

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

NEWSPAGE
EDITION

May 11, 1999
Vol. 173, No. 19

FOR THE RECORD

Kentucky native
Phil Roberts is named vice president for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board's emphasis on large cities. *Page 2.*

KBC
The Executive Board hired Steve Thompson as associate to the executive secretary-treasurer and Trennis Henderson as editor of the Western Recorder. *Page 3.*

Family Forum
Long-distance care for parents might require specialized help. *Page 5.*

Editorial
A sermon the visiting preacher needed. *Page 5.*

Disaster relief
Baptists start ministry after killer tornadoes in Kansas and Oklahoma. *Page 9.*

World
The Southern Baptist International Mission Board is encouraging a day of prayer and fasting for North Korea. *Page 12.*

Online
Companies with Christian products rush to get on the Internet. *Page 13.*

'What you saw was the hurt in their eyes'

By Ken Camp
Baptist General Convention of Texas

DALLAS (BP)—Days after returning to the United States from Albania, Texas Baptist relief volunteers said the stench of squalid refugee camps remained in their nostrils.

But the look in the Kosovars' eyes was what burned indelibly into their memories.

"The physical suffering was obvious, but what we saw in the faces of the people stayed with me," said Dick Jenkins from Legacy Drive Baptist Church in Plano.

"What you saw was the hurt in their eyes—the pain of being yanked away from what they knew in everyday life, the pain of being separated from family, the pain of these clean people being put into the midst of this filth."

John Bullock, Texas Baptist Men director of children and youth missions and ministries, served hundreds of miles away at another refugee camp, but he had the same impression.

"There was such a sense of shock and loss in the people's eyes. We would watch the people as they would get off the bus, and they didn't know what they were doing or where they would go. That haunts me," Bullock said.

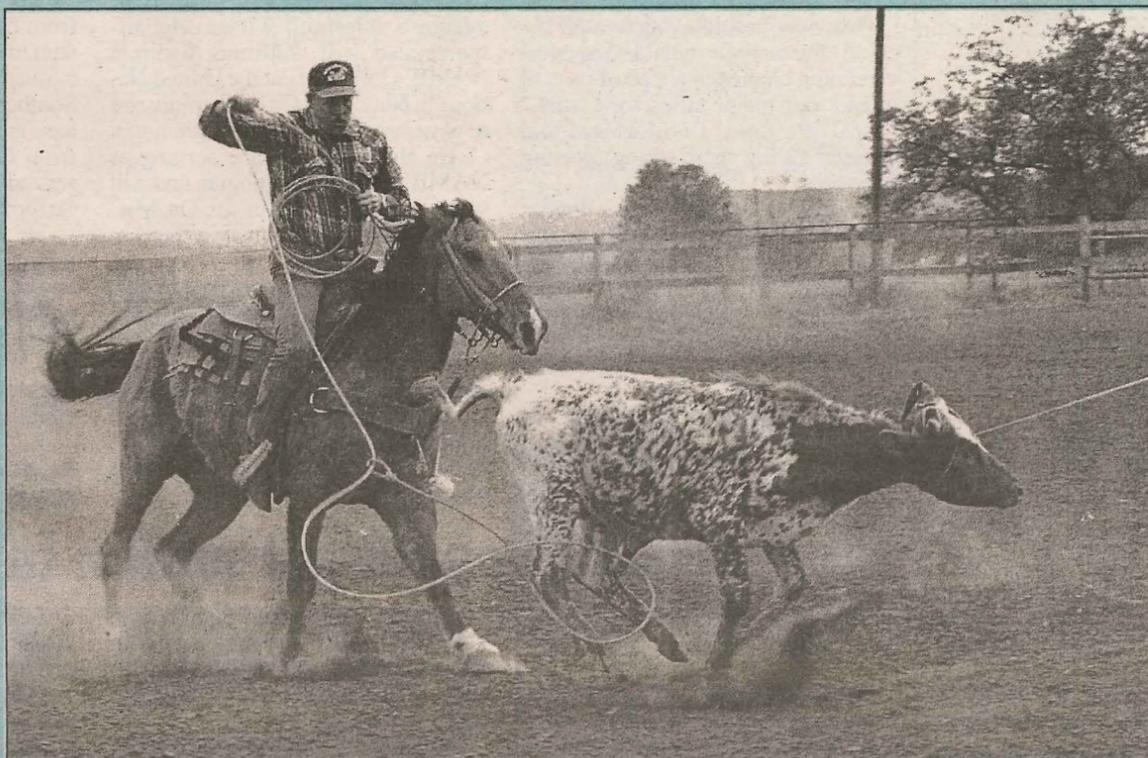
Jenkins and Bullock were among the dozen Texas volunteers who spent a week digging latrines and building relationships with refugees from Kosovo. Another team is slated to go to Albania in the middle of this month.

Texas Baptists responded to a request from the coordinator of refugee response for the Albanian Evangelical Association. Working in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board, the Texas Baptist volunteers left Dallas April 14, planning to set up refugee camps in Korca and train Albanian Christians in their operation.

The volunteers expected to purify water, distribute food and provide medical aid for refugees in one city.

□ See *Baptist volunteers ...*, page 10

Roper of men



RODEO PREACHER Michael Robertson hones his skill at roping a calf during practice at the Double E ranch in Huntland, Tenn. Robertson works on the rodeo circuit as an assistant to competitors, earning credibility for his ministry as a preacher. (RNS photo by Kay Campbell)

Cowboy preacher takes gospel to the rodeo circuit

By Kay Campbell
Religion News Service

TAFT, Tenn. (RNS)—The covered horse arena, filled with a red haze of dust stirred up by the morning barrel races, seems an odd place to have church.

But on a recent Sunday afternoon in the State Line Arena, cowboys and cowgirls shuffle by with fist-sized hamburgers; wranglers prepare calves for the afternoon calf roping; and spectators and cowboys drift over to the rough-plank seats on the wall near the concession stand.

Standing on the dirt floor in front of the bleachers, Mike Robertson picks up his well-worn Bible with the black calfskin cover and invites

people to have a prayer with him.

Three horses lining the rail assume the comfortable, half-lidded look that humans sometimes get in more conventional churches, and as Robertson starts preaching, one calf in the corner moos a low "amen."

Church can happen anywhere, Robertson said.

Robertson, a champion rodeo pick-up cowboy, rodeo judge and a preacher who lives in Huntland, Ala., knows his being a rider and a minister gives him a special calling.

"Riding pick-up gave me an 'in,'" Robertson explained after his short sermon, filled with ranching and riding metaphors. "This way the cowboys don't see me as just a preacher coming to set up a table and hand out Bibles. It's earned me a lot

of respect from a lot of cowboys who didn't know me before."

No wonder. When a cowboy in trouble sees Robertson angle his fast, calm horse close beside a bucking bronco whose hooves might be kicking as high as his head, lean over to calm the bronco so he can slip off, or feel Robertson's firm grasp set him back straight on the bronco's back so he can untangle his hand, he respects the minister.

This preacher, after all, can quite literally save a cowboy in more ways than one.

Three times running, cowboys have voted Robertson Pick-up Man of the Year at the Professional Cowboys Association finals in Biloxi, Miss.

□ See *Cowboy takes gospel ...*, page 7

Church secretaries urged to balance benevolence with safety

By Ed Rowell
Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—The church secretary is startled by the sound of someone clearing his throat, and she spins around in her chair.

"I need some money for gas. Can you help me?" the unshaven man asks.

A cursory look tells the secretary that this man isn't a church member, and his unkempt appearance suggests that he has fallen upon hard times. In that instant she experiences both compassion and fear. Certainly he needs help, but has he been drinking or using drugs? Is he dangerous?

This scene is played out thousands of times each day in America's

churches, according to Joan Hostetter, administrative assistant for Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Landisville, Pa.

Many churches are just not ready for the increasing needs of both church members and indigent persons, said Hostetter, a workshop leader at a recent LifeWay Christian Resources conference for ministry secretaries and assistants.

"Fifteen years ago, our church put a spire on our building which was visible from the highway," Hostetter said.

"Up to that time, we had never had a person just walk in the door and ask for help. But ever since, they have been coming, and they are coming now more frequently than ever," she

said.

Her first experience broke all the rules she now teaches to others. "He was a clean-cut man, and I was at the church alone. We had never discussed what to do in such a situation, so I opened the petty cash drawer right in front of him, gave him \$25 and asked if he would like a word of prayer. He thanked me and left.

"Two days later, his picture appeared in our local paper. He was a car thief. I felt like a sucker. I was angry that he had taken advantage of our church and frightened about what could have happened to me. I knew we had to address what to do in this situation, or next time, the consequences could be worse," she said.

"Colossians 4:5a says to 'be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; making the most of every opportunity.'"

Hostetter outlined several steps that churches can implement which will allow them to offer assistance when it is needed, but help lower the possibility of being taken advantage of:

■ **Establish policies and procedures.** Hostetter said her church has several rules that simplify the benevolence process. "We interview them up front and let them know that we can only help once, and we never give cash. We have arrangements with local restaurants, grocery stores and gas stations to provide help to people up

□ See *Ministry assistants ...*, page 11

BAPTISTS

Kentucky native Roberts elected NAMB vice president

"When God moves, he very often moves in the cities."

Danville native Phil Roberts

By Marty King
SBC North American Mission Board

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP)—Kentucky native Phil Roberts was elected vice president of strategic cities strategies for the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

The new position was created because "the most formidable and overwhelming challenge ahead of us is to impact our major cities for Christ," NAMB President Bob Reccord told trustees during their spring meeting May 6.

"Southern Baptists have done a good job reaching town and country areas. Church planting and evangelism have been strong there, but not in our largest cities where most of the people live," he said. "This new position will help bring equal emphasis to the cities."

Primary among Roberts' new responsibilities will be leadership of NAMB's partnership plan for reaching large cities. Seventeen large cities

in the United States and Canada have been identified as first-priority evangelism and church-planting targets using thousands of volunteers, media blitzes and ministry activities. Chicago and Phoenix are targets for 2000; Boston and Las Vegas for 2001.

Roberts, who formerly directed the agency's interfaith witness department, also will continue to direct NAMB's ministries at the United Nations in New York City and ministries to government leaders in Washington.

He also will continue serving as NAMB's resident theologian and will write a regular column for *On Mission* magazine, the agency's flagship publication.

Roberts, who was born in Danville, said he was humbled by the new position. "When God moves, he very often moves in the cities. That is where the people are, people who need a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. If Southern Baptists are to reach North America for Christ, then we must reach the cities," he said.

Roberts is the son of the late Ray Roberts, a church planter and the first executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. The elder Roberts served on the SBC Peace Committee and as SBC vice president in 1986.

Roberts earned a Ph.D. degree from the Free University of Amsterdam in the Netherlands. He also holds a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, a bachelor's degree from Georgetown College and has served as a graduate researcher at Oxford University in England.

He was pastor of churches in Belgium, England and Germany and served as missions and evangelism professor at both Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and Southern Seminary. Roberts and his wife, Anya, have two children, Naomi and Mark.

Ray Newcomb, pastor of First Baptist Church of Millington, Tenn., was elected chairman of NAMB's

board of trustees.

Danny Souder, pastor of Northlake Baptist Church in Dallas, was elected first vice chairman, and James "Skip" Owens, pastor of Pinecrest Baptist Church in Charleston, S.C., was elected second vice chairman.

The board's missionary personnel committee also appointed 30 new missionaries. NAMB's chaplain's commission also approved endorsement of 63 chaplains.

In other business, trustees:

■ Revised bylaws for two subsidiary media corporations, FamilyNet and TimeRite, to bring them more in line with NAMB's bylaws.

■ Reviewed plans for opening the agency's new 5,000-square-foot Vision Center during the Southern Baptist Convention in June and viewed a computerized tour of the center.

■ Recognized 20 trustees rotating off the board after this summer's SBC annual meeting. They will be replaced by 13 trustees as a downsizing of the governing body continues.

Texas Baptists could get option to defund most SBC agencies

The new option would exclude funding for several SBC recipients of the Cooperative Program—five seminaries, the Executive Committee and the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS (ABP)—Texas Baptists would have a new option for sending funds to ministries within the state and away from agencies unpopular to moderates under a plan proposed by the Baptist General Convention of Texas' administrative committee.

The proposed fifth option for giving through Texas Baptists' unified budget would enable churches to channel about 73 percent of their Cooperative Program gifts to ministries of the 2.7-million-member state convention. The remainder would be allocated to the Southern Baptist Convention's International and North American mission boards, two SBC entities located in Texas—Southwest-

ern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and Annuity Board in Dallas—and the Baptist World Alliance, a global network of Baptists based in McLean, Va.

The new option would exclude funding for the remaining traditional SBC recipients of the Cooperative Program—five seminaries, the Executive Committee and the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

The proposal is expected to have less impact on those entities than some SBC leaders had feared, since it is being offered only as an additional giving option and not the "default" budget plan.

The BGCT executive board is scheduled to consider the plan, recommended initially by a special funding committee, May 18 in Dallas.

Leaders said several factors contributed to the proposal for yet another option.

First, the implementation of 19 recommendations of a state convention "Effectiveness/Efficiency" committee in 1997 created a wave of new Texas Baptist ministry projects, said Leroy Fenton, chairman of an E/E funding committee that proposed the new giving plan.

Some of those projects are not adequately funded by existing giving plans, added Fenton.

Second, some Texas Baptists have expressed disapproval of the recent direction of some SBC organizations, Fenton said.

Examples cited during deliberations included the increasing influence of Calvinism at Southern and Mid-

western Baptist theological seminaries, the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission's close identification with the Religious Right and a feeling by many Texas Baptists that they are ostracized from meaningful participation in the SBC, members said.

Third, formation of a competing Baptist convention in the state has created "concern on our part regarding the impact that will have long-term," Fenton said. "The political climate has changed somewhat, and some funds are being diverted from (BGCT) causes."

The new option "will not be imposed on any church," said Baptist General Convention of Texas President Russell Dilday. "Each church chooses its channel of giving. No one channel is forced on any church."

BAPTIST BITS

■ **Historic church leaves SBC.** First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C., voted May 2 to sever ties with the Southern Baptist Convention, a denomination it helped found in 1845. The 168-year-old congregation voted 500-47 to accept a committee recommendation to "voluntarily and deliberately discontinue our affiliation" with the SBC. The congregation follows about a dozen moderate churches that have severed ties with the nation's largest non-Catholic faith group during the last year over differences with the convention's recent conservative stands.

■ **Illinois Baptist editor resigns.** Ferrell Foster, editor of the *Illinois Baptist* since 1996, has announced his resignation May 31 as editor for the Illinois Baptist State Association. "There were many factors in my choosing to resign—some internal to me, some external," Foster said. "But ultimately I just believed it was what God wanted me to do."

