

February 8, 2000
Vol. 174, No. 6**FOR THE RECORD**

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James Merritt is expected to be nominated for the SBC presidency. Meanwhile, current President Paige Patterson suggests the convention could have a non-Anglo president within five years. *Page 2.*



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Camp's dilemma spurs proposed state legislationBy Trennis Henderson
Editor

BURLINGTON—Leaders of Bullittsburg Baptist Assembly in Boone County faced a moral dilemma: rent the camp facilities to a group of atheists or risk violating Kentucky's civil rights laws.

That was the challenge for Wayne Lipscomb, pastor of Union Baptist Church, who was serving as chairman of the camp's board. In 1996, camp leaders leased the campground to an organization called Free Inquiry before discovering it was a self-proclaimed group of secular humanists who reject any belief in God. The group also had already reserved the camp for a week the following summer.

Trying to decide whether to honor the 1997 agreement, Lipscomb said the board's attorney indicated state civil rights laws prohibit discrimination in the rental of public accommodations.

"The law says any time an organization opens up a facility to any outside group, they cannot refuse anyone," Lipscomb said. "That was a shock to us. We assumed as a religious organization, the law would be behind us."

Choosing not to ignore the law, camp leaders allowed the Free Inquiry group to use the camp facilities in 1997, but immediately began to seek long-term solutions to the touchy predicament.

Board members began by revising the camp's policies toward renting to outside groups. As the same time, Lipscomb said, they made a commitment to Northern Kentucky Baptist Association which owns the camp to try to amend the law.

In 1998, proposed changes never made it through the legislative committee process, but this year, with the help of Rep. Tom Kerr (D-Dist. 64), House Bill 70 has passed the Kentucky House of Representatives and been forwarded to the Senate.

The bill passed the House last week by a vote of 82-17. It seeks to "exclude a religious organization from the definition of 'public accommodation, resort or amusement' under the civil rights laws if the rental or sale of the public accommodation would not be consistent with the religious tenets of the organization."

Balancing concern for religious liberty and civil rights, the bill also would "prevent an organization from being designated a religious organization under the act if the organization advances hatred based on race, color or national origin." Legitimate religious organizations also would be prohibited from discriminating on the basis of

See House bill ..., page 3

Special deliveries**Book-Link ships used Bibles & books to those who have none**By Debbie Moore
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

EUBANK (BP)—How many Bibles are sitting around your house, on the back seat of your car or on dusty shelves at church?

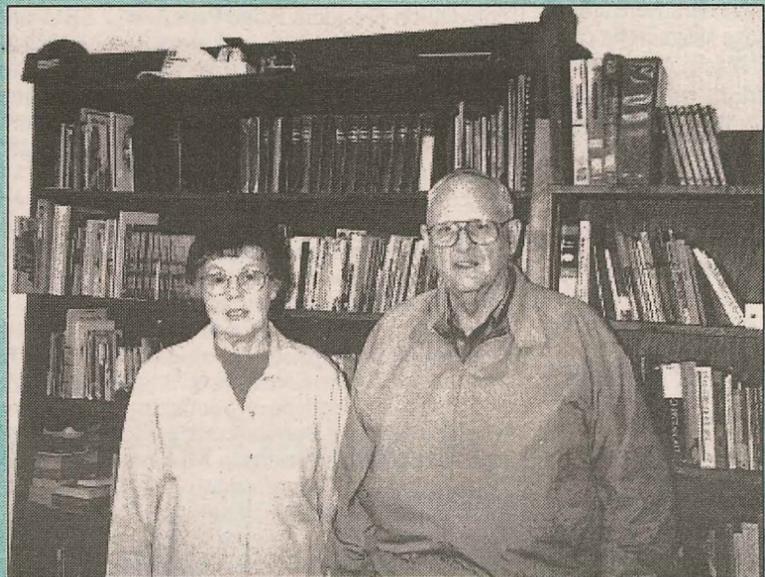
Emily Filipi of Wetumpka, Ala., was amazed to discover she had 18 Bibles in a variety of translations in her home. She never intended to collect Bibles; several were gifts, including a study Bible "I never used," she said.

In fact, when she stopped to think about it, she realized she actually used only three of those 18 Bibles.

Meanwhile, in a small village in Nigeria, a pastor writes a letter on the back of an already-used piece of paper, for someone in America to: "Please send me a Bible, but if you can't send a Bible, then please send me a New Testament, and if you can't send a New Testament, then please send me just a few pages from a Bible."

And at a seminary in the Philippines, a graduating student uses every spare minute between classes and work to write down passages from one of the Bibles in the library and from some basic Christian resources. She does this so she'll have at least something on hand after she leaves the seminary in a few months to use as reference materials for the Bible study classes she'll be teaching. Even if she did have the money to buy books, there's no Christian bookstore near where she lives.

These situations, and many more like them, are why an organization called Book-Link, started nearly 15 years ago, faithfully gathers unused Christian resources and ships them around the world at no cost to the recipient.



DIRECTORS Ernestine and Olin Williams of Eubank stand in front of a wall of books to be sent to pastors overseas. The ministry has sent more than 331,700 books to 68 countries over the past 15 years.

Book-Link, a nonprofit and totally volunteer-operated Christian organization now based in Eubank sends out everything upon request, when received with the recommendation from a Southern Baptist missionary, helping make sure that nothing is wasted.

Since the first shipment in January 1988, Book-Link sent out more than 331,700 items to 68 countries and five U.S. states where in many cases Christian students and pastors previously had little or nothing in the way of study materials.

"Once people find out about Book-Link, they start to feel guilty when they look at their own shelves and see that they have much more than they really need," said Filipi, now a Book-Link volunteer, who now regularly takes off a week at a time to drive up from Alabama to Book-Link's headquarters to prepare books for international shipment.

"We Christians in America have so many books, and we hold on to them even when we don't use them," she said. "I think it is our Christian obligation to share out of our abundance."

In Eubank, a picturesque, rural town in central Kentucky, Filipi and a handful of other volunteers work out

of the home and two, two-car garages of Olin Williams, executive director of Book-Link since 1993. Williams recently returned from Zimbabwe. He was on a one-year assignment with the Southern Baptist Convention's International Mission Board, teaching in a seminary and helping set up a network of small regional libraries for Christian workers throughout that country. Those libraries "desperately need books that you might have," Williams wrote for a Book-Link advertising flyer.

Filipi said she will never forget the conviction she felt the first time she heard Williams speak about Book-Link:

"No Southern Baptist in America deserves two Bibles until everyone in the world has one Bible," Filipi recalled Williams saying.

"He said he really needed Bibles" to fill the numerous requests he had received from all over the world and from parts of the United States, she remembered. After she located the 18 Bibles in her own home, she immediately boxed up all but the three translations she regularly referred to, "and taped the box shut before I could

See Book-Link ships ..., page 6

Pastors: Time, expectations are biggest challengesBy David Winfrey
News Director

LEXINGTON—Increasing expectations and time pressures are among the greatest challenges pastors face today, according to an informal survey of conference leaders at a recent pastors' workshop.

Speakers at last month's "Shepherding the Shepherd" conference for pastors offered a variety of suggestions to handle what they see as major pressures facing pastors. The conference was sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Baptist Healthcare System.

Jay Wolf, pastor of First Baptist Church of Montgomery, Ala., said the professional expectations of pastors are higher than in previous years for every aspect of the job, from preaching to administration. Pastors must find ways to cope.

He said he uses a simple trilogy to handle the pressures he faces:

■ *Recognize the realities.* "Ministry is a black hole," Wolf said. "I can pour my entire being into it and never fill it up."

■ *Don't freeze.* Just because you can't do everything, that shouldn't be an excuse for doing nothing, he added. "I think some people do become immo-

bilized by the expectations," he said. "Do your best."

■ *Enjoy the trip.* Ministry should be the joy of the journey, he said, not in arriving at a destination such as a new church or being asked to preach at a pastors' conference. "Ministry is the day-to-day joy of joining God in ministering to His family and building His kingdom."

Dan Webster agreed that today's pastor is expected to "be all things to all people. It's awfully difficult to be a man of the Word and prayer. Now you have to have an MBA in business and understand leadership," he said.

See Pastors: Time ..., page 10

Will SBC elect ethnic president in next 5 years?

By Lee Weeks
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)—Declaring that “the day is over” when the Southern Baptist Convention is “a white Anglo-Saxon denomination,” convention president Paige Patterson said he hopes the SBC will elect its first ethnic president within five years.

“I believe, deep down in my heart, with all my soul that the future of the Southern Baptist Convention has to be a multi-racial, multi-ethnic future, or quite frankly, in my way of thinking, it has no future,” Patterson said during the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board’s second annual Ethnic Presidents Roundtable Conference held Feb. 1-2 on the campus of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

Patterson, president of Southeastern Seminary, and Bob Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board, met with representatives of more than a dozen ethnic fellowships within the SBC in an effort to increase ethnic involvement and representation

in the denomination.

Currently 26 ethnic fellowships hold member status in the SBC, the majority being Korean, African-American and Hispanic, said Michael Cooley, NAMB’s special assistant in leadership development.

During his first term of office as SBC president, Patterson said, he made a concerted effort to appoint ethnic representatives to nearly every committee for which he was responsible, an effort he pledged to maintain at the 2000 annual meeting in Orlando.

“I intend to use someone if I possibly can from every ethnic fellowship and hopefully numerous ones from many of the ethnic fellowships,” he said.

Patterson said his love and appreciation for ethnic diversity was fostered by his parents.

“I have a Palestinian-Arab brother and I have a Mexican brother and I have a Japanese sister who all grew up with me in the home,” he noted. “I grew up in an international family and I learned right there that the most colorful and enjoyable experiences in life, I have

found, cross lines that so often divide people. I really do want to see us with a new day in our convention.”

Reccord said that as the convention seeks to become more ethnically diverse in its leadership, churches also must become more culturally and racially diverse.

“I think we’ve got to continue to push toward multi-cultural churches where in a church it’s not just converted Jews, it’s not just African-Americans, it’s not just Eastern Europeans,” he said. “The church I read about in the New Testament is a church that is spread across all kinds of cultural barriers and in any given church it wasn’t just homogeneous. I frankly think that has become much more a sociological principle than a theological principle.”

Phil Jones, director of NAMB’s strategic planning support team, said the SBC’s 1998 Annual Church Profile report listed about 45,000 congregations, of which 6,000 were identified as predominantly ethnic. He said that according to the report ethnic congregations, totaling 635,000 members, represent about 4 percent of the denomination’s membership.

James Merritt likely candidate for SBC presidency

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP)—Suburban Atlanta pastor James Merritt will likely be nominated as president of the Southern Baptist Convention when it meets June 13-14 in Orlando, Fla.

Merritt’s nomination was mentioned Jan. 31 at a Florida conference that has in the past served as a launching pad for successful presidential campaigns.

Texas pastor Jack Graham said he was sorry that weather-related travel problems prevented Merritt from attending the annual pastors’ conference at First Baptist Church in Jacksonville.

“I was looking forward to him being here and hearing him preach and to asking him for the privilege of nominating him as president of the Southern Baptist Convention when we meet next. I hope he’ll allow me to do that, but I’ll have to ask him another time, I guess,” said Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Dallas.

Merritt said he “hasn’t spoken directly” with anyone, but he “would be honored” if he were nominated.

If elected, Merritt, pastor of the 11,000-member First Baptist Church in Snellville, Ga., would succeed Paige Patterson as SBC president. Patterson, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., completes his second one-year term this year and is ineligible for re-election.

Merritt is the immediate past chairman of the SBC Executive Committee, an 81-member body that conducts business for the SBC between conventions. He also is a former president of the SBC Pastors’ Conference and preached the SBC convention sermon in 1998.

Merritt is a graduate of Stetson University in Deland, Fla., and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

The Jacksonville Bible conference, in its 14th year, drew an audience of more than 6,300 people from about 38 states. It has launched successful nominations of past conservative presidential nominees including Adrian Rogers in 1986, Jerry Vines in 1988, Morris Chapman in 1990 and Patterson in 1998.

Merritt nominated Patterson as president in 1998 and also nominated the SBC’s current second vice president, fellow Georgian Frank Cox, at last year’s convention in Atlanta.

In his convention sermon in Salt Lake City, Merritt urged Southern Baptists to remain vigilant in their defense of conservative values.

“The battle for the soul of our denomination, our colleges, our seminaries, our churches, even for the Bible itself, will never be over,” he said. “There may be a cease-fire, but ... you can never let your guard down.”

Baptists minister to church after airline crash

MONROE, Wash. (BP)—When pastor Jim Shiner learned two local ministers were among those killed in the crash of Alaska Airlines Flight 261, he couldn’t believe the news. Shiner is pastor of First Baptist Church in Monroe, Wash., located just one mile from The Rock Church Northwest, a charismatic church led by Joe and Linda Knight.

The Knights were among the 88 people killed when the Alaska Airlines jet plunged into the Pacific Ocean off the California coast Jan. 31.

Shiner said a group of ministers met Feb. 1 to pray for the Knights’ surviving children as well as the church. “We specifically talked about ways to minister to that congregation,” he said.

“There are only 26 churches in Monroe, so we frequently work together on things.”

Shiner said he has offered to provide grief counseling for members of The Rock Church.

“The biggest thing we can do is to lift them up in prayer, especially the leadership of the church,” he said.

Southern orchestrates key changes at music school

By Tim Ellsworth
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

LOUISVILLE (BP)—Changes in Southern Baptist Theological Seminary’s school of church music and worship are focusing the school more on praise and worship leadership, according to school officials.

“The biggest difference is that we are offering more degrees with worship as the driving force rather than music as the driving force, yet we are still continuing to offer the degrees we’ve always offered that give priority to music,” said Lloyd Mims, dean of the school. “We’re embracing a much wider array of church music education.”

The changes, which are being phased into the program, are expected to be fully in place by the fall semester.

Chief among the changes will be a new structure for the school of church music and worship. It will have three divisions—the academy of music, the institute of praise and worship and the conservatory of church music—instead of the current two.

The academy of music will provide music instruction for seminary community families as well as families in the Louisville area. It also will provide training for music majors in the James P. Boyce College of the Bible.

The institute of praise and worship will emphasize worship leadership. In addition to master of divinity degrees in in worship and church music, the school will launch a new master of arts in worship, a 48-hour degree.

The seminary also will revamp its doctor of ministry in worship degree. Instead of requiring students to spend a

year on campus, the new requirements will allow students to complete the degree by spending only four weeks on campus over a two-year period. The degree will emphasize a praise and worship approach to music.

Another key element of the new emphasis on worship will be the theological foundation students will receive.

Daniel Block, professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Seminary, has helped design such theological classes as “Biblical Theology of Worship.”

“There’s more to worship than music,” Block said. “Music is important, but worship begins with a revelation of God. ... Unless we come away changed, we haven’t worshiped.”

The conservatory of church music will continue to provide classical musical training through various degrees.

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **New England executive to retire.** Ken Lyle, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England since 1993, has announced his retirement effective June 30. Lyle, 63, previously was executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware. He also has served churches in Mississippi, Texas, Georgia and New York. The Kentucky Baptist Convention has been involved in a missions partnership with the New England convention since 1997.

■ **English teachers needed in China.** Christian teachers are needed to staff English teaching programs in China during the summer of 2000, according to Bob McEachern of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board’s volunteers in missions department. Two programs are being offered. China Encounter will be from July 12 to Aug. 12. The cost is \$1,500 plus international airfare. For more information, call (800) 999-3113. The second option is

from June 17 to Aug. 15. It will cost \$3,780, which includes all expenses. For information, call (800) 809-4637.

