

PRactical RESOURCES FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

WESTERN RECORDER

July 13, 1999
Vol. 173, No. 27

FOR THE RECORD

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

The group's annual meeting in Birmingham emphasizes fellowship and forgiveness. *Page 2.*

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Church raising

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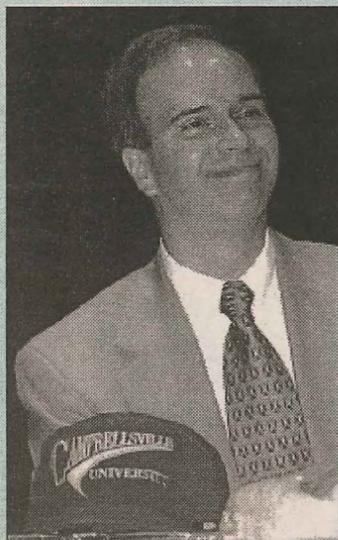
Slain pastor

Greenville's Joey Vincent is remembered for his influence. *Page 7.*

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NEW PRESIDENT Mike Carter

Campbellsville hires Carson-Newman provost as new president

By Marc Whitt
Campbellsville University

CAMPBELLSVILLE—Campbellsville University's board of trustees unanimously selected the second-ranking administrator for Carson-Newman College in Tennessee to be Campbellsville's 10th president.

Mike Carter, 44, will assume his new duties Aug. 1, said Larry Noe, chairman of Campbellsville's board and chairman for the school's committee to find a replacement for Ken Winters, who retired this spring.

"We knew from the beginning of our search process that finding someone to fill the shoes of Ken Winters as president was going to be an awesome task," said Noe. "But we genuinely believe that God has led us to that person. Michael Carter will take our institution to the next level."

Carter has worked 14 years with Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn. There he has served as provost and vice president for academic affairs since 1989, making him Carson-Newman's second-highest ranking administrative officer.

His primary responsibilities were overseeing the Tennessee Baptist institution's academic program, its faculty and all academic support services including the college's library and academic computing area. Carter also was responsible for enrollment services and taught sociology.

"The trustees at Campbellsville are most impressed with Dr. Carter's passion for Christian higher education, his love of students and his desire to build on the successes experienced by Campbellsville University these past 11 years," Noe said.

Before being promoted to his
□ See Campbellsville ..., page 7

Teen moms find haven in Nicholasville

By Frances Fighart
State Correspondent

NICHOLASVILLE—Some of the teenage mothers staying at the All God's Children home in Nicholasville come from backgrounds that few people could imagine. Take Joni, for example.

As a little girl, she was burned in a house fire that left her in a coma for six months. Upon waking, she learned that her father had died in the fire. Joni endured 29 surgeries in the next eight years, then followed in the footsteps of her mother by becoming pregnant and homeless.

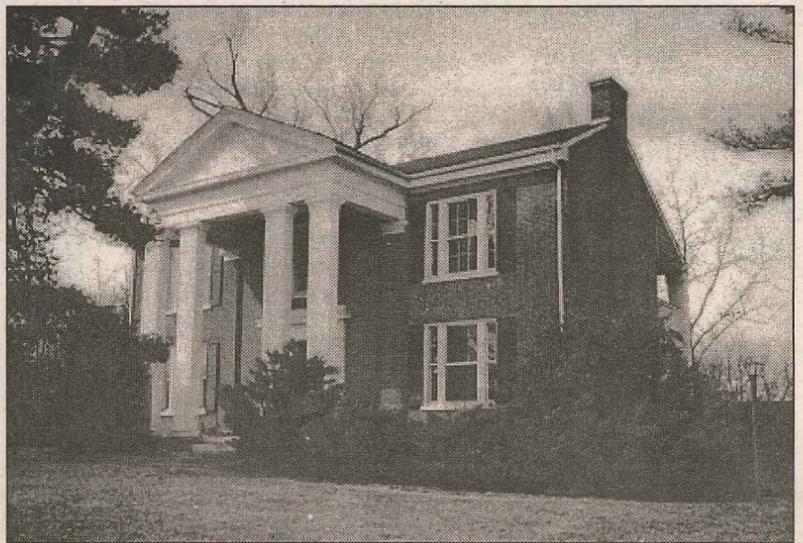
Joni was the first resident of All God's Children Mother-Baby Home in Nicholasville. She's one of four teenage mothers who live in an historic 1840s mansion that has been converted into a peaceful and safe place for young women to raise their children while learning parenting skills and preparing for life on their own.

"There are very few places like this in the state," said Pam Smith, who, along with husband, Karl, founded All God's Children in 1996.

The Smiths, members of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, opened the mother-baby home in March. "The girls, who come here with no family support, love the home and the family atmosphere it provides," Mrs. Smith said.

Not always the picturesque architectural landmark it is today, the colonial home was rescued from a motorcycle gang in the 1980s and converted into a bed and breakfast, which made it a perfect fit for use by All God's Children.

The mansion boasts 14 decorated rooms and is licensed by the state as a



HOME SAFE HOME This 1840s mansion in Nicholasville now houses All God's Children, a residence home for teenage moms. The home was rescued from a motorcycle gang in the 1980s and converted into a bed and breakfast, which made it a perfect fit for the ministry. The facility can house up to 16 mothers and children. (Photo by Frances Figart)

child-caring facility that can house up to 16 mothers and children.

Bedrooms have attached verandas, bathrooms and ample closets. The spacious kitchen is stocked by a volunteer food service coordinator, Becky Ross, also from Porter Memorial, who creates meal plans which the residents follow to cook for themselves and their babies. A house staff has separate quarters and provides around-the-clock supervision.

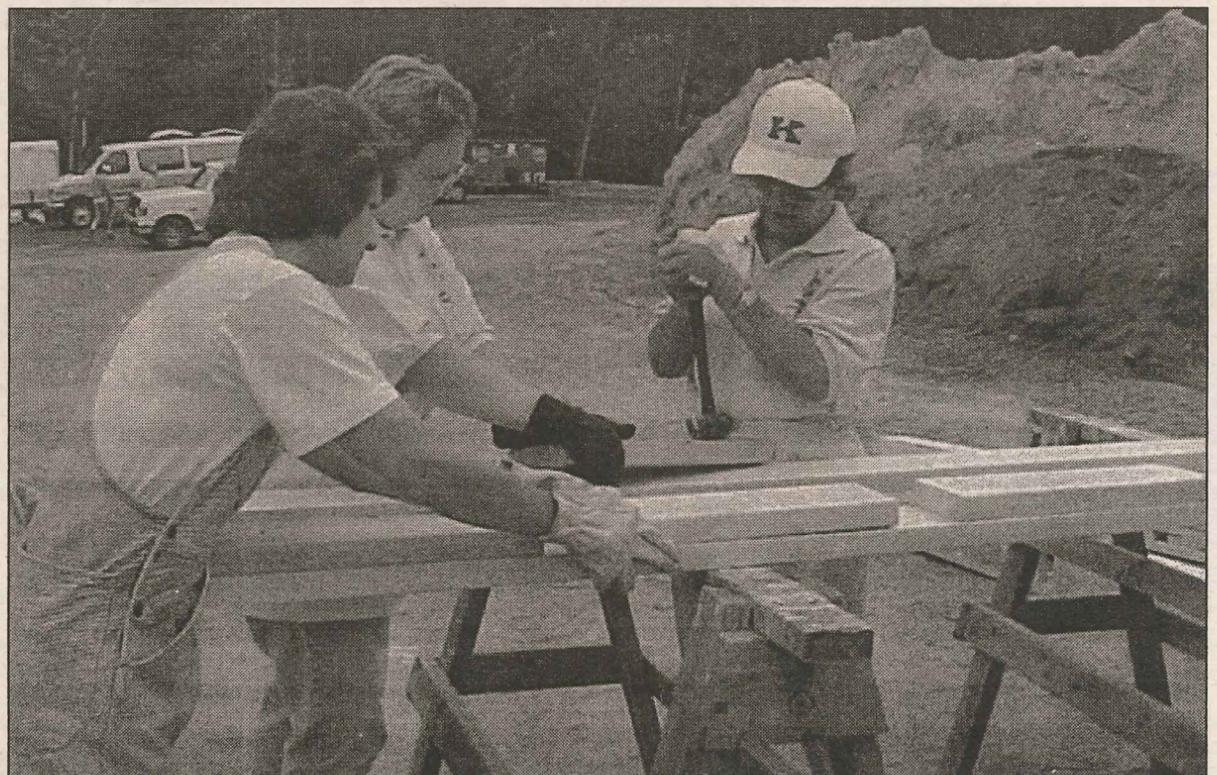
The girls, who are in the state's custody, are required to attend school or be progressing toward a GED. On Tuesday nights, they attend an in-house 16-week parenting class, then a 16-week independent living class. Topics include everything from child safety to cooking. They also learn crafts and attend educational and con-

fidence-building workshops outside the residence.

The Smiths opened their own house in Nicholasville for teenage mothers through the AA Pregnancy Crisis Center in Lexington for the past eight years. Girls lived with the Smiths until the teenagers had their babies. They left, either to begin parenting or to put the child up for adoption.

"My girls would leave us and still get into problems, trying to work two or three jobs or living in very poor conditions," Mrs. Smith recalled. "I had to step in several times and help them out, so that kept urging me on that there needed to be a crisis shelter (where) they could get things in line and not just be cast out there."

When the girls "weren't coming fast
□ See Nicholasville ministry ..., page 8



KENTUCKY BUILDERS Three members from First Baptist Church of Paducah work on the new office and training center for the Baptist Convention of New England in Northborough, Mass. The church sent a team of 42 members to the construction project, June 21-25. "We have had a busy summer and it's not over yet," said Dana Stairs. The church also is sending a team of 37 students and young adults to Houston this month for evangelism, missions and vacation Bible school, she said.

BAPTISTS

Fellowship focuses on community & future at assembly

"The only effective churches will be the ones that understand, practice, celebrate and nurture Christian community,"
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship leader Daniel Vestal

By Bob Allen
Associated Baptist Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)—In 1990, unsuccessful Southern Baptist Convention presidential candidate Daniel Vestal called for a consultation of interested Baptists to discuss options in light of moderates' increasing disenfranchisement in the SBC.

The meeting, held in Atlanta, drew 3,000 people and was the first step in formation of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

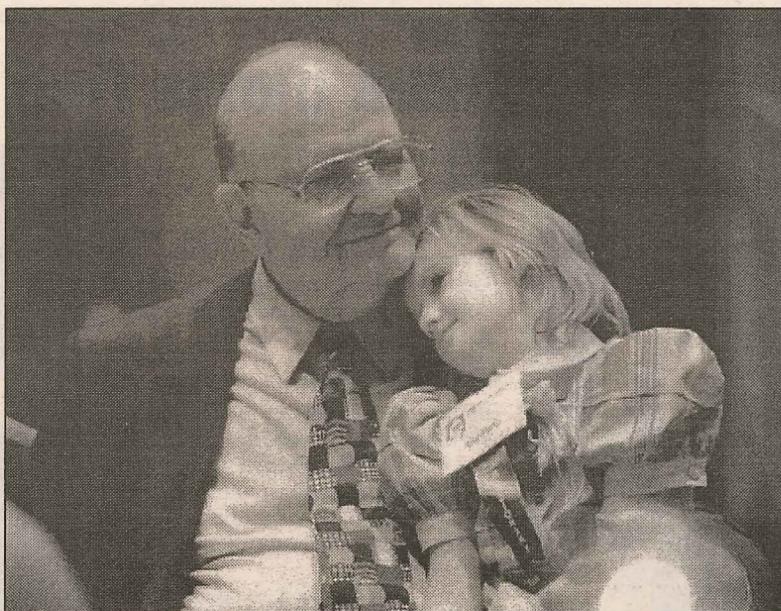
Nine years later, Vestal, now coordinator of the Atlanta-based Fellowship, addressed a similar-sized crowd in Birmingham, Ala. The mood, however, has changed.

