

WESTERN RECORDER

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

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FOR THE RECORD

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Ban on job discrimination for gays won't exempt KBHC

By David Winfrey
News Director

LOUISVILLE—Strengthened by the publicity from a lesbian fired by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, the city of Louisville's board of alderman again is considering laws to prohibit job and housing discrimination based on homosexuality.



Smithwick

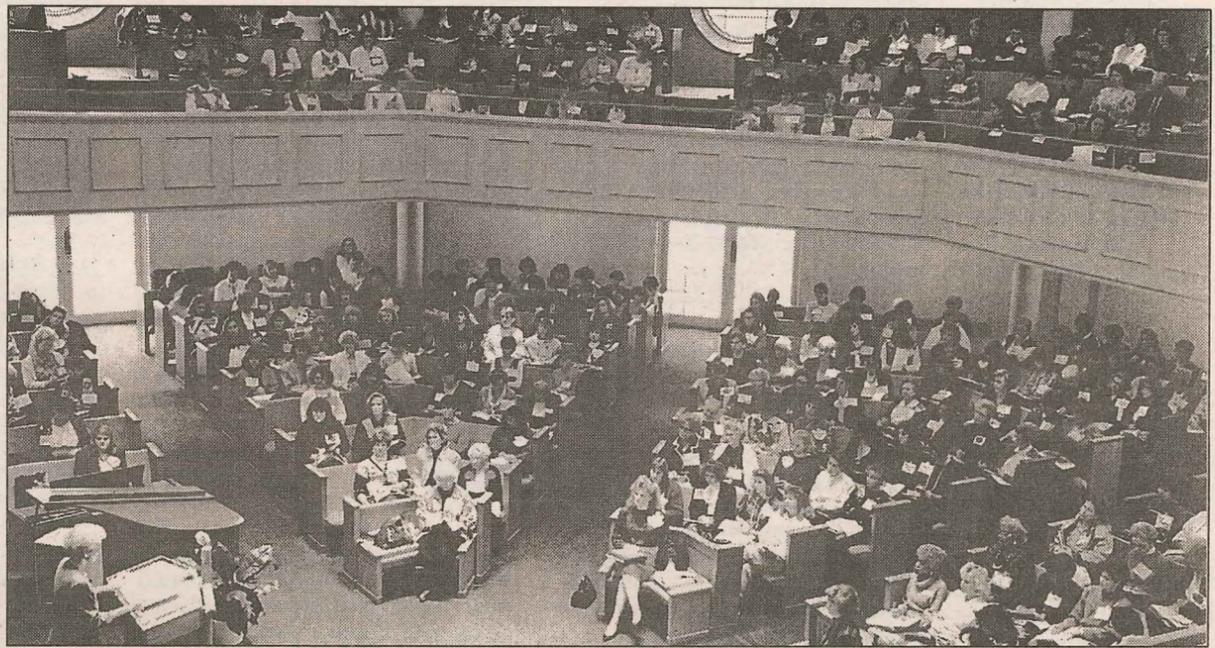
But the ordinances' exemptions for religious groups have been changed from previous versions and would affect two KBHC offices in the city, according to agency president Bill Smithwick.

On Jan. 12, five Louisville alderman sponsored three ordinances to prohibit discrimination against homosexuals in employment, housing and public accommodations. Seven of the 12 aldermen have said they will support the ordinance on job discrimination, according to the Louisville Courier-Journal newspaper.

Like previous proposals, the laws would exempt religious institutions or charities and schools operated by a religious group.

But unlike previous proposals, the exemption would not apply to agencies who get more than half their funding from local, state or federal government.

□ See *Gay-rights ...*, page 3



BIG & GETTING BIGGER The popularity of Bible and discipleship study groups such as Bible Study Fellowship (above) continues to grow. Advocates say the groups meet needs Christians have for in-depth learning to apply the Bible to their daily lives. This week's *Western Recorder* looks at four of the most popular movements in America. See stories on pages 6-9. (Bible Study Fellowship photo)

Kentucky joins trend of Bible study growth

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LEXINGTON—If your new year's resolutions include a promise to grow stronger in the Christian faith, join the club.

More accurately, you might join the thousands of Christians who attend Bible study and discipleship groups.

Whether meeting during the evening, morning or lunch hour, these courses are on the rise, said Jim Clontz.

The associate director of discipleship and stewardship for the Kentucky Baptist Convention estimates 800 Baptist groups in the state have completed such studies.

"They're primarily lay-driven," said Clontz. "They're taught by laypersons and the people in the groups are laypersons. They help by giving church members a greatly-increased vision."

Kentucky's growth reflects a nationwide trend, said Henry Blackaby, co-author of "Experiencing God," a 12-week study course that has sold more than 2 million copies.

"There's a huge hunger," said Blackaby, who also serves as assistant to three Southern Baptist agency presidents. "There was a spiritual vacuum. People were saying, 'There must be more to the Christian life than just activity.'"

That desire can be seen in tangible ways. Kay Arthur's Precept Ministries sells 200,000 copies of her Bible studies a year, four times the average of

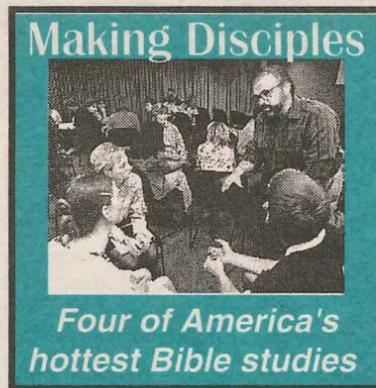
her book sales in 1970.

LifeWay Christian Resources of Nashville reports sales of nearly 12 million discipleship and family studies since 1991. The figures rose from 1.2 million in 1991-92 to 2.2 million by 1996-97.

Courses such as "Experiencing God" and studies produced by Bible Study Fellowship and Southern Baptists Kay Arthur and Beth Moore enroll millions worldwide.

Spokespeople for each of these movements said participation is growing.

Organizers claim this phenomenon shows the desire of many Christians □ See *Bible, discipleship ...*, page 7



Sunday morning still segregated for convenience, Carter says

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—While few churches today are formally segregated, most Americans still worship with people of their own race and class for reasons of comfort and "aloofness," former President Jimmy Carter said recently.

Carter, a lifelong Southern Baptist who teaches a famous Sunday school class at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Ga., suggested fellow Baptists should further integrate their worship services by establishing church partnerships across ethnic and racial lines.

Carter made brief remarks Jan. 11 at the Carter Presidential Center during a session of an International Summit of Baptists Against Racism.

Carter said America has not realized the dream of racial equality he articulated in the speech he delivered at his own inauguration as governor

of Georgia in 1971.

While official segregation has ended, "there is still too much separation of the races," Carter said. He added there also has not been "adequate compensation or corrective action because of years of slavery and legal discrimination against" African Americans.

Carter described Christian churches in the South as "the last rampart of segregation," even though few white churches today still have policies against accepting black members, which were once the norm in Baptist churches in parts of the South.

"I'd say a major factor is the natural human inclination to build communities that are very small," Carter said. People tend to "cocoon" in church-

es with people "who look like us" and "don't put a burden of Christian action on us," Carter said. "We don't want the responsibility of learning about people who put a burden of responsibility on us."

Despite legitimate differences in church culture and customs, staying in their comfort zones has hindered efforts by American churches to transcend racism, Carter said. "We Christians are guilty of restricting our communities too small," he said.

Carter urged congregations to take initiative to "form a partnership with a nearby church that has a different racial and ethnic composition."

Such a relationship can start with something as simple as a joint Easter service, he said, with an African-

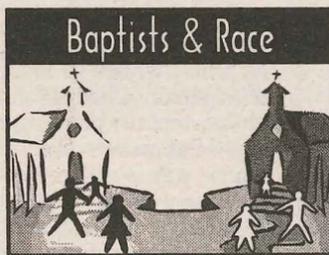
American pastor preaching to both congregations one year and a white pastor the next.

Even that limited interaction could "stretch our hearts and stretch our minds and reach out to other Christians in a way that would open a well-spring of our understanding of worshipping Jesus Christ," Carter said.

Delegates from 30 countries attended the Jan. 8-11 summit of Baptists against racism and ethnic conflict. It was sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance, a worldwide fellowship of Baptist unions and conventions based in Washington, D.C.

At another session, held at a chapel at Morehouse College named after its most famous alumnus, Martin Luther King Jr., the slain civil-rights leader's widow also greeted summit delegates.

"My husband once said 11 a.m. Sunday morning is the most segregated" □ See *Carter: Convenience ...*, page 11



Moving? See page 4 (0119)

BAPTISTS

BAPTIST BITS

■ The International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention reported 885 new missionaries were sent overseas in 1998—a 33.4 percent increase over 1997. The count includes 338 long-term workers and 547 two-year workers. The number of IMB workers on the field totalled 4,581 at year's end.

■ Leaders of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the newly formed, conservative Southern Baptists of Texas met Jan. 8 in what was termed an "informal, unofficial season of prayer and open discussion." In a short statement, the leaders said they wouldn't discuss the meeting but would meet again.

■ A foundation established to support the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague is closing its doors after six years but continuing to urge financial support of theological education in Europe. With donors' approval, the foundation's endowments of \$542,000 will be transferred to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Foundation.

■ Bob Patterson, a graduate of Murray State University, was named the first full-time coordinator of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of North Carolina.

WMU leader O'Brien says she'll retire in September

By Teresa Dickens
Woman's Missionary Union

TALLADEGA, Ala.—Dellanna O'Brien, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, announced last week she will retire Sept. 1, after 10 years at the helm of the missions promotion organization.

O'Brien, 65, made the announcement Jan. 12 during her address to the WMU Executive Board.

A native of Texas, O'Brien took the helm of the national Southern Baptist missions education organization Sept. 1, 1989. She will have served the 111-year-old organization exactly 10 years at her retirement.

O'Brien said she had been talking with WMU president Wanda Lee about her retirement for a year and had told Lee of her retirement date early last summer.

The stroke O'Brien suffered Sept. 26, 1998, did not factor into her decision to retire, she added.

Acknowledging that "WMU has faced some of its hardest days this decade," O'Brien proudly pointed to the organization's successes during the past 10 years in her address.

Topping her list were the record-setting gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, both of which were started by WMU to support Southern Baptist missions work.

She also noted the organization's involvement in projects related to hunger, AIDS and child advocacy; the partnership with Habitat for Humanity to build eight houses; and the development of Christian Women's Job Corps, a job training program which seeks to help women in poverty to gain self-sufficiency.

"God has both revealed his will to us and enabled us to be on mission for him," she told the WMU executive board, state and national WMU staff members and guests attending the meeting.

"He has protected us in the midst of criticism and directed us in times of confusion. Never have we been so aware of his guidance and love," she said.

"It has been my high honor to serve as your executive director this decade," O'Brien continued. "Never have I worked harder and never have I been so happy in my assignment."

"Many times I have said that the closeness of family we knew with our missionary colleagues in Indonesia has been replaced with the oneness of purpose and spirit with WMU sisters. We have prayed together, laughed together and cried together. We have known good days and bad, rejoicing and grieving. In each and every situation, I have found you faithful and long-suffering."

Prior to her service with WMU, O'Brien was an educator and served



O'Brien

Annie Armstrong sets another record

TALLEDEGA, Ala. (BP)—For the sixth year in a row, Southern Baptists last year set a record in giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

Total gifts were \$43.3 million, 5 percent more than the previous year.

Bob Record, president of the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, announced the results to the national executive board of Woman's Missionary Union.

"Thank you for everything you do to impact the raising of the Annie Armstrong Offering," Record said. "Without you and your people in the churches, it simply wouldn't happen."

Dellanna O'Brien, WMU ex-

ecutive director/treasurer, said the offering exceeded the national goal of \$42 million—the first time in 17 years the offering has reached its goal.

"We look at goals and wonder if we've raised them to the point that we can't reach them," O'Brien said. "But God is allowing his people to see the importance of giving to provide the resources necessary to meet the challenges of world evangelism. I'm glad we're a part of it."

The spring offering supports the work of 5,000 missions personnel in the United States, its territories and Canada, most of whom are jointly appointed and supported by state Baptist conventions. More than one-third of NAMB's revenue comes from the offering.

as a Southern Baptist missionary with her husband, Bill, and family in Indonesia. Following their missionary service, the family lived in Richmond, Va., where her husband served as an administrator with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

He now teaches missions and directs the global center at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham.

Lee appointed the search committee to find O'Brien's successor in the closing session of the board meeting Jan. 13. Ann Coffman, a board mem-

ber from Florida, will be the chairwoman. Other members will be: Rebecca Williams, a board member from Mississippi; Kathy Sheldon, a board member from Pennsylvania-South Jersey; Madonna Havner, a board member from Wyoming; and Judith Edwards, WMU executive director for New Mexico.

The committee will meet for the first time in February, Lee said. The process for selecting a national executive director is clearly defined and will be announced in the coming weeks, she said.

Baptists head effort to map every evangelical church in the world

By Lee Weeks
Southeastern Baptist Seminary

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Using the latest in computer technology, along with old-fashioned personal contact, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is leading an effort by six Christian organizations to identify every evangelical church in the world.

Other participants in the Church in Habitat project are the Jesus Film Project, Campus Crusade for Christ, Wycliffe Bible Translators, DAWN (Discipling a Whole Nation) and the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The organizations are combining

resources to "find out where the churches are located, so we can find out where new churches need to be planted," said Ed Pruitt, project administrator and a master of divinity student at Southeastern, based in Wake Forest, N.C.

Pruitt visited a dozen countries last year, making contact with researchers there who are compiling data on evangelical churches.

During the next three years, he plans to visit about 120 countries. "Our goal is to have 80 percent of the world mapped in three years, not including the U.S.," Pruitt said.

Keith Eitel, director of Southeastern's Center for Great Commission Studies, said the "Churches in Habitat" project is the modern equivalent of an evangelical church mapping project published in 1925, called "The World Missionary Atlas."

"All they could actually track in that day and time was location of Protestant mission stations," Eitel said. In an article written in 1925, one of the atlas' editors, Charles Fahs, wrote then "to attempt the mapping of the work of the indigenous churches in any adequate way is still impractical."

Even with advances in technology, it's still the personal interaction with church planters around the world that is making this century-old vision a reality.

Building relationships with researchers around the world, Pruitt brings church data back to Southeastern, where about a dozen students enter the church's name, denomination,

size, pastor and language into a seminary computer database.

Churches in Habitat was established at Southeastern in 1992, but the project stalled because of a lack of response from internationals. In the first five years of the project, only about 7,000 churches were registered in the database.

"What we've got now is nothing in comparison to what needs to be done, but just in the last 18 months we've grown almost eightfold," Eitel said.

