

PRACTICAL RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

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WHAT HAPPENED AT THE SBC

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- **President's address** Paige Patterson says that after Southern Baptists have settled the inerrancy of Scripture they should affirm the sufficiency of Scripture. *Page 6.*
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- **Convention sermon** Four years ago, Ralph Smith wondered if he ever would stand to preach again. Last week, he walked to the podium and delivered the sermon for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. *Page 7.*
- **Elections** As expected, Paige Patterson was elected to a second term as SBC president without opposition. *Page 7.*
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SBC panel to review Faith & Message

By Mark Wingfield
Texas Baptist Standard

ATLANTA—A "blue ribbon committee" will be appointed by Southern Baptist Convention President Paige Patterson to review the entirety of the Baptist Faith & Message doctrinal statement and recommend revisions next June.

This opportunity for thorough revision comes on the heels of last year's addition of an article on family to the statement. That addition, approved by messengers to the 1998 SBC annual meeting in Salt Lake City, was the first revision of the Baptist Faith & Message in 35 years.

That revision was not enough, according to T.C. Pinckney of Virginia, who made the motion for the review committee to be appointed.

Alluding to the recent battle between conservatives and moderates for control of the SBC, Pinckney noted that the 36 years since the Baptist Faith & Message was last thoroughly revised "have been momentous ones" for the SBC.

"I believe it is appropriate at this time that the Baptist Faith & Message be reviewed and that it be made consistent with the current stand of the Southern Baptist Convention," he said.

Pinckney, a member of Good News Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va., is a retired Air Force general who has been a key advocate of the conservative movement in the SBC. He also was influential in forming a new state convention in Virginia called Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia. He now serves as editor of that convention's newspaper, the Baptist Banner.

During the opening session of the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta June 15, Pinckney made the motion for the SBC president to appoint a panel "to review the Baptist Faith & Message statement with the responsibility to



KENTUCKIANS IN ATLANTA Danny Belcher, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in Hopkinsville and his daughter, Danielle, walk to their hotel from the Georgia Dome, site of the Southern Baptist Convention Pastor's Conference, after one of the sessions June 13. About 840 messengers from Kentucky attended the annual Southern Baptist Convention, also at the Georgia Dome. (BP photo by Jim Yates)

report and bring any recommendations to this meeting next June in Orlando."

During the scheduled time for debate, no one spoke in opposition to the motion. A.J. Smith of Macedonia

Baptist Church in Dry Ridge spoke in support of the motion. "Southern Baptists need a statement of faith that is precise and unambiguous," he said.

Pinckney's motion as adopted
□ See, Proposed motions ..., page 2

Burkett offers 3 steps to improve Christians' financial skills

David Winfrey
News Director

ATLANTA—Too many Christians are unavailable for service to God because they have been distracted by the things of the world, Christian financial counselor Larry Burkett told those attending the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

"I would present to God's people today that in large part the army of God have deserted the ranks," said Burkett, president and founder of Christian Financial Concepts.

Citing a laundry list of statistics, Burkett said Christians' financial situations prove they are trying, to quote Luke 16:13, to "serve God and mammon."

"They are no longer available to the one who has enlisted them," said Burkett, the author of 40 books, the most recent of which is "How Much is Enough?"

Burkett noted that Christians are divorcing at the same rate as non-Christian couples and "money was the No. 1 factor in their divorce."

Burkett said a person can get a Ph.D. in economics, "and never get a course in balancing a checkbook."

Americans spend about \$1.10 of every dollar they earn, the annual number of bankruptcies is at record levels "and the trend is getting worse," Burkett said.

"At some point, we, God's people who are in positions of leadership, have to ask God's people, 'How much

is enough?'"

The ultimate issue, he said is putting one's life under God's control. "It's interesting that you can measure it."

Burkett urged churches to do a minimum of three things in their church in relation to money:

■ Establish a process to make sure every person in the church understands God's principles for handling money.

People must be trained to understand that they are being taught God's principles because if a pastor can talk them into something a salesman can talk them out of it, Burkett said. "Whatever God talks them into, nobody will talk them out of it."

■ Require a premarriage budget-

ing class for every couple getting married.

■ Require that couples be mentored for at least a year after marriage, "to ensure that questions and the problems they're going to be faced with can be answered by a godly couple."

"If you do that and you do that on a regular basis you will recapture much of what we lost," Burkett said.

"If not, what we're seeing today is going to be the best generation of Christians that has ever lived in America, and they are steadily running down hill from this point on," he added.

"As the baby boomer generation begins to take over you will see worse and worse statistics in your church, in your finances in your giving," he said.

Moving? See page 4 (0622)

CONVENTION BITS

■ **Seventy Southern Baptists** from 35 state conventions were named to serve on the 1999 SBC Committee on Nominations. The committee nominates people to serve on SBC boards, commissions and committees. They will present their report to the 2000 SBC annual meeting in Orlando, Fla. Selected from Kentucky were Donald Rightmyer, a layman from First Baptist Church of Danville, and Roger Skipworth, pastor of Sharon Grove Baptist Church in Elkton.

■ **Evangelist Bailey Smith** was named to deliver the convention sermon at next year's annual meeting in Orlando, with Bobby Welch, pastor of First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla., as the alternative. The music director will be Scott White, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.

■ **A \$159,583,743** Cooperative Program Allocation budget for 1999-2000 was approved by messengers. The new budget represents a \$4.6 million increase over the 1997-98 budget and is based on actual receipts for 1997-98.

Resolutions address evangelism, Clinton & homosexuality

By **Trennis Henderson**
Editor *Elect*

ATLANTA—Global evangelism, ethnic cleansing and a presidential proclamation on Gay and Lesbian Pride Month captured the attention of Southern Baptist Convention messengers, who adopted 14 resolutions during their 1999 annual meeting, June 15-16 in Atlanta.

In a familiar pattern for recent years, California pastor Wiley Drake upstaged much of the focus on resolutions. During the two-day meeting, Drake proposed nine resolutions as well as four motions and three amendments to resolutions.

Drake, who gained SBC notoriety in 1996 with a call to boycott the Walt Disney Co., has become an outspoken fixture at each annual meeting since then.

Although the SBC resolutions committee addressed only two of the proposals Drake submitted, two of three amendments he proposed on the floor of the convention were approved by messengers.

Discussing his frequent trips to the microphone, Drake said: "Obviously, I'm a different bird. If I were to say, 'I'm humble and I don't enjoy the press at all,' that would be lying. Do I enjoy it? Absolutely. That's my personality."

Among the topics addressed by Drake was President Clinton's recent proclamation of June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. In the resolution finally presented by the resolutions committee, messengers urged Clinton to rescind his action.

The resolution proclaimed "our love for our president and our love for people enslaved in sins of all types, including homosexual sins." It also stated, "Our love for our president compels us to rebuke him and publicly to deplore his most public endorsement of that which is contrary to the word of God."

An attempt by another messenger to delete the phrase expressing "our

abhorrence of the teaching that God hates any person on account of an immoral lifestyle" was rejected by a show-of-ballots vote.

Drake offered an amendment calling for Clinton "to rescind his appointment of an openly professed homosexual as U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg."

Resolutions committee Chairman Al Jackson responded that the proposed amendment was "not germane to the primary focus of the resolution before us."

But messengers approved Drake's amendment on a ballot vote of 2,316 to 1,313. The amended resolution then was approved.

A resolution calling for an end to genocide and ethnic cleansing was approved without debate. Moments later, Norman Cates, a military veteran from Ocala, Fla., asked messengers to reconsider their action on the resolution.

Focusing on language calling for "the United States Congress, NATO, the United Nations and other multinational bodies to take immediate action to bring an end to those regimes which are guilty of crimes against humanity," Cates said he was "really shocked" to realize what he had voted to approve.

"This body of love should not be recommending that people attack and kill each other," he declared.

Resolutions committee member Greg DeMarco of New Mexico responded that the resolution addressed "who is capable of protecting those who need protection" from genocide. In a show-of-ballots vote, messengers defeated the amendment.

The resolution on the priority of global evangelism and missions affirmed support for Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program giving plan, which will celebrate its 75th anniversary next year.

Other topics addressed by messengers included school violence, the free exercise of religion and the changelessness of God.

"Recent tragic events have highlighted the problem of school violence," the school-violence resolution notes. It called on "all Christians to pray for an end to violence in our schools and work toward a return to Christian values within our educational system."

The resolution on "public discourse and the free exercise of religion" expressed concern about "the moral direction of American culture" and "the moral climate in which our nation's young people are being nurtured."

Citing "the duty of government to accommodate itself to the free exercise of religion to the greatest practical extent," the statement calls on Southern Baptists "to work toward policies and programs in our public schools which provide greater opportunities for religious instruction."

Drake offered an amendment calling for changes to land-use laws that "are restricting churches ... and restricting evangelism." He added he had been threatened with jail over a land-use case involving his congregation.

"We may make you sleep with a microphone for the rest of your life," SBC President Paige Patterson quipped in response, "but we won't put you in jail."

Resolutions committee member Gerald Harris of Georgia said the committee shares Drake's concerns, but "we believe we have addressed the concerns he has raised."

But Timothy Faber of Missouri said, "On the real heart of the matter, we've been silent, and we've been silent too long. Silence is the same thing as approval. We need to take a stand and say something."

Messengers adopted both the amendment and the amended resolution.

Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, proposed the resolution on "the power, knowledge and changelessness of God."

"The biblical doctrine of God is the first and central axiom of Christian theology," the resolution states, warning about "those who would revise the church's historic doctrine of God" and "would deny or diminish God's omnipotence, omniscience and immutability."

The resolution calls on "all Christians to confess the living God of the Bible." It was approved without debate.

Other resolutions adopted by messengers include:

■ **Opposing** an article in the American Psychological Association's Psychological Bulletin that implies "adult-child sex" may not be harmful and may be positive for so-called "willing" children. The resolution also affirmed the APA for issuing a statement opposing such practices.

■ **Opposing** "human embryonic and stem cell research," citing "vigorous opposition to the destruction of innocent human life, including the destruction of human embryos."

■ **Opposing** the use of the "Channel One Network" in schools, citing network advertising for objectionable movies, magazines and music groups.

■ **Encouraging** parents "to communicate clear standards of biblical morality to their children," including monitoring TV viewing and movie and video selections.

■ **Encouraging** "all Southern Baptists to pray earnestly for our elected officials." An amendment approved by messengers called on Christians "to put feet to their prayers and exercise their right to vote."

■ **Urging** all Southern Baptist churches to support "educational programs that follow biblical principles, whether they are implemented in Christian, private, public or home schools."

■ **Affirming** the influence of "godly public school personnel" on students.

■ **Expressing appreciation** to convention leaders and hosts who helped plan and lead the Atlanta meeting.

Proposed motions include SBC name change & office term limits

Continued from page 1

gave no parameters on who should serve on the review committee or how many people should serve. Last year's addition on family was drafted by a seven-member committee appointed by then-SBC President Tom Elliff. The 1963 committee was comprised of the 24 sitting presidents of state Baptist conventions then affiliated with the SBC.

The 1963 committee, chaired by Herschel Hobbs of Oklahoma, based its work on the original version of the Baptist Faith & Message adopted by the SBC in 1925. The 1925 version, drafted by a committee of eight elected by the convention, drew heavily upon the New Hampshire Confession of Faith, one of several historic confessions of faith used by Christians.

The 1925 committee included Baptist luminaries such as E.Y. Mullins, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and L.R. Scarborough, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The idea of adopting what ap-

peared to some as a creed was controversial among Baptists at the time. However, convention leaders thought the step was necessary to head off criticisms by J. Frank Norris, a Texas pastor and legendary fundamentalist who had been attacking the convention and stirring controversy.

Aside from last year's revision to include a section on family, several attempts have been made in recent years to amend the statement's section on Scripture. One such motion was made at last year's annual meeting and was referred to the SBC Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee reported to the convention this year that it had studied the request, in consultation with the presidents of the six SBC seminaries, and determined no action should be taken at this time.

Pinckney's motion, however, opens the door for revision not only of the article on Scripture—the point over which Southern Baptists fought bitterly from 1979 to 1991—but for revision of any other article, as well

as the possible addition or deletion of articles.

While Pinckney's motion was the most far-reaching one acted upon by messengers at the Atlanta meeting, it was one of 38 motions presented from the convention floor. Of those 38, only four were scheduled for convention debate, four were ruled out of order and 30 were referred to various SBC agencies and institutions for further review.

The four motions scheduled for debate included Pinckney's, one by Blaine Barber of Michigan calling for a straw poll of messengers on whether to change the convention's name, and two by Wiley Drake of California. After debate, Barber's motion failed significantly on a show-of-ballots vote.

One of Drake's motions requested the convention to communicate its disapproval of President Clinton's recent proclamation on gay and lesbian pride month and another requested a letter be sent to the American Psychological Association denouncing a recent journal

article on child sexual abuse. Both of Drake's concerns were addressed in resolutions adopted by the convention.

