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Whatever happened to gratitude at Thanksgiving?

By Ryan Rockwood
 Religion News Service

PASEDNA, Calif. (RNS)—From the first Thanksgiving in 1621 to the football-rooting food-binge typical of the holiday today, the thoughts of Americans about the fourth Thursday of November have undergone a dramatic metamorphosis.

How has Thanksgiving changed? Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary, says the answer is simple: The gratitude is gone. "Gratitude presupposes that we think we have gotten something that we don't deserve," Mouw said. "As we see the world less in terms of a wonderful universe that is created by God ... and see the world in terms of cause and effect, manageable by technology, then we are much more inclined to think that what we have, we got by manipulating reality."

In other words: People today are less likely to believe they received something they did not deserve.

Of course, stripped of gratitude, or "thanks," the Thanksgiving holiday becomes little more than a state-sanctioned day of excessive eating rounded out by ecstatic or woeful yelps directed toward the television set.

Not that eating and watching TV is bad, Mouw said. But there is another, more important reason to pause and reflect on Thanksgiving Day: A keen awareness of life's blessings honors an important aspect of our humanity.

"We are created with the potential for gratitude and a sense of wonder in God's presence," he said. Then, it can only be to our psychological, spiritual and even physical health that we learn to be thankful."

No matter how corrupted, the practice of Thanksgiving is still vital. "It is a good thing that we have Thanksgiving Day, as a day to pause and allow the call to gratitude to get through to us," he said.

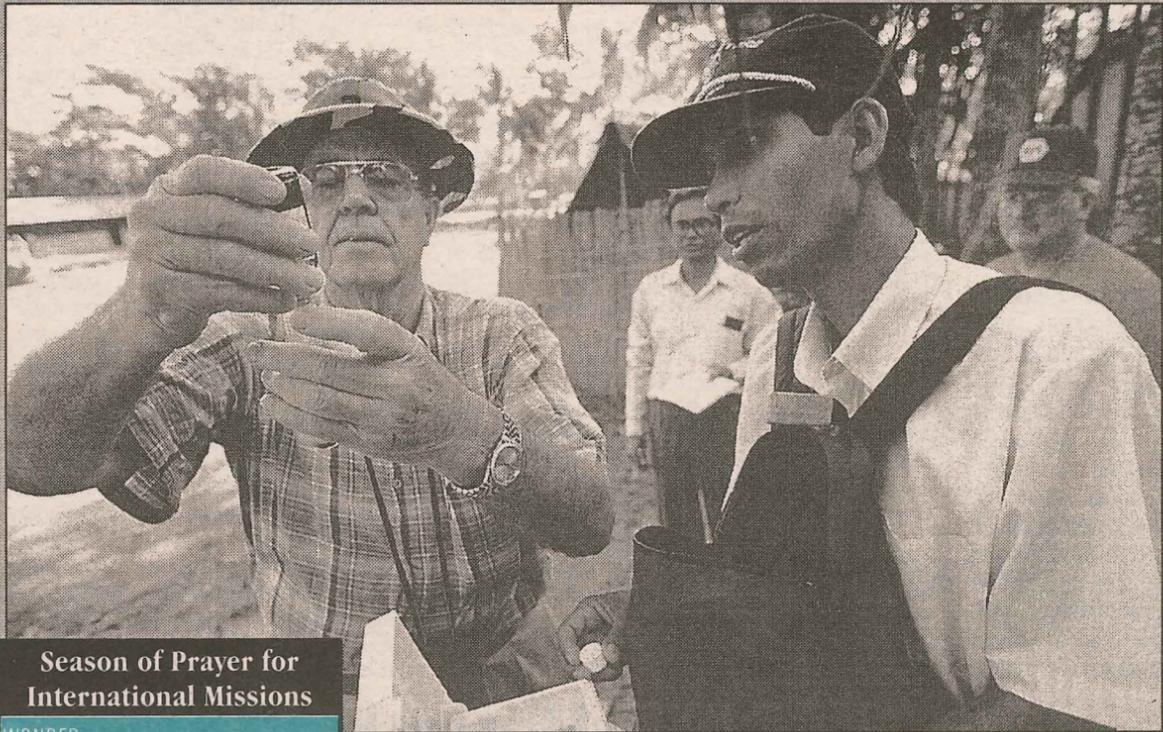
Getting that call of gratitude out of Thanksgiving is key, said U.S. religion historian Jon Pahl of Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Ind.

"A person who is grateful won't be obsessed with trying to grasp and acquire but will be able to appreciate and enjoy the opportunities that life provides," Pahl said.

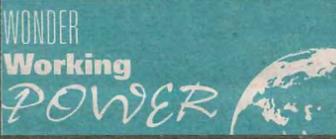
The call to gratitude transcends any particular faith, he said. "All the great religious teachers have taught this: The Buddha taught that suffering comes from attachment, from clinging to things. Jesus taught that true happiness comes not from clinging but from giving up one's life. The Koran teaches that true devotion is submission to God out of gratitude for mercy. The Jewish faith teaches thankfulness for the law."

"Of course," he admitted, "putting
 □ See Gratitude missing ..., page 10

Water, water everywhere



Season of Prayer for International Missions



WELL WORRIES Bangladesh's worst-ever flooding damaged or destroyed thousands of tube wells—the only source of clean drinking water for millions of people. ■ Top: Kentucky Baptist volunteer O.D. Boyd (left) checks well water for contamination as Bengali Baptist worker Samuel Bala (right) and fellow volunteer Larry Kemp (right background) observe. ■ Above: Muddy water spurts out the top of a pipe as a worker sinks a new tube well in rural Bangladesh. (BP photos by Roy Burroughs)

Kentuckians make sure it's safe to drink

By Erich Bridges
 SBC International Mission Board

GOPALGANJ, Bangladesh (BP)—O.D. Boyd suspiciously eyed the test tube of water taken from a well in Gopalganj, Bangladesh.

The water looked clean and clear, but looks can be deceiving.

"I've got one over there that's as poison as a rattlesnake," Boyd said, pointing to a vial filled with dark liquid. It looked pure, too, until the Kentucky Baptist volunteer analyzed it with a test kit. The analysis showed the water contained toxic levels of both bacteria and arsenic.

That's crucial information for the people of Bangladesh, millions of whom depend on simple tube wells for drinking water. Through the years, Southern Baptist missionaries and Bangladesh Baptists have dug hundreds of tube wells throughout the country.

Boyd, 73, a retired pastor from Cadiz, rushed to Bangladesh in October with four other Kentuckians. They helped missionaries test hundreds of wells and trained local Baptists and Bangladesh government workers in how to carry out the tests.

The nation's worst-ever flooding inundated Bangladesh between July and September, submerging up to 50,000 of the wells. Monsoon rains, seasonal tides from the Bay of Bengal and melting Himalayan snows from the north invade Bangladesh's rivers every year.

Deforestation of Asia's highlands has only increased the flow of water
 □ See Water squad ..., page 9

Moving? See page 4 (1124)

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Wake Forest Baptist Church** in North Carolina approved a statement Nov. 15 that permits their ministers to officiate at same-sex blessing ceremonies. Mac Brunson, president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, recently said the convention would end its relationship with Wake Forest Baptist if the church voted to affirm same-sex unions.

■ **Mary Ann Chandler**, a Southern Baptist missionary to Malawi, died of a heart attack Nov. 9 in Birmingham, Ala. She was 54. Chandler served as a social worker and women's worker and as treasurer for the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in Malawi. She was placed on medical disability in 1998.

■ **North Carolina Baptists** stopped short of severing ties with Wake Forest University for selling alcohol on campus. But messengers to the annual meeting voted to affirm colleges that prohibit alcoholic beverage sales on campus. Wake Forest University elects its own trustees, but the school annually contributes more than \$453,000 to Baptist student scholarships and other Baptist work on campus.

Newsweek: Baptists contributed to Clinton scandal

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

NEW YORK (ABP)—President Clinton's moral failure and his handling of the resulting scandal can be explained in part because he is a Baptist, according to a recent article in a major news magazine.

"To understand Clinton the president, you have to meet Bill the Baptist, a believer whose faith leaves plenty of license," said a subheading to a Nov. 2 Newsweek article titled "Sex, Sin and Salvation."

"Bill Clinton—both the public and the private man—cannot be fully understood without grasping the nuances of his Baptist upbringing," wrote Newsweek religion correspondent Kenneth Woodward.

Woodward stated that Clinton's speaking style is reminiscent of Baptist sermons, and that his policies on abortion and school vouchers echo the views of former Baptist spokesmen who fought the Roman Catholic Church over those issues.

"But Clinton's troubled personal life—and his repeated verbal evasions—also bears a distinctive Baptist stamp," the article continued.

Woodward wrote that Baptists believe that once saved, a person cannot

go to hell, even if he or she keeps on sinning. "There's no way you can get right with God by doing good," James Dunn, head of the Baptist Joint Committee, told Newsweek. "We do good, not in order to be saved, but because we have been saved."

Woodward also credited Clinton's Baptist upbringing with his belief that "what he does in private is nobody's business but the Lord's." He quoted Baptist historian Glenn Hinson. "When the president told the nation that his problems were between himself, his family and 'our God,' that was a very Baptist statement," said Hinson, a professor at Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond.

Finally, Woodward contended, "Bill was also schooled in the Baptist tradition of freedom of conscience—including matters of sex." He quoted Dunn on the Baptist distinctive of "soul competency," which allows Baptists to interpret the Bible for themselves. "The only Baptist creed," Dunn said, "is, 'Ain't nobody but Jesus going to tell me what to believe.'"

"For full-blooded youths like the adolescent Clinton, these Baptist doctrines offered considerable room for maneuvering through the sexual revolution of the 1960s," Woodward

wrote.

For some Baptists, that meant the rationalization attributed to Clinton—that anything short of full sexual contact did not count as adultery, the article said. "What he did is disgusting, but not what I would consider adultery," Foy Valentine, retired executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission is quoted as saying. "And I think that most Baptists would agree."

Baptist leaders responding to the article said it did not characterize the beliefs or morality of most Southern Baptists.

David Gushee, an ethics professor at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., said the article makes "broad generalizations" about Southern Baptist life. "As soon as we generalize, ... we are going to paint with too broad a brush," he said.

In a letter to Newsweek, Daniel Vestal, coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, said the article "unjustly caricatured Baptists as Christians with few, if any, moral convictions."

While Baptists have championed religious freedom and individual accountability, Vestal said, "At the same time, Baptists have looked to the lordship of Christ and the authority of

Scripture as the moral and spiritual compass for our lives."

"If you look into the hearts of the Baptists I know, you will find neither legalists nor libertines," Vestal said. "Our freedom in Christ does not mean license to do as we please, but freedom to be faithful and obedient to God in every area of our lives, both public and private."

Albert Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said the article validates concerns behind a 20-year "conservative transformation" of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Moderates who led the convention during Clinton's early political career and continue to support his policies "have become his Baptist enablers," Mohler wrote in a column released to several media outlets.

"Newsweek has demonstrated conclusively the kind of theological and spiritual influences that produce a Bill Clinton," Mohler wrote. "In the Southern Baptist Convention, the rejection of those leaders produced a revolution. Only time will tell if the nation is ready to accept 'Bill the Baptist' as Clinton the President."

With additional reporting by Greg Warner

International Mission Board budgets \$1 million for disaster relief

By Louis Moore
SBC International Mission Board

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (BP)—International Mission Board trustees, meeting Nov. 16-18, approved spending \$1 million from the board's operating reserves for special hurricane relief efforts in Central America.

Trustees also adopted the largest budget in IMB history, tabled until January a convention-requested discussion on the board's policy on not appointing divorced people as missionaries, appointed 90 new missionaries and heard a challenge from Southern Baptist Convention President Paige Patterson to baptize 500,000 people overseas in 2000.

The IMB normally taps relief

funds for responses to hurricane damage, but unprecedented disasters in Bangladesh, the Caribbean and Central America have nearly depleted those resources. Relief funds for disasters are separate from world hunger funds, which are used for hunger-related relief only.

Months of flooding in Bangladesh inundated three-quarters of the country, killed more than 1,500 people, left millions homeless and badly damaged the economy. Hurricane Georges killed 437 people in the Dominican Republic and Haiti in September. The October disaster in Central America killed at least 11,000 people, forced about 3 million from their homes and devastated agriculture and business in the region.

As of Nov. 12, the board's disaster

relief fund was down to \$21,773.54—woefully inadequate to the challenges ahead.

Trustees viewed a video focusing on the devastation in Honduras, which was particularly hard-hit by the disaster. On the video, missionaries said the hurricane's damage has created unprecedented needs but also unprecedented opportunity to share the Christian faith with people in the region.

Trustees tabled until January a motion to reaffirm the board policy of not appointing divorced people as career or associate missionaries. Those wanting the delay said they needed more time to pray and study the matter before engaging in formal debate.

The tabled recommendation said, "In response to the request from the Southern Baptist Convention meeting

in June 1998, that the IMB restudy its policy regarding the appointment of divorced persons, the personnel committee recommends that the board reaffirm its current policy of allowing divorced persons to serve only through its ISC (International Service Corps) program."

ISC offers short-term service opportunities, usually ranging from four months to two years.

Trustees also approved the largest annual IMB budget ever. The 1999 budget of \$229.9 million includes a \$19.2 million increase compared to 1998. IMB Vice President for Finance Carl Johnson said the increase is possible because Cooperative Program funds, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and board investments all are rising.

Tennessee Baptists vote to escrow college's money

KINGSPORT, Tenn. (BP)—Messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention approved a motion to escrow the \$2.2 million set aside for Carson-Newman College in the 1998-99 state convention budget.

In April, Carson-Newman trustees voted to become a self-perpetuating board. Numerous meetings of the state convention executive board's education committee led to the development of a new plan for college trustee selection.

Carson-Newman trustees voted to accept the agreement and revise their bylaws to come into compliance if the "protocol" was approved by state convention messengers.

The executive board learned 10 days before the convention that the protocol was in conflict with the convention's constitution and bylaws and ultimately voted to refer the protocol

to the TBC constitution and bylaws committee.

During the presentation of the budget, James Stroud, pastor of Third Creek Baptist Church in Knoxville, moved to amend the Cooperative Program budget to withhold allocations for Carson-Newman College "pending a satisfactory resolution of the violation of the bylaws, policies and programs of the Tennessee Baptist Convention by the trustees of Carson-Newman College which occurred on April 17, 1998."

Jerry Tidwell, pastor of West Jackson Baptist Church, Jackson, spoke for the amendment. He said his hope was for Carson-Newman to come "back into the fold. My belief is the best thing we can do to motivate Carson-Newman to come back is for us to escrow these funds."

He cautioned that if the amend-

ment was not passed it might make churches "decide if they want to support Carson-Newman with Cooperative Program dollars. Please don't force churches to make a decision this year with designated giving," he said.

Fred Steelman, pastor of Red Bank Baptist Church in Chattanooga, and a trustee of Carson-Newman, cautioned that escrowing funds would limit money for student scholarships.

Bill Sherman, retired pastor of Woodmont Baptist Church in Nashville, said the issue was not whether the convention should or should not escrow funds, but rather, "Do we want to be family?"

A strong response against the school would polarize and alienate the family, Sherman said. "Let's be people of grace; let's be people of love."

The motion to escrow the funds passed by a 959-742 margin.



"Pastor Bedtime, how can we have revival when we've never had vival?"

KBHC responds after firing of lesbian youth worker

By David Winfrey
News Director

LOUISVILLE—After a lesbian protested her firing from Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, officials with the agency say employees know when they're hired that the childcare organization has lifestyle requirements consistent with its Christian mission.

