

November 20, 2001
Vol. 175, No. 45

FOR THE RECORD

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Both candidates for KBC president 'surprised' about election results

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

MURRAY—Harold Greenfield said he was surprised by his election as Kentucky Baptist Convention president last week. "I was doubly surprised by the margin of victory," he added, citing the vote of 909 to 651 over Tom Butler.

Many observers had anticipated a tight race between the two men who were college classmates 40 years ago. Greenfield served 29 years as director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Association before retiring last year. Butler, a longtime news anchor and vice president of WPSD-TV in Paducah, retired in 1997.

While both men are theologically conservative, Greenfield received an unsolicited endorsement from the moderate Mainstream Baptists of Kentucky. Butler was endorsed by the conservative Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network, an organization in which he has been involved.

Greenfield wasn't the only one surprised by his election; so was Butler. "In all honesty, I was a little surprised," Butler told reporters, noting that the presidential candidate endorsed last year by the laymen's network "came very close to winning."

When all the elections were over, however, every candidate endorsed by the laymen's network. See Both candidates ..., page 3

'Unity in diversity'



KBC 2001, Murray
Fulfilling the mission

STUDY COMMITTEE Members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee present their report at the KBC annual meeting last week in Murray. Committee member Billy Compton said God brought a group with diverse theological opinions together around a report that all members could recommend.

Messengers OK report on faith statements

By Trennis Henderson
Editor

MURRAY—Kentucky Baptist messengers officially adopted the Bible "as the basis for all our faith and practice" during last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

That action also called on Kentucky Baptists to "acknowledge the value" of faith statements ranging from the 1742 Philadelphia Confession of Faith to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message.

The proposal, adopted overwhelmingly on a standing vote, capped a

yearlong study by a nine-member committee chaired by former KBC President Charles Barnes.

The vote came during the convention's closing session on Wednesday morning after messengers rejected an attempt to move the discussion to Tuesday afternoon after the presidential election.

Barnes, a member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, introduced the motion last year to form the study committee. The group was charged with recommending how the KBC "can best relate to the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as Kentucky

Baptists seek to fulfill their purpose and mission."

Several state conventions have responded to the faith statement revision adopted last year by Southern Baptist Convention messengers. Supporters of the document say it better represents the SBC's conservative shift of the past 20 years, with language limiting the office of pastor to men and opposing homosexuality. Critics voice concern about eliminating the phrase from the 1963 version, "The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ."

See Messengers 'recognize ..., page 8

Harry Potter in midst of heated debate about literary good & evil

By Mark Wingfield
Texas Baptist Standard

DALLAS—Will reading the Harry Potter books or seeing the movie cast an evil spell over your child?

The evangelical Christian community is divided over this question, which now looms larger than ever with last weekend's opening of the movie based on the first book in the series, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

A pastor's wife in Oklahoma feels torn by the debate that swirls around her like bats flying out of a cave. Her elementary-age children have read the best-selling books and enjoyed them.

They—and she—see no harm in the fictional world of magic and witches and spells created by author J.K. Rowling. The stories, from their perspective, are really about classic themes of good and evil, and they just happen to be set in the make-believe world of a school for young wizards. But one of her children's Sunday

school teachers is on a rampage against the books, seeing them as a pathway to evil. A nearby school district has banned the books, and "concerned parents" have been urged to attend the showing of a video that purports to demonstrate links between Harry Potter and real occult practices.

The Arkansas Baptist Convention passed a resolution Nov. 7 condemning the Harry Potter books and movie, labeling the literature "anti-Christian."

Yet the first four books in the planned series of seven have set new records for sales of children's books.

Teachers report the books have inspired more children to read more than ever before. Parents report amazement that their children actually fight over who gets to read a 700-page book first.

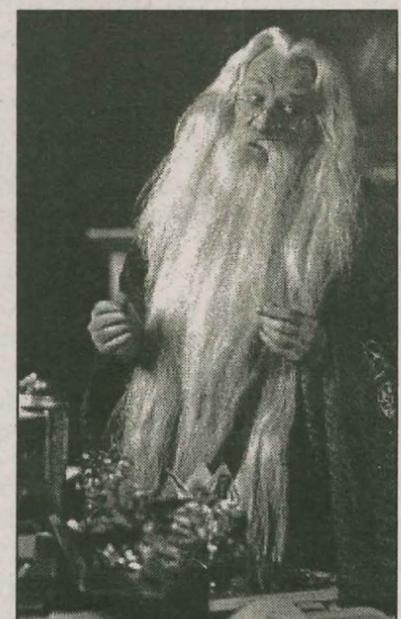
Sounds like a good thing, right? Absolutely not, warn some Christian commentators. They see Harry Potter as the devil in tennis shoes—cleverly spun stories that actually desensitize young children to the occult

and make them more susceptible to being led astray.

For example, promotional literature for a Christian-oriented video, "Harry Potter: Witchcraft Repackaged," warns: "Because many don't recognize occult symbolism or understand witchcraft, thousands of young readers by inference are led to accept them as whimsical and harmless, aided by Rowling's repackaging of witchcraft in probably its most dangerous form—children's fantasy literature."

John Andrew Murray, headmaster of St. Timothy's-Hale School in Raleigh, N.C., warns on the Focus on the Family Web site that media influences like Harry Potter, "Sabrina, the Teenage Witch" and "Buffy, the Vampire Slayer" are causing a generation of children to be "desensitized to the occult."

The influence of Harry Potter alone, he writes, has the potential to reap "grave spiritual consequences." See Potter in midst ..., page 11



PROFESSOR DUMBLEDDOR Richard Harris as a character in the movie version of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

Dated Material — Deliver by Wednesday, November 21

IMB trustees appoint record number of missionaries

Last week's appointment of 118 Southern Baptist international missionaries increased the total number of long-term Southern Baptist missionaries worldwide to 5,128.

By Mark Kelly
SBC International Mission Board

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP)—Trustees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board appointed 118 new career missionaries last week—the largest group of long-term Southern Baptist workers ever appointed in a single service. They also adopted a \$279.9 million budget for 2002 during their Nov. 12-14 meeting in Columbia, S.C.