Southeastern's planned 16,000-square-foot missions center, when built, will provide much-needed space to facilitate the Churches in Habitat project, Eitel said.

When churches want to know how they can make the greatest impact in global missions, Eitel said, "we will be able to show them a map of the world and help them make that strategic decision. We will be able to graphically display that for them."

Eitel said the church mapping project got a breath of new life when it partnered about a year and a half ago with DAWN, an evangelical organization founded 25 years ago to help international church leaders strategically evangelize their countries. DAWN projects that by the year 2000 it will have compiled data on 97 percent of the world's population.

Once the church data is entered into the seminary missions center's computer database, Southeastern students download information from a U.S. government-owned Internet site

that identifies every geographic location in the world by city, town, village or province along with latitude and longitude markings to map the locations of each evangelical church in a given country.

International Mission Board personnel then use this information to produce maps that identify the churches in relation to data they have compiled on surrounding people groups, such as their accessibility to Scripture or the "Jesus" film.

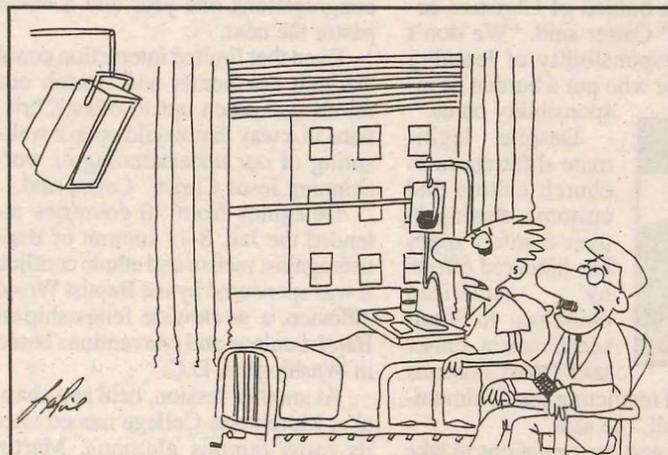
"Data is important only after you see it in comparison or contrast to other bits of data," Eitel said. "We need to not just see church data in the raw; we need to see it in relation to who the people are in and around these churches and the socio-ethnic dynamics involved."

Wycliffe Bible Translators provide more context for the church data by providing information they've assimilated through anthropological studies that further describe people groups.

This data can then be used to help missions agencies target people groups who do not have access to the gospel in their own language as well as areas around evangelical outposts that remain unreached.

Finally, representatives with Campus Crusade's Jesus Film Project publish the information-laden maps on an Internet map-server on the World Wide Web for free distribution.

The maps can be accessed through Southeastern Seminary's Center for Great Commission Studies' Web site at www.greatcomm.org.



"Pastor Duane, would you really visit me as often as you do now if the hospital didn't have ESPN?"

Gay-rights ordinance would affect Homes for Children

Continued from page 1

Last month Smithwick told members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board that of this year's \$19 million KBHC budget, about \$13 million is expected to come from the state in reimbursement for contract work.

He added last week, however, that state money does not cover all the ministry work done throughout the state. "We subsidize the state significantly in caring for abused, dependent, neglected children."

Last fall, Alicia Pedreira told Louisville media she was fired from Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children as an art therapist and supervisor because she is a lesbian.

Pedreira also said she told the person who hired her that she is a lesbian. That person, who has since resigned, told her it would be OK as long as she didn't talk about her lifestyle at work, according to a story in the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Her story has been seen as a rallying point for Louisville to reconsider what proponents call the "Fairness Amendment."

Since 1991, three previous attempts to pass the ordinances have failed.

Newly elected Louisville Mayor Dave Armstrong has said he will sign any of the three ordinances aldermen might pass.

KBHC has two offices in the city limits that could be immediately affected if the ordinance on employment were to pass, Smithwick said.

One is the agency's Center for In-

dependence, at Walnut Street Baptist Church, which helps older teenagers prepare to move from foster care or residential homes to living on their own.

The other is the offices for the agency's Metro-Louisville Region Family Foster Care Center. The center recruits and trains foster families and hosts an office for pregnancy and adoption counseling.

"If this ordinance is passed as is, we would not be able to discriminate against homosexuals who apply at those offices," Smithwick predicted.

He said he views the change in the exemption clause as "a direct response to our employment actions."

"We're having our attorneys review it," he added. "We just question that the city can do this. But they may very well."

Smithwick also said he will write a letter to area Baptist leaders to make them aware of the situation.

"This is an issue that I think Baptists really need to respond to," he said.

"I don't think that there is a systemic problem in our community that would warrant them protected status or special rights in employment in particular," he said. "I think what happened in our institution is atypical of employment opportunities, from hiring to promotions."

Smithwick called it "unfortunate" that the agency is being portrayed by opponents as hateful for trying "to exemplify traditional family values."

"I think this is regrettable that we

Issue could spread to Jefferson County

LOUISVILLE—A Jefferson County commissioner said he will submit similar gay rights ordinances for the county if they are passed by Louisville city alderman.

Louisville aldermen are considering three separate ordinances to ban discrimination in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodations.

Jefferson County Commissioner Russ Maple told the Louisville Courier-Journal that he and Commissioner Darryl Owens intend to

sponsor county ordinances that mirror any of the laws if they are passed in the city. Maple said one reason he would sponsor the measure is to keep the county's civil-rights ordinances consistent with the city's.

A county ordinance would need a third vote to be approved by Fiscal Court, which includes three county commissioners and Judge-Executive Rebecca Jackson.

Jackson and Commissioner Joe Corradino said they haven't decided on the issue.

are painted as this hostile and intolerant. But I think it's ironic that this group would often be as intolerant as they are accusing us of being."

He said he understands the need for ministries to homosexuals, but added that is not the role of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. "Our job is to employ people to be role models to kids," he said. "Our job is not to be a ministry to homosexuals."

In his address last month to the KBC Executive Board, Smithwick said the Baptist childcare agency began taking state money in the late 1970s—with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's blessing—in order to expand its ability to respond to needs across the commonwealth.

"If we were to say 'We're not going to take any more state dollars'—and we may get to that point one day—the numbers of children and families we serve will be reduced dra-

matically, overnight," Smithwick said.

Smithwick said he raised the issue of state money with the committee that interviewed him for the job as KBHC president.

"They made it very clear, we will take that money until it ever causes us to put our mission in jeopardy. When it ever causes us to put our mission in jeopardy, it's gone," he said.

Smithwick reiterated last week that the money received by the state "in no way impedes our mission."

"We are able to share the Bible and Christian literature with the children and involve them in Christian activities," he said. "We had 171 professions of faith last year."

The ordinances were assigned to an ad-hoc committee. The earliest they could be voted on by the entire board is at the next meeting Jan. 26, said Leah Wilding, the board's public affairs administrator.

"I think this is regrettable that we are painted as this hostile and intolerant."

Bill Smithwick, president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

NEW OFFICERS Kentucky Baptist Foundation's new officers are (from left) Vice Chairman Carl Kelley, Assistant Secretary Laurie Valentine, Chairman Bill Owen, Secretary Leigh Jones, Treasurer Barry Allen.

Kentucky Baptist Foundation reports record growth, elects officers

LOUISVILLE—The Kentucky Baptist Foundation's board of directors elected officers during its winter meeting, at which a record increase in managed funds was announced.

Funds under the management of the foundation increased a record \$12.8 million for the first three months of the 1998-99 fiscal year, a record for any quarter in the foundation's history.

Funds under management as of Nov. 30 totaled \$106 million. Annualized investment returns reported

through Nov. 30 for the foundation's two funds were:

■ Equity Fund: One year, 26.9 percent; three years, 29.3 percent; five years, 24.3 percent.

■ Fixed Fund: One year, 10.1 percent; three years, 7.6 percent; five years, 7.4 percent.

Bill Owen of Lexington was elected president of the board of trustees during the Dec. 10 meeting. Other officers elected were:

■ Vice President Carl Kelley of Bowling Green.

■ Secretary Leigh Jones of Berea.

■ Assistant Secretary Laurie Valentine, who is also the foundation's trust counsel.

■ Treasurer Barry Allen, who also is the foundation's executive director.

Also during the meeting, the board congratulated Trust Counsel Laurie Valentine for receiving the highest rating possible by her peers in the Martindale-Hubbel directory of attorneys. The rating considers both legal ability and ethical standards.



BLUEGRASS BURGEO

■ **New video promotes WMU girls' camp.**

A new video promoting Kentucky Baptist summer camps for girls is now available through the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. The eight-minute video, entitled "Camp's For Us," is designed to show how much fun camp can be and emphasize the impact camp can have on a young person's personal and spiritual growth. The video includes a short promotional spot suitable for use during a church service. Copies can be borrowed from any Baptist association or by calling Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union at (888) 254-5726. Copies also can be borrowed from the Kentucky Baptist Convention media library by calling (888) 254-5713.

■ **KBC employee Steinbrecher dies.** Anna

Steinbrecher, secretary for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism department, died Monday, Jan. 11 of cancer while a patient in the hospice unit at the Alliant Medical Pavilion in Louisville. Steinbrecher, a 9-year employee at the convention building, was buried Jan. 15 in Louisville's Cave Hill Cemetery.

■ **Bill Jagers' father dies.** L.S. Jagers, the father of Bill Jagers, former Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism director, died Monday Jan. 11. The funeral was held Jan. 14 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

■ **Georgetown hosts lecture.** David Gushee, founding director for the Center for Christian Leadership at Union

University in Jackson, Tenn., will deliver the 72nd annual Danforth Thomas lecture at Georgetown College Tuesday, Jan. 26 at 11 a.m. in the John L. Hill Chapel. Gushee will speak on "The Righteous Gentiles of the Holocaust." The annual lecture honors one of the first permanent faculty members at Georgetown. For more information, call (502) 863-8174.

■ **Driskill named Glen Dale home's clinical director.** Barbara Driskill has joined the staff of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Glen Dale Children's Home as clinical director. Driskill, a Kentucky native and graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary, will lead staff to develop and implement treatment for children and teens at the 78-bed facility.

■ **Renovaré conference scheduled.**

Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington will host an ecumenical Renovaré conference Feb. 19-20. The conference will be led by Richard Foster, founder of Renovaré, a Denver, Colo.-based organization dedicated to spiritual renewal. Registration costs \$20 if received by Feb. 1; \$25 after. For more information, call (606) 266-3174.

■ **Anti-abortion rally scheduled.**

The Kentucky Right to Life Association will sponsor a rally Jan. 22 in Louisville to mark the 26th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand. The rally will begin at noon at the Jefferson County Courthouse steps. For more information, call (502) 895-5959.

OPINION

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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Christmas traditions

Why is the church so frightened to see any changes made in traditions, such as celebrating Advent and the use of candles? There is something very powerful in the symbol of the lighting of the Christ candle on Christmas Eve.

Our children know that candle represents Christ, the Light of the World, coming into a dark and uncaring place in history. That makes it even more powerful when, on Good Friday, the Christ candle is carried from the church and it is left in darkness. I have felt a wrenching in my heart and a desire to cry out when that candle leaves. That adds to the joy of Easter morning when the Christ candle returns. It is symbolism that is moving.

All of us have lovely memories of being in nativity plays in our churches.

But if you are going to condemn Advent as "not Baptist," may I point out that the first crèche was created by Ursuline nuns in Quebec in 1640. They melted wax to make the figurines.

Later, in the 18th century, nativities or crèches were adopted in France, especially in homes, when Midnight Mass was prohibited because of persecution of the Catholic church. So, the use of a crèche is rooted in Catholicism. My letter is not meant as a criticism of the Catholic church.

Before Advent this year, in my church (Highland Baptist in Louisville) we had a time of walking through the church calendar with many things to help our children get an overview of the gospel. Too much of what we teach our children at church is fragmented. What the Christ candle does is connect the lit-

tle baby in the manger to the death and resurrection. This is theological sound and good education.

*Patricia Ramsey
Clarksville, Ind.*

Sad and offended

I have been following the activities and election of officers of the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention with interest and dismay.

I am extremely disappointed to learn there were not any women nominated and elected for the top four positions of KBC, which met in November. Furthermore, out of 33 positions of the Executive Board (already filled),

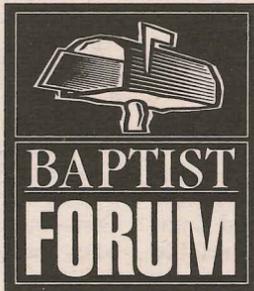
28 were held by men and only 5 by women. In December the KBC filled the five remaining staff positions, once again with men.

The newly elected president of the KBC, Charles Barnes, stated in an article in "Western Recorder," (Nov. 17, 1998), "he hoped his election would signal the fact that laypersons should and can play an important role within our church and denomination in terms of its leadership and he hoped his election sends a message to both pastors and laypeople."

To me, the message Charles Barnes and the Executive Board is sending is, yes, a layperson can play an important role within our church and denomination, but only if that layperson is a man.

I feel I am being informed (again) by the Southern Baptist hierarchy that yes, Jesus does regard women as equals, but only if they stay in their place, continuing in secondary positions and do not aspire to any top positions in the church or denomination.

When will Baptists take a stand against gender discrimination?



Again, I would like to state how saddened and offended I am that so few women hold any of the top positions in the KBC. I pray Charles Barnes will work toward changing this situation in the near future.

*Connie Pruitt
Louisville*

Leaving state is hard

For 29 years, I have been pastor of churches in Kentucky. The last 16 years, I have had the privilege of being pastor of the historic First Baptist Church in Somerset. What an honor this has been for my family and me. In January, my family and I shall move to Atlanta where I'll be pastor of Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Stone Mountain.

Leaving Somerset is hard, but leaving the Kentucky Baptist Convention is equally difficult. I love this convention and have enjoyed working with other Kentucky Baptists to strengthen it. I treasure the friendships I have made over the years and will take these relationships into eternity.

Keep up your good work and may the Lord bless and keep you.

*Robert F. Browning
Somerset*

Rejoice for gift

We rejoiced to learn of Duke K. McCall's gift to Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond, Va. We have been lifelong admirers of Dr. McCall, who baptized my husband in Centertown in the late 1930s.

Dr. McCall's generous gift offers hope and encouragement for the future for moderate Baptists. It will help to provide an opportunity for a seminary education embracing the principles that sustain our faith.

Thank you Dr. McCall. May your tribe increase.

*Doris Tichenor
Morgantown*

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Sowing generously

Is there a connection between sowing and reaping? I don't believe you can "buy" blessings by putting money in an offering plate, but the Bible does tell us God blesses what is given through a heart that is right

with him. The apostle Paul affirms this by writing in 2 Corinthians 9:6, "whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

Paul tells us there are several characteristics of this kind of sower. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 describes these individuals as generous, intentional, cheerful, abounding and fruitful. This all is made possible by the grace of God (2 Corinthians 8:7).