■ **Truett Seminary breaks ground.** Groundbreaking ceremonies were held Feb. 2 for a permanent home for Baylor University’s George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco, Texas. The \$17 million complex will be built on the northwest corner of the Baylor campus. The seminary, which opened in 1994, has been holding classes at First Baptist Church of Waco.

■ **Southern to host Missions 2000.** Christians living in the United States do not worship under persecution, but organizers of the Missions 2000 conference will try to recreate the experience for youth and young adults Feb. 18-20. The conference, open to high school and college students, will be held at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. On the night of Feb. 19 students

will hold a worship service in the basement of one of the seminary dorms—going “underground” to worship as persecuted Christians must do in some countries. Other areas of focus during the conference will include Generation X and the Latino community. For more information, call (800) 626-5525, ext. 4617.

■ **IMB communications staff in transition.** Louis Moore, associate vice president for communications at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board, has been named as a special assistant to President Jerry Rankin. In his new capacity Moore will manage long-term communications projects, such as book development. Wendy Norvelle is serving as the IMB’s acting vice president for public relations and development since the resignation of David Button earlier in January. Action on Moore’s successor is expected to await the election of Button’s replacement.

New KBC jobs target young adults, internationals, Web

LOUISVILLE—Targeting ministry opportunities involving international students, young adults and Internet technology, the Kentucky Baptist Executive Board's administrative committee approved three personnel recommendations last week.

Tommy Johnson was named international student campus minister; Doug Miller was approved as a young adult contract consultant; and Brenda Smith, a part-time news specialist in the KBC communications/media department, was named full-time news and web specialist.

Johnson, who has been serving as associate campus minister for the University of Louisville Baptist Student Union, will continue to work from the U of L campus. With a statewide focus on international student ministry, however, he will help develop strategies and recruit volunteers to work on campuses

across the state.

"We have more than 3,400 international students studying on our public school campuses in Kentucky," noted Keith Inman, director of the KBC's collegiate ministry department. He said he is excited about Johnson's sense of calling and ability to "build bridges to minister to international students."

Johnson is a graduate of Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. He previously was a summer missions assistant in the KBC collegiate ministry department and a campus minister at Campbellsville University.

"My real heart and soul and passion is with campus ministry," Johnson said.



Johnson

"This international student ministry is really international missions at our doorstep."

Miller, a student at Southern Seminary, will work part-time in his role as a young adult consultant. Vernon Cole, leader of the KBC's church growth team, said Miller's primary responsibilities will include developing content and enlisting conference leaders for young adult conferences at Super Saturday as well as interacting with local churches "that are doing a good job of reaching young adults."

Cole described Miller as "a very, very bright individual who also is a very sensitive person."

Miller is a graduate of Boyce Bible School in Louisville and Campbellsville University. He expects to graduate from

Southern Seminary in December. He currently is minister of discipleship and evangelism at First Baptist Church of Fairdale.

Smith's expanded role as news and web specialist will combine her current responsibilities with new duties, explained Robert Reeves, KBC communications director.

In addition to writing news articles for the communications office, she will coordinate the work of freelance writers and photographers to assist in KBC communications efforts. She also will be responsible for the state convention's Web site design and management.

"We need to take our site (www.kybaptist.org) to the next level," Reeves said. "This is one step in that process."

Smith is a graduate of Illinois State University in Normal. She previously was a communications associate for United Way in Greenwood, S.C.

Promise Keepers looks to make lasting impact in Louisville

LOUISVILLE—Promise Keepers' organizers say they want the first-ever Kentucky rally this July to be more than just a flash in the pan.

At an announcement last week, coordinators began to unveil a "city strategy" to unite area churches and religious organizations for a long-range impact.

"Our goal is to come alongside and equip local ministries to do the work and to effect the changes," said Pat Karschner, a Promise Keepers senior director working in cooperation with the Louisville rally.

Karschner said the city strategy is a key reason for recent restructuring for the national men's ministry, based in Denver, Colo.

"The reorganization of the U.S. structure had nothing to do with finances," he told pastors Feb. 5 at Shively Heights Baptist Church. Questions of financial health have dogged the organization ever since it quit charging admissions fees for its events. "Promise Keepers is healthy financially," he said.

The city strategy will seek to establish a framework for local churches and ministries to network in order to increase effectiveness.

Karschner said churches need to

break down walls of race and denominational barriers and work together to make a difference in their communities. He quoted the Index of Leading Cultural Indicators to note that since the 1960s—a period when the U.S. population increased 41 percent:

- Youth suicides doubled.
- The number of children living in single-adult homes tripled.
- Illegitimate births quadrupled.
- Violent crimes grew five-fold.

While noting that the church is growing, Karschner said, "I believe the church is making progress but it's losing ground."

The first phase of the city effort will involve prayer by church leaders and assembly of a leadership team, Karschner said. After that, the local leadership will determine the direction, he said.

"The dynamics of the church strategy change with each city," he said.

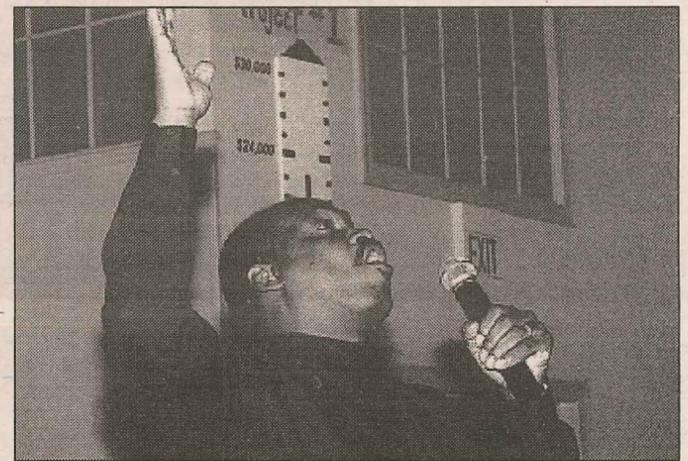
About 35 area pastors attended the first organizational meeting, a turnout Karschner said is about what is expected for the first meeting.

Promise Keepers traces its beginnings to 1990 when University of Colorado football coach Bill McCartney and a friend were on a three-hour car

ride to a Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting. The two discussed the idea of filling a stadium with Christian men. Later that year, 72 men began to fast and pray about the concept of thousands of men coming together for the purpose of Christian discipleship.

In July 1991, 4,200 men gathered for the first Promise Keepers conference at the University of Colorado basketball arena. Since then, more than 3.2 million men have attended 83 Promise Keepers stadium and arena conferences.

Karschner said the group has been successful in bringing together men from a variety of denominations. Its goal of racial diversity, however, has not been met, he added. About 84 percent of the men attending rallies are Caucasian. African-Americans and Hispanics represent only 4 percent each of audi-



ences at the rallies, he said.

For more information about the rally or the city strategy, call (303) 964-7878.

WORSHIP Music evangelist Dwight Ashley of Louisville sings during Promise Keepers' organizational meeting last week at Shively Heights Baptist Church in Louisville.

Legislator says House bill restores freedom to camps and churches

Continued from page 1

disability, race, color or national origin.

The bill "is very limited and focused very narrowly," Kerr explained. "It says a church or religious organization that makes its facilities available to the public can withhold that facility if a group's views are offensive to the religious beliefs of the church."

He said the bill also clearly addresses the concern of a group "claiming its basic religious beliefs involve racist beliefs or superiority of a race" by denying religious status to such groups.

Kerr said the measure also specifies that a religious organization "can't deny an individual a right to participate in a public event" sponsored by the organization. Overall, the bill "restores religious freedom to our Kentucky churches to be able to exercise discretion in how their property is used," he said.

Citing the need for the legislation, Kerr added, "To turn a facility dedicated to the Lord's service over to a group who rejects the God we worship ultimately is an inroad by the state into the free exercise of religion."

Lipscomb said Sen. President Pro Tem Dick Roeding (R-Dist. 11) plans to lead efforts to pass the measure in the

Senate.

Kerr said the bill should be assigned to a Senate committee this week and sent to the Senate floor as early as next week. He predicted the bill "will be overwhelmingly passed in the Senate."

Assessing the impact of the legislation, Lipscomb said, "This has taken on a far greater importance than what started four years ago. We've been going at it from a First Amendment perspective. It will provide religious organizations the ability to have a choice and stand up for their religious convictions.

"The significance is not just for Southern Baptists in Kentucky," he added. "It goes across denominational and faith lines.

"It would have been really easy to take a short-term approach and not abide by the law, but that would have done more to hurt us than help us," Lipscomb said. "We took the responsibility to work within the system and try to change things."

Encouraging Baptists throughout the state to express their views on the issue, he added, "We need Southern Baptists to understand the significance of this issue and our legislators need to hear from them."

BLUEGRASS BURGEOO

■ **Georgetown hosts religious freedom talk.** Georgetown College will host Brent Walker, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Thursday, Feb. 10. Walker will speak on religious freedom and separation of church and state. Admission is free to the event, at 7 p.m. in the Asher Science Center.

■ **Campbellsville gets gift.** Campbellsville University recently received its largest single gift to date. An anonymous donor from Kentucky gave 661 acres of real estate in southeastern Kentucky valued at more than \$1.3 million. The school also received a GTE Foundation grant of \$20,000 to be applied toward the university's

displaced workers technology training program. Officials will break ground for that program center on Feb. 17.

■ **Paducah gets counselors.** Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children recently opened an outpatient Christian counseling center in Paducah. The agency's 22nd counseling office is a partnership ministry between KBHC, Western Baptist Hospital in Paducah Lone Oak First Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Paducah.

CORRECTION: A cutline for a photo last week reported the wrong attendance figure for the Shepherding the Shepherd conference in Lexington. About 270 people attended the three-day conference, Jan. 27-29.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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We never escape the past

By James Rudin

"That was then and this is now." This flippant phrase is usually invoked to end any serious exploration of our individual or collective pasts. The intention is to repress the past and emphasize only the present. While the clever words may sound accurate, they are a lie.

The bitter custody struggle over 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez is a vivid example of how the past often governs the present.

Fidel Castro took control of Cuba in 1959 and ever since he and his communist government have dominated much of American public life including the Bay of Pigs fiasco, the missile crisis and the continuing U.S. embargo.

For four decades Cuba has been a

pariah, a parasite, an "evil empire" just 90 miles from Florida. But during those same 40 years, American leaders have dramatically changed official policy toward two communist regimes far more powerful than Cuba. The United States accorded diplomatic recognition to China during the Nixon administration and to Vietnam during Clinton's term in office, two nations that were former military foes of the United States.

Developments in Florida and Washington, D.C., reveal how divisive the Gonzalez case is. Many American politicians who insist parents are the true custodians of authentic "family values" now urge that young Elian not be returned to his father and grandparents in Cuba. The "then" of 40 years ago decisively shapes the "now" of today, and a

COMMENTARY

Stand for convictions

The article in the Feb. 1 issue of the Western Recorder suggesting that ministers consider "opting in" to Social Security was very bad advice and ill-conceived thinking. It is all the more surprising that this suggestion came from the Southern Baptist Annuity Board.

The article suggests that opting into Social Security is a mere matter of pragmatism. While the value of the program is considerable, a minister who has chosen to "opt out" was only able to do so on the basis of personal or religious opposition to receiving social benefits for ministry-related work (IRS Form 4361).

Any decision to opt back in cannot be legitimately based merely on the benefits of the program; otherwise one's personal and religious convictions have changed or were not rightly stated in the first place. It is a significant omission for the article to neglect this point.

The article seems surprisingly casu-

al with respect to the opportunity for ministers to receive an exemption in the first place. It reads in part, "Many ministers who opted out of Social Security may have failed to understand some of the benefits. ..." If personal conscience and religious convictions mean anything at all, they must come before any consideration of the "benefits" of programs like Social Security. In fact, the article would seem to suggest that the choice becomes one of deciding between personal and religious convictions (the only legitimate basis for an exemption) on the one hand and economic benefits on the other. Surely we don't need to ask where we stand on that issue!

Religious organizations have significant privileges in our society. One sure way to invite the loss of those privileges is to use them for mere personal gain instead of as an expression of honest religious convictions.

Luther McIntyre
Louisville



PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

Experiencing joy in ministry

"Joy in Ministry" was the theme of the Shepherding the Shepherd Conference attended recently by 272 people, including leaders and staff. The purpose of the conference was to provide an experience of enrichment and encouragement for pastors and their spouses.

Dave Bullock, pastor of fine arts at Elmbrook Church in Wisconsin, and his worship team led four incredible worship times for couples. Dave is very gifted at blending the new and old in a seamless movement of praise and worship.

Charles Lowery, a nationally-known writer, psychologist and pastor of Hoffmantown Community Church in Albuquerque, N.M., told participants that in order to maintain joy in ministry, one must think clearly, forsake bad habits, anticipate the best and simply do it now. His humor enabled ministers to laugh about funny things that happen in ministry.

Using Jeremiah and John the Baptist as examples, Dan Webster shared

that following God faithfully will seldom get you where you want to be, will bring you to points of surrender you did not anticipate and will draw you to an intimacy with Christ that you never knew. Dan heads Authentic Leaders Inc., a ministry that trains and inspires leaders to live authentic lives of great impact.



Bill Mackey

"Pastors are able to pass on comfort and healing to others because they have received it from God in their own experience," said Arch Hart, professor of psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary. He said pastors get in trouble because they forget they are people who are subject to emotional hazards and stress. Hart is best known for his book "Adrenaline and Stress," which has been updated many times.

The following quote demonstrates why Kathleen Hart, who serves as a chaplain to student wives at Fuller, struck a chord with participants: "The spouse may feel anger and loneliness when 'Mr. Wonderful' is the center of

6-year-old boy is the proverbial pawn in an ugly political chess game that has little to do with the "best interests" of the child.

One conservative Republican businessman in Tampa recently acknowledged: "I hate to admit it, but Castro is right in this case. If Elian were Haitian, every politico would proudly speak of 'family reunification' as a noble reason for sending the boy back to his father. But Castro and Cuba have always been different."

So different that the National Council of Churches is a staunch advocate for returning Elian to Cuba and the Catholic nun who hosted the boy's recent meeting with his grandmothers in Miami declares, "I am no longer neutral." She believes Elian should stay with his extended family in the U.S.

It has been 40 years since Castro gained power. That was then and this is now. Sure it is.

Pro-abortion stance?

Your paper has used the term "anti-abortion" in the past to refer to people who refer to themselves as "pro-life." That is a tactic normally used by the mainstream media who go out of their way to vilify those who choose to protect the most innocent of our citizens.

Is your paper pro-abortion? One would presume so based on your choice to use the term "anti-abortion" when referring to pro-lifers.

Patrick L. Rowe
Oneida

Editor's Note: By definition, pro-life advocates are anti-abortion. However, in our Feb. 1 article about the Kentucky Rally for Life, we used the term "pro-life" four times and "anti-abortion" once. On a personal level, I wrote in my Jan. 25 editorial, "We must take an active role in addressing our nation's abortion crisis. ... The most effective way to affirm pro-life values is to move from words to actions." I remain deeply committed to the sanctity of human life.

attention. Your spouse and family should receive more of your smiles than anyone else should."

Billy Compton, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, challenged participants to stay alive in ministry by maintaining balance between personal priorities and the expectations of others.