The 2002 basic budget of \$262.9 million represented a \$9.7 million increase over 2001 and focuses 84.8 percent of the IMB's resources on overseas work.

The 2002 budget also incorporates a new "Lottie Moon Challenge" budget category, a \$17 million item that brings the total 2002 budget to \$279.9 million.

The new category is intended to challenge Southern Baptists to give to help missionaries take advantage of

ministry opportunities all over the world, said John White, IMB executive vice president.

"As God opens windows of opportunity, needs arise," he said. "We need to say to Southern Baptists, 'Look what God is doing' and show them the opportunities we have to go beyond what we think we can do to what only God can do."

Trustees voted to appoint a total of 124 new workers—including six missionary apprentices—during a Nov. 13 ceremony at First Baptist Church in Columbia.

An overflow crowd packed the 3,400-seat sanctuary for the event, which was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. The service brought the total number of long-term Southern Baptist missionaries worldwide to 5,128.

The IMB has seen a significant increase in the number of Southern Baptists serving in short-term overseas

assignments, but career missionaries remain the foundation of the board's work, said IMB President Jerry Rankin.

"Seventy-five percent of our total missionary force is career missionaries," Rankin said.

The IMB expects to approve 392 long-term missionaries in 2001, only the fourth time in its 156-year history that more than 300 missionaries have been appointed in a single year, Rankin said, noting that this year's total is 54 more than the next largest number, 338 in 1998.

Sam James, the board's vice president for leadership development, told trustees he planned to retire in March.

James and his wife, Rachel, have served through the IMB since their 1962 appointment as missionaries to South Vietnam. She served as a nurse and church and home outreach worker and he was an evangelist, church planter, pastor and seminary leader until Vietnam's communist takeover

in 1975. Since then, he has developed and directed the board's missionary training program and served as a regional director for East Asia and vice president for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. He was elected to his current position in 1994.

Trustees also learned that Ron Wilson, the board's regional leader for the Caribbean Basin, is leaving that position to join the board's Overseas Leadership Team. He will assume some of the responsibilities previously assigned to Sam James and Bill Bullington, the board's vice president for overseas services who recently was elected regional leader for West Africa.

Wilson, and his wife, Janice, have served as Southern Baptist missionaries in the Caribbean Basin since 1976. She worked in church and home outreach and he served in Christian education and publications prior to 1991, when he was elected to direct Southern Baptist work in the region.



Facing such a weighty decision, the board decides to sleep on it.

North Carolina cuts ties to 2 schools

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (BP)—Messengers to the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina virtually eliminated ties to Wake Forest University and Meredith College during the convention's annual meeting last week.

More than 90 percent of messengers voted to change the two schools from "affiliated" educational institutions to "historical" educational institutions. Wake Forest and Meredith will continue to receive some scholarship funding from the state convention, but the convention will cease promoting the two schools.

Tim Moore, chairman of the convention's constitution and bylaws committee, said the move severs "the last direct link" between the schools and the convention. A motion at last

year's meeting to totally remove Wake Forest from the convention constitution and cut all funding failed to gain a two-thirds vote needed for passage.

Moore urged messengers who thought the motion went too far and those who thought it didn't go far enough to join those who support the proposal. "If we don't meet in the middle," he said, "this will keep hounding us for another year."

Nathan Parrish, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, spoke against the motion, noting that the change sets a negative precedent that other schools might follow.

Wake Forest has come under criticism for selling alcohol on campus and allowing a same-sex union ceremony in the school's chapel.

BAPTIST DIGEST

■ **Upton to lead Virginia Baptists.** Virginia Baptists elected a new executive director and honored his predecessor during the state convention's annual meeting Nov. 8-9. Messengers elected John Upton Jr., leader of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board's mission mobilization group since 1995, as Virginia Baptists' executive director effective March 1, 2002. He previously was a pastor and a missionary to Taiwan. Reginald McDonald, who will retire after 15 years as executive director, was honored with gifts and a video highlighting his ministry among Virginia Baptists.

■ **Church dismissed over baptism.** A Baptist association in North Carolina has dismissed First Baptist Church of Elkin for accepting members who have not been baptized by immersion. Johnny Enloe, director of missions for Elkin Baptist Association, said associational messengers voted 70-16 to dismiss the church. The association voted at its spring meeting to change its constitution to stipulate that churches in the association must receive as

members only people who have been immersed. Enloe said the association and church have discussed the issue for about a year and a half. Associational leaders told church leaders they could reapply for membership if the church changes its policy.

■ **Georgia Baptists adopt record budget.** Georgia Baptist messengers adopted a record Cooperative Program budget of \$48.3 million for 2002. The Nov. 12-13 meeting, described as "harmonious," included the election of Valdosta pastor Wayne Robertson who received 86 percent of the votes cast. Messengers approved a missions partnership with Baptists in Moldova which will begin in January 2002. Participants adopted resolutions addressing covenant marriage, video poker and cloning and stem cell research.

■ **Contest highlights Baptist heritage.** A new Baptist Heritage Preaching Contest has been introduced to encourage preachers to include Baptist heritage and

principles in their preaching ministries. The contest, sponsored by the Baptist History and Heritage Society and Belmont University in Nashville, will accept submissions until Feb. 1, 2002. Awards will be presented at the annual meeting of the Baptist History and Heritage Society June 20-22. Authors of the top three sermons will receive cash awards. Submissions can be mailed to the Baptist History and Heritage Society, P.O. Box 728, Brentwood, TN 37024-0728.

■ **Churches urge prayer, fasting.** Two small ethnic Southern Baptist congregations in North Carolina have issued a call for fellow Christians to pray and fast for the nation. The 130 members of Grace United Community Church and its Hispanic church plant, Nuevo Amanecer, are calling on Southern Baptist congregations to fast and pray every Tuesday. "We may be a small church, but we believe that God would have us give this challenge to our Southern Baptist Convention," said G.L. Brown, associate

pastor of missions for Grace United and a bivocational church planter. "This is a call to spiritual arms for our country during this time of crisis." He urged congregations to pray and fast each Tuesday until the current crisis facing the nation is resolved.

