williamsburg, Ky. 40769

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Paid Column



Parents' new instruction: 'Watch all your vegetables'



"The people who need God's truth aren't necessarily in Christian bookstores."

Phil Vischer, creator of "Veggie Tales"

Continued from page 1
national kidvid sales.

Vischer hails Walt Disney as one of his creative heroes, praising Disney's technical skills and down-home values. But like a growing number of Christian parents, he puts less trust in the Disney name now that it is part of a multinational entertainment colossus.

"Disney is so huge," Vischer said. "There's just no way that a mission like Walt's can survive in such a media giant."

Instead of joining the boycott of the house of Mouse currently sponsored by Southern Baptists and a variety of other religious groups, Vischer is on a crusade to build a better mousetrap.

"People should have the right to boycott," he said, "but when it comes to things we don't like about Hollywood and the media business, by far the most effective way to counter them is by creating alternatives that are more creative but are filled with God's truth."

Vischer wants people to quit moaning about how bad popular culture is and start doing something to make it better.

"As Christians, we spend too much of our time cursing the darkness and not enough time lighting candles. Christians have by-and-large abdicated every industry that impacts our culture. We don't raise our kids to be filmmakers. We think God can pro-

tect them (as missionaries) in the depths of Africa, but we don't think he can protect them in the depths of Hollywood. As a result we don't encourage kids to go into the arts."

Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber have successfully crossed over to the mainstream stores, and Vischer is relishing every moment.

"The people who need God's truth aren't necessarily in Christian bookstores," Vischer said. "The people who already have shelves of Christian videos don't need more."

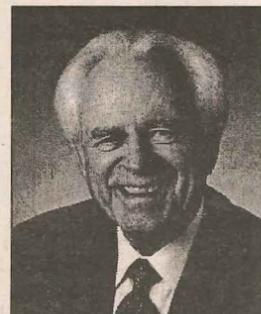
Lyrick's Merrell agrees. "A big part of this series' success is word of mouth," he said. "Kids hear about Veggie Tales at church, but their parents don't always frequent Christian retailers. But many parents throughout the country want this kind of programming."

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Speaker: R. Albert Mohler, Jr., President, SBTS

"The Ministry of the Word: Preaching as the Heart of Our Calling"

2 p.m. - Heritage Hall
Dr. Stephen Olford
"The Recovery of Expository Preaching"

3-4 p.m. - Heritage Hall
Open Forum with

Dr. Stephen Olford and Dr. R. Albert Mohler, Jr.

Reservations for complimentary luncheon requested by October 13.



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School is off to a good start

(Continued from last week.)

Last week I shared the story of Peggy, who was saved during our fall revival. Here are the stories of two other students who made professions of faith in Christ.

Jimmy (not his real name) came to Oneida just one month ago. Jimmy is a middle-school student from a broken home. He had been making low grades, not doing homework, acting like the class clown, back talking; wasting his opportunity to get a good education. Most of his problems at home were the result of school problems.

When we interview students we always ask, "What are the two most important things you want to accomplish while at Oneida?" When we asked Jimmy what he most wanted to accomplish he said he wanted to not smoke, "stop bad mouthing" and do better in his school work. Needless to say, these are worthy goals for any young person.

Like many other young people who come to Oneida, he will not reach these goals right away but will need time and patience. Progress reports came out last week, and Jimmy received three Fs. It will take us a few more weeks to fully understand just how well Jimmy will be able to do in his school work. During the first month or so of school we concentrate on getting each student settled in and adjusted to being away from home, normally for the first time in his or her life. After they get over the homesickness, we are in a better position to understand their strengths and weaknesses.

The second boy who gave his life to Christ recently was John (not his real name). John came to Oneida in January as a ninth grader. John also came from a broken home and was not doing well

in school or at home. Like Jimmy, a lot of the tension in the home was directly related to school problems. The semester just before John came to Oneida he had seven Fs. After completing one semester with us he had one F. Most of the other grades were average. John also has one F on his progress report. When we asked John what he most wanted to accomplish at Oneida he said he wanted to do better in math, "read much more" and be involved in sports.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Currently John is in drama and will be in our fall play. John still has many obstacles to overcome, including his inability to get along with others and a need to better respect authority.