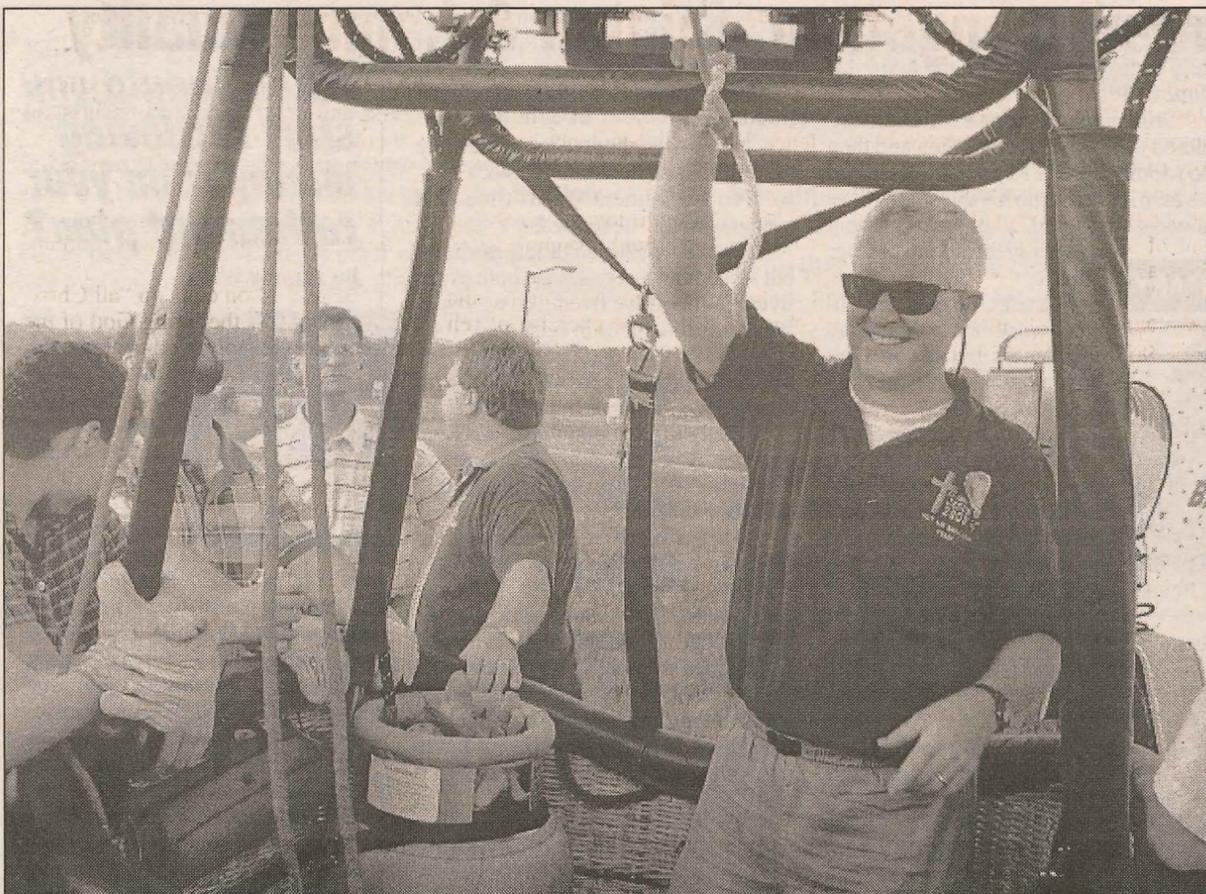
Two of the motions ruled out of order pertained to messengers' desire to demand that Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., discipline Clinton for his stands on homosexuality and other social issues.

The third asked that the SBC "disband itself" from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, something the committee on order of business ruled was not possible because the SBC has no formal connection to the breakaway moderate organization.

The fourth asked the SBC to convey support for Israel's new prime minister, a request ruled to be a resolution rather than a motion.

Motions referred by the convention covered a wide range of issues, some at odds with each other. For example, one messenger suggested SBC presidents not be limited in the number of terms they may serve, while another messenger suggested instituting term limits for all SBC officers.

KENTUCKY



KENTUCKIANS IN ATLANTA An estimated 840 people from Kentucky were in Atlanta for the annual Southern Baptist Convention and related events. ■ **Above left:** Rusty Ellison, president of Kentucky Baptist Assembly, pilots the "Celebrate Jesus 2000" balloon during an evangelistic block party June 12 in Duluth, Ga. The block party was jointly sponsored by Rivers Edge Baptist Church of Duluth, the SBC's North American Mission Board and both the Kentucky and Georgia Baptist conventions. Ellison pilots the balloon, which is a joint effort between the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and the Georgia Baptist Convention. ■ **Above right:** Melissa Mahurin, a member of Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, introduces herself during the Woman's Missionary Union meeting at Weiuca Road Baptist Church. Mahurin is a member of this year's WMU National Acteens Panel. ■ **Left:** Ryan Wagers, pastor of Hebron Baptist Church in Hebron, and his wife, Donna, listen to Reggie White. (Photos by James Dotson, Teresa Dickens and David Winfrey)



Bowling Green community provides love and support for KBHC foster teen

By Dannah Prather
Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

BOWLING GREEN—When Chastity graduated high school recently, she did so with many members of the Bowling Green community cheering her on.

The pretty teenager who loves to talk about God has touched many lives since she entered Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children's family foster care program earlier this year.

When Chastity needed help, she reached out to people in her school and the community who responded by bringing her to the home of Lanise Herrington, who became her foster parent.

"We've been good for each other," Herrington said. "I needed somebody to love, and she needed to be loved."

Chastity was trying to make it on her own, and the stress of that finally began to take its toll on her, said Karen Burnham, a foster care specialist for KBHC. "I'm convinced that God was saving Lanise's home for Chastity. From the beginning it was a perfect fit."

Until she was nine, Chastity lived with

her grandparents. After their deaths, she went to live in an unstable and sometimes unhealthy environment with her biological mother. Rather than continue in that setting, she struck out on her own as a teenager.

Chastity's first step was to ask for help from her guidance counselor, who called Burnham. Because Chastity was 18, it was her decision whether to enter foster care. Because she is a private placement and was not removed from her home by the state, the Bowling Green community and KBHC supporters from across the state became her benefactors.

"I was really scared coming into foster care," Chastity said. "I was stepping out only by faith."

Wanda Scott's was one of those in the community that responded to help. Part of her job in the trust department of National City Bank is to help evaluate high school candidates for college scholarships.

As a member of KBHC's local advisory board and of First Baptist Church of Bowling Green, Scott heard about Chastity.

Scott said that when the annual scholarship search began, "It was like a

light went off in my head. With all the hard knocks and challenges this young lady has faced, she has maintained a Christian attitude and wants to serve the Lord. She has excelled scholastically." Chastity has maintained a 3.5 grade point average throughout high school.

"She doesn't have family helping her," Scott said. "She needs the support of the community."

Chastity was awarded a four-year scholarship to Western Kentucky University.

Hillvue Heights Baptist Church, the Nadine Loving Sunday School Class of Bowling Green First Baptist and Herrington's home church, Oakland Baptist, all have helped support Chastity through gifts, financial assistance and prayer. "There has been unbelievable support from people Chastity and I don't even know," Herrington said.

Such response represents why Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children has set a goal to have at least one foster family in each Kentucky Baptist church in the commonwealth.

"I consider my job a ministry, and I

want to be there to help my foster parents and foster children," the KBHC's Burnham said. "But there is no way I could have done all the things that have been done by churches and individuals to help Chastity and Lanise. That consistent involvement and prayer has made such a difference. KBHC needs and wants more churches involved in the foster care ministry."

Herrington said she has learned a great deal about parenting since Chastity moved in with her. "I've always been able to come and go as I please, and (foster care) has meant changing my schedule," she said. "But Karen (Burnham) has been personally involved with us and has helped find other foster parents Chastity could stay with when I had to be out of town."

Whatever sacrifices Herrington has made, she said, are small compared to the love she has experienced as a foster parent. "Chastity sheds light," she said. "Her faith in God is unbelievable. She helps me when my faith is lacking."

"I've never really had a Christian mom before," Chastity said. "Lanise has helped me overcome obstacles in my life. God only knows how this has helped me."

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

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Why don't we live like we mean it?

By Dale Hanson Bourke

Just an hour before we had been total strangers.

But the forced intimacy of side-by-side seats in a jumbo jet hurdling across the ocean at 40,000 feet relaxed our personal boundaries.

He made a joke about the safety film in his proper British accent. I laughed and before long we were exchanging full sentences. We talked about jobs and moved on to families. Another hour and lunch later, we were talking about politics and religion. For total strangers growing up worlds apart, we shared many common values.

He talked of his career path and his dreams for the future. I shared my struggles to balance personal ambitions with family nurture. He punctuated his comments with references to God and I acknowledged my own faith and growing understanding that our lives had a larger purpose.

I still didn't know his name, nor did he know mine. The odd etiquette of seasoned travelers often skips this step and moves right on to deeper discussions. We had nowhere to go for seven hours and had both seen the movie. We casually

explored topics with the luxury of time to kill.

Somehow our conversation meandered to Kosovo and Albania and then to Mother Teresa. My neighbor paused as he tried to frame his question. "I've always wondered ..." he began, "what was so great about Mother Teresa."

COMMENTARY



Dale Hanson Bourke

"I mean, I know she did great work in the worst circumstances, but do you think she had more faith than any of the rest of us? Do you think she had a special gift?"

We both pondered the question and I offered a halting thought or two. Then I asked, "Do you think it might be that she simply felt she was exactly where God wanted her and lived like she believed it?"

My new-found friend's face lit up. "Yes!" he exclaimed. "I think that really is it."

We went back to old ground then, the jobs we'd had and the ones we'd coveted. The balancing act between family and career.

"What if we lived like that?" he asked. "What if we put everything we had into each day and each circumstance because we truly believed God

Heirarchy 'un-Baptistic'

One scholar said "Even Homer nods occasionally," or something like that. And even scholars nod, or err, occasionally as well.

Nancy Ammerman, a sociologist of religion and usually a fairly accurate analyst given her perspective, is quoted in the June 15th Recorder. If the quotation is accurate, her understanding of Southern Baptists is clearly faulty.

While not a direct quote, she is cited as saying that the old Southern Baptist "centralized unity" involved what would be a totally un-Baptistic hierarchy in fact. The statement is that "local churches associated with one local as-

sociation; local associations, in turn, linked with one state convention; and the state conventions related to the national denomination."

This is not merely a semantic issue. It is the genius of Southern Baptists that each local congregation decides, autonomously under Christ, whether to cooperate with others in a local association; whether to cooperate with others in a particular state convention; and whether to cooperate with others in the Southern Baptist Convention. In this way, some congregations work with associations other than the one

had put us there for a reason?"

"No thoughts about our next career move," I offered.

"No impatience with our children," he added.

"No worries about whether we were getting ahead or behind," I said.

"No resentment about time that seems wasted," he replied.

It was a small realization, perhaps, but something that realigned both of our lives. "What if we lived like we really believed God put us in each place for a reason?" he said again, mulling it over with a look of discovery. "It would change everything to live like that!"

When the pilot announced we were minutes from landing, we looked at each other with surprise. The long flight had gone too quickly.

As we gathered up our suitcases and jackets it was hard to know how to say goodbye. Somewhere over the ocean we had each had a conversion of sorts. We walked off the airplane changed people, determined to live differently.

He shook my hand and said goodbye and then, as we ran off in different directions. I still didn't know his name and would never see him again. But it didn't really matter.

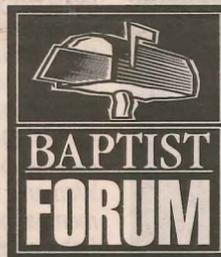
Two really shared a moment that had been orchestrated by God. Neither of us would ever doubt that.

Dale Hanson Bourke is publisher of Religion News Service

where they are located; some cooperate with nearby or friendly state conventions; and each chooses one or more world missions channels. Each point could be easily illustrated.

In short, we have not been "very neat and hierarchical," as Ms. Ammerman seems to think, nor will we be! Baptists are too independent for that. Yet we choose to be interdependent with others of like faith and order, and we are all totally dependent on Christ.

Charles Blair Clinton



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Casinos In Kentucky

Gov. Paul Patton recently called on Kentuckians to let him know what we think about the idea of bringing casino gambling into our commonwealth.

I'm encouraging all Kentucky Baptists to take him up on his offer and to share your thoughts on this subject with him and your state senators.

I won't presume to tell you what position to take. You can prayerfully come to your own conclusions. I do want to share with you, however, why I am writing to the governor to oppose this expansion.

First, I have moral concerns. Loving our neighbor as ourselves doesn't mean attempting to enrich ourselves on his losses. God gives us the blessing of work to earn our living. Let's put our trust in him to meet our needs.

Second, there are significant and even devastating social consequences related to gambling. These consequences end up costing our society so much

more than the casinos ever bring in.

Concern about these consequences is being raised not only by religious organizations but by secular bodies as well. In fact, the federal government's

National Gambling Impact Study Commission recently called on state and local governments to require gambling statements before adding or expanding gambling to seek to predict economic and social effects. This commission went on to make about 70 recommendations for limiting gambling. If our own secular-oriented federal government is raising these kinds of concerns, shouldn't the red flags be going up in Kentucky?