In some cases God does bless generous people with resources so that they, in turn, can be a blessing to others. An article in the Western Recorder recently referenced two very successful businessmen who tithe the income of their corporations. I do not know Paul Van Os-

tenbridge, CEO of Atlantic Stewardship Bank, but from what I read, he has been blessed to sow generously. I do know Truett Cathy, founder of Chick-Fil-A. His generosity and devotion to Jesus Christ is known internationally.

There are many churches who sow generously in missions giving. Shandon Baptist Church in Columbia, S.C., made a conscious commitment to maintain their giving level to the Cooperative Program at 10 percent even when the church was relocating to new facilities. God has so blessed that church with growth that their Cooperative Program giving increased in two years from \$200,000 to \$350,000.

In December, I presented a plaque to First Baptist Church of Paducah, on behalf of all Kentucky Baptists and mission causes for the largest total giving (\$378,040.45) to missions through the Cooperative Program last year. Severns Valley Baptist Church in

Elizabethtown was second in total gifts.

There are many churches who give a larger per capita percentage and consequently more sacrificially than larger churches. By the time you read this, I also will have been at Briensburg Baptist Church in Benton to present a certificate thanking the congregation for their generous giving to the Cooperative Program. They rank annually among the top three churches in per capita giving and in the top 15 in total giving.

An increasing number of individual Kentucky Baptists also are making an intentional commitment to continue sowing generously beyond their physical lifetimes. Barry Allen and Laurie Valentine of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation are more than happy to assist any Kentucky Baptist with estate planning and making planned gifts. This kind of giving allows you to leave a legacy of sowing generously and reaping bountifully. I encourage you to take advantage of their service by contacting them at (502) 244-6466 or (888) 254-5701.

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

ESTATE

Estate plans need regular 'fiscal checkup'

By Laurie Valentine

How long has it been since

you reviewed your will, checked out who are named as beneficiaries of life insurance and retirement survivor benefits, and prepared an inventory of your assets?

If it has been more than three years, or if there has been a marriage, birth or death in your family, it's time to give your estate plan a "checkup."

Make sure your "examination" includes a review of:

■ **Fiduciaries.** Are the people you have named as executor (in your will) or successor trustee (in your revocable living trust) still willing to serve and able to carry out the considerable obligations and responsibilities involved in such service? Are you and your spouse still comfortable with the people you have named to serve as guardians for your children?

■ **Beneficiaries.** Are all of your beneficiaries still living and able to manage what you have left to them? Have children been born to any of your beneficiaries since you prepared your will or trust? Have you or one of your beneficiaries been married or divorced since you prepared your will? Have you directed how your estate will pass if all of your named beneficiaries die before you?

■ **Death Benefits.** Are the beneficiary designations of life insurance, retirement and other death benefits coordinated with the rest of your plan?

■ **Assets.** Does the value of your estate (including real estate, investments, cash, savings, business interests, life insurance, retirement survivor benefits, jointly-owned assets, revocable trust assets and personal property) exceed \$650,000—the federal estate tax exemption equivalent for 1999? If you have chosen a revocable trust to carry out your estate plan, have you funded the trust? Does the way in which your assets are titled defeat the distribution plan under your will?

■ **Incapacity Planning.** Have you empowered someone, through a power of attorney, to manage your finances and make decisions for you if you become incapacitated?

Start the new year off right. Check out your plan, make needed changes and resolve to revisit your estate plan on a regular basis.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation



Children need to learn how to make and keep commitments

Q: How can I help my children learn to make and keep commitments?

Learning to make and keep commitments helps boys and girls mature and protects them from the physical and emotional stress produced by over-involvement.

■ **Look for short-term commitments.** Children need the opportunity to explore many areas of interest. Short-term commitments make successful follow through easier, and keep the calendar clear for other experiences.

■ **Communicate clearly.** Commitments require involvement and participation. Explain the requirements of participation in a chosen activity. A chart or calendar (of practice schedules, for example) might help your child visualize his or her involvement and make the future more concrete. Use the word "promise" as you talk. Explain that making a commitment means promising to do something over a period of time (practice, attend, participate, etc.).

■ **Support your children.** Help your children follow through. Make sure they are on time and prepared. Guard against letting your own schedule interfere. Once your child commits, hold him or her to their choice, even if this occasionally means keeping their commitment for them. ("You are going to practice tonight!")

■ **"I've changed my mind!"** When children want to back out of commitments, encourage them to think about how their decision will affect others. Ask questions. Listen carefully to any complaints. Some might indicate valid problems. Once a child makes a final decision, stick with it. Emphasize the finality of their choice, but give grace instead of guilt. Use the experience as a teaching tool the next time you find your child considering a commitment. Protect your child from a pattern of starting, but not following through.—
David Garrard

Q: We have a single adult class in our church, but it seems that no one else knows we exist. Any suggestions?

Congratulations. Those who began your class no doubt had a vision for a safe place for single people to find a welcoming Bible study. As you concentrate on that goal, your church will notice by the sheer numbers in the class and the number of single folks joining your church.

But there are other ways to be visible. June Johnson, once a single adult Bible teacher in Atlanta, says there are two ways to get the attention of leadership. One is to be so needy that you make their life more difficult. The other is to be so giving that you make their jobs easier. The positive approach will help you reach your goals. Try these ideas:

■ **Know the structure.** Understand the decision-making structure in your church so you will know where to go to get things done.

■ **Assess the greatest needs of your church.** What's needed most? Visitation? Preschool, children or youth workers? Ushers? Cleanup crew for Wednesday night dinner? Financial needs? Decide on one or two projects your group can commit to. Remember follow-through is essential.

■ **Be alert for where individuals can make specific contributions.** Do you have people with theater experience who can help with the Christmas program? Does someone have organizational skills that can help in an outreach or assimilation ministry? Step up to the task.

■ **Send an encouraging note to your pastoral leadership.** At least monthly, let them know about growth in the group, new members, your Bible study, a task the class accomplished. Thank them for their specific blessings on your life. Let them know you're praying.—
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.



Trial isn't Christians' greatest challenge

From the studios of talk radio, to the classrooms, to the parking lot of the local grocery store, to the pulpits of America, the "trial of the century" is sparking continual debate about what constitutes good leadership.

In the midst of this debate, two questions strike me—who is fit to be a leader, and what is my role as a Christian in this matter?

The first question is a sticky one these days. In this "It's-your-right-to-know" world in which we live, we have developed a ravenous appetite for the distasteful, improper and indecent behavior of public figures. Thus, gossip magazines, as well as other "legitimate" media sources, have dished the dirt that so many want. Congress got into the act last fall as it published the lurid details of Ken Starr's report, and we bought it—literally.

There is seemingly no end to the appetite the American public has for such graphic personal detail. The sensational has replaced the substantive in the news we receive, and we have become voyeurs whose interest in good government and responsible political action is replaced by the shadowy antics of the Peeping Tom.

Can we find a leader above such reproach? Yes, there are good people whose commitment to public service is sound and whose personal lives reflect honesty, integrity and spiritual values. Leadership that accentuates these qualities is our hope amidst the growing tide of today's destructive politics. But unless we are willing to end this circus atmosphere of salacious and sensational politics, even good people risk too much in running for office.

What is my role as a Christian in this matter? Unfortunately, much of the spiritual response to these events has been translated through the mouthpiece of the Religious Right. Many have questioned the lack of outrage on the part of Americans toward the

president's behavior. The marriage of religion and politics that defines the Religious Right has numbed the American people to serious introspection pertaining to matters of the heart and soul. Their platform of condemnation, condescension and lock-step conformity has caused many in this nation to turn a deaf ear to the truths of faith that can make a difference.

That is one reason why I believe religious organizations, denominations and institutions have greater difficulty communicating genuine truths about God's kingdom today. It falls not to the megaphoned voice of forced conformity and judgment, but to the individual—to you and me—to make the greatest difference.

Last summer, my 4-year-old son Clayton brought me the front page of the newspaper and pointed to a picture of the president. He said, "Daddy, we are supposed to watch this man, aren't we?" He didn't understand what was happening in Washington, but he realized that the president was an important man we paid attention to. And then it hit me; yes, this President's actions are important, but in that little boy's world, my actions make an even bigger difference.

The president's behavior in this matter is inexcusable. It has damaged his family and our nation. Perhaps the Senate will deal with the articles of impeachment in a responsible and bi-partisan manner so this nation can move forward.

But as I understand Scripture and interpret the example of Christ, I believe I am challenged as a Christian to do the following. I will pray for the Senate, the president and his family. I will focus my attention on impacting the world around me positively for the cause of Christ. If my family and the people I encounter on a daily basis see Christ in me, that will make the greatest difference. Will you join me in accepting this challenge?

Jim Abernathy is pastor of Latonia Baptist Church in Covington

GUEST EDITORIAL

Which of you will give him a stone?

By Brad Johnson

Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? (Matthew 7:9)

Jesus is a master of using simple illustrations to make profound points. The question found in the above text is a classic. Our master expected the crowd to think in unison, "Oh, no! A good parent would always give bread to the child who asks for bread."

Though that would have been the correct answer, it is not always the most honest answer on our part. Every parent would have to admit that in weaker moments, particularly if you have a child in adolescence, you have been tempted to give your child a rock (i.e. A good stoning). Or, if you are the parent of a preschooler, have you ever found yourself saying, "If that child asks for one more thing, I'll scream?"

Once, years ago when our children were both small, my wife concluded

a particularly difficult day, drained of any residual parental energy, with these words: "I'm changing my name. I will no longer answer to 'Mommy.'"

Back in high school, I wrapped a shoe box filled with rocks and gave them to my girlfriend for her Christmas present. Granted, I was not the sharpest knife in the drawer, but I thought it was funny and had a sweetheart ring in my pocket for her after my laughter subsided.

So, is God like us? Does he trick us into believing there is bread waiting and all the while he has given his children a box of rocks?

Eugene Peterson, in "The Message" paraphrase, states part of the passage this way: "As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing (giving rocks instead of bread). You're at least decent to your own children. So don't you think the God who conceived you in love will be even better?"

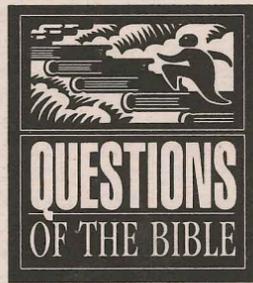
Jesus was drawing a sharp distinction between how we respond to the

incessant pleading and demands of our kids and how God responds to us in our times of need. Jesus was giving us a glimpse of what God is like. He is not a frazzled parent who is tired at the end of the day. He does not grow weary from our constant requests. He is not limited in his resources. He delights in doing good for his children.

Included here is also a bit of teaching for us. The word "trust" captures our part of this relationship. Here's the deal: Whenever we go before God with our requests, like a child asking for bread, we are to trust that whatever we receive from the hand of the Father is what he deems best. At the heart of this passage is the heart of God. And upon examination of his heart, we discover we are there.

Let this prayer help you to apply these truths: "Lord, I don't always understand your ways, but help me to always trust your heart. Give me this day my daily bread, and help me receive from your hand all that you have for me today."

Brad Johnson is pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green



DISCIPLESHIP

Daily Bible study, not sell-out crowds, is Moore's focus

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

BOWLING GREEN—Two years ago Laura Bevel had never heard of Beth Moore, founder of Living Proof Ministries.

But as a spiritual growth leader at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Bevel was approached regularly by people wanting to use Moore's Bible studies.

"I had women saying, 'My sister in Kansas City has taken this study' or 'My mother in Atlanta did this, can you get it?'" Bevel said.

The requests led her to order "A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place," a study of how the Old Testament tabernacle relates to modern life in Christ.

Since then, several hundred people at Living Hope have studied materials developed by Moore. Her studies have been used in several small-group couples meetings and two coed Sunday school classes.

Bevel predicted members will snap up Moore's newest workbook, "Living Beyond Yourself," a study on the fruits of the Holy Spirit. It will be followed in June by "Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality in Life."

"Beth is just an engaging personality," Bevel said. "Her studies have brought a hunger for God's word. For a lot of women in the first course, it was the first time they had ever taken a Bible study of any kind."

Moore is booked for a seminar at Living Hope in October. But don't bother calling for tickets. They sold out more than four months ago.

She stirs similar reactions elsewhere. Last September, a seminar at First Baptist Church of Paducah had to be moved to a high school auditorium to accommodate the overflow crowd.

Four of her books rank among the top 10 best-selling, non-dated Bible studies published by LifeWay Christian Resources. Sales of her materials skyrocketed from 32,000 in 1996 to 263,000 in 1998.

Some of her studies explore stories and events in the Bible—the building of the Tabernacle or the lives of King David and the apostle Paul—to show the impact a relationship with God can have on one's life.

A graduate of Southwest Texas State University, Moore has been teaching for 20 years, primarily around Texas.

Her longtime friend and administrative assistant, Kim Bankard, said Moore began teaching in a women's Sunday school class.

Word-of-mouth referrals led to invitations to teach at seminars and

women's retreats. A mentor told Moore she had a gift, Bankard said, and Moore began accepting more speaking invitations.

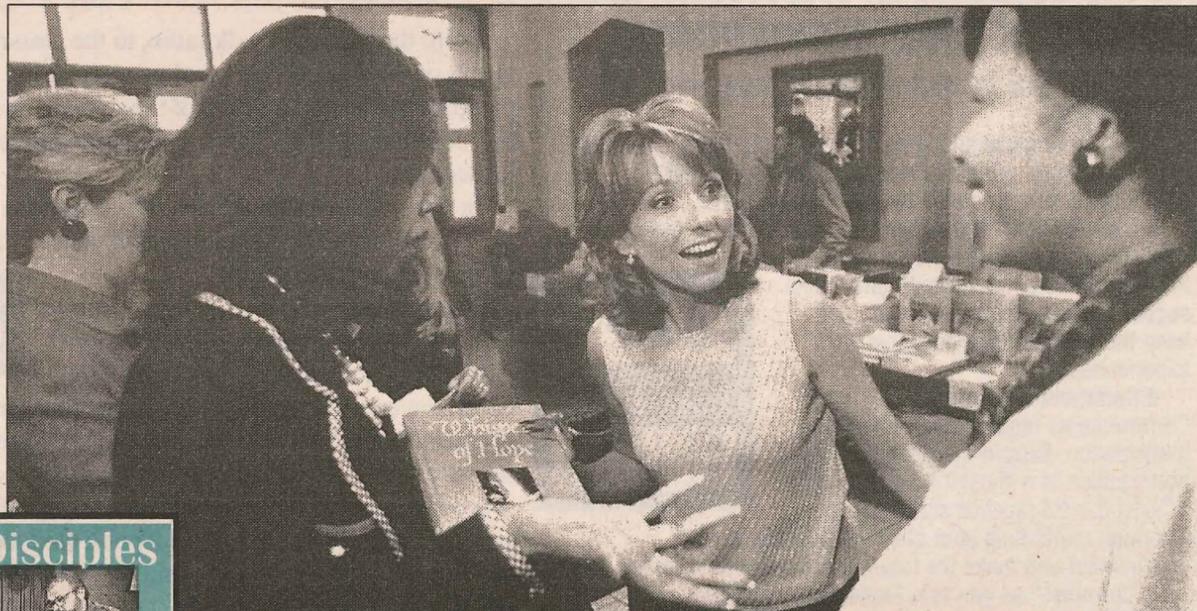
"Her ultimate goal has always been to see women, and men, grow in God's word," her assistant said. "She wants them to see how important it is to be in the word daily."