Each of these young people, and hundreds more, bring unique attributes and personalities with them. Most come as spiritually lost boys and girls. One of our concerns, and often our biggest challenge, is to help them come to know Christ as Lord and Savior.

These three young people are also typical in that they came from broken homes. Usually about 75 percent of our students are dealing with the emotional, behavioral and academic scars common in children from broken homes. Each of these students came making failing or very low grades. Normally, about 50 percent of our students are making poor grades when they come. About 75 percent of those students will begin to make academic progress in a few weeks or months. Others will take longer, and many will have to be in our tutoring lab part of the day or all day until they can be moved into regular classes.

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

Campus family experiences revival

Do you sing "Send a great revival in my soul," but approach a scheduled revival expecting only good preaching, singing and fellowship?

Those are certainly needed blessings, but authentic revival takes us much deeper in the spiritual life. It happened at Clear Creek Sept. 22-24. Some would consider the place unlikely—the family life center

working. One after another, they came until we approached the time for classes. Academic Dean Malcolm Hester came forward to say the work of revival was the Lord's business this day, and classes were dismissed.

Others came to ask forgiveness of a neighbor, a teacher, a spouse. The dean told of an unresolved hurtful experience in Korea and sought our prayers as he contacted two former missionary colleagues. I asked forgiveness of four faculty members toward whom I had shown reactions of arrogance and power. The Lord recommissioned me for this ministry as I knelt on the gym floor surrounded and touched by faculty, staff and students. A reconciliation statement signed by me and the faculty in

April was replaced by a deeper work of the heart.

The concluding service that evening brought other testimonies with a focus on marriage. Faculty and staff couples prayed with student families that they would have a truly Christian home and a spirit-controlled ministry.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

The human instrument was Ohio pastor Jeff Pound, former missionary to the Philippines and former evangelism director for Ohio Baptists. Jeff was with us several years ago. The campus family appreciates his free spirit, conversational approach to preaching and dependence on the Holy Spirit. "Send the Holy Spirit now within, burning out the dross and guilt of sin."

The Lord reminded the campus family of the continual need for acknowledgment of personal sin, contrition and confession. One message focused on surrendering our past, including accomplishments that fill us with false pride and security. The service concluded with individuals contrite before the Lord.

On Thursday, we gathered at 10 a.m. for an expected 40-minute service. Pound did not preach but asked for brief testimonies of the Lord's

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

Gambling conference rolls out list of industry's perils

ST. LOUIS (BP)—Gambling can destroy communities and an entire nation, psychologists, educators and United States senators warned at the conference of the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling and National Coalition Against Gambling Expansion.

The meeting occurred within a mile of several "boats in moats," large casino complexes operating without state sanction in manmade basins adjacent to the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and whose fate will be determined in the Nov. 3 Missouri general election.

U.S. Sen. John Ashcroft, R.-Mo., said communities embrace gambling because they're buying into a lie, a quick-fix mentality which results in bankruptcy, higher crime and personal destruction.

"Gambling is not an industry but a parasite, taking money from the poor and redistributing it to the rich promoters and a few winners," said Ashcroft, who is expected to be a candidate for the U.S. presidency in the year 2000.

John Kindt, professor of commerce and legal policy at the University of Illinois, said that for every dollar received in taxes from gambling, the industry causes socio-

economic expenses costing at least three dollars.

"The ABCs of gambling are addiction, bankruptcies and crime and corruption," Kindt said. "While drug-abuse problems are costing the U.S. \$70 billion per year and going down, gambling abuse is costing the U.S. \$80 billion per year and rising."

Pathological gamblers—estimated at between 3 percent and 8 percent of the population—almost always resort to crime to support and cover their gambling habits, he added. "The 35-mile radius or 'feeder area' around casinos experiences a 100 percent increase in crime following the opening of a casino."

Former Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois, who sponsored the bill that led to the National Gambling Impact Study Committee, deplored governments using a lottery to raise funds for education.