■ **Moore to lead women's events.** Author and teacher Beth Moore will speak during two National Christian Women's Conventions April 18-20, 2002, in Fort Worth, Texas, and Sept. 26-28, 2002, in Birmingham, Ala. "Seek Me, Know Me, Return to Me" is the theme of both conventions sponsored by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. Cost for the conference is \$65 per person. To register, call (800) 254-2022 or visit www.lifeway.com.

■ **Baptist evangelist dies at age 91.** Longtime Southern Baptist evangelist J. Harold Smith died Nov. 13 at age 91. Smith was president of the Radio Bible Hour. His funeral service was held Nov. 17 in Easley, S.C.

Motion to expel non-SBC churches sent to committee

MURRAY—An effort to deny state convention membership to churches that cut ties to the Southern Baptist Convention was forwarded to the Kentucky Baptist Convention constitution and bylaws committee.

Two other motions introduced last week by KBC messengers also were referred to convention committees rather than being voted on during the convention.

A motion to give Cooperative Program gifts that exceed budget needs to international or North American mission efforts was referred to the KBC Executive Board. Executive Board members are responsible for recommending an annual CP budget to KBC messengers.

A motion to invite a former homosexual to share a testimony at next year's KBC annual meeting was referred to the KBC committee on order of business.

Questions arose when KBC President Jim McKinley announced the three referrals during the convention's Tuesday afternoon session.

Floyd Paris, pastor of Baptist Church in Ashland, said convention leaders had previously announced that messengers were going to consider the motions during the afternoon session.

"The action to refer is not an action for the body to consider," Paris said. "We need to consider each of these motions as they were presented and because the chair ruled that they would be considered at this time."

McKinley explained that he referred the three motions at the recom-

mendation of convention parliamentarians. "These decisions are the decisions made by the chair," he said. "You can appeal the decision of the chair."

After Paris appealed McKinley's ruling, a voice vote and a hand vote were taken that both appeared to sustain the chair. After a call for a ballot vote, messengers voted 668 to 280 to uphold McKinley's decision.

Parliamentarian Eldred Taylor said in an interview there was no intent to keep messengers from discussing appropriate issues on the floor of the convention.

He said the goal was to refer specific items to established committees the KBC already had authorized to address such issues as budget items, program personnel and proposed constitutional changes.

The motion to limit KBC membership to SBC-supporting churches was introduced by Jay Adkins, pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in South Shore. It proposed that "effective with the 2002 (KBC) meeting at Williamsburg, that any member church which ceases to support or otherwise cuts its ties with the Southern Baptist Convention would, by their actions, no longer be considered to be a cooperative, affiliated member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, under Article III of the KBC Constitution."

Article III currently defines "cooperating affiliated Baptist churches" as any church that "is in friendly cooperation with this convention; is sympathetic with its purposes and work; and has during the fiscal year preced-

Prayer for country leads KBC resolutions

MURRAY—A resolution calling for Kentucky Baptists to pray in the wake of terrorism and war was among the six statements the Kentucky Baptist Convention adopted during the 2001 annual meeting last week in Murray.

"As Christians we have a duty to pray for our nation, our president and his advisors, and the world, including our enemies" the resolution states. "We know that true peace can come to our nation and our world only through a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ."

"There were no hard choices this year," said Dennis Phelps, chairman of the KBC committee on resolutions.

No resolutions were proposed from the floor this year. Phelps, associate pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, said the committee considered proposing other resolutions, including one opposing gambling, "but the convention just spoke to that in 1999."

The committee also wanted to make sure the convention had sufficient time for discussion of the Baptist Faith and Message committee's report, scheduled for the same Wednesday morning session, he said.

Other resolutions adopted by the convention:

- Commended the Cross Over the Purchase emphasis.
- Expressed appreciation to the convention's host city of Murray, local officials and other organizers for their work on the annual meeting.
- Commended the recently completed three-year partnership between Kentucky and Tanzania Baptists. The partnership sent approximately 200 volunteers from 33 Kentucky associations to 30 projects.
- Congratulated Clear Creek Baptist Bible College for its 75th anniversary.
- Commemorated the Western Recorder's 175th anniversary.

ing been a bona fide contributor to the convention's work."

Adkins' proposal mirrors an action taken recently by Missouri Baptist Convention messengers who voted to unseat messengers from a church that cut ties with the SBC. At least four Kentucky Baptist churches have loosened ties to the SBC in recent months, primarily citing concerns over the revised 2000 Baptist Faith and Message statement.

Kevin McCallon, pastor of First Baptist Church of Paducah, introduced the motion concerning the allocation of CP gifts that exceed the KBC budget. It called for the KBC to "forward all or a part of the overage as a gift to international or North

American missions" of the SBC.

The 2002-2003 CP budget approved by messengers already calls for 36 percent of any "challenge funds" that exceed budget to be distributed to SBC causes. The majority of that would go to international and North American mission causes.

John Lawlor, a messenger from Louisville Baptist Deaf Church, proposed inviting a former homosexual to share a testimony at next year's KBC annual meeting. Noting that "Kentucky Baptist churches have a heart for missions," his motion added that "we know the Lord Jesus Christ who 'makes all things new' works with people who struggle with same-sex attraction."

Both candidates 'surprised' by presidential vote

Continued from page 1

work was defeated for the second straight year.

During pre-convention interviews, Butler indicated he wanted to strengthen the KBC's ties to the Southern Baptist Convention while Greenfield pledged to seek ways to "unify Kentucky Baptists, not divide us."

That was a theme the new president reiterated after his election Nov. 13. "I want to be inclusive," Greenfield emphasized. "I want people of all stripes who are Baptist to be heard."

Citing one of his goals in making presidential appointments, he said he would not appoint people "who are already so tied in one direction that they can't be flexible."

Greenfield, who served the past year as KBC first vice president, was nominated for the presidency by Bill Tichenor, retired pastor of First Baptist Church of Princeton.

Tichenor described Greenfield as a biblical Baptist, a builder of fellowship and a booster of missions. "He understands how churches and the denomination relate," Tichenor added. "This is so important in the context of Baptist life today."