Since she first taught women, Moore tailors lessons for females. But so many men kept sneaking into her newest Sunday school class at First Baptist Church of Houston that officials agreed to make it coed.

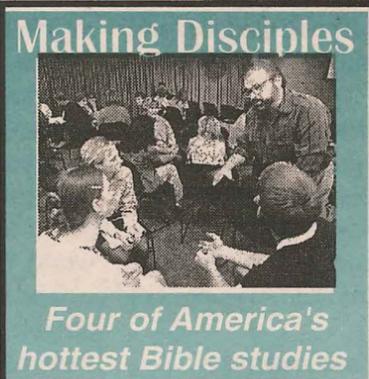
Bankard said Moore's transparency and personable nature are primary reasons for her popularity. Moore shares her heart and experiences in a way people find "contagious," said Bankard.

But Moore resists standing on a pedestal and remains humble amid her burgeoning fame, Bankard said.

"I'll get on the plane after a conference and Beth cries the whole way home," she said. "She can't believe God has called her to do that."



IN DEMAND Beth Moore, center, speaks to two women who attended the taping of videos to accompany her fifth in-depth Bible study for women, "Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality in Life." Moore's speaking engagements sell out and her books are snapped up, but assistant Kim Bankard said Moore is humbled by the impact her Bible studies have. "I'll get on the plane after a conference and Beth cries the whole way home. She can't believe God has called her to do that." (BP photo by Jim Veneman)



Making Disciples
Four of America's hottest Bible studies

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home," she said. "She can't believe God has called her to do that."

"She challenges women to daily Bible study," added Faith Whatley, women's event specialist at LifeWay. "Beth has a unique way of explaining Scripture. She relates things as a woman and mother that I've never heard before."

At 41, with one daughter in college and another in high school, Moore can relate to people in their 30s and 40s, who represent the majority of her audiences.

Since her studies are packaged for and aimed at women, men generally don't like to admit they find her studies attractive, Whatley said.

But LifeWay's Chris Adams said the scriptural base of Moore's teaching has no gender.

"People learn not only what the word says but how to apply it," said Adams, women's enrichment ministry specialist. "Men and women are hungry for meat."

Take Moore's study on the Old Testament tabernacle. Adams said that study explored the building of the temple and its intricate design, showing its pivotal role in God's eternal plan: "It's one of the most incredible Bible studies I've ever done."

Moore's work also answered a call from Baptist churches that were forming women's ministries, she said.

And Living Proof resources also have been a catalyst for the formation of new women's ministries, she said.

"I think church staffs are beginning to see what a need this is," Adams said. "I'm seeing more women hired for women's ministries or as ministers to women."

Bevel calls Moore's program intensive, with homework lessons taking 30 to 45 minutes a day to complete.

But what really drives Moore's popularity is her thorough knowledge of the Bible and a way of presenting it that causes people to pay close attention, she said. "People are hungry for God's word. They want to know it for themselves."

Moore: God offers freedom in Christ but not drive-through quick fixes

By Terri Lackey
SBC LifeWay Christian Resources

NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Don't go looking for God to offer quick fixes, according to Bible study leader Beth Moore. God doesn't have drive-through windows, she said.

"In our human nature, we always want the quick fix. Give me something in five minutes, or we don't want to be fixed at all," said Moore, a teacher and author of five in-depth Bible studies.

"If people really want the freedom that is available to them through Christ, they are going to have to walk with God, day in and day out, for all their lives," Moore said while in New Orleans taping her newest Bible study, "Breaking Free," scheduled for release in June.

Moore's latest message is about casting off strongholds or behaviors

that interfere with living an "abundant life," which she describes as "a life with a whole lot of God."

"A stronghold is anything in your life that has a strong hold on your life," she said. "It is something you realize is mastering you."

For Moore, fear and distrust were the behaviors that held her captive and kept her from leading an abundant life in Christ.

"Without getting too specific, I think I've been very open that I was the victim of some abuses as a child. So I came with all sorts of strongholds in my life," she said.

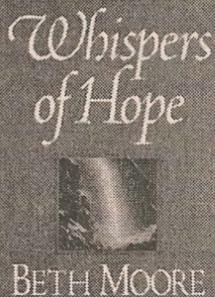
"When there is a person that your family trusted, and they become untrustworthy and you're just a small child, then you grow up with a stronghold of mistrust," Moore said most adults grow up with childhood scars that manifest themselves in unhealthy external behaviors.

"Any kind of compulsive behavior, any kind of addictive behavior represents an internal need for control," she said. "Anything that continues to make us feel shame or like we are less than we are in Christ, anything that steals our dignity in Christ is a stronghold that we need to be free of."

Paradoxically, Moore said, Christians believe that living a Spirit-filled life is the exception, rather than the rule.

"It is our heritage to live a life that glorifies God, to enjoy his presence, to find satisfaction in him and to have a real prayer life. Really, the off times of our insecurities should be the exception," she said.

"My study teaches that if you are not living the Spirit-filled, effective life, you've got something somewhere that is a hindrance to you. Now what is it?" she added.



Name: Living Proof Ministries.

Author: Beth Moore.

Headquarters: Houston, Texas

Phone: (281) 859-1375.

Course Goal: To help students develop the discipline of daily Bible study and prayer and learn to apply Scripture to their lives.

Length: 10 weeks.

Work requirements: Five lessons per week, 30 to 45 minutes per lesson.

Class size: Varies from small groups to several dozen students.

Class sessions: Two hours.

Numbers: Total Bible study sales of 447,000 copies, with 1997-98 sales of 263,000.

Titles: "A Woman's Heart: God's Dwelling Place."

"A Heart Like His: Seeking the Heart of God Through a Study of David."

"To Live Is Christ: The Life and Ministry of Paul."

"Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit."

"Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality in Life," scheduled for release in June.

"Whispers of Hope," a 10-week prayer study.

DISCIPLESHIP

Precept teaches study of the Bible, not commentaries

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

ELIZABETHTOWN—Bible study should be just that, according to Precept Ministries.

Instead of turning to commentaries or study helps, Precept students use cross references, word studies and Greek dictionaries to help them uncover the deeper meaning of Bible passages.

"Once they come (to Precept), they realize they had no idea they could find all that by themselves," said Sue Sinkhorn, a member of Round Top Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Sinkhorn got so excited watching Kay Arthur teach Bible study lessons on television that she trained to lead Precept classes herself.

Since 1994 Sinkhorn has taught two classes a year using Mrs. Arthur's material, first in London, Ky., and then in Elizabethtown.

"I've seen tremendous Christian growth in some people," she said.

Her goal is to help students in each class discover what the Bible says with the inductive method of study that Mrs. Arthur favors.

Precept Ministries was founded by Kay Arthur and her husband, Jack. Formerly missionaries, they were stationed in Mexico when a series of medical problems forced them to return to Chattanooga, Tenn.

While Arthur went to work as the manager of a Christian radio station, Mrs. Arthur—a registered nurse—developed the teaching skills she first used to lead a young people's Bible study in Mexico.

Mrs. Arthur started a home-based study in Chattanooga when the independent Bible church they were attending asked her to teach the teenagers.

Those classes generated so much enthusiasm the sessions soon outgrew their home. To accommodate the crowds, they purchased land with two old barns, naming their property "Reach Out Ranch."

From those humble beginnings emerged today's nine-building campus near the Chattanooga airport. It has TV, radio and video production

facilities, classrooms for 350 students and a 500-seat auditorium.

"Kay's core principle was her inductive approach to study—letting the Bible speak for itself," her husband said. "She wanted to introduce them to the Bible and establish God's people in his word, in a way that produces reverence for him."

During the past 28 years, Mrs. Arthur has written more than 30 commercially-published books and about 50 self-published volumes, including Bible-study workbooks.

Ironically, Arthur preached and did broadcasts during nearly 15 years on the mission field. But he admits he didn't have the expository, verse-by-verse teaching ability his wife does.

Though not as public a figure, he does play a key role as ministry president, overseeing administrative details.

Still, the arrangement upset some traditionalists. Once a friend lectured him that he needed to get his wife off the platform and teach, but today he seldom hears such comments.

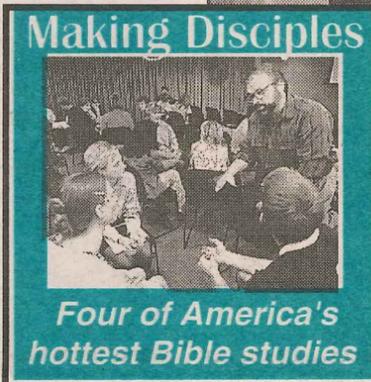
Besides, he said, "I didn't take a back seat. I took a different seat."

The ministry has a presence in more than 100 countries, with materials in more than 20 languages. Mrs. Arthur's TV show is syndicated nationally, while her radio programs reach across the world.

An estimated 100,000 people study Precept materials in North America. The numbers are believed to be higher overseas, but the ministry doesn't maintain a count.

"Our thing is training," Arthur said. "The best thing we can do is write Bible studies and then train leaders to go around the country."

"I hope they go back into the body of Christ, in the local church, and take leadership roles," he said. "Our goal has never changed. It's to establish God's people in his word."



TENNESSEE TEACHER Kay Arthur founded Precept Ministries with her husband, Jack, after a Bible study for teenagers grew too large for their house. Mrs. Arthur teaches students to let the Bible speak for itself, using cross references, word studies and Greek dictionaries to uncover deeper meaning. (Precept Ministries photo)

The Arthurs attend Woodland Baptist Church and most students come from Baptist backgrounds.

At Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, Precept courses are taught on Sunday nights and Wednesday mornings by Sue McGee.

Since starting with 25 women four years ago, the mid-week classes have more than doubled.

But Arthur's teaching is used by Christians from a range of denominations, from Methodists and Church of Christ to Assemblies of God and Presbyterians.

Whatever their background, many students report that Precept studies have been life changing, said training director Pete DeLacey.

Students report that their knowl-

edge of Scripture has sustained them through a difficult time and prevented them from sinking into despair, he said.

Other changes are less dramatic, he added. Often those affected by the Bible become "solid citizens" whom neighbors can look to for support, he said.

Others get involved in teaching roles in their church, Sinkhorn said. Many change their views of the church and recognize that biblical doctrine must take precedence over church doctrine, she added.

"I've come to know who God is," she said. "He's not someone to be feared and he's not changeable. I've come to put my trust in him and be more dependent on him."

Bible, discipleship studies growing in Kentucky & nationwide

Continued from page 1

to make faith a daily reality—not just something they dust off before Sunday worship services.

Course leaders agreed. They cite such benefits as feeling closer to God, wanting to help others mature spiritually and a new desire for increased missions activity.

Sam Strader began leading a Lexington men's class of Bible Study Fellowship after seeing the dramatic impact the program had on his wife.

Since 1991, the interdenominational class has grown from 150 to 225 participants and added a companion children's class.

Strader said many fathers told him they are delighted to be helping their kids learn Scripture.

Strader said he feels called to his volunteer leadership role in the same way God calls a pastor to the pulpit.

"I feel closer to my Lord because I study his word daily and try to apply it," he said. "I tell people if they come to this class regularly and do the work on a daily basis, it will make a difference in their lives."

Similar passions inspire others. Laura Bevel oversees classes at Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green using Bible studies written by Beth Moore. But Bevel also makes a weekly, two-hour trip to Nashville to attend Bible Study Fellowship.

At Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, Sue McGee said her Wednesday morning study has led to major changes in women's lives.

She points to class-sponsored events that have led to nearly a dozen women to accept Christ as their personal Savior.

"People are hungering to know God in a deeper way," said McGee,

who uses material from several authors. "They're finding they need to get into his word for him to speak to them."

Baby "boomers" and "busters" represent the majority in these small-group studies, Clontz said.

Their thirst for in-depth knowledge contrasts with older Christians who are more satisfied with general information, he said.

"They want much more specifics than the 'builders,'" Clontz said, referring to those 55 and older. "Younger people seem to want more detail. If they're going to church for an hour, they want a list of things they can do or they want to grow spiritually."

Sam House, projects specialist for LifeWay Christian Resources, which publishes Experiencing God and more than 200 other discipleship studies, said small-group formats foster clos-

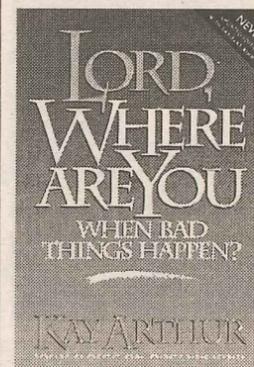
er personal relationships.

"This restores a function we have lost in the church," he said. "The focus has been on gathering and activity instead of God's presence and the unity that exists in that. Too often, modern Christians think of church as gathering rather than community."

America's changing dynamics also might play a key role in the spread of Bible studies.

Americans now live in such a diverse culture that a shared ethic and morality has faded, House said. Because people can't depend on culture to provide a sense of right and wrong, he said, they are searching for it in the Bible.

"This has fueled a hunger to go back to what God's word says," he said. "It could very well be God's timing, too; part of his design to bring revival."



Name: Precept Ministries

Author: Kay Arthur.

Headquarters: Chattanooga, Tenn.

Phone: (423) 892-6814.

Course Goal: To teach people to study the Bible inductively—meaning to research the Bible thoroughly before consulting commentaries or other helps.

Length: Studies run between 4 and 20 weeks.

Work requirements: Five or six lessons per week, depending on the series; 15 minutes to an hour per lesson.

Class size: 10-15 students is common, but can be larger.

Class sessions: From 45 minutes to two hours.

Numbers: Workbook sales of approximately 200,000 copies annually. Precept's mailing list includes approximately 2,800 Kentuckians.

DISCIPLESHIP

Blackaby still awed by impact of 'Experiencing God'

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

ATLANTA—Before she went to Texas' electric chair, "born-again murderer" Karla Faye Tucker led so many inmates to Christ in her "Experiencing God" classes that her wing of death row became known as "Life Row."