Alicia Pedreira told the Louisville Courier-Journal newspaper she was fired from KBHC Oct. 23 after a picture of her and her partner appeared in a Kentucky State Fair photography contest.

Jack Cox, a manager who hired Pedreira, said he and four other employees have since resigned from the agency in protest.

Brenda Gray, KBHC vice presi-

dent for communications and development, said privacy concerns prohibit discussing specific employees. But she said the agency is up front about its expectations of workers.

"Every employee who comes in to our agency is made aware of our values," Gray said.

The applications potential employees fill out is one way they learn about KBHC policy, she added. "It's pretty clear on that in terms of what our expectations are."

The first section of the application reads: "Employees are expected to exhibit values in their professional conduct and personal lifestyles that are consistent with the Christian mission and purpose of the institution."

In a statement released by the agency, KBHC states homosexuali-

ty is a lifestyle that would prohibit employment.

"Ours is not a ministry of condemnation. We are trying as best we know how to provide the best possible environment for the children in our care," the statement reads. "We feel the best way to carry out this mission is to provide these children with teachers, caregivers and role models who embrace traditional family and sexual values."

Pedreira and Cox told the Courier-Journal she acknowledged being a lesbian when she was hired in May as an art therapist and supervisor for the Spring Meadows Children's Home in Middletown.

Cox said he told her that wouldn't be a problem as long as she didn't talk about her private life at work.

KBHC applications ask applicants

to sign a certification that "I understand that if employed, I will be required to follow the personnel policies and rules of the institution and the infractions of such rules may lead to my discharge."

Pedreira said the photo of herself, wearing an "Isle of Lesbos" T-shirt, and her partner was taken during a local AIDS walk and entered in the state fair's contest without her permission.

She returned from vacation in August and learned several employees at Spring Meadows had seen the photo, the Courier-Journal reported.

The firing has resulted in Spalding University and the University of Louisville's Kent School of Social Work withdrawing their students from KBHC programs, the Courier-Journal reported.

BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville will host tours of the Lottie Moon Heritage Room on its campus Nov. 30-Dec 4. Cornelia Williams, an adjunct professor of church drama, will lead tours dressed as the famed missionary to China. Tours will be offered from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 897-4143.

■ Answers in Genesis, an organization that is seeking to build a creation museum and offices in Northern Kentucky, reported that the Boone County planning commission has denied a zoning change for 25 acres where the museum is intended. "The county's comprehensive plan clearly provides that the tract of land should be zoned for industrial use," founder Ken Ham said in a statement. He said the organization will appeal.

Polish seminary leader excited about Kentucky partnership

Brenda Smith
KBC Communications Office

LOUISVILLE—For practically all of this century, Polish Baptists have dreamt of having their own seminary, according to Gustaw Cieslar.

Years of communism suspended that dream, but Kentucky Baptists can help their counterparts in Poland put the finishing touches on the school, said Cieslar, president of Warsaw Baptist Theological Seminary.

Cieslar recently was in Louisville to attend the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He helped announce the new three year partnership between Kentucky and Polish Baptists.

He said he's excited about what the partnership can mean for the Polish seminary, which has 50 students.

Polish Baptists first established a seminary in 1906, but World Wars I and II and the subsequent communist

occupation derailed the effort, he said. In 1939, the few buildings the fledgling seminary possessed were nationalized by the communist government.

But within five years of the fall of communism in Eastern Europe and Poland in 1989, Polish Baptists established Warsaw Baptist Theological Seminary under Cieslar's leadership.

"It is my strong hope that we can finish the chapel during this partnership," Cieslar said. The chapel, located in the heart of the four-building campus, is nearly completed but volunteers are needed to finish the work.

"The roof is on," Cieslar said, pointing to a picture of a model of the campus. "It just needs inside work." Doors must be hung, carpet laid and heating systems installed. Upon com-

pletion, the 250-seat auditorium will serve as a multi-purpose facility.

In addition to providing construction help, Kentucky Baptists also will partner with the seminary for missions and evangelism. Poland is 95 percent Roman Catholic, but recent surveys suggest half of all Poles could be considered unreached with the gospel.

Of the 40 million people in Poland, only 4,000 are Baptists, Cieslar said. "Anyone who is not a Catholic, people are curious about him," he said, noting that most people are cautious about other religions.

Poland has fared better economically than most Eastern European countries recovering from communism. "More and more people are going to a new religion—materialism," Cieslar said. Polish Baptists face a

unique challenge to witness in a post-modern, post-Christian society, he added.

One way Baptists in Poland reach out is through practical ministries, he said.

Seminary students tutor children, some of whom live in families struggling with such problems as alcohol abuse. Practical ministries lead to evangelistic opportunities, Cieslar said, as being in homes gives students a chance to share their Christian faith.

Kentucky Baptists will join in this type of ministry, he added. Volunteers are needed to work with Polish Baptists for vacation Bible schools, camps and retreats.

"From the beginning, one of my dreams is that teachers in Poland can have a partnership with teachers in the United States," Cieslar said. He said he envisions teacher and student exchange programs, as well as the frequent exchange of books and ideas.



Cieslar

Florence church's truck stop ministry takes gospel to the highways

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

FLORENCE—After driving a tractor trailer for more than 15 years, Jim Miller understands the pressures truck drivers face.

So while leading music during Sunday services at the TA of Florence truck stop, he has a personal interest in seeing visitors come to know Christ as their Savior.

"Guys are out there for two, four, six weeks or longer," said Miller, a member of Union Baptist Church in Florence. "They're lonely. There's drugs, alcohol, women—the normal temptations anyone has."

"They need to have Christian fellowship and we need to get people to know the Lord," he said. "We want to show people how to have eternal life."

Established in 1990 by another congregation, Union Baptist took responsibility for the ministry in January 1996. Besides conducting weekly services, volunteers distribute Bibles, gospel tracts, audio tapes and other materials to drivers.

Since Union Baptist started its efforts at the truck stop off exit 181

(where U.S. Interstates 75 and 71 intersect state Highway 18), about 30 people have become Christians.

Leader Bill Stephenson called that the highlight of his experience, which began several years earlier with another truck stop ministry.

"Every time one of them gets saved, it's awesome," he said. "We led a couple drivers to the Lord in their truck; they didn't even come to the service."

Stephenson doesn't come from a trucking background, working in sales for a financial services company. But he said he got involved because of his desire to take the Christian message outside the church walls.

"One of the neat things about the ministry is it gets the church involved in outreach," he said. "The Lord says, 'They're out there, just go.'"

Services attract about 10 drivers each week.

Starting an hour before chapel services, volunteers pray and circulate through the parking lot, inviting truckers to attend. They also distribute notices at the restaurant and make announcements over their CB radio.

A variety of Kentucky Baptist pas-

sors deliver the sermons. Once or twice a month the speaker is Edwin Kirkpatrick, a veteran of truck stop ministry. His wife, Shirley, plays the organ each week.

They use a Baptist hymnal, but the service doesn't resemble a traditional church service, Stephenson said. For one thing, no money is collected.

"It's a more relaxed atmosphere," he said. "They're there because they want to be. Drivers don't play any spiritual games with you. They come just as they are."

The group currently meets in the TV lounge. The church has purchased a 48-foot trailer and converted it into a chapel, but construction work at the truck stop has postponed use of the new quarters. After it can be moved onto the site next year, Stephenson plans to post volunteers there throughout the week to offer counseling for drivers seeking spiritual direction.

Services end at 10 a.m., an hour before Union's Sunday morning worship. Drivers often accept invitations to visit the nearby church.

When a driver becomes a Christian, the ministry often follows up with a letter to a Baptist church in the driv-

er's home area, informing them of the person's decision.

"This is the front lines," Pastor Wayne Lipscomb said of the ministry's value. "It's pure evangelism and kind of a reality check for us. Missions awareness is the big impact."

Truckers represent a major mission field, Miller said. "There are 8.5 million drivers out there, and when you take the wives and children, it's a big ministry," he said.

The Florence ministry is one of about 80 affiliated with Truckers Christian Chapel, which supplies some of the gospel materials distributed to drivers.

Founded by retired trucker Glenn Cope, Truckers Christian Chapel is the third-oldest truck stop ministry in the nation. TCC has offices at Enon First Baptist Church, south of Dayton, Ohio. Its Baptist beliefs are an important foundation for the group, said Louise Brinnon, Cope's sister and office manager.

"We believe in eternal salvation," she said. "We want to make sure when a driver stops at Florence, he gets the same basic instruction he would in London (Ky.) or Cheyenne (Wyo.)."

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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Bangladesh: Thanks

I don't know your name, but if you are anything like the five gentlemen from Kentucky Baptist churches who have been working with us for more than a week testing tubewell water for bacteria, then it would be a privilege to meet you.

You probably know that Bangladesh experienced the worst floods in its history during July, August and September of this year. More than 20 million people lost their homes, two rice crops were lost and thousands of tubewells were polluted with bacteria. Southern Baptists are responding to the need and we are grateful for that beyond words. When we realized that

tubewell water had been affected by the floods, we requested the IMB to find volunteers who would be willing to help us determine the extent of that damage. The five men who came to work with us not only helped us determine the extent of the need, it is likely that they have made a startling discovery in the process. We decided to test some areas not affected by the floods in order to compare results. In that testing, sufficient information was recorded to indicate that there is a layer of water throughout Bangladesh, generally used for tubewells, that is always affected by bacteria.

This is a major find because so many people are affected by it. It is quite likely that the men from Kentucky have identified a problem none thought existed. If they can now help us find a solution, this entire nation will benefit.

We in the Bangladesh Baptist Mission want to thank Kentucky Baptists

in general, and the following men in particular: O.D. Boyd, Larry Kemp and James Outland of Cadiz, and Paul Filiatreau and Sam Watkins of London. Your guys made our work so easy; thank you so much.

*R.T. Buckley
Bangladesh Baptist Mission*

Terms misleading

The equating of the term "Evangelical" with the term "Protestant" can be misleading. In several very old church histories the term "evangelical" was used to describe those brethren who held to the biblical evangel (meaning gospel), resisted the concept of a state church and did not add sacramental religious works to the gospel.

The danger of this misunderstanding is easily seen in the document "Evangelicals and Catholics Together; the Christian Mission in the Third Millennium." This document's non-Catholic endorsers claim to be "evangelical Protestants." These men have betrayed the true gospel of Christ by leading in an acceptance of the Roman Catholic sacramental system. Amazingly, even one of its drafters has admitted "... those of us who have endorsed the document are lending credence to that heresy (baptismal regeneration)." That this document has been endorsed by several well-known Southern Baptists insures the continued decline of our historically evangelical Baptist heritage.

I applaud the passion for the truth of our heritage as Baptists. To very many of us this name is not primarily a denominational name-tag, but rather identifies us with our rich heritage

in the true teachings of Christ. As we look back in the record of the New Testament Scriptures, there we find faithful brethren in Christ who believed just as we do now. Many of these died rather than betray the faith. Our true foundation, our real and lasting heritage is the gospel of Christ as revealed in the word of God. We do not need to be ashamed of our historic name; we do need to live up to that name. I have not the least thought that our brother who baptized the Lord would disagree with the terminology used to describe him as "John, the Baptist!"

*Jerry Moser
Theriot, La.*

Living in Babylon

Today we are living in Babylon. As Psalms 137:9 says, so we are today. Psalms 137:9: "Happy is he who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks."

This past election we Christians had an opportunity to overturn Clinton's veto of the partial abortion ban. As a Christian, I believe this should have been the first priority for voting in this election.

I fear that we will never have another opportunity to do this. Do we put so much importance on the stock market that we push aside the suffering of these little ones whose heads are being crushed?

If so, our economy is certainly doomed. Our God is a jealous God. I also believe there is a special place in hell for church members who become neutral in the face of evil and wrong doing. I remember an old precious minister who said, "you gotta get 'em lost before you can get 'em saved." How true.

*Joyce A. Smith
Edgewood*

CHURCH

How churches can develop good stewards

By Doug Strader

If there was ever a time when good stewards were developed automatically in churches, that day has long since passed. If we are to have good stewards we must intentionally develop them. How can we do that?

■ *Have a special emphasis on worship.* Our churches must do a better job of worshipping through our giving. One resource for that is a book by Talmadge Williams called "The Worshippingiver."

■ *Preach more than once each year on giving.* George Barna, Herb Miller and others have conducted surveys that prove church people are open to sermons on giving, tithing, stewardship and their responsibility as Christian stewards. Somehow, we have been led to believe church people do not want the pastor to preach about money.

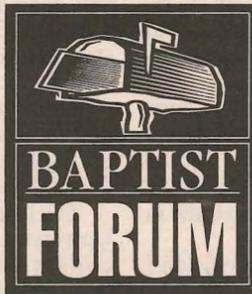
That is not necessarily true. Most people want to know how the money is spent and what good is being accomplished with the money they give.

■ *Provide special Sunday school lessons at least quarterly to help people know the biblical teachings about tithing and giving.* This should be done for all age groups, including preschoolers. If Sunday school lessons are not used, have a study that teaches our stewardship opportunities and responsibilities.

■ *Have testimonies once a quarter or even more often.* Have variety in the testimonies. Have someone give a testimony about how the money given by the church helps do different kinds of ministry. Use the 'Missionary Moments' readings before the offering is received to show how the money given helps our missionaries at home and around the world. Do not assume everyone in your worship service is knowledgeable about our Southern Baptist Cooperative Program work around the world. ("Missionary Moments" can be ordered from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program office.)

■ *Find ways to say 'thank you' to your faithful stewards.* This can be done by the pastor from the pulpit. It can be done by the stewardship/budget committee by writing 'thank you' notes.

Reprinted from WR, Oct. 14, 1997. Doug Strader is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Thanksgiving

It is wonderful to reflect on all the reasons we have for Thanksgiving.

We live in one of the most privileged nations in the world and maybe in history. We rejoice with family and friends who enrich our lives. The church fellowship provides a caring community of faith.

This Thanksgiving, I especially praise God for the meaningful worship and sharing experience of the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting. We were led in worship through drama, prayer, testimonies and music.

The joint choir musical, "God With Us," was inspiring and memorable. The combined college choir was outstanding. All of those students were visible reminders of the value of education in a Christian environment. Common Call delighted the audience with their up-tempo gospel music. The St. Stephen Baptist Church choir also was outstanding.

The president's address by Gayle Toole was from the heart of a pas-

tor who loves the Lord and Kentucky Baptists.

Kevin Cosby, pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church, captured the audience with his dramatic message and question, "Why Is God Absent?"



Bill Mackey

The closing message by Richard Jackson, former pastor of the large North Phoenix Baptist Church, was one of the most powerful I have ever heard on evangelism and mission. He proclaimed Jesus not only makes the difference but Jesus is the difference.

The reports from agencies, institutions and convention staff reflected the theme "Jesus Makes the Difference." Video segments enabled messengers and guests to see people involved in missions and ministries and to hear testimonies by people receiving ministry.

The convention also conducted necessary business by approving a budget goal for 1999-2000, adopting six resolutions, admitting eight new churches, approving the committee on nominations' report, elect-

ing convention officers and accepting reports from institutions, agencies, our mission boards and convention staff.

One resolution encouraged members and churches to participate in Partnership 2000, a campaign to raise \$30 million for the Kentucky Baptist colleges. I would encourage churches and members to strongly support this campaign. I have made a three-year pledge, and I pray you will too.