Consider these additional facts about gambling as well:

■ An estimated 10 million Americans are addicted to gambling. Thousands of families have been destroyed by gambling addictions, and, despite regulations, teens regularly access legalized gambling.



Bill Mackey

FAMILY

When should you start retrieving money from your retirement plan?

By Jeremy White



Consider the Bible says. Not at picnics, but consider the ant's ways.

It has no commander, no overseer

or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest (Proverbs 6:7-8).

Ants wisely store the right amount for the future. And God created the ant to know instinctively the rate to retrieve what it has stored. Let's say you have been "ant-like" by saving money in a retirement plan. How do you know when and at what rate to withdraw from that plan?

Although certain exceptions exist, you will be penalized 10 percent of the amount withdrawn from your individual retirement account, 401(k) or 403(b) if you are younger than 59 1/2. This 10 percent penalty is in addition to the ordinary income tax you pay on the amount withdrawn.

A benefit of getting older is you can withdraw any amount from your retirement plans after you reach age 59 1/2 without a penalty. The IRS doesn't require you to begin taking money out of your retirement plan until age 70 1/2.

But even though you can make a penalty-free withdrawal, should you? Each person's circumstances will yield a different answer. Consider the following when nearing age 59 1/2:

- What are your retirement goals, and how much have you saved toward that goal?
- What are your current and future tax brackets?
- What's your expected life span?
- What debts affect your situation?
- What are you going to need in retirement to meet your current lifestyle?

Choosing the timing and amount of your withdrawals can be complicated. It is worthwhile to spend a dime to save a dollar. A certified public accountant or financial planner can help you minimize taxes, incorporate your retirement plans into estate planning and meet your financial goals.

As Christians, remember to maintain the balance of wisely saving for the future and not hoarding excessive assets. God wants us to depend on him, not our savings. Don't "rollover" your dependence on God to your retirement plan. *Jeremy White is a certified public accountant in Paducah. White also offers weekly financial tips on his Web site: www.consultcpa.com.*

Parent seeks to keep 'ex' from being a bad influence on son

Q. How do I limit the influence my ex-husband has on our son? We have been divorced for six years, but Ben, now 13, spends every other weekend at his father's house. In the summer, he spends every other week with his dad, who lets him watch TV shows that are filled with violence and sex. Also, Ben has access to his stepbrothers' video games, which are worse than the TV programs. Finally, my "ex" tells Ben he doesn't have to obey me when I tell him to turn off our TV. What can I do?

There are several pathways to resolution for you to try. First, have a talk with Ben about the need to honor his father and mother. Remind him of Ephesians 6:1-4. Your best avenue of influence is with a close relationship between the two of you. Spend time with him as much as possible. Take him to wholesome activities that he finds fun.

Another route is through decent and upright friends. Let him invite such friends to spend the night. Take them along on outings. In the long run, these friends will have a majority impact on Ben. It might cost a bit in time and money, but supporting healthy companionships will pay off later.

Of course, the most productive course of action would be to reach some agreement with Ben's father. It seems that you have some form of joint-custody agreement. Attempt to discuss your concerns in an adult-to-adult manner. There might be issues of concern to him that you can address that will cause a change of heart on his father's part.

The last strategy would be to check with your attorney to see if you can pressure your former husband to comply with your concerns. It would be best if you could reach a mutual agreement without taking legal action, but that isn't always possible. —Wade Rowatt

Q. Is it normal to be a heterosexual yet struggle with homosexual desires?

Richard Foster, in his book, "Love, Sex and Power," states there is an important difference between someone struggling with occasional homosexual desires within a sexually saturated culture, and a "constitutional" homosexual.

Being obsessed with sex in general might provoke a desire to express that obsession in a variety of ways. Our culture uses sexuality to sell almost every product imaginable, manipulating God's good gift for monetary gain. Such an atmosphere certainly pervades our culture.

The struggle might be related to intimacy. When a person has an intimate friendship with someone of either gender, sexual feelings may occur. Affectionate feelings do not mean that one is a homosexual. Those with occasional same-sex desires, just as those with heterosexual desires outside of marriage, should redirect and control those desires within the boundaries God has established.

Sexual feelings are like a river. Held within their banks, they are beautiful, rich and good. The "bank" that God designed is monogamous, heterosexual marriage. A firm yet appropriate response affirms theological, sociological and psychological truth.

God gives us compelling reasons to be faithful to his design. He is not capricious. Following his revealed will brings our own best happiness.

Temptations and actions are not the same thing. Commit every desire to him. God gives the strength to channel every desire into his keeping and care. —James Stillwell

Family Forum writers are David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; Susan Howell, assistant professor of psychology at Campbellsville University; Jon Rainbow, a clinical gerontologist and professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; 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.



Are you using words like a Baptist?

By C.R. Daley

It is almost impossible to overestimate the importance of communication among Baptists. Love is the tie that binds up, but clear communication is necessary for us to know one another enough to love and trust one another.

Words are our chief tools of communication, but words are tricky. They mean one thing in one part of the country and another in other sections.

In Baptist life we usually inherit words from our predecessors and begin using them without examining their exact meaning. One outstanding and influential religious leader in an area often influences the Baptist vocabulary for generations to come in that area.

Here are some Baptist terms that are often misleading. The term "the Baptist Church" is loosely used by some Baptists and by more non-Baptists to refer to the denomination of Baptists. There is no such thing. There is "a Baptist church" and there are "Baptist churches" but no "the Baptist Church." Some other denominations regard all local congregations as forming "the church" but not Baptists. Each Baptist church is a separate entity and completely autonomous. It volunteers to associate and cooperate with associations and conventions of churches but never regards itself as part of "the Baptist Church."

The term "delegate" is misused by some Baptists. Baptist churches do not send "delegates" to a convention or association. They send "messengers." Delegates are representatives who are instructed or delegated to express the official viewpoint of a group. Ordinarily Baptist churches do not instruct their messengers how to vote on issues but leave them to express their views under the direction of the Holy Spirit. The position expressed by a messenger doesn't bind the church he comes from but only represents his own view.

Another misuse of words is to refer to the Lord's

Supper as "sacrament" or "communion." The Lord's Supper is sacred but it is not a sacrament in the church history understanding of the word. The Roman Catholics have seven sacraments, all of which are involved in a person's salvation. Each true Catholic depends on six of these sacraments for salvation (marriage and ordination are two of the seven and no true Catholic can choose both).

Baptists have no sacraments. We have two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, but neither of these has any saving power. Our salvation is in the grace of God in Jesus Christ and comes to each

freely and not because of any human work. Even faith by which grace is received is a gift of God.

Communion in its sweetest form is involved in proper observance of the Lord's Supper but the ordinance is better described as the Lord's Supper instead of communion.

Finally, church offerings are sometimes referred to as "dues." This is not as common now as it was in past days. Baptist churches do not assess members as do some churches of other denominations. Rather each Baptist is left to decide his own level of material giving in the light of biblical teaching and the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The intensity and pressure of some Baptist churches' stewardship campaigns come close to an assessment, but there is little danger any Baptist will hurt himself in giving under any kind of pressure.

Our contributions are tithes and offerings, not "dues."

The independence of Baptists will never allow for a common vocabulary and uniformity on interpretation of words. This is not necessary nor needful, but the use of proper words to describe universal practices would be helpful.

Editor's note: This editorial originally was printed in the Feb. 26, 1976, Western Recorder. It is among 75 compiled in "Daley Observations: The Best of C.R. Daley's Western Recorder Editorials." This book is available from the Western Recorder by calling (888) 254-5728.

Wilt thou not revive us again?

By Ken Bolin

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? (Psalm 85:6).

"Pastor, it's good to hear you laugh again," were the words of a concerned member as we shook hands after church during our spring revival. I stopped to think about what she had said, realizing how right she was.

The death of my father right on the heels of a major sanctuary renovation had left me empty and joyless. Manchester Baptist Church supported me in every way as I struggled to find a way out of the quagmire of depression. I found myself questioning along with the psalmist, "Wilt thou not revive

us again, O Lord...?"

The prayer of the psalmist is our prayer also. It is a prayer for God to revive that which is dead or dying. It is a prayer for God to do again for us what he did long ago. It is a prayer for us to experience God's grace and power in fresh and new ways.

The second half of this verse shows us another result of all true revival, namely, "... that thy people may rejoice in thee." A real revival occurs when the church can smile again. Old wounds and grudges are forgiven. Then and only then can the church rejoice.

A joy-filled church is one of the secrets of a growing church. When a storm-tossed, struggling sinner sees a Christian experiencing the same trials he does, yet not overcome by them, it

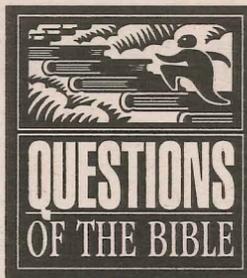
doesn't take him long to know the reason why.

One of the truly great Christian writers of our time was C.S. Lewis. Lewis was an atheist for much of his life, but through his relationship with a Christian writer named J.R.R. Tolkien, Lewis sensed there was something lacking in his own life. It was the joy that Lewis had seen in another Christian that led him to faith in God. Later he wrote about it in his autobiography, "Surprised by Joy."

The truth of the matter is that God wants to bring the dead back to life. Sometimes it is a pastor who is struggling to break free from the death grip of depression, or it might be a church that has gone through a long dry spell. God majors on revival and rejoicing, and he will do what he has promised.

God wants his church to be revived so it can rejoice and give the watching world a reason to ask, "Who made the difference?"

Ken Bolin is pastor of Manchester Baptist Church in Manchester



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CONTENT

With the eyes of the world riveted on the new millennium, ministers cannot afford to ignore the issue in their preaching. John Killinger believes the turn of the millennium offers a wonderful opportunity to explore many biblical themes that have been neglected for too long. Rather than approach the year 2000 with doomsday warnings, Killinger sees it as a time to urge people toward renewal and reflection.

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Patterson contends for 'sufficiency of Scripture'

By Marv Knox
Texas Baptist Standard

ATLANTA (ABP)—Southern Baptists must preach right, counsel right and believe right if they are to reach America for Christ, Southern Baptist Convention President Paige Patterson told the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta June 15.

Patterson, in his president's address, recommended those commitments under the umbrella of affirming the "sufficiency of Scripture."

"For the last 20 years, Southern Baptists have struggled through an exercise of self-definition," said Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

He referred to the two-decade-long theological/political conflict—which he helped engineer—that reshaped the SBC. Notably, the convention acted to affirm the inerrancy of the Bible and preserve the missionary and evangelistic impetus of the convention, he said.

But he questioned whether "we have won the battle for the inerrancy of the Bible while we have floundered on the issue of the sufficiency of the Bible."

He suggested three categories of "sufficiency" required by Scripture:

■ "The Bible must be sufficient for preaching," Patterson stressed, advocating "exposition and application of the word of God" as opposed to "narrative preaching."

"Some among us counsel that we should abandon the careful explanation and application of the biblical text, alleging that contemporary audiences are no longer charmed by such tunes," he said. "Twelve-minute sermonettes generated by the 'felt needs' of an assembled cast of post-modern listeners, augmented by drama and multiple repetitions of touchy-touchy, feely-feely music is the call of the hour."

Such trends aren't completely wrong, but preaching that is not expository—verse-by-verse explanation of the text—"is an inadvertent challenge to the sufficiency of Scripture," he said.

■ "The Bible must be sufficient for counseling," he added. While the church once viewed psychology as "the enemy of biblical Christianity," today Christians "sometimes speak the language of psychotherapy more often than we speak the language of Zion," he explained.

"Enough of our unsuccessful marriage to psychology," he urged. "Find in Scripture the information we need to assess the nature and problems of

humanity and especially spiritual and emotional guidance for triumphant living."

■ "The Bible must be sufficient for doctrine," Patterson said. He specifically cited charismatic practices, also known as "speaking in tongues," and the debate over Calvinism, which focuses on the sovereignty of God versus human will.

"Widespread charismatic practices have visited the churches, indiscriminate of denomination or doctrine," he observed. "These practices range from the relatively controlled and accountable practices of charismatic evangelicals to the extremes of phenomena clearly novel to the Scriptures."

Patterson urged Southern Baptists not to "allow minor emphases to take the place of the major emphases of Scripture."

"My purpose is to remind Southern Baptists that our focus across the years has been the conversion of men and women to faith in Christ," he said.

Turning to the Calvinism debate, Patterson noted: "Some wring their hands in apparent terror over these discussions. I welcome them."

Sidestepping taking sides in the debate, he pointed out that Southern Baptists history flows from "two distinct tributaries"—"a strong infusion on the sovereignty of God" along with affirmation of "the freedom and responsibility of man."

"I plead only two considerations," he said. "First, let Southern Baptists forever steer a course between unbridled experientialism and stultifying propositionalism. Second, may we always remember that any and every doctrinal formulation that either purposefully or inadvertently dilutes our passion for the lost or our soul-winning vigor is at odds with the biblical message and mandate. There can be few more profound acts of worship than to introduce a wayfarer to the Savior who bled and died for him."