Noting gambling's relationships to bankruptcy and crime, he said, "It is morally reprehensible to take advantage of some people who will become addicts."

Simon, who now heads the Institute for Public Policy at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, urged citizens to "put candidates on the spot concerning gambling, use

referendums and support campaign finance reform."

Simon said something is wrong when, despite a healthy economy, bankruptcies in the United States continue to increase.

"This is the only addiction that government promotes. If we saw a billboard that said, 'Drink more whiskey, have a great time,' and the state of Illinois was paying for it, we would be shocked," he said. "Yet we see lottery advertisements all the time."

Simon faulted government leaders for looking to gambling as an easy fix for difficult economic problems, but he said he understands their predicaments. "Go to the poorest sections of Chicago or St. Louis, and you will see thousands of people buying lottery tickets."

Barrett Duke of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission said the wave of organized gambling has crested because of the efforts of groups such as the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling and National Coalition Against Gambling Expansion.

He urged anti-gambling forces to elect public officials who oppose all forms of gambling, to establish clinics to train anti-gambling activists and

to use the most current and correct data in countering claims of the gambling industry that economies have been helped by gambling.

Bob Fuesel, director of the Illinois State Crime Commission, said gambling devastates city business communities and fuels the renaissance of organized crime.

"Any increase of legal gambling increases the base of illegal gambling. At a time when violent crime is still at an all-time high, gang crime is running rampant and the limited resources of law enforcement are stretched to the breaking point, it is inconceivable that state governments even consider gambling as a solution to financial problems."

Tom Grey, executive director for the National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling, said gambling opponents must work throughout the nation in order to preserve communities.

"We don't attack people who gamble, but we get those who do it to vote with us by showing them it's not good economics, not good public policy and not good for quality of life," he said.

"An informed electorate will walk to the ballot box and reject these predators," he added. "Truth has always been with us."

"Gambling is not an industry but a parasite, taking money from the poor and redistributing it to the rich promoters and a few winners."

U.S. Senator John Ashcroft

Research shows Promise Keepers strong at grassroots level

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON—A year after tens of thousands of men gathered on Washington's National Mall to recommit themselves to God and family, the evangelical Christian ministry Promise Keepers is simultaneously showing signs of decline and evidence of continued strength.

On the down side, leaders of the 8-year-old organization—which gained its greatest prominence at its "Stand in the Gap" rally last Oct. 4—recently announced plans to trim 55 members from its current 235-member staff by the end of October.

They also said attendance at the organization's 19 stadium and arena rallies for men across the country this year will total about 500,000—down

from more than 638,000 at the same number of events last year.

But even as the organization's national profile diminishes, Promise Keepers reports continued growth in its ministry abroad. Affiliate groups have been established in Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, New Zealand and Australia.

In addition, an independent Ohio researcher says Promise Keepers "accountability groups"—local support groups of five to 10 men—are flourishing across the country.

Brenda Brasher, author of a book due out next year called "The Promise Keepers: Faith, Masculinity, Politics and Race in the New Millennium," said many grassroots Promise Keepers are plugged into local small groups more than the huge stadium rallies.

Brasher, an assistant professor of religion and philosophy at Mount Union College in Alliance, Ohio, has interviewed 300 men involved with Promise Keepers. Her research shows that far more men are in small groups related to the ministry than the numbers who attend the regional rallies or were at "Stand in the Gap."

Many of the men in these accountability groups—often from different denominations—gather weekly and study a Bible text or a book recommended by Promise Keepers.

"That gets about 10 minutes of attention and then the rest of it is what's going on in my life and I'm struggling with this issue," Brasher said.

While men are being accountable to each other, as they were charged at "Stand in the Gap," they are doing "not very well" so far with the minis-

try's goal of racial reconciliation, Brasher said.

"At the grassroots level, what I hear from men—and I hear this from men across racial and ethnic identities—is a lamentation about that fact," she said. Still, the situation may improve with time, said Brasher, who compared Promise Keepers' possible long-term impact on race to the way radio allowed American society to hear on a broad scale the music of other racial groups.