In Arkansas, Gov. Mike Huckabee credits the 12-week study course with convincing him to enter the gubernatorial race in 1996.

And in Kentucky, deacon Doug Ernspeker credits the teaching with helping him release feelings of self-pity brought on by cancer. Ernspeker says he has never needed treatments for the disease.

But of all the stories he has heard of transformed lives, "Experiencing God" author Henry Blackaby said he is most pleased with the multitudes called to full-time Christian service.

"Hundreds have felt called to the ministry," he said. "Hundreds are on the mission field. They've come to me at their appointment service and said, 'You need to know Experiencing God clarified clearly the will of God for my life.'"

Now an adviser to three Southern Baptist agency presidents, Blackaby said he hesitated when asked to put his teachings on knowing the will of God into book form—he had never written one.

Editor Claude King helped design the interactive format that was a model for such Bible studies as MasterLife.

The 220-page workbook is Blackaby's explanation to students that God is at work all around the world and wants Christians to join in. To explain that, Blackaby combines Scriptural illustrations of God's work with personal examples from his own life.

"When Jesus said to make disciples he meant to bring them into a relationship with him," Blackaby said.

"From that point on, he can function as Lord over their life. But people didn't know how to do it. That's what Experiencing God is all about."

Joining God in his work will accomplish more in their church and personal life than they could ever do on their own, he emphasizes in the study.

Blackaby said he also hopes it helps people see they come face to face with the Bible's "Almighty Author" every time they open it, "and understand the purpose of Scripture is to reveal God, his ways and his purposes."

In Kentucky, Ernspeker said he believes it was God's purpose that he live despite being diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. In early 1996 doctors estimated he had six months to live.

Ernspeker said he had gotten to know God in a deeper way in 1994, but the doctor's predictions gave him new reasons to reach out.

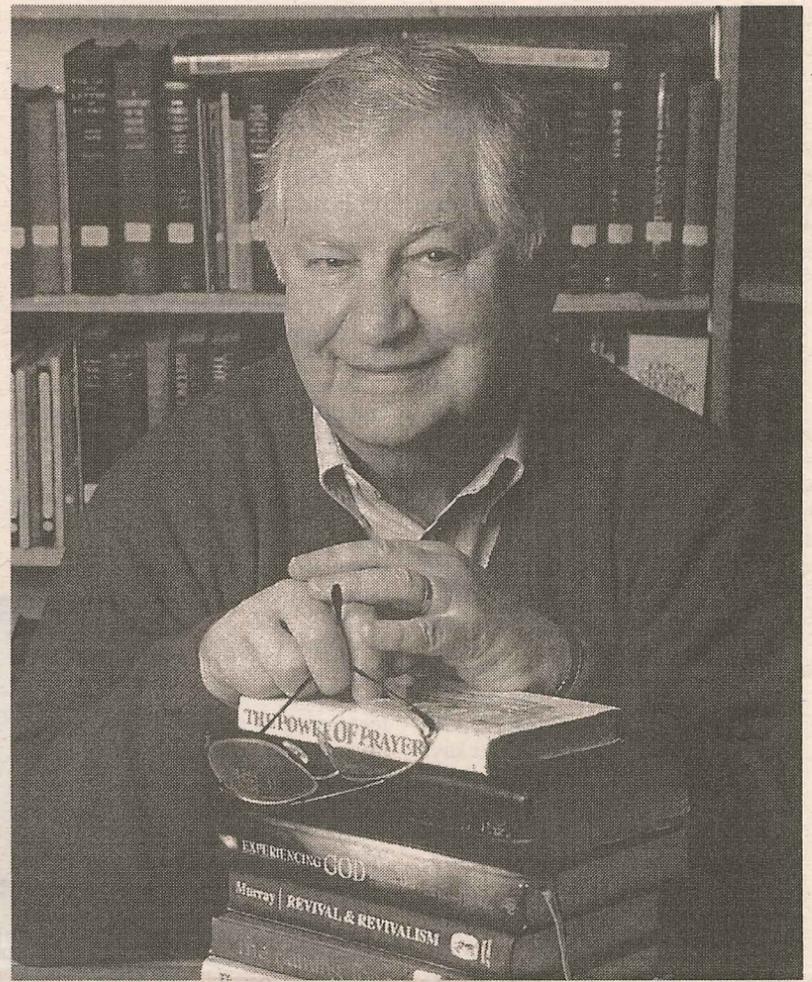
"I had started losing muscles in my legs when this turned around," said Ernspeker, a retired construction company owner. "When I turned it over to God? I'm still here. When you see miracles still exist, you've got to believe."

Sam House said he continually sees the impact "Experiencing God" is having. House is a projects specialist for the study's publisher, LifeWay Christian Resources.

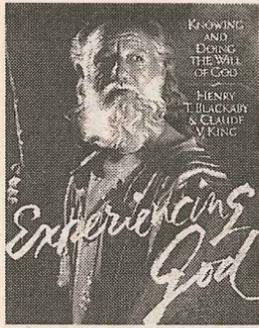
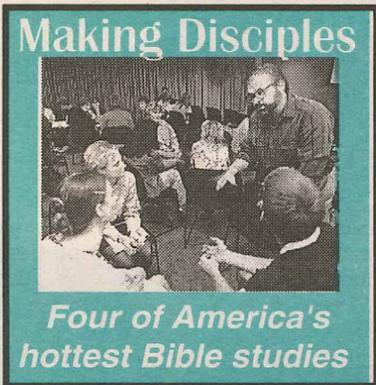
In October, House received a message from a Baptist relocating to Lexington. The man wanted a list of churches that had completed "Experiencing God," assuming it would be easier for him to assimilate into such a place.

After talking with a woman on an airplane, House sent her a copy of the workbook. She recently sent a note relating her desire to center her life on God instead of herself, he said.

Used by nearly 20 denominations, the study has created more than 30 spin-off products with sales of more



AUTHOR, AUTHOR Henry Blackaby was hesitant to write a Bible study when asked because he had never done it before. Experiencing God has sold more than 2 million copies, but Blackaby said he is most excited about the number of people who have entered Christian ministry after completing the study. (North American Mission Board photo)



Name: "Experiencing God."

Author: Henry Blackaby.

Phone: (800) 458-2772 for LifeWay Christian Resources.

Course Goal: To help students see God's activity around them so they can join in God's work.

Length: 12 weeks.

Work requirements: Five homework lessons per week, minimum of 20 minutes per lesson.

Class size: 8-12 students.

Class sessions: Weekly, 60 to 90 minutes.

Numbers: Workbook has sold total of 2.3 million copies, with 1997-98 sales of 425,000.

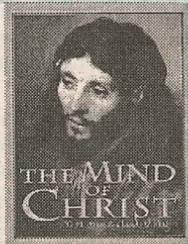
What else? Discipleship studies range from parenting to different revelations of God

NASHVILLE—"Experiencing God" and four Beth Moore Bible studies currently rank among LifeWay Christian Resources' top-10-selling discipleship books. Here are the other five:

■ **The Mind of Christ** by T.W. Hunt and Claude King. "The Mind of Christ" attempts to teach believers how to think the thoughts of Christ, or to have the mind of Christ. Teaching topics include discovering freedom in Christ, becoming like Christ and living in the Spirit. There's also a youth edition.

■ **MasterLife**, Avery Willis, Jr. This "PhD. of Bible studies" has been a popular Baptist discipleship study since it was

introduced in 1980. Originally, it was two 26-week-long studies. In 1997, it was revamped to accommodate people who couldn't commit to that length. It now is

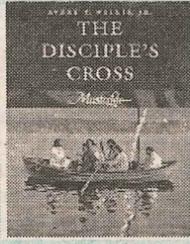


divided into four, six-week interactive workbooks. But it maintains the same sequential, small-group discipleship process that attempts to guide Christians to develop a lifelong,

obedient relationship with Jesus.

LifeWay Christian Resources President Jimmy Draper has said one of the benefits of a church's involvement in the MasterLife study is that it results in an increase in lay

leaders. Of those who have taken the MasterLife course, Draper said, 59 percent become Sunday school teachers, 23 percent become deacons, 21 percent



become discipleship leaders and 21 percent become actively involved in missions.

■ **Life in the Spirit**, Robertson McQuilken. First there was "Experiencing God," then "The Mind of Christ." With "Life in the Spirit," LifeWay has the Trinity covered. This 12-week group study focuses on how, through the power and fellowship of the Holy Spirit, to experience a life characterized by a

relationship with God and ministry that makes a difference.

■ **Shaping the Next Generation**, David and Elaine Atchison. A video-driven, short-term resource that offers parents basic information and motivation to shape the morals and values of their children.



■ **The Man God Uses**, Henry and Tom Blackaby. A seven-chapter, interactive study of Scripture that shows how men who have encountered God need

to understand what he is doing in their lives. It also helps men know what they should do with this encounter in all areas of their lives: personal, family, work, church, and community.

DISCIPLESHIP

Bible Study Fellowship requires students' commitment

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—Bible Study Fellowship goes against the grain of a fast-paced world fond of short-term commitments and bite-sized devotions.

While some discipleship courses take as few as four weeks, BSF follows a 32-week schedule paralleling the school year. Completing its rotation of studies requires seven years.

Nor is homework to be shrugged off. Fail to prepare your lesson and you can't join in the weekly small group discussion that accompanies the class lecture.

Miss three meetings and you're declared inactive, meaning you can be replaced by someone else who wants to sign up.

"We can do things in Bible Study Fellowship you can't do in the church," said Jane Roach, director of the training division. "It's hard to say,

'You can't come this week unless you've read the sermon notes ahead of time,' but we can. And we think it's strengthened the church."

The group was founded by Audrey Wetherell Johnson, at one time a missionary to China. After spending 30 months in concentration camps during World War II, she came to the U.S. for temporary rest.

That stay stretched into several years. In 1952, five women in her California church asked the former seminary instructor to teach them the Bible.

Johnson agreed reluctantly, but only if her students would diligently answer written questions about the

Scriptures.

The study quickly grew, finally moving into a church building. As more participants enrolled, the organization incorporated in 1959.

"Her goal was always that people would study the Bible for themselves," Roach said. "She wanted them to teach others and strengthen Sunday school and other parts of the church."

Reflecting her missionary bent, the founder wanted students to develop the kind of relationship with God that would inspire them to lead other people to become Christians.

Though nearing its 40th birthday, the fellowship isn't growing stale, Roach said. It has never had a "master plan," expanding solely by invitations from people wanting a study in their area.

Kentucky is home to eight Bible Study Fellowship classes; six for women and two for men. Four are in Louisville, two in Lexington and one each in Fort Mitchell and Paducah. The locations reflect BSF's urban focus. The organization feels God called it to reach society's leaders, Roach said, so they concentrate on cities.

"They are learning what the Bible has to say and what it says to them,"

she said in explaining its appeal. "It changes their life. They get to know God and have a personal relationship with him, and they like it."

The area director who oversees Kentucky the emphasis on teaching the Bible is another reason for growth.

"That's what God called us to do," said Pat Lennam, formerly of Cincinnati and recently transferred to Japan. "We're not a support group, although we encourage fellowship. But we want people to get into the Bible for themselves and apply it to their lives."

This year's lesson plan is a detailed review of Genesis, while 1999-2000 will study Romans.

Students are expected to attend regularly, be on time and complete their homework. They also are encouraged to pray for their pastor and church leaders. The fellowship wants to support the church, not compete with it, according to Roach.

In spite of its successes, Bible Study Fellowship also faces challenges. The men's group in Lexington lacks members in the 25-to-35 age range, according to teaching leader Sam Strader. Responsibilities with young children, career and job-related travel make it difficult for young men to stay with it, he said.

And attracting officers seems to be a never-ending task, Lennam said.

"There's always people who want to participate, but we don't have enough leaders," she said. "There probably isn't a class that says they have enough leadership. But the ones we have are sure committed."

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Joseph Vest - Burgin Baptist Church, Burgin, Kentucky

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Name: Bible Study Fellowship.

Founder: Audrey Wetherell Johnson; current executive director is Rosemary Jensen.

Headquarters: San Antonio, Tex.

Phone: (210) 492-4676. Class contact names available at (888) BSF-CLAS.

Course Goal: To encourage Bible study and relate it to daily life.

Length: 32 weeks (parallels school calendar from September through May).

Work requirements: Six lessons per week, minimum of 30 minutes per lesson.

Class size: Ranges from 100 to 600 people, but includes small-group discussions with 15 participants.

Class sessions: Two hours.

Numbers: Approximately 950 weekly classes currently meeting in 26 countries.

ISSUES

Baptists from around the world pledge to fight racism

The 'Atlanta Covenant'

ATLANTA—Baptists from many countries, meeting in Atlanta, endorsed a statement encouraging on their churches to oppose racism. Among the many pronouncements of the "Atlanta Covenant" were calls for:

■ **Interracial evangelism.** "Our lack of unity is a hindrance to evangelism," the statement claims. "In the face of the unbelieving world, separate worship and church life contribute to inflexible structures, which prevent the love and unity of Christ to be visibly expressed in the world."

■ **Integrated worship.** "Segregated and homogenous worship engenders separation and often prevents racial and ethnic conciliation. Baptist conventions and unions are encouraged to work toward structures that encourage the unity for which Christ prayed."

■ **Affirming culture.** "The prophetic call of Christ is one of redeeming culture and yet affirming culture," the statement says. "Too often colonialism brought culture and not Christ, thus denying the power of the gospel and creating a syncretistic religion devoid of Christ and his power."

■ **Repentance.** It is a blot on the so-called Christian nations of the north that, often being white, they have fostered and engendered racism in their treatment of nationals," it states. "Where there is division and hatred, we call upon our churches to work for reconciliation and peace."

■ **Education.** The statement recommends the observance of Racial Justice Sunday, community education programs and promotion of role models from all cultures.

■ **Work toward economic justice.** "Baptist churches are encouraged to unite together to combat government systems that enhance and perpetuate racial and ethnocentric prejudice."

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

ATLANTA (RNS)—Baptist leaders from across the globe ended a four-day summit Jan. 11 pledging to oppose racism and ethnic conflict in the United States and abroad.

Several meetings were held strategically in the churches where sermons and speeches by civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. stirred a generation to protest.

During the meeting, King's "I Have a Dream" speech was pointed to as a model and agenda for Baptist conventions and unions around the globe.

"What the world needs, what the churches need, what Baptist churches need are new dreamers," said Denton Lotz, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, the fellowship of 192 Baptist groups that sponsored the meeting.

Urging the congregation of pastors and lay people to dream of racial harmony and the end of ethnic conflict, Lotz asked, "Are you willing to go back home and be a dreamer?"