Vestal called on participants in the Fellowship's June 24-26 General Assembly to "nurture community" in the coming year, following a focus on spirituality that guided the Fellowship's planning the past year.

"I don't know the shape or form the church in the 21st century will take, but I believe with all my heart that the only effective churches will be the ones that understand, practice, celebrate and nurture Christian community," Vestal said in his annual address to the group. "I don't know all that CBF will become, but I believe with all my heart that we will not become what God intends unless we nurture, celebrate and practice Christian community."

Moderator John Tyler echoed Vestal's call for community and lauded the Fellowship's forward-looking stance. "We are a people living in the present with eyes fixed firmly on the future," Tyler said. "Brothers and sisters, this is your home. These people are your extended community."

Meeting participants were invited to "shape the future" of the Fellowship by gathering in small groups to assess strengths, challenges and priorities for the CBF. Their responses will be used in a strategic ministry plan due to be developed during the next 12 months and presented to the Gen-



RETIREMENT CELEBRATION Keith Parks, global missions coordinator for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, was recognized with a retirement banquet during the group's annual meeting in Birmingham, June 21. In addition to praise and tributes, the CBF announced the establishment of the "R. Keith Parks Global Scholarship Fund." The fund, which now totals \$70,000 in contributions, will support training for Christian leaders in parts of the world that are not reached by the gospel. "Contrary to popular opinion, you're not here to view the body," quipped Parks, who will move from Atlanta to Richardson, Texas, and focus on writing, speaking and traveling. "We're still going to be kicking." Parks, shown here holding granddaughter Noel, also will help the CBF Foundation identify and develop financial resources. (CBF photo by Mark Sandlin)

eral Assembly next year, said John Brantley, an Athens, Ga., consultant hired to guide the process.

Registration totaled 2,452 early in the meeting, although officials said some didn't register and estimated that 3,400 attended the opening session.

Tyler, a retired communications executive from St. Louis, completed his one-year term as moderator by presiding over the General Assembly. Sarah Frances Anders, an emeritus professor at Louisiana College, who was elected last year as moderator-elect, will succeed him. This year's General Assembly chose Donna Forrester as new moderator-elect, to preside in the year 2001. Forrester, minister of pastoral care and counseling at First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C., will become the fifth woman to serve as the Fellowship's presiding officer in 10 years.

In a light business session, participants approved a \$15.5 million budget for 1999-2000. It anticipates \$8.7 million in undesignated gifts and \$5.1 million through the Fellowship's annual Global Missions Offering. The budget is 5 percent higher than this year's spending plan, said David Currie, chairman of the finance task group of the Fellowship's Coordinating Council.

Currie said finances this year are 8 percent above budget, but most of that is due to a 12 percent increase in the Global Missions Offering and a special appeal for Kosovo relief that pushed designated gifts up 39 percent. Funds for general operation are only 1 percent ahead of budget, he said.

Currie said the main reason the national budget hasn't grown in recent years is expansion of state and regional networks, several of which now have full-time staff. He said that is good for the long-range health of the organization but has placed limits on missions work. "We are not doing

many things I believe God wants us to do," Currie said.

Currie said he believes, however, there is a potential for the Fellowship to reach many new churches. "If there are 37,000 churches that relate to the name Southern Baptist—as we still do—the vast, vast majority of the people in those churches would be more comfortable here than they would be in Atlanta," Currie said, referring to the site of this year's SBC meeting, the week before.

"We are the real Baptists," he added.

In other business, the Fellowship appointed eight career and eight short-term missionaries, bringing the total CBF missionary force to 125. In his last report as global missions coordinator, Keith Parks called the Fellowship's use of both career and volunteer missionaries "the best opportunity I know of in Christendom today" for the local church to be free in "shaping its own mission and yet not being isolated and taking on the world by itself."

Parks, who took early retirement as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and became the Fellowship's first global missions coordinator in 1993. A search committee had hoped to announce his successor in Birmingham but was unable to meet that goal, said committee chairman Sanford Smith.

The General Assembly acted on one motion made from the floor. Lynn Wardell, one of four people to resign last year from the Friends of New Churches board of directors after failing in an effort to fire the executive director, sought to restrict the organization to using the \$152,000 it will receive next year from the CBF only for grants to churches. A breakout session for business discussed the motion for an hour before voting against it, 27-21.

Vestal: Forgive

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)—The coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship urged members to forgive the people responsible for the "takeover" of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Daniel Vestal, who heads CBF as its paid director, made his remarks about forgiveness during his address to about 3,400 people at the opening session of the CBF General Assembly in Birmingham, Ala.

"Let me say that by God's grace we as a fellowship must have a forgiving spirit to those who planned and performed the takeover of the SBC," Vestal said.

"Those who fired professors and presidents, changed the character of institutions and to this day falsely accuse us of all kinds of practices—we must offer forgiveness."

CBF was formed in 1991, largely as a reaction to the conservative rise in the SBC.

"This does not mean that we forget what they did or pretend that it did not happen," Vestal said. "This does not mean that we give up our conscience or convictions and keep silent in the face of injustice. But it does mean that in the words of Roberta Bondi we do not seek revenge and that we genuinely seek the welfare of those who harm us. We incarnate the mind and heart of Christ, who prayed for those who were crucifying him, 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.'"

The topic of Vestal's address was nurturing community, the theme of this year's assembly. Forgiveness is one of the three ingredients needed for nurturing Christian community, he said.

Forgiveness is needed within families and within the body of Christ, he said. Moderate Baptists "tend toward being critical and caustic of each other," he said.

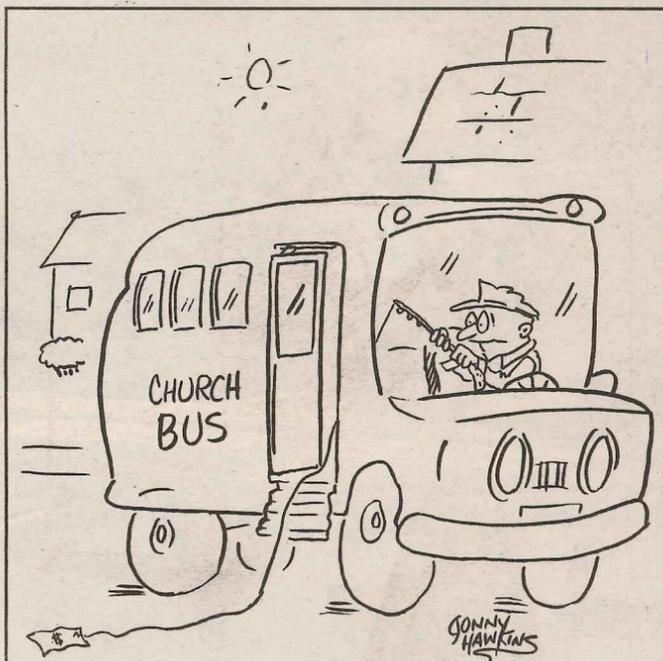
"Some of us are grouchy. Others of us are compulsive and competitive. Still others of us are tentative and timid. And none of us is perfect," he said. "We are at different places on the journey, so let us do toward each other what St. Paul admonishes, 'Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you.'"

The other ingredients for nurturing Christian community are conversation, and music and ritual, he said. People should talk with one another in a spirit of respect, honesty and trust, he said. The goal of conversation should be authentic relationship, he said.

Music and ritual are found wherever authentic community occurs, he added.



Vestal



When members of Second Avenue Church become fishers of men, they use live bait.

30 years after arson, integrated church forges on

By Tim Whitmire
Associated Press

LEXINGTON (AP)—Thirty years ago, when Trinity Baptist Church was destroyed by fire, members say the lawn in front of the church became so hot that snakes slithered out of the ground to escape.

Grounds once graced by oaks, evergreens, magnolia and dogwoods were strewn with ash. Only a solitary purple plum tree was left standing.

On a warm Sunday last month, members gathered on that lawn to plant a second purple plum. They prayed, giving thanks that their church, one of the first and only integrated congregations in Lexington, has survived the fire and the years since.

"We're here to remember that God hasn't called on us to quit, but to keep going," said the current pastor, Jay Robison.

"I thank you for the ground that Trinity has stood on: for breaking the segregation barrier," prayed Cedric Boaz, a black man and deacon of the church.

"We thank you that Trinity was a church that scared people and made them mad," added Sharyn Dowd, a white church member and professor at Lexington Theological Seminary who soon will begin a job at Baylor University in Texas.

The firebombing that destroyed Trinity's modern, A-frame sanctuary and an attached educational wing early on the morning of June 14, 1969, has never been solved. To this day, theories abound as to why the church was burned.

Many congregants believe Trinity was attacked because it was integrated. Some believe whites burned the

church, others that it was the work of blacks. And some believe the blaze was retaliation for the outspoken views of the church's pastor, the late Bob Brown, on the need for church-state separation.

All agree, however, that Trinity's survival is more important than the identity or motive of the arsonist.

Whites and blacks, men and women, hold seats on Trinity's board of deacons. The church's youth minister, Chuck Fletcher, is black.

In a city with a 12 percent black population, Robison estimates that 20 percent of his congregation is black, along with a handful of Hispanic members.

"It's the most truly integrated church I know of," said former member Tony Curtsinger, who gave the invocation at the June 13 commemoration service. "I think you'd find that in the majority of churches, we have a tendency to segregate ourselves, not only by color, but by money and other things."

Started in 1947 on what were then the eastern outskirts of Lexington, Trinity developed a progressive identity under the leadership of Brown, who took charge in 1958.

Trinity reached out with programs for the poor, the blind, the handicapped and the mentally retarded. Brown held summertime "Come As You Are—Sit in Your Car" services in a shopping center parking lot. He spread his liberal religious and political views on radio and television and was active in state educational politics.

Though Kentucky never experienced the civil rights-era turmoil that rocked states like Alabama, Mississippi and Arkansas, Lexington was as segregated as any Deep South city.

Starting in the mid-1960s, "Brother Bob" decided to try to change that.

"He just felt it was the Lord's will," Brown's widow, Helen Brown, said. "He was before his time."

The church was burned shortly after Brown began advocating a bus ministry that would transport black residents who wanted to attend Trinity services but did not own cars.

Investigators said the way the building exploded, ignited by a Molotov cocktail, indicated a carefully planned attack, with at least one person, if not more, spreading flammable materials inside the church before setting it afire.

Though some in the black community were angry over Brown's attempt to attract black worshippers, Mrs. Brown said she believes Trinity was burned by whites.

"I think that the church was burned by an agitator that was concerned about all Lexington integration," she said.

But the fire became a rallying point for many of the church's members.

"It was a disaster, but we came out of it stronger," Mrs. Brown said.

Members who spoke at this month's service agreed.

"I was a new Christian, and I got a lesson about what the church was," said one. "The people standing on the hill that morning (after the fire) was the church."

"God is in us, we are the body of Christ, and the body of Christ will never be destroyed," said another.

Services continued at a school while Trinity rebuilt, opening its current building in 1971.

Brown proceeded with his bus ministry. In the early 1970s, the church sometimes brought in more than 300 Sunday worshippers from Lexington's East End.

Boaz, now 33, rode the Trinity buses as a child.