Greenfield said specific issues he will seek to highlight include missions and evangelism, increased health care and annuity benefits for pastors and church staff and



CONVENTION OFFICERS Kentucky Baptist Convention officers elected during the annual meeting are (from left) First Vice President Garry Baldwin, Second Vice President Claude Witt, President Harold Greenfield, Secretary Wilma Jean Simmons and Assistant Secretary Joe Priest Williams.

increased support for Kentucky Baptist educational institutions.

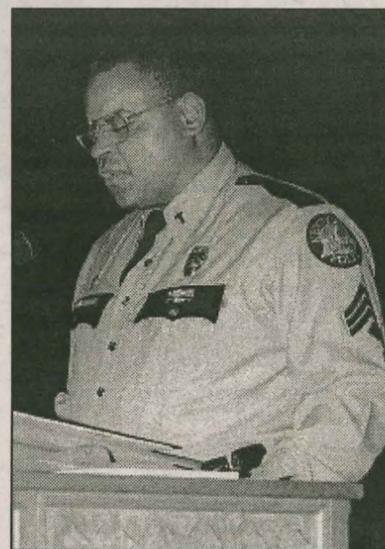
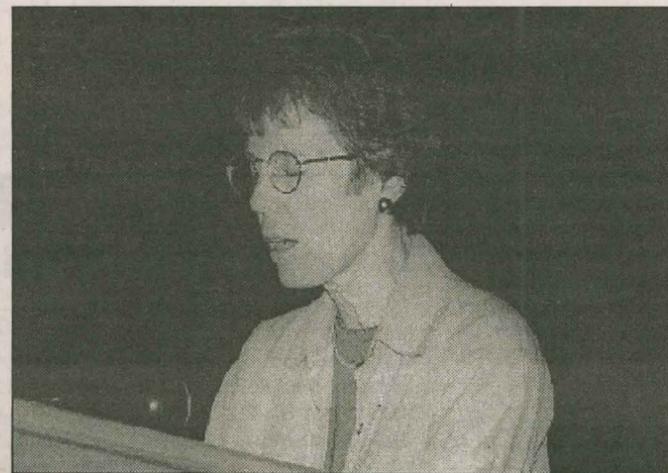
"I promise to be fair to everybody," he added. "Whatever the result is, I want the will of Kentucky Baptists to be heard, whether it suits me or not."

In other elections, Garry Baldwin, pastor of First Baptist Church of Owensboro, was elected first vice president by a vote of 645 to 591 over Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

Claude Witt, executive director of the Temperance League of Kentucky, was elected second vice president in a three-way race. He was elected by a

vote of 377 to 231 over Jack Gordon, minister of music at Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville. Rick Hatley, associate pastor of education at Central Baptist Church of Winchester, was eliminated on the first ballot. Hatley also ran unsuccessfully for the same position last year.

Wilma Jean Simmons, KBC secretary since 1992, and Joe Priest Williams, assistant secretary since 1992, were both reelected by acclamation. Simmons is a member of Ekron Baptist Church in Brandenburg and Williams is a retired pastor from Louisville.



PRAYER Not only did the KBC annual meeting open each session with prayer, but messengers were guided to pray for missionaries, churches and other KBC-related work. ■ Above: Nancy Walden, KBC partnership missions prayer coordinator, leads messengers in prayer for the mission efforts Kentucky Baptists have with New England and the European Baptist Convention. ■ Left: Steve Manely, a Kentucky state treasurer and deacon at Bethabara Baptist Church in Philpot, opens a session with prayer.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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

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

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POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

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

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

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Misleading message

Again this year members of the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network stood outside the doors of the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting, handing out newsletters of slander and innuendo. Unsuspecting messengers again were misled by the yellow journalism of this group.

The newsletter's front page article links the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship with acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle. In fact, the article is about an individual. The individual the article talks about is not a leader in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship or the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship. He is a member of one of our supporting churches but does not serve on our coordinating council nor does his opinion reflect the opinion of our organization. Writers of this newsletter know CBF has gone on record repeatedly against the homosexual lifestyle. So with little fact to go on, the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network continues to use their newsletter to misinform.

The newsletter also says the CBF organization provided startup funds for Mainstream Baptists of Kentucky. This is not the case. The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship has no connection with Mainstream Baptists of Kentucky. The Kentucky Baptist Fellowship has provided no funds to Mainstream Baptists of Kentucky.

Those from the Kentucky Baptist Laymen's Network became very upset that they were compared in recent weeks to terrorists. While they have not threatened or terrorized in physical ways, their words have caused great pain. Perhaps God will hold them accountable for character assassination just as much as He does those who practice physical terrorism.

*John Lepper, coordinator
Kentucky Baptist Fellowship*

Let students pray

We've all experienced the sadness of the tragedy of Sept. 11, but another great tragedy was that our children could not pray in their classrooms without breaking the law.

I believe it is an indictment against Christians that we sat passively by and allowed one atheist woman to get prayer banned in school.

Take a look back at what has happened in our schools since that ruling. Could it be in barring God from our schools we've issued the devil a golden invitation to come in?

My husband is chaplain of a youth development center which accommodates 36 to 40 boys. There are 12 other centers in Kentucky, plus 11 group homes, one assessment center, five detention centers, 27 day treatment centers and 300 kids in private care of some sort. Multiply this by 49 other states and you will get some idea of the trouble we're in.

If these young men could have read the Ten Commandments on their school wall, their lives might be different today. "God's word is powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword."

On June 4, 1998, the U.S. House of Representatives debated the Religious Freedom Amendment. The amendment passed by a vote of 224 to 203. However, it did not have the two-thirds majority necessary to change the constitution.

The Kentucky General Assembly voted in the 2000 session to allow the Ten Commandments to be posted in our schools and public buildings. The question is still tied up in the court system.

Please write a postcard to your lawmakers and let them know we want God back in our schools. Let's do this for our children.

*Mary Cook
Morgantown*

Broadus' legacy

Henlee Barnette's recent affirmation of the use of catechisms was encouraging. Baptists historically have used catechisms to train their children and congregations.

Unfortunately, Barnette's purpose in writing was not to promote the use of catechisms but to attack the doctrine of biblical inerrancy. Referring to John Broadus' "Baptist Catechism" of 1892, Barnette wrote, "Broadus does not get hung up on such erroneous teachings as biblical inerrancy." Nor did he "believe in that heretical dogma." Such distortion of truth dishonors Broadus' legacy.