Many people expressed appreciation for the facilities at the Galt House. With everything under one roof, all meetings, luncheons, rooms and exhibits were very accessible. These arrangements enhanced opportunities for fellowship and renewing acquaintances, which are a big part of this annual event. I met several couples who said this was their first time to attend and that they would be back next year.

The KBC staff worked hard on arrangements, reporting and registration, as well as exhibits. God is to be praised for giving us such a unified, worshipful, informative and inspiring convention.

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

How can I help my son react to being cut from the high school basketball team? He played last year, but was beat out by two sophomores this season. He just mopes around and gets upset at anything we try to say to make him feel better.

Your son does not need answers as much as he craves understanding. For him this is a big, devastating loss. Give him some time to accept the reality of this event and to express his hurt feelings. Just listen and try to understand. After he voices the negative emotions, he may be ready to plan a response.

Wait until some of the sting of the dismissal heals and then begin to talk about a positive course of action. He might wish to find another activity, play basketball in a church or community program or attend basketball camps and try again next year. Build a list of options together and let him choose a response.

Also, he might wish to decide how he will react to the other players. Will he be able to congratulate them and still support the team, or is he going to act ugly and pretend to dislike basketball? Somewhere, sometime he will have to choose how to talk about this with other students.

Be ready to support his efforts to be a good sport and to be confident about himself. It takes courage to miss a goal and not to become a sore loser. "Love your neighbor as yourself" may be most difficult in the area of sports. — *Wade Rowatt*

My wife has told me she wants a divorce and will not consider marital counseling to save the marriage. I need help to survive this overwhelming sense of shock and grief. What are some specific things I can do when reconciliation is elusive and divorce appears to be inevitable?

Jim Smoke, in his book "Growing Through Divorce," lists 10 things to do when you feel a divorce is inevitable:

- Stop and pray. Commit your entire situation to God. Ask for his help, guidance and emotional support.
- Call your best friends and ask for their prayer and support.
- Stay in touch with your feelings. Share them with those you can trust.
- Do not "overspiritualize" your situation. You may simply have to live out a bad decision someone else has made.
- Do not panic. No matter what happens, God is still in charge.
- Contact an attorney to determine your legal grounds.
- List all your fears, then list all your resources.
- Pull as many family members around you as you can, asking for their love and support.
- Seek out a divorce recovery support group in your community. They will often focus around either Smoke's book, "Growing Through Divorce," Harold Ivan Smith's workbook "A Time for Healing," the video series DivorceCare or materials produced through the ministry of Fresh Start. Read these materials thoroughly and often.
- Remember that healing takes time. There is no "quick fix" for a divorce. — *James Stillwell*

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



What should our focus be for 1999?

By Charles D. Barnes

I believe great days are ahead for Kentucky Baptists. We have a rich heritage which will provide the foundation for realizing the opportunities of the 21st century. I am humbled to be asked to serve as president of the convention and look forward to being a part of moving Baptist ministries forward in a new era.

In order to position Kentucky Baptists for the 21st century, where should we place our focus in 1999? There are four areas on which I believe that we should place major emphases: One, support the vision and leadership of Bill Mackey, our new executive secretary-treasurer. Two, encourage Kentucky Baptist churches to support Partnership 2000. Three, continue our strong support for partnership missions. Four, help Kentucky Baptists prepare to financially undergird Baptist causes for the future.

All Kentucky Baptists have been impressed and blessed by Mackey's warmth, sincerity and energy. Mackey has shown that he and the staff want to know the hearts of Kentucky Baptists and serve them in fulfilling their God-given mission.

At the Nov. 9 meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board, Mackey presented and the board approved a staff reorganization along with a new logo and vision statement. Although it is early in Mackey's ministry as Kentucky's leader, Baptists in the pulpit and pew have seen his servant spirit and his passion for leadership, evangelism and church growth. Let us commit ourselves to holding up Mackey's arms and following his leadership.

The Partnership 2000 campaign strongly deserves the support of all Baptists. The Kentucky Baptist Convention's three liberal arts colleges are the strongest they have been in my memory. The presidents of these institutions are leading in a splendid way. Christian education does make a difference in the lives of our young people.

Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown College prepare young men and women for life. Compared to Kentucky's public universities, Ken-

tucky independent colleges and universities offer a different environment for their students. Kentucky Baptist schools rank at the top of the list of independent schools.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention has approved allowing these schools to take the Partnership 2000 campaign directly to Kentucky Baptist churches through 1999. This is a unique campaign. All three schools have united in one effort to increase their endowments and build or improve needed facilities. Baptist pastors and lay leaders should make a special effort to make this campaign part of each church's stewardship or budget program. The year 1999 will be our churches' last opportunity to show their support for Christian education at Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown.

I'm also excited about our new partnership missions work with Poland and Tanzania. Thanks to the vision of Bill Marshall, our retired executive secretary-treasurer, Kentucky Baptists' focus on missions has kept our Baptist people united in our Lord's name during times of denominational changes. Our partnerships have bore fruit and provided meaningful experiences and Christian growth to all who participated.

It is my prayer that our pastors and lay people will increase their effort to share God's word and his love through this mission program.

Through Barry Allen's articles in this paper, Kentucky Baptist have been made aware of the large amount of wealth that will pass from current owners to someone else during the next decade. This can be a problem or an opportunity for our Baptist people. It likely will be some of both.

But how Kentucky Baptists handle this will impact their spiritual lives and stewardship. Baptist church members have the opportunity to have a major impact and undergird Kentucky Baptist causes for the 21st century.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation has a competent staff and professional leadership ready to assist all Kentucky Baptists. Let us challenge each other to make a lasting difference with our resources for Kentucky Baptist causes.

Charles Barnes is president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and a layman at Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville

What does the Lord require?

By Ron Sisk

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

Sometimes the Lord's demands are clear, direct and simple. Sometimes they are clear and direct, but far from simple. The Hebrews of Micah's day thought they could please God with the right religious ceremony. If you listen closely, you can almost hear echoes of the contemporary/traditional worship wars!

But tinkering with worship style wasn't at all what God had in mind. Instead the Lord takes you and me outside the sanctuaries into the streets of the city. What does the Lord require?

■ **Do justice.** Justice treats every person as God's beloved. In the Hebrew, justice and righteousness are different words. In the Greek, they are the same. Simply put, you can't be right with God if you don't treat all

God's creatures well.

The recent killing of a gay college student in Wyoming illustrates this. Believe what you will about his lifestyle, his life was as precious to God as that of a newborn child or a Baptist pastor. Similarly, news accounts tell us that the Reformed Church in South Africa has at last renounced apartheid.

Too little, and much too late.

What a pity that the people of God so often fail to lead in matters of justice. Instead of doing justice ourselves we let society lead us.

■ **Love kindness.** The Hebrew word here is 'hesed', a term which includes mercy, love, gentleness. In many ways it is equivalent to the New Testament idea of grace.

The prophet seems to have known what too often proves true today. Those with a passion for what is right need to temper that with an equal passion for loving even those we believe to be wrong. Too often the church does justice meanly, and thus denies the very God we claim to serve.

Loving kindness, on the other

hand, Jesus never sacrificed moral integrity. But again and again he put the self-consciously upright to shame. Next time you want to gauge your church's image in the community, try calling up the local homeless shelter or Habitat for Humanity office or Alcoholics Anonymous chapter and asking them what local congregations they have experienced as kind.

■ **Walk humbly with your God.** Some commentators suggest that "humbly" here really means "carefully." Daniel Simundson argues that the key word is actually "walk." In other words, be certain that you are actually consciously taking God with you as you go about in the world. Approach your daily challenges and frustrations as though God is right there watching, because God is.

Always seek to see people and situations through God's eyes. The "WWJD" bracelets, reminding us to ask "What Would Jesus Do?" are popular with our youth these days. Clearly Jesus would do justice. Jesus would love kindness. Your call and mine is to walk with Jesus. That's what the Lord requires.



Ron Sisk is pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville

Did Clinton's Baptist roots influence sex scandal?

Baptist buddies were spiritual 'enablers'

By Al Mohler Jr.

Americans attempting to reconcile President Clinton's sex scandals with his membership in a Baptist church received assistance from Newsweek magazine Nov. 2. The newsmagazine presented an analysis of the President as "Bill the Baptist." It goes a long way toward explaining the President—and the transformation of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Reporter Kenneth Woodward described Clinton as "a believer whose faith leaves plenty of license." Plenty, indeed. Most tellingly, the article also introduces those Baptists who seem to think that the President's behavior is perfectly within acceptable bounds for the nation's chief executive. Woodward inadvertently points to the issues which led to the conservative transformation of the Southern Baptist Convention over the last 20 years.

In a nutshell, grassroots Southern Baptists arose in the late 1970s and, over the course of two decades, overthrew a liberal denominational regime that had championed a vision of Baptist identity in which Bill Clinton had felt securely at home. The denomination's conservative leadership—repulsed by the President's behavior—has called for his resignation. The exiled liberal element, who prefer to call themselves moderates, love the President's policies and believe that his series of embarrassing escapades should by no means bar the comple-

tion of his term. They have become his Baptist enablers.

Woodward quotes three principal moderates in his article—James Dunn, Glenn Hinson and Foy Valentine—and all three are well known to Southern Baptist controversy.

For many years, Dunn was one of the denomination's most notorious irritants, leading his agency—which represents several Baptist groups—to champion a radical vision of church-state separation that put the BJCPA into regular alignment with the liberal American Civil Liberties Union and People for the American Way. Dunn refused to oppose abortion on demand and regularly opposed positions the Convention championed. By 1991 the SBC had had enough, and it defunded Dunn's agency.

In Glenn Hinson, professor at the moderate Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Woodward found a church historian with a penchant for scandalizing the faithful. So far as Hinson is concerned, the President's sin is none of our business. "When the President told the nation that his problems were between himself, his family and 'our God,' that was a very Baptist statement," Hinson said.

Well, let's

hope not—because it is not a very Christian statement. To call Clinton's pattern of serial adultery and lies "problems" is to relieve him of personal responsibility—and it avoids dealing with what the Bible so clearly reveals about the President's sin.

Citations from Hinson's writings were critical ammunition for the conservative movement in the SBC. Hinson had argued that the birth narratives of the New Testament "are more theological interpretation than historical fact," that Jesus "may have contemplated becoming a follower of John" and that the four gospels must be discounted because they were "embellished" by the early church.

The last of Woodward's gang of three is Foy Valentine who was executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission during Clinton's formative years. More than anyone else, Valentine represents the links between President Clinton and the old moderate Southern Baptist leadership—especially illustrated by the issue of abortion.

Valentine's commission was the SBC's moral concerns agency—and his 27 years of leadership put the con-

vention in line with the most liberal mainline Protestant denominations. A long-time supporter of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights, Valentine opposed

any move by the SBC to reverse its abortion statement. Nevertheless, in 1980 the SBC turned aside the advice of its own moral concerns agency and adopted a solidly pro-life resolution.

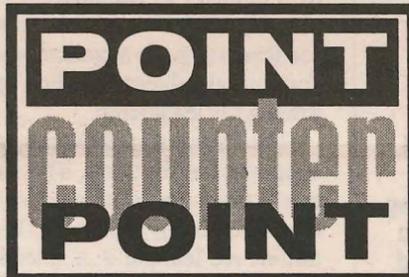
According to Newsweek, Valentine is standing ready to affirm the President's rather Orwellian definition of adultery as well. "What he did is disgusting, but not what I would consider adultery," Valentine stated, adding that he is sure "most Baptists would agree."

Woodward's article goes far in explaining the President's twisted moral world view. But it also serves as an indictment of the generation of liberal Baptist leaders who served as Bill Clinton's moral advisors—and are now his enablers in a lifestyle of gross immorality. Years of theological compromise led to the collapse of any moral sense of gravity within SBC leadership as typified by Dunn, Hinson and Valentine.

Southern Baptists will have to live with the tragic memory of these chapters in our denominational history. The nation is now living with the grotesque reality of a morally bankrupt presidency. Newsweek has demonstrated conclusively the kind of theological and spiritual influences that produce a Bill Clinton. In the SBC, the rejection of those leaders produced a revolution. Only time will tell if the nation is ready to accept "Bill the Baptist" as Clinton the President.

Al Mohler Jr. is president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. This article originally appeared in *World* magazine.

YES



NO

Remember: No Baptist speaks for another

By Toby Druin

If you read Kenneth Woodward's "Sex, Sin and Salvation" in the Nov. 2 issue of Newsweek, you got the message that:

■ Moderate Baptists see President Clinton as an "exemplary Baptist president."

■ During President Clinton's youth, "Baptist spokesmen fiercely fought against Catholic efforts to keep abortion illegal."

■ What the president does in private is nobody's business but the Lord's.

■ Each Baptist can interpret the Bible "correctly" for himself, and those interpretations could include considerable sexual experimentation. "Jesus seemed to be telling imaginative Baptist teenagers that they could work out their own personal rules, permitting some forms of sexual experience without feeling guilty," Woodward wrote.

Woodward, who is a Roman Catholic, not a Baptist, quotes several Baptist sources, some of them good ones—Foy Valentine, former executive director of the SBC Christian Life Commission; James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; and Glenn Hinson, now of the Baptist Seminary in Richmond—and a couple you've never heard of.

I have never read an article that better underscores why no Baptist

should ever attempt to speak for another. And neither should a Roman Catholic.

Let me tell you what this Baptist thinks of Woodward's story: He misspelled Clinton's pastor's name. It's Rex "Horne," not "Horn." He didn't get much else right, either.

For many, Clinton has been a good president, in spite of his moral failings. I know no Baptist, moderate or otherwise, who would say he has been an exemplary "Baptist" president. Most I know are embarrassed to share the name "Baptist" with him.

I know of no Baptists who in Clinton's youth, "fought against Catholic efforts to keep abortion illegal." President Clinton is 52 years old. When the Supreme Court ruling on Roe vs. Wade legalized abortion in 1973, Clinton was 27. In my estimation, his "youth" ended nine years before that ruling. And besides that, I know of no Baptist leaders who ever have been in favor of abortion on demand.

Clinton said what he does is ultimately between him and the Lord—"a very Baptist statement"—said Hinson, but what Clinton does while he is president of the United States is everybody's business, especially if it reflects poorly on this country.

Each Baptist does answer only to

God and is free to interpret the scriptures for himself. But the Bible I read says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," and Jesus himself said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; but I say unto you, that every one who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart." That doesn't leave much room for any guilt-free sexual experimentation by "imaginative Baptist teenagers," or any other Baptists, in my opinion. Baptists can be confident of their salvation if they have truly accepted Christ as Savior, but in doing so they are not given license to sin, nor to enjoy it when they do. As Dunn told Woodward, "We do good, not in order to be saved, but because we have been saved."

Valentine was quoted as saying the president's actions, which apparently did not involve sexual intercourse, were "disgusting, but not what I would consider adultery. And I think that most Baptists would agree."

Valentine is my longtime friend, and, according to the dictionary definition of adultery, he is correct; but adultery in this Baptist's mind does not only involve intercourse itself, but also the intimate relationship, physical and emotional, that should be reserved for husband and wife.

The most disgusting thing about the story other than it is just a poor attempt at dealing with the subject is the response it has brought from Al

Mohler, president of Southern Seminary, and Richard Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. Mohler said the Baptists' comments were more evidence the "conservative recovery" in the SBC was necessary.

Land said the "liberal antinomianism (the belief that Christians are free of moral strictures) represented by James Dunn, Glenn Hinson and Foy Valentine is partially responsible for producing people with the tragically flawed moral compass of a Bill Clinton."