■ **Annuity Board regional director dies.** Elias Pantoja, regional director for special groups in the Annuity Board's church retirement

marketing department, died in an automobile accident April 30. He died in a multiple car wreck in the south Dallas area. In his current position, Pantoja related to more than 6,000 language/ethnic and 2,400 African-American churches in the Southern Baptist Convention.

■ **Southern commissions church planters.** Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville recently commissioned 35 students to serve as full- and part-time church planters through a joint program with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. "We hope to become a successful model for many other seminary students to go out and start churches that make disciples," said participant David Pearson. Last fall Southern became the first Southern Baptist seminary to establish a NAMB-related Center for Church Planting. NAMB since has partnered with all six Southern Baptist seminaries to establish church-planting centers on each campus. Church planters from Southern will be sent to 15 to 20 separate congregations in six northern states.



"It's a beautiful arrangement, but I'm a little suspicious of the message. They sent pansies."

KENTUCKY

KBC Executive Board hires Thompson, passes budget

By David Winfrey
News Director

CEDARMORE—Hiring a new associate to the executive secretary-treasurer and passage of a \$21.7 million budget were among the highlights of the spring meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board.

Board members also elected Trennis Henderson to be the next editor of the *Western Recorder* during their meeting, May 3-4 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly.

Steve Thompson, director of missions for Green Valley Baptist Association in Henderson, was elected associate to the executive secretary-treasurer.

He will assume the position July 1, after current associate Jim Hawkins retires.

A native of Princeton, Ky., Thompson was pastor of First Baptist Church of Morganfield before becoming a director of missions.

Executive Secretary-Treasurer Bill Mackey noted that Thompson was one of two directors of missions invited to observe the recent KBC planning process and is familiar with the KBC's values, vision and objectives.

Thompson is a graduate of Murray State University and holds a master's and doctorate degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Lowell Ashby, director of the Business Services Team, said the budget

represents several milestones, including the first KBC budget to earmark more than \$7 million for SBC ministries and institutions.

The budget retains about 64.6 percent of income for KBC ministries, agencies and institutions and sends approximately 35.4 percent to the SBC cooperative program.

Also at the meeting, the Executive Board approved a contract with the Temperance League of Kentucky to provide information to the KBC regarding legislation of concern to Kentucky Baptists.

The contract is the result of a task force formed at the request of the KBC Committee on Public Affairs.

That committee is assigned to address church-state and religious liberty issues, but it recently has been asked to consider other matters, including those related to morality issues such as homosexuality or gambling legislation.

The contract will pay for Temperance League Executive Director Claude Witt to keep the public affairs committee informed on state legislation through March 2000.

The Temperance League will be paid \$500 per month when the legislature is out of session and \$1,000 per month when the legislature is in session.

Also during its meeting the Executive Board:

■ Voted to name a seven-member

study committee to review the convention's relationship with the Western Recorder in terms of asset ownership and other legal matters. The committee is the result of a request by KBC auditors because the KBC owns Western Recorder assets.

■ Adopted a KBC Executive Board staff salary disclosure policy. Current employees have the option of allowing their salary to be known to KBC-affiliated church members who request it. New employees will be required to sign a document allowing access to their salary information.

■ Began the process of changing Bill Mackey's title from Executive Secretary-Treasurer to Executive Director. Mackey will begin using that title immediately, although official documents won't use the new title until after the 2000 convention votes to change the KBC constitution.

■ Honored Jim Hawkins, who will retire next month as associate to the executive secretary-treasurer.

■ Recognized the following employees for their years of service on the KBC Executive Board staff:

Vernon Cole, church growth team leader, 30 years.

Ralph Hopkins, collegiate ministry department associate, 25 years.

Tom Smoot, youth director, 25 years.

Ella Mae Young, communications/media administrative secretary, 25 years.

Mikel Robinson, Kentucky State University campus minister, 20 years.

Guy Futral, leadership development team director, 15 years.



Thompson

KBC budget: Where the money goes

SBC Cooperative Program	\$7,139,572
KBC Agencies/Institutions	\$6,026,233
Baptist Healthcare System	\$5,374
Homes for Children	\$298,174
Christian Education*	\$4,369,794
Western Recorder	\$326,272
Kentucky Baptist Foundation	\$235,547
Kentucky Baptist Assemblies	\$325,000
Kentucky Historical Commission	\$37,950
Kentucky WMU	\$428,122
Executive Board ministries	\$8,607,972
Church Growth Team	\$1,162,188
Evangelism Team	\$1,694,220
Leadership Team	\$551,438
Missions Team	\$2,141,902
Executive Office/Communications	\$797,713
Business Services Team	\$921,662
General expenses/Contingency	\$1,338,849

* The Christian Education allocation is divided according to a formula among Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute, Campbellsville University, Cumberland College and Georgetown College. The formula is based, in part, on enrollment, so specific allocations to each school aren't yet known.

Cheryl Doty, KBC archivist, 11 years.

Ruby Morgan, media services specialist, 11 years.

Bryant Rudolph, Elizabethtown Community College campus minister, 11 years.

Bill Ellis, Northern Kentucky University campus minister, seven years.

Henderson unanimously elected editor of Western Recorder

By David Winfrey
News Director

CEDARMORE—Trennis Henderson was elected unanimously May 3 by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Board to become the next editor of the *Western Recorder*.

Henderson, current editor of the *Arkansas Baptist Newsjournal*, told the group he is committed to embody the term "Christian journalist."

"Both words are very important to me," he told the Executive Board, meeting at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly.

"What I would seek to bring to the Recorder would be accuracy, balance and ... to communicate with clarity what we're about," he added.

In his address before he was elected, Henderson said he would want the *Western Recorder* to be a publication for all Kentucky Baptists from throughout the spectrum. "For the *Western Recorder* to effectively serve any Kentucky Baptist, it must fairly serve all Kentucky Baptists."

Editor of the *Arkansas* paper since 1992, Henderson previously was managing editor at the *Word & Way* in Missouri.

He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, with a master's degree in religious education. While attending seminary, he worked at the *Western Recorder* as a staff writ-

er and an advertising representative.

Western Recorder search committee chairman Bill Thurman said Henderson met all of the committee's criteria. "I think ultimately one of the things we were looking for was a Christian journalist. Not one or the other, but both," said Thurman, a layman from Lexington.

He said the committee also wanted someone with a multifaceted experience in communications. "And we were ultimately looking for someone that we thought would best represent all Kentucky Baptists."

The committee received resumes from several qualified candidates, Thurman said, but "Trennis just stood out above the others."

After interviewing candidates the committee unanimously agreed in their selection of Henderson, Thurman added.

Henderson, 40, said that his philosophy of Christian journalism at the *Arkansas* paper is to "inform, inspire, involve."

He said the Bible verse that has guided him has been Ephesians 4:29.

"My version of that from a journalistic perspective is, 'Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your word processor, but that which is good for the use of edifying that it may minister grace unto the reader.'"

He said he recognizes that many Baptists today would want a label to identify him. "If you chose to put any label on me, the only one I'm really

interested in is Christian," he said. "We can talk about fundamentalist and conservative and moderate and every shade in between. But I think if we're talking about anything other than seeking to glorify the one for whom we're here in the first place, we've already gotten off track."

Describing himself further, Henderson said, "I perceive myself as a traditional, mainline Southern Baptist," committed to the principles of the priesthood of the believer, the autonomy of the local church and the separation of church and state.

He said he also believes in missions, evangelism and cooperation. "My desire is to seek God's will together."

News of Henderson's election was not received as well among some *Arkansas* Baptist leaders.

"I'm sick that he's leaving," said Greg Kirksey, president of the *Arkansas Baptist State Convention*. "To me, he has such journalistic integrity. Unfortunately, that's rare."

He noted that one of Henderson's chief contributions to *Arkansas* Baptists has been fairness.

"One of my concerns when we hired him was the strife and the political conflict in the state. I didn't want somebody coming in to escalate that, but quell that with integrity," Kirksey said. "He was well-balanced and treated people with Christian respect. Trennis far surpassed our greatest expectations."



Arkansas Baptist State Convention Executive Director Emil Turner also praised Henderson's leadership and fairness.

"Some people are driven by goals, some by politics, others by relationships," Turner said. "He was driven by having a ministry."

Henderson is expected to arrive in Kentucky in the middle of July.

At 174 years old, the *Western Recorder* is the second-oldest Baptist newspaper in the country.

In addition to producing the weekly newspaper, it also helps five state Baptist conventions produce monthly papers. The agency also produces *Real Life* magazine, a quarterly publication for churches.

With additional information by Russ Dilley, associate editor for the *Arkansas Baptist News* magazine

PRAYER Mark Boes (right), pastor of Cecilia Baptist Church and a member of the *Western Recorder* board of directors, leads the KBC Executive Board in prayer for new *Western Recorder* Editor Trennis Henderson.

WESTERN RECORDER

P.O. Box 43969
Louisville, Ky. 40253
(ISSN 0043-4132)

MAURI SMITH
Interim Executive
Officer

DAVID WINFREY
News Director

C.R. DALEY
Editor Emeritus

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

Western Recorder is published weekly by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253, except for one week in July and December. For general information, call (502) 244-6470. Fax: (502) 244-6474. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

To subscribe: Send \$10.60 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$8.50 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes. All subscriptions are payable in advance, except church accounts, which require a tax exemption number.

To register change of address: Send the mailing label from page 1, along with your new address, to the subscription department at the Western Recorder address.

To give news tips: Call (502) 244-6471, fax to (502) 244-6474 or write the editor or news director.

To submit a letter: Letters on any subject will be considered for publication, provided they do not make a personal attack on anyone. Letters are limited to 300 words and may be edited for length. Submit by mail or fax or by e-mail to: wesrec@ntr.net

To place an advertisement: Rates are available upon request by calling (502) 244-6470. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff and directors.

Directors: Tom Curry, Louisville, chairman; Barry Howard, Corbin, vice chairman; Jim Abernathy, Covington, secretary; Laura Beville, Bowling Green; Mark Boes, Cecilia; Mike Harmon, Princeton; Frank Hatfield, Shepherdsville; Bill Marshall, Louisville; Charles Midkiff, Greenville; June B. Rice, Paintsville; Don Mantooth, Morehead; Kenneth Wells, Somerset.

SBC family statement hasn't hurt missions

While a few are claiming that the adoption of the Article on the Family by the Southern Baptist Convention in June 1998 has inflicted overwhelming damage upon the cause of worldwide missions, many of us are amazed at how God has used this article to open doors for a clear witness to the gospel of Christ.

Far from devastation to our missionary enterprise, reports have revealed Southern Baptists' greatest year ever in mission giving, missionary appointments, conversions and church plants on international mission fields. Joining us and confirming the missionary need for this statement, 100 mission-minded evangelical leaders, spanning denominational lines, purchased a full-page ad in USA Today titled "Southern Baptists, You Are Right," reprinting the entire family article.

Distortion of the article's impact on missions often is accompanied by the spurious charge that the Baptist Faith and Message Committee ignored the idea of mutual submission presented in Ephesians 5:21. The family article does not spurn mutual submission but rather presents the scriptural view of it. In Ephesians 5, the filling of the

Spirit marks relationships among believers with Spirit-inspired praise, spontaneous thanksgiving and mutual submission. Yet the Scriptures teach clearly that not everyone submits to everyone else in exactly the same way.

For example, in 1 Peter 5:5, "... younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another (Greek, allêlous)"

Would anyone argue that the elders should submit in the same way to the younger people? In Ephesians 5:21 and following, "one another" has the same sense of mutual submission: some submit to others in specific ways. Wives submit to their respective husbands as "head" or "leader" of their homes; on the other hand, husbands are to love and to give themselves for their respective wives as did Christ for the church.

The wife is not excluded from self-sacrificing love for her husband nor the husband from selfless submission to meeting the needs of his wife. As wives, without coercion or force, submit to and respect their own husbands, Christ, counteracting potential abuse, admonishes husbands to treat their wives with

respect and to love as Christ loved (Ephesians 5:21-29; Colossians 3:18-19; Titus 2:5; 1 Peter 3:1,7).

Concerning the suggestion that submission is not required of a wife whose husband is an unbeliever, one has but to look at the clear sense of 1 Peter 3:1-2, which specifically concerns a non-believing husband and would certainly apply to the Christian husband who is disobedient. A husband's failure to treat his wife with respect and self-sacrificing love hinders his relationship to her and, more importantly, his fellowship with God (1 Peter 3:7). Husbands, even as heads of their homes, may not do as they please; they have duties to their respective wives.

Southern Baptists ought to raise a clear and consistent scriptural standard. The family article does so. Whatever winds of opinion may blow, believers must resolve to find and follow God's plan. Baptists have been shocking the world for a long time and must continue to be completely committed to Christ even when to do so is to be contra-culture.

Dorothy Patterson, a homemaker and wife of SBC President Paige Patterson, was a member of the Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee. She lives in Wake Forest, N.C.

RESPONSE

VBS music mediocre

In what one supposes is an understandable attempt to make this year's vacation Bible school music upbeat and contemporary in keeping with current worship trends, the writers and editors have succeeded in making it mediocre and trivial. Even some contemporary music lovers in our church who are teaching Bible school dislike this music.

Most of the songs in the Children's Music Book and Worship Rally Guide are not tuneful, and the extremely fast tempos and high energy levels in them will surely make already excitable children even more difficult to teach and manage.

Is a song like the "The Ropes" going to help a child to think of salvation as something meaningful and serious? It is a silly, frivolous piece of music that trivializes the most important matter we teach.

Additionally, the music goes to extremely low registers where no child should sing. But, of course, low notes are easier to sing, and thus the music is easier to sell.

I strongly encourage all who share my opinions regarding this year's vacation Bible school music to join me in contacting our writ-

ers and editors in Nashville in expressing our displeasure. Their names are in the front of the vacation Bible school books.

Perhaps they should be reminded we can purchase our materials from other sources. Maybe that will speak to people who, I suspect, are possibly more concerned about sales competition with Word, Brentwood and other music and religious publishers than they are with producing quality materials.

*Jack Gordon
Hopkinsville*



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

200 years of ministry

On Sunday, May 2, Trammell Creek Baptist Church conducted the most inspirational anniversary celebration Kay and I have experienced. Members, former members and community friends helped the church celebrate 200 years of ministry through morning and afternoon services and a wonderful fellowship meal.

During the celebration, former pastor Ferrell Gardner, who became the church's pastor in the 1950s at age 19, was remembered by several members who gave testimony to his spiritual leadership. One member said, "We could have more revival on Wednesday night (with Ferrell) than a full week with other preachers."

Ferrell spoke of his early days at the church when no one had been saved for more than two years. On returning from a fruitful revival in another church, he prayed that God would send that kind of revival to his

church. He preached a message on the urgency of coming to Christ, and a host of people made commitments to Christ. At least six of these were present at the anniversary service.