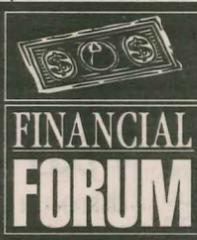
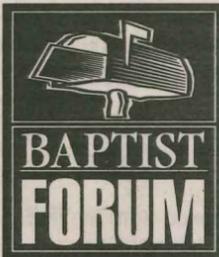
John Broadus was "a brilliant biblical scholar" and "a founding father of the Southern Baptist Convention." Unfortunately, the accuracy of Barnette's comments ends there. In his catechism, Broadus wrote, "The inspired writers learned many things by observation or inquiry, but they were preserved by the Holy Spirit from error, whether in learning or in writing of these things."

Referring to John 14:26, Broadus wrote that the Holy Spirit would "guide them into all the truth." Moreover, Broadus also wrote in his catechism, "there is no proof that the inspired writers made any mistake of any kind." Broadus' own words suggest that he did believe in the doctrine of biblical inerrancy contrary to Barnette's opinion.

Barnette also claimed that James P. Boyce and John Calvin did not believe in the inerrancy of Scripture. Boyce wrote in his systematic theology that the Bible is "infallible" and free "from all possibility of error." Calvin wrote that "the truth of Scripture" is dependent upon "the character of Him whose word it is."

Either the Word of God is completely true or God is not. That is a position that I and millions of Baptists are not willing to take.

*Peter Beck
Louisville*



GIVING

Basic guidelines can help simplify charitable giving

By Laurie Valentine

Many people would like to make gifts beyond their tithes and offerings to their church and other Baptist causes, but they aren't sure how to do so and are concerned that such giving could affect their family's financial security. There are a variety of charitable gift planning options that permit you not only to fulfill your charitable giving objectives, but also provide for your family's future financial security.

A variety of assets can be used to make gifts to Baptist causes, such as cash, stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, real estate, life insurance and retirement plan/IRA survivor benefits.

There also are a variety of ways to make charitable gifts. Many of these do not require a lot of complicated documentation and some allow you to make future changes:

■ **Beneficiary designations.** You can designate a Baptist cause as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, retirement plan survivor benefit or IRA.

■ **Bequests.** You can include a gift to your church or other Baptist cause through a bequest in your will or revocable living trust. Bequests can be a specific amount, a specific asset or a percentage of your entire estate. Bequest gifts can be outright or can be used to establish or add to an endowment fund.

■ **Endowment funds.** An endowment fund is a permanent, perpetual fund created during your lifetime or at your death for the support of charitable causes. Only the earnings of the endowment fund are paid to the causes you designate. The original value of your gift is never distributed.

■ **Life income gifts.** Charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts are plans that allow you to make gifts during life for the ultimate benefit of one or more Baptist causes, while retaining the right for you or others to receive payments for life. Making a life income gift entitles you to a charitable income tax deduction and capital gains tax savings (if you use appreciated assets) and provides the joy of knowing that the causes you have designated will receive a significant gift at your death.

Charitable gift planning provides the opportunity to help make a lasting difference for the cause of Christ in our world.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation

PARTNERS IN THE MISSION

A passion for the 'mission'

In early November, I had the opportunity to participate in an "On Mission Celebration" in Christian County Association. Thirty-nine of the association's 42 churches participated in this outstanding mission emphasis.

There was a missions fair Saturday afternoon featuring exhibits by the 39 guest missionaries. A missions rally was conducted Saturday night at First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville. An outstanding praise team from Hillcrest Baptist Church and musicians from Second Baptist Church led worship. Larry Baker, director of missions, did an excellent job of coordinating placement of all the missionaries. Each church had two missionaries before lunch Sunday and another at 1 p.m.

Sunday morning I spoke first at Calvary Memorial Church which is south of town in a growing area. The pastor is excited about their potential for growth. Support steel had arrived

for construction of a new sanctuary.

I was so impressed with the Hillcrest praise team Saturday and I was excited to hear them again on Sunday. Hillcrest has three morning worship services. When I arrived at the parking lot it was full, with people going and coming. It was the third service and young adults were everywhere. Under the leadership of Pastor Greg Giltner, the church contributed \$104,000 in 2000 to world and local missions through the Cooperative Program.



Bill Mackey

All of these visits provided opportunities to share about missions in Kentucky. There are many Kentucky Baptists who are surprised to learn of the many missions programs right here at home that are funded by the Cooperative Program. Those ministries include disaster relief, ministries to children, outreach to international students and high school and middle school students, partnership missions, new work, annuity and term life insurance for church staff,

financial assistance during church staff transition, conflict resolution, church growth consultations, stewardship resources and literacy work, just to name a few.

I am grateful for the commitment of Kentucky Baptists to the mission—the Great Commission—of our Lord. Kentucky Baptists have demonstrated this in so many ways through partnership missions in Tanzania, Poland, Europe and New England.

During last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee gave notice concerning a name change from the "Executive Board" to the "Mission Board" of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. This name change provides an opportunity to appeal to the younger generation for the mission of our Lord. It will communicate more who we are and what we do and can help us keep focus on our purpose.

Please join me in prayer that all Kentucky Baptists will develop passionate hearts for the "mission" of our Lord.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention

Frustrated by spouse's traits? Share openly about concerns

Q: My husband and I have been married for 10 years. I was first attracted to him because he was confident and self-assured. I've always been quiet and try to fit in with other people. Now, after all these years, I'm very frustrated with my husband. What I once appreciated as his confidence now comes across as bossiness. It seems that he never listens to my ideas. We're unhappy and don't know what to do. Any suggestions?

The situation you described is fairly common. A passive man marries an assertive woman or a reserved woman marries an outgoing man. It's not unusual for the same qualities that someone finds attractive in a dating partner to become points of frustration during the marriage.

Sometimes a person will look for qualities in a person that he or she does not have. On some level, an individual might think that by marrying someone with those qualities it will help the individual become more complete. However, if your partner has a different worldview, eventually that difference can be more an obstacle than an asset.

From your description, it sounds like you have experienced your husband beginning to take advantage of your easygoing nature. I also wonder if he is fully aware of how you perceive the relationship. He might not realize that you need to be listened to despite your quietness.