Jay Wolf, pastor of First Baptist Church of Montgomery, Ala., gave practical advice. "Be intentionally evangelistic," he said. Jay has three evangelistic luncheons each week to help him witness on an individual basis as well as from the pulpit.

Many thanks to Richard Adams, Guy Futral and all on the Kentucky Baptist leadership development team for their outstanding work in planning this excellent experience for pastors and spouses. We are so grateful for the partnership with Baptist Healthcare System that made this ministry to pastors and spouses possible.

Contact the leadership development department if you want to participate in next year's Shepherding the Shepherd Conference, Jan. 25-27, 2001.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

STEWARDSHIP

Challenge To Build offers churches financial benefits

By Doug Strader

Does your church need money for a special project such as a new

building, purchasing property, remodeling a building or paying off indebtedness? If you answered yes to any of the above needs,



Challenge To Build may be your answer.

Challenge To Build was started several years ago by several Southern Baptist state stewardship directors to help meet the needs of some of our smaller churches. The principles of the program, however, are applicable for any size church. Those principles include:

- The commitments (called "faith promises") are over and above regular giving.

- Commitments are made for a three-year period.

- The theme is "Equal Sacrifice, Not Equal Gifts."

- Commitments are made individually, usually in the privacy of one's home.

- Every effort is made to make the decision and the giving a meaningful spiritual experience.

Why should a church consider conducting a Challenge To Build program?

- It encourages spiritual growth of church members.

- It eliminates or reduces interest payments.

- It develops new sources of giving.

- It develops leadership.

- Sometimes it increases regular budget receipts.

- It also improves future financial giving.

When should a church conduct a Challenge To Build program?

- When there is a strong consensus among the membership that a building or other capital needs project is necessary.

- When the need for dollars is beyond the scope of the budget offerings.

- When there is room on the church calendar to devote primary attention to the campaign.

- When a church has completed a space study and received an architectural sketch of the project to be done.

- When a church has a need that can best be met by an outside Challenge To Build consultant from the Kentucky Baptist Convention stewardship department.

Anyone interested in more details may call (502) 254-4716 or (888) 254-5708 or contact me by e-mail at douglas_strader@kybaptist.org.

Doug Strader is director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department

Parents can teach children value of honesty by example

Q: When is a child old enough to be held accountable for lying?

Parents may find it difficult to set an arbitrary age at which children become able to distinguish between the truth and a lie. Honesty involves accurately reporting past facts—a trait that requires perception and memory skills, both of which develop gradually as children grow. Most children will have a beginning understanding of the concept of truthfulness by age 2 or 3. At the same time, children still may lie occasionally to avoid trouble, or because they simply don't yet have the ability to accurately perceive or remember what really happened in a particular situation.

Because honesty forms the foundation for so many good things in life (happiness, trust, meaningful and lasting relationships, etc.), parents are anxious to see such an important character trait develop. Still, parents should proceed slowly, although intentionally. Children will grow gradually to an understanding of the importance and value of honesty as they have it modeled for them, as they hear stories about people who told the truth and as they are gently held accountable for their own truthfulness.

With very young children, parents should resist talking about lying as a sin. Children are not ready to handle the kind of guilt or the feelings about God that such conversations may create. Parents also should guard against setting a child up for lying by asking for information about situations or circumstances when they already know what happened. Parents always should exhibit the highest standards of truthfulness, even in the little things of life, aware that little eyes are watching and little ears are listening.—David Garrard

Q: What do we do with our sexual nature as singles?

First, it's important to discriminate between sexual needs and intimacy needs. A refreshing massage, an honest conversation or a small group Bible study all can be intimate and deeply fulfilling. Even the hugs from friends at church can address the real need for welcome, safe human touch.

Managing sexual desire can be a challenge. Temptations sneak up and take hold most when you are unaware of your vulnerability. When presented with temptation, make it a practice to stop, become aware and reorder the mind. Fantasy is unhealthy because it takes you away from yourself. Return to an awareness of who you are in all of your God-given dimensions: body, soul and spirit. Dedicate each of those dimensions to God through prayer.

Be proactive by avoiding literature and movies that encourage fantasy and excite the passions. Keep yourself out of situations where you know you will be vulnerable.

Preparing for the future is a good thing. This includes wisely saving the good gifts God has designated for marriage. The One who gave the gifts has the right (and the wisdom) to designate how they are used. God really does know best.

Don't settle for the cake without the icing. God is not trying to withhold from you the good. He wants to give you the best. He desires to walk with you every day, in every struggle of your life. He knows your body even better than you do. The owner's manual is still the best plan.

It's a good idea to find a pastoral counselor or safe friend with whom you can share your struggles. It's through the light of openness with God and others that we can best find our way. Accountability relationships can be great tools to stay on track in every area of life.—James Stillwell

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



Grassroots action—do facts match fervor?

Do citizens' grassroots efforts ever make a difference when challenging government bureaucracy? Thankfully, the answer occasionally is yes.

A recent example on the national level was a year-end ruling by the Federal Communications Commission that prompted a public outcry followed by the FCC's Jan. 28 reversal of its decision.

The turmoil began Dec. 29 when FCC commissioners voted 3-2 to limit the role of religious programming on educational television channels. Emphasizing that such channels must "primarily serve an educational, instructional or cultural purpose in the station's community," the commissioners declared that "programming primarily devoted to religious exhortation, proselytizing or statements of personally held religious views and beliefs generally would not qualify" as educational programming under the new guidelines.

Further complicating the FCC's action was its claim that certain forms of religious programming would continue to qualify as educational. Any time a government entity tries to tell religious organizations which activities meet arbitrary guidelines, First Amendment trouble is brewing.

Leaders of the National Religious Broadcasters and other religious groups quickly marshaled forces to oppose the FCC action. Legislators soon joined the fray, with Rep. Michael Oxley, R-Ohio, introducing the Religious Broadcasting Freedom Act Jan. 24. In a matter of days, the measure has gained 77 co-sponsors.

Once congressional leaders got involved, FCC commissioners decided it was time to re-evaluate their decision. They voted 4-1 to revoke the guidelines dealing with religious programming.

"In hindsight, we see the difficulty of minting clear definitional parameters for 'educational, instructional or cultural' programming, particularly without the benefit of broad comment," the commissioners noted.

Despite the brief controversy, FCC leaders should be given credit for taking the initiative to reverse their ill-advised action.

This isn't the first time the FCC has succeeded in upholding the rights of religious programmers. Nearly

a quarter of a century ago, the FCC rejected a petition seeking to limit religious broadcasting on educational stations. Unfortunately, countless concerned Christians continue to spread rumors to the contrary.

The petition, RM-2493, was filed in December 1974 by two California businessmen. Denying the petition on Aug. 1, 1975, FCC leaders said the First Amendment requires the commission "to observe a stance of neutrality toward religion, acting neither to promote nor inhibit religion."

Somewhere along the way, RM-2493 was inaccurately linked to atheist activist Madalyn Murray O'Hair. Although she never was involved with the petition, the FCC has received literally millions of calls and letters over the years from well-meaning but misinformed citizens.

The fact is O'Hair has been missing since 1995. Authorities have said they believe she was murdered. A federal grand jury in Texas recently indicted a suspect for her kidnapping

and disappearance.

Yet the 25-year-old RM-2493 rumors continue to abound. Why? O'Hair's son, Bill Murray, who became a Christian evangelist, declared years ago that he thinks fake petitions are being kept in circulation by atheists to "make Christians look foolish." Internet technology has heightened the problem, with electronic versions of the false claims transmitted endlessly.

How do the two FCC actions and public responses relate? In both cases, the FCC's final decisions came down on the side of religious freedom. In the latest development, informed Christians played a key role in helping produce positive change.

By contrast, Christians who unwittingly have fueled the RM-2493 rumors also have weakened the credibility of fellow Christians seeking to address legitimate concerns.

While it is important to take strong moral and social stands, it is equally important to make informed decisions. Refuse to take part in spreading unsubstantiated rumors, no matter what the subject. Make certain the facts match your fervor—and then let your voice be heard.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Serving Christ amid crisis

By Larry Koch

"What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is ill-clad and in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (James 2:14-17).

One of the most potent trends in the contemporary church is the involvement of the laity in mission efforts. Hopefully, the days are now past when "missions" was considered only the task of the career missionary who goes off to a foreign land. If the church of the 21st century is going to successfully share the good news with the world and fulfill the Great Commission, it will be done by an army of committed Christians willing to put their faith into action.

Today it is the task of the church to provide avenues of service for all

believers to share Jesus with a needy world. We must move away from the spectator image of the church member sitting in a pew to the participatory image. After all, faith without works is a dead faith, according to James 2:17.

The ministry of disaster relief is among the hands-on avenues of mission service today. Yet disaster relief has been called the best-kept secret in Southern Baptist life. It still amazes me to find people who say, "I didn't realize Southern Baptists did anything like this."

According to the North American Mission Board's "OnSite" magazine, Southern Baptists have "the second largest disaster relief force in North America, second only to the American Red Cross." In fact, more than 80 percent of all meals served by the Red Cross since Hurricane Hugo in 1989 have been prepared in Southern Baptist mobile kitchens.

Southern Baptist churches have been involved in the ministry of disaster relief since Texas Baptist men took the lead nearly 40 years ago. Kentucky Baptists formed their first disaster re-

lief unit in 1984 and have responded to 41 disasters since that time. As a result, Kentucky Baptists have had the opportunity to give "a cup of cold water" in Jesus' name to countless people in need. By volunteers putting their faith into action, many people have been introduced to the power of God's love and accepted Jesus as their personal Savior.

Advanced preparation is the key to successful ministry. If we are unprepared when disaster strikes and delay action, the opportunity passes with the urgent need.

Trained disaster relief volunteers minister to people in crisis by providing hot meals; helping people clean up after floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and other disasters; counseling and witnessing to hurting people; and helping rebuild and repair homes and churches after disasters.

The Apostle Paul emphasized we are to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). As we reach out to help others and bear their burdens during times of disaster,

we can fulfill the law of Christ which is the law of love.



Larry Koch is director of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief efforts

Book project started by educator burdened by needs

By Debbie Moore
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

TUPELO, Miss. (BP)—Benjamin Hal Buchanan Sr. had a passion for making learning accessible. A veteran educator in Mississippi, Buchanan became known internationally in 1986 when he started Book-Link after his retirement.

Buchanan, who is credited with initially encouraging Southern Baptists to send their unused religious materials overseas, had a passion for aiding and participating in Southern Baptist missions and discipleship.

First a public school principal and superintendent of education, he retired as dean of education at Delta State University in Mississippi. He "gave his

whole life to education and was very committed to the improvement of education" and to making resources available, said his niece, Beth Holmes, senior consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission in Jackson.

Buchanan died last July. During his so-called retirement years he went on overseas missions trips and saw firsthand the lack of materials in many parts of the world.

"He was very concerned about missionaries having the resources they needed to help others," Holmes said. "He was very serious about seeing people won to Christ and then having the materials necessary to be disciplined and to grow." Holmes also recalled her uncle's conviction that, "The greatest efforts are the sustaining ones which pro-

vide resources to our brothers who keep crying out for help."

Through the encouragement of his friend and fellow Mississippian, the late Owen Cooper—the most recent layman elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention—Buchanan worked through what was formerly the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission to establish the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators.

Book-Link grew out of an organization earlier founded by Cooper, Books for the World, established in the late 1970s to get books out of Baptist homes—"where they are just decorating the shelves," Cooper is famous for having said—and into the hands of people who had no books.

While Books for the World sought to collect and distribute a wide variety of written materials, Cooper encouraged Buchanan to establish Book-Link to focus on gathering unused Christian resources and sending them to Southern Baptist missionaries and the students and pastors they trained, especially those in developing countries.

At the beginning, Buchanan and his wife, Dorothy, did everything themselves. Gradually other Southern Baptists helped, such as Tom Booth of Aberdeen, Miss., who urged his church to become involved after he read an article about Book-Link.

Booth, Book-Link's former director of shipping, remembers a letter of thanks the Buchanans received from a missionary in Nigeria, Alma Rohm, who had just received 28 boxes of hymnals and books at the Baptist college in Iwo, Nigeria:

"I wish all of you who have sent books could be here to see the delight

on the faces of those who will attend our Nationwide Baptist Music Workshop ... when they are able to get a hymnbook with music, not just words!" she wrote. "As I sit surrounded by all these boxes, I know myself to be surrounded by your love and lifted to heaven by your prayers."

Funding is the most critical need these days. Bibles and other books sometimes have to sit and wait for money to come in so they can be properly shipped back out, said NFBE President June Rose Garrott of Waco, Texas. Books are now stored and packaged at Olin Williams' home in Eubank. Williams is a friend of Buchanan's, who took over the ministry after Buchanan became ill.

Part of the group's funding comes from the Book-Link Foundation, invested through the efforts of foundation offices of the Mississippi, Texas and Alabama Baptist conventions. Also, a memorial fund honoring Buchanan has been set up with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. A total of about \$30,000 currently is invested; at least \$200,000 is needed for the fund to be fully endowed.

Typically \$35 is needed to send out each box.

During 1998 alone, a total of 379 shipments were sent to 17 countries, with a total shipping cost of almost \$10,600 to send out 45,426 Christian resource items.

"This is a wonderful ministry," said Geneva Faw, a Book-Link volunteer who received Book-Link's first shipment in 1988 when she and her husband were missionaries in Nigeria. "If I didn't feel like it was, I wouldn't do it, because this is just pure, plain hard work."

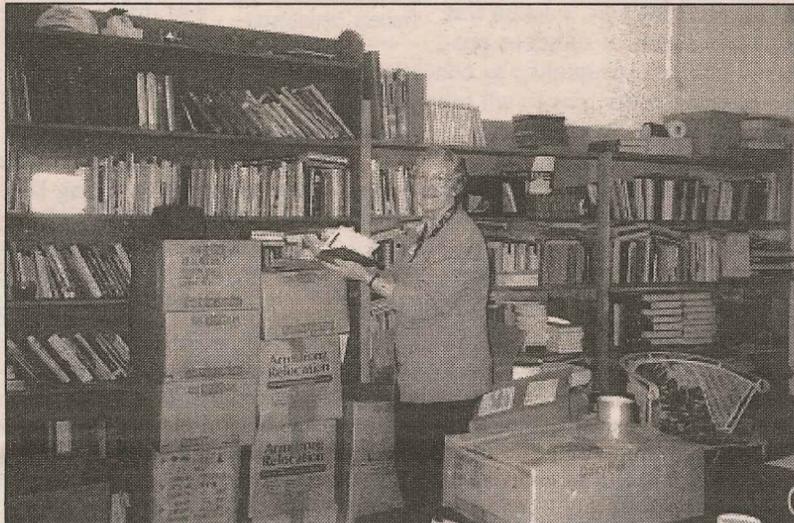
How to help:

■ **Send Bibles or Christian literature to Book-Link**, 4155 Highway 328 West, Eubank, KY 42567. Organizers ask that materials not be sent C.O.D. because Book-Link has no budget to pay for shipping to Eubank.

■ **Financial support is welcome.** All donations are used strictly to pay postal costs and to buy shipping materials, and all donations are tax-deductible. Make checks to Book-Link.

■ **Invest in the future.** The Book-Link Foundation was established to continue the group's work. Donations can be sent in care of Mississippi Baptist Foundation, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

■ **Volunteers are welcome.** To schedule a time to work, call director Olin Williams at (606) 379-2140.