To try to make denominational political hay out of Clinton's moral failings is despicable demagoguery. I thought it was beneath even the opportunism of Mohler and Land. They seem to forget that quite a few of their "conservative resurgence" faithful have also sinned along the way. We've had several recent examples. And the adultery they've been accused of fits the dictionary definition. Do we blame their moral failings on the last 20 years of so-called conservative presidents, such as Adrian Rogers and Jerry Vines and others or on those who have succeeded the so-called "moderate and liberal Baptist leaders," such as Mohler and Land and Morris Chapman and Paige Patterson?

Of course not. Sin infects both conservatives and moderates alike. Jesus didn't die just to save moderates.

Toby Druin is editor of the *Texas Baptist Standard*. This article appeared as the editorial for the Nov. 11 issue.

Grassroots Southern Baptists arose in the late 1970s and overthrew a liberal denominational regime that had championed a vision of Baptist identity in which Bill Clinton had felt securely at home.

Let me tell you what this Baptist thinks of Woodward's story: He misspelled Clinton's pastor's name. It's Rex "Horne," not "Horn." He didn't get much else right, either.

MISSIONS

Malawian Baptist leader evangelizes amid epidemic

By Mary Speidel
SBC International Mission Board

LIMBE, Malawi (BP)—Pastor Samuel Chilokoteni drums his hand on the pulpit, keeping time to a hymn. There's no microphone on the podium at this rural, dirt-floored church near Blantyre, Malawi. But you can clearly hear his voice above the others.

"There is power, power, wonder-working power," he sings enthusiastically in Chewa, the main tribal language in this part of Malawi, a tiny country in southeastern Africa.

Chilokoteni, 61, is well acquainted with God's power. In his 20 years as a Christian—half of those as a pastor—that power has carried him through plenty of trials. The toughest of those have come during his current pastorate at Jerusalem Baptist Church in Limbe, Malawi.

The day after he moved there as pastor in 1993, one of his adult sons died. Since then four more of his grown children have died. All of these deaths are thought to be from AIDS or AIDS-related illnesses.

But in Malawi—where the average life expectancy is just 41 years and AIDS has reached epidemic proportions—Malawians aren't preoccupied with the cause of death. "Death is just death here," explains a Southern Baptist missionary in Malawi.

As a regional leader of the Baptist Convention of Malawi, Chilokoteni travels as often as he can to

Malawian Baptist churches. Developing church leaders is a top priority for Chilokoteni and missionaries who work with him.

One leader is Luciano Phiri. He met Chilokoteni about a decade ago after arriving in Malawi as a refugee from neighboring Mozambique. Phiri and his family fled to escape a brutal civil war.

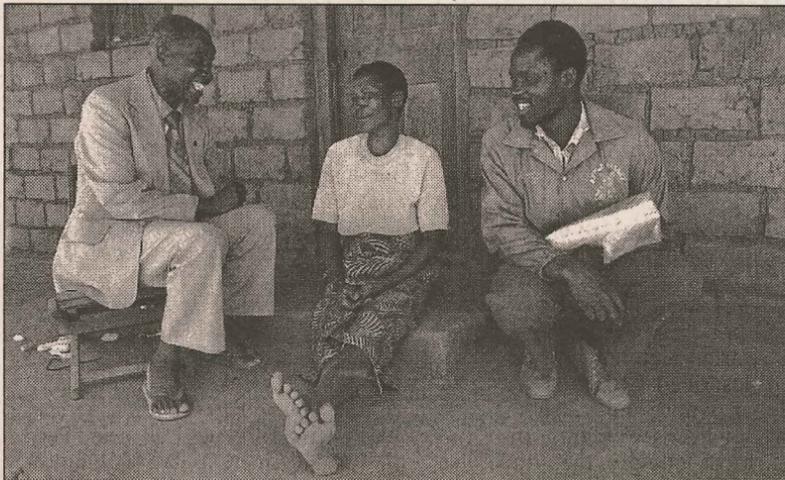
Chilokoteni was serving as a Baptist chaplain to Mozambican refugees who poured across the border into Malawi. During his three years in that role, he personally led more than 4,000 Mozambican refugees to faith in Jesus Christ. Phiri is one.

"When he started visiting and witnessing to us, I didn't take him seriously," says Phiri, 35. "I didn't understand what he was doing. But finally I came to realize that what he was saying about Jesus is true, that this path is the only one to follow. So I repented and gave my life to the Lord."

Chilokoteni helped disciple Phiri, who began witnessing to other refugees. Later, Phiri said he felt God's call to be a pastor.

With Chilokoteni's help and encouragement, Phiri was accepted as a student at Malawian Baptists' Bible school. His studies there prepared him for returning to minister in his homeland in 1993—a year after the war ended.

Since then Phiri has started four Baptist churches in Mozambique, near its border with Malawi. To reach some of them, he and fellow Baptists ride bikes about 40 kilometers each way.



LIKE A ROCK Malawian Baptist Pastor Samuel Chilokoteni (left) enjoys a reunion with Mozambican Baptist Pastor Luciano Phiri (right) and Phiri's aunt. Chilokoteni started a church in this area and led Phiri to Christ while working with Mozambican war refugees a decade ago. (International Mission Board photo by Warren Johnson)

He also is working to improve his skills as a pastor. He and some lay leaders in Mozambique travel weekly across the border to attend theology classes taught by Eric Laffoon, Southern Baptist missionary in Dedza, Malawi.

The studies have helped him see that "without God's power, I can do nothing," Phiri says.

That's long been an important truth for his Malawian mentor.

Just a few days before his visit with Phiri, Chilokoteni had been sick with malaria. Despite that, he found enough strength to baptize about 20 people during a service at Jerusalem Baptist

Church. Not long afterward Chilokoteni traveled to Chilambe Baptist Church on the outskirts of Blantyre, where he baptized 75 people and another 13 received Christ.

Such blessings, of course, have come alongside suffering. But Chilokoteni keeps it all in proper perspective.

"Some people have asked my wife and me why we're still here," Chilokoteni says of his pastorate. "But we can't run from our troubles. Troubles will always be with us. When we tell people we want to stay here to work for the Lord, it's an encouragement to them."

International Mission Board workers in Ecuador rely on prayer

By Mary Speidel
SBC International Mission Board

QUITO, Ecuador (BP)—Every two hours the alarm on Mark Robbins' wristwatch beeps.

The sound isn't supposed to help him remember appointments or to keep him from dozing during boring meetings.

"It's a reminder to pray for my three sons," said Robbins, a Southern Baptist missionary in Quito, the capital of Ecuador.

The alarm says a lot about what makes Robbins tick. So do the frequent e-mail messages he sends to his Southern Baptist prayer partners.

One recent e-mail tells about the day Robbins and Baptist pastor Manuel Pumisacho, a Quichua Indian, stopped along a bluff in the Andes Mountains surrounding Quito. As they looked down over Pumisacho's hometown of Zambiza—on the outskirts of Quito—the pastor began to cry.

"He was moved with compassion for the souls that inhabited the town

below," Robbins, from Pensacola, Fla., wrote in his prayer e-mail.

Robbins and Pumisacho stood and prayed for the salvation of the residents of Zambiza, a Roman Catholic stronghold for more than 400 years. Later Robbins and his wife, Diane, began asking others to pray that same prayer.

For a year the Robbinses and their prayer partners prayed doors would open for spreading the gospel in Zambiza, where evangelicals for years have been persecuted by practitioners of a religion that mixes Roman Catholicism and indigenous religions. Robbins enlisted visiting Southern Baptist volunteers to intercede for Zambiza, too. Often he took them to the town square to pray.

"Through the years we've come to realize that prayer is the most important part of what we do," said Mrs. Robbins, whose birthday, Nov. 29, falls on the first day of Southern Baptists' 1998 Week of Prayer for International Missions. Her husband's birthday, Dec. 6, marks the end of that week.

Recently God began answering the couple's prayers for Zambiza through a team of medical and dental volunteers from First Baptist Church of Daytona Beach, Fla. First, the mayor of Zambiza granted permission for the volunteers to conduct a clinic. Then when the team arrived, an elementary school director let them lead nightly evangelistic services in the school's auditorium.

During the three-day, evangelistic clinic, volunteers treated about 500 patients. On the end of the last day, volunteers and missionaries held hands and prayed together in front of the clinic. They asked God "to make an eternal difference in the lives of people we'd ministered to," Robbins recalled.

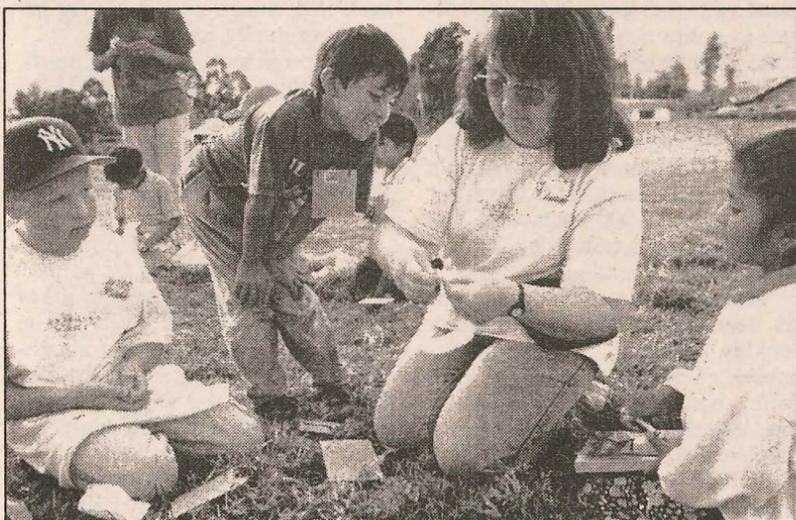
That night during evangelistic services, eight Ecuadorians became Christians. One of them is a man named Pablo, who earlier studied for the priesthood but dropped out to get married. The week after the medical project ended, Robbins and his colleagues started a Bible study in Pablo's house.

"For us (missionaries) on the field, the work of volunteers multiplies what we're able to do," said Mrs. Robbins, who works alongside her husband with volunteers and among Ecuador's Quichua people. "Often volunteers can open doors that we can't."

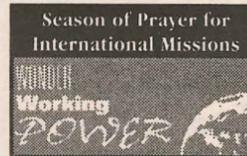
God has moved through volunteers in amazing ways," Robbins said. "And these volunteers have experiences that change their lives for eternity as they see God at work on the mission field."

But it's prayer that makes all of that possible, the Robbinses said.

"We know that nothing we do on our own is going to last," added Mrs. Robbins. "It's only through prayer and the power of God's Spirit that new works are opened and lives are touched. Prayer is always the first step."



MAKING FRIENDS Diane Robbins (center) helps Ecuadorian children make name tags during vacation Bible school at San Francisco Baptist Mission near Quito, Ecuador's capital. Nearby, missionary kid Matthew Blanton (left) waits to assist her. The vacation Bible school was a ministry segment of M-fuge Ecuador, a missions training camp for Southern Baptist youth held this summer in Ecuador. (BP Photo by Sandy King)



The Christmas season traditionally is a time when all Southern Baptists are encouraged to pray for and give to world missions during the Season of Prayer for International Missions.

The season includes the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, which this year has a national goal of \$110 million.

Below are the Southern Baptist missionaries chosen for specific prayer during the Season of Prayer for International Missions:

- Mark and Diane Robbins, Ecuador.
- Mark and Pam Grumbles, El Salvador.
- Charles and Phyllis Hardie, Siberia.
- Barton and Rebekah Starr, Hong Kong.
- Sonny and Deen Sweatman, Swaziland.
- Steve and Susan Booth, Hungary.
- Troy and Melissa Haas, Kenya.

Baptist workers: Bangladesh aid 'critical' for 6 months

Editor's note: Contributions to the Bangladesh relief effort can be sent designated for "general relief" to: Southern Baptist World Relief, Office of Finance, Box 6767, Richmond, Va. 23230

By Erich Bridges
SBC International Mission Board

GARGARI UNION, Bangladesh (BP)—If anyone understands the pain survivors of Hurricane Mitch are suffering in Central America, it's Nazim Uddin of Bangladesh.

The gray-bearded, 60-year-old Muslim day laborer saw his home and livelihood washed away—not for the first time, possibly not for the last—by the worst flooding in the history of this flood-prone land.

Uddin now toils nine hours a day to help build a five-kilometer road in northwest Bangladesh, where months of flooding started in July. With several hundred other workers, he hauls basket after 80-pound basket of sandy soil on his head and dumps them onto the new road site.

The effort is one of many food-for-work projects funded by Southern Baptists to help 16 districts of Bangladesh rebuild.

It's hard work for the aging Uddin, but he's glad to get it—and the five kilos of rice a day that come with it. The project is helping keep him and his 10-member family from starving.

"We lost everything," says Uddin, wiping his face with a grimy, sweat-stained cloth. "I don't know what we would have done without this work. We need more food, but where would we get it? We will make do with what we have."

For Uddin's family and millions of others like them, "the next six months will be critical," says Southern Baptist missionary James Young. "For two months they were knee-deep, waist-deep, chest-deep in water." The flood destroyed their homes, their jobs and much of their farmland. It will be spring before a new rice crop can be harvested.

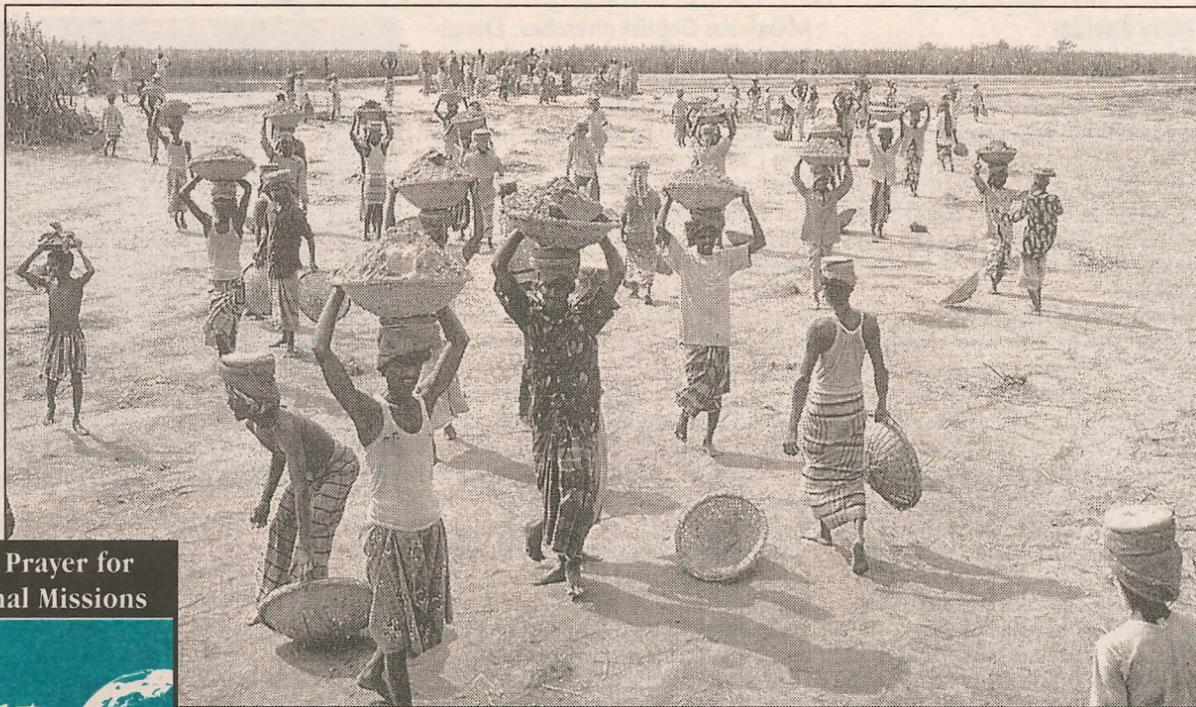
The crucial question, according to Young: How do they survive until the harvest?