In his lengthy sermon, Patterson also affirmed the SBC's Cooperative Program unified budget. He warned against indiscriminate ecumenism, "diluting the blood of our martyrs who knew so very well the dangers of popular religious faith."

He concluded with a call for evangelism. Southern Baptists, he said, should "break through to the next level," baptizing 1 million people—500,000 in the United States and 500,000 on mission fields—during the period from Oct. 1, 1999, through Sept. 30, 2000.

Patterson particularly pleaded for evangelization of America's cities, 47 of which have populations of 1 million or more.



Patterson



BAPTISTS

NFL's White talks about gays, Christian unity

By Jeff Huett
Associated Baptist Press

ATLANTA (ABP)—While blasting what he called unfair media treatment for his statements about homosexuality, future NFL Hall of Famer Reggie White said it's time for Christian denominations to band together to reach people for Christ.

Speaking at the final session of the 1999 Southern Baptist Convention, White lashed out at the media, which he said misrepresented his statements regarding homosexuality.

Specifically, White responded to a USA Today article that he claimed said he "criticized" the gay lifestyle.

"I've never criticized the gay lifestyle," White said. "I've only proclaimed what God said himself."

White quoted Bible verses in Leviticus and Romans denouncing homosexual activity. "God said it, not Reggie White," he said, drawing regular rounds of applause.

White urged the media to report more on people who have come out of the lifestyle instead of those who

are in it. "I have no problem with anyone living the way they want to, but when you bring it out and try to push those principles on my children, I just can't be quiet."



White

White then expressed concern about divisions in the Christian church, noting there are more than 20,000 Christian denominations worldwide. "We've got a problem. We've got a major problem," White said.

God calls for Christians to love one another, White said, but many Christians do not obey. "We don't care for each other, and we don't watch each other's backs," White said, illustrating with a football analogy.

"When I'm on the field and I see a black guy getting ready to take (Green Bay quarterback) Brett Favre out, I take the (defender) out before he lays Brett out," White said. "It's about winning the game. We love each other and help each other."

To emphasize this statement,

White pointed out the change in the public's attitude about violence after the recent school shootings in Colorado and Georgia. Whites perpetrated the most recent acts, he said, and the issue now has become an "epidemic."

"People in the suburbs are wondering what's going on," White said. "Let me tell you what's going on, these shootings have been happening in inner cities for years, but when you allow sin to start, it spreads."

Keeping with his message of love, White said, "it is time for Christians to get out of the pews and into the streets" to reach people for Christ. White also called for Christians to make disciples out of new believers.

"It makes no difference their financial background, or what color they may be, we must express the love of God so they may deal with their hardships and the things they are going through," White said. "We don't support each other enough."



Smith: 'Invincible' church gets marching orders from heaven

By Mark Wingfield
Texas Baptist Standard

ATLANTA—Four years ago, Ralph Smith wondered if he ever would stand to preach again. On June 16, he walked to the podium in Atlanta's Georgia Dome and delivered the convention sermon for the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Smith, who for 36 years was pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, has been suffering with Guillian-Barre syndrome, a debilitating muscular disease that forced him to take early retirement.



Smith

"You can't imagine what a joy it is to be standing, especially to be standing here today," Smith said as he began the sermon.

"It's great to be a Christian, but it's even greater to be a Southern Baptist Christian," he added.

In his sermon, Smith said his journey through illness and recovery taught him about the sufficiency of God's grace and the invincibility of the church, the latter point being the topic of his message.

Drawing his text from Matthew 16, he outlined three reasons why the church is invincible: because of the transformed nature of its membership, its dynamic relationship to Christ and the unique spirit in which it does its work.

"The church takes sinners and teaches them the way to become saints," Smith said. "It takes children of wrath and makes them children of God."

This is possible, he said, because Jesus is both Christ and Son of God. "Jesus is God's anointed Son come to deliver us from our sins."

This deliverance transforms people, and these transformed people are the evidence of the invincible church, Smith said.

But the church also is invincible because of its dynamic relationship to Christ, he continued. The church, he said, is built upon Christ, built by Christ and successful through Christ.

This has profound impact for how the church should act, he insisted. "If Christ builds the church, we must not, we cannot, reject those Christ has chosen and placed in his church."

Smith urged Baptists not to make mountains out of mole hills, but to build up the entire body of Christ.

The church must remember to get its orders from heaven, he added. "The church does not tell God what to do. God is commander-in-chief, and he has told us what to do in his holy inspired Word. Anything you or I do something that conflicts with the teachings of the Bible, we need to change and conform to God's Word."

Following God's instructions will lead the church to evangelism and missions, Smith declared. "Evangelism is the essential if we are to be Christ's church doing his work."

Finally, Smith said, the church is invincible because of the unique spirit in which it does its work, a spirit demonstrated by Jesus when he called for those who would follow him to deny self and take up a cross.

Taking up a cross and following Jesus really isn't as risky as it might sound, Smith said. "When we follow the best person we know, there is the possibility that individual will fail to lead in the right way. Following Jesus poses no such risk. He is not only our Savior, not only the founder and foundation stone of the church, but also our perfect example."

The message of Jesus and his invincible church is good news for a world accustomed to bad news, Smith concluded. "Let's not be saying, 'Look what the world has come to.' Instead, let us proclaim, 'Look who has come to the world.'"

Paige Patterson re-elected without opposition

ATLANTA (ABP)—Paige Patterson received a second term at the helm of the Southern Baptist Convention June 15, when messengers to the SBC's annual meeting re-elected him as president without opposition.

SBC messengers also elected Georgia pastor Frank Cox as first vice president and Alabama pastor Jerry Spencer as second vice president.

Patterson "served us well" in the past year as SBC president, stressed

Junior Hill, an evangelist and member of Westmeade Baptist Church in Decatur, Ala., who nominated him.

Patterson helped design the 20-year movement that turned the SBC in a more conservative direction. As president, Patterson exhibited positive leadership in several areas, Hill said.

Cox, senior pastor of North Metro First Baptist Church in suburban Atlanta, also was elected without opposition.

"He has Baptists on his heart and will be fully supportive of Dr. Paige Patterson," pledged James Merritt, pastor of First Baptist Church in Snellville, Ga., who nominated him.

Cox has led his church to grow from 500 to 3,800 members in 19 years as pastor, Merritt reported.

Spencer, pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Dothan, Ala., won the second vice presidency over Paul Russell, pastor of Sunridge Baptist Church in Seabring, Fla. Spencer received 1,817 votes (52 percent) to 1,706 for Russell (48 percent).

Spencer's church has grown from

an average attendance of 400 in Sunday school and membership of 1,000 to 1,400 in Sunday school and about 3,000 members in the 10 years he has been pastor, reported Stan Coffey, pastor of San Jacinto Baptist Church in Amarillo, Texas, who nominated him.

Spencer also is a member of the SBC Executive Committee.

Messengers also elected two secretaries for the convention. John Yeats, editor of the Baptist Messenger, the weekly newspaper of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, was re-elected recording secretary without opposition.

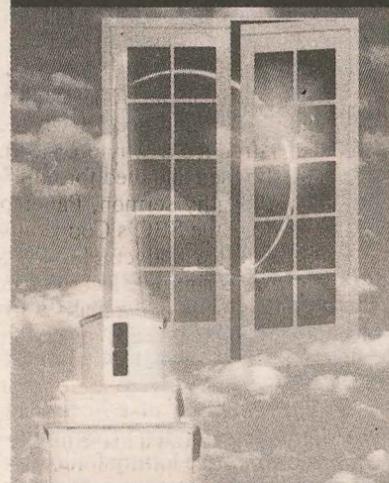
Incumbent Registration Secretary Lee Porter of the Atlanta area won his 23rd consecutive election for the post. He was chosen over former foreign missionary Teresa Norris, a staff member at Riverside Baptist Church in Denver and wife of Rob Norris, director of missions for Southern Baptists in Denver. Porter received 2,205 votes (62 percent) to 1,351 votes (38 percent) for Norris.



SBC OFFICERS Elected (from left) are Lee Porter, registration secretary; Jerry Spencer, second vice president; Paige Patterson, president; Frank Cox, first vice president; and John Yeats, recording secretary. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

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BAPTISTS

IMB leaders promote work in cities, unreached areas

By Louis Moore
International Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Southern Baptists must deliver the message of salvation to the masses living in the world's major cities, International Mission Board leaders told the closing session of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Just as God called Jonah centuries ago to go to Nineveh and proclaim God's truth, God today is calling Southern Baptists to evangelize the world's largest urban areas, IMB leaders said.

Half the world's people live in cities like Calcutta, Cairo, Istanbul, Nairobi, Moscow, Berlin, Shanghai and Mexico City, said IMB President Jerry Rankin. And millions of those people have little or no knowledge of Jesus Christ.

"God is saying to us to go," he said. But like Jonah, "you will face the option to shun that call or respond in obedience."

Avery Willis, IMB senior vice president of overseas operations, warned that Southern Baptists could be in danger of making the same mistake Jonah made—becoming so focused on preaching the destruction of Nineveh that he missed God's plan to save the city. "The need to address the cities should not depend on where we came from but where God is going. He is focused on the lost of the world."

Willis said that in the past two years the IMB "has radically changed its direction as we have tried to follow God out to the edge of lostness."

"We are focusing on the peoples who have little or no access to the gospel and who comprise 30.5 percent of the world's population," he said.

Rankin noted that Scripture states the people of Nineveh believed God and turned from their evil ways.

"It was not the preaching of Jonah, but a compassionate God who prepared their hearts and turned them to

him in repentance," he said. "God is waiting on us to heed his call, a call to go to the nations, to the cities of the world and proclaim a message of healing and hope, a message of salvation and deliverance."

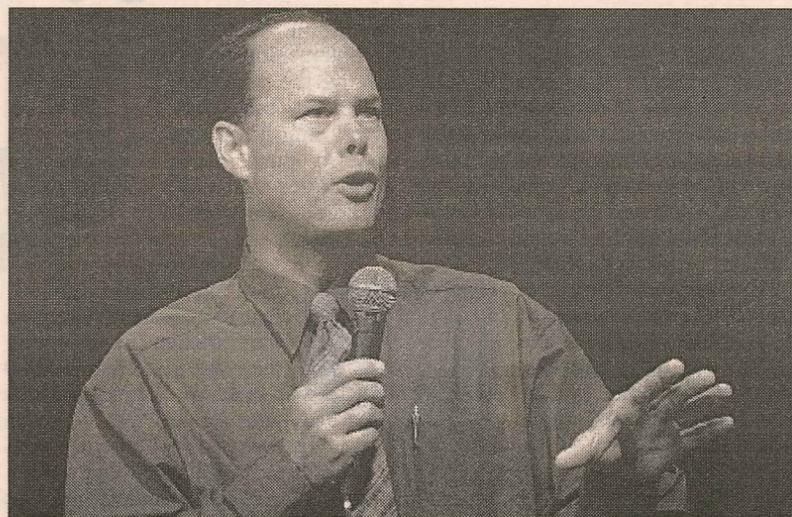
IMB missionaries and Baptists from various countries described God's work in their areas.

SBC personnel are assessing what it will take to help rebuild war-torn Kosovo, said Bill Steele, who will lead the IMB team there.

"We'll be going back with them (the refugees returning to Kosovo) and we will help them rebuild their homes," Steele said.

"We'll never be satisfied to just put food in the mouths of hungry people, for we must also give them the bread of eternal life," he said.

After the war in Bosnia, IMB leaders had a strategy to take the gospel to Bosnians but too few Southern Bap-



MISSIONARY MOMENT Bill Steele, missionary to Bosnia, speaks during the annual presentation of the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board. Steele currently is coordinating the SBC personnel who are assessing what it will take to help rebuild war-torn Kosovo. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

tists volunteered, Willis said. He urged people to mobilize to assist in the effort in Kosovo.

An IMB representative, who wasn't identified because of the sensitive nature of his assignment, said the restricted country where he lives and works had only 50 known Christians in 1995 but today has about 15,000 known believers.

When he first moved to that country, he said he was fearful for his five children, but "my children for whom I feared have seen with their own eyes the power of God."

IMB missionary Charles Beatty, who is battling lung cancer, thanked Southern Baptists for their prayers for him and urged them to pray for those

in his part of North Africa who are dying daily without assurance of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

Rankin concluded the presentation by telling about an artifact he saw in museum, a tear bottle in which wives of men away at war kept their tears as evidence of their sadness over the separation from their loved ones.

Alluding to the convention theme, "His Tears/Our Task," Rankin invited convention participants to envision a time when the Christian task will be completed and God's "tear bottle" will be empty and to commit themselves to giving, praying and going toward that end.

With additional reporting by Shari Schubert of the Florida Baptist Witness



"God is waiting on us to heed his call"

IMB President Jerry Rankin



Messengers commit to make homes 'lighthouses' of prayer

By James Dotson
North American Mission Board

ATLANTA (BP)—Answering a call issued during the North American Baptist Mission Board's June 14 report to the Southern Baptist Convention, more than 1,350 Southern Baptists agreed to make their homes "Lighthouses of Prayer."