"Brother Bob, he always preached about it and he always strived for it, the integration," he said. "He guided the church to that ministry. The church willingly and freely supported him and reached out."

The years since have not always been easy. There were financial problems, stemming from faulty construction of the new building and a failed lawsuit against its builder.

In 1980, Bob Brown died of a heart attack, while speaking in Louisville.

Earlier this decade, a number of the church's leaders, including Curtsinger, left Trinity to start a new church. Though motivated by evangelism, and not dissatisfaction with Trinity, their defection caused membership to dip.

The new pastor said he hopes to revive the spirit Trinity enjoyed in its heyday under Brown. With Fletcher, he attends meetings of Lexington's Black Church Coalition. He is tinkering with the service liturgy and music, trying to make it more racially and culturally inclusive. Even the fire commemoration, he said, was aimed at reviving some of the church's can-do spirit.

Attendance at Sunday services is up slightly, to more than 300 worshippers, but that remains well below the peak of 800 to 1,000 in the Brown years.

Robison said Trinity is positioned to meet the future of a more racially and culturally diverse America.

"For folks who are un-churched, I think they can say, 'You Christians say God created everyone, and yet there's not inclusivity there,'" he said. "We can say, 'At least we're striving.'"

Used by permission of Associated Press

The church was burned shortly after Pastor Bob Brown began advocating a bus ministry that would transport black residents who wanted to attend Trinity services but did not own cars.

Mission team gives Gamaliel church new home

By Chris Poynter
Louisville Courier-Journal

GAMALIEL, KY.—Last week, it was a grassy lot atop a hill in the town of Gamaliel. Today, a new church—built in just one week by 117 Southern Baptist missionaries from Alabama—sits there, crowned with a gleaming white steeple.

The old-fashioned church raising began June 18 and ended yesterday, with a new home for Gamaliel Baptist, a congregation established in 1882 that has outgrown its current building but didn't have enough money for a new one.

"This is an answered prayer," Brother Danny Pace, pastor of the congregation, said Thursday as he stood inside the new sanctuary, where the smell of freshly sawed wood lingered. "Some folks have been praying for seven, eight, nine years for this."

The Chilton Baptist Builders, a mission group from Chilton County, Ala., heard about Gamaliel's needs and drove to Kentucky in a bus and several church vans, carrying saws, hammers, sleeping bags and Bibles. Each year, the group picks a community in the United States that needs a new church, then

builds it. The labor is volunteer; the congregation getting the new building buys the construction material.

In Gamaliel, a town of 400, the volunteers took over two nearby hotels and the local elementary school, where the gym became sleeping quarters for many of the men. The women used the kitchen to prepare the meals. The crews worked from 6:45 each morning until evening.

The new church—including a sanctuary that seats 300, 14 classrooms and a fellowship hall—isn't complete yet. The Chilton Builders framed the facility, wired it, installed windows, then roofed it. The inside will be finished by other mission groups in the coming months, and the congregation hopes to move in by Thanksgiving, Pace said.

The Chilton Builders was founded 15 years ago by S.O. Easterling.

"To put it plain, I'm a re-born alcoholic," Easterling, 71, said on Thursday, taking a break after lunch. "In 1981, the Lord turned by life around. I promised him if he would rid me of alcohol, I'd do whatever he called me to do."

Easterling, a carpenter for 50 years, gathered 13 people who traveled to Granger, Wyo., in 1984 to remodel a church for its first project.

The group has since grown to include retirees, teachers, housewives, business owners, electricians and construction workers—all of whom pay their own expenses and take vacation days to join the annual June mission.

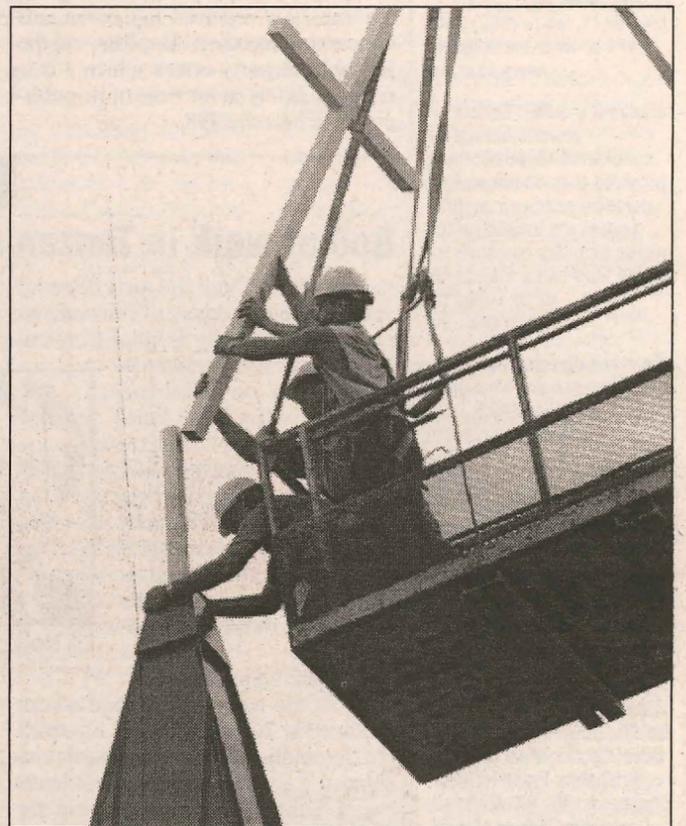
The group has built churches in a big city (Milwaukee) and in tiny communities (St. James, Mo.). "That was the smallest town we've ever been in," Easterling said last week with a grin. "The 'Welcome' and 'Leaving' was on the same sign."

This week, as the men were building with wood, the women were making their own creations—three meals a day served under a large blue and white tent. The feasts were fit for a Southerner—grits, eggs and biscuits for breakfast, a bit of everything else for lunch and dinner. There were hundreds of gallons of iced tea and countless cans of cola.

Easterling, who has since turned over administration of the mission to others, said he's proud of what the builders have accomplished.

"It's amazing to me what come out of a drunk life," he said. "I never dreamed it would turn out like this."

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LOOKING UP Burr Heaton (left) a foreman for Campbellville Industries, steadies the lift bucket as Pastor Chris Reiber (center) mechanic Billy Beard place the cross atop the new steeple at Lexington's Broadway Baptist Church. The new two-ton structure replaces the one a windstorm destroyed about six months ago. (Lexington Herald-Leader photo by D'Art Lykins)

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

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Shame, not cheers

The language of Richard Land should shame caring Christians rather than be applauded "with cheers," as noted in the Pastor's Conference article. Should we be asked to "pray for America until Bill Clinton is no longer president?"

Whatever happened to the scriptural imperative to lift up our leadership in prayer? If the fundamentalist SBC leaders really do not like the president, perhaps they should be asking God to bless the man and turn his mind in a different direction.

Is Land so angry that good judgment has deserted him? I find the public comments about Barry Lynn very offensive, and certainly unworthy of a representative of the SBC. What a mucky, angry, unholy remark it is to assert that Lynn is "in bed with the liberal wing of the Democratic Party without the benefit of matrimony." Sounds like Land's aggression and anger is overflowing! He seems to prefer a course of behavior and debate as a person with "a mean streak," as he describes himself. So sad! Another angry fundamentalist brimming over with anger instead of joy and grace.

*Phil Stromowsky
Louisville*

Depressing bias

It is depressing that certain denominational news coverage of my ERLC report during the 1999 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta that discussed biased and slanted reporting revealed a similar bias and lack of balance.

The authors of this news article failed to contact me for a response to Barry Lynn's use of an earlier New York Times story that inaccurately and incompletely reported my comments concerning Southern Baptists and the Republican party-errors which I corrected publicly at the time of its publication in March 1998.

As I explained at the time and during my report in Atlanta, if the Republican Party wants the support of Southern Baptists they need to marry our convictions, our beliefs and our values. In other words, they need to follow the example of Abraham Lincoln and hardwire their platform and positions to the pro-life and pro-family causes as Lincoln did to the anti-slavery cause at the party's birth in the mid-1850s.

The emphasis of my criticism of CNN during my report to the Convention was that they stacked the deck against conservatives by having a liberal moderator and a liberal public policy professional, Barry Lynn, up against a courageous, good-hearted, conservative pastor in a national news show the week of the convention. In setting up such a scenario, Lynn was free to misrepresent my positions without my being there to refute him.

Imagine my surprise to find that I received similar treatment from my own denomination's state papers who allowed Barry Lynn to refute me and cite an erroneous New York Times article and not give me an opportunity in the same space to set the record straight. Call me naïve, but I still expect fairer treatment from our own denomination's state papers than from CNN and its liberal and secular bias.

*Richard D. Land
Nashville*

Look at the facts

Relative to the article, "Anti-Fellowship movement leader asked to stop, apologize," in the June 29 issue of the

What are you thinking?

The Western Recorder considers letters on any subject for publication, provided they don't make a personal attack. The maximum length for a letter is 300 words. Baptist Forum is limited to Western Recorder subscribers, unless someone is responding to a story or editorial of which they are the subject. Submit by mail, Box 43969, Louisville, Ky. 40253; fax, (502) 244-6474; or e-mail, wesrec@ntr.net.

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

God at work in Tanzania

I recently had the privilege of spending eight days in Tanzania as part of a Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership missions team. Also on the team were my wife, Kay; Partnership Missions Associate Ken Murphy and his wife, Robbie; and Tony Brown, pastor of First Baptist Church of Whitesburg. I think we all experienced an extraordinary work of the Holy Spirit through this endeavor.

One of the primary missions of the team was to lead a conference for 200 pastors and lay leaders. International Mission Board missionary Ralph Boyle and local leaders in Tukuyu had been praying for God to send revival to their church leaders. They had felt led to schedule a conference for this time and had just begun to make plans when Ralph unexpectedly had to return to the United States because of health issues.

He was away for three months and did not get to return to Tanzania until he traveled in with our team. He later confessed that although he had prayed for revival he did not think it would come at this time.



Bill Mackey

Local leaders and an International Service Corps couple had completed the earthly preparations for the conference, and the Holy Spirit had prepared the hearts of those who would attend.

To attend, participants paid a fee that would cover their food, give them a place to sleep on a mat on the floor and pay for bath water for five days. Many arrived on foot after walking many miles.

It was obvious from the very first service that God was at work. Five people were saved in the church where I preached Sunday morning, including the community leader. By noon Monday there was a tremendous response to the call to pray for the churches.

Western Recorder, I believe was biased in support of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. It appears to me that Bob Allen with Associated Baptist Press, has phrased his statements throughout the article to put the CBF in the best light possible.

Anyone who has followed the CBF since its inception and has realistically reviewed its programs and the statements of the leadership cannot fail to give support for Roger Moran's article. When the cold light of truth is cast upon liberals, they can deny and camouflage their words and positions with the most talented experts. As Speaker of the House Sam Raburn used to say, "Look at the facts," and the facts support Moran's position paper.

Once again I must ask, "Why is the Kentucky Western Recorder," affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, bound and compelled to print so much information from the communications of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship?"

*Lawrence H. Langford
Cincinnati*

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FAMILY

Simple Y2K precautions will have you ready

By Don Spencer

Much has been said and written about potential problems that might occur at the turn of the millennium. There are endless lists of preposterous conclusions and speculations.

Unfortunately, many in the Christian media have sensationalized the Y2K issue in illogical ways. There always have been prophets of doom who try to fit every imaginable world event into Scripture, often causing panic and undue concern among the family of faith. Many of their conclusions have no basis in fact or Scripture.