"This rally is the radio of religious life, where all kinds of different people's traditions can be heard," she said. "Its long-term implications for the kind of commitment to racial inclusivity and bridging the gap or tearing down the walls ... may actually be more effective than is immediately obvious."

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Word Publishing names new publisher.** Word Publishing has named a new publisher to the Nashville-based company known for its Christian and inspirational books. Lee Gessner, formerly senior vice president and deputy publisher at Word, succeeds Charles "Kip" Jordon, who died last October. Word, which was established in 1950, is a division of Thomas Nelson, which also is based in Nashville.

■ **"Most dangerous" hate group named.** A new Anti-Defamation League report calls the neo-Nazi National Alliance "the single most dangerous hate group in America today." The ADL said the National Alliance, led by William Pierce, has 16 active cells and "a growing membership" in at least 26

states. "What makes William Pierce and his group so dangerous is their organization, discipline and fanatic belief that they have the right to carry out acts of violence in order to realize their vision of a world free of Jews, blacks and democracy," ADL national director Abraham Foxman told a press conference.

■ **Faith healers sentenced.** A Philadelphia couple whose son nearly died of cancer because they chose to treat his condition with faith healing rather than medicine were sentenced Sept. 24 to 14 months of probation. The couple, members of Faith Tabernacle Congregation, were convicted in May of child endangerment and criminal conspiracy after refusing to get life-saving

care for their 3-year-old son because of their religious beliefs.

■ **Worship grant given.** The Lilly Endowment has given a \$1.3 million grant to the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., for a project aimed at revitalizing Christian congregational worship. How to face up to changing worship styles and conflicts over worship styles will be the subject of the institute's seminars, conferences and work with individual church leaders.

■ **Anti-suicide bill stalled.** The Senate Judiciary Committee has given its approval to legislation aimed at blocking assisted suicide by barring doctors from prescribing any federally controlled drugs

to help patients commit suicide. However, the bill appears to be stalled in the full Senate and is unlikely to become law this year, said Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

■ **Pastor would do same-sex union again.** Jimmy Creech, the United Methodist pastor whose performance of a same-sex union ceremony at his Nebraska church brought the denomination to the edge of schism, told a North Carolina congregation Sept. 27 he would do it again. Creech said Christians are not fully sharing the gospel until they embrace gays as part of the kingdom of God. "What matters to me is the quality of the relationship with people," he said. "If it is a loving, caring relationship, I don't really care what gender they are."

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Ed and Teri Tarleton, on furlough in the States from their ministry in Russia.

■ Joe and Gloria DeLeon as they minister in St. Petersburg, Russia.

■ Follow-up to the ministry of a Kentucky mission team that worked in Gaysville and Hanover, N.H., this summer.

■ New Harvest Baptist Church, a new congregation begun in Rockland, Maine, this summer, and church planter Ray Thombs.

■ Follow-up for the extensive community activities of Fellowship Baptist Church in Hanover, Mass., this summer.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BOURBONAIS, Ill.**—Bethel Church, formerly Fourth Avenue Church of Kankakee, will celebrate its 50th anniversary Oct. 17-18. All former members are invited. For more information call (815) 932-9814.

■ **CALIFORNIA**—Mentor Church called **Jenny Schalk** as minister of youth.

■ **COLD SPRING**—First Church called **Elliott Holbrook** as minister of youth. Charles Mitchell was called as minister of pastoral care.

■ **COVINGTON**—Oak Ridge Church ordained **Byron Lile** to the gospel ministry. Lile is director of the church's Lighthouse ministry. **Randy Wallace** is pastor.

■ **DAYTON**—First Church called **Justin Cheatham** as minister of youth.

■ **FRANKLIN**—First Church has called **Bob Sutton** as pastor.

■ **FREDONIA**—Walnut Grove

Church and Pinckneyville Church in Salem will host a rural ministry conference Oct. 14-16 at Walnut Grove. Speakers will include **Robert Rice, Barry Campbell, Jamey Ragle, Stan Frye, Ronnie Stinson and LaVerne Butler**. For more information call (502) 545-3227 or (502) 988-2723. **Gary Dawson** is pastor at Walnut Grove; **Roger Rice** is pastor at Pinckneyville.