The families committed to praying for, caring for and sharing Christ with 20 other families in their respective neighborhoods. Collectively, the families pledged to reach out to more than 27,000 other families.

The evening presentation was an emotionally-charged challenge punctuated by a dramatized family-to-family evangelistic encounter on video and a live appearance by the parents of Colorado high school murder victim Cassie Bernall.

"Every Christian can share Christ, every family can be a Lighthouse of Prayer and every church can start a church," NAMB President Bob Reccord said.

"The key to reaching North America is the renewal of the evangelistic passion and soul of our churches," Reccord said. "Not every Christian is called to leave home and be a missionary out there somewhere, but every Christian is called to be on mission at home and from their home."

The Lighthouses of Prayer concept encourages Christians to pray

for five neighbors on each side of their home and 10 neighbors across the street. Part of the interdenominational Celebrate Jesus 2000 movement, it is one of the key strategies for praying for and sharing Christ with everyone in the nation by the end of the year 2000.

NAMB is promoting the concept through brochures and other materials designed to help families turn their homes into Lighthouses of Prayer. The materials are available by calling LifeWay Christian Resources at (800) 448-8032.

"For most of us, North America is right where we live," Reccord said. "The people of North America are in desperate need for the gospel, and no one is better called and better equipped to tell them than you or I or the people in our churches."

After a gripping montage of video and photos depicting Cassie Bernall's unwavering faith in Christ, the audience, estimated at more than 7,000, stood and applauded her parents, Brad and Misty Bernall, for more than a minute as they took the platform with Reccord. He asked them how they had managed to make their own home a lighthouse, even in tragedy.

"You don't do it by yourself," Brad Bernall said in a halting voice.

"If we didn't have the faith in the Lord Jesus, we would never have gotten through it. If we didn't have all of our friends at the church pulling for us, we wouldn't have gotten through it."

"... We hope that everyone would see that we've not been hateful or angry, but rather we've exercised the God-given ability to be forgiving," he added.

Seventeen-year-old Cassie Bernall became one of the most widely known of the victims of the April 20 shooting in Littleton, Colo., because of her commitment to God—even in the face of death. One of the gunmen reportedly asked her whether she believed in God.

When she said that she did, the gunman reportedly asked, "Why?" mockingly just before he shot her.

The Bernalls spoke of their own struggles in raising their children, including dealing with Cassie when she began experimenting with drugs, alcohol and even witchcraft before she made a life-changing commitment to Jesus Christ.

Their home continues to be a "lighthouse" for Christ, Brad Bernall said. "We have scores of kids coming in and out all the time. We know the people in our neighborhood ... and I think that through all of this they know



TESTIMONY Brad and Misty Bernall, parents of one of the girls killed in the Columbine High School tragedy, speak about their daughter Cassie during the annual report of the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board June 15. (BP photo by Jim Yates)



Reccord

BAPTISTS

Draper: LifeWay name is well-received

By Lacy Thompson
Louisiana Baptist Message

ATLANTA (ABP)—Changing the name of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board to LifeWay Christian Resources has been received with enthusiasm, Jimmy Draper told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 15.

Draper, president of the Nashville, Tenn.-based publishing house, said the LifeWay name is based on John 14:6, which proclaims Jesus as the way, the truth and the life. "We feel that the very name itself is an opportunity for us to say that our task is to help introduce people to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior."

Draper cited several projects underway at the publishing agency, including the preparation of a new strategy for Sunday school and a new Bible translation. "It is a Bible without compromise," Draper said of the translation. "It is a Bible for the 21st century and beyond. ... It is accurate and literal, yet smooth and readable. It invites memorization and reading aloud and dedicated study. ... Pray for us. We want to preserve the integrity of God's Word into

the 21st century."

The new Sunday school strategy, Sunday School for a New Century, will help churches "do the work of the Great Commission," Draper said.



Draper

The curriculum will offer churches more options and will include a greater emphasis on the family and will encourage home Bible study, Draper explained. Resources will be available for the Fall 2000 quarter.

Draper said Sunday School for a New Century will work hand-in-hand with LifeWay's FAITH Sunday school evangelism strategy.

In response to the report, a messenger voiced concern that LifeWay's mission seems to have changed from the service of Southern Baptist churches to one of making profits. The messenger cited the decision not to allow non-LifeWay stores to sell Sunday school material, the publication of the new Bible translation and the markup on materials published by other Southern Baptist agencies.

Draper responded that LifeWay seeks to provide materials at the lowest-possible cost to churches. Providing materials to non-LifeWay stores would affect the agency's ability to keep prices low for churches, he said.

Also, the new Bible translation is designed simply to preserve the integrity of the Bible and actually will be completed at quite a cost to the agency, he said.

Finally, Draper responded, LifeWay charges what other agencies tell them to charge for their materials.

Another messenger expressed concern that the new Bible translation would push aside the King James Version.

Draper said LifeWay will continue to make the King James and New King James versions available. However, he said, both versions are losing readership to translations that may not be adequate.

"We will still have a place in our materials for the King James. We have no desire to replace that," he said. "But we really prefer to replace some of the more recent translations that are becoming more interested in political correctness than biblical accuracy."

Also during LifeWay's presentation, Draper presented leatherbound copies of "A Hill on Which to Die" to Paul Pressler and Paige Patterson. The book, written by Pressler, is an account of the organized movement to turn the convention in a more conservative direction beginning in 1979. Pressler and Patterson are credited as architects of that shift.

With additional reporting by Tony Imms of LifeWay Christian resources



'Lifetime of challenges' awaits students at YouthLink 2000

ATLANTA (BP)—A "lifetime of challenges" awaits Southern Baptist students at YouthLink 2000, organizers of the year-end event told messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 15 in Atlanta.

Richard Ross and Dean Finley, YouthLink 2000 co-chairs, said 33,000 youth and college students already have registered for the Dec. 29-31 event that will be held simultaneously in seven cities—Anaheim, Atlanta, Denver, Houston, Philadelphia, St. Louis and Tampa.

It is designed for junior high school, high school and college students.

Members of the YouthLink 2000 steering committee issued a series of challenges to messengers at the convention:

■ A salvation challenge, that more students will be saved at one time at YouthLink than any other time in history.

■ A vocational challenge, that thousands will commit to be pastors and to lead churches, schools and institutions in the new millennium.

■ A missions challenge, that more than 1,000 students will commit to serve as career missionaries.

■ A purity challenge, that more than 100,000 students will commit to a "lifetime of moral purity."

■ A campus missionary challenge, that 50,000 students will serve as missionaries to their campuses under appointment by their churches.

■ A witnessing challenge, that more than 100,000 students will commit to witness to every lost student in North America by the end of the year 2000.

■ A giving challenge, that more than 100,000 students will commit themselves to a lifetime of giving through their churches, especially to missions.

■ A presidential challenge, that presidents of the various SBC entities will challenge the students to give one summer, semester or year in full-time missions and ministry before completing their education.

YouthLink will be a "solemn assembly" for students, Ross and Finley said. It will include six worship services, satellite links to sites in Israel, small-group discipling experiences and hands-on mission projects.

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SEMINARIES' REPORT
Al Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, presents a thank-you card to Southern Baptist churches for their support of seminary education through the Cooperative Program. Mohler made his presentation during the six-semester report. (BP photo by Jim Yates)

BAPTISTS

Annuity Board wants churches to adopt an annuitant in need

ATLANTA (BP)—Annuity Board President O.S. Hawkins challenged Southern Baptist churches to adopt an annuitant in need, while challenging ministers to take responsibility for themselves and their families with adequate retirement and insurance planning.

The Southern Baptist Convention will observe the first Adopt an Annuitant Sunday on June 27, he said. Churches and individuals will be asked to contribute \$900 a year so that an aged minister or widow can receive a \$75 supplement each month.

"There are almost 10,000 ministers and widows of ministers who receive less than \$200 a month from their retirement benefits," Hawkins said. "These are beautiful people in need, and I am calling on you to respond to their needs and adopt them."

Hawkins also challenged messengers to prepare for the future and heed the words from Solomon in Proverbs 6 when he said "go to the ant and consider its way and be wise."

"Be wise and prepare for the years ahead," Hawkins counseled. "Get enrolled in our retirement program and participate in our insurance program."

Hawkins reported that 1998 was a good year at the 81-year-old Annuity Board, which closed the year with \$7.09 billion in total assets and gave a 10 percent permanent increase in benefits to most annuitants.

Hawkins also assured messengers that the Annuity Board is on schedule to complete its "Y2K" planning and is ready to face the future. He expressed thanks for the \$1 million received from the Cooperative Program in 1998 and said "every cent was spent helping annuitants in need."

A new program being launched this year is the "Widow's Mite" prayer ministry, Hawkins told messengers. "We are going to mobilize thousands of widows across the nation to pray for our missionaries and our nation."

ERLC's Land: Christians attacked by media

By Lacy Thompson & Mark Wingfield
Louisiana Baptist Message & Texas Baptist Standard

ATLANTA—Southern Baptists must not sit still for unfair media abuse and hostility, Richard Land insisted during his annual report to the Southern Baptist Convention as president of the denomination's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"We live in a time of unprecedented moral and spiritual crisis in our nation," Land said. "And in the very time when our nation most needs to hear a sure and certain word from God through his people, those in the media and those in the press and those in society who oppose us are doing their very best to oppress us."

Land said the greatest threat of the day comes from those who would suppress Christians' right to express religious convictions in the public arena.

As an example, he cited a recent experience with CNN, whose headquarters building is located just across from the Georgia Dome, where he was speaking to messengers.

"CNN, if you're listening, I have a message for you, and I want you to hear it" Land said. "CNN is slanting the news. CNN is trying to beat up on Southern Baptists. And we're not go-

ing to stand for it silently anymore."

Land said CNN recently scheduled a program on Southern Baptists, featuring Americans United Executive Director Barry Lynn and California Baptist pastor and conservative activist Wiley Drake.

Despite the suggestion that Land be invited in his capacity as spokesman for Southern Baptists on public policy issues, CNN called Land only to ask if he would be interested in being in the audience, he said.

Such selection of guests that excludes people like him is typical of how CNN "slants the news," Land said.

"Brother Wiley, I love you, but you're just too nice a guy to go up against Barry Lynn. You need somebody with a mean streak like me," Land said. "You've employed me to take on the Barry Lynns of this world, and I do it."

To make matters worse, Lynn said during the program that Land once asserted the SBC ought to marry the Republican Party, Land said.

"That's not what I said," Land told messengers. "Let me tell you and let me tell CNN what I really said. I said if the Republican Party wants the support of people who believe in God and who believe in the sanctity of all human life from conception onward and believe in the traditional family and believe that

homosexuality is deviant and immoral behavior and shouldn't be approved and affirmed by the president of the United States, then they need to come and endorse our values and our beliefs and our understanding of the truth.

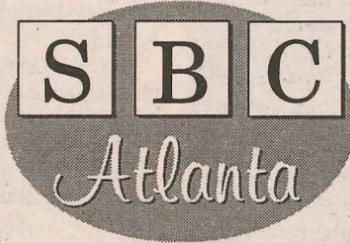
"And if they do, and they commit themselves to that, then we'll support them," Land said. "If a party wants our support, they have to get it the old-fashioned way. They have to earn it by supporting our basic beliefs."

If Southern Baptists are to support a candidate, they want a formal marriage ceremony, Land said, unlike Lynn, whom he said is "in bed with the liberal wing of the Democratic Party without benefit of matrimony."

In reply, Lynn said in a subsequent interview with the Baptist Standard that he stands by his assertion that Land sought to "marry" the SBC and the Republican Party. He quoted from a March 23, 1998, New York Times story about a meeting of conservative activists in Washington in which Land participated.

According to Lynn, the Times story quoted Land issuing this warning to Republican leaders: "The go-along, get-along strategy is dead. No more engagement. We want a wedding ring. We want a ceremony. We want a consummation of the marriage."

As for Land's comments that Lynn is "in bed" with Democrats without benefit of marriage, Lynn said: "I never attend any political function, no strategy sessions. If I find out there is a meeting scheduled where Democratic operatives are going to run it, I do not attend."



Discovery weeks/Son Team camps underway

I was in Atlanta 10 days ago for Crossover Atlanta, the weekend prior to the Southern Baptist Convention. On Saturday we (Southern Baptists) had the entire Centennial Olympic Park for a day-long celebration for all ages. It was a day of fun for any family that was there. More than a thousand decisions were made during the Crossover witnessing campaign that day, as thousands of students and adults hit the streets.

The most powerful part of the experience for me personally took place that Saturday afternoon. There at Centennial Park, arrangements had been made to bring in the crosses from the Littleton, Colo., tragedy several weeks ago. There, laid out on the beautiful green grass, under sunny Georgia skies, were those crosses, one for each student who was killed, each with notes embossed into the wood, each with a picture of the youth, some with personal items attached, even a teddy bear. I was not prepared for the emotion of the moment. My heart was broken as the reality hit me hard that these kids lost their lives at such a tender age.