God also used Ferrell to lead the church to build their present facilities. It was a big step financially for the small congregation. Rumors spread that the bank would not loan the funds needed to complete the building. Discouraged, the young pastor met with the men to pray. After prayer one man said, "Pastor, I will mortgage everything I have in order to complete the project." Five other men spoke up to say they would do the same. The building was completed and paid off in a few years.

In the afternoon service, members shared testimonies of how God had changed their lives and encouraged them through the example of caring teachers and leaders. At least eight



Bill Mackey

men shared with tears of gratitude how God had blessed them through the ministry of the church.

There were also testimonies to the power of prayer. Several people shared about men gathering for prayer, prostrate on the floor, asking God to save friends or relatives. Those prayers had been answered.

Music is a vital part of the faith and worship of the church. The Trammell Creek Quartet provided special music. These talented musicians are corporate leaders in the bank, school system and industry.

William Small is the current pastor of the church and also serves as a member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board. The church contributes about 15 percent of undesignated gifts to the Cooperative Program.

Kay and I are grateful that Small gave us the opportunity to be blessed by this wonderful celebration. What a wonderful testimony of service to our Lord is the 200 years of ministry at Trammell Creek.

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

GIVING

Joint ownership can be problem for the unaware

By Laurie Valentine



"Husbands and wives should always put their property in both names."
"You should make sure you have someone else's name on your bank accounts as a joint owner in case you become sick."

I hear these statements and others like them often as I speak about estate planning across the state. Unfortunately, joint ownership isn't always the best plan of action for your estate plan.

If an asset is owned in "joint tenancy with rights of survivorship" at the death of the first joint owner, the ownership of the property passes to the surviving joint owner or owners. The ownership passes by operation of law; no probate is required at the death of the first joint owner.

If you own property with someone as joint tenants with rights of survivorship, you cannot control where that property will go at your death, if you die first. It will belong to the surviving joint owner. Your will or revocable living trust will not control how it passes.

If you and your spouse have a taxable estate (this year, assets with a value over \$650,000), owning everything jointly eliminates your ability to reduce estate tax liabilities at the second spouse's death. Everything will pass to the surviving spouse joint owner. The first spouse's "unified credit exemption" goes unused.

Another potential danger with joint ownership is creditor problems of the other joint owner. For example, if you own assets jointly with one of your children, and that child goes through a bankruptcy, divorce or some other legal proceeding, your assets may be subject to claims by your child's creditors.

Gift tax liability also must be considered when you add someone else's name on your assets as joint tenants with rights of survivorship. If the value of the other person's interest in the property exceeds \$10,000, you have made a taxable gift that may use up a portion of your unified credit exemption or result in gift taxes being payable.

There are problems, as well as benefits, to joint ownership. Consider both as you plan.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

Long-distance care for parents might require specialized help

Editor's note: This week Jon Rainbow, a clinical gerontologist and professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, joins our group of Family Forum writers.

Q. My mother who lives in another state is in failing health. How can I provide proper support and care from here?

Caregiving can be a very stressful experience, but especially from a distance. You might experience emotional strain because of feelings of helplessness or guilt at not being able to do more.

As a long-distance caregiver, be honest with yourself. Recognize the strain you're under and give yourself credit for doing the best you can in identifying, coordinating and monitoring sources of support. You personally cannot provide all the care your mother needs.

Honest, open discussion with your mother can be difficult, especially if she is resisting your advice. But it is necessary. Explain your concerns to your mother and listen carefully to what she says.

If necessary, seek out clergy and professional help both here and there. You need not feel alone. If she is in another state, call the state unit on aging both in Kentucky and there. State specialists also can help you reach regional agencies on aging.

Whatever arrangements you make, and whether your caregiving remains long distance or not, you should keep in mind how important a role you're playing. You're helping your mother live as normal a life as possible. And whenever possible, remember to extend a little caregiving and grace to yourself.—Jon Rainbow

Q. How can I help my children understand tragedy?

Tragedies, such as the recent school shootings in Littleton, Colo., raise many difficult questions and send parents in particular scrambling for answers and understanding. Here are some ideas:

■ **Protect.** Unless they are very young, most children will have some awareness of what has happened. Even if you choose to shield them (a worthy goal), an event of this magnitude will be talked about.

Children may know the basics, but they don't need to know all the details. Be aware that children may be listening as you discuss the tragedy with friends.

■ **Answer.** Answer questions directly and honestly, but keep answers simple and to the point. Focus on facts. Show care and concern, but control your own emotions in the presence of your children. We need to sympathize and feel for the families in Colorado, but we don't need to, nor can we experience these events with the same intensity. Children take their cues from parents. Don't dwell on what has happened, and don't allow your children to, either.

■ **Reassure.** We cannot promise our children that something similar won't happen to them. But we can promise protection and presence. Children need such reassurance. They also need to know of God's love and care. Read Psalm 56:3 and 1 Peter 5:7 together, and remind your children of God's promises.

Children have a lifetime to discover the many ways in which the world is a dangerous place. They don't need to go through childhood full of fear or worrying about something that can, but probably won't happen to them.

When tragedy strikes, be sensitive to your child's feelings and fears, but don't overreact. Ask God to help you protect, answer and reassure in ways that will build confidence, hope and a sense of security.—David Garrard

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



A sermon the visiting preacher needed

By C.R. Daley

Once upon a time, the good ole summertime was the most inspiring time in a Baptist church. The climax of every year was the annual protracted meeting when crowds overflowed the church into the church yard. The schedules of the members were arranged to fit the meeting. The hens were set in time for the little chicks to be frying size by revival time. Beans, corn, tomatoes and watermelons were planted to be ready for the preachers and other company during the meeting.

Generally the meeting was the same time each year so relatives and friends living away from home could plan their annual visit with home folks during revival time. The week or weeks of the revival had to fall between laying-by time and time to harvest the crop. (For the younger generation laying-by is that time when the crop is ploughed the last time and the farmer takes it easy waiting for harvest time.)

That's the way it used to be with Baptists in the summertime. Not so now. Instead of being the most inspiring time, summer in most Baptist churches now is anything but inspiring. Revivals have long since been moved to the fall and spring. In the summertime church attendance lags and offerings sag as church members by the droves try to get away from it all, including their churches. Travel, boating, camping and other vacation activities leave many empty pews in Baptist churches during the summer months.

Those of us who do denominational work and visit many churches are accustomed to the explanations and apologies offered for the summer slump. They are about the same wherever one goes. The hope is to hold things together somehow until September comes when things return to normalcy.

It would be easy to become discouraged if we looked only at the statistics of Baptist churches today in the summertime. On the other hand when we look beyond statistics, there are reasons to be encouraged. When things are at their worst, some of God's servants are at their best. And all the saints are not dead and gone. We have in our churches today some of the most dedicated Christians who ever lived. There are many examples of

sacrificial service that set the soul to singing.

One such example of loving service almost overwhelmed me on a recent Sunday when I was supply preacher for the day. The little church was more than 100 miles from Louisville on the edge of Appalachia. The pastor and his family were on a much deserved vacation. This meant not only the worship leader was absent but the pastor's wife who played the organ. But even this was still not so bad since a gifted pianist was left to carry on the music.

But, alas, the pianist was called out of town due to the illness of her father. This meant neither musicians nor the pastor was present to lead the service. The pastor's place was not too difficult a problem. A young layman who was trained at Georgetown College was able and willing to lead the service.

But what about someone to play the piano? The one other person who had ever played for worship services was a dear woman who was now seriously afflicted with arthritis. Her fingers had been so affected that she could not close her hand. Surgery on her hands had helped a little and made it possible for her to move her fingers slightly.

With her stiff hand and twisted fingers she could not reach all the notes, but there she was trying to play for the song service. Her playing was seriously hampered and many notes were missed. By human standards she was a failure, but by God's standards she surely was given an A plus.

She made no apology, and none was in order. It was the kind of music to set angels to singing. Through the human discord there seemed to be a divine voice saying, "She hath done what she could; ... Whosoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her" (Mark 13:8-9).

Her loving act was a more effective sermon than could ever come from a visiting preacher. Indeed, it was a sermon the visiting preacher needed.

C.R. Daley is editor emeritus of the Western Recorder. This column, which originally appeared July 19, 1969, is one of 75 in the book "Daley Observations: The Best of C.R. Daley's Western Recorder editorials."

What can the righteous do?

By Glenn Armstrong

When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do? (Psalm 11:3)

Refugees fleeing from Kosovo and students fleeing from danger in Littleton, Colo.—these graphic images stream into our homes in living color as we watch reports of world turmoil in spring 1999.

The refugees have fearful expressions, being driven from their homes by a leader who does not like their ethnic identity.

Where can they go? How will they live? Where are others in their families? Their world is shattered; their foundations are crumbling.

The students running from the high school in Littleton have varied messages upon their faces. Some are in shock, not knowing what is happening. Others are crying. Some are near hysteria, while others are relatively calm.

The "ripple effect" of this student massacre is sweeping schools across our nation. The public school system in

America is under attack. Many people ask for such stronger security measures as metal detectors, armed guards, restrictive dress codes and video cameras in school hallways. These necessary measures deal with the symptoms of a much deeper problem—a heart problem that threatens the foundation of our culture.

Psalm 11 provides the reminder that there is only one source of stability when the foundations of our lives are being destroyed. That haven is the refuge found in God's rule over the earth. What can the righteous do? Trusting God for security in the midst of panic can enable us to face our problems.

David was forced to flee for safety several times. His advisors urged him to "flee like a bird" to the mountain. While wisely fleeing from the known enemy, David did not flee from God. His safety was in the Lord on his "heavenly throne" who observes the righteous and examines the "wicked who love violence" and who will deal fairly with both. David realized, as we must, that God sees everything and the results are

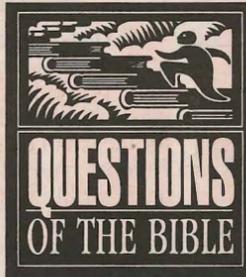
in his hands.

"When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?"

The beginning place is in the home. Children need loving parents, secure families and consistent discipline. We must monitor their activities, including friends, movies, games and computer usage. We must teach them and model for them how to deal constructively with anger, not allowing it to seethe and fester and become rage. We must introduce them to Jesus and expose them to an atmosphere conducive to spiritual growth.

When the foundations of our world, nation, families, schools, jobs and health are threatened, what can we do? We must remember that in the midst of the crumbling, God is still in control. Nothing happens without his knowledge. When we feel like fleeing, we can run to God. He has the whole world in his hands. God sees Kosovo and the oppressed people around the world. He sees Littleton and the students in our nation. He sees our personal lives and knows our problems. He wants us to flee to him for refuge.

Glenn Armstrong is pastor of Beaver Dam Baptist Church in Beaver Dam



OPINION

As we focus on all the negative influences in our culture, let's also remember the teachers and coaches and youth workers who have been there when we haven't.

In praise of those who work with youth

My teenage son doesn't tell me everything.

He tells me quite a bit compared to his peers, but I know that he doesn't always want to talk to me.

There are days when I come to pick him up at school and he shuffles toward the car. When I ask him if everything is okay, he mumbles a response that is meant to be polite but unresponsive. Sometimes over dinner he'll offer another clue, but often it takes days to find out exactly what is bothering him. And even then, he may not want to talk to me about it.

This might concern me except for the fact that there are some other great adults in my son's life.

"Why don't you have breakfast with Dave?" I'll sometimes suggest, and his eyes will light up.

Dave is one of his church youth group leaders, a guy young enough to be cool and old enough to be wise. I trust Dave and so does my son. Sending him to Dave for advice is easy for me.

At school he has Mr. Brown, his counselor and English teacher who has known him for several years. I know that Mr. Brown notices when he's down and sees him often enough to offer a chance to talk.

And there's Mr. Barry, his history teacher and track coach who often runs beside him on his daily workouts and encourages him in a way that only runners understand.

There are other teachers, too, who know Chase and often tell me things about him that I hadn't seen during my time with him. To them and the others, I am grateful.

Because despite the fact that I drive my children to school and pick them up every day, that we have dinner together each night and spend time together on weekends, my kids don't always want to talk to their parents. That's a natural part of growing up.

So as we as a nation focus on the need to pay more attention to our teen-

agers, I'd like to pay tribute to the many people who are involved with my son and other teens. Youth leaders and coaches and teachers who take the time to know my child; people who care and listen despite the fact that they are not ultimately responsible for him.

Teenagers are not the easiest group to love. To work with a bunch of them day in and day out takes commitment and enormous flexibility.

As a society we rarely reward those who work with our teens. Youth ministers in churches are on the low end of the pay scale. Teachers in our high schools often carry second jobs to make ends meet.

It seems to me that the way we value such people also says something about the way we care for our teens.

I was speaking to a youth leader recently who began to list the realities of dealing with adolescents in today's society. He mentioned that few kids have respect for authority; he has to earn respect with each group entering his program.

He talked about parents who drop off kids and never show up to pick them up, of kids he has taken home to empty houses.

He talked about the kids he has

helped and the ones that seem to be sliding further into trouble without the recognition of their parents.

This man works in a wealthy suburban area, not the inner city. Yet even he said the problems facing middle-class kids are not very different from the ones we once associated with the city.

When I asked him why he did it, he smiled and said, "I guess I just love these kids." His response was telling in its simplicity. Despite all the challenges, he loves the kids and they sense it.

While parents often see the teenage years as something to survive, the other adults in our teens' lives have chosen to be there, right in the middle of all the hormonal madness.

As parents, we clearly have some work to do. But as we focus on all the negative influences in our culture, let's also remember the teachers and coaches and youth workers who have been there when we haven't, the ones who love our kids even when they are at their most unlovable.

As individuals and as a society, we need to value the amazing contribution they make every day in the lives of those complicated, contradictory, confounding people we call teenagers. (RNS)

Dale Hanson Bourke is the publisher of Religion News Service and mother of two sons

COMMENTARY



Dale Hanson Bourke

What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Baptist Forum is limited to Western Recorder subscribers, unless someone is responding to a story or editorial of which they are the subject.



Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253; fax, (502) 244-6474; or e-mail, wesrec@ntr.net.

Celebrate this...