■ **GRAND RIVERS**—Calvary Church recently ordained **Tyson Lummun, Roy Lee Gish, Chester Richardson, Allen Doom and Robert Barlow** as deacons. **William Marret** is pastor.

■ **HARDINSBURG**—**Harry Dooley Sr.** retired Aug. 30 as pastor of Hardinsburg Church after 14 years of service.

■ **JEFFERSONTOWN**—Jefferson-town Church will celebrate its 153rd anniversary Oct. 11. For more infor-

mation call (502) 267-1123.

■ **LEBANON**—Muldraugh Hill Church ordained **Mark Carney** as deacon Sept. 6.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Parkway Church has called **Larry Vaughn** as part-time minister of music.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—**Wade Spencer** of Shelby, Ohio, will be in concert at Cloverleaf Church Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. For information call (502) 367-0218.

Highland Church will host the Wayne Oates Institute "Forums On Healing" Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2. For information call (502) 459-2370.

Missionaries **Bobby and Charlene Wacaser** and **Mark and Carol Johnson** and their families are residing in Highview Church's missionary houses.

Valley Station Church will host a family life conference led by **Danny Akin** Oct. 10-11. Registration is free. For more information call (502) 937-1730. **Don Zuberer** is pastor.

The Louisville Chapter of the Religious Communicators Council will present a program featuring step-by-step instructions for creating a Web

site Oct. 15. The cost is \$10. For information call Denise Webster at (502) 896-3999 by Oct. 9.

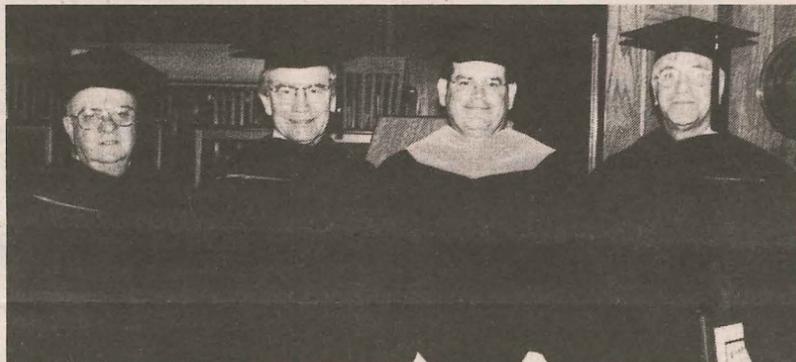
■ **MADISONVILLE**—College Day at First Church will be Oct. 11. **Travis Ford** will be the guest speaker. **Kenneth Townsend** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—First Church will host "Experiencing God Through Revival" Oct. 8-10. **Henry Blackaby** will lead the conference. For information call (502) 442-2728.

■ **STANFORD**—**Eddie Miller** has retired as pastor of Calvary Hill Church. He is available for supply and interim work. Call (606) 376-9679.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church will host a Gabhart Class reunion Oct. 18. **H.C. Gabhart**, organizer of the class in 1948, will be teaching. A reunion dinner will be held Oct. 17. **Harold Mauney** is pastor.

CORRECTION: Joseph Sustarsic was called as minister of education at First Church of Franklin, N.C. The Sept. 15 Mountains to the Mississippi column implied he was called to First Church of Franklin, Ky.



HONORARY DOCTORATES Cumberland College recently bestowed honorary doctorate degrees on four Kentucky Baptists during a convocation ceremony Sept. 21. **Bill Jagers** (left), former Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism director, received the doctor of laws degree. **KBC Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Mackey** received the doctor of divinity degree. **Barry Allen**, president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, received the doctor of business administration degree. **Floyd Price**, pastor of First Baptist Church of Scottsville and former KBC president, received the doctor of laws degree. (Cumberland College photo)



GROUND BREAKING Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church of Lebanon broke ground this summer for a new multipurpose building. The building will contain seven classrooms, a fellowship hall, a kitchen, bathrooms and lobby. Work is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. **Vic Stansbury** is pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Part-time director of missions for Red River Association. Send resumé to: Ralph Lockard, HC 68 Box 263, West Liberty, KY 41472. Deadline for submitting is Oct. 31, 1998.