VOLUNTEER Geneva Faw sorts through books to be shipped by Book-Link. The ministry, which has no budget for salaries, uses all donations to ship books overseas.

Book-Link ships used Bibles & books to Christians overseas

Continued from page 1
change my mind," she said.

Filipi now "lives and breathes Book-Link," said Geneva Faw, who with her husband, Wiley, managed the day-to-day operations of Book-Link during Williams' time in Zimbabwe.

The Faws, who spent 33 years as missionaries in Nigeria before their recent retirement, made regular trips to the small post office to pick up boxes of books that people and churches have sent from all over the United States. The Faws didn't mind the work. They remember like it was yesterday those boxes of books they received from Book-Link when they were many thousands of miles from home. They received Book-Link's first shipment, in fact.

In Williams' house and garages, the Faws, Filipi and other volunteers sort through the boxes shipped to them and find specific items to fill each request, then they carefully pack the materials and send them out to pastors and students who many times live in isolated areas around the world.

Two of the main reasons for the shortage of materials in some places are the scarcity of Christian publishers outside the United States and many students' lack of funds to buy a book even if it were available.

"We pray as we box the books that what we send will be right for those people," Filipi said.

She fondly remembers a thank-you



LOADING UP Wiley Faw loads mail bags of books to take to the post office for Book-Link. The non-profit organization has been helping Christians overseas for almost 15 years.

letter from a Christian woman in Nigeria, who wrote, "I have taught Sunday school for seven years, and this is the first time I've ever had any literature to use."

"I am a recycler," Filipi said. "This is the best way to recycle things, to get books off of the shelves of people who don't use them and into the hands of people who want and need them so desperately."

Another volunteer, Eddie Henson of Huntington, W. Va., also makes the trek to Eubank as often as he can. A retired director of missions and church starter, Henson first thinned out his own library, then started roaming West Virginia for

more. He contacted several sources, including:

■ Christian bookstores, to pick up books, tracts and vacation Bible school materials that didn't sell.

■ Churches, to get extra Sunday school literature as well as unclaimed Bibles and old hymn books.

■ Church libraries, to get duplicate books or items pulled from the shelves to make room for new releases.

"It is extremely poor stewardship and maybe even a sin to have Christian materials sitting around, not being used, while other Christians around the world have nothing and would treasure these items if they had them," Henson said.

What to send

Each Book-Link shipment is packaged to fill a specific request from a student or pastor. The most requested items include:

- Bibles.
 - Bible dictionaries, commentaries, atlases, concordances and encyclopedias.
 - English dictionaries.
 - Books on Baptist beliefs, theology, ethics, discipleship, stewardship, evangelism, prayer and church administration.
 - Winter Bible study, church study course, vacation Bible school and Sunday school literature (especially materials in Life-Way Christian Resources' "Exploring the Bible" and "Bible Book" series).
 - Hymnals.
 - Sermon cassette tapes.
- Likewise, some items that cannot be used include:
- Highly damaged books (such as Bibles with the cover and pages ripped off).
 - Novels, secular or Christian.
 - Sunday school and vacation Bible school materials with writing inside.

For more information, call Olin Williams at (606) 379-2140.

Baptist volunteers make a difference after hurricane

By Tony Cartledge & Jimmy Allen
North Carolina Biblical Recorder

WILMINGTON, N.C. (BP)—They come from throughout North Carolina—from Hendersonville and Charlotte and Mt. Airy, from Marion and Winston-Salem and Roxboro, from Aberdeen and Thomasville and Kings Mountain.

They work alongside volunteers from South Carolina and West Virginia. The great majority are Baptists, but there are Presbyterians, Methodists and Nazarenes contributing.

They take time off from work without pay or volunteer their vacation time or make their retirement days particularly productive.

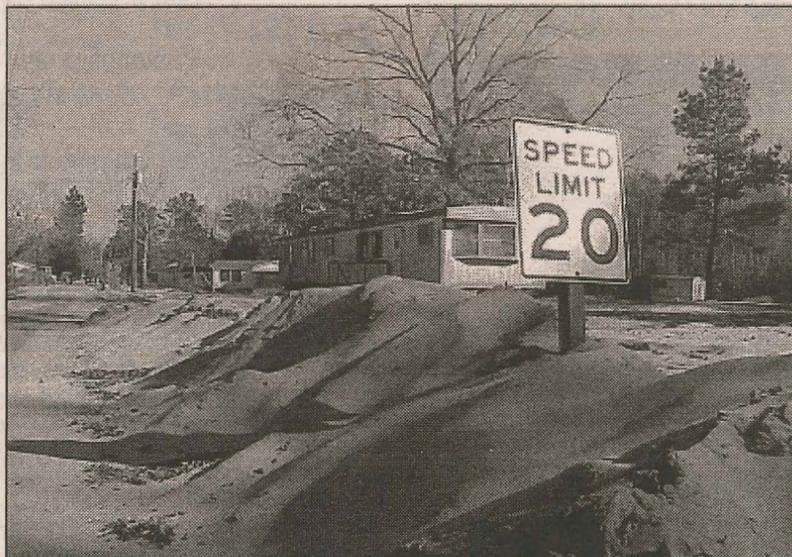
These are the people who don't forget, the people whose hearts hurt for the distressed, the people who put feet and hands to their prayers. These are the volunteers who are still rebuilding hundreds of homes ravaged by floodwater that rose after Hurricane Floyd's Sept. 16 appearance and remained for weeks thereafter.

Jasper Evans stands on the loading dock of a small warehouse leased by North Carolina Baptist Men in the quiet town of Burgaw, a few miles west of Interstate 40 and north of Wilmington. He points to long sheets of drywall, pink rolls of insulation and a room full of electrical supplies that have been donated to the cause or purchased with funds given by North Carolina Baptists.

In a bare office cluttered with paperwork and food supplies, Sue Evans works at record-keeping and the coordination of housing and meals for volunteers.

The Evanses are retired only in the sense that they don't get paid for their efforts. They are full-time volunteers who have spent most of the past five years assisting mission efforts in Germany and the Czech Republic.

The Evanses have been on site in Burgaw since Dec. 1 and are committed to remain for six months. They work with members of local Baptist churches, whose members provide housing and assist with meals for volunteers. Some volunteers shower in a unit on wheels that sits outside the warehouse.



LEFT BEHIND Sand that once was on the bottom of the Neuse River is now piled on the side of Water Street in Grifton, N.C. Plows had to scrape the road to make it passable.

Because of the generosity of North Carolina Baptists, families in need can receive up to \$1,700 in donated materials in addition to volunteer labor. Priority is given to families who received no insurance or assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In a double-wide mobile home off Whitestocking Road about eight miles east of Burgaw, a dusty crew is busily at work plastering and sanding Sheetrock. Earlier, volunteer crews gutted the house, replaced the floor and rewired the house.

Crew leader Mike Nelson of Hendersonville, N.C., took time off from his maintenance job at Fruitland Baptist Bible Institute to spend the week after Christmas helping flood victims. He pointed to the ways he saw God at work.

"We were talking about beginning a ministry similar to this when I read about this project," he said. "We were not planning to start until later, but we felt God leading us to get started now."

"You can tell God is in it," Nelson added. "I hate Sheetrock. I'd rather dig a ditch. But this week I've had joy hanging Sheetrock, so you know God is in it."

In Grifton, N.C., about 10 miles

south of Greenville, many of the streets in and around town still resemble a war zone nearly four months after Hurricane Floyd's once-a-century flood hit.

Eight church buildings are unusable, and sand that had been on the bottom of the Neuse River now stands in mounds beside what is called Water Street. Mobile homes bow with bent frames, parts of their exterior walls missing, and at least one mobile home sits on its side.

But in the midst of the destruction, sparks of hope are shining. Many of these sparks are wearing yellow caps showing they are part of North Carolina Baptist Men's relief effort.

During the week following Christmas, 250 people helped rebuild about 30 homes in the Grifton area where more than 300 flood victims have asked Baptist Men for help. They are all scheduled to be helped, a process that will likely take two years, said coordinator Billy Tarlton.

Many of the mailboxes showing street addresses for the homes were washed away, so yellow placards with designation numbers have been posted on houses. As passersby see numbers like 56, 11, 16, 210, 189, the magnitude of the damage and the work needed becomes more real.

First Baptist Church of Grifton opened its doors to volunteers from across the state. They sleep in the church. They eat in the church's fellowship hall. Volunteers with campers park them outside the church.

"We've got 'em sleeping in the pews, in the choir loft, in the hall, just about everywhere," said Tarlton, who, along with Barry Edge, serves as coordinator of the flood relief efforts in eastern North Carolina.

But even that space wasn't enough for the mission blitz after Christmas. Some of the volunteers slept in the town's old railroad depot and others slept in the rescue squad building.

First Baptist typically hosts between 100 and 150 volunteers on weekends, Tarlton said. Although the work is expected to continue for about two years, the church may not need to host volunteers every week. A sleeping quarters is being prepared in a 44,000-square-foot warehouse that had been vacant in the town since a

manufacturing plant closed 12 years ago.

Tractor-trailer loads of building supplies and furniture have been purchased or donated. National Gypsum, for example, donated wallboard valued at \$250,000. And during the mission blitz, Dean Embler arrived with a load of vinyl siding, trim and soffit donated by Reynolds Aluminum and Vinyl of Winston-Salem.

One of the rebuilt homes belongs to Mabel Baker, who lives about 50 yards from a railroad track where the track's bedding was washed away, leaving the rails hanging like clotheslines.

Baker's white-siding house shines brightly in the midday sun. A red bow is tied to the porch beam and pansies line her front yard. Volunteers replaced the subflooring and flooring, installed wallboard, performed some electrical work and installed carpet, and provided furniture, double-hung windows and vinyl siding.

"God fixed it," Baker said.

She received no funding from the federal government and \$206 from the state, she said. North Carolina Baptist Men "have taken care of me in the housing business," she said. "I thank God, and I thank them."

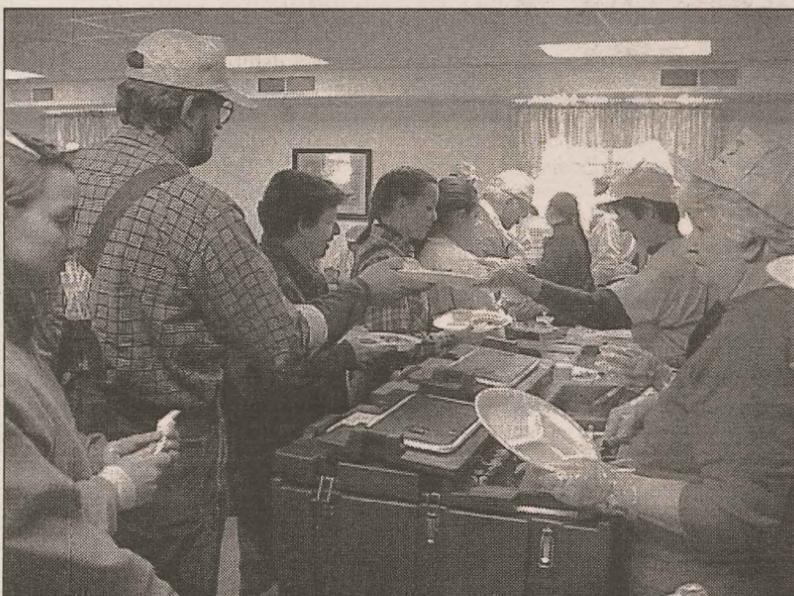
The flood has caused more than devastation to houses and church facilities. It also has brought the community together like never before. Members of Grifton Chapel are meeting at First Baptist. And five churches gathered at First Baptist for a Thanksgiving service.

"It has been a blessing for us ... to know it isn't a color issue, that God has a people. It just wouldn't have happened without the flood," said Jimmy Uhl, pastor of First Baptist Church, Grifton.

"To me, it's been a wonderful blessing," he added. "God didn't send the flood. He did open a door to ministry and we've stepped through it."

In Grifton, N.C., more than 300 flood victims have asked Baptist Men for help, a process that will likely last two years.

CHRISTMAS WEEK BLITZ
Hundreds of volunteers devoted the week between Christmas and the new year to help rebuild houses damaged by Hurricane Floyd's flooding. (Photos by Jimmy Allen)



HOT LUNCH Volunteers gather in the fellowship hall of First Baptist Church of Grifton, N.C., to eat spaghetti and greet people who work at various relief sites.



NATIONAL NOTES

■ Virginia's Senate OKs school "minute of silence."

Virginia's Senate approved a measure that would call for a minute of silence for prayer, meditation or reflection at the start of each school day. By a 28-11 vote, senators approved the legislation that has been praised by religious and social conservatives and criticized by civil libertarians. Supporters hope it might reduce violence in schools and opponents argue that it is unconstitutional. People on both sides expect it to become law.

■ **Christian music to reach in-flight airwaves.** Christian music will reach the airwaves in the air during a two-month feature on Delta Airlines' in-flight audio channel. The Gospel Music Association, Parable Christian Stores and CCM Magazine announced they will sponsor a Delta in-flight audio channel from March 1 to April 30. Listeners aboard Delta flights will hear music selected from nominees for the association's annual Dove Awards. Delta Airlines research indicates that more than 6 million people listen to their in-flight audio offerings during each two-month cycle.

■ **Religious environmentalist honored.** Paul Gorman, the founder and executive director of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, was named Feb. 3 as recipient of a \$250,000 Heinz Award. Gorman was one of five recipients of awards given annually by the Heinz Family Foundation. He won in the environmental category. Founded in 1993, the partnership is an alliance of faith groups working to increase awareness of environmental issues among major American faith groups. The alliance's partners include the Evangelical Environmental Network.

■ **Minister convicted of child porn.** A former Methodist minister could spend the next 15 years in prison after admitting he received child pornography on his computer. Lawrence Winford Kilbourn, 43, pleaded guilty Feb. 2 in federal court to receiving the illegal computer files. He was arrested last fall after officials found more than 15,000 computer files and 200 videotapes in his church-owned home. Authorities were tipped off by Kilbourn's 17-year-old daughter, who discovered in her father's home a videotape of a child being fondled by a man she thought could be him. In October, Kilbourn resigned as pastor of Forest Hills United Methodist Church in Tampa, Fla., where he had worked for a little more than a year.

■ **Governor opposes California marriage proposition.** California Gov. Gray Davis announced his opposition to a voter initiative that would recognize only marriages "between men and women," calling the proposition "wedge-issue politics." Proposition 22 has become a rallying cry for conservative and religious organizations throughout California, including the California Southern Baptist Convention. Voters will decide the issue on March 7. Davis said Proposition 22 is unnecessary because current California law "clearly and unequivocally limits marriage to a man and a woman."

■ **Fourth Presbyterian enters moderator race.** A fourth person has announced her candidacy for moderator of the 212th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) after receiving an endorsement from a California presbytery last weekend. Jill Martinez, a 49-year-old Mexican-American, joins three other candidates: Elder Youngil Cho of Raleigh, N.C.; John Herndon III of Huntsville, Ala.; and Syngman Rhee of Richmond, Va.

■ **Newspaper links Catholic priests & AIDS.** Roman Catholic priests in the United States are dying of AIDS-related illnesses at a rate four times higher than the general population, though their true cause of death is often hidden on death certificates; the Kansas City Star reported Jan. 30. The newspaper reported that its review of death certificates and interviews with experts indicated several hundred priests nationwide have died of AIDS-related illnesses since the mid-1980s, while hundreds more are infected with HIV, the virus that causes the disease.