Henderson

POWER SURGE

September 13-15

South Junior High School

Frankfort Civic Center

POWER SURGE

September 13-15

Somerset

September 18

The Center For Rural Development

Prestonsburg

October 9

The Mountain Arts Center

Murray

November 6

Regional Special Events Center

Williamsburg

QUEST

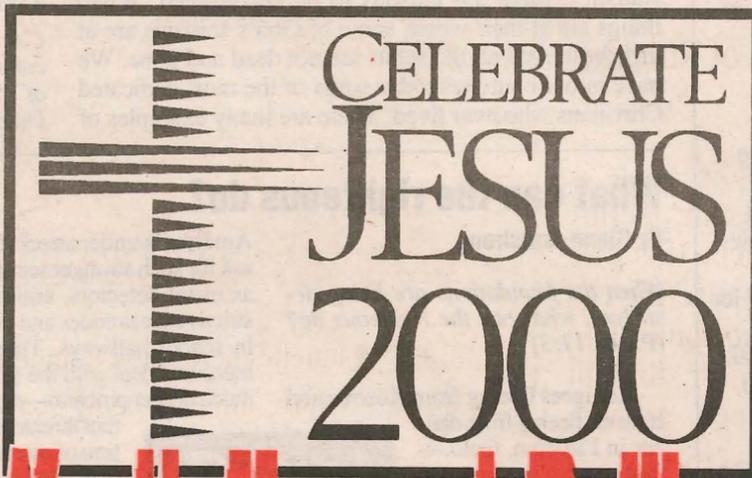
November 19-20

Cumberland College

Louisville

Saturday, November 20

Highview Baptist Church



Youth Harvest Rallies

It's not just a new millennium--IT'S ETERNITY!
The rally where every Christian youth brings one "unchurched" friend!

For More Information call 1-888-254-5722

Supported by KY Youth Ministers and KBC Evangelism Growth Team

EVANGELISM

Cowboy preacher takes gospel to the rodeo circuit

Continued from page 1

But ask Robertson for rodeo stories, and he's more likely to tell you about pick-ups of a different sort: fellows wanting to talk to him about their problems while he pens bulls, cowboys asking for prayer for a child facing surgery, the wife of a rodeo rider who prayed to become a Christian after one of his sermons while she watched the bull-dogging below.

He takes up an offering in that same manner.

"There's a hat out down here for an offering for this ministry," Robertson says at the end of his short sermon. "If you've got it to give, give. If not, don't. And if you need some, take it."

"I'm not down there to get their money," he said later. "Judging, riding pick-up, horseshoeing and Patti's secretarying provides our income. We're able to pay our own way. I think that's given me a lot of credibility."

Robertson's unusual ministry involves the entire family, who travels with him to as many as 40 rodeos a year. Both Julie, 14, and Daniel, 10, compete in their age groups.

Patti Robertson works as a secretary for rodeos, keeping track of entries and money.

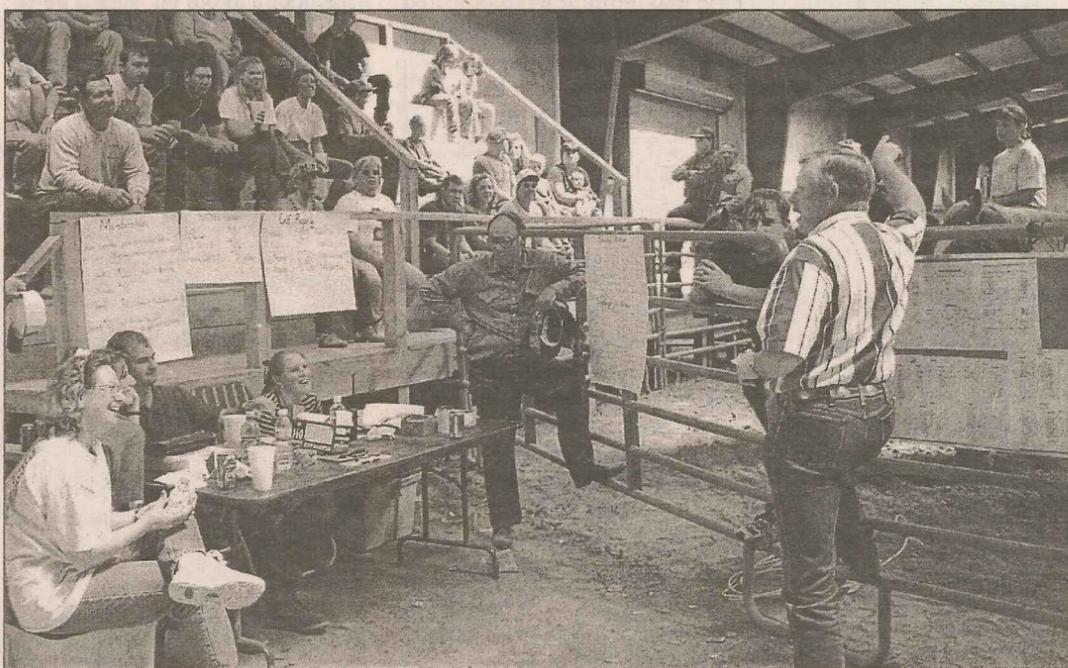
"Any man can be called to the ministry and can pastor a church," Patti Robertson said. "But not any man can go out and do what we do. Rodeo people are on the road on Sunday. You've got to take the word to them because you're not going to have these people walk into church."

Walking into church would not have been on Robertson's mind back when he was a senior in high school and beginning to travel the rodeo circuit as a bull rider.

"I didn't want nothing to do with church or with God," Robertson said during his sermon. "I ran around with a pretty wild bunch—you know, kind of a local beer-joint-type band deal. But I had a couple friends get killed in wrecks. That kind of got my attention."

After college, he served as pastor of several conventional churches. But Robertson still felt the pull of the rodeo. He competed some and said a few words when a rodeo organizer asked him to speak one Sunday.

One rodeo led to another, and after 12 years of conventional ministry while working rodeos and writing inspirational pieces for rodeo magazines on the side, Robertson resigned four years ago to work rodeos full time.



"I can't tell you the people Mike has influenced," said longtime friend Wayne Thornton, a gospel singer and part-time rodeo clown who has helped Robertson with revivals and cowboy church services. "He doesn't argue about religion—he lets his actions

prove him out."

Robertson shrugs off any suggestion that what he is doing is extraordinary.

"We didn't plan it this way," Robertson said. "But I think everybody's got to fit with what they've got."

WORSHIP TIME Michael Robertson preaches to the crowd at the Double E Ranch in Huntland, Tenn. Longtime friend Wayne Thornton said Robertson proves his Christian faith every day. "He doesn't argue about religion—he lets his actions prove him out." (Photo by Kay Campbell)

Tell Us Where It Hurts

- ◆ Depression
- ◆ Anxiety
- ◆ High Stress
- ◆ Hopelessness
- ◆ Anorexia
- ◆ Bulimia
- ◆ Drug & Alcohol Addictions
- ◆ Thoughts of Suicide

Some problems are too big to handle alone ... problems that leave God's people in pain, feeling helpless and hopeless. It doesn't have to be this way. Rapha's Christ-centered professional counseling can help Christians struggling with emotional and substance-abuse problems turn life's most difficult situations into opportunities for personal growth, restoring God's peace and joy in their lives. Help is a phone call away 24 hours a day.

1-800-383-HOPE

+ CATHOLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

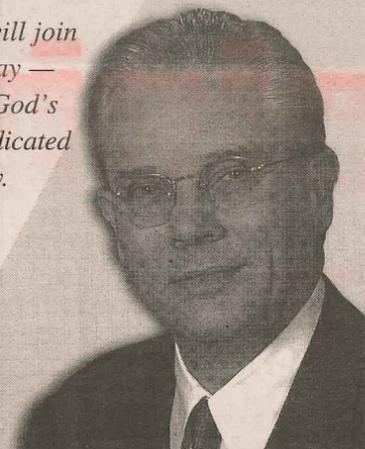
CARITAS Peace Center

Rapha

Where the healing begins

We hope you and your church will join us on Adopt An Annuitant Sunday — June 27, 1999 — as we extend God's hand to faithful servants who dedicated their lives to the gospel ministry.

O. S. Hawkins
President — Chief Executive Officer
Annuity Board, SBC



Adopt An Annuitant Sunday

Churches across the Southern Baptist Convention are being challenged to adopt a retired annuitant through the Annuity Board for \$900 per year. The Adopt An Annuitant ministry provides a \$75 monthly supplement to retirement incomes of Southern Baptist ministers and their widows in desperate need. June 27 is "Adopt An Annuitant Sunday" through the SBC. Free bulletin inserts which explain this worthy ministry are available for your worship service by calling our toll-free number, 1-800-262-0511. Order your inserts today.



ANNUITY BOARD
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
www.absbc.org

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **Report: Alcohol, drug use permeate films and music.** Images or references to alcohol or tobacco are widespread in American films and pop music, according to a new federal study. A report by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy said 93 percent of 200 films released during 1996 and 1997 included alcohol images or references, while 89 percent included tobacco usage. Illicit drug use—most often marijuana—was included in 22 percent of films. Eighteen percent of the 1,000 popular songs reviewed—but 63 percent of rap lyrics—included illicit drug use.

■ **Clinton names religious freedom panel appointees.** President Clinton has named a Muslim, a Baha'i and an American Baptist to the three remaining open seats on the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. The trio joins six other previously named voting members of the panel selected by congressional Republicans and Democrats. Former World Vision president Robert Seiple was named by Clinton to be ambassador-at-large for religious freedom issues, and will serve as the panel's tenth and only non-voting member. The commission, established last year, is responsible for evaluating and recommending U.S. responses to violations of religious freedom by foreign governments. Its conclusions are advisory only.

■ **Magazine: Blockbuster shifts to more sex, violence.** Despite a pro-family reputation, Blockbuster Video has made a significant shift toward making more videos available with sex and violence, according to the June issue of HomeLife magazine. The upcoming HomeLife article encourages video families to consider avoiding the nation's largest video chain, citing an abundance of sexually violent "slasher" films. The article also notes Blockbuster has reversed itself on several controversial titles it previously refused to carry, such as "The Last Temptation of Christ." HomeLife is published by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

■ **High court may strike down casinos' advertising ban.** The U.S. Supreme Court recently heard arguments in a challenge by the Greater New Orleans Broadcasting Association to the congressional ban on nonmisleading advertising of casino gambling via radio and television. The New Orleans organization appealed a Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals opinion upholding the ban. The Supreme Court earlier had returned the case to the Fifth Circuit for it to reconsider its decision in light of a 1996 high court decision increasing protection for commercial speech. The Supreme Court's willingness to review the Fifth Circuit appeal is viewed by some as a signal that it will strike down that court's ruling and the ban.

■ **McDonald's adds 'sexual orientation' in policies.** The McDonald's Corp. has decided to include homosexuality as a protected classification in its employment and harassment policies, according to a published report. The fast-food giant's decision to include "sexual orientation" in its nondiscrimination and sexual harassment policies was reported in the April 9 issue of the Washington Blade, the District of Columbia's weekly newspaper for homosexuals. McDonald's action raises the possibility of a "domino effect" in the fast-food industry, advocates on both sides of the homosexual rights issue said.

■ **Suit could block government sponsorship of Boy Scouts.** The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit last month in Chicago seeking to stop federal agencies and public schools from sponsoring or aiding Boy Scouts because the youth organization requires an oath to God. "This is a clear violation of the constitutional requirement of separation of church and state," ACLU attorney Roger Leishman said. The Boy Scouts of America was not named in the suit, which seeks to block any government funds from going to support the private organization, the Associated Press reported. Scouting policies require that leaders recognize "an obligation to God," and Scouts are required to take an oath pledging "to do my duty to God and country."

Anti-abortion numbers grow, poll discovers

WASHINGTON (BP)—The anti-abortion movement continues to make gains in public opinion, a recent Gallup survey found.

In a poll for USA Today and CNN, Gallup found the number of American adults who identified themselves as "pro-life" increased from 36 percent three years ago to 42 percent in their recent poll.

Those who describe themselves as "pro-choice," meanwhile, fell from a high of 56 percent to 48 percent in the same time span.

The survey also found support for a ban on an abortion procedure called "partial-birth abortion" by its critics has grown from 55 percent two years ago to 61 percent.

Some abortion opponents and other observers have credited the debate on "partial-birth abortion" for the improved polling figures for the pro-life cause.

In other results reported in USA Today May 5, the survey found:

■ 71 percent of those interviewed support some restrictions or a total ban on abortion.

■ 55 percent said abortion should be legal only in certain circumstances, such as rape, incest or to save the life of the mother.

■ 16 percent supported a total ban on abortion.

■ 27 percent said abortion should be legal in all circumstances.

■ Looking forward to the 2000 elections, 19 percent of respondents said candidates must share their view on abortion to receive their vote.

■ 27 percent said abortion is not an important consideration in their vote.

Appeals court strikes down program that places clergy in public schools

BEAUMONT, Texas (RNS)—A "Clergy in the Schools" program that allowed local clergy to counsel Beaumont, Texas, students on civic virtues and morality has been ruled unconstitutional.

A three-judge federal appeals panel voted 2-1 April 16 to overturn a 1996 ruling by a federal district court. The U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with seven parents and students who argued that the Beaumont Independent School District program violated the separation of church and state.

"(The school district's) creation of a special program that recruits only clergymen to render volunteer counseling makes a clear statement that it favors religion over nonreligion," the panel ruled.

Since 1996, local religious leaders have been invited to counsel elementary and secondary school students during school hours at their schools, Associated Press reported.

The program helped increase school safety, gave a local group an interest in the school and allowed students to discuss moral and civic issues, the district said. Clergy members were forbidden from discussing abortion, sex or religion and could not pray with students.

The appellate panel said the clergy chosen were disproportionately Protestants. Although students could decline to take part in the program, parents were not notified about the sessions or asked to give their consent.

"I think it is a very sad day," said Woodrow Reece, a board member. "I didn't see any harm (from the program), but I did see a lot of good. Students need some type of mentors to come into the schools."

The Anti-Defamation League and Americans United for Separation of Church and State submitted briefs supporting the complaints of the parents and the students.



Available in 20' to 37' Models
(12 to 43 passengers)
Guaranteed Buy-Back Program
www.carpenterbus.com

Church Buses Rental Buses

(New & Used)
Carpenter Bus Sales Inc.
Brentwood, Tenn.
(800) 370-6180
(615) 376-2287
We Buy Used Buses
Since 1953

CHURCH WEEKDAY EDUCATION SEMINAR

June 5 & 12, 1999 8:00am till 3:20pm
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, Kentucky

FEE: \$10.00 per person CREDIT: Six hours. All are state approved. Lunch will be provided!

During lunch, hear Dr. Scott Wigginton talk about Coping with Stress and Burnout!

Attend age-level as well as special interest conferences. Topics include: Discipline, Directors, Play, Family, Music, Art, Special Needs, Before/After School, Organizing, Moral Development, Creative Activities! Visit the Child Development Center!

For more information and to receive registration forms call:

Kentucky Baptist Convention, Sunday School Dept.
502/254-4730 or Toll Free 1-888-254-5709

You will be pre-registered when your fee has been received by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Refunds will be given until June 2, 1999.



Sunday School and Bible Study
10701 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40243
<http://www.kybaptist.org>



Baptists start relief ministry after killer tornadoes

By Dana Williamson
Oklahoma Baptist

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)—Several Oklahoma Baptist churches opened their doors to victims, rescue workers and clean-up crews May 3 in the aftermath of one of the worst tornado onslaughts in the state's history.