SEEKING: Cool Springs Baptist Church in Tate, Ga., is searching for a full-time minister of youth/education. Cool Springs is located along the I-575 corridor in beautiful north Georgia in an area that is fast becoming a bedroom community to north metro-Atlanta. We need a visionary, energetic self-starter to help us reach and disciple youth, and to help us strengthen all aspects of our education/discipleship ministries. Must be Sunday school/outreach oriented. Please send resumé with references to: Diana Brown, P.O. Box 22, Tate, GA 30107. Our fax is (770) 735-3805.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, 118 West South St., Mayfield, KY 42066, Attn: Pastor.

AVAILABLE: Tickets for Gaither homecoming concert in Evansville, Ind., Friday, Oct. 9. Artist circle seats: \$13.50 each, or travel by air-conditioned, restroom-equipped motor-coach: \$36 per person (includes ticket and travel). Call (502) 225-0335.

SEEKING: Southside Baptist Church is currently seek full-time minister of youth and children. The church seeks a mature Christian. Previous experience preferred. Interested persons should send a resumé to: Southside Baptist Church, P.O. Box 684, Princeton, KY 42445, Attn: Staff Search Committee.

NEEDED: Full-time HVAC technician. \$8.49/hr. Outstanding benefits: 12 holidays, two weeks vacation. Generally 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Six months experience required. Apply in person to Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Carver Building, Room 201. (502) 897-4721.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Parkway Baptist Church, 1915 N. Broadway, Lexington, KY 40505.

SEEKING: Full-time director of children's ministry to administer day-care program of the church and coordinate church's ministry to children and their families. Church encourages school teachers to consider God's leading into this opportunity of a career in Christian service. Address inquiries or resúmes to: Southwest Baptist Church, 6401 Scanlan, St. Louis, MO 63139, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/worship leader at Calvary Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn. Calvary is a conservative Southern Baptist church with emphasis in missions and college ministry. Prerequisites: Called to music ministry, five years or more experience as music minister or comparable education (seminary degree preferred but not required). Please send resumé to: Music Ministry Search Committee, c/o Calvary Baptist Church, 3200 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: Salvisa Baptist Church, Kirkwood Road, Salvisa, KY 40330.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for rural Harrison County church. We have three services weekly with an average Sunday morning attendance of 65. Please submit resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Pleasant Green Baptist Church, Route 6, Box 499, Cynthiana, KY 41031.

SEEKING: Beacon Hill Baptist Church is accepting resúmes for pastor until Oct. 31, 1998. Please submit resúmes to: Pastoral Search Committee, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, 274 Old Monticello Road, Somerset, KY 42503.

SEEKING: Youth minister. Please send resumé to: Stanton Baptist Church, P.O. Box 777, Stanton, KY 40380.