I took pictures of the crosses, came back and will frame one of the pictures as a reminder of why we do what we do at Cedarmore and

Jonathan Creek. I don't want to ever forget.

We're now in the middle of camp season. At Cedarmore last week we had nearly 300 campers experiencing God. We had the Son Teams doing ministry with all the energy God has given them—and that's a lot of energy! At the "Amens in the AM," our morning celebration, Byrdwell Conference Center was full of youth fully engaged in praise and worship and fun. As I watched the Son Teams put to use what they had worked so hard on and practiced so much, I saw a crowd of youth that was participating with the worship leaders. It was just great. I don't know how else to say it.

To be a part of camp ministry is a great privilege. If all of you who read this could experience a camp first hand, it would change your perspective on reaching kids. Littleton reminds me how little time we have. May God give us strength to press on with a sense of urgency like we have never had before, and may hundreds come to Jesus this summer as a result of camp ministry and Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

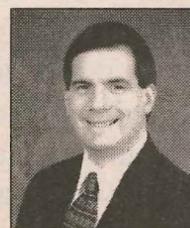
Rusty Ellison is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Box 37, Bagdad, Ky. 40003. Call (502) 747-8911

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BAPTISTS

Patterson: Is your church in or out of SBC?

By Tony Cartledge
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

ATLANTA—Churches that voluntarily leave the Southern Baptist Convention should be applauded for their integrity, Paige Patterson said during a press conference shortly after his re-election as SBC president June 15.

Churches that desire to affiliate with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship "should be perfectly candid and honest," Patterson said. "Be truthful with your people. If you're gonna support Southern Baptists, do it. If you're not, be honest enough and have enough integrity to say, 'We're not there anymore. We're out of here.'"

While affirming churches' "freedom to do what they want to do," Patterson asked for them to be "honest and candid about who they are. Do they support the SBC, or not?"

He said five to 20 churches have withdrawn from the SBC because of doctrinal differences with the denomination's more conservative stance in recent years.

But he didn't cite those departures as contributing to recently reported losses in SBC membership.

When questioned about declining membership, reported for the first time last year, he noted that many churches were purging their rolls of inactive or non-resident members, and that may have affected some of the numbers.

Patterson said he was not especially concerned about membership num-

bers, judging the reported increases in baptisms and Cooperative Program giving as better indicators of denominational health.

The dip in membership and total number of churches is probably "more of a hiccup than a drop," he said.

When asked for an opinion regarding a "reconciliation movement" in North Carolina that would call for moderates and conservatives to share power in that state, Patterson said he purposely had kept a low profile on the issue while serving as SBC president, lest it appear that he was throwing his weight around in state convention matters.

Anything that might involve compromise was troublesome to him, he said, but he expressed great confidence in conservative leaders who helped to develop the shared leadership plan, as well as in the integrity of moderates involved in the process.

Several reporters asked questions related to President Clinton's June 11 proclamation declaring June 1999 as "Gay and Lesbian Pride Month." Patterson noted that the timing of the proclamation seemed odd, since it came in the middle of the same month it was designed to celebrate. He said he stands with Clinton in his concern that violence or hatred should not be directed toward any group, including gays and lesbians.

However, "you can't call right wrong and wrong right," he said. President Clinton apparently does not understand biblical teachings about homosexuality, Patterson said, and was

clearly endorsing homosexual behavior by issuing the proclamation.

Patterson said he was not so much offended by the proclamation as he was concerned for the future, not wanting his grandchildren to be exposed to a society that embraces homosexuality as an appropriate lifestyle.

Earlier in the day, several messengers had proposed motions and resolutions calling for the SBC to confront Clinton's home church, Immanuel Baptist of Little Rock, Ark., calling for the church to discipline Clinton.

Patterson said he believed the church as a whole was a conservative, Bible-believing church. "I'm sure many people in the church are very confused right now," he said, saying he saw no virtue in refusing to seat messengers from the church.

In response to questions, Patterson clarified his comments from his presidential address regarding the creation of a Baptist "TV superstation."

He explained that Southern Baptists "must face the fact that TV goes through brick walls, across oceans and into places we cannot otherwise reach."

Several individuals have created TV superstations, he said, and a denomination of 40,000 churches should be able to do the same.



Briscoe urges ministers' wives to turn to God when weary

ATLANTA (BP)—"When is the last time you looked into the face of God and listened?" Jill Briscoe asked women attending the 44th annual Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference and Luncheon.

A capacity audience of 1,000 people heard Briscoe, author of "Renewal on the Run" and executive editor of "Just Between Us" magazine for wives of ministers and women in ministry. "When we let ourselves truly listen, the energy will come and the passion will return," she said.

Through prayer, rest and reliance on their faith, ministers' wives can "learn the unforced rhythms of grace" and "dress our spirit in a peace that passes understanding every morning," said Briscoe, wife of Stuart Briscoe, senior pastor of Elmbrook Church in Brookfield, Wis.

Briscoe, originally from Liverpool, England, said her years in urban mission work and as a pastor's wife have taught her "God loves to reduce us to helplessness, because that is where prayer is birthed."

Referring to 1 Kings 19 and the story of Elijah's helplessness under a broom tree, Briscoe said she realized her "prayer life was pretty pathetic."

Just as Elijah found himself reduced to nothing by Jezebel's threats, "If you're doing something right, one day you'll find yourself under the broom tree. You'll find yourself running out of faith," she said.

"I know a lot of burned out ministers and ministers' wives who never get a break. They end up spiritually discouraged, distressed and faith weary," she added.

"It's what you do when you're fed up that matters," she said. During low times, Briscoe said, the emotions of depression can be overwhelming. She encouraged women to rely on what they know of God to help them find their way.

Honored seniors

By Robert Dunston

Each year Cumberland College presents the Berger Awards to a male and a female of the graduating class who have excelled in academics and service and show excellent potential for the future. Faculty, students and staff can nominate people for these awards, and a committee interviews those nominated and selects the recipients.

This year the female recipient was Candace Osborne-Perry, the daughter of Jack and Sherryl Osborne of Gray and wife of Kelvin Perry. She is a member of three honor societies, Alpha Lambda Delta (freshmen), Kappa Mu Epsilon (mathematics) and Sigma Pi Sigma (physics) and served the latter two as president. She has held the office of president in both the Mathematics and Physics Club and the Society of Physics Students.

Osborne-Perry received the National City Bank Scholarship and a George I. Alden Scholarship for Excellence in Science. She was named to Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges and was inducted into Cumberland's J. T. Vallandingham Honor Society for overall academic excellence. In the fall she

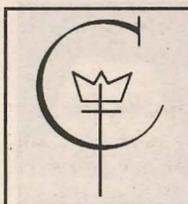
will pursue graduate work at the University of Kentucky.

Walter Joseph "Petie" Shumate, son of Bobby Joe and Dolores Overbay Shumate of Middlesboro, received the award given to the male graduating senior. In the sciences, Shumate served as president of the Cumberland chapter of the American Chemical Society. He was a judge for the science fair and student coordinator for the Cumberland College Science Symposium. He is a Presidential Scholar who also received a George I. Alden Scholarship for Excellence in Science, the Gorman Jones Scholarship and the P. R. Jones Chemistry Award.

His presence has been felt across campus in many activities. He played in the jazz band and marching band, participated on the debate team and academic team and served on the Student Government Association supreme court. He also has been active in Baptist Student Union. Shumate will begin Ph.D. work in the fall at the University of Alabama in the field of chemistry.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Exiting for Wendy

By Andrea Cossler

I have worked for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children at Genesis Home in Mayfield for nearly six years, and during that time I have made many long drives from Mayfield to Louisville for meetings and training. There is one drive I made recently with a co-worker Kay Crawford that I won't soon forget.

Kay and I were reminiscing about some of the girls that have come through Genesis. One special resident came to mind. I'll call her "Wendy." She had been sexually abused daily by her stepfather, neighbors, family "friends" and relatives. Her mother physically abused her and her father inflicted psychological abuse on her, too.

At 11, Wendy was sexually active, abusing alcohol and drugs and had tremendous emotional and behavioral problems. She was in our care for two years. When she left Genesis, we didn't know if we would ever see her again, or if we would ever find out if interventions had occurred early enough to help her overcome the horrors of her life.

The day after our roadtrip conversation, a miracle happened. Kay

and I were returning home from our training, driving down Interstate 65 when a car passed and we saw that the passenger was waving to us. It took a few moments to register, but we realized it was Wendy! She was smiling ear to ear and motioning for us to get off at the next exit. As soon as she got out of the car, Wendy ran over and hugged me, then Kay, then me and then Kay. She is now in foster care and told us her foster family treats her well, that she has her driver's license and is active in church and in the Christian Athletic Association. We were also pleased to hear that she is in a healthy relationship with a boyfriend.

Between each comment, Wendy would have to give us another hug and tell us she loved us. It was so wonderful to see that the 12-year-old child I had known as unkempt, tough, rebellious and aggressive was now a beautiful young lady who held her head high and was proud of her life. You, through KBHC, helped give Wendy a chance at a new, hopeful life.

Andrea Cossler is a residential counselor at Genesis Home in Mayfield. Find out more about KBHC at (800) 456-1386 or www.iglou.com/kbhc/.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



BAPTISTS

WMU celebrates missions & Dellanna O'Brien's impact

By Karen Willoughby
Baptist Press

ATLANTA (BP)—A celebration of the contributions of Dellanna O'Brien, more than 100 training conferences and a major by-laws revision were key parts of the 1999 Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting, June 13-14 in Atlanta.

"We are a part of a seamless history in which we connect with the stories of the past to write our own chapters in preparation for those who come after us," O'Brien, WMU's executive director who will retire in September, said in her annual mes-

sage.

Attendees celebrated O'Brien's 10 years at the helm of WMU. Among the cited highlights from her tenure were O'Brien's concern for women in poverty, which led to formation of the Christian Woman's Job Corps, combining personal mentoring with job training.

O'Brien's interest in getting women personally involved in hands-on missions activities led to the Volunteer Connection, which has grown from 125 women its first year to 1,400 in 1999.

Another O'Brien "brainchild" was Project HELP, which annually focuses WMU members on one major social issue, said WMU President Wanda Lee.

"Dellanna, you are a person who is full of faith and also faithful," Bob Reccord, Southern Baptist North American Mission Board President wrote to O'Brien in a letter read during the celebration. "There is no question that you have been faithful to the trust placed in you by WMU and the sovereign God we serve."

WMU took advantage of its spacious meeting location, Wiuca Road Baptist Church, to add 129 training courses to its 1999 sessions. The courses ranged from age-level training to heightened awareness of social and ethno-cultural issues.



WMU LEADERS Dellanna O'Brien, retiring executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, and WMU President Wanda Lee of Columbus, Ga., share a moment together during the annual WMU Conference, held June 13-14 at Wiuca Road Baptist Church in Atlanta. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazeur)



Board hears search report, sets offering goals

ATLANTA (BP)—The Woman's Missionary Union executive board heard a report from its executive director search committee during its semiannual meeting June 12. The group, meeting before the WMU annual meeting in Atlanta June 13-14, also approved goals for Southern Baptists' two national missions offerings and the site of the next National Acteens Convention.

Search committee chairwoman Ann Coffman of Sanford, Fla., said the committee's work was well underway. She said the committee had distributed a survey in the spring to state WMU presidents, state WMU executive directors and staffs, national WMU staff, state

convention executive directors and Southern Baptist Convention agency heads.

From survey results, the committee developed a profile for the next executive director, Coffman said. As of the June 1 deadline, 15 recommendations had been forwarded to the committee.

The executive board also:

■ Approved a goal of \$115 million for the 2000 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for international missions and a goal of \$50 million for the 2001 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American missions.

■ Approved holding the next National Acteens Conference in Nashville, July 29-Aug. 1, 2003.

During a short business session, Lee was re-elected national WMU president and Janet Hoffman was re-elected national recording secretary.

Approval was given for a revision of WMU bylaws. For the most part, the changes were cosmetic — refining legal language. But the revision included one significant item: All members of the WMU executive board will be permitted to vote. In previous years, only members from states or regions that had a minimum of 25,000 Southern Baptist church members were able to vote.

An offering of \$7,361.73 was received for WMU's 1999 house build-

ing projects in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity.

Missionary speakers included those serving in the United States and around the world, including areas of Asia and the Middle East where most people have no exposure to the gospel and governments are opposed to Christian outreach.

"Missions exist because the worship of God does not," said a missionary from one such area who used the name Sherri. "WMU exists because the worship of God does not. ... When the flame of worship burns, the light of missions will shine to the most remote peoples on earth."

We're having a big birthday party!

Recently I have been telling you about special events that have happened at Oneida in the past 100 years. I plan to share more interesting information in the months ahead as we reflect on "A Century of Ministry."

This Saturday, June 26, we will be having our Centennial Celebration. A group of faculty and staff began preparing for this weekend in January 1998. Much hard work has been invested in this historic occasion.

Now all the long hours and plans are coming together. I have heard from alumni, former faculty and staff, and friends from across the United States. The overwhelming majority of them said they were making plans to be here. Some said they could not attend but their thoughts would be with us this Saturday.