It is impossible to predict whether there will be serious disruptions due to the Y2K (or year 2000) "bug" or whether the results will only be minor glitches. I believe the latter. Any problems that occur should be resolved quickly during the first few weeks of 2000. Most major companies, banks, mutual funds, etc. are or will be Y2K compliant by this summer. The financial services industry is probably one of the best prepared industries for Y2K.

What should you do personally regarding Y2K and your finances? Take simple precautions. In late 1999, be certain to get and keep printed copies of bank statements, mutual fund statements, retirement plan statements, etc. Once you get statements in 2000, check them for accuracy. This is nothing new. You should be doing this every month.

It also would be a good idea to check your Social Security earnings records. This is something that should be done about every three years, regardless of Y2K. You can obtain a form to get this report by calling (800) 772-1213 or you can request it using their Web site, www.ssa.gov. Do not wait until you are close to retirement to check this. If there are discrepancies, contact your Social Security office.

Avoid being caught up in the illogical speculation and sensationalism related to Y2K. Possibly the most radical thing you might do is have a little extra cash on hand before the end of December. The U.S. Federal Reserve has anticipated this and has been increasing the supply of paper money available.

Remember that God views time differently than we do (2 Peter 3:8). Calendars, decades and millenniums are part of man's creation. Keep these and God's teachings regarding eternity in perspective.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annuity department



Meaning & purpose help family members cope with aging

Q. What can I say to my frail grandmother when she refuses to talk about dying?

In this period of your grandmother's life, she might be forced to face herself as never before. Perhaps she feels as though the escape hatches are closed. Some people in such situations are in a wheelchair or confined to a room, dependent, seemingly separated from life outside, seemingly useless and just taking up space, time and money. They sometimes dwell more and more on this final condition before death, and some seniors become depressed over their boredom, grief, anger and despair.

If your grandmother is living in the situation just described, here are some suggestions that might be helpful:

- Review your grandmother's life with her. Let her reflect on the meaning and purpose of her life.
- Work to help her heal negative memories and celebrate the positive. Help her realize she has made a difference.
- Listen more than talk. Let her say what she needs to say with minimal interpretation. She has a right to feel the way she does.
- Learn about pain and loss. Understand how they affect older people.
- Help her continue to have wants and needs. Help her to see the positive. Find ways to use her time, and see if each day she can find a way to do something for someone. This might take some creativity.
- Keep a journal of what she is going through and how she is coping. This might bring her awareness of life apart from the day to day focus. Read it to her periodically; particularly, the encouraging times.—*Jon Rainbow*

Q. How can I teach my children to enjoy reading?

Reading opens doors to learning, enjoyment and relaxation, and it increases the chance for success in almost any field of endeavor. Reading provides relief from the assault of sound and images and helps children learn to focus.

- Read to your children, especially when they are young. Make bedtime stories a regular routine. Take books on trips and read aloud in the car. (Research shows reading to children as one of two factors most highly associated with academic success.)
- Take regular trips to the library. Children will enjoy using their own library cards to "rent" books, as my daughter used to say. If your church has a library or media center, make a stop part of your Sunday schedule. Browse bookstores when you're out shopping.
- Consider an incentive program. Most libraries offer summer reading programs that include recognition and prizes. If not, put one together of your own.
- Give books as gifts or as rewards for special achievements. Children will enjoy building a set of special books, such as the "Junior Illustrated Classics."
- Set a good example. Let your children see you reading. Talk about the enjoyment a good book brings and the ways books help you with work, hobbies or other interests. Treat books with respect and care.
- Children might choose books that interest them but that are beyond their reading level. Books that are too difficult will discourage young readers. Carol Santa, president of the International Reading Association, recommends the five finger test. If a child reads 100 words and there are five words they can't read, the book is too hard and should be read aloud instead. Always be aware of content and subject matter. Teach children to choose wisely.—*David Garrard*

Family Forum writers are David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; Susan Howell, assistant professor of psychology at Campbellsville University; 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.



How well are we praying these days?

If we polled church members, asking, "What's the most important thing you do as a Christian?" far too few of us would rank prayer even near the top.

If we get honest, we must admit to placing more emphasis on attending church, tithing, teaching Sunday school or some activity other than spending a prolonged time in conversation with our Maker.

More and more people, however, are pointing us back toward prayer as the most vital ingredient for a successful congregation, ministry or personal relationship with God.

Ask Jim Cymbala, pastor of Brooklyn Tabernacle Church in New York. In his book, "Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire," Cymbala writes that he judges the strength of his congregation more by participation in the weekday prayer meeting than by attendance on Sunday morning. His book, quoted often at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism conference this year, chronicles miraculously changed lives and the growth of that congregation. It is a case study in how God responds to Christians who spend extended time in prayer.

Ask Henry Blackaby, author of the "Experiencing God" Bible study. He writes of how God speaks to Christians through prayer. He turns around the modern call to action, encouraging us, "Don't just do something. Sit there." By that he asks that we get into an intimate relationship with God and recognize that God can do so much more working through our lives than we could ever do on our own.

Ask Billy Graham. Baptists' most famous evangelist always says that what he wants most from supporters is prayer. Parkinson's Disease has weakened his body so much that it takes a golf cart to get him through the large arenas where he speaks. His sermons are good, but his straightforward presentation of the gospel is not that different than what most of us hear on a typical Sunday. But when he stands to preach, he says, a newfound strength arrives. And when he's finished speaking, people respond in droves to his call to accept God's forgiveness. Ask Graham why and he'll credit the work of prayer warriors all around the world.

Ask our missionaries. When I worked for the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, I knew mission-

aries who were as excited as little kids at Christmas because they and their ministries were highlighted during the Week of Prayer for Home Missions. One missionary postpones major decisions until her birthday, when thousands of Baptists are praying for her.

A friend of mine is a former missionary to an African nation. He credits prayer on his birthday for keeping his daughter safe when her car ran off the road. Today that daughter serves as a Baptist worker among an unreached, predominately Muslim people group. My friend recently visited his daughter. During a prayer walk he learned the people group has more than 50,000 members and only two identified Christians.

My friend attends what we would call a megachurch and is leading that congregation to adopt the Muslim people group for prayer. That church could send more money or volunteers to my friend's daughter than she needs. But my friend said the most important thing he accomplished during his recent visit was to learn how best to lead the church to pray for his daughter and for that people group.

Prayer is powerful. It changes lives and tunes Christians' hearts toward God. But prayer is not always the most comfortable of disciplines. I'm a lot more comfortable praying for a church member's successful surgery than I am for God's miraculous involvement overseas, next door or in my life.

Extended conversations with God, as with anyone, requires that we spend more time getting to know God. And being open to God's response for any time longer than the average supper table grace can be equally daunting. Either activity might require a personal change in attitudes or actions.

But it's time to make the stories of God's work through prayer less distant and more personal.

The fact is few of us need convincing that God can work through prayer. The real turning point comes when we're ready to get in the game and tell God, "Here am I. Send me to the front line of prayer warriors."

Only then will we have the joy of seeing God do miraculous things in our own lives, churches and communities.

— *David Winfrey*

Where does my help come from?

By *Dartanya Hill*

I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? (Psalm 121:1)

A recent conversation with a colleague dealing with a failed relationship and the aftermath of its devastation led me to share with him my intent to write this article.

Before I could attempt comforting him with Psalm 121 he blurted out the answer, "from the Creator of heaven and earth." My colleague is educated, confident and intelligent. He immediately knew the answer, but there seemed to be a contradiction because he didn't know how to access his help.

On the eve of writing this article, a young man faced with some difficult life circumstances who is sincerely seeking the right answers confided in me that he really doesn't know God as his keeper. He is a good, intelligent and purpose-driven young man, but he doesn't know the answer to his problems and he doesn't know his keeper.

The unifying condition for these people is the anxiety they felt over their personal circumstances. Life can be a struggle, and it is important to learn how to handle the struggle.

I don't know what dangers the psalmist faced, but his dangers don't seem to be his focus. The psalmist is clearly focused on God. Six times in these few verses God is praised as his keeper. The psalmist is not overtaken by his fears nor overthrown by his foes because God is his protection. His faith in God is his strength.

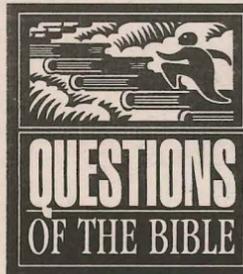
Sometimes all that is required for victory over our circumstances is the faith that God will help us. Faith is often an act of the will. We choose or determine how we will respond to our circumstances. The psalmist decides to look past his pain and problems and lift up his eyes to his help and hope. This is the faith that conditions our access to abundant living, when we learn to look beyond our present situation and look to our eternal Savior.

Many people feel that they are far from where they want or ought to be in

life. They might be able to dream aspirations but find it far more difficult to make a successful journey to their destination. The answer to one of life's greatest truths comes when a person asks himself, "How can I reach my goals?" and recognizes that the difficulties are too many and too great for human strength alone. We need a help that is greater than human strength or material assistance. We need divine help. We must see ourselves in need of help before we can trust God to be our help.

The psalmist provides a clear question for life's difficulties when he asks "Where does my help come from?" But thanks be to God, the rest of the psalm gives us a clear answer. "My help comes from the Lord." God is our keeper. He watches over us. He never slumbers. His power never wears. He keeps us as a deposit entrusted to him and no one can pluck us out of his hand. He keeps us through whatever strange conditions come our way. The keeper is always there to help. All of our help comes from the Lord "who is able to keep that which has been committed to him against that day."

Dartanya Hill is pastor of West End Baptist Church in Louisville



MISSIONS

Missionary couple shares gospel in Suriname melting pot

By Mary Speidel
SBC International Mission Board

Bible studies, music reach Brazil inmates

RECIFE, Brazil (BP)—Bible studies and music lessons have netted at least 120 decisions for Christ in Barreto Campelo Penitentiary in Recife, Brazil.

Volunteers from America and inmates of the prison helped build a chapel there to help the Bible studies to expand.

About 220 prisoners indicated interest in participating.

Construction of the chapel caused a widespread impact, said Charlotte Greenhaw, who serves with her husband, Houston, as a Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary to Recife. "The director has given me authorization to come and go from the prison on any day and at any time.

The chapel was the brainchild of four inmates who became Christians as a result of the Greenhaws' prison Bible studies.

Mrs. Greenhaw and her husband arranged to have the prisoners brought to their church for baptism, which had never been done.

"After testifying of the Lord what Christ had done in their lives, these men ... had their handcuffs removed so they could walk into the baptismal waters of Casa Amarela Baptist Church," said Eddy Hallock, Mrs. Greenhaw's brother, who serves with his wife, Brenda, as a missionary in Rio de Janeiro. "As they came up the steps, out of the water on the other side, handcuffs were again fastened to their wrists.

"The police cars drove them back to the penitentiary, but those men were free indeed," he said.

The men—three Nigerians and one Pole—said they hope to return to their native countries as evangelists.

PARAMARIBO, Suriname (BP)—Beside a jungle river in Suriname, a village chief stared at a tiny, wooden cross he held in his hands.