Baptists, known for their invitations to the altar for converts to Christianity, were then called to the altar of Ebenezer Baptist Church—where King served as co-pastor with his father—to declare their commitment to the principles of a declaration ham-

mered out during the summit.

"Racism and ethnic conflict are a denial of the gospel and a hindrance to mission and evangelism," the Atlanta Covenant reads. "Those men and women who practice racism or harbor racist thoughts not only deny the gospel of Christ but put their own fellowships in danger for they neglect the Christ for which Gospels and deny the unity for which Christ died."

The service of commitment capped a meeting that featured testimonies of Baptists from Croatia to Nagaland, India, who have worked in areas of deep ethnic conflict.

In small group meetings, the delegates gathered in sections of the sanctuary of Wheat Street Baptist Church to discuss practical ways they could encourage congregations to work toward racial justice through evangelism, economic development and the images that surround them in churches and Sunday school literature.

One group grappled with the predominance of white depictions of Jesus, pointing to the stained-glass windows and paintings erected in the early 1900s at Wheat Street Baptist, a predominantly black church that was a major contributor to the civil rights movement.

Some in the group said churches need more diverse presentations of the Christian message in art and music.

"I am not against that," said Horace Russell, dean of the chapel at Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wynceton, Pa., pointing to a painting of the Last Supper.

"I think it is as legitimate as any other painting," said Russell, who is from Jamaica. "This is legitimate but this is not the only legitimate thing."

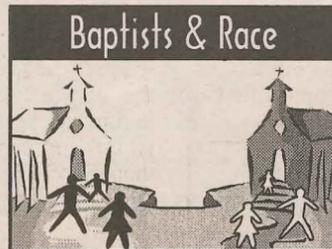
Others thought the color of Jesus' skin should be de-emphasized and his gospel message should be stressed.

"We're focusing on the color of the body in that time and place, but are we missing the incarnational truth of the whole event, that in Christ we have God with us?" asked David Hoke, a Southern Baptist pastor from Voorhees, N.J. "The point is that Jesus came for me, he came for you, he came for everybody, whatever color, whatever nationality."

In the end, the Atlanta Covenant concluded: "We recognize that the almost exclusive use of white images of Jesus has limited our understanding of and witnessing to the incarnation."

It also urged that churches encourage their publishing entities to use multiracial images in worship and educational materials and strive to celebrate communion with congregations of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

The declaration also recommended training church leaders in racial justice and reconciliation, the economic partnering of Baptist churches in developed nations with churches in developing countries and the affirmation of indigenous people.



The Cornerstone

Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, refers to one's last will and testament as the cornerstone of an estate plan.

Since January is "Make Your Will Month," it is a good time to review your estate planning documents and confirm they still accomplish God's purposes for your possessions or to seek help in developing a Christian estate plan, if you have not already.

The basic documents to which I refer are: will, durable power of attorney, living will directives, healthcare surrogate designations and perhaps revocable living trusts.

As I was reviewing my family's current documents recently, I began to think about how God's purposes for my possessions had changed over the years and how my estate planning documents had changed. I also realized I wish I had known in earlier years what I now know about Christian estate planning.

My first will was executed when I was in college and single. My father was deceased, and I bequeathed everything to my mother and sisters in equal shares.

When Larie and I married, we executed new wills. When our first

child was born, we executed new wills. As our financial circumstances have changed, and as we have matured in the practice of Christian financial stewardship, we have not only changed our wills again, but we have put in place some additional estate planning documents. Furthermore, we have made sure our wills, trusts, life insurance benefi-

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Barry Allen

ciary designations, retirement survivor benefit designations and titles to assets have been properly coordinated.

Every adult Christian should have a Christian estate plan. You can have at least a provision in your will, in the event all of your heirs are deceased at the time of your death, that your entire estate would go to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation for the perpetual benefit of your favorite Baptist cause or causes. You can build on that as your circumstances and God's purposes change.

Please call us to assist you personally and/or to conduct a Christian estate planning seminar in your church. There is no cost or obligation. Our toll-free number is (888) 254-5701.

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, 10605 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, Ky. 40223; (888) 254-5701

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Carter: Convenience segregates churches

Continued from page 1

ed hour in America," Coretta Scott King said. "Though this is still largely true," Mrs. King said she has been encouraged to see more integration of blacks and whites in numerous churches she has visited over the years.

She also acknowledged a Southern Baptist Convention statement three years ago apologizing for the denomination's "complicity in and indifference to racism."

Another speaker at the conference, however, took a dimmer view of the progress made in relations between whites and blacks in Baptist churches in America.

C.T. Vivian, a leader in the civil rights movement, said racism is deeply ingrained in America's faith structures.

"If you're black in the United States, you become a Christian in spite of Christianity, not because of it," said Vivian, a former Nashville pastor who is now board chairman for the Atlanta-based Center for Democratic Renewal.

"In many ways the civil-rights movement was a confrontation between two Baptist groups," Vivian said.

While Martin Luther King and other civil rights leaders were "almost exclusively Baptists," opposition to

the movement centered in white Baptist churches, because the South is largely Baptist, he said.

Vivian called it "interesting" that the Southern Baptist Convention waited until 138 years after the civil war to apologize for slavery. "Is that how long it takes to overcome racism?" he asked.

Vivian said after sending missionaries to Africa for centuries, European and American Christians now need to receive black missionaries to "help them face their most atrocious sin."

"There is little reason to believe that the white church, dominated by a racist culture, can save themselves," he said.

Racism is now the greatest barrier to missionary work in a world that is three fourths "dark to black," Vivian said, identifying the "symbol of the white Jesus" as both a symptom and cause of racism.

Jesus was from the Middle East and undoubtedly had dark skin, Vivian said. "We're so racist we can't even tell the truth about God. We have to make him white to even live with him. Why can't the church stand to have God as anything else than white?"

Vivian said that while seeing Jesus as a person of color would mean a lot to blacks, it raises a serious question: "Could white people remain Christian if they had to bow down to a black Jesus?"

Progress 'woefully inadequate' in race relations, Land says

ATLANTA (BP)—Progress in racial reconciliation has fallen far short of the hope generated by early victories in the civil rights movement, according to Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Attempts to address the racial impasse in the United States have been "woefully inadequate," Land said in an address at the Baptist World Alliance's race summit.

But Americans should "draw courage" from the progress that has occurred "to move from standing on the border of the promised land of integration to go forward to the kingdom of reconciliation," he said.

"I am disappointed, sometimes even depressed, that in the year of our Lord 1998 we have not come farther as Americans in our quest for a racially reconciled society," Land said.

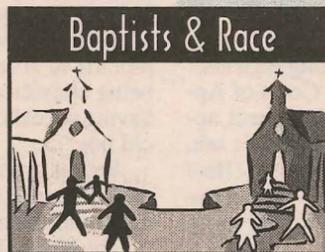
Land recalled the joy of being in Atlanta in 1995 when messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention overwhelmingly passed a

resolution on racial reconciliation.

At the heart of racism is the misguided belief in one's superiority over others which mirrors the Scripture-borne truth that the heart of man is deceitful and desperately wicked, Land said.

"Racial bigotry is woven into the very warp and woof of our society's nature," he said, noting it is incumbent upon Christians to remind society that the totality of racism cannot be effectively addressed apart from its spiritual dimension.

As men and women come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, there is reconciliation to God, Land said. "The fact of that reconciliation gives us the hope of reconciliation with brothers and sisters around the world, whatever their background, whatever their skin hue, whatever their sex or their national origin."



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Ryan Stelk

By Robert Dunston

Ryan Stelk, the son of Warren and Terri Stelk of Kansas City, Kansas, spent his summer of 1998 as a member of the SonBound team.

As part of this sports ministry team, Ryan's responsibility and expertise were in basketball. The team spent two weeks at Cedarmore and six weeks on the road traveling to churches where team members presented sports clinics to children and youth and led Bible studies.

Their travels took them around the state, and often team members were with each other 14 hours a day.

Stelk said he learned to appreciate the gifts each person had. Every team member was different, but God could work through the team in a great way, Stelk said.

One day while on stage doing a ball drill, he noticed that each member of the team was encouraging and strengthening the other members. Stelk watched God create unity in the midst of diversity.

One of the many people who supported Stelk during the summer was his girlfriend in Kansas. She gave him a package early in the summer containing an envelope to open for each week of his summer

missions service. Using Galatians 5:22-23, which speaks of fruits of the Spirit, she provided encouragement for him as he ministered.

Stelk, a junior with a major in religion and a minor in psychology, enjoyed giving his testimony. He believes God is leading him to become a youth evangelist and plans to attend seminary to prepare himself further for his calling.

"I want to share Jesus in simple ways ... to be able to explain the unsearchable riches of the kingdom of God in simple ways," Stelk said. "I love adults, I love youth and kids and love sharing about Jesus. I got to do it all this summer."

While at Cumberland College, Stelk has found many ways to be a Christian witness. His friendly spirit and calming presence draw people to him. Perhaps that is why he has been so helpful to new freshmen at Cumberland as an encourager and guide. People recognize Christ at work in and through him.

We know God will continue the good work he has begun in Stelk.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



One more loaf

"The bowl of flour shall not be exhausted, nor shall the jar of oil be empty until the day that the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth" (1 Kings 17:14).

The widow thought she was preparing her last meal when she met Elijah. When she heard the words noted above from the prophet, she must have had serious doubts, yet she did as he told her.

And the next day there was enough flour and oil to make one more loaf of bread. And the day after that there was enough flour and oil to make one more loaf of bread. As her faith grew, the widow no doubt realized that one more loaf of bread was really all she needed.

Many of us have testimonies of how God pulled us through in a pinch. There was bread during the drought and we celebrated. But how many of us manage to apply this truth every day in our businesses and families?

It gets tougher when there are other people counting on you to make the right decisions, to plan ahead, craft contingencies and save for the rainy day. In fact, it could be argued that to embrace too firm-

ly the trust demonstrated by Elijah and then the widow, could be a bit reckless for a government, a hospital, a child care agency.

Yet this principle is not a suggestion or a card trick to perform at parties. It is the kind of life believers are called to live in all aspects of our lives.

Recently, Kentucky Baptist

Homes for Children went out on a limb and almost immediately a portion of that limb was under threat by a saw. But the cut didn't come. Instead, God continued to supply our needs through Kentucky Baptists and other Christians who understood that the time had come to undergird their child care agency as never before. It is still that time, and from now on it will always be that time.

I am excited about what God will do and how he will provide for our children and families. I hope you are too. Thank you for being our foundation. Thank you for reminding us that one more loaf is really all we ever need.

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

U.S. Supreme Court declines response to moral cases

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals became the fourth federal appeals court to uphold the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court refused Jan. 11 to review lower court decisions upholding the "don't ask, don't tell" policy governing gays in the military.

The case was one of five concerning church-state or morality issues that the court declined to address, leaving lower court decisions in effect.

The military policy was challenged in separate actions by officers in the U.S. Navy and the Army National Guard who were discharged after acknowledging their homosexual orientation to their commanding officers.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals became the fourth federal appeals court to uphold the "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which took effect in 1993. So far, the Supreme Court has refused to hear repeated requests to invalidate it.

Under the policy, the military no longer asks recruits about their sexual orientation, but homosexual conduct continues to be grounds for dismissal.

The Supreme Court also declined to review:

■ A pair of cases challenging a city ordinance that forbids adult businesses from operating near churches and residential areas.

Left intact were lower court rulings that the New York City statute does not violate the First Amendment's right to free speech.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a state trial court decision that the ordinance "was not an attempt to regulate speech but rather

was motivated by concerns other than those related to speech."

The particular concern addressed by the statute, the court continued, was "a reasonable belief that adult establishments produce undesirable secondary effects such as neighborhood deterioration, crime and decreased property values."

■ A lower court's decision freeing a convicted sex offender because the trial judge quoted Bible verses before pronouncing his sentence.

Arron Pattno was sentenced to 20 months to five years in prison after being convicted of sexual assault for having sexual contact with a 13-year-old boy.

Before pronouncing the sentence, the judge read Bible verses denouncing homosexuality.

The Nebraska Supreme Court said a reasonable person "could have questioned the judge's impartiality" after hearing him cite Scripture.

Pattno pleaded guilty to abusing the youth he met through an Internet chat room in 1996. He later challenged his sentence as excessive, arguing the judge showed bias against Pattno because of his sexual orientation.

After Pattno's sentence was vacated, he was resentenced to four years' probation by another judge.

■ Claims by Philadelphia-area transit officials that removing station advertisements linking abortion and breast cancer did not violate the Constitution.

The high court left intact a ruling

by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority violated the First Amendment's guarantee of freedom of speech by removing the advertising posters of Christ's Bride Ministries.

In 1996, the non-profit ministry contracted with transit officials to place posters bearing the message "women who choose abortion suffer more and deadlier breast cancer" in subway and train stations.

SEPTA immediately received complaints about the posters and removed them after receiving a copy of a letter from a federal health official questioning the accuracy of the ads' claim.

CBM filed suit after the ads were removed. At first, a federal district court rejected the ministry's claim, ruling that Philadelphia transit officials maintained control over the advertising space and that Lee's letter

was a "reasonable" basis for removing the posters.

But the federal appeals court disagreed. It ruled that transit officials had created a "designated public forum," and that "content-based restrictions on speech that come within the forum must pass strict scrutiny to comport with the First Amendment."

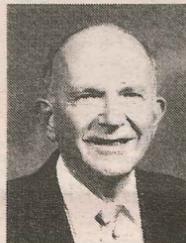
■ A challenge to the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act by an anti-abortion group called Lambs of Christ.

The federal law bars the use of force or threats to intimidate persons entering or leaving clinics that perform abortions.

In this dispute, 11 members of the group were arrested after blocking entrances to a Planned Parenthood clinic in Rochester, N.Y., in December 1996.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the group's claim that the federal law is unconstitutional.

Ring in Year 2000 'Down Under'



Dr. Gerald McNeely will host a tour to Baptist World Congress, Melbourne, Australia, Dec. 29, 1999-Jan. 11, 2000. Two days in New Zealand, then Australia's tourist attractions, including colorful "Outback." Optional tours available during Baptist World Congress. Also, you could extend after Jan. 11. Ask about early bird discount. Call (502) 244-3759 for more information.

It almost happened again!

Just three years ago in January 1996, during our two-week Christmas break, a severe winter storm hit the very weekend our students were due to return. With little time to warn our students not to return until the weather was better, many began their journeys back to Oneida.

Students always return to our campus on Sunday and classes begin on Monday. Only about a dozen students were able to make it back to our campus that Sunday. That Monday we had to cancel school for the first time in 18 years.

This past weekend our students were returning to the campus, and again a winter snow storm hit. Fortunately we had almost no snow and ice here, but much of Kentucky and most of the states to the north were not as fortunate. Even though we are only 110 driving miles from Lexington, there were students in Lexington who were stranded.