If they had the funds, Baptists could easily help 1,000 eager, hungry workers every day on the Gargari road project alone. Crew chiefs must turn away hundreds who line up daily. At least 50,000 mostly homeless and jobless people are in the area of Rajshahi district surrounding the road.

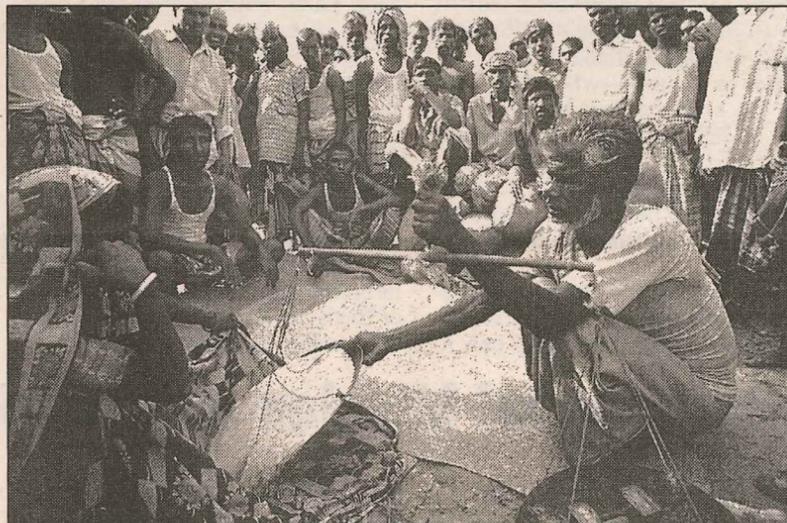
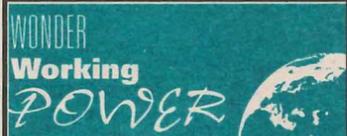
"The problem is selecting who will work," says Southern Baptist missionary R.T. Buckley. "We try to hire one for two days, then another for two days, so food gets around to more families."

The highway's construction path inches slowly across a vast channel cut during late summer by the overflowing Padma River. The now-barren landscape should be covered with rich green rice this time of year. Instead it looks like a beach without an ocean. The flood water has finally receded, and taken almost everything with it—except for a thick layer of goeey silt.

The Southern Baptist International Mission Board sent more than \$600,000 in hunger and disaster relief funds to Bangladesh in late September. Missionaries are using the money to aid thousands of families in 16



Season of Prayer for International Missions



FOOD FOR WORK One of the ways Southern Baptist missionaries help rural Bangladesh flood victims is through food-for-work projects. ■ Top: Several hundred workers haul soil to the site of a new road. If they had the funds, Baptists could easily employ 1,000 hungry workers every day on this project alone. Crew chiefs have to turn away hundreds daily. ■ Above left: Nazim Uddin toils nine hours a day. He hauls 80-pound baskets of soil and dumps them onto the new road site. ■ Above right: Five kilos of rice are measured out to each worker. The flood destroyed nearly an entire rice crop and prevented the planting of another. (BP photos by Roy Burroughs)

districts through:

■ **Food-for-work projects.** The projects feed people as they help rebuild roads and bridges, clean silt from farm fields and fishponds and repair other infrastructure. The food-for-work trade preserves the dignity of the people and gives them the chance to participate in their own recovery.

■ **Food distribution.** The distribution includes seeds, medicine and oral rehydration packets. The Christian medical organization MAP International bolstered the Southern Baptist effort with nearly \$500,000 worth of medicine and rehydration supplies.

■ **Emergency tube wells.** The wells are needed to provide clean drinking water. Baptists also have tested hundreds of existing wells for bacterial and arsenic contamination.

Five Kentucky Baptist volunteers fanned out across the country in October to test wells and train Bengali Baptist workers in how to continue testing. Southern Baptists also donated two water purification units to the government, which can provide clean water for up to 30,000 people a day.

■ **Installing sanitary latrines to prevent the spread of disease.**

The slow-rising flood waters didn't sweep away thousands of people as past floods have done. But during the course of two months, it drowned almost an entire rice crop and prevented the planting of another. It left up to 30 million people homeless, jobless and hungry. It destroyed an estimated 16,000 kilometers of roads, 6,000 bridges and 10 percent of the nation's gross national product. It ruined or polluted up to 50,000 water wells. The United Nations is calling it a "slowly developing disaster."

"A major portion of two rice crops has been totally lost," missionary Buckley explains. "A tremendous number of people are without jobs. There's not going to be any need for day laborers to cultivate land until March and April of next year."

During his three decades in Bangladesh, Buckley has seen death from floods, cyclones, hunger and war. But without continuing aid, he warns, "you've got the makings of a potential humanitarian crisis that this country has never seen before. Bangladesh

is in for a long, hard winter. The international community responds to a crisis like this for maybe two to three months. When the waters go down, all they see is traffic in the cities moving well. But village people are far removed from city scenes."

Compared to the staggering needs, Baptist efforts are "a drop in the bucket," Buckley admits. "But at least it's a drop and at least it's in the bucket. It's meeting the needs of some people"—Christians, Hindus and Muslims.

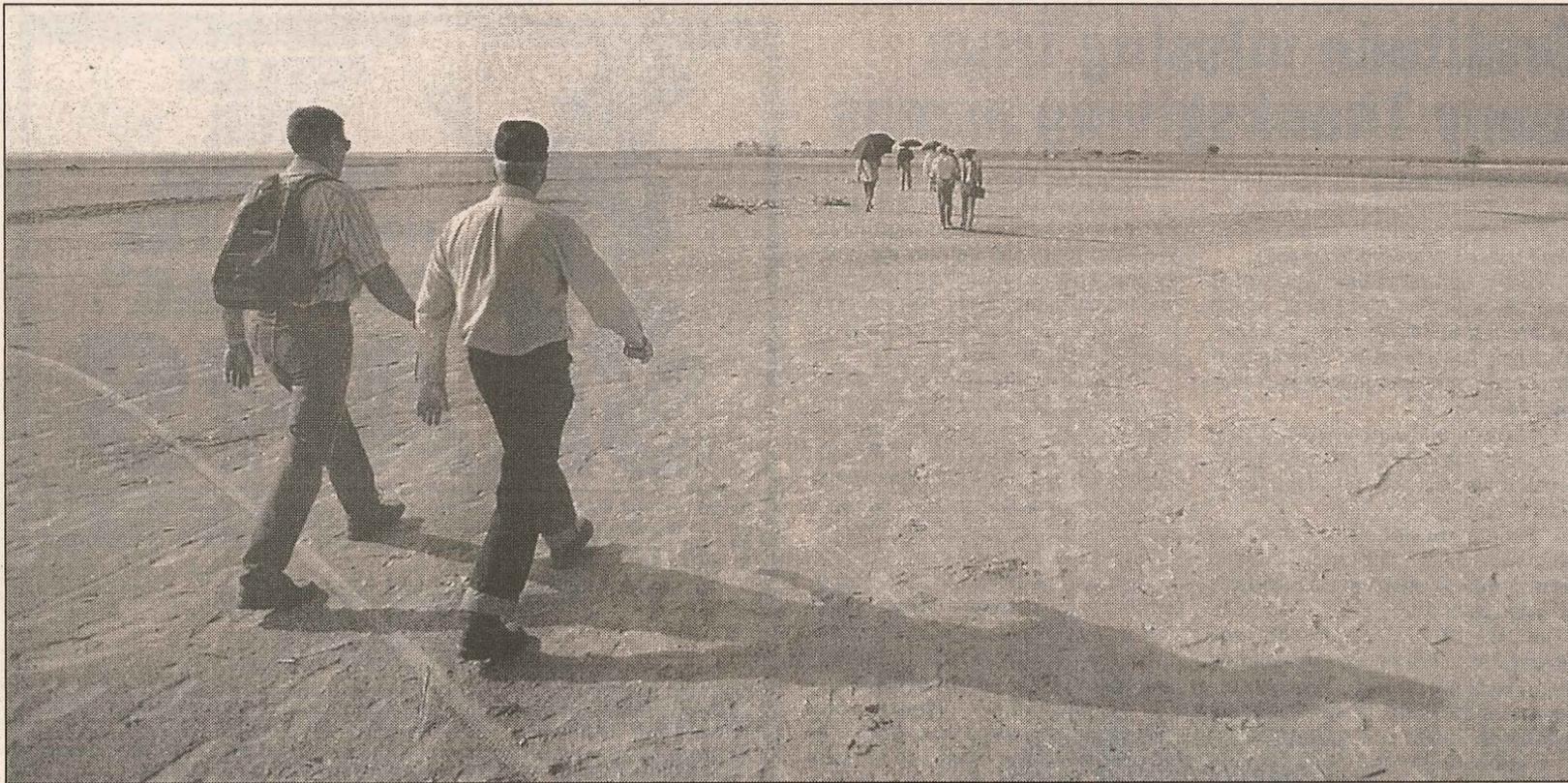
A food-for-work road project in another village illustrates his point.

Everyone living on the left side of the new road is Hindu. Everyone on the right is Muslim—except for a single Baptist family that sought the road project to help the village people, mostly poor farmers and fishermen.

Bengali Baptists in charge of the project formally named the road after Buckley. Informally, they call it the "road of peace."

"Muslims often think Christians are their enemies," says Baptist leader Peter Halder. "We want to say, 'No. We love you. We want to help you.'"

MISSIONS



When the flood receded, it left thousands of ruined or poisoned wells. The contamination can be eliminated—if it can be identified. That's where the Kentucky volunteers came in.

Water squad finds up to 70 percent of wells unhealthy

Continued from page 1
and silt to low-lying Bangladesh—piling onto silt in rivers left uncleaned from previous floods. This year the water had nowhere to go but over the riverbanks, flooding two-thirds of the country.

When the flood receded, it left behind untold destruction, including thousands of ruined or poisoned wells. The contamination can be eliminated—if it can be identified.

That's where the Kentucky volunteers came in. A call for help from missionaries in Bangladesh went out through retired missionary Jim McKinley and the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The Little River and Laurel River Baptist associations, at opposite ends of the state, answered the call with five men.

Volunteer Larry Kemp, a member of Cadiz Baptist Church, shut down his heavy equipment repair business for two weeks—at the cost of several hundred dollars a day.

"God called me and worked it out, so here I am," said Kemp, cocking his NAPA baseball cap. He admitted no previous experience as a water tester, "but I have experience as a volunteer." Kemp has 13 trips to Kenya and Haiti on his resume.

Boyd, a member of East Cadiz Baptist Church, was on his 14th overseas mission trip. Engineer Jim Outland, a member of Locust Grove Baptist Church in Cadiz, was on his first, but he came well-prepared. He brought enough extra food in his suitcase to last virtually the entire trip.

The food came in handy. While Boyd and Kemp headed south to Gopalganj district, Outland took a rugged solo journey to Sylhet in the far northeast. Later he joined up with volunteers Sam Watkins and Paul Filiatreau, members of Corinth Baptist Church in London, who worked at a breakneck pace in the northwest.

"I think in the first three days we checked 181 wells," said Filiatreau. "One day we drove for four hours, rode a flatbed rickshaw for an hour, then walked eight or 10 miles in one direction to test a well, then turned around and tested wells in villages on the way back."

Missionaries in Bangladesh specifically asked for volunteers who could deal with difficult conditions.

"To be honest, we were apprehensive about five men coming in here and the time it would take to care for them," said missionary R.T. Buckley. "But the way they came in and worked with the people blew our minds and freed us up."

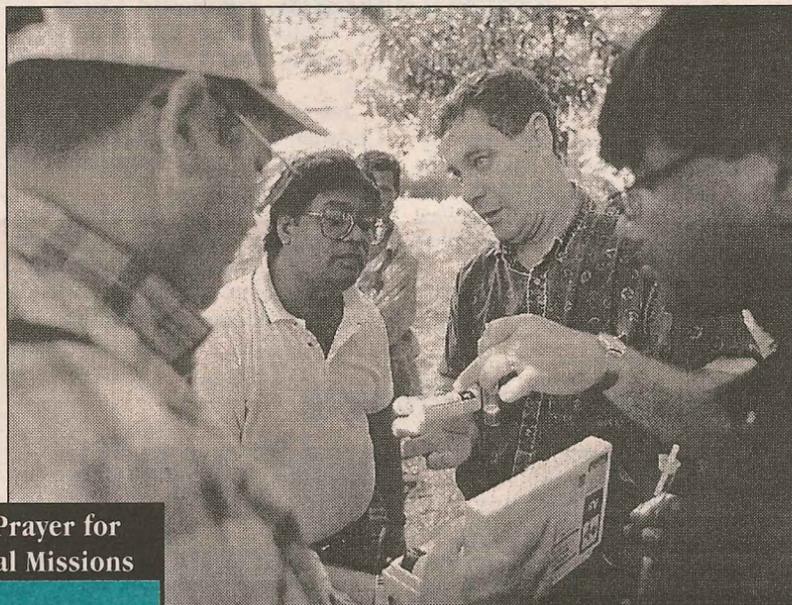
Up to 70 percent of the wells the volunteers tested contained significant levels of health-threatening bacteria. How much bacteria was deposited by the flood water and how much was already there is a question of vital interest to missionaries and Baptists.

"Evidently most tube wells anywhere from 50 to 250 feet deep are affected with bacteria," said Buckley. "What does that mean? If it's the kind of bacteria that is harmful, then the whole country is faced with a catastrophic situation—bad drinking water even though it looks good."

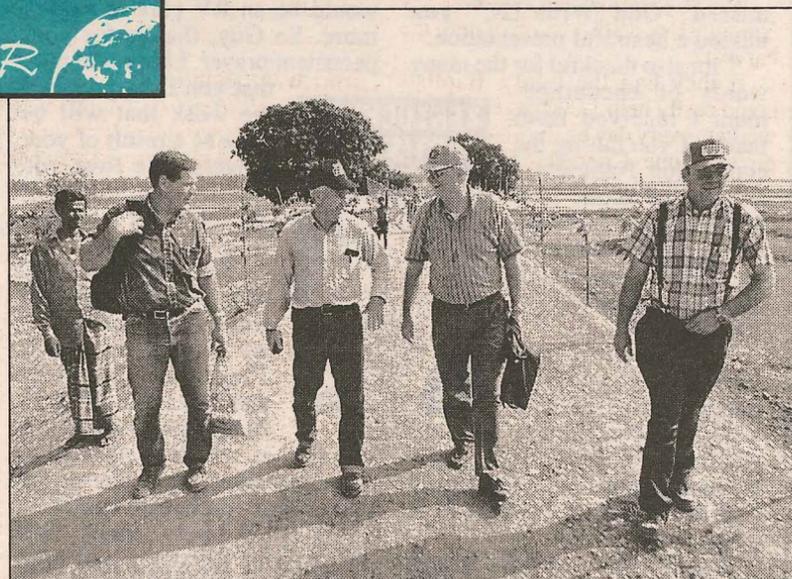
The presence of arsenic in many tube wells in Bangladesh—a deadly threat that has come to international awareness only in the last year or so—exacerbates the crisis.