Nearly 1,000 people poured into the facilities of First Baptist Church of Moore, Okla., after a fierce mass of tornadoes—one reaching F-5 status, up to a mile wide with winds of 260 mph—leveled homes, churches and businesses in Bridge Creek, Moore, southwest Oklahoma City, Del City and Midwest City.

Other churches that housed and fed victims were First Southern Baptist Church of Del City and First Baptist Church of Perry, which served as the central headquarters for those caught in the tornadoes that ripped through that part of the state.

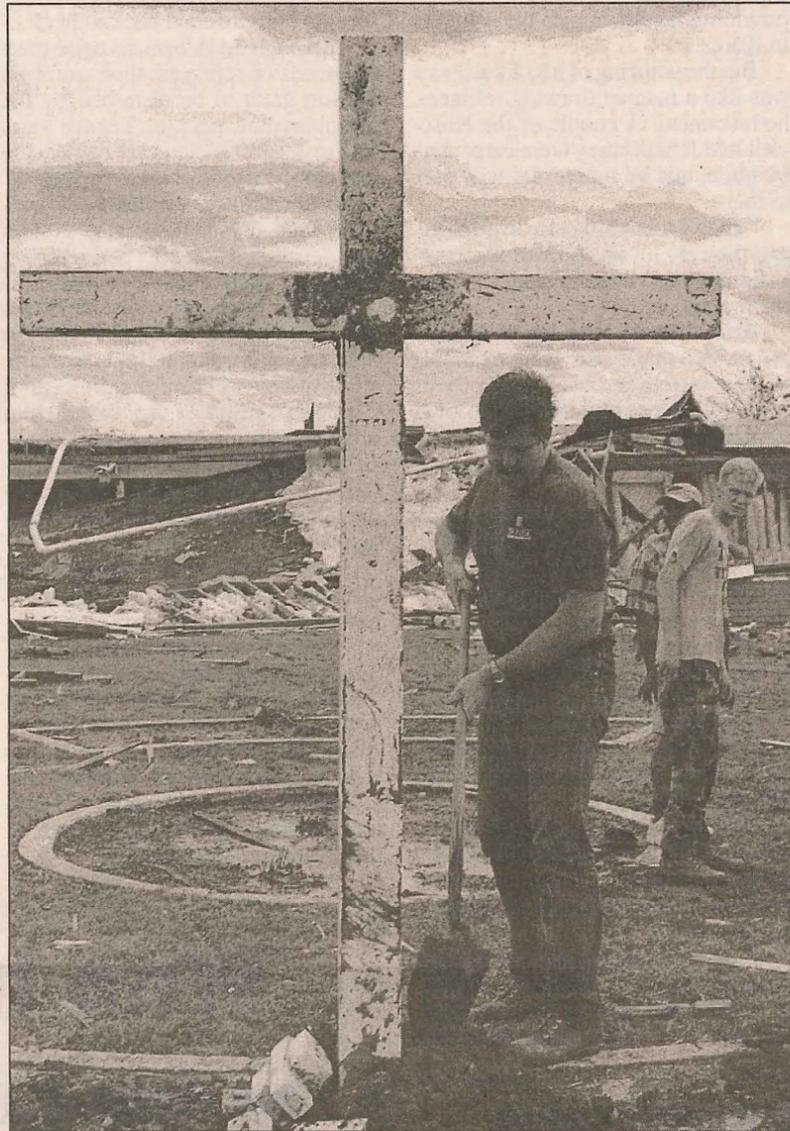
Del City's First Southern members were mourning the death of retired associate pastor Jake Self, who died when a tornado picked up a van and dropped it on his house where he and his wife were huddled in a closet. Self suffered a head injury, but his wife survived.

Also destroyed was First Southern's missionary house which, at the time, was occupied by Steve and Patsy Ellis.

First Southern pastor Tom Elliff, who lost his home to a fire in February, was wiped out again, this time when a devastating tornado leveled the townhouse in which he and his wife were living.

Oklahoma Baptist disaster relief units were set up at both First Southern and First Baptist Church of Moore.

Also feeding units from Texas and Arkansas arrived later in the week in the Oklahoma City area. Also scheduled to arrive was a shower unit operated by the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.



The Kansas-Nebraska Baptist feeding unit set up operations at First Baptist Church of Haysville, Kan., a town of 9,000 near Wichita. Three people were reported killed there by the May 3 storm.

A Missouri Baptist feeding unit and a cleanup and recovery unit are expected to arrive in Haysville May 5, followed by a shower unit oper-

ated by Tennessee Baptists on May 6.

The May 3 tornadoes claimed at least 44 lives in Oklahoma and Kansas, injured nearly 700 others and destroyed an estimated 1,500 homes. In all, 76 tornadoes were counted by meteorologists in the two states and in Texas and Nebraska May 3.



Larry Koch of Kentucky Brotherhood said no disaster relief teams from Kentucky have been called out to that area, or to Tennessee, which also had heavy storms.

"There's still a possibility, but right now they have it covered," he said, referring to crews already on the scene. "We haven't been even placed on alert status yet."

BLOWN AWAY Baptists pitched in with feeding and clean-up crews after killer tornadoes went through Oklahoma and Kansas.

■ **Left:** John Cauffiel puts up a cross from the Sooner Baptist church east of Oklahoma City.

■ **Right top:** A search and rescue dog and his handler work their way through the debris of a tornado-ravaged neighborhood south of Oklahoma City.

■ **Right bottom:** Members of the tornado-destroyed Ridgecrest Baptist church pray at an outdoor worship service near the church May 5. (RNS/Reuters photos)

New pastor welcomed to town by having parsonage blown away

By Rob Marus
Oklahoma Baptist

MULHALL, Okla. (BP)—A providential malfunction in the hot water heater of their new home might have saved the lives of Troy and Trena Withey when a massive tornado hit Mulhall, Okla., May 3.

Only a day after they moved into the parsonage of First Baptist Church of Mulhall, the home was leveled by a powerful tornado.

Troy Withey hadn't even led his first service as the church's new pastor when he said he witnessed the first miracle of his ministry. The Witheys had spent a long Monday cleaning the parsonage and unpacking boxes when they decided to shower and get ready for bed.

But the hot water was gone. "It had been working earlier in the day. We had done some dishes," Withey recounted. "But it just stopped working. It was just God delivering us."

Church members John and Glenda Lough, who live about a mile north of town, offered their hot water to the Witheys, who soon came over.

The two couples monitored local television reports about tornadoes bearing down on communities across the state.

Just before 10 p.m., Mulhall residents received their first warning about the monster bearing down on them. The two couples and a third family who also are members of the church took shelter in the Loughs' storm cellar.

The Loughs' property did not sustain a direct hit from the twister. The men emerged from the cellar at 11 p.m. to head toward town—without a clue about the destruction they would find.

In Mulhall, only a few houses and two public buildings—the post office and the United Methodist church—were left completely intact.

The men looked in vain for the

parsonage until they saw a debris-filled lot with a couple of the Witheys' moving boxes sitting on it. The parsonage was blown completely from its foundation.

"If we had been in the house, there's no way we would have survived," Withey said. "My first reaction was to realize we were simply blessed to be alive."

Withey also said none of his 50 active church members was seriously injured, though the majority did suffer major property damage.

The church buildings, though not destroyed, sustained significant structural damage. Its worship center, built five years ago with volunteer labor, lost all its windows and about half its roof.

The old worship center, now a fellowship hall, suffered some minor damage, but was strong enough to serve as the local command post for the Logan County sheriff, who was coordinating relief and clean-up efforts.

By May 5, help already was pouring in from fellow believers. Groups from several Oklahoma Baptist churches rushed to Mulhall to help church members with clean-up. A team from World Relief Rescue Aid, a division of the National Association of Evangelicals, was in town to help the churches rebuild.

Scott Gammon, pastor of the Assembly of God church in Coyle, Okla., where Troy Withey previously was pastor of the Baptist church, showed up in Mulhall to offer extra pews and sound equipment to his old friends.

"We're just going to do whatever we can—we're all brothers in the Lord," Gammon said.

As in all disasters, a healthy sense of humor also has helped Troy Withey through his dubious inauguration into Mulhall life. Already he is joking with his new congregation about the way they welcomed him to town. "If this is the way you greet new pastors, I'd sure hate to see how you kick one out."

MINISTRY

Baptist volunteers serve the suffering in Albania

Continued from page 1

But once on the field, both the nature and scope of their mission changed.

In Korca, the volunteers worked primarily at the "sports palace," an athletic facility that was operating as a ministry center for refugees. When the group arrived, about 150 Kosovars were sheltered there. By the time they left, the number had grown to more than 1,000.

Jenkins initially tried "playing carpenter" by building examining tables, waiting room benches and I-V poles for Doctors Without Borders, the non-governmental organization that was

providing health care to the refugees in Korca.

But the whirring of his circular saw was like a magnet drawing refugees, he recounted. A couple of the Kosovars told Jenkins they were carpenters by trade, and he turned the task over to them.

"They had nothing else to do there, and they are a very industrious, energetic people," Jenkins said. "It gave them purpose."

After Robert Mann, a pediatrician, discovered that others were available to meet immediate health-care needs in the refugee center, he started going into private residences where local families had taken refugees into their homes.

"I was like a country doctor making house calls," he said. "I would go into a home or apartment to see one person, and people would just start streaming in, bringing others."

Mann treated cases of exposure, kidney infections, respiratory ailments and skin conditions, as well as caring for people with chronic conditions who had been forced to leave their prescription medicines behind when they fled Kosovo.

He also treated a child who sustained severe burns when her family's home was burned. It was not the only evidence of atrocities the volunteers encountered.

"One woman came to a refugee camp hysterical," Jenkins recalled. "Her baby had been taken away from her, beheaded right in front of her, and

then its body handed back to her."

Although the Albanians try to meet the needs of refugees, their numbers are too great to be absorbed by the impoverished people, Texans said. The makeshift shelters are inadequate to meet the needs of the refugees.

In Ereske, south of Korca, a sanitation and personal hygiene system was developed for about 500 refugees who were sheltered in a gymnasium.

Bullock noted all of the Christians with whom they worked had been believers five years or less. Virtually all of them had become followers of Christ as a result of the "Jesus" film project coordinated in remote villages, in conjunction with Campus Crusade, Texas Baptist Men, the International Mission Board and other evangelicals.

Each of the teams working at the different sites in Albania reported miraculous answers to prayer.

"There was one time we ran out of lumber. We gathered some of the people from Kosovo around and prayed with them. About the time we finished, this Armenian guy pulled up with a truckload of lumber. He wouldn't even let us pay him," Bullock recalled. The refugees, most of them Muslim, wept openly.

ALBANIA Two ethnic Albanian refugee women chat at a camp in the Northern Albanian town of Kukes April 26. The group Texas Baptist Men sent 12 volunteers to Albania to help with medical, clean water, construction and sanitation projects. (RNS/Reuters photo)



Want to help?

■ Send a check designated for "Kosovo relief" to the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's General Relief Fund, Office of Finance, Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230. To volunteer, call Michael Hester, director of volunteer efforts in Europe, at (804) 219-1530.

■ Send a check designated for "Balkan appeal" to the Baptist World Alliance's Baptist World Aid fund, 6733 Curran St., McLean, VA 22101.

■ Send a check designated for "Albanian refugees relief" to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Box 450329, Atlanta, GA 31145-0329. Call Marie Moore to explore volunteer opportunities, (770) 220-1631.

■ Call Samaritan's Purse, (800) 665-2843.

Thanks to two Kentucky Baptist leaders

Last week Cedarmore hosted the spring meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board. Our Cedarmore staff rallied to the occasion and served in a Christ-like manner.

I was so proud of each of our staff members. It has been a very busy time at Cedarmore, and we are having to learn how to "turn the place over" in less than 24 hours as one group leaves and another checks in. It's a challenge, and we juggle people from maintenance to housekeeping to food service to mowing. But everybody pitched in, and I want to express my thanks to each of our Cedarmore team members for the outstanding effort.

It is a great time to be a Kentucky Baptist. The board meeting went well; the business was conducted with a beautiful spirit. Two of the highlights for me personally were related to two loyal servants who are stepping down from their positions after years of service.

All of you know by now that Jim Hawkins is retiring. When I needed a friend and an ear, Jim was always there for me. When I needed advice, he always was willing to guide me with his wisdom. Over his years of service, his accumulation of God-

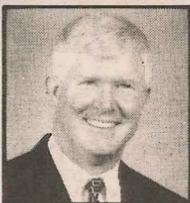
given wisdom is significant, and his sensitivity to Kentucky Baptists is unsurpassed. When I needed some constructive criticism, Jim gave me such in his gentle, Christ-like manner. I pray that God will someday give me the grace to conduct myself in a similar manner. I love Jim dearly and will miss him for what he meant to me.

Another retiring Kentucky Baptist leader who has been a model for me is Ken Winters. I have told Ken personally on several occasions that his ministry at Campbellsville is somewhat of a model for me as I serve. When Ken arrived on the scene at Campbellsville years ago, the task before him was great. Under his leadership, Campbellsville University has grown and is moving into an exciting era. What a job God has done through Ken through these years.

Both men exemplify selfless servant leadership. I can't measure up to either of them, but maybe someday I can. But in the meantime, sincere thanks to each of them for the encouragement that has come my way.

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

Won by One Spring Celebration

Severns Valley Baptist Church
(270) 765 - 7822

Friday, May 14 - Sunday, May 16
Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday at 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00



Dawson McAllister

Speaker: Dawson McAllister

Worship Leaders:

John Sanders
and Severns Valley
Praise Bands



John Sanders

Friday Evening: 7:00 Wear your high school colors nite
Late Nite Free Concert by Three Blind Mice

Saturday Evening: 7:00 Bring a bunch of friends nite
Late Nite Free Concert by Plumblyne

CHURCH

Growth optional, change isn't, secretaries told

By Ed Rowell
Baptist Press

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)—Remember when a high-tech church office was equipped with "White-Out" and secretaries used IBM Selectric typewriters and blue stencils for preparing the Sunday bulletin?

"Our purpose—ministry—remains constant. But our methods are different, our equipment is different, we are different," Gayle Hilligoss told more than 800 ministry assistants recently.

Hilligoss, editor of PROfile, a newsletter for church secretaries, reminded the workers that change occurs with or without their consent.

"Change is inevitable; growth is optional," she said. "Your work has been transformed because you have grown in professionalism, knowledge, commitment and excellence."

Quoting from a survey conducted by her newsletter, Hilligoss said one area of growth for ministry assistants has been in compensation. In 1983, the median hourly wage for a full-time church secretary was about \$4.50, and the position seldom offered benefits of any kind.

The 1998 median salary was \$10.10, and the majority receives a benefits package of some kind.