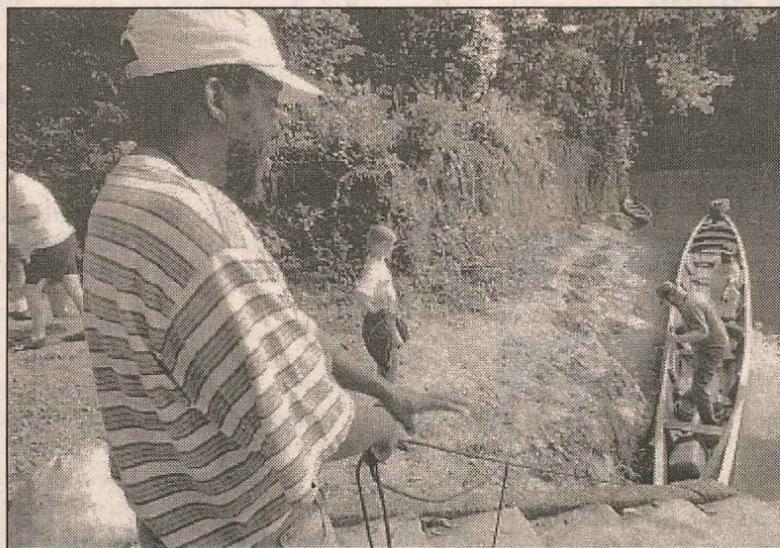
"You mean somebody can die and be raised from the dead?" the elderly chief asked, interrupting a gospel presentation by missionary Courtney Street.

"Yes, that's what we're saying about this great Jesus. That's exactly what he did," said Street, a Southern Baptist missionary in Suriname, a former Dutch colony in northern South America.

Street continued telling the gospel story to the crowd, members of an unreached tribe called the Saramaccans. When he finished, he asked if anyone wanted to accept Christ as Savior. The chief began fiddling with the wooden cross, a gift from Southern Baptist volunteers who were working with Street and an evangelical church-planting team targeting the Saramaccans.

"You could tell he was seriously considering this decision," said Street, who then was a new missionary still in language study. "Finally, he raised his hand and said, 'Yes.'"

That day nearly 80 Saramaccans made professions of faith in Christ in that village, a stronghold of voodoo. Their conversions illustrate a growing response to the gospel among the Saramaccans, descendants of African slaves who escaped



MISSIONARY Courtney Street (left), docks a canoe along the Suriname River during a volunteer project in Suriname's rain forest. Street was helping a church-planting team taking the gospel to the Saramaccans, an unreached tribe living along the river. Street and his wife, Arleen, lead a church-planting team trying to evangelize Suriname's African Creole people. (BP photo by Sandy King)

from Dutch plantations in Suriname in the 17th and 18th centuries.

But the Saramaccans aren't the only people in Suriname who need Christ.

That's especially evident in Paramaribo, the capital city where Street and his wife, Arleen, live with their four children. There sit the Hindu temples, Islamic mosques and Jewish synagogues. More than half of the people are Asians, many of them descendants of indentured servants. Another 40 percent are Africans,

whose ancestors were slaves; the rest are Amerindians and Europeans.

The Streets find many opportunities to share the gospel among this amazing ethnic mix.

"What excites me the most is that wherever we go, people are willing to listen when we talk to them about the gospel," said Street, a native of Jamaica who immigrated to the United States as a young adult. "But what bothers me the most is the fact that people figure if they aren't Hindus or Muslims, then they're Christians."

"We're catalysts," said Mrs. Street, a native of Maryland. "One of our jobs is to say to believers who are already here, 'Run, brother. Run, sister. You can do it.'"

The Streets want to play that same role in mobilizing Southern Baptists—especially African-Americans—for missions. "There's so much more to the Christian life than just sitting in church on Sunday," she said. "Missions is where the action is."

Since the Streets became missionaries in 1997, they've prayed that other African-American believers also would answer God's call to global missions. "We know the Father has invited others to join him" on mission, Mrs. Street said.

For more information about overseas opportunities through the IMB, call toll-free (888) 422-6461.

Half-time at Cedarmore & Jonathan Creek

It's hard for me to realize, but in just a few short weeks camp season will once again be over at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek.

As we navigate the summer season with its hectic pace, it's easy for our staff to lose sight of our ministry. There is so much that must be done every day.

Our staff runs hard from early morning until late night. And I'm thankful for what we've been able to accomplish at our camps over the last 12 months.

This summer, at half-way point, we already have had hundreds of decisions for Christ. Many youth have been saved; many have rededicated their lives to Christ; others have clearly heard God's call into full-time vocational ministry.

As a matter of fact, one of our summer support staffers at Cedarmore last summer yielded to a call to ministry while he was a camper this summer. And I just got off the phone with a youth minister who had a gifted young lady make the commitment to ministry last week. She's on fire for Jesus and is already looking for ways to plug in with us next summer.

As we keep such a busy summer schedule, I remind myself and our

staff to focus on the work God is doing at the camps. Satan wants us to shift our attention from God's work and glory. Satan wants us to focus on the negatives, the little things that frequently go wrong during a week at camp.

And things do go wrong. Often it's our fault. I know that we make mistakes at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. Sometimes we even mess things up for our guests. But we are striving for a higher level of service and excellence.

We know we're not where we need to be. But I believe with all my heart we are making progress. We're just like everyone else, however, and if we fail to celebrate the great works of God in the lives of these youth (and adults) during camp season, our work becomes a burden rather than a joy.

But I wouldn't trade our summers for anything in the world. We're dealing with eternal issues in the lives of our youth. May none of us forget why we do what we do. Praise the Lord for the privilege of Christian camp ministry!

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

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KENTUCKY

Slain pastor remembered for influence

By David Winfrey
News Director

GREENVILLE—Pastor Joey Vincent is being remembered as a well-liked presence in Muhlenberg County who touched the lives of many people before being one of four family members murdered June 26.

Vincent, pastor of New Cypress Baptist Church, was killed, along with his pregnant wife, Amy, and his aunt and uncle, Todd and Beverly Wedding.

Vincent's cousin, Terry Wedding, 27, has been charged in connection with all four deaths.

Vincent, 29, was also a member of the Greenville city police. A news report in the Louisville Courier-Journal stated Vincent had helped get his cousin admitted into a state psychiatric hospital earlier last month. Wedding had resisted and threatened Vincent, according to the story, quoting

Muhlenberg County Sheriff Jerry Mayhugh.

Joey Vincent's mother, Jean Vincent, described her son as well-liked and influential.

She said her son sometimes struggled to balance the demands for justice from one job and the call for grace from the other.

"Actually it turned out great," she said. "He was a great PR person for the police department."

As an example, she noted that a local apartment complex has a reputation for requiring regular police visits. After Vincent's death, residents reportedly were outside talking about Vincent, obviously touched by the tragedy, she said.

"They sensed a difference in him and they really respected him," she said.

Vincent enjoyed talking with people and residents felt compassion from him, his mother said.

During funeral home visitation, she

and her husband stood by the casket for more than five hours as a steady stream of people came by to pay respect, she said. "I was amazed at how many lives he had touched in some form or fashion."

Ken Abbott, director of missions for Muhlenberg Baptist Association, agreed. "I think he was shown to be a very caring person. In fact that's probably what got him killed."

Abbott said he's heard that Vincent volunteered to help a county deputy escort Wedding to the hospital in the hope that it would make it easier.

Abbott said he had just recently written a letter of recommendation for Vincent to attend chaplains' school.

"He was slated to become the official chaplain for the department," he said. "I know that personally he's helped a lot of young people. I'd say that all in all in both places he was well-liked and thought well of."

The elder Vincents now have custody of their two-year-old granddaughter, Brooklyn.

She said New Cypress members and other Christians are working to have an eternal influence through the tragedy.

"It seems to have drawn all of us closer together," she said. "It has made us as Christians more aware of how we need to reach out and help each other."

"God's grace is sufficient and only through that are we getting through it," she said.

"Hopefully, God will continue to use us to reach out to people," she added. "We're trying to finish the job that he (Vincent) started."

Campbellsville University names Mike Carter its new president

Continued from page 1

current position, Carter served as associate dean and chair of the department of sociology (1988-89) and chair of the department of sociology and human services (1985-88).

Carter said a key items that attracted him to Campbellsville has been the work of previous President Ken Winters.

"There's a strong 11-year history that has really brought Campbellsville to a new level of Christian higher education," Carter said. "I'm excited to go to an institution that's forward looking, forward thinking and really planning for the future."

Carter said the new school of theology and the new Carver School of Social Work are examples of how the school is attempting to serve all Kentucky Baptists.

"I believe very much in our Baptist ideas and the fact that we as Baptists have a strong track record of supporting Christian higher education for the past 100 years."

At the same time, he said, the on-campus liberal arts program for undergraduates will also be a primary focus. "I want Campbellsville to be known for educational quality, for a commitment to strong moral and character development and the production of servant leaders."

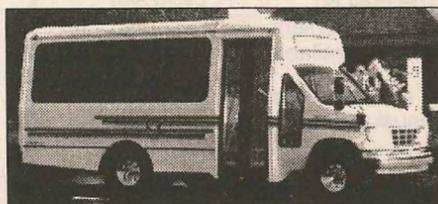
Prior to his tenure at Carson-Newman College, Carter was the director of Christian ministries and lecturer in sociology at Judson College in Elgin, Ill., and was chair of the department of sociology and anthropology at Warner Southern College in Lake Wales, Fla.

Before that, Carter served as associate pastor at Grove City (Ohio) Baptist Church (1983-84), and pastor at Big Hurricane (W.Va.) Baptist Church (1977-81).

A native of Huntington, W.Va., Carter holds a Ph.D. from Ohio State University, and the master of arts and bachelor of arts degrees from Marshall University.

Carter and his wife, Debra Ann, are the parents of three children, Eric, 23; Alicia, 17; and Wesley, 9.

With additional reporting by News Director David Winfrey



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Making history

By Robert Dunston

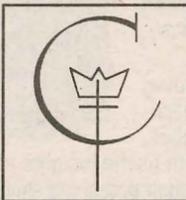
Cumberland College's Upsilon-Upsilon Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the International History Honor Society, continues to excel. Cumberland's chapter celebrated both its 25th anniversary this year and the fact that for 21 of the past 22 years, it has been named the best chapter in the world for colleges and universities of Cumberland's approximate size.

The high point of the chapter's silver anniversary year was hosting the Phi Alpha Theta regional conference in April. History students from Eastern Kentucky University, East Tennessee State University, Georgetown College, Morehead State University, Northern Kentucky University, Thomas Moore College, Transylvania University and the University of Louisville journeyed to Cumberland College for the special event.

The conference featured a variety of papers presented by students. Cumberland student Charles Hays of London won runner-up in the graduate division for his paper, "The Enlightenment and Ineffective Leadership: A Causal Factor of the Reign of Terror." Nathan Kinser from Elizabethton, Tenn., presented his paper, "The Heart of the Crowd," and presided over the conference.

Jack Tunstall, executive director of Phi Alpha Theta, presented the Outstanding Chapter Award to Eric Wake, advisor of Cumberland's chapter. Wake became advisor of the chapter in 1985 after the retirement of Chester Young, professor of history, who started Cumberland's chapter. Tunstall praised Wake for his excellence as chapter adviser. "It

**CUMBERLAND
COLLEGE**



takes two things to make a great chapter, the adviser and the students. The adviser has to give his time and mold the group and get people to do things, and that's very obviously what happens here all the time." Wake serves on the national council for Phi Alpha Theta.

Wake's commitment to teaching and mentoring students manifests itself in many ways on campus. He chairs the honors committee which each year plans the Honors Day program to honor our students who have excelled academically. He also serves faithfully on the promotion and tenure committee. When not in class, Wake can usually be found in his office guiding a student to become a better researcher, organizer and thinker. We appreciate his example and diligent work.

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

Golf by grace

Golf scrambles might become the third ordinance of Baptist churches, right behind baptism and the Lord's Supper. Of course Baptists aren't the only ones discovering this wonderful means of raising a little money.