Back home now, volunteer Outland is experimenting with an idea for a simple, cheap water purification unit that can be mass-produced.

If it works, countless lives could be saved.



Season of Prayer for International Missions
WONDER Working POWER



SO MANY WELLS ■ Top: Kentucky Baptist relief volunteers Paul Filiatreau (left) and Sam Watkins slog across a barren landscape in Bangladesh that should be covered with rich green rice. Months of flooding finally has receded, taking almost everything with it except for a thick layer of goeey silt. ■ Middle: Filiatreau (second from right) and Jim Outland (left) show Bengali workers how to check well water for arsenic. ■ Bottom: Kentucky Baptist volunteers Filiatreau (left), Watkins (second from left) and Outland (right) walk with missionary R.T. Buckley. Buckley admits he was worried about bringing U.S. volunteers into a such difficult situation, but "the way they came in and worked with the people blew our minds and freed us up" to do other relief work. (BP photos by Roy Burroughs)

Gratitude missing from many Thanksgiving menus

"Eating is a spiritual act and a family that eats together stays together."
U.S. religion historian
Jon Pahl

Continued from page 1

that into practice is another matter."

Why does gratitude seem diminished today? What has changed?

Mouw said he believes part of it has to do with the family meal, which has become an increasingly rare phenomenon. It is a trend not without consequences, said the ethicist and philosopher.

"I think that the breakdown of civil society has important links to the breakdown of the family meal," Mouw said.

"People are dining together less often these days." The changes can be seen simply by observing the students at colleges and universities, he said. "The folks that run the university food services say that people are grazing these days, not dining. That is an extension of the home where the family meal is no longer as important."

But his desire that more families gather around meals is more than mere nostalgia.

"Thanksgiving was one of the special family dinners, when people not only took the leisure to eat together, but to pray and enjoy being a family." Family meals teach tolerance and other lessons still vital today, said Mouw.

"We learn to sit at the table with people that we are mad at, that we don't get along with. We learn to be polite."

Pahl took a slightly different stance on the fundamental importance of the

Thanksgiving meal.

"Eating is a spiritual act and a family that eats together stays together. ... We need food, and I am of the opinion that when we attend to those things that we need, mindfully, that not only is our body fulfilled but also our spirit is enhanced," he said.

Because Thanksgiving is about recognizing the interconnectedness of humanity, piling the kids into the minivan to go grab a turkey club sandwich is not acceptable, Mouw added. Rather, being active in the food preparation is a vital part of the Thanksgiving ritual, he said.

In a very tangible way, working to produce a meal, from stuffing the turkey to mashing potatoes and pounding out a pie crust, invokes gratitude when it is finally done, he added.

"In the past," Mouw said, "Thanksgiving was a time when a lot of people worked together to get a meal on the table. Now people may just go down to Boston Market and pay \$12 for a meal. You are not grateful for that. That is a business transaction."

Jan Connell, author of bestselling Christian books, agrees with Mouw and Pahl on the importance of Thanksgiving.

"I don't know any other nation that has a holiday like we have," she said. "It is God-centered, and anything that is God-centered is family and friends-centered; because grace unifies."

Annual meeting a blessing

The recent convention proved to be a great blessing for me. I hope you felt the same way.

Our first convention under Bill Mackey's leadership was productive, and the worship on Tuesday evening was wonderful. If you missed "God With Us," you missed a beautiful presentation.

I am also thankful for the many words of encouragement I received from many of you during the convention. Naturally, I am excited about what is going on at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore, but it pleases me that so many of you all are excited as well.

So many of you came by our booth or stopped me in the hallways, and your enthusiasm for the direction we are headed gave me a real boost. God has chosen to bless us in so many ways.

Leading our Kentucky Baptist Assemblies is the most humbling leadership position I have ever had. The stakes are high (souls, is there a higher stake?), and there is so much work to be done in the years ahead.

If you attended the convention and heard our report, you know that we named our new RV sites for a dedicated Kentucky Baptist

servant. We are in the process of completing what will be known as the Guy King Park for RVs at Cedarmore.

Guy represents the Kentucky Campers on Mission, and he prayed for years that one day there would be an RV park at Cedarmore. So Guy, thanks for your persistent prayer. I hope and pray that you'll be proud of the work that will be done as a result of your prayers. We love you and owe you a debt of gratitude for your vision.

We welcome two new board members who were approved at the convention. Freida Tackett of Cynthiana and Mike Woolfolk of Benton join a board that is making significant decisions about the future of our camps and conference centers. I want to publicly thank Bill Tichenor of Princeton and John Lang of Fort Thomas for the vital roles they played as Kentucky Baptist Assemblies Inc. was launched last year.

I hope you have a blessed Thanksgiving.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison



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Rapha

Where the healing begins

Christian group seeks more anti-hunger work

WASHINGTON (BP)—Only a modest effort would end hunger worldwide by the year 2015, an anti-hunger advocacy organization said last week in its annual report.

But the United States and other countries have not demonstrated the political commitment to reach that goal, said Bread for the World Institute.

"For the first time in history it is possible to end hunger, and that, rather quickly. The world has the resources, knowledge and structures. The world's fields, livestock and oceans produce enough food. The world's economies provide sufficient wealth," said Bread for the World, a Washington area-based Christian citizens' organization. "The key to overcoming hunger in this era is changing politics and empowering hungry and poor people."

Bread for the World is sponsored

by 45 religious denominations. It lobbies the federal government for policies that address the causes of hunger and poverty.

The report says the proportion of the world's hungry has fallen from one-third to one-fifth of the population since 1970, but it cites the following statistics as evidence of the continuing problem of hunger:

- One of every 10 children in developing countries dies before age 5. Most of those deaths are hunger-related.

- Eighty-seven developing countries do not produce enough food for those living in their borders and cannot afford to import the remainder.

- The demand for emergency food assistance in America increased by 26 percent in the first half of this year.

Among the recommendations Bread for the World makes to improve political action on hunger are:

- Recover a moral urgency to end

hunger by advocating government policies that help the needy.

- Hold institutions, including social and political ones, accountable to act for the benefit of the hungry.

- Promote democracy and participation in the process to improve economic conditions.

Soup kitchens in this country are expected to face greater demands this Thanksgiving, the report states. The government will have to do its part before "soup kitchen Thanksgivings become a thing of the past," according to a Bread for the World news release.

"America is a country that's privately generous but publicly stingy," said Bread for the World President David Beckmann.

But Steven Nelson, director of hunger concerns for the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said the solution to hunger in the United States, "will only be found in Jesus Christ and not through more government programs.

"It is ludicrous to speak of soup kitchens as becoming a thing of the past," he said. "As long as there are drugs, gambling, domestic violence and other forms of sin in our world, there will be those in need."

Nelson said he has visited, eaten in and worked in several soup kitchens. "Having seen the hope and Christlike love experienced by those who visit there, I have learned that soup kitchens are not a blight on society but a blessing of God in providing for those in need."

Scientology charged in death

CLEARWATER, Fla. (RNS)—Criminal charges have been filed in Florida against an agency of the Church of Scientology in connection with the 1995 death of a 36-year-old woman who was in its care following an apparent nervous breakdown.

The church's Flag Service Organization in Clearwater, Fla., was charged Nov. 13 with felony abuse or neglect of a disabled adult and with the unauthorized practice of medicine in connection with the death of Lisa McPherson. Florida law provides for a maximum penalty of \$5,000 on each charge and the possible forfeiture of property.

McPherson died Dec. 5, 1995, after 17 days at a church-operated hotel in Clearwater after suffering an apparent breakdown following a minor traffic accident.

The Pinellas County medical examiner said McPherson, a longtime member of the controversial church, had been deprived of water for as many as 10 days prior to her death. The church maintains that McPherson was properly treated in accordance with the sect's practices.

None of the church members who administered to McPherson had a medical license, although several had medical training.

Survey: Americans give but don't know where money goes

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A survey by the American Association of Retired Persons stated that 80 percent of Americans give to charity through phone solicitations, but many of them don't really know where their money is going.

According to the survey, more than two-thirds of those who give to a charity through a telephone solicitation said they weren't sure the telephone callers represented the organizations they claimed and about 57 percent said they never asked how their donations would be spent.

This makes charity fraud a potential goldmine for scam artists who pose as legitimate organizations or for telemarketers who solicit money on behalf of legitimate groups but claim the bulk of what they raise as "fees," according to the consumers group.

The survey said that of those who respond with a donation to telephone solicitations, 42 percent gave more than \$100 and 10 percent gave more than \$1,000.

In 1995, an estimated \$1.43 billion in donations were misused or absconded with, Associated Press reported law enforcement officials as saying.

In addition, sound-alike charities with titles similar to legitimate groups also deceive consumers by playing on name recognition.

"Between Thanksgiving and Christmas is when these people go into high gear," said Jim Miles, South Carolina's secretary of state.



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Craving the word

By Robert Dunston

On Nov. 12, some Cumberland College students finished an amazing project that brought a great blessing to all who participated. These students read the entire Bible orally.

Beginning on Monday evening, Nov. 2, students began to take turns reading the Bible out loud to those in attendance. Some students read an entire book if it was short enough. For longer books, several students, staff, and faculty took turns reading.

Students read each evening and all day on Saturday. On Sunday they rested and attended their regular house of worship. On a few nights the reading went past midnight as they maintained the pace of reading the whole Bible in less than two weeks. Many students spent time each night reading and listening to others read the Bible.

On Thursday evening, Nov. 12, the final chapter of Revelation was read out loud by everyone in attendance. The project ended with a rousing reading of the last verse of the last chapter of Revelation.

Five minutes of silence was to follow the completion of the oral reading project but students, over-

come by emotion, began to weep. Many of those in attendance had invested much time in reading and listening during the project. They were overwhelmed by the power of the biblical narrative and poetry and by the voice of God which spoke to them from the Bible's pages.

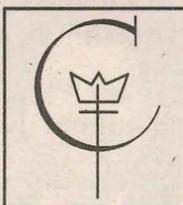
Aaron Hogue, a junior and the son of Denny Hogue from Waynesburg, and Claudette Switzer from Lexington worked diligently planning, coordinating and raising enthusiasm for the project. Hogue had seen a similar program succeed at Southland Christian Church in Lexington and knew it would be a blessing for the Cumberland College family. He titled the

project Crave, based on 1 Peter 2:2 which reads, "Like newborn babies, crave spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation."

In most cases, we don't hear long sections of the Bible read orally. Our students have reminded all of us of the power of the Bible to change lives and deepen spiritual knowledge and commitment. They have challenged us to invest time in reading and hearing the Bible.

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

CUMBERLAND
COLLEGE



An extra place

How many ways are there to say thank you?

Answering that question is a constant challenge here at Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. We have so much to be grateful for. At the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention, I was reminded of how many people we have in our corner. As convention goers stopped by our display at the Galt House in Louisville, it was like old home week.

Pastors, foster parents, donors, directors of missions, WMU leaders and "just plain folks" who make up our vast team of ministry partners were stopping by to say hello, snag a piece of peanut brittle and talk about the kids.

The mail also can bring a burst of joy. Helen Kinsey of Mayfield recently sent a photo of Sedalia Baptist Church's collection for the Food Roundup. "We are not a large church, averaging 180 in Sunday school," she said. "We have started our third Mile of Pennies. It's growing slow, but we are working on it." What an encouragement to know that this congregation is doing their very best.

Another letter came from Chancellor Dennison of Leitchfield who wrote on behalf of his Sunday

school class. He said, "We only raised \$60, but we felt it would be used in service for the needy children of Kentucky."

Chancellor, never say "only" when you are talking about a gift to God. Every jar of pennies, every box of macaroni and cheese is important to him and to us. Thank you.

Your faithful support is our backbone, our foundation. Consistency gives us confidence in where we are and courage to keep going farther.

There are so many places you could be putting your time, dollars and energy. Churches need support beyond your tithe, and you give. Hospitals, schools, the cancer society, humane society—the list is so long. Yet you still make a place for the children in the care of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

It's kind of like setting an extra plate at your Thanksgiving table. You don't just lay out the place setting, you make sure there's something to fill it.

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

HOMES FOR
CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

Group asks IRS to investigate church where Clinton spoke

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Americans United for Separation of Church and State has asked the Internal Revenue Service to consider revoking the tax-exempt status of a church where President Clinton appeared just days before the Nov. 3 election.

Americans United said the Nov. 1 service at New Psalmist Baptist Church in Baltimore, Md., amounted to a political rally for Democratic candidates.

The service was, in part, a get-out-the-vote effort. "What we have a problem with is candidates of one party appearing at the pulpit for what is essentially a rally," said Rob Boston, a spokesman for Americans United.

But Edward Smith Jr., an attorney for the church, said the church did not endorse any candidate. The Washington Post reported that at least one Republican, Donald Murphy, attended the event.

"I think I was the only Republican there," Murphy told the Post. "I was pretty sure this was not supposed to be a Democratic rally or fund-raiser ... But did I squirm a bit? You bet."

Under IRS regulations, churches and other nonprofit groups that hold tax-exempt status are not permitted to engage in partisan politics, including endorsing or opposing specific candidates, giving money to political campaigns, or helping candidates win elections.

After the 1992 election, Americans United complained to the IRS that a small church in Vestal, N.Y., had bought newspaper advertisements two days before the election saying that a vote for Clinton was sinful.

The IRS investigated and revoked the church's tax status in 1995. But the American Center for Law and Justice, a legal advocacy group founded by Pat Robertson, sued the IRS, contending it violated the church's free speech and equal protection rights. That suit is still pending.

Abortion groups debate Livingston's impact

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Both sides on the abortion issue describe Rep. Bob Livingston, R-La., as staunchly anti-abortion, but disagree on how much he can advance that agenda as the new speaker of the House of Representatives.

Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, said Livingston, a Republican from suburban New Orleans, has not voted with supporters of legal abortion even once since being elected to Congress in 1977.

But she expressed hope Livingston would consider her side on at least some issues. She said Livingston should consider bills to "make abortion less necessary and improve access to reproductive health services for American women."

Abortion opponents said they believe Livingston will do everything he can to help pass their two legislative priorities—a ban on a late-term pro-

cedure known by opponents as "partial-birth abortion," and legislation making it a crime to take a minor across state lines for an abortion.

But they conceded enacting either measure into law was made more difficult by the November election. Estimates suggest abortion opponents lost four to 10 seats in the House, and, at best, gained one member in the Senate. Precise numbers are hard to come by because the in-depth views of all newly elected members to the House and Senate are not known.

Last year, both the House and Senate passed bills banning the late-term procedure, but the Senate failed by three votes to get the two-thirds majority needed to override President Clinton's veto. The bill barring adults other than parents or guardians from helping minors get an abortion in another state passed the House, it but never made it to the Senate floor.

"Bob Livingston is a man of tremendous integrity and no matter

where the numbers stand, we believe he can accomplish a lot," said Peg Kenny of Louisiana Right to Life.

During the past several years, some abortion opponents have criticized Livingston for sometimes resisting anti-abortion riders being attached to spending bills. He complained that some of them made legislation veto targets by Clinton—and threatened government closures unpopular with most voters.

But most groups opposed to legal abortion continue to praise Livingston. "We hold Mr. Livingston in high regard, as someone who has been supportive of the pro-life agenda for many years in Congress," said Doug Johnson, legislative director of the National Right to Life Committee.

He said that although abortion opponents have occasionally disagreed with Livingston on tactics, "the fact is that he helped get six pro-life policies enacted into law" directly through appropriations bills.