It would be helpful if both of you could try to imagine the other partner's response to people and events for one day. It could be that your husband simply is unaware of your feelings. Or it might be that he really senses a need to be in control all the time. If that is the case, it could be helpful for you both to seek marriage counseling in an effort to work toward a more healthy partnership.

The vision of marriage in the creation account is that of husband and wife supporting each other. Hopefully with some focused conversation and possible counseling, you and your husband can experience that kind of support.

—Suzanne Coyle

Q: How do I parent effectively in an age of terrorism?

The year 2001 seems like a frightening time to be a parent. So many things threaten the physical, emotional, social and spiritual welfare of our children—things that fill us and them with fear. Although children might not know all the details, they sense the fear and insecurity of the times.

Be careful; stay informed; but refuse to live in fear. Children take their cues from adults, and if you are afraid, they will be too. Pray with your children for the leaders of our country and for the success and safety of those who are working to protect us. Help your children understand that things sometimes happen to us and around us that simply are beyond our ability to control, prevent or avoid. Even so, we don't have to be afraid because wherever we go and whatever happens, God is with us. Teach your children that the words of Psalm 23 are not just a pretty poem, but a powerful promise. Read it together. Also read the story of Daniel in the lions' den.

Years ago, God spoke words of encouragement to another group of people who had fears about the future. His words are found in Jeremiah 29:11, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

May we be parents who embrace and face our future without fear because God is in it—a God who loves us and our children more than we can imagine.—David Garrard

Family Forum writers are Suzanne Coyle, director of Cornerstone Counseling for Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children; David Garrard, minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville; Jon Rainbow, a clinical gerontologist and professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; James Stillwell, minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington; and Scott Wigginton, director of LifeCare Counseling at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. Send questions for Family Forum to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253 or e-mail us at wesrec@ntr.net.



Faith & Message vote is historic moment

The Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee report and recommendation adopted last week by Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers was, without question, historic.

The decision to "adopt the Bible as the basis of all our faith and practice" clearly is a foundational statement on which virtually all Kentucky Baptists can agree.

The committee went on to "acknowledge the value" of faith statements ranging from the 1742 Philadelphia Confession of Faith to each version of the Baptist Faith and Message from 1925 to 2000. That wording offers every Kentucky Baptist congregation specific examples of Baptist faith statements spanning nearly 260 years.

But the recommendation adopted by messengers didn't stop there. It went on to "encourage Kentucky Baptist congregations and associations to use confessions of faith as resources to inform and edify Kentucky Baptists concerning the basic tenets of our faith."

That proactive stand goes far beyond actions taken by many other state conventions that chose to affirm either the 1963 or 2000 Baptist Faith and Message with little or no formal study.

The Kentucky Baptist action also contains clear safeguards in the report's preamble. The document affirms "the autonomy of each local church and association." It also takes a strong stand against creedalism, noting that Kentucky Baptists "have held distasteful the notion of affirming such statements as creeds used to measure or mandate an individual's, church's or association's allegiance to, or affiliation with, any other Baptist group or entity."

Without those two historic Baptist affirmations, it's doubtful that the study committee's work would have gained overwhelming passage—if it had been approved at all.

During discussion of the proposal on the convention floor, no amendments were introduced despite indications that some conservatives wanted a clear yes or no vote on the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message and some moderates wanted to eliminate any mention of the 2000 statement.

As a result, messengers adopted a measure that includes the 1963 and 2000 faith statements as equal options—but only options—for churches to study and consider.

When the study committee released its report in September, chairman Charles Barnes pointed out, "We are putting the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message on the same plane as the 1963 document and other historic documents and commending all of them to the local church to be informed about and make their own decision about." Nothing less and nothing more should be read into the committee's work.

While some Kentucky Baptists have voiced an interest in revisiting the issue in coming years, the strong vote in favor of the proposal without any amendments suggests the vast majority of state convention messengers are satisfied with the wording and intent of the committee's report and recommendation.

"I think it reflects where a majority of Kentucky Baptists are," Barnes said after the vote.

"We feel as a committee that this report and recommendation is best for Kentucky Baptists," he added. "We obviously would like to see this be the position of Kentucky Baptists as far as we can see in the future."

Hopefully, that will be the case. As Kentucky Baptists personalize this year's convention emphasis on "Fulfilling the Mission," one practical step is to affirm the work of the Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee and move forward in unity for the sake of God's Kingdom.

STRAIGHT FROM THE EDITOR



Trennis Henderson

Daley reflects on impact of President Kennedy's death

Few dates in American history compare to the horror of Dec. 7, 1941, and Sept. 11, 2001. One other date seared in the minds of many Americans is Nov. 22, 1963, the day President Kennedy was assassinated. As Americans continue to cope with the impact of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, the following editorial by C.R. Daley reflects the nation faced nearly five decades ago.

A courageous American is dead. John F. Kennedy, who never recoiled from danger and who survived many an encounter, fell without a chance even to see his foe. What a Japanese destroyer and fanatical foes failed to accomplish, a sniping assassin succeeded in doing...

John F. Kennedy was the personification of the American spirit. Born in surroundings of luxury and plenty which have made playboys of many men of lesser mettle, John F. Kennedy rather chose to follow an inborn and implanted

sense of mission which brought him to the highest place of his nation.

For those who agreed with his political philosophy, he was a leader without peer. For those who disagreed with him, there could be but admiration and respect. For all Americans, he was our president with brilliance, dedication and ability rarely seen in one person. The president plunged the nation and the world into shock and mourning within minutes after his last breath. Probably not in history has one death moved more of the world's people more deeply.

Assessments of President Kennedy's death and its effects will be made as long as man tries to interpret history. Even in this early hour after his death, his passing says many things to many men.

Surely it serves to remind the whole world of the power of evil and the utter sinfulness of sin. One demonic act of hate by one diabolical

person plunged millions into mourning and shrouded a nation to its very foundations. The world seldom has realized in such a tragic way the reality of sin and its far-reaching effects...

... Not since Pearl Harbor has any incident in American history sent the nation more completely to its knees. More mention of God, the need for divine guidance and the comfort of Jesus Christ must have been heard in a span of three or four days than Americans have been willing to listen to in three or four years.