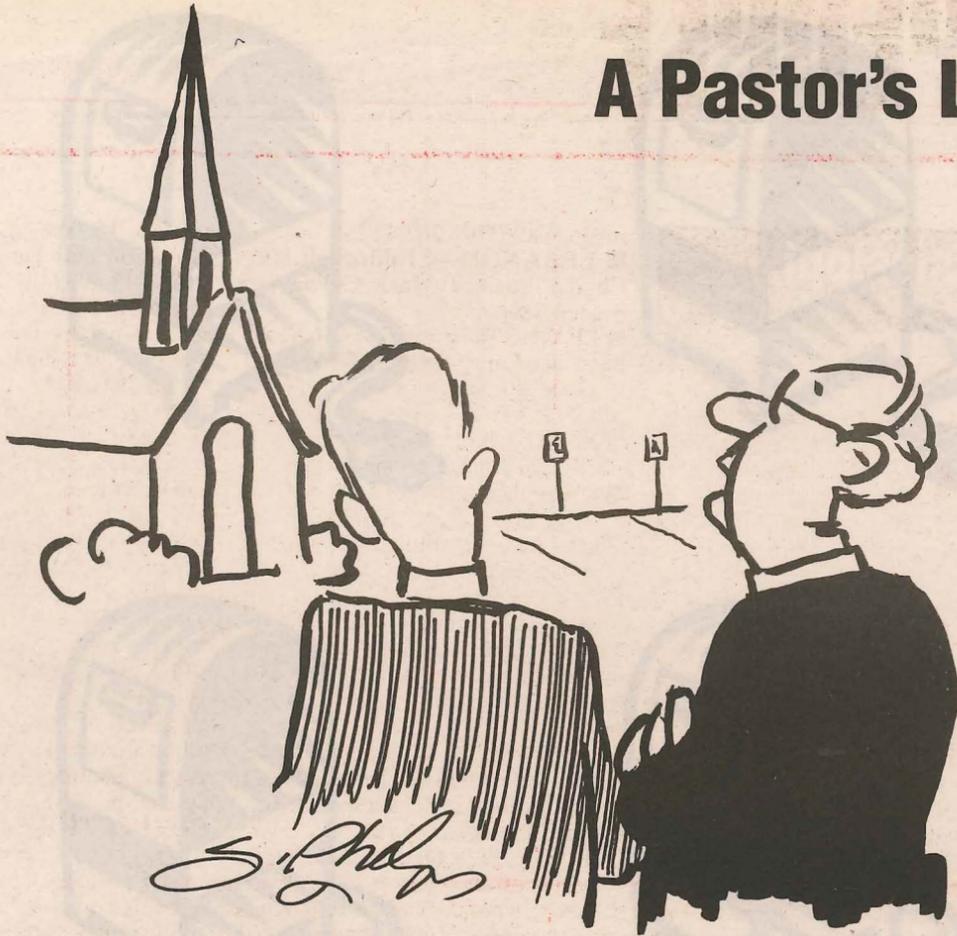
SEEKING: Full-time pastor for a small, South-central Kentucky church. Please submit resumé to: Pulpit Committee, Welfare Baptist Church 476 West Cumberland Ave., Jamestown, KY 42629.

SEEKING: Peaks Mill Baptist Church, Frankfort, Ky., prayerfully seeks a full-time pastor. Please submit two resúmes to: Deacon Roger Combs, 203 Creekside Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601, and Trustee John Griffin, 8209 Owenton Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

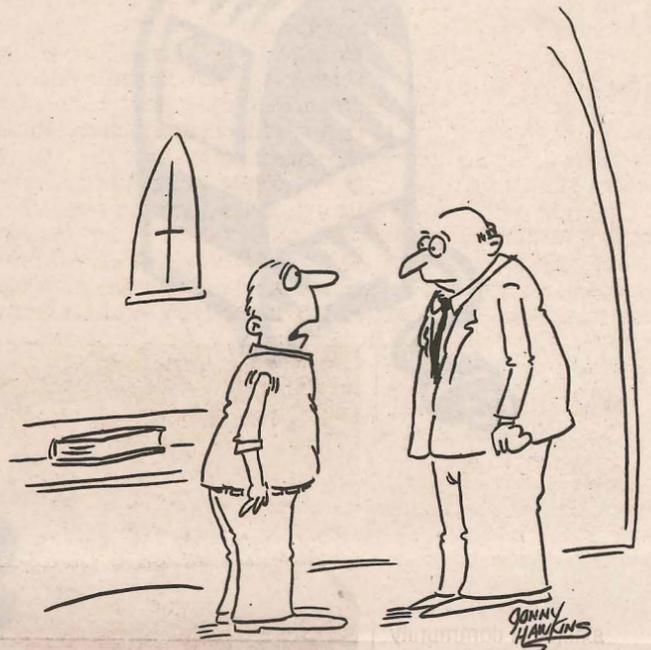
SEEKING: Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Ky., is accepting resúmes for position of part-time minister of music and part-time minister of youth or full-time minister of youth/music. Church is located in a rapidly developing residential area. Please send resumé to: Search Committee, 1800 Pear Orchard Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for small Eastern Kentucky church. Parsonage provided. Please submit resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 587, Jenkins, KY 41537.