Internet pornography law delayed from taking effect

PHILADELPHIA (RNS)—A federal judge has granted a temporary restraining order that prevents a new law aimed at curbing access by minors to pornography on the Internet from taking effect.

"This is not a final decision, nor should it be construed as a final decision," said U.S. District Judge Lowell Reed in Philadelphia. The law was due to go into effect Nov. 19.

The Child Online Protection Act,

passed by Congress earlier this year, mandates companies to keep "harmful" Internet material away from children by requiring commercial Web sites to collect a credit card number or some other adult access code as proof of age before allowing Internet users to view certain material.

The American Civil Liberties Union contends the law violates the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech and could be used to unfairly

prosecute gay men and lesbians, AIDS activists or doctors distributing gynecological information.

But Bruce Taylor, president of the National Law Center for Children and Families, a supporter of the law, said the opponents failed to show that such sites cited by the ACLU had a legitimate fear of being prosecuted, Associated Press reported.

A hearing on the suit filed by the ACLU is set for Dec. 8.

Our middle school: Caring, sharing, communicating

By Ed Lowdenback
Middle School Principal

Oneida Baptist Institute middle school students and staff are walking the walk of "Education for Time and Eternity" by caring, sharing and communicating with God's blessings and kindness.

Teachers and staff care daily as they tutor students after school and during evenings. Tutoring ranges from helping students with their homework to demonstrating lessons on field trips and in outdoor classrooms. Our teaching environments include 11 traditional classrooms, four outdoor classrooms, labs, a swimming pool and our 300-acre farm. We have a student-teacher ratio of 9- or 10-to-one. With this ratio, students' attitudes and grades improve almost immediately.

We also have an excellent tutoring lab, coordinated by Charmaine Nichols. Her quality staff works with one or two students at a time. Students in the middle school tutoring lab often have missed 50 or more days of school or have come to us from a foreign country. They are students with average or above average ability, but they need help in math or reading due to their backgrounds. The lab, founded by Floy DeJarnette, has a rich history of assisting students and returning them to regular classes expeditiously.

Teachers and staff share with students in cocurricular activities and the work program. Some of their activities include academic team, Baptist Student Union, basketball, volleyball, softball, swimming, track, baseball, hiking, fishing, horseback riding, wrestling and cross-country running.

Jobs vary from working on the farm to work-

ing in the school grill. Other jobs include landscaping, cleaning classrooms, waxing floors and yard crew.

Teaching young people teamwork and responsibility carries over to their social and educational lives. Parents often cannot believe their child's improvements in responsibility and attitude in only a few months.

Communicating to students, parents, guardians and friends is done through mid-term reports, report cards, parent conferences, phone calls and visits.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Our course of study is accredited by the Kentucky Non-Public School Commission. We teach traditional subjects like Bible, math, English, science and history. New additions to our curriculum include pre-algebra for the seventh grade and algebra for high school credit in the eighth grade. The addition of 40 computers for our lab and classrooms has enhanced our curriculum and opportunities for our students' futures.

Dedicated caring, sharing and communicating can perhaps best be seen by these two quotes from "God's Little Devotional Book" and the Bible:

"Unconditional love is loving a child no matter what we expect him to be, and most difficult, no matter how he acts."

"But show me unfailing kindness like that of the Lord as long as I live" (1 Samuel 20:14).

Unconditional love and unfailing kindness for time and eternity while honoring and praising God and his love have been traditions at Oneida for 100 years.

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

Finding volunteers on the road

In the summer of 1996, Ronnie Washam, assistant director of the physical plant, and his wife left a restaurant in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Their destination was Raleigh, Miss., to fish with some volunteers who had worked on our campus.

Washam noticed a car with a Mississippi license and waited to meet the owner. Don and Joann Hartfield were on their way home from a vacation in the Smoky Mountains. The two couples discovered common ties. Hartfield was superintendent of buildings at the University of Southern Mississippi. Washam told him about the Mississippi volunteers and their campus work. Hartfield's brother directs construction volunteers for Lamar Baptist Association in Hattiesburg, Miss.

The Hartfields worked volunteer projects in California, Arizona and Colorado. He told Washam about his desire to do more volunteer missions after retirement. To Washam's invitation, "Come and work at Clear Creek," Hartfield responded, "You'll be my first trip."

Hartfield retired in June, completing 40 years in construction and 20 years with the University of Southern Mississippi. He called

Washam, reminded him of their parking lot visit, and asked, "Do you have any work for me to do?"

The Hartfields stayed on campus for two weeks. With a full dormitory, we set up a bed, two chairs, dinette set, stove and refrigerator in an empty apartment. They worked on remodeling the chapel, laying sub-flooring and building the podium with rounded steps.

"I didn't know a school like Clear Creek existed, where a person could come with limited educational background," Hartfield observed. "I read Dr. Kelly's story. It was very inspiring. This experience has encouraged our commitment to do volunteer work. We're not Southern Baptists but found warm and friendly people. It was such a blessing to work with

these preachers. The Christian atmosphere of this campus is so different than USM."

After the winter months at home, the Hartfields plan to use a new RV and work with Master Builders of Baptist Missionary Association. We hope they return to Clear Creek and help with remodeling Kelly Hall.

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

BOOKS

I'm Lonely, Lord—How Long?: Meditations on the Psalms. Marva Dawn. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, 1998. 240 pages. \$15 ♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Marva Dawn's meditations on the Psalms grow out of her struggles with life. An adolescent case of measles destroyed her pancreas, which led to a lifelong battle with diabetes and its complications.

Several years after marriage, while working in a Lutheran church and finishing her master of divinity degree, Dawn's husband filed for divorce and subsequently married a member of their youth group. During the next 15 years, she has lived with chronic pain, undergone surgeries and struggled to balance medications and diet.

In the midst of the struggle, she has experienced the grace of God through the support of friends, the community of faith and the opportunity to start a new family.

Though the impulse to write this book grew out of Dawn's personal story, it is more than an autobiographical reflection on the Psalms. Rather, it is a unique blend of personal reflection and biblical scholarship. Each chapter concludes with questions that can help apply the message of the Psalm selection.

As I read through this book, a variety of possible uses came to mind. For pastors and teachers, Dawn's meditations will provide useful background information on the Psalms referenced in the volume. A pastor, deacon or other care giver could use one of the chapters to speak a word of hope or encouragement to another.

Even if one is not going through a trying time, Dawn's meditations will enrich one's devotional time. *Jim Holladay*

The Letters of Paul: Conversations in Context, Fourth Edition. Calvin Roetzel. Westminster John Knox Press, 1998. 248 pages. \$20. ♦♦♦♦

As the best-known missionary of the first-century church and the most prolific author of New Testament books, Paul provokes a wide-range of responses from his readers.

Roetzel affirms that the Apostle Paul has been accused of being an anti-Semite, a male chauvinist and a "dogmatic grouch." At the same time, others have found in Paul's interpretation of the gospel a person open and affirming of women's place in the church, one willing to give his life for the salvation of the Jews and a compassionate pastor. How can people read the same material and come to such opposite conclusions?

A major factor in misunderstanding Paul, Roetzel argues, comes from failing to place Paul's letters in their proper context.

Roetzel has done a masterful job of distilling the massive amount of scholarly material on Paul and his writings into a concise and readable volume. Within the limits of the project, he manages to survey the religious and philosophical world in which Paul grew up and worked, identify the major distortions in Pauline interpretation, survey the basic themes of each letter and deal with the fundamental presuppositions behind Paul's work and writings.

Of particular interest was the chapter that deals with five issues that have been problematic for Pauline studies: Gnosticism, Pelagianism, the relationship between Paul and Jesus, the relationship between Paul and his Jewishness, and Paul and women.

Pastors and laypeople alike will find this volume a helpful resource in preaching and teaching from the writings of Paul. *Jim Holladay*

The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart. Peter Gomes. William Morrow and Co, 1996. 383 pages. \$25 hardback, \$13 paperback. ♦♦♦♦♦

Peter Gomes is the preacher to Harvard University, African-American and gay. You might think you know exactly what this book is going to say and how it will say it.

But also consider that he is an American Baptist and a Republican and your expectations get a bit more cloudy. You also might think this is not a book the average person in the pew could pick up and find insight into reading the Bible with mind and heart. Think again on both accounts.

Gomes' basic tenant is that the Bible is crucial to the life of a Christian. It is to his great personal sorrow that the Bible is used and abused by both liberals and conservatives. Addressing that sorrow, he has written a book that explains, as clearly as anything I have read, about the place of the Bible in the church.

The first two chapters of the book lay out the importance of the Bible

while addressing in clear narrative the important issues of the Bible's formation and interpretation. Again, he calls the church to the middle ground between literalism and dismissal. He argues strongly that the Bible does, and should have, an important place in the life of America.

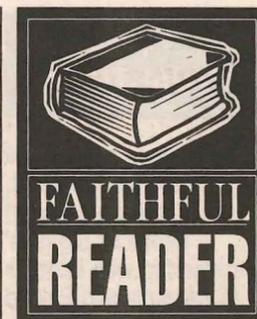
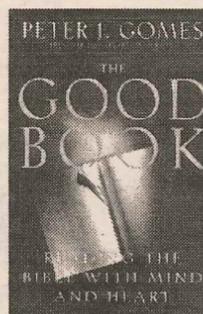
The second and third sections of the book address specific issues in modern culture and in philosophy and theology. Again, Gomes is not easy to pin down to one perspective. Reading any one discussion out of the context of the book, one might have a completely skewed view of Gomes as liberal or conservative. If

possible, he is both and neither. Such is the irony of Gomes and the book.

If read in its entirety, any reader will have some uncomfortable moments, whether it is when he talks about homosexuality, race or women, or in discussions of joy, evil or science. One moment you will be saying "Amen," and the next

"Hold on there!" The book is challenging to all perspectives while affirming the importance of letting the Bible speak to contemporary Christianity.

If you are seriously willing to be provoked in your thinking about the Bible and its application to life, this is a must book. Gomes cannot be dismissed because of any one description of who he is. He is all of us who live with contradictions in our own lives, but find in our faith a way to make sense of them. Gomes suggests that the Bible is a sure guide to that end. *Wayne Hager*



By Wayne Hager, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Mt. Airy, N.C., and Jim Holladay, pastor of Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville. Holladay and Hager welcome feedback or suggestions for book reviews. Contact them via e-mail at: docholladay@juno.com or jwhager@surry.net



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The holiday issue of Real Life magazine

In this issue:

- ◆ Rediscovering Christmas through Advent
- ◆ Forgiveness that brings healing
- ◆ Keeping and adapting family traditions
- ◆ Surviving holiday charity overload
- ◆ A schedule for Christmas in Kentucky
- ◆ Holiday craft ideas
- ◆ Easier-than-it-looks holiday food
- ◆ He Said/She Said

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please pray for these people and projects, which are part of Kentucky Baptists' partnership with Baptists in Tanzania and Poland

■ Ed and Nancy Giddens, who live in Moshi, Tanzania. Giddens serves as mission chairman and works in music promotion. Mrs. Giddens is the women's work director. They have two children, Joshua, 20, and Joanna, 13.

■ Sonny and Sherry Sledge, who live in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Sledge is mission business manager. Mrs. Sledge supports her husband's work. They have one son, Foree, 14.

■ Dennis and Margaret McCall, who live in Tanga, Tanzania. McCall is an agriculture missionary. Mrs. McCall is homemaker. They have three children, John, 10, Lauren, 12, and Micah, 8.

■ Larry & Joy Lindsey, field coordinators, as they study the Polish language and get settled in Warsaw at the beginning of December.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Taylor County Association WMU will host an international book study Dec. 1 with Buddy and Sandra Coppage, missionaries in residence at Campbellsville University. For information, call (502) 465-5600.

Campbellsville Church called **David Preston** as minister to students. **James Jones** is pastor.

■ **CORYDON**—Corydon Church called **Ken Dillingham** as minister of music/youth. **Phillip Southwood** is pastor.

■ **COVINGTON**—Northern Kentucky Association, in joint venture

with Cincinnati, Ohio, Association, called **Robert Allen** as full-time Spanish-speaking pastor. Allen recently graduated from Southeastern Seminary and served as a church planter with the North American Mission Board. **Rick Robbins** is director of missions.

■ **DANVILLE**—Mitchellsburg Church recently broke ground for a Christian life center that will include a gym, kitchen, classrooms, offices and youth facilities.

■ **DYCUSBURG**—**James Oates** has been called as pastor at Dycusburg Church.



UP ON THE ROOF Chris Butler, pastor of Shively Heights Baptist Church in Louisville, eats his lunch on the roof of the church. Butler was fulfilling a pledge he made if the church had at least 300 people Nov. 15. That Sunday, 427 people attended Sunday school and more than 500 people attended worship. (Photo by Larry Ferguson)

■ **ELK HORN**—Raikes Hill Mission licensed **Will Holland** to the gospel ministry Nov. 1. **Ernest Orange** is pastor.

■ **ELKHORN CITY**—**Mike York** resigned as pastor of Elkhorn City Church. York is available for supply, interim or full-time pastorate. Call (606) 754-3144 or e-mail disciple@eastky.net.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—Alton Church called **Daniel Dorr** as associate pastor/minister of music. Dorr previously served in St. Joseph, Mo. **John Charles** is senior pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Broadway Church ordained **Dawn Stambaugh**, **Tom Wakefield**, **John Dotson**, **Fred Davidson** and **Nancy Stephens** as deacons. Also, **N.T. Armstrong**, **Bob Hook Jr.**, **Becky Irvine**, **Paul Sim-**

mons and **Ed Turney** were installed as deacons.

Shively Church will present "Walk Through Bethlehem" Dec. 4-6. For information, call (502) 367-9155.

■ **MT. WASHINGTON**—First Church will rededicate Coakley Chapel Nov. 29 at 2 p.m. Former Pastor **Wendell Romans** will speak. **Travis Collins** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—**Bobby Bragg**, minister of education at First Church resigned to become minister of education/program coordinator at First Church, Jonesboro, Ga.

■ **WAYNESBORO**, Tenn.—**Ed Gardner**, former Kentucky pastor and Sunday school growth consultant, is available as an evangelist for revivals or Bible studies. Call (931) 722-3833.

Adviser: Internet is separating us

WITTENBERG, Germany (RNS)—One of France's leading journalists warned an international gathering of Lutheran theologians that new technologies such as the Internet, often touted for their ability to bring people together, are instead creating new social divisions.

Ignacio Ramonet, editorial director of *Le Monde Diplomatique*, said the Internet is creating a new inequality between what he termed the "info-rich" and the "info-poor."

Ramonet said this is happening "not only in the Northern hemisphere, within developed countries, where only a minority possess a personal computer, but above all in the Southern hemisphere, where the lack of even the most basic equipment marginalizes millions of people."

The journalist made his comments at a meeting of theologians in Wittenberg, Germany, sponsored by the

Lutheran World Federation to look at the meaning of Martin Luther's concept of justification—how a person is justified before God—in today's world.

In a background paper produced for the conference, the group noted that the 16th century Reformation sparked by Luther was made possible by new technology—the printing press.

"Luther recognized the power of the mass media to influence the public awareness process," the paper said.

Ramonet said both the technological poverty of poor nations and the globalization of the world economy are separate but linked elements.

"We're told that there are few telephone lines in the poor countries, and we know that it is impossible to access the Internet without a telephone connected to a computer, not to mention the absence of electrical supplies," he said.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Full-time accounts payable bookkeeper for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Position requires 3-5 years of related experience. Computer, spreadsheet and word processing skills a must. College study in business preferred. Attractive compensation package. Send resumé and references to: Director of Accounting Services Department, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253-0433. No phone calls please.