Groups oppose school ball game prayers

WASHINGTON (ABP)—School-sponsored prayer at football games both violates the separation of church and state and denigrates sincere religion, two Baptist church-state organizations argue in a legal brief filed at the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Baptist Joint Committee and the Center of Church-State Studies at Baylor University urged the high court to uphold a federal appeals court's invalidation of a Texas school district's policy permitting student-led prayers before football games.

The challenged policy was adopted in 1995 by the Santa Fe Independent School District in south Texas.

It allows students selected by their colleagues to deliver invocations and benedictions at graduation ceremonies and a "brief invocation and/or message" during pregame ceremonies at home varsity football games.

A federal district court said the policies would be constitutional as long as they included a requirement that students keep their prayers "non-sectarian" and "nonproselytizing."

While agreeing that such prayers are permissible at graduation, however, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the policy couldn't be extended to football games. Unlike a graduation prayer, prayer at a football game does not serve a secular purpose of making the event more solemn, the court ruled.

The Baptist groups' brief argues the Santa Fe policy violates church-state separation because it constitutes "state endorsement of religion" and coerces those attending football games to participate in religious activity.

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National Prayer Breakfast urges religious tolerance

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Spiritual tolerance and unity were themes for the 48th annual National Prayer Breakfast.

In a departure from previous years' events that have featured Christian keynoters, Sen Joseph Lieberman, D-Conn.—an Orthodox Jew—delivered the keynote address at the annual meeting of politicians, clergy and lay people to discuss issues of faith and spirituality.

About 3,800 elected officials and religious leaders from around the globe gathered for the Feb. 3 event.

Lieberman told the crowd that "what unites us is much greater than what divides us," noting that as a Jew he had been apprehensive about attending Senate prayer breakfasts when first invited years ago.

"Today, I can tell you that the weekly prayer breakfasts have become the time in my hectic life in the Senate when I feel most at home, most tied to a community," he said. "We are at those breakfasts not as senators, not as Republicans or Democrats, or liberals or conservatives, not even particularly as Christians or Jews. We are

there as men and women of faith linked by a bond that transcends all the other descriptors and dividers—our shared love of God."

Lieberman suggested individuals could strengthen their communities "by talking in the spirit of this prayer breakfast—open, generous and mutually respectful." He encouraged listeners to translate faith into action.

President Clinton, citing the Koran, the Torah and the Bible, urged the crowd to consider what it means to love one's neighbor in an increasingly global society.

"The world is growing smaller and more interdependent," he said. "The point I would like to make to you today is, as time and space contract, the wisdom of the human heart must expand. We must be able to love our neighbors and accept our essential oneness."

Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham, delivered the closing prayer on behalf of his father, who was recuperating from elective surgery to remove a benign sinus polyp. Also, the elder Graham's wife, Ruth, is recuperating from hip replacement surgery.

FCC reverses its decision on religious broadcasting

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Religious broadcasters are cheering a decision by the Federal Communications Commission reversing guidelines in a recent FCC ruling that declared some religious programming aired on noncommercial television stations cannot be considered "educational."

FCC commissioners voted 4-1 Jan. 28 to drop the controversial language.

"In an attempt to clarify what constitutes noncommercial, educational programming, we offered additional guidance broadly, and attempted to apply that guidance to specific cases involving religious programming," the FCC said in the "Order on Reconsideration."

"Regrettably, it has become clear that our actions have created less certainty rather than more, contrary to our intent."

The now-revoked guidelines had said programming focused on proselytizing or "religious exhortation" would not meet the qualifications for educational programming required of noncommercial educational stations.

The commission said it will leave programming decisions up to the organizations holding noncommercial educational licenses unless the licensee's judgment is "arbitrary or unreasonable."

"In hindsight, we see the difficulty of minting

clear definitional parameters for 'educational, instructional or cultural' programming, particularly without the benefit of broad comment," the order said.

Brandt Gustavson, president of the National Religious Broadcasters, an organization that mounted a campaign protesting the language, called the FCC's reversal "a total victory" and "a beautiful demonstration of democracy in action."

FCC Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth noted that he received more than 1,000 messages of opposition to the guidelines.

"It was not for lack of clarity that these parties objected to the decision but for infringement of freedom of speech and freedom of religion—and rightly so," Furchtgott-Roth said.

In a dissenting statement, Commissioner Gloria Tristani said the reconsideration marked a "sad and shameful day for the FCC" and called accusations that the commission was biased against religion "reminiscent of a witch hunt."

"It is precisely because of my deep respect for religion and my deep appreciation for the religious diversity of America, that I supported our additional guidance," Tristani said. "In a religiously diverse society, sectarian religious programming, by its very nature, does not serve the 'entire community' and is not 'educational' to non-adherents."

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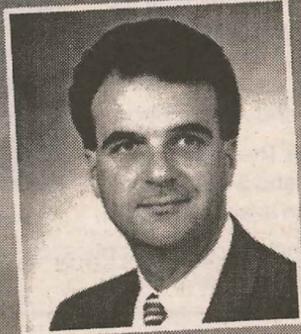
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Chris Allman

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

6:30 p.m.

Phil Hoskins, Bailey Smith

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

10:00 a.m.

Al Mohler, Phil Hoskins

6:30 p.m.

Herb Reavis, Jerry Falwell

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

10:00 a.m.

Bob Pitman, Jamey Ragle

6:30 p.m.

Rick Coram, Jamey Ragle

MUSIC

Rick Stone
Wed. p.m. - Fri. p.m.
Stone Brothers
Wed p.m. - Fri. p.m.
Bekki Smith
Wed. p.m. - Thrs. a.m.
Chris Allman
Thrs. p.m. - Friday

CHOIRS

Valley View Baptist Church
Ninth and O Baptist Church

CHURCHES

Pastors: Time & expectations are the greatest challenges

Continued from page 1

Webster, who recently launched Authentic Leadership Inc., offers this advice:

■ **Recognize that ministry flows out of a relationship with God.** "Spiritual ministry happens through spiritual people, not well-oiled programs."

■ **Play to strengths.** Pastors should "understand what their unique spiritual gift is—teaching, shepherding or counseling."

■ **Build a structure of ministry that unleashes the laity.** "That's a leadership trait," he said.

Billy Compton, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, said, "It's very easy to get in the loop of doing good things for people and leaving off the best things, your family."

Compton suggests these ways to recharge:

■ **Go to lunch alone with a book or Bible.**

■ **If Wednesdays are 12- to 14-hour days, spend an occasional Thursday morning at home.**

■ **If you have a secretary, help him or her think like you think in order to take care of routine calls.**

Charles Lowery, pastor of Hoffmantown Community Church in Albuquerque, N.M., said pastors need to decide what's most important, "And don't give that decision to other people."

Without a list of priorities, it's like going grocery shopping without a list and returning home with junk food. "You'll spend a lot of time and money and not have anything important," he said.

"If my wife is with me, I have a lot better chance of sticking to the list," he added.

The same is true in ministry, he said. "My spouse is the best. She knows my limit and load better than anybody else. But a friend or accountability group will be helpful, too."

Speaker: Time pays off in church ministry

LEXINGTON—While pastors face multiple expectations, they should start to see their church mirroring their leadership style after about five years, according to a speaker at last month's Shepherding the Shepherd conference.

But Jay Wolf, pastor of First Baptist Church of Montgomery, said too many pastors leave churches too soon.

"Authority is earned more than granted," he said. "By the time you finally earn your authority, you're off to another church."

Pastors should resemble doctors' practices, he said. "You build a practice. How many doctors change their practice every three years?"

In a conference called "What Works" Wolf offered ministers suggestions for finding balance in their ministry, marriage and self-maintenance.

In ministry, Wolf said he focuses his energy on four areas:

■ **Preaching and teaching.** Wolf encouraged pastors to listen to their preaching to critique their work. He added that he limits his sermons to 22 minutes at most. "Have you ever heard a bad short sermon? Probably not."

■ **Evangelism.** Wolf encouraged pastors to have a system in place for evangelism. "Otherwise you fool yourself with your good intentions." Wolf said he uses FAITH, a Sunday school-based evangelism program from LifeWay Christian Resources. He also makes quick phone calls to visitors on Sunday afternoon and evening. "I am a direct marketer for Christ."

Wolf: Expectations are growing

Jay Wolf said congregations have raised the bar of expectations compared to previous generations.

Congregations are more critical judges of sermons because audiences can regularly hear such speakers as Chuck Swindoll and Charles Stanley on TV, said Wolf, pastor of First Baptist Church of Montgomery, Ala.

"The benchmark is no longer Aunt Suzy's pastor who did Granny's funeral. The benchmarks are these big-league heavy hitters," he said. "It would be as if your benchmark were now Tiger Woods for every time you played golf."

Preachers face the three challeng-

es of having something to say, saying it well and making sure it's an authentic word from God, Wolf said. "And that's pretty tough to do three times a week."

As an administrator, various segments of the congregation have different demands or expectations, he said.

"Man, if you don't deliver the nursery they're not coming back," he said, adding that meanwhile the senior citizens want to know why they don't have a full-time seniors minister. "Even 30 years ago, there weren't the same set of expectations for the pastor."

■ **Vision casting.** Pastors should be able to articulate their God-given vision for the church, Wolf said. "Every church needs a great slogan people can repeat," he added. His church's is: "Bring 'em in. Build 'em up. Send 'em out."

■ **Mentoring.** Wolf said it might appear to take longer to train others for projects than it would take to do it oneself, but mentoring will ultimately expand the ministry of the church. "Why did Jesus drag those disciples around? He was mentoring."

Regarding marriage, Wolf encouraged pastors to develop partnership relationships. "Before you're husband and wife, you're brothers and sisters in Christ."

Wolf also recommended that pastors talk to their spouses about everything and keep dating each other.

Regarding self-maintenance, Wolf said pastors should have disciplined lifestyles in several areas, including:

■ **Diet.** "Be responsible for your health," he said. "Prevention is better than cure."

■ **Recreation.** Dr. Kenneth Cooper recommends doing something three times a week "that makes one forget what time it is," Wolf said.

■ **Interpersonal relationships.** "Develop some low-maintenance friends," he said.

■ **Spiritual growth.** Wolf said he asks himself, "Is the life I'm asking people to live the one I'm living daily?"

Time and rooms are running out

On the back page of this edition of the Western Recorder you will find a full-page ad promoting our new youth camp, "Crossings at the Creek."

As I wrote two weeks ago, we are excited about the kickoff of this new camp this summer. Just two weeks ago, our Crossings registration was at about 60 percent capacity.

During these last two weeks, that number has grown to around 85-90 percent of our capacity.

So what does this mean?

First of all, it means we are so thankful for the support many of you have shown us as we launch this new endeavor. On behalf of our board and myself, I thank you.

Many of you have stepped out in faith and already have signed up large groups of youth to bring to this camp. We have churches bringing seven and we have churches bringing 70.

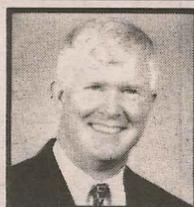
Regardless of the size of your group, we already are praying, seriously praying, that God will do a great work in the lives of your students and adults as you come to Crossings.

It also means that while we still have room for more, we rapidly are

approaching our maximum. So if you are considering coming to Crossings, we urge you not to delay. Call now or as soon as possible.

By the time you read this column, we will be even closer to capacity because reservations literally are coming every day. So don't wait. Call now and be a part of this new camp.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST ASSEMBLIES



Rusty Ellison

A year ago, we began to seek to understand the vision God had given to us concerning Jonathan Creek and this new camp. We have sought Him diligently, and this entire process has been bathed in fervent prayer.

We now know the students will be here this summer. So our prayer burners are turned up a notch as we pray for a

great movement of God in the lives of this young generation, not only at Jonathan Creek but also at Cedarmore this summer.

To God be the glory! It is going to be a great summer as He changes lives through our student camping ministries.

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

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Religious leaders urge divestment from Sudan oil

WASHINGTON (RNS)—Nine religious leaders have issued a letter calling for investors to halt stock investment in two companies with major investments in a Sudanese government new oil pipeline.

The letter urges investors to avoid underwriting "the world's most egregious practitioners of terrorism, starvation, religious persecution, slavery and literal genocide." Signers included Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, and evangelical leader Charles Colson.

The letter, sent last week, charges that Talisman Energy Inc. and China National Petroleum Company are the two main sources of revenue for the Sudanese government, and money from those companies helps protect Sudan from international pressure to end a 16-year-old civil conflict between the Muslim-dominated government and breakaway rebels.

The letter, co-sponsored by the Center for Religious Freedom of Freedom House and the Institute on Religion and Democracy, was sent to state treasurers, 150 of the nation's largest public employee pension funds and the nation's top 50 mutual fund companies.

Suspect arrested in missionary's murder

ORISSA, India (RNS)—The chief suspect in last year's slaying of Australian missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons has been arrested by Indian police, authorities said Feb. 1.

The murder of Staines and his two boys, burned to death Jan. 23, 1999, as they slept in their jeep after a Bible study, attracted worldwide attention.

Shortly after the murder, police identified Hindu militant Dara Singh as the main suspect in the case. Despite an intense manhunt and a \$23,250 reward, Hindu villagers in the eastern state of Orissa successfully hid Singh during the past year.

Singh has been wanted in connection with several criminal cases and has been on the run since allegedly

leading the mob that attacked Staines. He was arrested with two of his sons as he sought to buy a gun, according to news service reports.

The attack on Staines, a Baptist missionary who had worked with leprosy patients in India since 1965, came amid increased friction between militant Hindus and Christians. Some Hindu leaders have accused Christians of engaging in forced conversions. Christians vehemently deny the charge.

The arrest comes two days after the release of Mrs. Staines' book, "Burnt Alive: The Story of the Staines and the God They Loved." Mrs. Staines has continued to work with lepers in Orissa and has publicly forgiven Singh because "forgiveness opens up the

path of healing," she told a Bombay audience.

Nevertheless, she expressed pleasure last week that Singh was arrested so "he will not be able to kill others."

While Christians welcomed the arrest, they also expressed concern about a recent order on conversion issued by the Orissa state government.

The order mandates a police inquiry before anyone adopts a new faith in the state.

"The notice has been served only to Christians," Isaac Puthensngany, a priest in the diocese where Staines was killed, told Reuters. "Conversion from Christianity is not taken into consideration by these people."

With additional reporting by Baptist Press

Free Church of Scotland splits over affair accusations

EDINBURGH, Scotland (RNS)—The tiny Free Church of Scotland has finally split over the decades-old case of Professor Donald Macleod.

Fifteen of the Free Kirk's (church) 115 ministers have left the denomination along with a number of elders and members.

Macleod, now principal of the Free Church college in Edinburgh, is the former editor of the church's monthly magazine. He was regarded by some as having dangerously liberal views.

After a visit to Australia in 1984 and 1985, Macleod was accused of involvement in an adulterous relationship. But a church committee twice found the

charges unsubstantiated. Later, however, four other women came forward with complaints that he had sexually molested them and he stood trial in 1996.

But, not only was he found not guilty of indecent assault, the church official who heard the case concluded the women had all lied in order to further the ends of Macleod's enemies within the denomination.

Despite calls by the church's general assembly for the dissidents to disband, they now have been suspended and will stand trial at the group's general assembly in May.

The 15 ministers reacted by an-

nouncing they were walking out and, with their followers, said they now constitute the "true Free Church."