Several students who had tickets to fly back to Lexington were stranded because the airports in Chicago and other cities were closed. A host of students were stranded at bus stations across Kentucky and in several other states.

Unlike three years ago, most of our students made it back on time—well, almost on time. Many hours were spent on the phone Sunday and Monday as parents were calling to see if their children made it safely back to campus. When you are talking to anxious parents and you have to tell them their child is not back, you can only imagine their concern. We began to try to track down the students from this end of their journey, and the parents tried to track them down from home. When that many people are calling Greyhound, they cannot handle all the calls. Then, when Greyhound announced they had taken all their buses off the

road, it caused even greater anxiety.

Some students were trying to call home to tell their parents where they were, but could not because the phone lines were down as a result of ice storms. Our phones were extremely busy with worried parents calling.

Finally, buses began to run their regular routes and airports reopened. Our students normally arrive at London about 6 p.m. We usually have our buses or vans waiting for them. But things were not running on schedule, so we had students arriving all hours of the day and night. We made dozens of trips to London instead of the usual two or three.

Fortunately, all of our students arrived back safely. While many did experience some long delays and other inconveniences, to my knowledge none were in any danger.

It is difficult for our students to understand why they have to go to school when hundreds of other schools are closed. In fact, nearly all schools in several surrounding counties were closed all week. Our new students have a really hard time justifying going to class

when so many others are not. Students who are not new tell them to remember this on May 14. Why May 14? That is when our students are out for the summer. They have no snow days to make up. When the weather is nice and there are lots of things for young people to do, our students will be home. All of those frowns quickly will turn to smiles then. Even our faculty and staff enjoy knowing school will be out right on time, because we don't have to make up snow days.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

How do we compare with other Bible colleges?

The latest statistical comparison between Clear Creek and other member colleges of the Accrediting Association of Bible Colleges encourages all of Clear Creek's friends.

Our 76.4 percent student retention rate surpasses the average of all other colleges by 11 percent. The completion rate of 51 percent is 10 percent higher. Our students have a grade point average of 2.86, similar to colleague schools. Reflecting the exclusive ministry training purpose of Clear Creek, 100 percent of our students have Christian service participation, compared to 82.5 percent in schools our size.

Professional staff data indicates significant strength. Among our full-time instructors, 71 percent hold a doctor's degree, while similar schools average only 29 percent. One hundred percent of our full-time faculty hold a master's degree, while other institutions have 63 percent. Among our part-time faculty 88 percent have a master's degree. That compares with 55 percent in other colleges our size. The salary/benefit package for a full-time professor at Clear Creek is \$12,000 higher than average.

Our library has adequate staff-

ing with slightly higher use of student assistants. The library requires five percent of the educational and general expenses, the standard level for accredited colleges. The Carolyn Boatman Brooks Library holdings of 33,549 volumes are slightly higher than similar-size schools. We have three times more film and video materials and computer files.

Financial assets for Clear Creek total \$13.3 million compared to \$10.8 million of all AABC schools. Our endowment totaled \$5.8 million while others averaged \$1.9 million. In 1997, we received \$1.8 million from private gifts and grants compared to a \$1.06 million average among AABC schools. Others depend more on tuition, 33 percent, compared to Clear Creek at 10 percent. The average debt among AABC colleges is \$1.6 million, while we operate debt-free!

The positive facts of this report have come because of the prayers, hard work and support of a dedicated staff and the support of friends near and far. We thank our Lord for each of you who stands with us in the accomplishment of our mission.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

PEOPLE

'WWJD?' asked in newly released teenage musical

NASHVILLE (BP)—You've seen the initials "WWJD" on arm bands, necklaces, T-shirts and nearly anything that can be sold, but are you ready for "WWJD?," the musical?

WWJD are the initials for the question, "What would Jesus do?" taken from the simple question from the century-old novel, "In His Steps," by Charles Sheldon.

Now Genevox, a music imprint of LifeWay Christian Resources, is releasing a musical created for youth by John Chisum and Nancy Gordon.

"When we entered the project, I did not realize myself the depth of the (WWJD) question," said Chisum, a writer/producer for ThreeFold Music. Gordon is affiliated with Mother's Heart Music.

"It's so easy to dismiss it," Chisum added. "But when you start trying to write songs and concepts and dialog around that question, it begins to work inside you."

Chisum said the question continued to draw him and Gordon back to the message of Jesus dying on the cross. "He would give his life. He

would do again for us what he did on the cross," Chisum said.

"We didn't want to present a musical that would say, 'Don't do this, don't do that,'" he added. "We wanted them to see a portrait of the life of Jesus, through suffering, surrender, sacrifice and service."

Gordon said she and Chisum felt called to create a platform for a "radical call to Christ."

"Our hearts as writers and creators were to see this work become an experience whereby those who perform it and those who observe it go away and ask the question, and as they find the answer, live that answer," she said.

Don Schlosser, Genevox music editor for the musical, said it "asks questions our culture faces without offering clichés or easy answers. The message is designed to bring listeners to the conclusion that the actions of Jesus can and should be the model for our lives."

The musical incorporates a journal with devotional thoughts in a choral book.

It can be obtained by calling (800) GENEVOX.



WWJD, THE MUSICAL John Chisum, writer and producer with Threefold Music, sings "What Would Jesus Do?" in a chapel premier at LifeWay Christian Resources. Chisum was co-writer and creator of the youth musical with Nancy Gordon. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

The musical "asks questions our culture faces without offering clichés or easy answers."

Don Schlosser, Genevox music editor

Football title was on the line, but faith was in their hearts

By Laura Langley
Baptist Press

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)—The national championship was on the line, but football nevertheless took a back seat to faith and family on the Sunday before the Fiesta Bowl.

Head coaches Phillip Fulmer of the University of Tennessee Volunteers and Bobby Bowden of the Florida State Seminoles talked about their Christian beliefs during "Fiesta Sunday" services at North Phoenix Baptist Church the day before the game.

In Sunday worship service interviews with Senior Pastor Dan Yearly, both Fulmer and Bowden said that beyond Xs, Os and the game plan, there are certain values they try to instill in their teams, beginning with their faith.

Football and family play an important role in their lives, both men said, but they still put God first.

"Football is not the number one priority in my life," Bowden said. "I'm not cutting my wrists over football. Football is a way God has given me to support my family and witness to young men."

Bowden said the message is simple. "Put God first in your life and you cannot fail."

Fulmer said that everyday decisions are a matter of faith. "Instead of waiting until that moment, you make those decisions in the quiet time of your faith," he said. "In your decisions you not only represent yourself, but your family and, most importantly, your faith."

When times get tough, Bowden and Fulmer said, they cling to their faith for support.

"Sometimes you get off track," Fulmer said. But family and friends with strong family values have held him accountable, he said.

Bowden added, "I've always tried to make God number one in my life."

Contacts got rival coaches together

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP)—How did the two Fiesta Bowl coaches end up at the same church before competing for the college football national championship?

It all began when Pastor Dan Yearly of North Phoenix Baptist Church served as pastor of University Baptist Church in Coral Gables, Fla., years ago.

He and Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden were introduced by mutual friends. Afterward, each year the Seminoles played in the Orange Bowl, Yearly invited Bowden to speak at University Baptist.

After Yearly became pastor of North Phoenix in 1993, he wrote Bowden at the start of each season, saying, "Since you'll be playing in the Fiesta Bowl this year, put North Phoenix on your calendar and plan to give your testimony in church."

Each year, Bowden would agree. This year, Bowden noted that it would be a "long shot since the Fiesta Bowl is the championship game!" But as soon as FSU was selected to play in the Fiesta Bowl, Yearly was on the phone confirm-

ing Bowden's presence for Fiesta Sunday.

Larry Fields, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., is chaplain of the University of Tennessee team. He and Yearly are friends.

Fields called to explore the possibility of the team attending worship at North Phoenix. Coach Phillip Fulmer makes a habit of taking bowl teams to church, and at Yearly's request, agreed to join Bowden in a Sunday testimony.

"Both coaches prioritized their relationship with God, and there was a clear presentation of the gospel," Yearly said. Several spiritual decisions were recorded at the service, which included the coaches' testimonies and the pastor's message on building championship families.

"It's nice to steal the thunder from the secular press," Yearly said. He counted mentions and footage on ESPN, CBS and in USA Today.

"More importantly," Yearly said, "Fiesta Sunday interviews allowed us to show the coaches' real priorities."

When others are criticizing him, Bowden said that's when he relies on God the most.

"I'm really only worried about what one guy thinks. If I can pass that test, I can handle the rest of it."

Both coaches said their faith spills over into their family life.

Fulmer said he and his wife, Victoria, try to surround their three daughters with an environment that will help them grow spiritually, including church attendance and participation in YoungLife and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

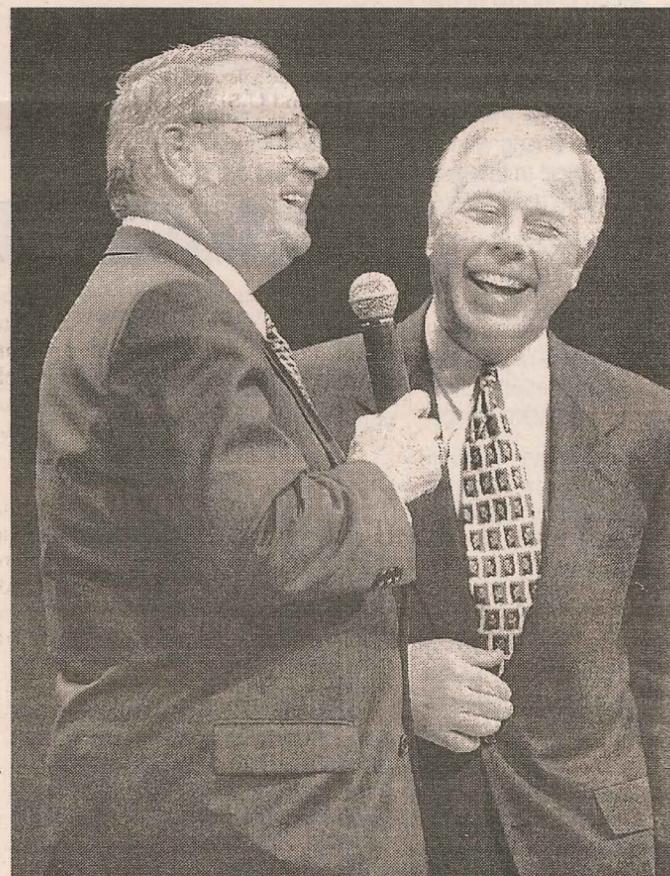
Yearly asked Fulmer's daughter Brittany what she likes most about her dad.

Without hesitation she answered, "When my daddy comes home, he gives us his undivided attention. He doesn't bring football home."

Bowden said his football team members need dads like Fulmer since half of the team members have no relationship with their fathers.

"These young men need daddies," Bowden said, encouraging dads to meet their responsibility as fathers.

To Yearly's question about advice



he would give young people today to help them discover a new direction, Fulmer summed it up, "Get close to the Lord."

A kick-off for the church's month-long focus on family, Yearly used the Fiesta Sunday opportunity to encourage members and visitors to build championship families. Yearly also cited the Fulmer and Bowden families as examples of families who let God make a difference in their lives.

"The greatest need in America today is for your family and my family to get so healthy that we infect other families in our culture," Yearly said in his sermon.

FOOTBALL FUN Florida State University football coach Bobby Bowden, makes pastor Dan Yearly laugh. North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church hosted a worship service before the Fiesta Bowl that featured talks with both Bowden and University of Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer. (Mesa Tribune photo by E.B. McGovern)

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Join Jeff and Kim Paden, church planters in Vilnius, Lithuania, in praising God that they passed their language tests and now can spend more time in ministry.

■ Mark and Tatiana McNeil, as they begin a church in Bialystok, Poland. "Often there are 'decisions' made, but very little true repentance and salvation," he said. "Please pray that we will see people truly saved and that many will join us for Bible study."

■ Joseph Kahindi, acting principal of the International Baptist Theological Seminary of East Africa in Arusha, Tanzania, and Principal Harrison O'lang who is on sabbatical in England working on a doctorate.

■ The church at Mindu, Tanzania, a small village near Morogoro. Recently, several new converts were baptized in the predominately Moslem village.

■ Pastor Hanna Ibrahim and members of Arabic Evangelical Church in Dedham, Mass., on the death of Ibrahim's wife, Faiza, Dec. 23.

■ The Youth Encountering Christ evangelism conference, Jan. 29-31, sponsored by the Baptist Convention of New England. Each year, more than 700 youth attend. Many are not Christians.

■ Churches in the Baptist Convention of New England without pastors.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **BRANDENBURG**—Gary McAbee resigned as pastor of First Church to accept the pastorate of First Church, Livingston, Ala.

■ **BUTLER**—James Conrad has retired as pastor of Second Twelve Mile Church. Conrad is available for supply, interim and revivals. To contact him, call (606) 472-3215.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—John Cox was named dean of Campbellsville University's new School of Business and Economics. Also Linda Cundiff was named dean of Campbellsville's School of Education.

■ **DAYTON**—Donald Peterson, pastor of First Church, Dayton, 1973-1980, died Dec. 7. Peterson also was director of the Baptist Center in Newport and chaplain of the Baptist Con-

valescent Home in Newport, 1971-1973.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Northside Church called David Atcher as minister of music and youth. Ronney Raines is pastor.

Valley Creek Church called Jason Stewart as associate pastor and minister of music. Steven Hill is pastor.

■ **HARDINBURG**—Hardinsburg Church called Danny Haynes as pastor. Haynes was pastor at Middletown Church.

■ **JAMESTOWN**—Welfare Church called John Routh as pastor. Routh and his wife, Alvine, recently returned from Israel where they were Southern Baptist missionaries.

Jamestown First Church called

Mid-Continent College celebrates 50th anniversary

HICKORY—Mid-Continent College observed its 50th anniversary Jan. 10.

Bob Agee, executive director/treasurer of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools and president emeritus of Oklahoma Baptist University delivered the keynote address.

Mid-Continent College was started when a group of people from the West Kentucky Baptist Association organized a "preacher's school."

The school was chartered in 1950 by the state of Kentucky. In 1951, the

West Kentucky Baptist Institute was recognized by the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky. On January 10, 1959, the initial session of classes was held in First Baptist Church of Clinton. In 1977, the college moved to the Harris Campus, its present location at Hickory.

In 1994, Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College was officially recognized by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Today, the college is a four-year, co-educational college, regionally and nationally accredited and licensed in

Daryl Covington, from Mississippi, as pastor.