One of the exciting events this weekend will be the dedication of a historical marker commemorating the founding of our school. The marker will acknowledge the gift of the original school property given by Martha Coldiron Hogg. The first monetary contribution is also acknowledged. Henry Hensley, father of 14 children, made the first cash donation to the new school. His \$50 gift was extremely generous for a man of that day. "Big Henry" was baptized at age 66.

Many of the original trustees who had to sign the articles of incorporation could not read or write. Those who could not write proudly put their "marks" on the document. Hundreds of descendants were given the education they were never able to receive in the school they helped establish.

We are preparing food for 2,000 guests. As we have the past five years, we will cook fresh barbecue pork from our farm and all the trimmings. The

meal will be served under seven large tents on our athletic field. This year will most likely see the largest gathering of alumni and friends in the school's history.

It is hard to imagine what this campus looked like 100 years ago. Certainly, it is reasonable to presume that the founder of our school had no idea his little mountain school would grow to this size. When he climbed up that old oak tree in the summer of 1899 with his faithful friend H.L. McMurry, he envisioned a school meeting the needs of several hundred mountain boys and girls, but he could not have dreamed of students coming from across the United States and around the world.

James Anderson Burns, our founder, is buried on Cemetery Hill, overlooking our campus. I often wonder what he would think if he could stroll across our campus today. Only one of the original buildings he saw is still standing. I can hear him say, "What is this building and what do you do in that building?" Eighteen major buildings, tennis courts, a paved track and an athletic field for soccer, baseball and softball would all be new to him. Buses, vans, trucks, two computer labs and a modern farm all would be a pleasant surprise. The road from Manchester, our county seat, to our campus and all the roads in the village, which were dirt roads in his day, are now all paved.

But he would be most surprised to see students from the four corners of the earth going to school with boys and girls from the creeks and hollows he traveled so many times. If you can, visit with us this Saturday.

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

THIS IS ONEIDA



W.F. Underwood

Graduation awards

Eight members of the class of '99 received special recognition during our recent commencement week activities.

The President's Award, recognizing outstanding leadership in all areas of college life, went to student body president Todd Buck. He was sound technician and responsible for editing the weekly radio programs we distribute to 42 stations. Todd and his family will move to Juneau, Alaska, his home state.

The Trustee's Award, received by Virginia student Michael Aldridge, affirms outstanding leadership in church ministry. Michael continues as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in Jonesville, Va. These top two awards also require at least a 3.0 grade point average.

The Walter V. and Betty Young Award went to Derek McCosh for "unusual promise and ability in ministry demonstrated by Christian living." Derek served the East La Follette, Tenn., Baptist Church as youth minister and will attend Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Harrodsburg native Steve McCaughey won the Evangelism-Discipleship Award, "for a balanced approach in sharing the gospel and discipling new converts." In his last se-

mester before departing for Southwestern Seminary, Steve coordinated 32 Clear Creek volunteers in 10 simultaneous revivals in Ohio.

The Claude H. Fox Memorial Award, "for the individual who has demonstrated the greatest progress as a student," went to Jonathan Wayne Lewis of Cumberland. The entrance and exit scores for J.W. dramatically illustrate the strength of our personal attention through tutors and instructors. In April, J.W. became pastor of Eubank Baptist Church.

Owensboro native Russ Wallace received the R.P. Mahon Founders Award, "for response to God's call and preparation for ministry in the midst of adult life." Russ graduated at age 47, and recently became pastor of Centertown Baptist Church.

The American Bible Society Scholarly Achievement Award went to Adam Dooley of Berea. He graduated at age 21 and will attend Southern Seminary.

The Zondervan Award for academic achievement in advanced Greek went to Tennessee student Alan Moser; he will enroll at Southwestern Seminary this fall.

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

BAPTISTS

Pastors' Conference seeks to 'empower for tomorrow'

By David Winfrey
News Director

ATLANTA—The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference examined a range of issues as they explored how to be "empowered for tomorrow" during their 1999 annual meeting, June 13-14 in Atlanta.

Newly elected conference President Jerry Sutton called on Christians to experience God's glory by seeking it in prayer and securing it in power so that they may see it in practice.

Experiencing God's glory in prayer involves taking on a humble posture before God, which is a holy privilege, said Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville.

To secure God's glory in power, Christians must use the resources of God to be empowered concretely out of God's riches, to be indwelt considerably by Christ, to be enlightened completely in understanding the love of Christ and to be in-filled completely with the fullness of God, he added.

When believers seek the glory of God in this way, Sutton said, they will see it in practice.

Other exhortations the pastors received included:

■ God needs pastors who have and keep and cast God's vision for churches, insisted **Kie Bowman**, pastor of Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas.

"The world is full of visionary businessmen," Bowman said. "God wants you to be a visionary for the kingdom."

■ Pastors must recognize positive cultural changes, urged **Chuck Colson**, founder of Prison Fellowship in Washington, D.C. "The signs are beginning to turn our way," he said, pointing to decreases in the numbers of abortions, welfare recipients, crimes and teen pregnancies.

■ Americans should pray for America until Bill Clinton no longer is president, said **Richard Land**, president of the SBC Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

He displayed a copy of a recent presidential proclamation that designates June as the beginning of "Gay and Lesbian Month," encouraging Americans to observe it with appropriate programs. The audience erupted with cheers and applause when Land said the program Americans really need is to pray for the nation until Clinton is no longer president.

■ **Bob Wieland** of Arcadia, Calif., stepped on and detonated a mortar round while running to assist fellow soldiers after an ambush in Vietnam. He was pronounced dead on arrival at

the hospital but survived, though without legs.

Wieland chose to rejoice in his survival rather than dwelling on his injuries. He later became a world champion weightlifter. Drawing on Hebrews 3:13, Wieland encouraged all discouraged people to never give up, but to take one step after another toward the victory God has promised.

■ Florida evangelist **Jay Strack** challenged pastors to seek God's vision and provide real spiritual leadership in the troubling times in which they live.

Strack, preaching from Habakkuk 2:1-4, used computer world analogies. "We need a heaven-sent vision," Strack said. He said the "hardware" of personal vision is that vision must be requested, revealed, received and recorded, as was the case with Habakkuk.

The "software" of personal vision, Strack said, includes intimacy, isolation, integrity, imagination, intensity, involvement and investment.

■ Georgia motivational speaker **John Maxwell** challenged pastors to be true leaders in difficult times.

"The greatest leaders all rose be-

cause it was the darkest hour for their nation. Every change calls for a courageous leader," he said. Maxwell urged pastors to look to God for courage, and he listed the attributes of God-given courage as exhibited by Moses and Joshua: procrastination, doubt, distractions and loneliness are removed; and God's leaders become more aggressive about following his will.

■ God needs pastors who can lead their congregations through revival, reminded **Mark Corts**, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.

"Churches are getting reorganized for the 21st century, but God wants to send revival, and people must get ready for it," Corts said.

He urged pastors not to be distracted by the worship wars related to music, saying godly songs have been written both before and after 1980. "We have a right to sing songs of Zion that come from this generation."

■ America needs covenant-marriage laws, claimed **Fred Lowery**, pastor of First Baptist Church in Bossier City, La. "The goal is to get rid of no-fault divorce," he said. "That's an oxymoron. It's always somebody's fault. That's like saying, 'no-fault adultery.'"

With additional reporting by Marv Knox, William Perkins and Tony Carledge



Sutton elected conference president

ATLANTA—Jerry Sutton, pastor of Two Rivers Baptist Church in Nashville, was elected SBC Pastors' Conference president for the year 2000. Sutton was nominated by Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.

Sutton and two other elected officers of the Pastors' Conference were the only ones nominated for their respective positions.

Clark Stewart, pastor of Harmony Baptist Church in Crystal Springs, Miss., was elected vice president.

Steven Wright, pastor of Northwest Baptist Church in Houston, was elected secretary-treasurer.

Founders Conference speakers call for biblical preaching and church discipline

ATLANTA (ABP)—Extreme times call for extreme measures—most notably, a return to biblical preaching and church discipline, a pair of Southern Baptist Founders Conference speakers emphasized June 15.

Evangelicals have made little impact on the culture, Tom Ascol said during a Founders Conference breakfast before the 1999 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta.

About 120 people attended the pre-convention meeting organized by those who identify with the Reformed theological tradition, often referred to as Calvinists.

"The world has made more of an impact on the church in our day than the church has made on the world," said Ascol, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, Fla. "We live in very desperate days. We live in days when people are unabashedly selfish and self-centered, when they're greedy and prideful in an open way.

Such people also are found in the churches, Ascol continued. Indeed, studies show that there is little difference between Christians and non-Christians when it comes to moral behavior, he said.

"Extreme times call for extreme measures," Ascol said. "And the extreme measure which the Bible calls for in desperate days can be summarized in one word—preaching."

Referring to 2 Timothy 3, Ascol emphasized the need for a return to biblical preaching.

"Preaching is God's ordained

means for accomplishing his ordained purposes of spreading the gospel throughout the world," Ascol said. "Whatever else may be done, this one thing always must be done."

That means preaching sound doctrine and allowing Scripture to interpret itself, the Florida Baptist pastor insisted.

"The pastor must be a sound theologian. He must be committed to the task of drawing out from the word of God the truths which God has revealed to us there, reflecting on them and helping people understand and apply them. That is the work of the pastor," he said.

Likewise, churches must return to the practice of church discipline, said Don Whitney, professor of spiritual formation at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.

Whitney called for both formative discipline—preaching the Bible—and corrective discipline.

Corrective discipline is practiced to honor Christ, to maintain the purity of the church, to restore people, to release people from sin and to reconcile believers, Whitney said.

"One of the misunderstandings is that it's punitive, but the goal is restorative. ... The goal is to win someone back, not to kick someone out," he said.

He stressed the need to make sure one is dealing with a violation of Scripture and not judging self-righteously. He also emphasized the need to keep matters as private as possible for as long as possible.

Church planting vision needed, Warren tells DOMs

ATLANTA (ABP)—Starting new churches in the 21st century will require pastors and church planters who have a vision for reproduction, Rick Warren told directors of associational missions during their annual meeting.

"You have to have a vision to plant churches that plant new churches. That has to be built into the DNA of your churches," said Warren, pastor of Saddleback Community Church in Mission Viejo, Calif.—a church that has started 30 new congregations in 20 years.

About 160 members attended the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Associational Missions June 13-14 in Atlanta.

Successfully starting new churches also requires "focused prayer, knowing your target audience and a purpose-driven strategy," Warren said. "Churches are living organisms, and all living organisms grow. If you're not growing, something's wrong. Remove the barriers to growth. Once you remove the barriers, churches begin to grow. The purpose-driven strategy is not about making a big church, but a healthy church."

Further requirements include culturally relevant worship styles, a simple and rapid assimilation process for new members and the use of new technology to attract seekers, he said.

"They also need to be self-governing," Warren noted. "They need the freedom to grow. The mother churches don't know best what the daughter church needs, the daughter church does."

He also advocated that new churches not begin in a "building-dependent" state. "Our church was running 10,000 before we built the first building. When you don't put money into buildings, you have more money for staff and

programs, which are what grow your church anyway."

Finally, Warren said, new churches need what he termed "the faith factor."

"You need leadership that is not afraid to be used by God," he explained. "When I look for a church planter, I look for someone not afraid to fail."

He closed his message with words of encouragement for ministers who think they labor in obscurity. "One of the important things I've learned is that there's a difference between significance and prominence," he said. "We live in a celebrity-driven world. One of the biggest problems in this celebrity-driven world is that people who are serving in relative obscurity think, 'My ministry doesn't matter.'"

"But you are dead wrong," he concluded. "Your ministry does matter. What does matter is that you live for an audience of One."

During the group's Monday business session, members adopted a 1999-2000 budget of \$20,700, a decrease of approximately \$3,900 compared to the 1998-99 budget.

In other business, they elected Edward Copeland, director of missions for the Metro Columbus Baptist Association in Ohio, as president. Also elected as 1999-2000 officers were Don Beall of Puget Sound Baptist Association in Washington, first vice president; Gary Hearon of Dallas Baptist Association in Texas, second vice president; Ernest Sadler of Jackson Baptist Association in Mississippi, secretary; T.O. Spicer of Spring River Baptist Association in Missouri, editor of the conference's newsletter; and James Fortinberry of Greater Orlando Baptist Association in Florida, host director for the group's 2000 annual meeting.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Dan and Peggy Rorabaugh and the Barabaig people group in Tanzania with whom they work.

■ Kevin and Sonya Barnes and the Zaramo people group in Tanzania with whom they work.

■ That an Old Testament professor, a librarian and an English teacher can be hired by the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Tanzania.

■ Andrzej Seweryn, the newly elected president of the Baptist Union of Poland.

■ The 41 volunteer groups from throughout the South that will be working with the New Hampshire Baptist Association this summer.

■ The more than 500 volunteers from across the South who are helping Farmington Baptist Church in Farmington, Maine, build a facility this summer.