SEEKING: Minister to children, part-time (20 hours/week). Principle function would be to assist church program leaders in developing a comprehensive ministry to preschoolers and children, grades 1-6. Please send resumé with references to: Dr. Scott Kilgore, Living Hope Baptist Church, 1805 Westen Ave., Bowling Green, KY 42104.

SEEKING: Data specialist/desktop publishing including periodicals, some secretarial duties and light financial functions. Knowledge of MS Office a must; Corel Draw experience a plus. Please forward resumé including salary requirements to: Human Resources, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569.

SEEKING: Part-time youth director for Auburn Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: P.O. Box 67, Auburn, KY 42206.

SEEKING: Part-time minister who uses music as a tool for leading worship and reaching others for Christ. Call Westport Baptist Church at (502) 222-0745, or send a resumé to: Search Committee, Westport Baptist Church, 6415 Washington St., Westport, KY 40077.

SEEKING: Bivocational minister of music. Ability to balance music (hymns, choruses) and to lead adults and children. Music experience/training preferred. Submit resumé to: Music Minister Search Committee, Hanson Baptist Church, P.O. Box 326, Hanson, KY 42413.

SEEKING: Church secretary; 30-35 hours/week. Send resumé to: Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, 3821 Hunsinger Lane, Louisville, KY 40220.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to youth; 20 hours/week. Send resumé to: Hunsinger Lane Baptist Church, 3821 Hunsinger Lane, Louisville, KY 40220.

SEEKING: Minister of youth/associate pastor for a growing church located about 7 miles from Rough River State Park. This is a full-time position with primary responsibility for an existing high school youth group. Applicants should be young, energetic, creative and responsible. The church has contemporary worship services including praise bands.

For consideration in becoming a part of this exciting multi-staff ministry team, please send a resumé to: Minister of Youth Search Committee, Corinth Baptist Church, P.O. Box 9, McQuady, KY 40153.

WANTED: Daycare worker—lead position. Excellent pay. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Resumé to: Pastor John Meeks, 5007 Southside Drive, Louisville, KY 40214.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Richmond, Ky., is accepting resúmes for a minister of youth. Qualifications: Mature Christian, member of a Southern Baptist church, master's degree or pursuing a master's degree from an accredited seminary, skilled in human relations, minimum of three years experience directly related to youth ministry. A complete job description will be mailed upon request. FBC is a rapidly growing church located near Eastern Kentucky University. Send resumé to: Minister of Youth Search Committee, First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 697, Richmond, KY 40476.

SEEKING: Rapidly growing church in Paducah area seeks full-time minister of youth. Interested applicants should send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, 9701 Blandville Road, West Paducah, KY 42086.

'Winterval' preferred to Christmas holiday

BIRMINGHAM, England (RNS)—Anglican Bishop Mark Santer says he's a little perplexed, even miffed at the city council of Birmingham, one of the nation's largest cities.

Members of the council voted to call the city's festivities between Christmas and New Year's "Winterval" rather than Christmas, the more traditional name for the holidays.

The council members said Christmas remains "at the heart" of the festival—which lasts 42 days—but that Winterval was more appropriate.

Santer said he first laughed at the change, but in a letter to clergy in his diocese, added:

"I wonder what madness is in store for us this Christmas?"

"No doubt it was a well-meaning attempt not to offend, not to exclude; not really, to say anything at all. ... Now, it seems, the secular world, which professes respect for all, is actually deeply embarrassed by faith."

The Times newspaper, meanwhile, predicted "people will ignore the new name anyway."

Stone cold sober

With 3,550-mile walk, Ted Stone urges churches to fight drugs

By Don Hinkle
Baptist Press

DURHAM, N.C. (BP)—Ted Stone could be called the John Chapman of Southern Baptists.

Chapman, better remembered as "Johnny Appleseed," became known for his travels throughout the 19th-century Midwest, carrying apple seeds in one hand and a Bible in the other.

So it has been with Stone, who recently completed his second coast-to-coast walk, sowing the seeds of the gospel and calling on citizens to focus on America's drug abuse problem.

Stone is a longtime Southern Baptist minister who became addicted to amphetamines nearly 30 years ago, after having been a pastor for seven years. During his addiction, he committed seven armed robberies and shot a man before serving four years in prison in the early 1970s.

Stone used his 3,550-mile walk to tell people Jesus saved and healed him from a destructive lifestyle. His message was heard by addicts, families of addicts, church groups, civic organizations and schoolchildren.

"I did this to try to rally Americans to a more active involvement in the war against drug abuse," he said. The walk began April 20 in San Francisco and ended Oct. 19 with him kneeling in prayer on the sands of Virginia Beach.

"I thanked God for the grace and mercy he showed me during the walk," Stone recounted. "Then I asked God for a special miracle in the lives of all the hurting people I met along the way. Then I recommitted my life to the Lord. I said, 'Lord, I'll do anything you tell me to do.'"

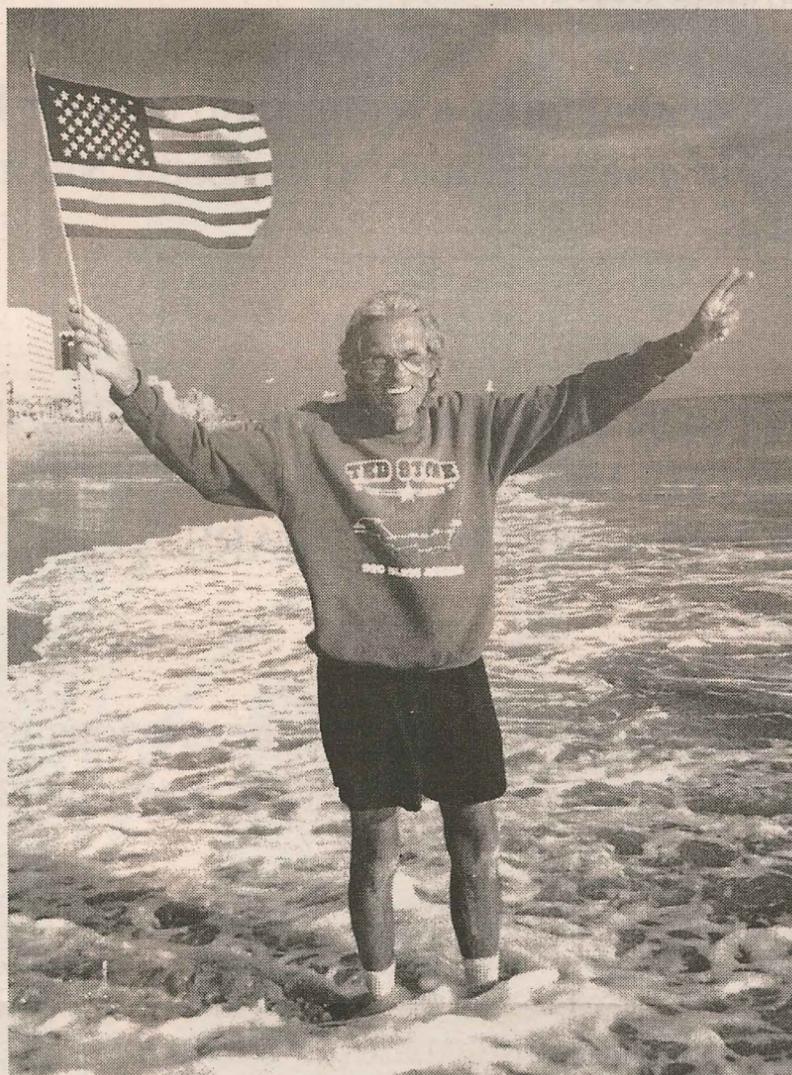
This was Stone's second coast-to-coast walk. The first in 1996 spanned 3,600 miles from Washington, D.C., to Jacksonville, Fla., then on to Los Angeles.

During his most recent trek, Stone walked six days a week and Sunday afternoons if necessary, wearing a red, white and blue "Ted Stone Walking and Talking" shirt, carrying an American flag and averaging about 30 miles a day.

Two assistants, Philip Barber of Dallas and Mike Yarborough of Durham, followed Stone, setting up speaking engagements, doing his laundry, toting his luggage, giving him water and snacks and securing shelter when thunderstorms approached.

Funds for the trip were provided by love offerings at the churches he visited. He stayed mostly at Holiday Inns, many of which offered him a reduced rate. He does not know yet how much his trip cost, but his first walk across the country cost \$36,000.

The 64-year-old Stone battled 100-degree temperatures, endured four climbs in elevation above 7,000 feet and lost 44 pounds.



TED'S EXCELLENT ADVENTURE Ted Stone stands in the Atlantic Ocean at Virginia Beach, Va., after completing his second cross-country walk to draw attention to drug abuse. Stone said a third walk is likely, but next time he wants to visit more large cities and speak to more school and church groups. (BP photo)

He encountered snow in June at Soldier Summit in Utah, rode a hot air balloon, talked with American Indians in New Mexico and stopped by a blues festival in Mississippi, telling his story at each juncture.

While approaching Fort Smith, Ark., he said he nearly collapsed from heat exhaustion until he saw friends waiting to pray for him just a few hundred yards away.

During the walk Stone went through two pairs of sneakers, met three governors, spoke at more than 200 engagements and collected 100,000 "Commitment to a Lifestyle Free From Drug Abuse" cards from people.

"It was worth all the pain if I've helped just one person," Stone said. "If the Christian church doesn't assume a leadership role in the war against drug abuse, then who will? For years the church had abdicated this to the secular world. It's time for that to end."

His efforts have captured the admiration of people ranging from former President George Bush to recovering drug addicts inspired by his transformation.

Messengers at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in June in Salt Lake City, heard his testimony and voted to form a task force to involve Southern Baptists in addressing the nation's drug abuse problem.

"It has been easier for leaders to embrace more romantic and popular tasks," Stone said. "It is time for us to join Jesus in the dark alleys ministering to those considered by many as unlovable," he said.

Stone said he believes the nation has been hypocritical in the different ways it has addressed drugs and alcohol. "Alcohol should not be addressed separately from other drugs. Alcohol is a drug."

He is a proponent of faith-based treatment for abusers and has no problem with 12-step programs as long as Jesus is the focus.

"To change a person's lifestyle, faith-based treatment is best," he said. "While the secular world has offered temporary relief to those with drug problems, the real hope for permanent cure lies with a Christ-based program."

A third cross-country walk is likely, Stone said, "but this time I will set aside more time for it."

He said a future walk probably would include more large cities, where he wants to spend more time speaking to school and church groups.

"Drug abuse is a problem for our whole nation and if we don't come together to address it, it can destroy us," he said. "Our young people need a new set of heroes in America. What greater hero than a family member who is sober and has self-control? That's the key."

Black minister in white church used to overcoming challenges

NEW MARKET, Ala. (RNS)—Conley Bush is no stranger to racial prejudice. But Bush, who is African-American, said it was fellow blacks and sometimes his own family, who gave him a hard time.

Bush grew up in a white neighborhood and attended a predominantly white school where he was a standout in football, basketball, baseball and track.

"A lot of my black friends called me 'Uncle Tom' because of my white friends," Bush said. "My oldest sister wrote me letters for a year criticizing me for attending a white church and forgetting my roots."

The criticism hurt, but Bush said he now believes God was preparing him for a particular task—being the new minister of youth and recreation at Locust Grove Baptist Church in New Market, Ala., a nearly all-white Southern Baptist congregation.

"God has given me the ministry of breaking down racial barriers," Bush said. "It's not me, but him (God) through me doing it. I'm going into white churches where blacks don't feel they can go. I think I'm developing some great relationships in the church and community."

Bush is believed to be the only full-time black minister at a predominantly white Southern Baptist church in the Tennessee Valley and only the second in Alabama, according to a spokesperson at the Alabama Baptist State Convention office in Montgomery.

Robby White, the church's pastor, said Bush simply was the best candidate for the job.

"His resume was in a group that the committee looked at, and as things developed, his name kept coming to the top," said White.

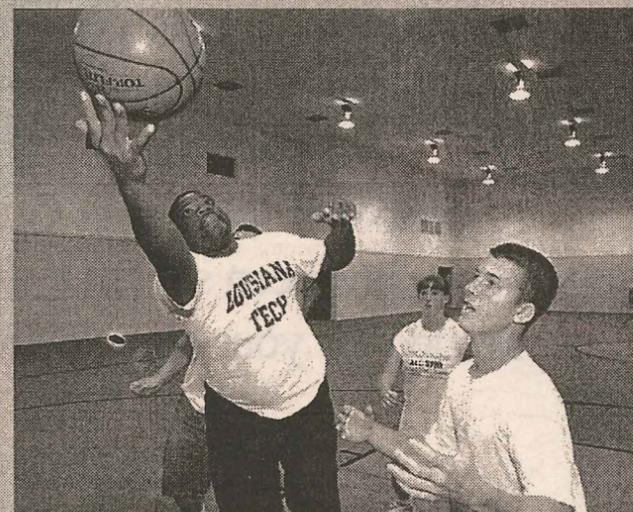
White said the committee initially had "some apprehension" about hiring Bush, but later unanimously recommended him to the church. More than 90 percent of the congregation favored it, he said. "I don't think those who voted against it based it on racial motivation, but were more opposed to creating the new position than anything."

Dixie Torbert, a member of the search committee, said the church is "thrilled" to have Bush on staff, but admitted it was a difficult decision at first.

"We knew he was black because his photo was attached to the resume and his credentials were very good," said Torbert. "To be honest, we were prejudiced about it, but wouldn't admit it. We kept coming up with hurdles, but he kept overcoming them. We could not get rid of his application."

Bush said he is confident that the few members who opposed him because of his race eventually will come around.

Even that older sister who criticized him for going to a white church has since changed her own mind, he said. She now attends a predominantly white church.



NEW MINISTER Conley Bush plays ball with members of the predominately white church where he is minister of youth and recreation. "God has given me the ministry of breaking down racial barriers," he said. "I'm going into white churches where blacks don't feel they can go." (RNS photo)

'TIS THE SEASON ...

Thanksgiving Day, followed by the busiest shopping day of the year—brings a sure reminder that Christmas holidays are here.

Kentucky Baptists know that this season brings a reminder to pray for International Missionaries and the opportunity to give generously to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

LOOK HOW KENTUCKY BAPTISTS HAVE INCREASED GIFTS TO THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS

In 1995-96, we gave \$2,891,562.

In 1996-97, we gave \$2,967,325, an increase over the previous year of 2.6%.

In 1997-98, we gave \$3,139,248, an increase over the previous year of 5.8%.

HOW WILL WE RESPOND TO WORLD NEEDS THIS YEAR?

Ways to be better informed about needs in International Missions:

- See December *Missions Mosaic* (magazine for Women on Mission).
- Participate in the International Mission Study, see the video or read the book, *God is Moving, Who Will Follow?*
- Participate in any WMU organizational meetings for preschoolers, children, youth or adults.
- Ask your pastor or church office to see a copy of *Wonder Working Power* an eight page tabloid produced by the International Mission Board and sent to every church.
- Follow the prayer guide each day during the Week of Prayer and pray for the specific missionary featured.

A sample of the Prayer Guide, the Lottie Moon Offering Envelope and the promotion poster has been sent to every church, along with an order card to request the number needed for your church. Order these from:

KENTUCKY WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION
PO Box 436569, Louisville KY 40253
or call (888)254-5726