The Free Church has 115 ministers serving 120 congregations, mainly in the Western Isles and the western Highlands.

The conservative evangelical group is sometimes called "the wee frees." It is the remnant that remained after the bulk of the Free Church entered into a series of unions that led to the present Church of Scotland in 1929. It has 6,000 communicants and another 10,000 adherents. It is known, among other things, for its strict observance of the Sabbath.

Faught recognized for recruiting efforts

By Robert Dunston

Each year on Founder's Day, the alumni board of directors of Cumberland College honors a student who has contributed in an outstanding manner to student recruitment. Jessica Faught, the daughter of Kenneth and Jolly Faught of Williamsburg, received the 2000 award.

Faught is a senior with a major in communication arts and a minor in English. She has served as a Cumberland Ambassador for the past three years. In this position she has aided prospective students by taking them and their families on campus tours, answering their questions and continuing to communicate with them as they choose a college. She has worked faithfully not just during the academic year but throughout the summers as well and has become a valuable part of our admissions staff.

Faught has been active in Cumberland's Baptist Student Union. For a year she planned and coordinated the celebration services each Monday evening. During that time she brought a variety of speakers, programs and spiritual growth opportunities to the Cumberland campus.

In addition to her ministry

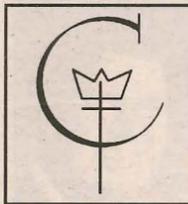
through the BSU, Faught also has been active in theater productions at Cumberland and has worked as a volunteer with Special Olympics.

Faught also is an excellent student, having been on the dean's list each semester of her Cumberland career. She belongs to Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honor Society, and currently is working as a presidential researcher on a special research topic. Her academic abilities and service have been recognized by her inclusion in Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities. She plans to pursue a master's degree in communication.

Her commitment to serving Christ in a multitude of ways makes her an excellent recipient of the 2000 Alumni Award. She has been a role model on Cumberland's campus, and we know she will continue to be throughout her life as God employs her in His service.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



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When you think of the help offered by Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children, you might picture the secure, loving atmosphere we strive to maintain in our cottages.

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The staff of our central intake department is, many times, the first contact people have with KBHC. Our intake workers take referrals from the commonwealth to place children removed from environments of abuse and neglect into our programs.

But the intake workers also handle calls from pastors, counselors and people like you who are concerned about the children and families in their lives who are going through tough times. I'm sure many of the conversations begin with the phrase, "I didn't know who else to call."

In one case, an adolescent son was intensely defiant toward his stepmother. The boy's dad was so concerned for the safety of his wife and other children that he called central intake to find out if his son

could be placed in residential care. The situation was serious, but after talking with the dad, our intake department decided that removing the boy might not be necessary. Instead, they helped facilitate counseling for him, encouraged his father to spend more one-on-one time with him and planned a home visit to check on their progress. The goal is to strengthen the entire family—father, son, stepmother and siblings, so that this home can be preserved and not split apart because of conflict and abuse.

Working in central intake is not easy. Our workers are on the phone constantly, and they hear some horrifying stories of physical and sexual abuse and neglect. Dealing with callers who are sometimes angry and frustrated because of desperate circumstances is the norm. Remember them in your prayers as they strive to be a lifeline, the hand first grasped in times of trouble.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

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/>

Deadly religious violence escalates in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (ABP)—Religious violence between Muslims and Christians in Indonesia, which has killed about 2,000 people in the past year, has intensified recently, leading some observers to suggest the nation could be on the brink of collapse.

At least 40 lives have been lost in recent days, according to news reports.

Fighting flared Jan. 23 on the island of Haruku when a Muslim mob reportedly attacked and burned a church. Two days earlier, about 600 Christians fled the resort island of Lombok after three days of anti-Christian rioting there left five people dead.

Indonesia's two top leaders reportedly were traveling in different parts of the country Jan. 25 in an effort to restore calm. The Voice of America reported that religious violence coupled with separatist unrest threaten to break Indonesia apart.

Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid denied his government was in crisis and said the violence ravaging the country could be brought under control, Reuters reported Jan. 19. He blamed militant Muslims, die-hard Christians, former military officers and jobless youth for sectarian violence.

About 90 percent of Indonesia's 210 million people are Muslims, making it the world's most populous Islamic state.

Many of the nation's Christians also are part of Indonesia's Chinese minority, who are prominent in business and often the target of public resentment.

About 3,000 Christians recently sought refuge in military and police bases in Lombok as rioters ransacked churches, houses and businesses.

Schools avoid lawsuit by removing God from list of virtues

"The issue is still what goes up on our walls and its purpose."

Rob Hooker, superintendent of Scott County, Ind., schools

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

SCOTTSBURG, Ind. (BP)—A set of good conduct guidelines, based on the Ten Commandments and adopted by a southern Indiana school system, will not be challenged by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Scott County, Ind., School District 2's "Common 'Cents' Precepts to Promote a Virtuous and Civil School Community" were posted in seven schools in mid-January. The 10 precepts were posted after the school board dropped one that read, "Trust in God."

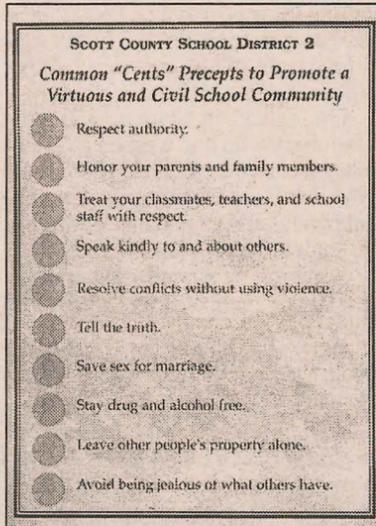
Ken Falk, legal director of the ACLU's Indiana affiliate, said his client decided not to take the case to court. In December, the civil liberties organization had notified the board of its intent to sue if the list was posted with the "Trust in God" guideline.

"If the primary reference to God was removed, then we decided not to pursue it," Falk said.

Rob Hooker, superintendent of Scott County schools, said he didn't know whether the board had dodged a legal battle. Its only desire was to post legally defensible guidelines for student conduct, he said.

"The issue is still what goes up on our walls and its purpose," Hooker said. "We're still working on our educational display of the Ten Commandments."

The rural county's school board



COMMON CENTS A list of virtues based on the Ten Commandments. (BP photo)

voted last fall to post the commandments, but Hooker suggested the precepts as an alternative. A framed copy of the precepts hangs in the board's office. Framed copies will be supplied for every principal's office, hallway and school lobby, he said.

Laminated copies will be supplied for every classroom, the superintendent added.

In addition to the precepts, the board voted to purchase additional materials on morality for school libraries and to establish an educational/historical display that includes the Ten Commandments.

And in other states ...

The battle in Indiana is only one of a host of Ten Commandments cases being contested in state legislatures and other venues across the nation. Among others:

■ A bill was introduced in the Kentucky legislature to allow local referendums on whether to post the Ten Commandments. The ACLU, meanwhile, has filed suits challenging postings of the Ten Commandments in two county courthouses and one county school district.

■ Georgia legislator Charles Poag has filed a bill that would make displays of the Ten Commandments a requirement in every public school classroom. Failure to meet the condition would deny state education funds to the schools.

■ The Colorado Senate's education committee will vote Feb. 2 on a bill that would require schools to post the Ten commandments and offer students a daily moment of silent reflection.

■ South Dakota's Senate state affairs committee approved legislation to give local officials the authority to decide whether the Ten Commandments can be posted in schools.

■ Nearly a third of the 9,000 residents in Harrisburg, Ill., signed a petition supporting a recent decision by the school board to post the Ten Commandments in the principal's office at four area high schools. The commandments are posted next to the Bill of Rights and the Magna Carta as part of a historical display.

A bill to permit public postings of the commandments on state-owned property, as long as they are part of an educational display, passed by a wide margin Jan. 25 in the Indiana Senate. It is awaiting action in the state's House of Representatives.

Hooker said he doesn't know whether the state legislation will have an impact on Scott County's proposal to also post the Mosaic law. He said the board is moving ahead with its plans, regardless.

"I believe the ACLU and others will file to block it," he said. "There may still be a battle out there but we're

proceeding with our own resolution."

Falk said the state legislation appears constitutional on its face, but he predicted it still will create a flurry of legal challenges.

"It depends on what the display is and what's in it," the ACLU official said. "I think it will spur a massive amount of litigation as these displays go up. A historical display in a school setting will be much more questionable than in a courthouse."

"I've seen displays where the display consisted of the Ten Commandments and one or two other documents. That kind of thing isn't going to pass muster."

F's, D's, C's, B's and A's, part 2

This column is a continuation of the article I wrote last week about some of our students who have moved from poor or failing grades to making the B honor roll second quarter.

Jill is a junior from Kentucky who enrolled this past August. Jill was not causing any particular problems at her old school, but she was not focused on her studies. Her grades before coming to Oneida included three F's and one D. When Jill enrolled, she told us her two priorities were to make better grades and to have a better attitude. I believe she is making progress with her attitude, and earning B honor roll status says she also is improving academically.

Heather came to Oneida in summer school hoping to be a junior. Heather had not done well her freshman or sophomore years, so she was not sure if she had enough credits to be a junior. Before coming to Oneida her grades included 12 F's and one D. While Heather was not a discipline problem, she was not completing her assignments and she had been skipping classes. Like many students who enroll at Oneida Baptist Institute, she said she wanted to improve her grades and attitude. I'm sure Heather and her parents are pleased she made the B honor roll.

Rachel came to Oneida two and one-half years ago from Missouri. Like Heather, Rachel had done poorly prior to coming to Oneida. She was not sure if she was going to be a freshman again or a sophomore. Her grades as a freshman included 11 D's and F's. Rachel did much better here her sophomore year; but her grades fell again her junior year. This is Rachel's senior year, and apparently she is putting forth much more effort again. Her first quarter she passed all her classes, and

she made the B honor roll the second quarter.

Derek came last fall as a junior from Northern Kentucky. Though he had not failed any classes his sophomore year, his grades were very low. I asked Derek when he enrolled why he made such low grades. His response was that he knew he could do better but he just was not motivated. We knew he didn't normally turn in his homework and he had a history of skipping classes. Like the other students I have written about, Derek said

one of his main goals was to make better grades. He struggled with Algebra II the first quarter but succeeded in making the B honor roll for the first time this past quarter.

Viviane enrolled one year ago as a freshman from Florida. She was originally from Brazil and had been adopted by an American family. Viviane had been basically a good student and had been making average grades. Her real need was to improve her English language skills. She missed being on the B honor roll the fourth quarter of last year by a fraction. With extra help and work, she made the B honor roll this past quarter.

Steve came to Oneida five years ago as a sixth-grader. Steve was making average grades when he enrolled, and, frankly, he should have been on the honor roll long before now. For the past five years his grades have never been really bad, and with a little more effort he could have been on the honor roll. Finally, in the second quarter of his sophomore year, he made the B honor roll. Hopefully he will work to stay there.

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

Reaffirming the trustworthiness of Scripture

"The most important single element of any corporate, congregational or denominational culture is the value system," Lyle Schaller wrote. Clear Creek is clarifying its values for future direction.

Trustees, students, faculty and staff are part of the process as we express the constant, passionate, biblical core beliefs that drive this ministry.

In their last meeting, trustees unanimously approved "A Statement on Biblical Authority" that expresses the foundational core value on which our ministry rests. It is an expected stand for a Bible college. Instructors and executive administrators must affirm "unreserved agreement" with this core value. Portions of the preamble follow:

"The authority of Scripture is an essential issue for Christians and church leaders. Those who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are called to show the reality of their discipleship by humbly and faithfully obeying God's written Word. To stray from Scripture in faith or conduct is disloyalty to our Master. Recognition of the total truth and trustworthiness of Holy Scripture is essential to a full grasp and adequate confession of its authority. Clear Creek

Baptist Bible College must clearly demonstrate our commitment to the trustworthiness of Scripture. The following statement affirms this inerrancy of Scripture, making clear our understanding of it and warning against its denial. We affirm the authority of Scripture so that all who seek our ministry may know the foundational value on which this ministry rests.

"We offer this statement in a spirit, not of contention, but of humility and love, which was our purpose by God's grace to maintain in any future dialogue arising out of what we have said. We gladly acknowledge that many who deny the inerrancy of Scripture do not display the consequences of this denial in the rest of their beliefs and behavior, and we are conscious that we who confess the doctrine, as well as those who do not confess this doctrine, often deny it in life by failing to bring our thoughts and deeds, our traditions and habits into true subjection to the divine Word."

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

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

BOOKS

The Unnecessary Pastor. Rediscovering the Call. Marva Dawn and Eugene Peterson. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2000. 256 pages. \$14. ♦♦♦♦♦ (out of five)

Marva Dawn and Eugene Peterson teamed up to write this book after working together at a conference for pastors at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia. Their basic conviction about the church in general and pastoral ministry in particular is that "pastoral work originates in and is shaped by the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. It takes place in the world's culture, but it is not caused by it. ... The Trinity—not the culture, not the congregation—is the primary context for acquiring training and understanding in the pastoral vocation."

After a thorough examination of the pastoral epistles and Ephesians, Dawn and Peterson became convinced that "pastors are ... unnecessary in three ways:"

- As cultural paragons of goodness and niceness.

- As self-understood linchpins holding churches together.

- As congregational managers of a religious company.

Throughout the book, Dawn and Peterson challenge pastors and churches to risk a thorough re-examination of their calling.

Each chapter alternates between Peterson's descriptions of the pastoral role as outlined in Romans and the pastoral epistles of Timothy and Titus, and Dawn's thoroughgoing examination of Ephesians. Their insights are sometimes biting, often challenging, but always stimulating.

Throughout, they challenge the church to be an authentic community of Jesus' disciples, who would be willing to die for one another. The essence of pastoral leadership in such a communi-

ty is not skill or ability, but character. The key role of pastoral leadership is to "equip people ... so they don't need you anymore." The main encouragement for pastors is that they are God's gift to the church. *Jim Holladay*

From Promise to Exile: The Former Prophets. Marvin Tate. Smyth & Helwys Publishing, 1999. 121 pages. \$12. ♦♦♦♦♦

"From Promise to Exile" is one of eight books in the All the Bible series. This series covers the entire Bible in brief, non-technical surveys.

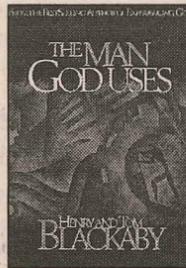
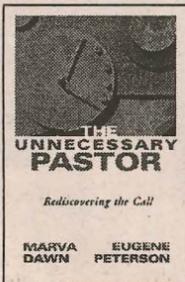
As surveys, the books do not give verse-by-verse commentary but rather discuss basic introductory issues and lay out major themes and movements of each book.

Tate's book covers the rise and decline of Israel in Joshua through Kings. After a brief introduction, Tate gives a narrative outline through which he covers the major themes of each book. He then follows the outline with his conclusions and reflections.

Each discussion sifts through the great amount of scholarly material available on each of these books and presents a thoroughly readable and informative synopsis of the biblical record.

Tate does not avoid historical and theological difficulties present in these books, but maintains the focus on what the Scripture teaches us. He is a Christian Old Testament scholar and thus frequently challenges his reader to apply the truth to Christian life.

Some of the most memorable stories of the Bible occur in the books Tate covers. He brings these ancient stories to life and makes the application to the contemporary church and world easy for the layperson and pastor alike.