Could this be the redemptive ministry of this tragedy? Could the slaying of the President do what the Graham revivals and the efforts of thousands of preachers and churches have failed to do? The nation stopped in its tracks upon hearing the shocking news. The question is whether we stood still to hear God or merely to undergo an emotional experience that will endure no longer than is required for grass to appear on the President's grave?

If America is brought on its knees to God, the President's death will have been redemptive. If not, he will have died in vain and more tragic hours are ahead for our nation.



Mackey: KBC ready to assist diverse Kentucky churches

MURRAY—Kentucky Baptists have diverse opinions and they use a variety of methods, but they have a common desire to reach people for Christ, KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey said during the Executive Board staff report at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.



Mackey

"For more than 160 years, Kentucky Baptists have worked together to do two main things: missions and evangelism," Mackey said during the morning session Nov. 13. "At times we may disagree and progress may seem slow, but we really do come together around the mission of our Lord."

And the Executive Board staff is organized to serve all churches in their missions and evangelism goals, Mackey said.

He noted that Kentucky Baptists worship with a variety of music styles and several languages other than English.

"Some are old like New Salem Baptist Church in Cox's Creek, which has just celebrated its 200th anniversary," he said, adding that others are as new as those who joined the Kentucky Baptist Convention earlier that morning.

"I can say without a doubt what is common in all of our churches is a passion for Jesus Christ," he said. "Kentucky Baptists have a sincere desire to help their friends and neighbors come to the Lord."

The Kentucky Baptist Convention has six teams to serve churches throughout the commonwealth, Mackey said. They are:

■ **Business services team.** This group channels churches' gifts to the Cooperative Program. Next year, Kentucky Baptists likely will surpass a total of \$500 million to the Cooperative Program, Mackey noted. The business services team also is helping every Kentucky Baptist association to have a computer in order to take advantage of the resources of technology and the World Wide Web.

■ **Church growth team.** The team's Super Saturday conferences helped equip approximately 3,000 church leaders this past year. The team also hosted a variety of specialized conferences for smaller churches, musicians, church secretaries and others. The team also will host a church health summit next October.

■ **Evangelism growth team.** In addition to serving with the Greater Louisville Billy Graham Crusade, the evangelism growth team offers activities and training to help Kentucky Baptists share the gospel with others.

■ **Executive office team.** The executive office team helps facilitate all the work of the other teams as well as the Kentucky Baptist archives.

■ **Leadership development team.** This team hosts the annual Shepherd the Shepherd conference for Kentucky Baptist pastors as well as assists ministers with annuity issues and offers leadership development resources.

■ **Missions growth team.** This team is on the front lines of Kentucky Baptist ministries, Mackey said. Their work ranges from church starting, chaplaincy and literacy missions to helping start new mission centers, organizing the Kentucky Changers youth missions week and networking church prayer ministries for spiritual awakening.

While noting the variety of work Kentucky Baptists are involved in, Mackey added, "We must find more ways to reach out to those who are difficult to reach."

After the tragic events of Sept. 11, many non-Christians are asking questions of eternal significance, he said.

"So many are asking, 'What now?' and Kentucky Baptists must be there and be bold with the answer," he said.

Mackey said Kentucky Baptists are well-equipped to show the world that real hope doesn't reside in a good economy or a strong military, "but in a God who is in control."

McKinley: Division hinders God's kingdom

By Trennis Henderson
Editor



McKinley

MURRAY—Issuing a stirring call for unity among Kentucky Baptists, Jim McKinley said God "stands ready to heal" differences that divide Christian brothers and sisters.

McKinley, outgoing president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, focused on the words of 2 Chronicles 7:14 during his presidential address at last week's KBC annual meeting: "If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Since retiring in 1992 as a Southern Baptist missionary to Bangladesh, "many times this verse has come to my mind," he noted.

"Let me assure you that I love Southern Baptists, I love Kentucky Baptists, I love the churches scattered across the world that carry the name Baptist," he said. After he returned to the United States, however, "I discovered that I was a very naive person. I did not know there was so much in the way of disturbances in the lives of the people in the churches that are called Southern Baptist."

Recounting experiences from his 34 years of ministry in East Pakistan

and Bangladesh, McKinley told the convention crowd, "I had a horrible dream one night. I dreamed there had been a big division in Southern Baptists; it was formal.

"In that dream I began thinking that was very bad," he said. "Then I dreamed about what this really means. This really means fewer people around the world would hear the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. That troubled me."

Noting that "we like to talk about the sins of others," McKinley said, "The most helpful thing for me, the most helpful thing for you is to consider your own sins.

"This is about us and in particular about Kentucky Baptists," he added. "When you get off track, when you go down that dark alley, that is bad." He emphasized that Kentucky Baptists should be "opposed to anything that would harm the people of God because we are His people."

Baptists and other Christians are "one big old family," McKinley said,

citing Presbyterians, Methodists and other Christians he has worked alongside over the years.

"That's the family of God," he said. "When you preach, don't forget to say there is only one family of God. There is only one head of that family—Jesus Christ. That's who we are as the people of God scattered across the world."

Reflecting on his Christian conversion as a 9-year-old boy, he said, "I became a child of the living God. He adopted me. He gave me new hope for life. He gave me new hope for death and the life beyond."

All Christians are part of "one family and we must never attempt to draw it apart," McKinley said. "But sometimes we get into trouble."

When that happens, he said, God instructs His followers to "humble themselves and pray and seek His face and turn from their wicked ways."

McKinley said a Muslim acquaintance once asked him about a newspaper article that indicated Baptists "do a lot of fussing and arguing among yourselves."

"I knew that day a stumbling block had been rolled out in front of him" that could keep him from becoming a Christian, McKinley noted. McKinley said it doesn't matter what Christians call themselves as much as what other people call them.

"We say we're the people of God," he pointed out. "What do other people call us?"

KBC 2001, Murray
Fulfilling
the mission

IMB's Don Kammerdiener: Go with God's flow

By David Winfrey
News Director



Kammerdiener

MURRAY—Comparing God's plan for spreading the gospel to a powerful flowing river, Don Kammerdiener said Christians are responsible for following God's direction to accomplish His purposes.