In the 1998 PROfile survey, more than half of those responding have a different title, but many still hold proudly to the title "church secretary."

A secretary from Ohio noted,

"For me, no title describes the work better."

Hilligoss explained, "Just as the word clergy encompasses those who hold a variety of titles (chaplain, pastor, rabbi, priest) the word secretary is commonly used to respectfully include office professionals regardless of title."

Hilligoss traced the history of the profession, beginning with biblical models such as Baruch, son of Neriah (found in Jeremiah), and Tertius, who writes a postscript in chapter 16 of Paul's letter to the Romans.

Hilligoss noted that in those places where Paul wrote, "I write this with my own hand," scholars find that the Greek is not as correct as in the parts he dictated.

"Obviously, when Tertius transcribed, he cleaned up the spelling and grammar and made the boss look good," she said. "Some things don't change."

Even until late in the 19th century, secretaries were always male. Many educated young men began their business careers as secretaries to wealthy leaders, and moved up from there.

Yet when the YWCA trained eight young women as typists in 1873, people protested. Surely, they reasoned, this new technology which allowed a trained user to write 57 words per minute would "cause the women's minds to snap."

It took 35 years for the gender trend to change completely, Hilligoss said.

Today's secretaries number about 14 million, with more than 98 percent women.

What will the future look like for those who serve the church office, and who will succeed in that environment?

"As you prepare for the 21st century, your success will be determined by your ability to continually adapt," Hilligoss said.

She sees three trends that will have direct implications for the church secretary:

■ A move away from one person wearing many hats to each person a specialist. "The church secretary's specialty will be administration."

■ An increasingly complex and diverse society will challenge ministry assistants to grow in their ability to give and follow instructions, listen, understand and act on information, and constructively manage stress.

"Apart from technology, your common sense and caring attitude will be your greatest assets," she told the group.

■ As moral values continue to fall away, all who serve the church must do so with a high degree of personal integrity.

"In addition to excellent communication tools and skills, we need a message worth communicating, not by how we say it, but by how we live it," she said.

The Ministry Impact 2000 conference was sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Ministry assistants urged to balance benevolence & caution

Continued from page 1

to a certain limit at our direction, and then we reimburse them."

■ **Keep a card file.** "A photocopy of their driver's license gives us a name and a picture which allows us to identify someone who is trying to take advantage of us."

■ **Exchange information with other churches.** This allows all involved to discover people who may be "making the rounds."

■ **Treat each person with dignity and kindness.** "Jesus did tell us that ministering to those in need was part of his ministry, and it ought to be part of ours," she said, quoting from Matthew 25.

■ **Be prepared to respond.** Know phone numbers and directions to area food banks, clothing banks and cooperative community aid programs. Several workshop participants said the local ministerial alliance in their community works to provide resources for aid, but allows the police department to administer aid. This discourages people whose motives are wrong and provides safety to all involved.

■ **Act as though you are not alone.** Don't hesitate to call the police if you feel uneasy, Hostetter added.

■ **Never give anyone a ride.** If someone cannot get to the food bank in his or her own car, ask police for help.

■ **Have a security system.** Hostetter suggested steps that even smaller churches could take to improve safety when the secretary is often at the church alone. For as little as \$400, she said, a doorbell, intercom and lock that can be unlocked with a switch allows the secretary to use discretion regarding whom she allows in the office. Another helpful but inexpensive aid is a Dutch door to the secretary's office. The top half allows people to see and speak with her, but discourages them from entering without her permission.

"The days when we can just leave the doors open day and night and allow anyone to wander around our facilities are over."

Pat Johnson

By Robert Dunston

Each year at Cumberland College's annual faculty/staff banquet, the Service Award is presented to a full-time administrative or staff member who is dedicated to the care and concerns of other members of the college community.

The recipient exemplifies and supports the ideals for which Cumberland College stands and inspires in others the desire to serve for the good of the college community. This year's Service Award recipient is Pat Johnson, director of the academic computing lab.

Johnson first came to Cumberland College as a student in 1970. She left for a few years but then returned in 1981 and graduated in 1983. Upon graduation, Cumberland employed her to work in our new electronic data processing venture. Unfortunately the lab was not quite ready yet, so she worked for a while in the development office.

In her years at Cumberland, Johnson has seen the academic computer lab grow from a handful of early computers to a modern lab of 67 computers. During that time, she has worked diligently to increase her own knowledge of and skill in using computers. Her cur-

rent responsibilities include ensuring that the hardware and software are functioning, as well as monitoring the usage of the lab and the work environment.

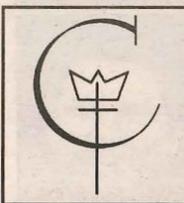
Johnson also supervises 21 students who work in the lab. Their training and scheduling are her responsibility. They appreciate her as a fellow worker and a role model.

Johnson's concern extends far beyond her work. Her family of husband, Mark, and son, Jared Simms, is precious to her. Animals are another concern. She and her husband have two dogs and three cats and feed the birds and squirrels as well. Johnson says that if she were not working at Cumberland she probably would volunteer time at the Humane Society.

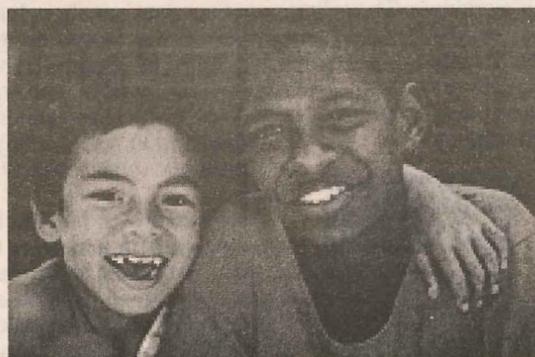
Johnson's love and concern for all others evidences itself in so many ways. She was unable to attend the banquet at which she was honored because she had promised a friend she would work in her place so her friend could go on a church trip. When her friend returned, she told Johnson she had a wonderful time. Johnson was delighted.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



May is Foster Care Month!



Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children needs foster parents to care for children who have been abused and neglected, or whose families are in crisis. Training, ongoing support and compensation are provided.

Find Out More!
call 1-800-456-1386 toll free



Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children
10801 Shelbyville Road, Louisville KY 40243
www.iglou.com/kbhc

Day of prayer and fasting encouraged for North Korea

Erich Bridges
SBC International Mission Board

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—Southern Baptists are being asked to fast and pray for 22 million people of North Korea during the 1999 Day of Prayer and

Fasting, from 6 p.m. May 21 to 6 p.m. May 22.

By asking God to bring his peace to this former enemy, Southern Baptists will commit "an act of love" that testifies to God's power to change lives, according to a veteran of the 1950-53 Korean Conflict.

Ken Dupuy, a businessman from Longview, Texas, said he learned firsthand the power of God's love for North Koreans. He once fought them as enemies. Then he ministered to them through relief projects when famine struck the country.

He said he saw his former enemies as real people who are loved by God. "They weren't objects anymore," he said. "These were real people and they were in real trouble. You could see the pain and misery these people were going through."

When North Koreans asked why he was bringing them food from Southern Baptists, Dupuy said he answered, "Because God loves you." Southern Baptists will fast and pray for North Korea for the same reason, he said.

Intercessory prayer is "an act of love," Dupuy said. "The more you are involved in it, the greater the love you have, and the greater the capacity for love you have."

"We know God loves all the peoples of the earth, regardless of their situation," said Randy Sprinkle, director of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's prayer strategy office.

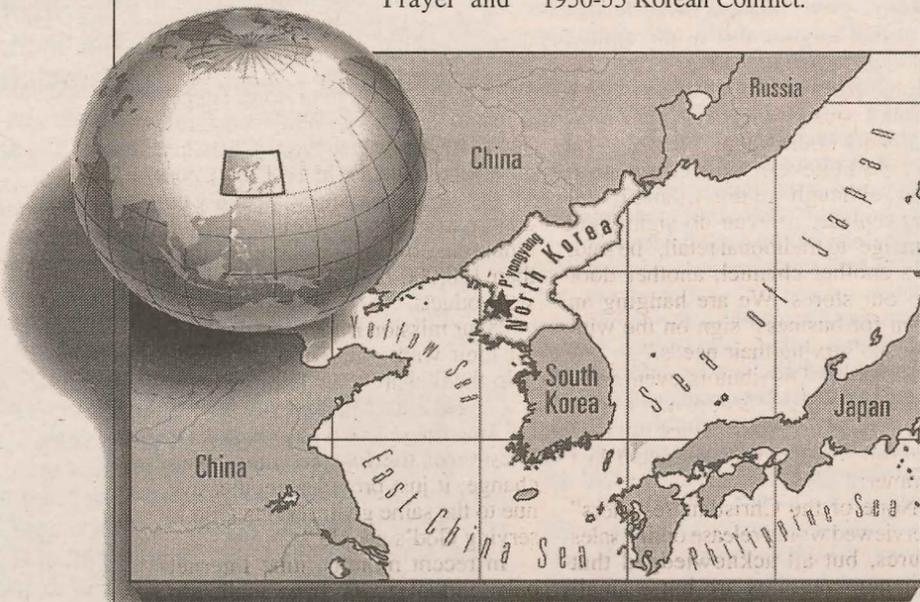
"We need to view the North Korean people as beloved of God and the focus of his saving grace in Christ, regardless of their current social and religious context," he added.

North Korea is struggling under massive physical need caused by years of drought and flooding, soil erosion and crop loss. Up to 2 million North Koreans have died of hunger and related diseases since 1995, according to some estimates.

Southern Baptists have responded repeatedly to the physical needs of North Korea by sending shiploads and planeloads of food, medicine and thousands of coats to help hungry children survive North Korea's freezing winters.

Southern Baptist churches interested in participating in the North Korea prayer emphasis can obtain a free resource kit, which includes a video and viewing guides, a prayer guide, fasting guidelines, clip art and a reprint of an article on North Korea from "The Commission" magazine.

To order the kit call (800) 866-3621; visit the web site at www.imb.org/resources; or e-mail the IMB resource center at resource.center@imb.org.



Democratic People's Republic Korea (North Korea)

Population:	22.2 million
Religions:	68 percent non-religious/atheist; 29.5 percent Shamanist/Confucian; 1.7 percent Buddhist; 0.6 percent to 2 percent Christian (rough estimate; mostly secret believers). All religions are repressed.
Peoples:	Korean, 99.8 percent; about 168,000 Chinese; and Russians and Mongolians. Most have little or no access to the gospel.
Languages:	Korean (official)

Sources: 1998 World Population Data Sheet, IMB Global Research, Operation World

IMB Graphic by ALAN M. PERROW

REAL FRIENDLY

Real Life magazine can help your church make a great first impression.

It really was a special event

It was with pleasure and pride that the Oneida Players presented our spring drama last month.

This splendid play was written by Denise Spencer four years ago. When she and her husband joined our staff in 1992, then-President Barkley Moore asked Mrs. Spencer to write a play depicting the founding of our school in 1899. Shortly after Spencer began her writing project, Moore passed away. After I was asked to serve as president, Spencer told me she had been working on the play.

Though I was not aware of the project, I encouraged her to continue. After reading the script, I was so excited. I knew the play would be a big hit.

Our drama coach is Debbie Winters. We celebrated her 50th Oneida Baptist Institute production last fall. After reading the script, she also believed it would be a great presentation. So, in the spring of 1996, we had our first production of *Moriah Morning*. The founder of our school, James Anderson Burns, named the hill on which our school's first buildings were constructed "Mount Moriah."

Many of Burns' descendants were here for the play. Some were moved to tears, and all were proud of the wonderful ministry Burns began. Many of our readers have received a copy of the book "The Crucible," written by Burns in 1928. It is a wonderful little book chronicling Burns' early years in West Virginia, his eventual return to the Kentucky home of his ancestors and the founding of our school.

Burns' father, Hugh, left Kentucky before James was born in order to escape the bloodshed of the mountain feuds. Hugh Burns did not want his son to return to Kentucky and warned him

about the bloody feuds. James did return, and in a very short time found himself caught up in the war. After nearly being killed, young James had a revelation from God about how to stop the feuds. The solution was not extermination, but love. He would build a school that would bring the children of warring families together. They would learn not only "readin', writin', and 'rithmetic," but also the love of God. These children would go to school together, play and worship together and possibly, just possibly, end the feuds.

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Burns asked the feuding leaders to come together for a meeting to discuss the plan. Two dozen of the warring men reluctantly agreed to meet at the old mill. It was a very tense situation. After a brief speech by Burns, the men agreed to give it a try.

They needed a building. With no money and only a deep conviction that God wanted this to happen, Burns and his helpers began construction. By Christmas Eve they were out of lumber. The mill was broken, and it appeared that opening day, slated for Jan.

1, 1900, would have to be delayed. Off in the distance someone saw a team of oxen pulling a wagon.

Frank Burns, known as "Big Boozer," pulled up to the construction site with a load of lumber. Burns asked Frank where the lumber had come from. "Big Boozer" replied, "From the loft of my house."

Construction was completed, and the school opened on time with 100 students present.

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

Student mission team goes to New York

Instead of heading home or to the beach for spring break, 15 of our students took a mission trip to Geneva, N.Y.

En route they worked as counselors at the Ohio Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference in Dayton. More than 5,000 youth attended and about 500 youth and adult leaders made public decisions for Christ.

The Clear Creek exhibit secured several names of prospective students.

The Clear Creek group arrived in New York at 2 a.m. Easter Sunday, but soon awakened for a sunrise service. The Love of Christ Community Church was the focus of the week's mission. Former student Eric Jackson is pastor. Several years ago, the congregation reached a high attendance of 70 but had since disbanded. Easter Sunday marked a new beginning with 15 people in attendance. The work is a joint project of state missions and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

Each night the Clear Creek team lead services that included drama skits, praise music and preaching. Each day the group shared lunch with low-income residents at a community shelter. First year student Joshua Brown observed, "We went

in to pound them with the gospel through witnessing, drama and music. It didn't work. Then we sat down and ate with them and listened to them. Many of them attended the night services. We had to get out of our comfort zone and just show we loved them."

The team also talked with students and distributed several hundred tracts at a local college. The team was surprised that the Ivy League college had an annual tuition of \$31,000, and no one they talked with seemed to believe the Bible. One campus security guard asked them to leave. One student did profess faith in Christ.

Among the 13 public decisions during the week was Tammy, a middle-age daughter of a community satanic group leader. Tammy said her father had given her over to Satan as a child. After several home visits, Tammy attended two nights of the revival. After the Friday evening service she professed faith in Christ. Since then she has witnessed in the community, telling how Christ has changed her life.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

PEOPLE

Christian companies are making beeline to get online

By Steve Rabey
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Christian companies big and small, old and new are flocking to cyberspace to sell books, Bibles, music and videos.