■ The Kentucky-Poland missions partnership.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ CORBIN—Acteens Activators of Central Church have returned from the Carver Center in New Orleans where they worked with NAMB missionary Jennifer Fannin of Lexington. Peggy Ballou is Acteen director.

■ ELIZABETHTOWN—Youngers Creek Church recently ordained

Mike Senay, Mike Hillard and Lewis Goodin as deacons. Henry White is pastor.

■ GREENSBURG—Bethlehem Church ordained Rod Keltner to the ministry June 6. Keltner was called to Creston Church, Liberty. Gary Ervin is pastor.

■ HAZARD—Hoge Hockensmith

of Irvine is resident interim pastor at First Church.

■ HENDERSON—James Storm, a native of Henderson and former pastor of Hawesville and First Church, Travelers Rest, S.C., died recently. He was pastor emeritus of Summer-ville Church in Summerville, S.C.

■ LOUISVILLE—Cloverleaf Church will host a live video taping of the Manna Quartet anniversary singing June 26 at 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. Geoff Lacefield is pastor.

Highland Church will honor Betsy Neill, church secretary for 15 years, with a reception June 27 after the 11 a.m. service. Joe Phelps is pastor.

■ SHEPHERDSVILLE—Steve Jenkins, minister to youth at First Church, resigned to become pastor of Providence Church, Fordsville. Richard Lloyd is pastor.

■ TAYLORSVILLE—First Church called Tim Waits as pastor. Waits will begin his ministry July 11. He previously served New Salem Church, Louisville.

Missionary to Mexico, daughter & two summer workers die in ocean mishap

TAPACHULA, Mexico (BP)—A Southern Baptist missionary, his 10-year-old daughter and two summer missionaries died June 18 in a swimming accident on Mexico's southern coast.

Gary Sloan, 37, his daughter, Carla, and summer missionaries John Weems, 21, of Nacogdoches, Texas, and Joy Murphy, 19, of Pelham, Ala., drowned in the ocean near Tapachula, Mexico, where they had gone with Sloan's wife, Gloria, their three other children and three other summer missionaries to celebrate Carla's birthday.

Sloan, Carla and the five summer missionaries were caught in a strong undertow, said Mike McAleer, another Southern Baptist missionary in Mexico. Although the beach was a familiar swimming spot, the waves were especially high.

When the group realized they were in trouble, they struggled to

get back to shore, McAleer said. Carla was overcome by the high surf and knocked from the hands of those who were trying to get her back to the beach.

Sloan, Weems and summer missionaries John Floyd of Crosby, Texas; David Pitts of Wewahatchka, Fla.; and Hannah Carter of Shreveport, La., made it back to shore with Carla's body, but efforts to revive her failed.

At some point, Weems went back into the water to help others get out and was caught in the undertow again, McAleer said. When Sloan saw Weems and Murphy struggling in the water, he went back out to help them. None of them made it back to shore.

Passersby heard the cries for help and tied a rope around one man, who waded out toward the drowning missionaries. The undertow was so strong it not only almost carried him out to sea, but

almost pulled in the people holding the rope on shore.

Weems' body had not been recovered as of midmorning June 19.

The Sloans were appointed as missionaries to Mexico by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board in June 1998. A native of Lufkin, Texas, Sloan was pastor of a Hispanic Baptist church in Crosby, Texas, before his missionary appointment.

They have three other children, Alyssia Lee, born in 1989; Rissa Joy, born in 1992; and Alan David, born in 1995.

Weems was a rising senior studying computer information systems at Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss. Murphy was a rising sophomore at the University of Montevallo in Alabama. They were part of a team of college students who had just arrived to work in a summer evangelism project.

Sloan was assigned as a general

evangelist to Tapachula, the commercial center of a coffee-growing region at the foot of the Chiapas highlands near the Guatemala border in southeast Mexico. Mrs. Sloan, a native of El Salvador, is assigned to work in church and home outreach.

Sloan was a graduate of Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, Texas, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He previously served as a Baptist Student Union semester missionary in Mexico and as pastor of Big Tex Baptist Church, a mission of Oak View Baptist Church in Irving, Texas.

Sloan and his daughter were to have been buried June 21 in Tapachula. The bodies of the two summer missionaries will be returned to the United States.

The three other summer missionaries are returning to the United States.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Resumés are now being accepted for a full-time position as pastor's secretary. Please send resumé to Shively Baptist, 1599 Sadie Lane, Louisville, KY 40216, Attn: Pastor.

SEEKING: Associate pastor. Individual must possess interest in assisting the church in creating new models of ministry and a willingness to have responsibilities directed by developing as well as existing needs. Send resumé to: Associate Pastor Search Committee, Southwest Baptist Church, 6401 Scanlan Ave., St. Louis, MO 63139.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Work with grades 6-12. Contact or send resumé to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Bethel Baptist Church, 8200 Owenton Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. Leave message: (502) 227-7278.

SEEKING: Farmdale Baptist Church at 5610 US Highway 127 South, Frankfort, Ky., is seeking a part-time children and youth minister. If you feel God calling you to this area to work with children, send resumé to: Ms. Bryan, 530 Alfa Drive, Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Rapidly growing Baptist church is seeking a full-time music minister who is experienced in leading choirs and congregational singing. Send resumés to: Mt. Elmira Baptist Church, 3644 Mt. Elmira Road, Shepherdsville, KY 40165, Attn: Pastor.

SEEKING: Activities assistant—weekends. East-end Louisville nursing facility. Saturday, 2-5 p.m.; Sunday, 10-5 p.m. Meadowview Health & Rehab Center. (502) 426-2778.

SEEKING: Associate pastor. Rocky Hock Baptist Church is a rural congregation in northeast North Carolina with 300+ in attendance seeking a full-time associate pastor with primary ministry to youth and children. Seminary degree and some experience is preferred. Send resumé and references to: Jack Evans, RHBC, 113 Rocky Hock Church Road, Edenton, NC 27932.

FOR SALE: 1996 15-passenger Dodge van. Loaded, SLT package, 5.2 V-8 engine. 127,000 miles. \$10,500. Leave message: (502) 692-2110.

SERVICE: Christian person will do weekly mowing. Low rates, dependable service. Mike's Complete Mowing: (502) 254-9313.

NEEDED: Office assistant for the Executive Office of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. This part-time position offers an attractive salary. Word processing skills and secretarial experience necessary. Contact Administrative Services Department in Louisville at (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for 100-plus-member north Hardin County Baptist church. Call (502) 234-9311.

SEEKING: Full-time associate pastor/worship leader. Fairview Baptist Church is experiencing revival, revitalization and growth. We have a contemporary-blended worship style and use a video projection system. We are innovative in our methodology. A seminary degree preferred but not required. Send resumé with photo and references to: Search Task Force, 310 Coles Ferry Pike, Lebanon, TN 37087.

NEEDED: Office secretary for the Leadership Development Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. This full-time position offers competitive compensation package. Word processing skills and extensive secretarial experience necessary. Contact Administrative Services Department in Louisville at (502) 244-6468.

SEEKING: Minister of music, 10-12 hours weekly. Finchville Baptist Church, Shelby County, Ky. Send resumé or information to: PO Box 1, Finchville, KY 40022, Attn: minister of music.

SEEKING: Middletown United Methodist Child Development Center seeks teachers for four-year-old class. Hours: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Low student/teacher ratio, great work environment, benefits, ECE, CDA or at least three years experience in child care preferred. Call Debbie Lochridge at (502) 245-5082 to schedule an interview.

SEEKING: Part-time secretary/bookkeeper. Experience in spreadsheet and word processing required. Flexible hours. Contact West Broadway Baptist Church, 8420 Six Mile Lane, Louisville, KY 40220; (502) 491-1920.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and media who has experience leading choirs, orchestras and congregational singing. Must prefer blended style of worship. Please send resumé to First Baptist Church, PO Box 1140, Fulton, KY 42041, Attn: Pastor.

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.

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).

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

BAPTISTS

Nearly 3,000 decisions result from evangelism effort

ATLANTA (BP)—Nearly 3,000 professions of faith were reported from Crossover Atlanta, the Southern Baptist Convention's annual effort to impact its convention host city with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This year's roster of Crossover events reflected a growing variety of evangelistic activities. In addition to the traditional door-to-door survey teams and block parties for area churches, there also were festival events in a downtown park for kids and teenagers.

Other activities under way during the first week of Crossover included:

- Prayer teams mobilized to pray over the city and Crossover venues.

- Inner-city evangelism teams working in some of the city's most depressed areas.

- Street evangelism teams sharing their faith through entertainment in the park and elsewhere downtown.

The Crossover activities were part of a five-month evangelism, ministry and church-starting effort known as Arms Around Atlanta. The Southern Baptist North American Mission Board and the Georgia Baptist Convention each contributed about \$500,000 toward the project, including funding and other assistance for 24

church plants, special events, a mobile medical clinic, a Habitat for Humanity project and other efforts.

One of the festival concerts was marked by a special emphasis on the Columbine High School massacre in Littleton, Colo., and the spiritual needs leaders said it illustrates among America's youth.

Fourteen-year-old Mike Scott, brother of Littleton victim Rachel Joy Scott, stood with 12 other teens holding large wooden crosses on the concert stage as thousands of teens were on their knees to pray for themselves, their leaders and their country.

Darrell Scott, Rachel's father, said he has lost 15 pounds in the weeks since Rachel's death, but credits God with taking care of his family and providing peace and grace. "I will never again take my children for granted," Scott said. "Communicate with (your children). Love them and spend time with them. You never know when you are going to lose a loved one. 'Love one another,' that's what the Lord said. Love. It may be the last time."

By far the largest number of professions of faith came as a result of the Inner-City Evangelism team, a group of trained street evangelists sponsored by the North American Mission Board. That team reported more than 1,300 professions of faith during its first week.

Because of delays in reconciling all of the decision cards and telephone reports, not all of those decisions were included in the 3,000 decisions reported by Crossover leaders.

The block parties, a standby of Crossover events for years, reflected the diversity of Atlanta, with events targeted for internationals and African-Americans, urban teens and sub-



urban boomers.

One of the largest such events this year was held in the parking lot of a farmer's market in an area of town noted for its large international population. Shoppers

were offered hot dogs and traditional Korean food, and trained witnesses spoke with them about their relationship with Christ.

A mobile clinic of the Baptist Mobile Health Ministry, sponsored by the Georgia Baptist Convention, also was on-site offering free medical and dental services.

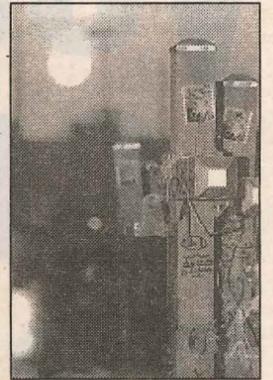
A Chinese couple stopped by the market on a trip to Atlanta from North Carolina, recounted NAMB employee David Lee. "They had heard about Christ, but never been invited to church," he said. "They made a decision today. It's wonderful."

In the northern suburbs, James Weatherly, pastor of River's Edge Baptist Church in Duluth, said its block party helped raise the profile of the congregation. "It has the potential to bring you right into the community," he said. "You don't have to wait for them to come to you."

The most popular Crossover events in terms of local-church participation were the door-to-door surveys. More than 25 churches sponsored organized efforts to survey residents on spiritual needs and beliefs and to share their own Christian faith.

The team of Tegga Lendado and Jerry Atkins found their difference in color got people's attention in an area where people from varied races and ethnic groups live in the same neighborhoods.

"It made them interested," said Lendado, pastor of Ethiopian Bible Church, a Southern Baptist congregation that is part of Clarkston Baptist Church in metro Atlanta.



CROSSOVER ATLANTA
■ Top left: Mac Power, lead singer for the Christian band Third Day, encourages thousands of teens and adults to sing praise songs during a concert June 12 in Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park. **■ Top right:** The sun sets on one of 13 crosses commemorating the lives of the Columbine High School teens and a teacher killed by fellow students in Littleton, Colo. The crosses were displayed during the concert.

■ Middle left: Becky Hobson of Oologah, Okla., shares her faith aboard Atlanta's rail transportation system. **■ Bottom left:** Craig Scott, 16, of Littleton, Colo., speaks during the Sunday morning worship at Olympic Park. His sister, Rachel, 17, was one of 13 teens and a teacher killed at Columbine High School.

■ Bottom right: A young Atlanta resident named David prays to accept Christ as his personal Savior during a block party. (BP photos by Jim Yates, Bob Carey, Kent Harville and Bill Bangham)



Boy dies during Crossover party

ATLANTA (BP)—The son of an Atlanta pastor died June 12 while playing basketball at a block party sponsored by his father's church in conjunction with Crossover Atlanta evangelistic efforts of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Kristen Jarrod Henderson, 13, collapsed about 2 p.m. at the party at Atlanta's Coan Park. His father, Marty Henderson, pastor of Mount

Zion Second Baptist Church, said the medical examiner's office reported Kristen died after suffering two heart attacks resulting from an undetectable pinched valve in his heart.

Henderson asked that people pray for the family members, who are "up and down" in coping, and to pray "for young people everywhere to understand the brevity of life."

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