For the first time in the agency's history, Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is hosting not one, but seven golf scrambles this summer. The top two teams from each regional event will advance to Louisville in October for a championship match. If you have not played in one of our tournaments yet, it isn't too late. You will have a great time, learn about our ministries and help raise money for our kids.

The golf scramble is a different kind of game enjoyed on the links. Golf is an individual game and not a team sport except in the scramble format. Each team consists of four players of varying degrees of skill. Every player tees off, and then all four players play the best ball from the same spot until the putt is finally sunk. Even mediocre teams can beat par with this format.

I think of the scramble as "golf by grace" because you have part-

ners there to rely upon when your swing leaves you or you get a bad break. If you have a bad hole, the game of golf gives you 18 opportunities to start all over again. Combine that with three other players to rely upon, and you have an experience of "golf by grace."

This is a good analogy for our ministry with children and families.

We provide a team of support so when anyone we minister to falls or slips there are others there to help them up. Like golf, there is always the next hole or the next round, the next opportunity to try again at success.

While golf is usually an individual sport, the "game" of life was never meant to be played solo.

Granted, no one can do for us what we fail or refuse to do for ourselves. Nevertheless, God never intended for us to play each hole all by ourselves.

Want to play "grace golf?" Give us a call. Want to extend grace to a kid? Give us a call. The similarities are par for the course.

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

**HOMES FOR
CHILDREN**



Bill Smithwick

Nicholasville ministry offers teen moms a safe haven

Help wanted

The All God's Children Mother-Baby Home office is being relocated from the residence home to a garage in back so that the girls who live there can have a state-of-the-art library in the residence. Computers, books and other instructional materials are needed.

Also needed is landscaping to provide recreational space on the grounds. For more information, contact Becky Mackey at (606) 223-5191.

Continued from page 1

enough," Mrs. Smith said, the couple took in babies of alcoholic or drug-addicted mothers, becoming special needs foster parents for the state.

"I kept thinking, 'I'm taking babies; I'm taking teen moms. Why am I doing both of these?' And then there was a connection," Pam Smith recalled. She said she realized then that God was calling her to work with mothers and their babies together.

When Pam Smith saw the "For Sale" sign on the stately brick country home she had been driving by for years, she knew it was meant for All God's Children.

"She came home that day and said, 'I've found the home that's supposed to be it,' and my response was that realistically we'd have to look at a lot of places before we found the right one," Smith said. "I just kind of wrote it off, but she was given a peace about it. She didn't push, but everything just kept pointing back here. It was divine intervention."

Neither of the Smiths have social work backgrounds; they simply say they are called to work with troubled teens. So certain were they that this was God's plan for them, Smith stepped out on faith one year ago, leaving a lucrative position as a vice president of Hunter Manufacturing in Lexington. Since then, he and Mrs. Smith have devoted all their time and energies to making the mother-baby

home a reality.

"We had really prayed about it and knew it was coming, and God provided well for us so that we didn't need a salary," Mrs. Smith said. "In his timing everything started happening."

One of the things that started happening was a result of Mrs. Smith speaking about the new home to the ladies Wednesday night Bible study at Porter Memorial.

"After she talked to us, we felt called to furnish this house," said Becky Mackey, who leads the group and now coordinates volunteer services for All God's Children. "Getting to work with the girls and their babies and see them reach personal and professional goals has opened up a whole new world of ministry for me."

And how is Joni, the first mother-baby home resident, doing now?

"She was so far behind in school, but (our program) just caught on with her," Mrs. Smith said. "Finally she had that support and a safe place."

During the last school year Joni earned seven credits. She's doing an independent study this summer to get another credit, Mrs. Smith said. "She's wanting to catch back up and get back on track."

"I have improved greatly," Joni said. "I have re-dedicated my life to Christ, and I am a very spiritual person. I want to get to know girls who are in the same situation as me and to be a witness to them."

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Happy birthday America and OBI

In a Western Recorder article a few weeks ago, I told you about a birthday party we were about to have; our 100th. I must confess there was not as much excitement and fireworks as there was for our nation's 223rd birthday a few days later, but we did have a wonderful party.

The cooks were up before the crack of dawn to start barbecuing several hundred pounds of our fresh, home-grown pork. When I arrived on campus about 7 a.m. the wonderful aroma filled the air. I told myself that I would not go near the cooking area because I would not be able to resist the temptation to "officially" sample the meat. I did pretty well for a while, but I began to feel I had a "presidential duty" to make sure the barbecue passed the taste test.

With a brisk walk it took only two minutes to reach the cooking area. I did not have to tell anyone why I was there. Upon my arrival they pointed out the bread and some hot-off-the-grill barbecue. The first test was inconclusive, so another sample had to be prepared. This time I was sure; the taste was perfect. Needless to say, I wasn't the only "official" tester present.

The signs were up, hundreds of flowers were displayed across our campus, and a new 35-foot flag pole and several new benches had been added to our campus just a few days earlier. Several hundred chairs and tables were placed under seven large tents in the center of our soccer field, ready to feed the hungry masses. The air-conditioned gymnasium had another 600 tables and chairs for the afternoon program. We served lunch for two hours and there was never a time when you could not find a seat. However, the gym was filled to capacity.

In the afternoon program we recognized anni-

versary classes, especially the one celebrating its 50th reunion. We also recognized sweethearts who met on our campus and later married. Several dozen told about their Oneida romances. Ventriloquist Bill Holeman was also there, with his two buddies Homer and Henry. "Preacher Bill" accepted a plaque in honor of the 41 years of laughter he has provided our students.

We were honored to have Charles Barnes, a 1953 Oneida graduate, bring greetings from the Kentucky Baptist Convention and share some thoughts from his days as an Oneida student. After Barnes' speech, we inducted four former Oneida athletes into the Oneida Baptist Institute Athletic Hall of Fame. That was followed by a scene from "Moriah Morning," a play depicting the founding of our school in 1899.

Next, Gerald Bestrum, who had visited OBI about six years ago, did a wonderful portrayal of Abe Lincoln. He is a delightful man and stayed overnight to play his hand saw and share a story during the Sunday morning worship service. We also dedicated a historical marker commemorating the founding of our school. The marker was placed across the street from Oneida Baptist Church, near the original entrance to our campus. The last event of the day was a scrimmage basketball game. Several dozen former players and spectators gathered to see if the "ole" boys" still had their stuff.

We estimate between 1,300 and 1,500 people gathered for this special celebration. We are eternally grateful for all the faithful friends during the past 100 years who made this day possible.

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

A preacher's friend

Bill Whittaker, president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, brings a lifetime of preaching and teaching to his new book, "Preparing to Preach: A Practical Guide for Beginning Preachers."

"Filled with practical illustrations and pastoral wisdom, Dr. Whittaker's helpful study would be a useful tool in the hands of any preacher committed to preaching God's inerrant word, especially within the local church context."
David L. Olford, president, Stephen Olford Center for Biblical Preaching.

"Bill Whittaker is an outstanding preacher and a great friend to preachers, and that is reflected in his book.

"Preparing to Preach" is packed with useful insights and practical guidance that will help young preachers develop their preaching skills and experienced preachers improve their preaching. It is an excellent introduction to the art and craft of preaching."
Michael Duduit, editor Preaching Magazine

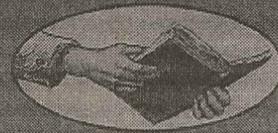
"An invaluable source for beginning preachers. Experienced preachers, too, will find many helpful suggestions and reminders. Dr. Whittaker brings years of experience as a master preacher and professor of preaching to this volume."
John Mark Terry, associate dean, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Proceeds from book sales will fund scholarships for students at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

Secure a copy for your pastor!

Available at a pre-publication sale price of \$15 plus \$1.50 mailing. Remit orders to: The Development Office, CCBBC, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977-9754.

Preparing to Preach



A Practical Guide for Beginning Preachers

Bill D. Whittaker

Ban for schools' religious use stands

WASHINGTON (ABP)—The U.S. Supreme Court has refused to review a New York school district's policy that bars the after-hours use of public school facilities for religious worship and instruction.

The decision not to review was one of three actions taken recently by the high court related to religious or moral issues.

The policy was challenged by Full Gospel Tabernacle and Jorge Vega, pastor of the Far Rockaway, N.Y., congregation, after the church was denied after-hours use of a Queens elementary school.

Officials of Community School District 27 based the refusal on a state law governing use of school facilities and the district's policy implementing the law.

The policy bars use of school facilities for religious services or instruction during nonschool hours.

But to comply with a 1993 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in another New York case, the district permits use of facilities to discuss or distribute religious material or material that contains a religious viewpoint.

In a ruling upheld by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. District Judge Charles Haight Jr. rejected the church's claim that the policy violates its First Amendment rights.

A dozen religious groups sided with

Full Gospel Tabernacle in a friend-of-the-court brief filed by the Christian Legal Society.

Groups joining the CLS brief were Queens Federation of Churches, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Clifton Kirkpatrick as stated clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Baptist Joint Committee, National Association of Evangelicals, Family Research Council, Focus on the Family, Liberty Counsel, the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board.

In another New York case, the Supreme Court will allow a public school district to provide special education for disabled Hasidic Jewish children while the court decides whether to review a ruling that declared the district unconstitutional.

The high court stayed a judgment by New York's highest court that the special school district created in the village of Kiryas Joel impermissibly advances religion.

All residents of Kiryas Joel are members of the Satmar Hasidic religious community, which practices a strict form of Judaism.

Most Satmar children attend private religious schools, but disabled Satmar children are entitled to receive special

education services provided by the public school system.

The state legislature created the Kiryas Joel district within the Monroe-Woodbury Central Public School District to serve disabled Satmar students in 1989. Lawmakers took the step after efforts to furnish special education for Satmar children in Monroe-Woodbury schools proved unsatisfactory.

In a case that will affect cable television operators and viewers nationwide, the high court announced June 21 it will decide whether to revive a 1996 law requiring cable operators either to "fully scramble" adult programming or to confine it to late-night hours.

Congress enacted the requirements as part of the 1996 Communications Decency Act to deal with the problem of "signal bleed" from premium and pay-per-view cable channels offering sexually explicit programming.

To prevent access by nonsubscribers, cable operators scramble signals for premium and pay-per-view programming. But because of signal bleed from a partially scrambled signal, adult programming occasionally is received on television sets of nonsubscribers.

A federal district court in Delaware ruled last December that the restrictions enacted by Congress violated the free-speech rights of Playboy Television and other providers of sexually explicit adult programming.

House resolution calling for prayer, fasting & humility fails

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A U.S. House of Representatives measure urging Americans to pray, fast and humble themselves before God failed June 29 to get the two-thirds vote necessary for passage.

The measure, sponsored by Rep. Helen Chenoweth, R-Idaho, was supported by 275 House lawmakers and opposed by 140. The resolution was brought to the House floor under suspension of the rules, requiring a two-thirds vote for passage. It is expected to come up later under a rule requiring only a simple majority.

The resolution would put Congress on record urging Americans "to unite in seeking the face of God through humble prayer and fasting, persistently asking God to send spiritual strength and a renewed sense of humility to the nation."

It also calls on national, state and local leaders as well as business leaders and clergy to urge the people they serve "to observe a day of solemn prayer, fasting and humiliation before God."

Chenoweth told colleagues the bill is "patterned after what was once common practice by national and state elected leaders, from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War, ending with President Abraham Lincoln's great proclamation of March 1863, calling for a national day of humiliation, fasting and prayer."

But other lawmakers criticized the measure as a threat to religious liberty.

"Prayer should not be a government-imposed duty," said Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Texas. "It is a God-given right. To even suggest prayer should be a government-dictated duty demeans the very sanctity of prayer."