Within the last few years established religious publishers, distributors and retailers as well as newer Internet commerce ventures have launched hundreds of sites specializing in online retailing.

"Christians are turning to the Net in staggering numbers to find the resources they need at prices and related terms that they can live with," said Dale Mason, director of marketing for Gospel Communications International Inc., in an e-mail interview.

The Muskegon, Mich.-based company was founded in 1950 as Gospel Films to produce and distribute religious films and film strips, which were that era's cutting-edge communications technology.

In 1995 the company launched a Christian web site, www.gospel.com.net, which currently supports links to 125 ministry organizations and generates nearly two million "hits" (or visits) daily, making it the Internet's most-visited religious site.

Like the acclaimed christianityonline.com site developed by Wheaton, Ill.-based periodical publisher Christianity Today Inc., the gospel.com.net site features vast and varied informational resources as well as access to online shopping.

A newer Christian site is Dallas-based www.musicforce.com, whose motto is, "If heaven had a music

store." Launched last December, the site sports flashy graphics, features news, reviews and concert information about contemporary Christian musicians, and offers about 7,000-plus compact disc titles.

Rick McCabe, musicforce's CEO, believes his site can reach consumers who might never set foot in a Christian bookstore and may be unaware of the growing quality and variety of today's Christian music.

"If our goal is to grow in the Christian music market, then we must believe it is expandable—an ever-growing pie," said McCabe. "Therefore, I am less interested in market-share and competition; I just want to sell millions of CDs. And if (other Christian sites) sell millions too, then we have been successful both in our businesses and for the cause of Christ."

But competition is growing more intense, and musicforce seeks to distinguish itself from popular sites like crosswalk.com and christiansuperstore.com by sponsoring tours by artists like the Newsboys, broadcasting events like a recent live concert by band Caedmon's Call, and acquiring smaller companies like Fish TV, a Christian music video show and Club Fish, a buying service.

While some companies are diving head-first into virtual retailing, established Christian retailers are wading in more slowly and are hoping to steer customers toward their existing real-world stores in the process.

"Our strategy for the site that you see today as familychristian.com was to learn something about Internet retailing, sell some products and use our

experience to devise a more substantial strategy," said Jef Fite, director of Internet Retailing for the Grand Rapids, Mich.-based Family Christian Stores chain.

Jim Seybert, vice president of marketing for the Parable Group, an association of 330 independently owned Christian retail stores in the United States and Canada, said sales from the parable.com site "have not even come close to covering our costs," but he is guardedly optimistic.

"We believe it will continue to grow, although we don't think it will ever replace, or even do significant 'damage' to traditional retail," he said. "It's another channel, another door into our stores. We are hanging an 'open for business' sign on the window and serving their needs."

Riverside Distributors even gives participating retail stores a commission from sales at its firstnetchristian.com site, which was launched last summer.

None of the Christian "e-tailers" interviewed would release online sales figures, but all acknowledged that their new ventures are but a small piece of a much larger and rapidly growing online commerce industry which used computers and modems to sell an estimated \$5 billion worth of merchandise last year and could quintuple during the next few years.

The online bookselling industry's undisputed leader is amazon.com, which had sales of more than \$600 million last year and generally offers better discounts, superior customer service and far greater selection than the fledgling Christian sites.

Take, for example, Anne Lamott's *Traveling Mercies*, an earthy book about the author's Christian conversion which has been on national best-seller lists for nearly three months. The only major Christian site to offer the book is christianbook.com, which provides an answer to the frequently asked question, "Why do you carry books by that author?"

Individual Christian stores are getting into the act, too. While most store sites are primitive, the cschristian.com site, launched in 1997 by Cedar Springs Christian Stores, a family operation in Knoxville, Tenn., is wildly ambitious, offering e-shoppers more than 120,000 books, Bibles and music products.

"Our mission is to equip the saints for their walk with the Lord and to help them share their faith with others," said Link McGinnis, who runs the site for his boss and dad. "The mission of the Internet site doesn't change; it just provides another avenue to the same goal: serving God by serving God's people."

In recent months, nine Internet-only "virtual stores" have applied for membership in the Christian Booksellers Association, a group which represents thousands of traditional retailers but currently has no membership category for virtual stores—an issue CBA's board will discuss this summer.

"Internet sales are increasing," said CBA President Bill Anderson, "but the Internet can't begin to duplicate brick-and-mortar stores' greatest advantage, which is live interaction with people."

In recent months, nine Internet-only "virtual stores" have applied for membership in the Christian Booksellers Association.

Kentucky musician remembered for both influence & kind spirit

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

LOUISVILLE—Although laid to rest last month after a private funeral, friends of musician Dorothy Hartsell will get to honor her at a memorial service, May 23 at 3 p.m., at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville.

A veteran piano teacher and music leader in the Louisville area, she spent the past three years as pianist, organist and choir member at Beechwood Baptist Church. Pastor Robert Blackburn said the 82-year-old musician will be sorely missed.

"I felt like I knew her for 25 years," said Blackburn, who preached her funeral in Shepherdsville. "She made you feel that comfortable. She touched so many lives in the short time we knew her."

"She reflected the love of Christ," he said. "You could feel the presence of God when she played the piano."

She was considerate, too. During his sermons, she sat in an aluminum folding chair next to the piano to avoid getting up and creating a disturbance, he said. He plans to leave that chair in place for a while as a silent memorial.

Eugene Quinn, former director of the church music department for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, met Dorothy and her husband, Bruce, when he joined the state office in 1956.

Mrs. Hartsell organized the music program for Nelson Baptist Association and made it into one of the state's most consistent and long-running, he said. She was music director from 1956-74 and organized the annual carol sing, which is still held on the first Sunday night in December.

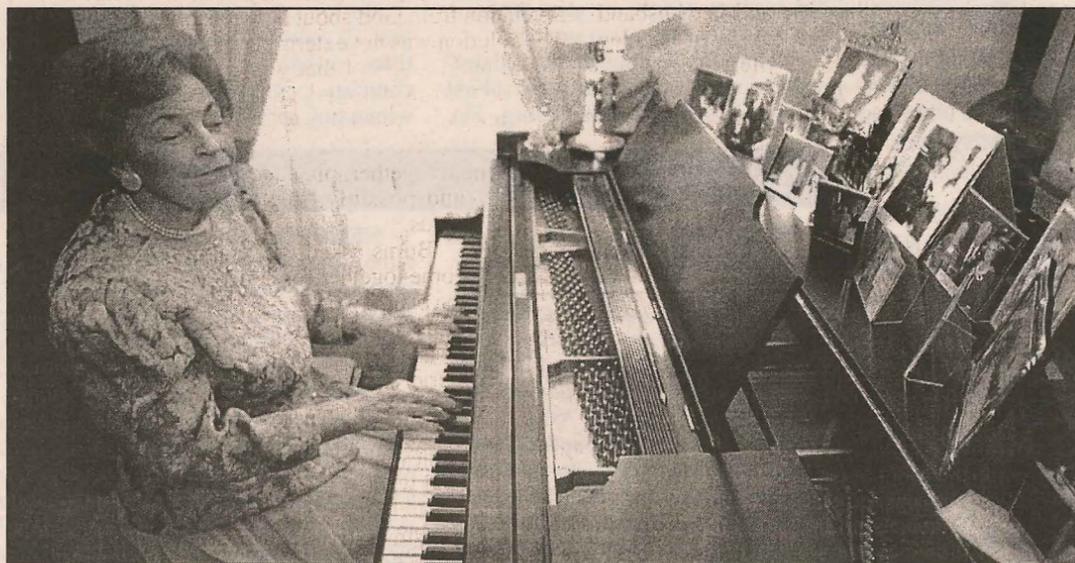
"She was outstanding in her ability to play music," Quinn said, "and faithful to play music for Baptist meetings and other clubs. She was available wherever she was needed."

Mrs. Hartsell's husband, who died in 1985, was pastor of First Baptist Church of Shepherdsville from 1945-73. She played the organ and in the 1950s developed a full-graded children's choir that enhanced the music program, said Pastor Rich Lloyd.

She later served as minister of music until Bruce Hartsell left the church to start Shepherdsville Baptist Chapel. It was renamed Eastside Baptist Church in 1992. Mrs. Hartsell was a member there until moving her letter to Broadway Baptist in September of 1995.

Throughout the years she also taught piano lessons. Among her students were all four of Quinn's children. Three went on to major in music in college. Their father credits Mrs. Hartsell's influence with his oldest son, Philip, becoming a minister of music. He is on staff at Erlanger Baptist Church.

Mrs. Hartsell nearly died a decade



ago, spending two months in a coma after suffering cardiac arrest and kidney failure during a heart operation. She recovered after treatment by famed heart surgeon William DeVries, who discussed the incident in a cover story for *Real Life* magazine last year.

A native of Valdese, N.C., Mrs. Hartsell graduated from Meredith College and was a member of numerous music and other organizations.

She served as president of the Greater Louisville and Kentucky music teachers associations and was a former executive board member of

National Association of Music Teachers' Southern Association.

Mrs. Hartsell was also a former member of the board of directors of Bullitt County Woman's Club and a member of Meredith College Alumni Association, MacDowell Music Club of Louisville, Mended Hearts, Baptist Hospital East Woman's Auxiliary and International Platform Speakers Association.

Survivors include a daughter, Rebecca Hartsell; two sisters, Jane Cohn and Juanita Padgett; and two grandsons. Memorial gifts can be made to charity.

VETERAN PIANIST Dorothy Hartsell both taught and played the piano for churches. "You could feel the presence of God when she played the piano," said Robert Blackburn, pastor of Beechwood Baptist Church in Louisville. (Photo copyright 1998, The Louisville Courier-Journal)

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:

■ Missionaries Doug and Marcy Shaw in Rzeszow, Poland, ask that Kentucky volunteers going to Poland "will be all prayed up and submitted to the Lord in right relationships so that our prayers will not hindered."

■ Missionaries Mark and Annie Byrd in Warsaw, Poland, as they put together a team of missionaries and Poles to begin new churches.

■ Missionary Pauline Eardensohn in Mbeya, Tanzania, as she conducts a sewing school and Bible study for 55 women.

■ The request of missionaries Charles and Carolyn Dixon in Morogoro, Tanzania, for two volunteer evangelism teams in September to work in the strongly Muslim area.

■ Construction volunteers needed to work on the Baptist Convention of New England's office and ministry center in Northborough, Mass.

■ Neal Davidson, church development leader for the Baptist Convention of New England.

■ The radio ministry of Ignatius Meimaris, director of missions for Greater Boston Baptist Association. The weekly program is broadcast in Greek in Boston and in Greece.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ ALBANY—A conversational english workshop will be held at First Church, May 20-22. For information, call (606) 387-5909.

■ CALHOUN—Calhoun Church installed **Richard Sams** as pastor May 2. Sams previously served at Utica Church. **David Nelson** was interim pastor at Calhoun.

■ FRANKFORT—**Bobby Brooks** retired as pastor of Bellepoint Church after 16 years. Brooks is available for supply, interim and pastorate ministries. For information, call (606) 792-1564.

■ LEXINGTON—Singer and Dove Award winner **Calvin Hunt** of Brooklyn Tabernacle, New York City, will accompany Immanuel Church's praise and worship choir May 16 in the 10:30 a.m. service and present a concert at 6 p.m. For information, call (606) 266-3174. **Craig Loscalzo** is pastor.

■ LOUISVILLE—Bashford Manor Church will present the Billy Graham film, "The Rider," May 16, 6 p.m. For information, call (502) 459-3232. **Eric Garvey** is pastor.

Cloverleaf Church will host **The Journeymen Quartet**, from Shepherdsville, May 16, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

The youth choir of Crescent Hill Church will present "God on Broadway," May 16, 6:30 p.m. The Crescent Ringers also will play. For information, call (502) 896-4425. **Ron Sisk** is pastor.

Long Run Association elected **Wesley Pitts** as executive director of missions. Pitts comes from Cumberland Association in Tennessee.

Shively Heights Church will present the **Toney Brothers** in concert, May 23, 7 p.m. Also in concert, **Jake Hess** and **The Journeymen**

Quartet, July 31, 7 p.m. Ticket sales will begin May 17 at Louisville-area Christian bookstores. For information, call (502) 447-9544. **Chris Butler** is pastor.

■ MORGANTOWN—**Dowling Runner** was elected director of missions for Gasper River Association. He has been a Kentucky pastor for 40 years.

■ NEW CASTLE—**Bill Arnold** was elected director of missions for Henry County Association. Arnold and his wife, **LaVerne**, served as missionaries to Gana, Nigeria and Gambia, Africa.

■ SANDERS—Sanders Church called **Michael Hunkus** as pastor. Hunkus is a student and on staff at Southern Seminary.

Wristwatch missions dot opens doors to witness

By Barbara Denman
Florida Baptist Convention

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP)—As she works in the hospital arena where people are conscious of blood-borne diseases, patients often ask nurse **Sandi Martin** about the red dot on her wristwatch, thinking blood has splashed onto the watch face.

Martin's quick response to patients is always the same. "Don't worry. This blood is 2,000 years old. This dot reminds me of Jesus, who paid for my eternal salvation with his own blood."

Most people respond to Martin with a smile and nod while continuing to gaze at the dot.

Martin said the red dot has been a useful tool to tell others about her faith.

"Maybe from the encounter people will begin thinking about the state of their own salvation," she said. "And from that time forward every time they see my watch, it waters the seed. It's a gift that keeps on giving."

Martin first learned of the "red dot" witnessing tool from her pastor at First Baptist Church of Middleburg, Fla.

The concept was the brainchild of David Burton, director of evangelism for the Florida Baptist Convention, after he attended a concert by singer **Larnell Harris**, who told participants that he kept a green dot—for money—on his watch to remind him to pray and give to missions.

As he was driving home from the concert, Burton began thinking of the color red, for the blood of Jesus and the number "2" for 2,000 years ago. He placed a red dot sticker over the number "2" on his own watch to remind him of the 2,000 years since Jesus' birth, the sacrifice of Jesus for him and others and to find an opportunity to share his faith by 2 p.m. daily.

The dot also brings curious questions from people throughout the day. "It's an open door because people begin the conversation," Burton said. "It's easy, simple and non-abrasive. Jesus never made anyone mad at him because of the way he shared his good news message."

Burton estimates that during the past 10 years he has distributed more than 75,000 red dots to people at churches, evangelism conferences and witnessing seminars.

The response from people of all ages and all walks of life has verified his belief that the witnessing tool works. One lawyer was asked by a judge in court to explain the dot, Burton said, allowing the lawyer to share the gospel message with an entire courtroom.

Around the nation, others are recognizing the effectiveness of the red dot. In Birmingham, Ala., hundreds of students involved in First Priority, a ministry affiliated with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board aimed at public school campuses, are using the red dot as a witnessing tool.