■ **JENKINS**—First Church called Steve Mayle as pastor. Mayle is from Barboursville and a recent graduate of Clear Creek Bible College.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Immanuel Church will celebrate its 90th anniversary Jan. 31. Former pastor Ted Sisk will participate. A reception, with a photo exhibit of Immanuel's history, will be held afterward. Also, Immanuel will host "Know Thyself," a relationship readiness primer for never-married adults, Jan. 30. For information, contact Jamie Carter (606) 266-3174. Craig Loscalzo is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children will co-sponsor the Louisville Adoption Fair at the University of Louisville's Shelby Campus, Feb. 7, 1-4 p.m. Workshops will teach participants about adoption options. For information, call (800) 928-4303.

Kentucky and Illinois.

The college has expanded its curriculum to offer majors in applied psychology and counseling, communication arts, elementary teacher education, general studies, English, Christian leadership, evangelism, ministry, missions, biblical studies and languages.

Mid-Continent College has a Leadership Training Center, Life-Long Learning Center, Regional Bi-Vocational Ministries Center and a Global Mission Center. Classes are offered in Fulton, Hopkinsville, Owensboro, Paducah and Benton, Ill.

Lynn Acres Church has called Donnie Gullion as pastor. Gullion succeeds John Meeks, who retired Dec. 31.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Wyman Copass resigned as pastor of Yellow Creek Baptist Church to begin a full-time evangelism ministry. Starting March 1 he will be available for revivals, Bible seminars and Bible conferences. He can be reached at (502) 683-6040 or by e-mail at cwmin@aol.com.

Simmons retiring

Charles Simmons, director of Missions for Graves County Baptist Association for 10 years, will retire at the end of the month.

Simmons has been involved in several ministries. He is a co-founder of Kentucky Brotherhood's equestrian ministries. Simmons also serves as assistant director of prison ministries for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He is commissioned by the North American Mission Board to be a chaplain for both fields.

Simmons has co-directed about 60 weekends teaching the "Experiencing God" Bible study in Kentucky, Illinois, Tennessee and Utah.

Last year he was recognized by Kentucky directors of missions as Director of Missions of the Year.

A reception will be held Jan. 31 at High Point Baptist Church in Mayfield. For more information, call (502) 753-8002.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Music minister, part-time or full-time if experienced for rapidly growing Baptist church (400 average attendance). Traditional music. Experienced in leading choirs and congregational singing. Send resumé to: Mt. Elmira Baptist Church, 3644 Mt. Elmira Road, Shepherdsville, KY 40165, Attn: Pastor.

SEEKING: West Broadway Baptist Church is seeking a youth ministry intern to work 10-15 hours a week. Prefer degree in religious studies. Send resumé to church c/o Personnel Committee, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40220.

SEEKING: Afterschool/summer care director; 30 hours/week during academic year, full-time summers. Send resumé or call Dr. Ron Sisk, (502) 896-4425, Crescent Hill Baptist Church, 2800 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, KY 40206.

SEEKING: Bivocational minister of music, able to lead hymns/choruses in worship, and conduct adult and children's choirs. Some music training/experience desired. Send resumé to: Music Minister Search Committee, Moreland First Baptist Church, 501 Old Danville Pike, Hustonville, KY 40437.

SEEKING: First Southern Baptist Church of Floyds Knobs is seeking to employ a part-time, permanent music director. Pay and responsibilities will be determined by education, level of experience and ability. If interested, please send resumé: First Southern Baptist Church, 4631 Lakeview Drive, Floyds Knobs, IN 47119.

SEEKING: Ministry-oriented Southern Baptist church desires a full-time youth minister to minister to and lead youth in a program of excellence. Dynamic youth ministry includes Bible study, discipleship, fellowship, missions, ministry and evangelism. College degree required, seminary preferred. Send resumé by Feb. 28 to: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box U, Russell, KY 41169.

SEEKING: Fee Fee Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., prayerfully seeks your referral for a minister to students and church outreach. Located in north suburban St. Louis County, we average in excess of 650 in two morning services, over 500 in Sunday school. Fee Fee is a strong traditional Southern Baptist church. Responsibilities include directing ministry programs for youth and college-age students. Will also administer the church-wide outreach program. Strong Christian character and experience a must. Send referrals to: Minister to Students and Church Outreach, Fee Fee Baptist Church, 11330 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044.

SEEKING: Parkway Baptist Church of Lexington, Ky., is seeking a pastor. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Parkway Baptist Church, 1915 N. Broadway, Lexington, KY 40505.

WANTED: Experienced daycare director, southend location since 1969. Resumé to: Leanne Whitlock, Lynn Acres Baptist Church, 5007 Southside Drive, Louisville, KY 40214.

SEEKING: Minister of adult education for a rapidly growing suburban SBC church with a multifaceted ministry 15 miles east of St. Louis, Mo. Seminary degree or equivalent; professional experience preferred, but willing to accept those eager to be trained. Send resumé to: Dr. Larry Richmond, FBC, 1111 East Highway 50, O'Fallon, IL 62269.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Corbin is currently seeking a full-time associate minister with primary responsibilities in the area of student ministry (K-12). Seminary degree and experience preferred but not required. Please forward resumé by Jan. 31 to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 401 N. Laurel, Corbin, KY 40701.

SEEKING: Audubon Baptist Church is currently seeking a part-time minister to children. The church seeks a mature Christian who is committed to children's ministry; experience preferred. Interested persons should send a resumé to: Audubon Baptist Church, 1046 Hess Lane, Louisville, KY 40217, Attn: Personnel Committee, or call the church office at (502) 635-6750.

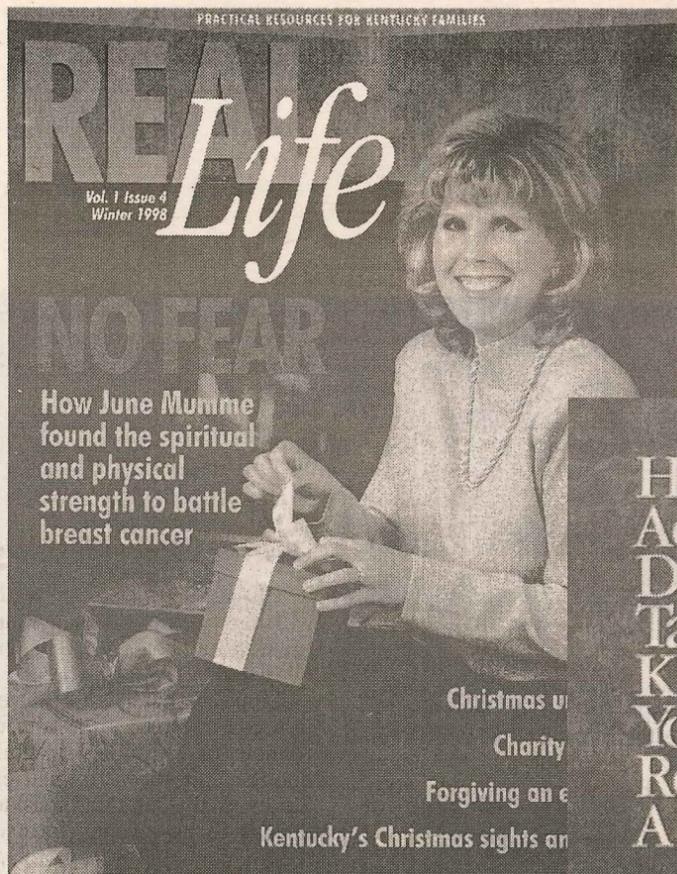
SEEKING: Bivocational minister of youth. Godly and mature minister needed to reach out to youth in growing community through discipleship, fellowship, missions and training. Some training/experience desired. Send resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Moreland First Baptist Church, 501 Old Danville Pike, Hustonville, KY 40437.

SEEKING: Weekday ministries director. Responsibilities: leading Christ-centered program; administration; supervising caregivers; curriculum development; ministry to children and families. Program: 2- and 3-year developmental daycare; 4-year preschool; summer camp for grades 1-6. Healthy budget, over 20 qualified staff members. Minimum qualifications: Must meet Kentucky state licensing requirements (seminary degree a plus). Resumés and inquiries: First Baptist Church, 1400 South Main, Hopkinsville, KY 42240, Attn: Keith Stillwell. (502) 886-1216.

SEEKING: Full-time minister to students. The position will require the ability to provide strong leadership, direction and training for our youth and children's educational programs, plus assist the pastor with the overall ministries of the church. Send resumé to: Morganfield First Baptist Church, 200 North Morgan St., Morganfield, KY 42437, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: High Point Baptist Church of Mayfield, Ky., is accepting resumés for a part-time minister of youth. Interested applicants should send resumé to: Minister of Youth Search Committee, High Point Baptist Church, 220 West Farthing St., Mayfield, KY 42066.

SEEKING: Victory Baptist Church of Lexington, Ky., is seeking a full-time senior pastor. Please send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Victory Baptist Church, 2261 Armstrong Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40515.



Real Life opens doors for evangelism in your community

How Much Adventure Does It Take to Know You're Really Alive?

All of us seek thrills in life. We crave a feeling of exhilaration, to know we're experiencing life to the fullest. Yet sometimes life offers more of the agony of defeat than the thrill of adventure. So where can we find real life?

God offers everyone real life through faith in Jesus Christ. Trusting God is an adventure, full of rewards and a thrill that lasts forever. If you're ready to get on board, we'll give you a lift.

Your church's message goes here



Every issue of Real Life magazine will feature an evangelistic message drawn from a real-life illustration. This message will include a place for your church to customize the magazine by adding the church's name, address, phone number or other important information. Anyone who receives this helpful magazine full of practical resources for Kentucky families will see it as a gift from your church and a sign that your church cares about your community.

Ideas for using Real Life in outreach

- ◆ Give Real Life to church prospects and visitors
- ◆ Give Real Life to families in your church's day care or parents' day out program
- ◆ Deliver copies of Real Life to families in your community
- ◆ Use Real Life as a direct-mail piece to newcomers
- ◆ Use Real Life as a direct-mail piece to new parents
- ◆ Place copies of Real Life in hospital waiting rooms, doctors' offices and waiting areas in other local businesses
- ◆ Distribute Real Life to church members
- ◆ Distribute Real Life through Sunday school classes

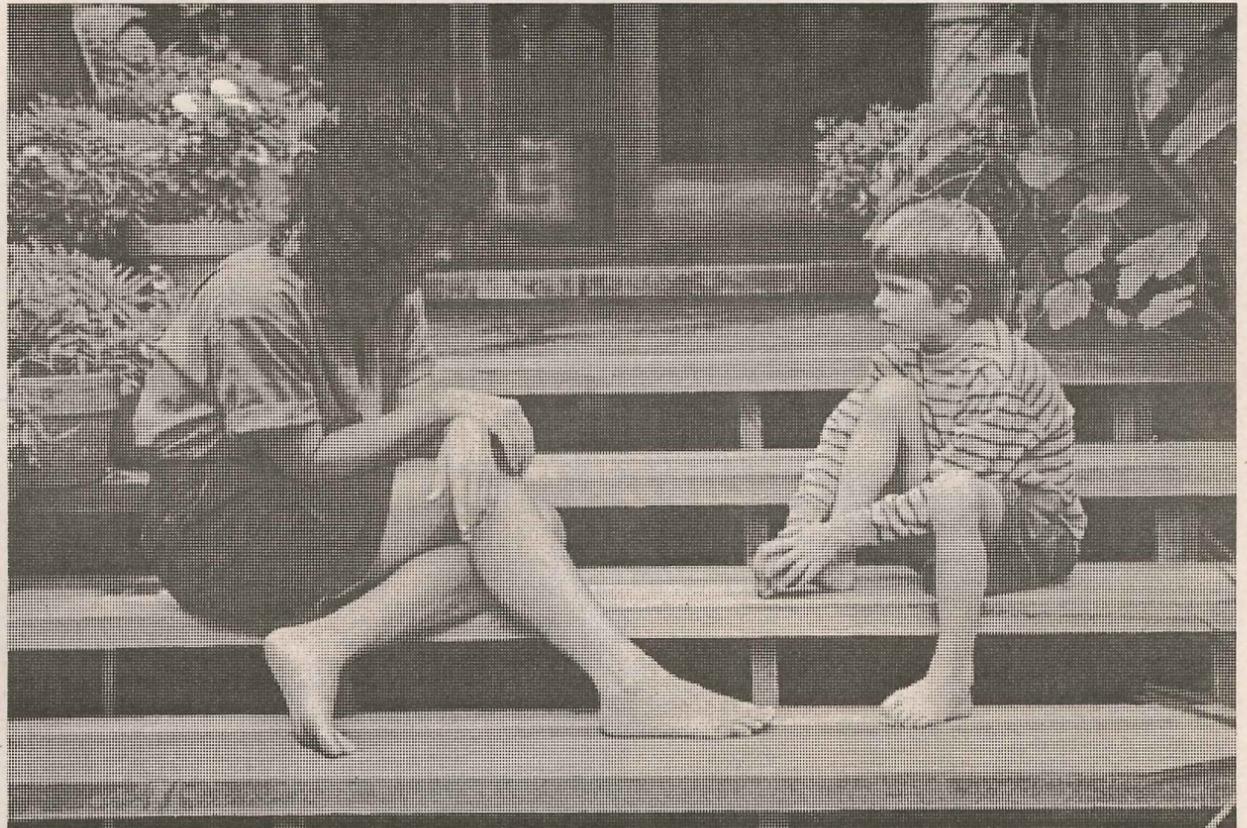
Four issues of Real Life are planned for 1999. The schedule includes a spring issue available in mid-March, a summer issue available in late May, a fall issue available in late August and a holiday issue available in mid-November. Cost is \$9 per subscription (all 4 issues) for churches ordering in bulk, or \$10.60 for individual subscriptions. That means your church could get 100 copies of Real Life for only \$225 per quarter.

Get four issues of Real Life in 1999 by ordering today: (888) 254-5728

Apart or A Part?

Hundreds of Kentucky children are living each day apart from a family -- apart from security, love and care. There are also hundreds of Kentuckians seeking to build a family through adoption.

KBHC can bring children and compassionate parents together.



Facts about Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's Special Needs Adoption Program:

- ◆ Counselors help match your strengths and resources with a child.
- ◆ Training equips you and your existing family to welcome a Special Needs child.
- ◆ KBHC continues to offer support after placement.
- ◆ Some fees associated with traditional adoptions do not apply.

When a child becomes a part of a family, his life can change. So can yours. Call today to find out more about the Special Needs Adoption Program. ***Free orientation sessions are offered every quarter to give you a chance to ask questions and get informed with no obligation.***

Call 1-800-928-5242

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

10801 Shelbyville Road

Louisville KY 40243

Find us on the World Wide Web at <http://www.iglou.com/kbhc>