Panel backs embryo cell research; experts & theologians protest

WASHINGTON (RNS)—A White House advisory panel on bioethics has decided in a straw vote that scientists receiving federal funding should be permitted to derive embryonic cells for research as well as do research on cells derived by others.

In recent months, embryonic stem cells have been highlighted as a possible key to treating numerous diseases.

But one way of harvesting the cells is to destroy a living embryo, which opponents charge is morally wrong. Such embryos, microscopic clusters of a few hundred cells that are not yet ready to implant in the uterus, have been discarded by fertility clinics. The other method for gaining cells is to

take them from aborted fetuses.

The June 28 vote by the National Bioethics Advisory Commission came as it tries to draw a line between those who say an embryo has the same rights as a person and those who believe the destruction of embryos is justified by the hopes of major medical advancement. Three days after the straw vote, more than 90 religious, legal and medical experts signed a statement urging Congress to maintain its current ban on federally funded research of human embryos.

"Our careful consideration of these issues leads to the conclusion that human stem cell research requiring the destruction of human embryos is objectionable on legal, ethical and scientific grounds," said the statement

titled "On Human Embryos and Stem Cell Research: An Appeal for Legally and Ethically Responsible Science and Public Policy."

The signers not only seek the maintenance of the congressional ban on such research but also encourage Congress to approve federal funds for the development of alternative treatments that do not require destruction of human embryos.

"If anything is to be gained from the cruel atrocities committed against human beings in the last century and a half, it is the lesson that the utilitarian devaluation of one group of human beings for the alleged benefit of others is a price we simply cannot afford to pay," the statement concludes.

Signatories include Frank Young,

former commissioner, U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Richard Doerflinger, associate director of policy development, National Conference of Catholic Bishops; and John Neuhaus, president, Institute on Religion and Public Life.

Southern Baptist signers included Richard Land, president, Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; Al Mohler, president, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Chuck Kelley, president, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Steve Lemke, provost, New Orleans Seminary; Daniel Heimbach, ethics professor, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Ben Mitchell, ERLC consultant and Southern Seminary ethics professor.

NATIONAL NOTES

■ **House passes abortion restriction.** The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill June 30 that aims to restrict the transportation of minors to other states to seek an abortion. The Child Custody Protection Act would make it illegal for a person other than a parent, guardian or legal custodian to take a pregnant girl younger than 18 to another state for an abortion if such an act would violate parental involvement laws in the child's home state. The Clinton administration has threatened to veto the bill, whose 270-159 margin of victory fell short of the two-thirds majority needed to override a presidential veto.

■ **Diverse groups endorse guide.** Religious and educational organizations

from a wide range of theological and political perspectives have endorsed a new guide to the controversial intersection of religion and public schools. "Public Schools and Religious Communities: A First Amendment Guide," a joint venture of the First Amendment Center, the American Jewish Congress and the Christian Legal Society, was announced July 7. Endorsers of the guide include the American Association of School Administrators, the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, the Council on Islamic Education, the National Association of Evangelicals, the National Council of Churches and the U.S. Catholic Conference.

■ **Military adopts peyote policy.** The Pentagon and the Native American Church

of North America have reached an agreement on the ritual use of the hallucinogenic plant peyote by members of the U.S. military. Peyote cannot be used by church members who work around nuclear weapons or on military bases except with the permission of the commanding officer. Church members must also cease using the drug at least 24 hours prior to returning to active duty. A federal law passed five years ago permits the ritual use of peyote.

■ **Churches drop election duties.** Three Baptist churches in the Jacksonville, Fla., area will no longer be used as public polling places after a group campaigned for the legalization of marijuana on church property. After being asked to take its pro-

marijuana campaign away from Hendricks Avenue Baptist Church last fall, Floridians for Medical Rights filed a federal lawsuit and won the right to distribute its literature at any polling place if group members remain at least 50 feet from the polls. The decision prompted Hendricks Avenue and two other Baptist congregations, Bay Meadows and First Southern Baptist in Mandarin, to no longer allow use of their facilities as polling places.

■ **Presbyterians keep ban.** The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) failed to lift a rule that effectively bars the ordination of sexually active gays and lesbians. Instead, the assembly, acting June 25, opted for a measure calling for two years of study on the issue.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ **Urgent needs in Poland:** Kentucky volunteers for these projects: Sept. 7-20, six people for a construction project in Zgorzelec; Sept. 7-20, eight to 10 people for a renovation project in Gdynia; Sept. 14-27, six people for landscaping and parking lot construction. Contact the Kentucky Baptist Convention partnership office for details.

■ Kentucky volunteers needed for evangelism projects in Poland Oct. 5-18.

■ **Habtai**, who is trying to get out of a warring country in North Africa in order to attend the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Tanzania.

■ Pray that the dairy, poultry barn and quilting business that are part of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Tanzania will prosper. Money raised from these enterprises helps with student expenses.

■ Pastor Dave Otis and Chatham Baptist Church on Cape Cod, Mass.

■ Volunteer work crews from across the South who are building a new worship facility for Farmington (Maine) Baptist Church this summer.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ **CADIZ**—East Cadiz Church called **Robert Burnett** as pastor beginning Aug. 1. Burnett is a former associate pastor in Gahanna, Ohio. His wife, **Susan**, is from Harrodsburg.

■ **FLORENCE**—**Carla Hawkins** received the Outstanding Future Ministers Award from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. A graduate of Cumberland College, she received the master of divinity with biblical languages degree from the seminary in May.

■ **HENDERSON**—Zion Church will host **Cindy Cornette** in concert July 18, 6:30 p.m. **David Hankins** is interim pastor.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—First Church called **Greg Burton** as senior pastor. Burton previously was pastor of South Jefferson Church in Louisville and has served churches in Hopkinsville, Shepherdsville and Murray.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Grace Church called **Donna Bonner** as music min-

ister. **Terrance Freeman** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host a concert by the **Daryl Williams Trio** from Murfreesboro, Tenn., July 17, 7 p.m. For information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Parkland Church called **Merle Mateika** as associate music minister. A student at Southern Seminary, he is from British Columbia, Canada. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

Shively Heights Church will host **Jake Hess** and the **Journeymen Quartet** in concert July 31, 7 p.m. Tickets—\$9 in advance, \$10 at the door—are available from the church, area Christian bookstores and by phone, (800) 965-9324. **Chris Butler** is pastor.

Westport Road Church will host a workshop on domestic violence July 22, noon to 2 p.m. Participants can bring a bag lunch. The workshop is presented by Eastern Area Community Ministries and will be presented by **Nancy Troy** and the

staff at the Center for Women and Families. For information, call (502) 244-6141.

■ **NEWPORT**—A quartet from First Church Newport is available to sing for Wednesday night prayer services. For information and demo tape, call **Allen Roseberry**, (606) 356-0526.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Yellow Creek Church will host a farewell reception for **Wendell and Beulah Rone** July 25, 2 p.m. Rone has been a minister for 62 years, serving seven churches in Daviess County and Memorial Church, Murray; East Church, Paducah; First Church, Newport; and First Church, Middlesboro. He also authored and compiled 33 books. They will be moving to Nevada to be near their daughter. For information, call (502) 281-4118. **Wendell Romans** is interim pastor.

■ **PILOT ROCK**—New Ebenezer Church will host revival services July 18-23, Sunday 7 p.m., evenings 7:30 p.m. **Jeff Noffsinger** will be the evangelist. For information, call (270) 483-2410. **Joe Carter** is pastor.

■ **PINEVILLE**—Bethlehem Church of Dorton Branch recently called three new staff members: **Josh Brown** from

Piqua, Ohio, as assistant to the pastor; **Paul Anglin** from Walton, as youth minister; **Geoff Estep** from Sharonville, Ohio, as music minister. **Tim Mills** is pastor.

■ **WHITESBURG**—**Winson Wagner** recently graduated from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary with the associate of divinity degree. Winson and his wife, **Rebecca**, reside in Columbus, Miss., where he serves as pastor of Plymouth Church.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—Six area church leaders have formed a southern gospel quartet, "**The Singing Parsons**." Quartet members are **Rodney Hale, Janus Jones, Tim Johnson, Norman Harp, Larry Cox and Larry Waddell**. They are available for special church services and homecomings. For information, call (606) 549-4497.

What's going on?

Send your happenings to Shirley Wooton for Mountains to the Mississippi. Mail: Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. Fax: (502) 244-6474. E-mail: shirley_wooton@kybaptist.org.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Frenchburg Baptist Church, Frenchburg, Ky. Please send resumé to: James Ligon, HCR 66, PO Box 90, Wellington, KY 40387.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Roswell, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta, is seeking a full-time minister to singles to serve with six others on the pastoral staff. Sunday school attendance is 675, worship in two morning services totals 800. Gifts to the SBC and/or CBF are accepted. Seminary degree and experience preferred. Resumé may be sent to: Mr. Chris Rowe, Singles Minister Search Committee, 710 Mimosa Blvd., Roswell, GA 30075.

FOR SALE: Beautiful, one-owner church bus. 1976 GMC motorcoach, low mileage, 8V-71 Detroit Diesel, Allison automatic, 39-passenger, excellent AC, large luggage capacity, reclining seats and restroom. The bus is inexpensive to maintain and ready for travel. Asking \$49,500. Also have other GMC, MCI and Eagle coaches available. Can be seen at Northside RVs (North Broadway) in Lexington. For more information, call (606) 299-8386 or (606) 278-7224.

SEEKING: Associate pastor for music. Dynamic music minister sought to continue building solid music program. Must be outreach-oriented, strong "people-person" and willing to lead contemporary and traditional music in worship. Seminary degree or equivalent and experience strongly preferred. Moderate church of 1,300 resident members with excellent growth potential. Send resumé to: Dr. Mark J. Olson, pastor, Thalia Lynn Baptist Church, 4392 Virginia Beach Blvd., Virginia Beach, VA 23462.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for First Twelve Mile Baptist Church, California, Ky. (eight miles south of Alexandria). Send resume to Linda Winkler, 8 Raintree Drive, Melbourne, KY 41059-9612.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister (Sundays only). Salary plus hous-

ing. Send resumé to: New Bethel Baptist Church, Rt. 2, Box 155A, Hardinsburg, KY 40143, or call (502) 756-5980.

SEEKING: Full-time youth/recreation minister. Seminary graduate. First Baptist Church, 106 West Oak, West Frankfort, IL 62896. (618) 932-2105.

SEEKING: Resumés are now being accepted for full-time pastor. Please send resumé to: South Campbellsville Baptist Church, 601 South Central Ave., Campbellsville, KY 42718.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Brandenburg, Ky., is seeking a bivocational or part-time minister of children and youth. Send resumé with photo and references to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 488, Brandenburg, KY 40108, Attn: Katherine Smith. For more information, call (270) 422-3355.

SEEKING: The Albermarle Baptist Association of Virginia is seeking an associational director of missions. Interested persons should send inquiries and resumés to: Flora Greene, RT 2, Box 1425, Troy, VA 22974. Review of resumés will begin Sept. 30, 1999.

FREE: Weber upright piano (refinished and reconditioned about 20 years ago). We need to get rid of it and will give it free of charge to a church if it is picked up (Murray, Ky.) by July 20 if possible. (270) 753-0126.

SEEKING: Part-time receptionist for a counseling center; hourly rate of \$9 for a 25-hour work week. Start date is Aug. 15. Please send resumé to: Dr. E.R. Milazzotto, SMPCC, 3515 Grandview Ave., Louisville, KY 40207

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: 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: Office assistant for Christian social service agency. Have a real heart for ministry? Part-time Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Skills needed: typing, data entry, some knowledge of Windows 95, Microsoft Office, great phone skills, and ability to deal with clients and the public. Interested? Call Infant Resource Project at (502) 584-0774 and ask for Cathy Neel.