The length of the book makes it ideal for a survey course in Old Testament taught in the local church. Sunday school teachers who teach whole books in successive weeks would do well to have the All the Bible series in their libraries as a useful study source. *Wayne Hager*

The Man God Uses. Henry Blackaby and Tom Blackaby. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999. 214 pages. \$15.99. ♦♦♦♦♦

Henry Blackaby is the author of the study, "Experiencing God," which is changing lives around the world. In this book, Blackaby joins his son Tom to apply many of the principles of "Experiencing God" specifically to men.

The focus of the book is to encourage men to seek a personal relationship with God and to follow God's will in all areas of life.

The seven chapters of the book are designed to be studied for one week each, with probing questions and statements after each chapter. The authors encourage the book to be used along with a meeting of men who will discuss the contents and its application.

I have to admit that I have been put off by much of the material published for men's ministry. In order to encourage and build up men, much of the material does so at the expense of women by taking a hierarchical approach to marriage, family life and society.

Not so with this book. "The Man God Uses" encourages men to assume a vital role in church, family and society, without assuming the position of "master" over everyone else.

More than any other men's book I have read, I recommend "The Man God Uses." Especially when used in conjunction with a small group, the sound

biblical principles and sensitivity to relationship with God can greatly impact a man's life. *Wayne Hager*

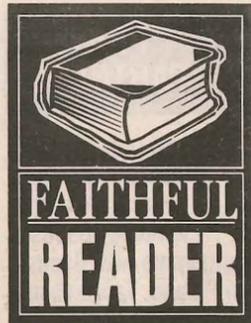
Hallelujah, What a Savior!: 25 Hymn Stories Celebrating Christ Our Redeemer. Kenneth Osbeck. Kregel Publications, 2000. 124 pages. \$8.99. ♦♦♦♦♦

Kenneth Osbeck is an ardent collector and publisher of hymn stories. Yet his several books reflect more than a historian's interest in the words and music of the church's hymnody.

As a teacher, he is obviously interested in deepening our awareness and appreciation of the hymns we sing. As a music director for several churches, he is concerned for the spiritual formation of church members. Consequently, most of his collections of hymn stories are designed to be used primarily as spiritual formation tools (a.k.a. devotionals).

"Hallelujah, What a Savior!" is a collection of 25 hymns centered around the journey from Palm Sunday to Easter. Though not limited in usefulness to the Lenten period or Holy Week, Osbeck has designed this book to be used during the days leading up to Easter, as a means for preparing for the celebration of Christ's atoning work on the cross and His triumphal resurrection.

Of particular interest is the concluding section, which contains an outline of how to use the material in the book as the basis for a week-long reflection on the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Each day's readings summarize that day in the life of Jesus, point us to appropriate scriptures and invite us to reflect on three of the hymns contained in the book. Osbeck has provided a sound resource for enriching our celebration of Easter. *Jim Holladay*



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

Theologians & cartoonists say goodbye to 'Peanuts'

By Kathi Wolfe
Religion News Service

SANTA ROSA, Calif. (RNS)—Good Grief! Charlie Brown and his pals are leaving us!

The final "Peanuts" strip, which appears Sunday, Feb. 13, is becoming a painful cultural milestone for everyone from cartoonists to theologians. Charles Schultz's departure from the funny pages is leaving something of a spiritual void, they said.

Schulz, who is retiring at age 77 due to health concerns, mainly uses his strip to make people laugh, said friend and fellow cartoonist Bil Keane.

But Keane, also 77 and creator of "The Family Circus," said Peanuts has a spiritual and moral point of view.

"He's not preaching," Keane said. "Schulz and his strip embody the moral decency and clean humor of the World War II generation."

People will miss Peanuts, he said, because "it's one of the few places where you can find anything spiritual in the funny papers."

For years, Robert Short, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Monticello, Ark., has used "Peanuts" to illustrate his view of Christianity.

In 1965, Short wrote the best-selling "The Gospel According to Peanuts" and Westminster/John Knox Press has

just released a 35th anniversary edition. He later wrote "The Parables of Peanuts" and Short Meditations on the Bible and Peanuts."

"Peanuts," according to Short, presents the symbols and beliefs of Christianity, depicting a world filled with sin, most clearly expressed through Lucy, who, Short said, is often "a little devil." The "Peanuts" children show what it's like to worship "false gods" as Linus worships his blanket. Charlie Brown and Snoopy, Short said, are Christ figures.

"Who better embodies the crucified Christ than Charlie Brown with his shirt of thorns, getting hit on the head by Lucy or called a blockhead?" he asked. Yet "Peanuts," like Christianity isn't all gloomy, Short said. Snoopy is "the hound of heaven" who's constantly leaping for joy.

People are sad "Peanuts" is ending, said Jeffrey Mahan, professor of ministry, media and culture at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, "because like a Norman Rockwell painting, it presents America as we'd like it to be."

"Peanuts," according to Mahan, depicts an idealized, mainstream Protestant viewpoint. "Religion is an enriching part of the characters' lives. But not all consuming. Quotes from Scripture

break into Peanuts sometimes, but don't dominate it."

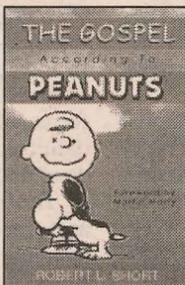
In theological circles today, "Peanuts" is identified with a softer, gentler stage of the culture, according to Martin Marty, professor emeritus of the University of Chicago Divinity School.

"Now, theologians want something with more bite like the 'Non Sequiter' comic strip," said Marty, a historian of American religion. "But that doesn't mean that there's nothing there for them in 'Peanuts.' Theologically, 'Peanuts' represents a world in which Protestant neo-orthodoxy and humanist existentialism combine to ask, 'How do you find meaning in a world filled with absurdity?'"

Cartoonist Doug Marlette, who writes "Kudzu" said Marty "is on to something."

"I love 'Peanuts' because I care about the characters," Marlette said. "We identify with people who are crucified, who lose. Nobody cares what happens to a winner—we need someone to lose who we can root for."

Marlette said the strip draws people in because it tells a great story, adding: "Peanuts" is an artistic instrument which hits on universal basics that influence the culture."



Henry Blackaby lending study notes to new Gospels translation

NASHVILLE (BP)—"Experiencing God" author Henry Blackaby has added devotional notes to a new translation of the Gospels being produced by Broadman & Holman Publishers.

"Experiencing the Word Through the Gospels" uses the new Holman Christian Standard Bible translation of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

In spring 1999, Broadman & Holman, the trade publishing division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, announced it intended to produce a new translation of the Bible that would be both accurate and readable.

More than 80 translators, editors and stylists are working on the project. The Holman Christian Standard Bible translation is set for release in its entirety in 2004, with the New Testament scheduled for release in 2001. The Gospel of John was released last summer and given to messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

Blackaby said he has been looking forward to the new translation of the Gospels because it is one of his favorite parts of the Bible. "I always tell people that I spend at least a portion of my daily study in the Gospels, because the words and responses of Christ offer the clearest view into his heart and purpose."

"Experiencing the Word," features word studies to explore the meanings and applications of Greek words found in the Gospels. It also has spiritual challenges, offering advice on such themes as evangelism, servanthood to God and building a relationship with God.

PEOPLE

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Join Mark and Tatiana McNeil, Baptist representatives in Poland, in giving thanks that International Baptist Church has found a meeting place centrally located and near public transportation. The church held its first service there Jan. 16.

■ Give thanks for 30 Tanzanian young people who attended a January True Love Waits seminar in Mwanza.

■ Missionaries serving in Tanzania as they return to their places of ministry after attending a prayer retreat in Kenya Jan. 29-Feb. 2. Pray that their experiences at the retreat will sustain them in the days ahead.

■ Ken Lyle, executive director of the Baptist Convention of New England.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by Shirley Wooton

■ CADIZ—Oak Grove Church called **O.D. Boyd** as interim pastor.

■ FRANKFORT—Pleasant Ridge Church called **Todd Moore** as minister of youth. Moore previously served as minister of music. **Vernon Carpenter** is pastor.

■ GLENDALE—Glen Dale Children's Home hosted a retirement reception for **Vertie Stewart Mudd** to honor his 39 years of service. Mudd began as a houseparent and most recently served as a shift supervisor.

■ JEFFERSONVILLE—Jeffersonville Church ordained **Mike Donathan** and installed **Taylor Abney** as deacons. **Shannon Back** is interim pastor.

■ LONDON—East Pittsburg Church called **James Reese** as pastor. **Roy Faulkner**, director of missions, has been serving as interim pastor.

■ LOUISVILLE—Beechmont Church will host **Sons of Liberty** in concert Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. For information, call (502) 368-5806. **James Ward** is pastor.

Rockford Lane Church hosted a farewell reception for associate pastor **Philip Hedgecoth** Feb. 6. Hedgecoth has accepted a ministry position in Evans, Ga.

■ MAYFIELD—Cuba Church is hosting a new worship service Mondays at 7 p.m. for shift workers and those unable to attend on Sundays. For more information, call (270) 382-2423. **Glynn Copeland** is pastor.

■ PADUCAH—Former pastor and director of missions **George Cartwright**, 95, died Jan. 24. His preaching ministry extended from 1928-1990. He was director of missions for Muhlenberg Baptist Association in Greenville from 1956-1961. Cartwright is survived by two daughters, six grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

■ RICHMOND—Red House Church will host youth evangelist **Rick Gage** Feb. 20 in morning and evening services. For information, call (606) 623-8471. **Larry Sizemore** is pastor.

■ RUSSELLVILLE—First Church will host **Chad Cates** in concert Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m. The church also will have a joint morning service on Race Relations Day, Feb. 13, with Mt. Zion Church. Mt. Zion's Pastor **J.O. McKinney** will preach and his church's choir will present special music. **Randall Neal** is pastor.

Southern's Cromer receives 'Pogo' award

LEESBURG, Fla.—Bill Cromer, a retired professor of the school of education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, recently was honored for his work in church recreation.

Cromer received the Frank Hart "Pogo" Smith Lifetime Achievement Award from LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Cromer was an influential teacher

for future youth ministers, encouraging them to learn to use recreation as a part of their ministry to share Christ, said David Garrard, youth minister at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, where Cromer is a member.

The award, known as "the Pogo," is named in honor of recreation pioneer Frank Smith and recognizes significant contributions to recreation ministry.

CLASSIFIED ADS

SEEKING: Senior pastor for a loving church in Bowling Green. Must be experienced and ambitious. Send resumé to: Forest Park Baptist Church, 520 Old Morgantown Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Full-time secretary for Baptist church in Franklin County. Must have secretarial experience and be competent in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Access and Excel. Qualified candidate also should possess effective oral and written communication skills, organizational skills and the ability to work with minimum supervision. Please respond by Feb. 10, 2000, by sending resumé with references to: Personnel Committee, PO Box 4208, Frankfort, KY 40601.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of education. Please send resumé to: Crestwood Baptist Church, 1006 East Main St., Frankfort, KY 40601, Attn: Minister of Education Search Committee. For information regarding our church, please visit our Web site: www.crestwoodbaptist.com.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to: New Bethel Baptist Church, PO Box 100, Verona, KY 41092, Attn: Music Search Committee.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister needed immediately. Approximately 10 hours weekly, primarily weekends. Call pastor: (606) 299-5649.

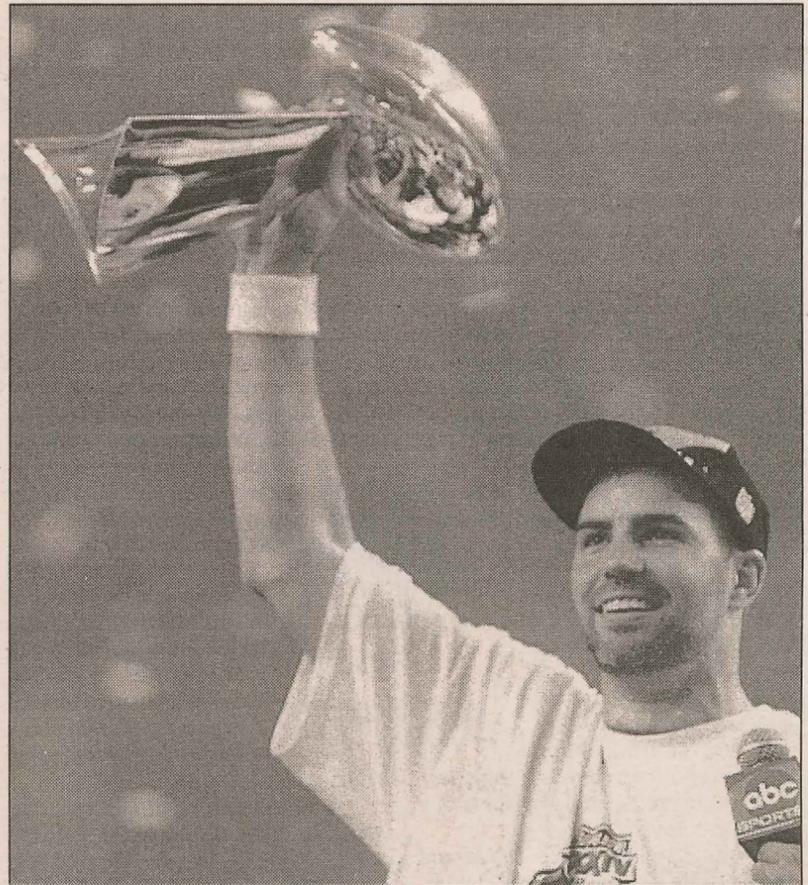
SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville, Ky., is prayerfully seeking applicants for pastor. Please send resumé to: FBC Pastor Search Committee, 1400 South Main St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

SEEKING: Caneyville Baptist Church seeks a full-time, experienced, energetic pastor. Prefer college and/or seminary training. Send resumé to: Eddie A. Majors, 164 Clay Way, Leitchfield, KY 42754.

SEEKING: Part-time, bivocational pastor needed for small, rural church near Whitesville, Ky. Three services per week. Call Ed Hemmersbach for details: (270) 264-1478.

FOR RENT: 2-room apartment (sleeps 6), 2 baths, kitchenette. Cocoa Beach, Fla. Available April 2-9 or April 9-16, 2000. Call (812) 944-3866.

FOR SALE: Very nice one-owner bus in excellent condition. Comfortable reclining seats, restroom, air-conditioned, large luggage storage, easy to drive and inexpensive to maintain. The most reliable transportation a church can own. For information or photos, please call David at (606) 278-7224.



CHRISTIAN MVP St. Louis Rams quarterback Kurt Warner holds the Vince Lombardi Trophy at the conclusion of Super Bowl XXXIV. (RNS/Reuters)

Super Bowl MVP uses fame to share his Christian faith

ST. LOUIS (ABP)—National Football League quarterback Kurt Warner told a radio reporter he plans to use his rapid rise from obscurity to Super Bowl MVP as a platform to speak about his Christian faith.

Warner led the St. Louis Rams to a 23-16 victory Jan. 30 with a record performance in a Super Bowl XXXIV described as one of the best in history. Warner completed 24 of 45 passes for 414 yards and two touchdowns, the last a 73-yard play that broke a 16-16 tie with 1:54 left in the game. An attempted comeback by the Tennessee Titans ended with a tackle one yard from the goal as time expired.

Upstaging the game, even, was the Cinderella story of Warner's career. Five years ago, he was stocking groceries in a supermarket. He grew up in Iowa, dreaming of playing at the University in Iowa. Instead, he settled for smaller Northern Iowa, where he didn't start until his senior season and went undrafted by the pros.