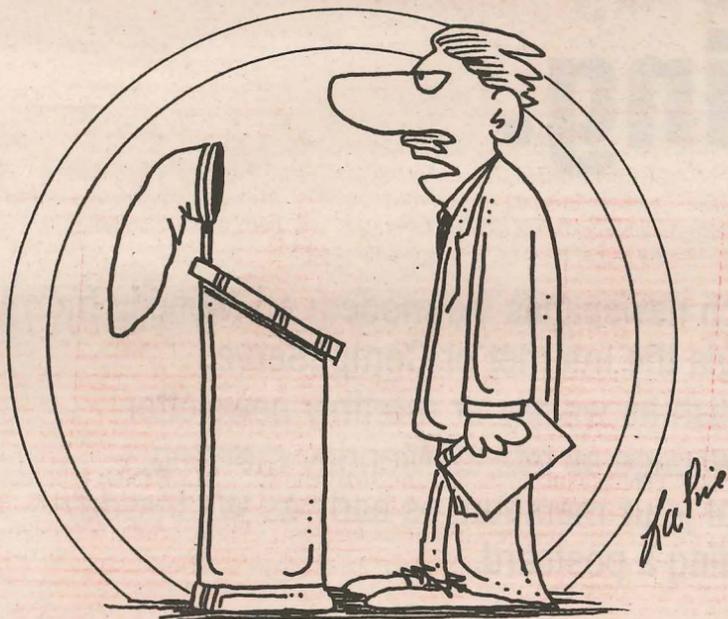
A Pastor's Life



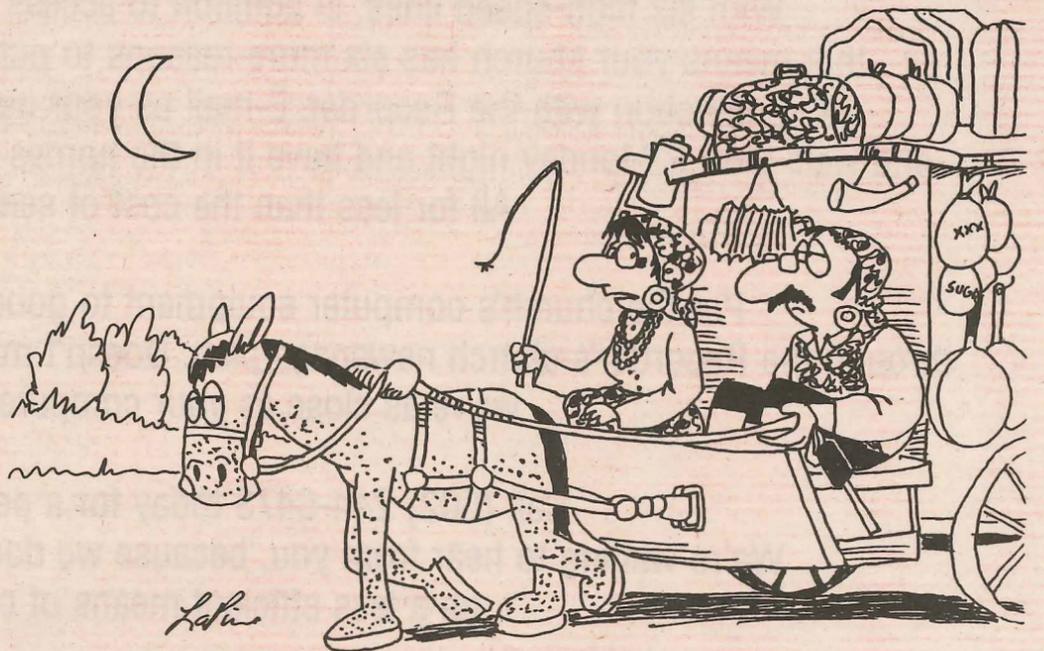
"You know, churches are like parking places. All the good ones are taken and the only ones left are handicapped."



"I'm a congenital liar, pastor. Should I enroll in a contrition class, or should I study to be a spin doctor?"



"A windsock? Are you all trying to tell me something?"



"Horge, we've got to stop moving around so often. Our kids are starting to think they are a pastor's children."



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