SEEKING: Calvary Baptist Church of Tuscaloosa, Ala., is currently seeking a minister of preschool/children to lead a fully developed children's ministry. Calvary is located adjacent to the University of Alabama. Seminary degree is preferred. Experience is preferred. Please send resumé to: Preschool/Children Search Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul W. Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401. (205) 758-0495 for more information.

SEEKING: Director of corporate marketing and sales. Ground-level opportunity for exciting sports ministry. Responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining sponsorship packages. Must have a love for spreading the gospel and for sports. Related education or experience required. Commission-based. Work out of own home. Send resumé: Sports Reach, PO Box 4002, Campbellsville, KY 42719.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister. Send resumé to Pastor Matally, Wing Avenue Baptist Church, 628 Wing Ave., Owensboro, KY 42303.

SEEKING: Bivocational minister of youth for Post Oak Baptist Church. Please send resumé to: Post Oak Baptist Church, 900 Bluegrass Ave., Russellville, KY 42276.

AVAILABLE: Evangelist Wyman Copass is scheduling "Power for Living" revivals and Bible studies. Several good weeks available in 2000. The following dates are open in 1999: July 4-

7; 18-21; 25-28; Aug. 1-4; 15-18; Sept. 12-15; Oct. 10 (p.m.)-13; Nov. 14-17; 21-24. Call (270) 683-6040 or (270) 929-6434 or write Box 21224, Owensboro, KY 42304. E-mail: WCMin@aol.com. Web site: centralcityfbc.com/copass. Wyman Copass and music evangelist are available to work with your Baptist association in county, city or area-wide revivals.

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: 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: 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.

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.

PEOPLE

Skate park generates new breed of holy rollers

By Amy Worden
Religion News Service

NEWPORT, Del. (RNS)—A year ago, 15-year-old Fritz Dallago was poised for a ride on the fast-track to nowhere.

He had adopted the all-black Goth look; he idolized Marilyn Manson; he had a bad attitude and little respect for authority, making life difficult for his aunt who was raising him. There was clearly trouble on the horizon.

Then Dallago found God in a skate park.

The Newport Skate Park is far from your typical house of worship. No altar. No pews. No organ. Just a collection of plywood ramps for skateboarding and in-line skating built under a highway overpass.

But there's no mistaking the religious influence: The graffiti is fish symbols and crosses. The music, Christian rock. And the park's founder, a Pentecostal minister.

About 500 teenage boys pay the \$45 annual membership fee for year-round skating in a former asphalt and concrete wasteland under Route 4. They say the park offers them a safe haven, a community and, in some cases, a chance to explore their spirituality.

"It gives them a place to go and gives us a place to reach them," said Keith Marvel, the pastor and founder of the ministry. "If they have problems, we pray with them. If they break up with a girlfriend or their mother and father split up, they understand we're out here to listen."

Overseeing a recent skateboard tournament 43-year-old Marvel, decked out in a Polo shirt and khaki shorts and standing atop the platform of a full pipe where boarders plunge off at a 90-degree angle, looked more Little League coach than preacher.

That morning, 60 young people

stood respectfully with helmets at their sides as Marvel opened the competition with a prayer thanking God for the good weather and asking for the safety of the participants.

Only three years ago, town leaders tried to make the area off limits after an assault on a street cleaner.

"Skateboarders were congregating there at all hours," Marvel said.

"There was drinking, drugs and turf wars between skateboard clubs." Finally the town ripped up the makeshift skateboard ramps. Then Marvel jumped in and said he wanted to make it a legitimate skate park.

He formed a nonprofit organization—Better Life Outreach Ministries—recruited ministers from other churches to serve on the board and arranged to lease the land from the state for \$1. Private grants, membership and collection buckets on the street fund the park's \$65,000 budget.

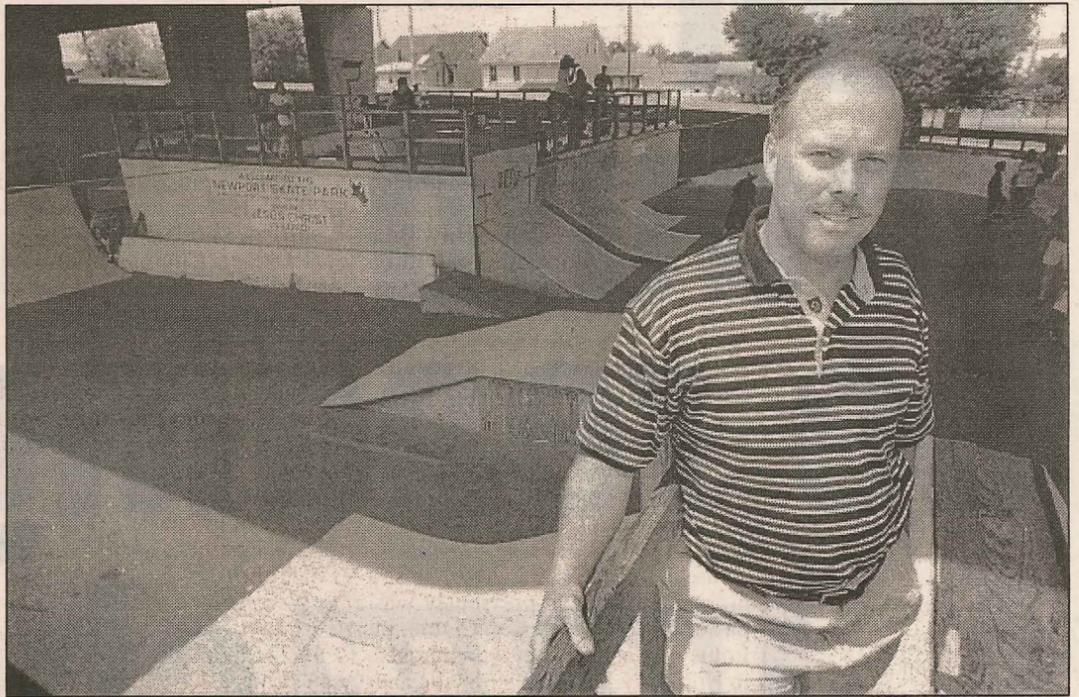
Marvel and his student ministers hold Bible study in "the bowl"—one of the skate structures—on Wednesday nights and stage biblical plays on some weekends, but skaters are free to choose whether they want to participate in the religious activities.

"We have Jewish and Muslim members," Marvel said. "We have everyone sign a waiver that they understand we are a Christian organization and that they may be approached. But they can take it or leave it."

Marvel said he understands troubled boys because he was one himself.

"I was an alcoholic and drug addict. It took me 30 years to receive Christ." Marvel converted in 1989 at a recovery center in Biloxi, Miss.

He went on to receive a degree in theology and became an associate pastor in the Dallas-Fort Worth area before returning to Newport in 1995 to set up



Family Life Church.

Many churches open their doors to kids, he said; the catch is getting them to come in. The skate park is a natural draw. He and his staff try to gently nurture relationships with the teen-agers, but he says he's not afraid to employ a little tough love to tackle the toughest cases.

"Sometimes they need to be beat over the head with the Bible. I get in their face," Marvel said.

Marvel is concerned the skateboarding subculture that appeals to teens' rebellious nature is promoting sex and violence. Pulling out a glossy skateboard magazine he points out pictures of scantily-clad women and images he said glorify hell and the devil.

"One producer has ads that say 'Hell is good.' Kids believe that," he said.

But some Newport skaters say it can be cool to be Christian. Sam Williamson, a spunky 13-year-old park regular, shrugs off the occasional teasing about

his faith and the religious bent of the skate park. "Some like it, some don't, it doesn't bother me."

Marvel's ministry is not always successful. "We lose some to drugs," he admitted.

But not Fritz Dallago. He now spends four days a week at the park and Sunday mornings in church. Dressed in an oversized sleeveless T-shirt and baggy shorts, Dallago is the picture of Generation Z, perched on his board and catching big air high above the full-pipe in his quest for top honors in the skateboard tournament.

"It's been awesome," said the shy eighth-grader of his life since his conversion. "I have direction. I believe I'm going to heaven."

Marvel said that sometimes, when park demands eat away at the time he has for his wife and two children, he wonders why he does it. Then he thinks of Fritz. "He made it pay off. If one person comes to Jesus, it's worth it."

FAST MINISTRY Keith Marvel recruited pastors and private grants to start a skate park as a Christian outreach for teens. "It gives them a place to go and gives us a place to reach them." (RNS photos)

Grieving mother finds writing poetry soothes soul and ministers to others

By Mark Wyatt
California Southern Baptist

FRESNO, Calif. (ABP)—When Penny Young talks at bereavement conferences about writing as grief therapy, she's speaking from years of experience.

Her writing began in earnest after her only child, 19-year-old Matthew, died in a traffic accident in 1994. She wrote a poem after the accident, which was read at Matthew's funeral and became the seed for a self-published book that has prompted messages of appreciation from grateful readers.

Young, a school teacher, said she didn't intend to write a book or lead workshops. She just was looking for a way to express her grief. Several people who heard the poem at the funeral encouraged her to keep writing. Each month, on the anniversary of her son's death, she wrote another poem. She also kept a journal.

"I would get in bed at night after a good day and start writing, and I couldn't believe

the kinds of things that came out," Young recalled. "I could be as honest as I needed to be. I think that's one of the things that saved my sanity."

In addition to her writing, Young and her husband, Ray, a Baptist pastor in Fresno, Calif., began seeing a Christian counselor. After several months, the counselor suggested that Penny spend time daily writing specifically about joy.

In time, some of her poems appeared in newsletters of grief-support organizations. She also developed an annotated "grief bibliography" that she sent as a resource to people in grief.

"I wrote it as therapy, but I also saw a need," Young said. "What I was looking for early in grief was something to tell me how long is this pain going to endure. There was nothing out there."

Young said she eventually came to realize that grief is different for everyone. "Nobody can tell you how long it is going to be," she said. "I needed something to tell me that six months down the line

you're going to have a good day, even if the next one isn't good." So she started dating each new poem and asked several friends to read and respond to them.

"Without exception they said, 'It shows hope, it shows the ups and downs of grief.' That was exactly what I was hoping for," she said.

Such encouragement convinced the Youngs to publish her poems in a book. "I'll See You in the Sunrise: A Mother's Odyssey in Grief" came out in September 1998, four years after their son's death. The book features illustrations by a church member who knew Matthew. It also includes the annotated bibliography of grief resources.

"I think probably the most frequent comment from people who have read it who have lost a child has been, 'You have been there, you know what it is like, I felt exactly this way. I identified exactly with what you wrote,'" Mrs. Young said.

Students in her 8th-grade English classes eagerly read copies of the book

purchased by the school librarian. Some told Young it helped them deal with grief issues involving divorce and the loss of parents or siblings.

"What it did for them was validate their feelings," Young said. "The book gave some of them the courage to say, 'I hurt too, I still grieve over Dad or Grandma.' It gave them the opportunity to express grief and do things that would not be looked upon as silly, to remember a loved one in a special way."

Young said she is considering writing another book. She thinks it probably would be less difficult than the first, "because it would not be dealing with the heavy emotional issues (and because) I am further along in the grief journey," she said. But although the process and the content might differ from her initial effort, the message she would want to convey remains the same.

"There is hope, there is joy," she said. "God is there even when it seems like he is far, far away."

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