The Green Bay Packers signed him as a free agent but released him. He later played arena football with the Iowa Barnstormers, passing for 183 touchdowns.

Warner signed with the Rams in 1998 but was sent to Amsterdam, where he led the NFL Europe league in passing. He joined the Rams this year as a backup, earning the league-minimum \$254,000 salary. Warner got his chance when superstar-prospect Trent Green was out for the season after an injury during an exhibition game.

Warner went on to help the Rams compile a 13-3 regular-season record and was named the National Football League's Most Valuable Player.

Warner has credited his wife, team-

mates and his faith in Jesus Christ for his success.

"Who am I? I am a devout Christian man," Warner told 40,000 people at a Billy Graham crusade in St. Louis last fall. "I am not a football player. That is what I do. When I throw a touchdown pass now, my thoughts are on how I can use this success on the field as a platform to glorify and praise my Lord Jesus Christ."

"People often ask the secret of my success as a football player. It has nothing to do with how I work out in the off-season or my diet," he said. "The secret of my success is simply Jesus Christ."

Warner became a Christian four years ago after the parents of Brenda—then his girlfriend and now his wife—were killed by a tornado in Mountain View, Ark.

Warner watched as Brenda, a Christian, responded to the tragedy with grace. He knew she had dealt similarly with a crippling injury to her son eight years earlier, when as a baby he was dropped on his head. Today, Zachary is legally blind and brain-damaged, but is a fifth grader who can read.

Three months after Brenda's parents death, Warner became a Christian. Two months after that, he proposed to her and has adopted both Zachary and her daughter, Jesse.

The family attends St. Louis Family Church. Pastor Jeff Perry leads a Bible study in the Warners' home on Wednesday nights during the football season.

Warner turned down an appearance on the David Letterman Show because it conflicted with his wedding anniversary. He has his own breakfast cereal, Warner's Krunch Time, and proceeds go to a Christian camp for children with special needs.

PEOPLE

Evangelical group takes up issue of abused women

CAPE COD, Mass. (RNS)—The World Evangelical Federation's task force on abuse against women is one step closer to bringing international attention to the "tragedy" of sexual trafficking and other violence against women.

The 20-member group met Jan. 29-30 to consolidate research findings and finalize a theological declaration that will be presented to the World Evangelical Federation at its General Assembly meeting in Malaysia in May 2001.

"We affirm the validity of the Bible's message proclaiming the dignity and freedom of women," says a resolution passed by the task force. "We affirm the teaching of Christian Scriptures

that requires respect for women's bodies as well as their souls."

The resolution also recommends the formation of "international partnerships to end the scourge of sexual trafficking," which the group says is rampant in countries around the world, particularly in some Asian countries.

"Every day, girls in Asian countries are abducted, coerced or seduced into sexual slavery," said Olly Mesach, who is a task force member from Indonesia.

The group aims to publish a book of statistical data and theological resources that will document the problem of abuse against women and will offer possible solutions.

Sociological research indicates that

as many as one in three women worldwide have been beaten, raped or otherwise abused. A recent report from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health said that despite the widespread abuse, as many as 70 percent of the women interviewed had never reported their suffering.

The task force members will meet again in four months to consider more statistical information that is being gathered around the world.

A variety of responses were suggested, including:

■ Inviting the local women's shelter director to speak at a church service.

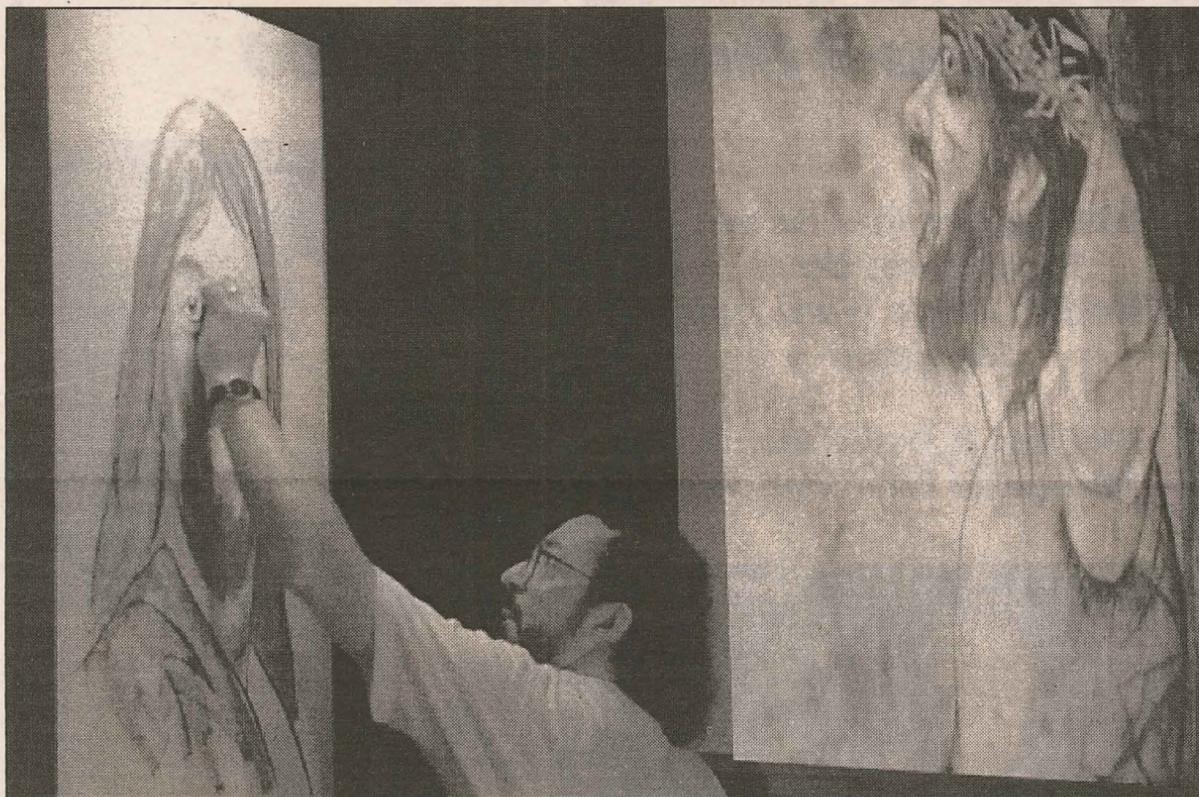
■ Posting phone numbers in women's restrooms.

■ Preaching sermons on the topic.

■ Forming a network of resources from organizations ranging from Campus Crusade for Christ to Christian Women Communicating, International.

Task force member Catherine Kroeger identified a "theological trap" that includes concepts such as a prohibition against divorce, an insistence that the man is the head of his household and the teaching that women must submit to their husbands.

She said these ideas have prevented evangelicals from understanding scriptural mandates to refrain from abusing spouses. "They're afraid of rocking their theological boat rather than saying, 'Let's look at what the Bible says.'"



ART CONCERT Atlanta artist Kerry Jackson combines five drawings of Jesus onstage with music, drama and lighting to graphically depict the gospel of Christ. (BP photo by Gibbs Frazeur)

Artist uses pictures to draw people to the Rock

By Matt Sanders
Baptist Press

SUGAR HILL, Ga. (BP)—He once drew for a living in a studio. Now he draws for Jesus onstage.

Most people want to see a visual artist's finished work, not the work in progress. But add Christian rock music, lights, slides, Scripture narration and drama, and suddenly you have "Drawing to the Rock," a gospel presentation attracting people of all ages.

Kerry Jackson said he wants the unique ministry to draw people to the Rock of Ages.

Jackson said God gave him the vision for this ministry while attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He had done "chalk talks" in churches, but the vision was for "something really big."

When he first went to seminary from Jackson, Miss., Jackson left his freelance art studio and thought he would no longer need his skills and fine arts degree from Mississippi State University.

"I gave up my art career, sold all my

supplies, tools and client list to become a counselor," Jackson said.

The vision for his art ministry came one day while he was in his car waiting to pick up his daughter.

"I almost started crying right there, (but) I didn't know it would take so long to pull it together," Jackson said.

The hour-and-15-minute presentation consists of five scenes: the apple in the Garden of Eden; the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem; the triumphal entry of Jesus in Jerusalem; Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane; and the crucifixion.

Music plays in the background as Jackson moves from vignette to vignette. In the crucifixion scene, Jackson draws "a normal, happy Jesus," then violently slashes a crown of thorns on Jesus' head.

In the background, the audience hears a hammer hitting nails. When the song is done, Jackson peels away the canvas to reveal a predrawn scene of an empty tomb.

Through creative lighting, Jackson's drawing shows Jesus risen from the tomb and beckoning people to come to Him.

In the second half of the presenta-

tion, Jackson emerges portraying Jesus. "I ask (people in the audience) if they love me, if they believe in me."

The ministry is about a year and a half old and is a family affair. Jackson built the set, pieced together the lighting, made the slide presentations and bought a sound system. His wife, Twyla, is the light and sound technician, which he says is the hardest job.

Each vignette has a 32-by-40-inch canvas. The set takes four to six hours to set up.

"I want God to take it wherever He wants to take it," said Jackson, who also works as a promotion design specialist with the Southern Baptist North American Mission Board. Part of his job is designing NAMB booths that are used at conventions.

Jackson always invites people to raise their hands if they want to receive Christ. He said an 8-year-old girl once told him she looked up at the face of Jesus and felt God telling her it was time to accept Christ.

For more information write to *Drawing to the Rock*, 1140 Sycamore Summit, Sugar Hill, GA, 30518 or kjackson@namb.net.

Methodists to confront two centuries of racial separation

CLEVELAND (RNS)—Richard Allen loved Methodism. He just didn't think Christians should be pushed around during prayer or relegated to the balcony of the church because of the color of their skin.

When he and other black members left St. George Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia in protest at the end of the 18th century, they set in motion more than 200 years of racial separation in a denomination that continues to be divided into predominantly black and white factions.

With the onset of Christianity's third millennium, the nation's second largest Protestant group hopes to take the first step toward reconciliation at its quadrennial meeting in May in Cleveland.

Delegates to the United Methodist General Conference will consider amending the church's constitution to recognize its own "sin of racism," and will participate with representatives of three major black Methodist denominations in a service of repentance.

When United Methodists repent and black Methodists forgive, major changes can take place, said Gena Thornton, pastor of St. Paul AME Church in Cleveland.

"Right now, we're all in our own camps," Thornton said. "Christianity goes no farther than these camps and it's tragic. ... God expects more of us."

The origins of Methodism began in the early 1700s when John Wesley led a renewal movement within the Church of England. Methodism spread to the North American colonies shortly before the American Revolution, and in 1784 the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in Baltimore.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church developed out of the Free African Society, a mutual aid organization founded by Allen in 1787. Two decades of racial friction, symbolized for many by the manhandling of worshipers bowed in prayer at St. George Church, led to the founding of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which today has more than 2 million members.

In New York City, persecution within the denomination led members of John Street Church to found the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in 1796. That denomination has 1.2 million members. The 800,000-member Christian Methodist Episcopal Church gained independence from the Methodist Episcopal Church-South, and was founded by former slaves in 1870.

At its last quadrennial meeting in 1996, the United Methodist Church voted to establish a Commission on Pan-Methodist Union that would draw up a plan for closer relationships among the four churches.

Officials said it became clear that the first action needed was for the 8.5 million-member United Methodist Church to seek forgiveness for past acts of racism. Delegates will consider adding a paragraph to the United Methodist Constitution calling on the denomination to "confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large."

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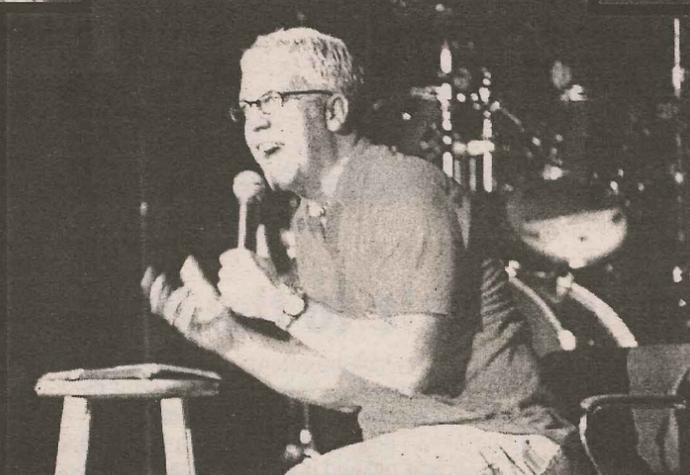
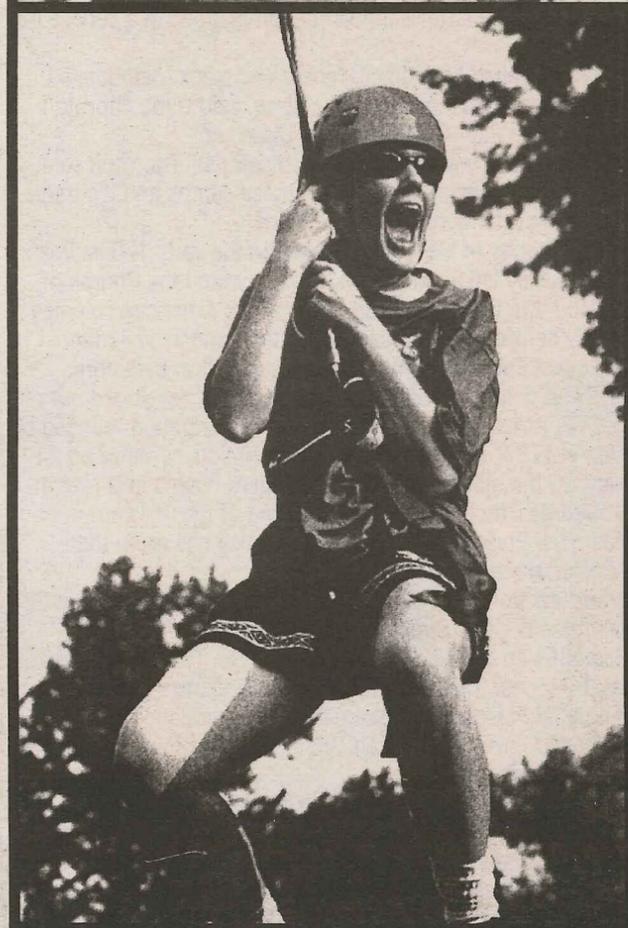
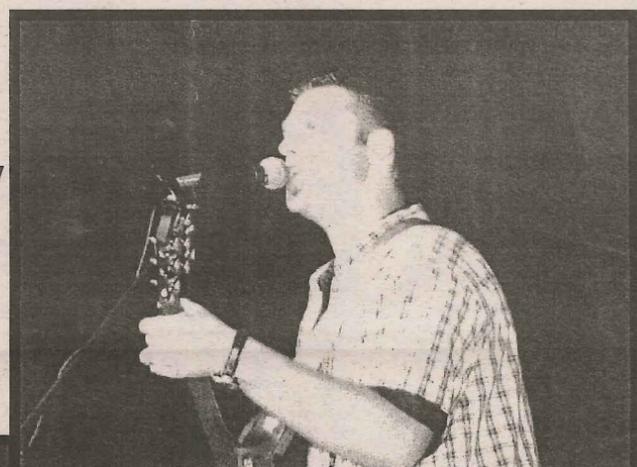
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