The SBC's LifeWay Christian Resources featured the "Red Dot Ministry" in its youth Sunday school publication "Good News for Youth."

"Everywhere I go, people hold up their hand and say, 'I've got your red dot,'" Burton said. He plans to brandish the dot on balloons, T-shirts, hats, business cards, mouse pads and bags. "It is my heart's desire to use it in the next few years as a catalyst for personal soul-winning."

For more information, contact Burton at (904) 396-2351 or by e-mail at Dburton@flbaptist.org.

Chinese church raids continue

HONG KONG (RNS)—Bibles were confiscated and worshippers detained when a Chinese underground Protestant church was raided in late April, according to a Hong Kong-based human rights group.

The Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement said the April 25 raid took place in Henan province's Sui county and that 25 church members were taken into custody.

The raid was at least the fifth since October in Henan county, an area of wide-scale underground Protestant church activity, Associated Press reported.

Fifteen of those detained in the latest raid were still in custody as of May 3, according to the center. At least 225 other Christians have also been detained during the series of raids, with some being fined the equivalent of \$240—nearly equal to the average yearly income in rural China.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Minister of activities for church with Christian life center. Experience and/or seminary degree in recreation preferred. Send resumé to: Minister of Activities Search Committee, Campbellsville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 530, Campbellsville, KY 42719-0530; (270) 789-2092.

SEEKING: Utica Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor and bivocational minister of music. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee or Music Director Search Committee, Utica Baptist Church, P.O. Box 8, Utica, KY 42376.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Walton is seeking applicants for the position of full-time pastor. Send resumé and current photo to: Search Committee, 47 South Main St., Walton, KY 41094.

NEEDED: Ecuador mission team (July 15-27) needs nurses, dentists, dental assistants, optometrist/ophthalmologist. Also, children's worker who speaks some Spanish. Contact **Tim Scott, M.D.**, (606) 223-7441, Clay Parks, D.M.D., or **Irma Parks**, (606) 823-8101. All arrangements made—just go.

NEEDED: Used wheelchair with removable arms, elevated footrests, leg supports, to take to amputee in Ecuador June 11. Contact **Garnett Jones**, (606) 428-2819, 1900 Elliston-Mt. Zion Road, Dry Ridge, KY 41035.

SEEKING: Part-time education position available immediately. We are a Southern Baptist church with an average attendance of 250. We need a talented person to coordinate an education program and minister to all ages of our church. This position has the potential to become full-time. Resumé and references to: **D. Wheeldon**, Personnel Committee, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, 1815 Clifty Road, Somerset, KY 42503.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth and education. Please send resumé to: **Park Baptist Church**, 825 Graham Road, St. Louis, MO 63031.

SEEKING: A mature, Spirit-filled Christian desiring to serve the Lord in the capacity of full-time minister of music and youth at Springfield Baptist Church (located in central Kentucky). Please send resumé to: Search Committee for Music/Youth Minister, P.O. Box 286, Springfield, KY 40069.

FOR SALE: Rodgers 725E electronic church organ; two manuals, full AGO pedalboard, great condition. \$3,500 OBO. Church upgraded to a pipe organ. Call (502) 426-5668 or 288-2702 for an appointment.

FOR RENT: 2-bedroom, 2-bath condo available for vacation rental, Sanibel Island, Fla. Large pool, tennis courts, bikes, canoe, kayak, screened porch, lovely secluded beach. Weekly rates May through mid-December: \$630. Call **Pat Owen**, (502) 895-8752 (home), or (502) 897-5079 (office).

FOR SALE: Baby bed cages, holds four. Please call (502) 737-6645, Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

SERVICE: Bob's Pressure Washing and deck restoration—uses Thompson's Water Seal. (502) 448-6990.

SEEKING: Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Bremen, Ky., is accepting resúmes for a full-time minister of youth and education. Music background desirable. Send resumé and references to: Personnel Committee, c/o **Joe Mitchell**, 501 N 4th St., Central City, KY 42330.

SEEKING: Youth minister. Growing church. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, Idlewild & Hanson Street, Easton, MD 21601.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/associate to the pastor. Please send resumé to: Personnel Committee, Valley Station Baptist Church, 5415 Valley Station Road, Louisville, KY 40272.

SEEKING: Second Baptist Church, Greenville, Ky., is prayerfully seeking a senior pastor. Second Baptist is known as a progressive, growth-oriented, mid-size church with an average Sunday school attendance of 195, and 270 in morning worship. The church is aligned with the Southern Baptist Convention. Please send resúmes to: Second Baptist Church, P.O. Box 390, Greenville, KY 42345, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

SEEKING: High Point Baptist Church of Mayfield, Ky., is accepting resúmes 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.

PEOPLE

Dallas coach: Faith helps me tackle life's challenges

By Jennifer Davis Rash
Alabama Baptist

DALLAS—While Dallas Cowboys Head Coach Chan Gailey spends his days strategizing how to win championships, keeping his team focused and handling the media, he manages to weave his faith as a Christian into every aspect.

"Your faith is an all-day, every-day deal," Gailey said. "It is part of going to the grocery store; it is part of coaching the Cowboys; it is part of being married; it is part of being a father. You can't separate it.

"You are who you are in Christ," Gailey said, noting that while his faith is always there, some days he feels closer to Christ than others.

"There is pressure sometimes, and there is not pressure other times," Gailey continued. "But I don't flip a switch and turn my faith on and off. ... My faith is something that happens on a daily basis, in good times and bad times."

Gailey—who grew up in a Southern Baptist church in Americas, Ga., with a mother who sang in the choir and a dad who was a deacon—accepted Christ as a young boy. But he said it wasn't until his young-adult years that he truly understood the relationship with Christ and how

to develop it.

"For several years, I depended on all the activities, like reading the Bible, tithing and going to Sunday school. But that's not what it's all about," he said. "It is your daily walk with him," he noted. "It is a one-on-one, life-saving, grace-filled relationship with Jesus Christ."

Gailey, a former quarterback for the University of Florida, was a former coach for Troy State University in Alabama. He led that school to its division National Championship.

He then went to the Denver Broncos for six years before returning to Alabama to coach the Birmingham Fire, a World League team, in 1991.

He was head coach at Samford University, an Alabama Baptist school, in 1993. Gailey left Samford in 1994 to be an assistant coach for the Pittsburgh Steelers until he took his present position in Dallas in 1998.

"It has not been any different being at Samford, the Birmingham Fire, Troy State or anywhere as a head coach," Gailey said. "It is the same. I am the same. I don't handle things any differently."

Still, the jobs have brought varying levels of scrutiny and pressure with them. "I haven't gotten used to

the limelight yet," Gailey noted.

"I don't know if I hope I do or I hope I don't," he said. "I hope at some point I get comfortable enough with it that I don't feel uneasy, but at the same time, I hope I don't get to a comfort level where I'm vain enough that I think that is the way it's supposed to be."

Gailey said he hopes his players see in him someone who is honest, straightforward, fair, holds high expectations and has the best interest of the team at heart—someone who provides leadership and stability as they work toward a championship.

"That is why we are here, to win a championship," he said.

And with eight division titles, eight AFC championships and four teams who have made it to the Super Bowl, Gailey knows what it means to win.

And what about "Neon Deion"? The flamboyant and crowd-pleasing Deion Sanders, who displays electricity in his Christian stance as well as in his football ability, "has great charisma," Gailey said. "God has him doing what he's supposed to do.

"God gives us different abilities and different ways to work for him," Gailey said. "For Deion, it is wild."

While Gailey doesn't consider Sanders more special than any of his other players, he did note an exciting

first meeting with Sanders.

"Deion came into my office a few days after I was hired, and I asked him about the previous year," Gailey recalled. "He said, 'Coach, we didn't do very good on the field, but off the field it was a great year. We had a lot of guys going to chapel, going to Bible studies and getting closer to God.'"

Gailey said he openly discusses his faith with anyone who asks but doesn't pound the Bible on his players. "They know they can come to me, but I don't preach to them."

He said there are two types of players he can have real spiritual impact on—those who get to the top and realize there is still an emptiness and those at the bottom who are injured or at the end of their careers.

"All others are unreachable," he said.

Football gets a lot of negative media attention, Gailey said, but "I'm going to give you some good things about football:

"It is the ultimate team sport in the world today," he said. "In football, you have to get dirty, get bloody noses and get in the trenches. It is people giving of themselves so that someone else can get the glory."

The Christian faith is much the same way, Gailey added. "You do things so God gets the glory."

"I don't flip a switch and turn my faith on and off. ... My faith is something that happens on a daily basis, in good times and bad times."

Chan Gailey, Dallas Cowboys head football coach

Tragedies the focus of National Day of Prayer

By Ryan Rockwood
Religion News Service

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Members of Congress, Clinton administration officials along with religious leaders and other Christians gathered on Capitol Hill May 6 to mark the National Day of Prayer.

From the recent shootings at Columbine High School to the tornados that destroyed homes and left many dead in Oklahoma and Kansas to the ongoing war in Kosovo, disasters—both natural and human—were a major concern during the daylong event.

"I don't think that I have ever sensed a greater need for prayer than I feel right now," said event organizer Shirley Dobson, whose words were met with applause. "We have come through a very dark year."

The Washington gathering has become an annual event sponsored by the National Day of Prayer Task Force, headed by Dobson. Dobson also sits on the board of the evangelical Protestant organization, Focus on the Family, which was founded by her husband, James Dobson.

"If there ever was a time when this nation needed prayer it is now, and if there ever was an event that illustrated that fact it is the Littleton tragedy," James Dobson told Religion News Service as the event got under way.

"It really lets us know what is going on in the world of the young," he said. "Many of (the youth) are lost. Many of them don't know what they believe. Many of them have been taught that there are no absolute truths, and it is time for us to go to our knees and ask the Lord for a spiritual renewal that will change that," said Dobson.

But not all welcomed the capital prayer session.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State, a liberal watchdog group that tracks the religious right, issued a statement objecting to the Capitol Hill event, accusing organizers of excluding Mormons and Muslims from participating. The organization also accused the Task Force of attempting to gain official government endorsement for its event.

"Most Americans are sure to think this Christian prayer event is sponsored by the government," said Barry Lynn, Americans United's executive director. "That sends a negative, exclusionary message to religious minorities who are being told they are not welcome."

Shirley Dobson responded, saying, "This is not a political event. This is a gathering for all Americans. It's a day set aside by Congress for people of all faiths to pray.

"We are a Judeo-Christian expression of the National Day of Prayer. This country was founded on the God of the Bible and on biblical principles, so we are carrying on that tradition, but we encourage all faiths, in their own way, to pray today."

Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, founder of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, and Roman Catholic Cardinal Francis George, archbishop of Chicago, were among the few National Day of Prayer speakers who were not evangelical Protestants.

"Jews tend to be concerned with issues of church (and) state," said Eckstein, founder of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews. "And I think that a day like today, if it were really formalized, might get a lot of people asking a lot of questions. But I

don't think Jews are even aware that this is happening."

"Clearly," he added, "this is a predominantly evangelical gathering, and that is OK."

At the event, White House drug policy director Barry McCaffrey announced a strategy to enroll faith groups in the fight against drugs. McCaffrey said the Clinton administration has been reaching out to a broad range of faith groups, asking them to speak out against illegal drug use.

Organizers said 20,000 prayer groups, coordinated by 40,000 volunteers, will meet in homes and churches this year. Task Force officials estimated that more than 2 million people nationwide would join to pray for issues ranging from the war in Kosovo to the shooting in Colorado.

The National Day of Prayer was originally established in 1952. It is observed on the first Thursday of May.

Other events to mark the day included a "Nationally Broadcast Concert of Prayer," with segments held in Washington, Los Angeles, Seattle and New York. In addition to television and radio, the Concert of Prayer also was broadcast live over the Internet by crosswalk.com.

Proclamations issued last week by President Clinton and the governors from nearly every state recognized the National Day of Prayer. But Jesse Ventura, the former professional wrestler-turned-governor of Minnesota, refused to issue the usual annual proclamation.

According to a statement from Ventura's office, the governor "declined to issue a proclamation based on a policy that prayer and religion are personal and not state issues."

Missionaries to Gabon credit God for safety during robbery

By Heidi Soderstrom
SBC International Mission Board

LIBREVILLE, Gabon (BP)—Southern Baptist missionaries are praising God for their safety during a recent robbery.

Anne and Steve Seaberry said five armed robbers woke them in their home in Libreville, Gabon, in late April.

The Seaberrys said they watched the robbers pack everything the couple owned—including their wedding rings—into their own car.

Mrs. Seaberry said she drew peace and hope from two signs—the length of her nightgown and the drop of a bullet.

She said she experienced peace when she realized she was wearing a longer nightgown than usual. Bowing her head, she thanked God she was modestly attired in front of the robbers.

"God immediately said to me, 'I have gone before you and made sure you were covered. I will protect you and Steve,'" Mrs. Seaberry said. "Throughout the rest of the time I'd look down at my gown and remind God of that promise."

The Seaberrys said it took the robbers about an hour to stow everything in the car. All the while, they said, they wondered if they'd live to see the sun rise again.

As the thieves were preparing to leave, one turned in the doorway, pointed his gun at them and cocked it.

Mrs. Seaberry said she cried out, "Oh Jesus," and a bullet immediately fell to the floor.

Shocked, the man looked at his gun and realized that was his only bullet. He left the room, presumably to get more bullets. The frightened couple began whispering Jesus' name, over and over again, until two men came in to tie them up. Closing the bedroom door, the men left the house several minutes later, she said.

"We know that Jesus protected us. In looking back, we believe that our calm, thus God's peace, also helped save us," she said. "We did nothing to provoke them to harm us and probably surprised them with such calmness. God's grace is sufficient."

Top 10 Reasons to Use the Western Recorder's Church Newspage Plan

10. It's easier to create than any newsletter you're doing now.
9. Members get more for their money than just a newsletter; they get a world of helpful news, features and perspectives.
8. It's on schedule. Our weekly or monthly schedule helps you keep on top of communicating with church members.
7. There's something for everyone. The Western Recorder isn't just a denominational paper; it's a reader-friendly paper full of practical resources for Christian living.
6. It gives perspective. If you're concerned about church members being aware of the world around them, reading the Western Recorder is a must.
5. We'll make you look great. The Western Recorder staff will work with you to create an attractive layout and show you how to keep your newsletter looking great week after week.
4. Church secretaries love us. Church secretaries who make the switch to publishing the church newsletter through the Recorder routinely tell us it was one of the biggest helps they've received.
3. We'll work with the Post Office, so you don't have to.
2. We'll do it your way. The Recorder publishes newspages a variety of ways and receives newspages a variety of ways. We can meet your needs.
1. We'll save your church money. Most churches currently publishing a newsletter of any kind discover they can save hundreds, sometimes thousands of dollars by publishing their newsletter on the Western Recorder.

Call (502) 244-6473 today for details.