"I am persuaded that we cannot affect the flow of the river," said Kammerdiener, who retired last month as executive vice president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board. "God's purposes will be done. I come to plead with us tonight that we keep our boats aimed properly and in good repair."

Kammerdiener delivered the missions emphasis address during the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting in Murray.

He noted that Southern Baptist missions efforts have grown tremendously since World War II, when the denomination had missionaries in just 26 countries.

But Southern Baptists have come to recognize better ways of gauging the success of their work, he added.

"We used to look at how much gain we had made. And if there was an upturn of a percent or two, that's good," he noted. "We are increasingly looking at the world today in terms of what is left to be done."

The IMB no longer prints maps coded according to which of the world's 250 countries have Southern Baptist missionaries, he said. "Instead of looking at the world through the eyes of nation states, we've come to ask the question, 'How do the people

of the world look at themselves?"

For example, people previously looked at the country of Yugoslavia as a monolithic state, not recognizing it has Macedonians, Bosnians, Serbs, Croats and others, he said.

"You haven't evangelized Yugoslavia when you've sent someone to work with one people group. But all of those people groups need to hear the gospel in their own language and in their own culture."

Likewise in Guatemala only half the citizens speak Spanish. The rest speak one of 23 Indian languages. "Our vision today is that we will touch all the 12 people groups of the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Just as the way they view the world has changed, the way IMB approaches church starting also has changed, he said. Rather than focusing on starting one church, missionaries start each church with a "spiritual DNA" to extend itself through other congregations to other neighborhoods and other towns, Kammerdiener said.

He noted that Southern Baptists have seen substantial growth in recent years. The number of baptisms related to international missions work has grown from 25,000 to 451,000 in his

lifetime, he said.

Last year Southern Baptist missionaries saw more than 6,000 churches constitute. "That means there are now more churches overseas (related to Southern Baptist missions work) than there are within the Southern Baptist Convention."

The number of international missionaries continues to grow, surpassing 5,000 recently, he added.

"That growth has come at a time in which every mainline denomination in the United States has suffered a decline in the number of missionaries that they have fielded," he said. "God is calling forth a constant stream of the very finest of our young people and our adults who are giving themselves to the task of missions."

Yet challenges of theology and cooperation remain, he added.

Today's generations constantly are being taught at school and through the media that all religions are equally valid, Kammerdiener said.

"If we are to have a future as a missionary people it will be because we are able to stand before the young people and the new generations within our churches and remind them that there is but one God and one Mediator between God and man," he said. "If we can't raise that generation, we won't be a missionary people."

Baptists also are challenged to continue working together.

"When we talk about the cooperative way of working together, we're talking Bible. We're talking something right out of the spirit of Christianity itself. We cannot do it alone. We must do it together."

Consultant's sermon lists 9 traits of healthy churches

By David Winfrey
News Director

MURRAY—Churches grow through love and nurturing, not force or coercion, Chip Miller told messengers to the KBC annual meeting in Murray.

"God wants your church to grow more than you do. You think you're burdened for it, think of His heart," said Miller, a church health and growth consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, delivering the meeting's convention sermon.

Miller, who retired last year as the KBC church leadership specialist, compared church growth to his new grandson who was born prematurely. No amount of yelling or stretching would help that grandson grow large enough to be able to leave the hospital, he said.

"We preachers like to come out and say, 'Hey church, you've got to start growing!'" Miller said. "We shout and we get red in the face, ... and we go through all the gyrations, but they just sit there."

But growth is a natural byproduct of a healthy body, Miller added. Just as his grandson started to grow as a result of being fed and loved, so churches will grow if they have a balance of healthy nurturing.

"It's not louder talk," he said. "It's not just more publicity and doing all the methodology. It's getting in tune with the basic principles of the New Testament of loving and nurturing and caring and being the kind of people God wants us to be."

Preaching from Acts 2:42-47, Miller outlined nine characteristics of the church in Jerusalem that will help churches today be healthy and growing. The church in Jerusalem, Miller said, was:

■ **Learning.** "We must be congregations that are still open to the truth

of God, eagerly devoting ourselves to the apostles' teaching," Miller said.

That will require that churches be willing to change, investigate their communities, "figure out what God is trying to do in that context and change to meet the needs in that context," he added.

■ **Fellowshipping.** "It's biblical to have some fun," he said.

"As I've grown older, I've come to realize we don't have enough fun, enough fellowship in our congregation," he added. "This early congregation was healthy because they entered into a fellowship of faith."

■ **Praying.** During prayer ministries while involved in Youth for Christ, Miller learned the saying "Little prayer, little power; much prayer, much power."

"These new believers knew from the get go that they needed strength to face a very difficult world," he said. "Lord knows we need His wisdom and we gain that wisdom through prayer."

■ **Filled with a sense of reverence.** Many Christians rush through life so quickly that they never hear God. "We need to know how to reverence the presence of God."

■ **Active.** "This was a church where things were happening," Miller noted. "A lot of people come (to church) Sunday after Sunday and never suspect that something might happen today."

Every new conversion experience is a miraculous event, he added. "And we are about the business of miracles."

■ **Sharing.** A congregation begins to die the moment it looks inward and only takes care of itself, Miller said.

"The genius of our work down through the years is the ability to give ourselves away, give the message away, give our money, give our sons and daughters away to serve in places around the world."

KBC 2001, Murray
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CHIP MILLER The KBC consultant said unity is one of nine characteristics of a healthy and growing church. "Why do I want to be a part of a church that fusses and fights all the time?"

■ **Worshipping.** Worship is a key discipline for spiritual growth and health, but conflict over styles of worship are keeping Christians from focusing on this main issue, he said.

"We are fussing in our churches today about styles of music and times of service and what to wear and all kinds of stuff that tends to distract us from this core issue of honoring a mighty God for who He is and what He is."

■ **Unified.** As a denominational employee, Miller noted that he's visited hundreds of churches. "If you go to enough churches, as soon as you go in the back door you can sort of smell whether the fellowship is right or not."

"We lose our power so quickly and so easily if we don't stay united in Christ," he added.

"Why do I want to be a part of a church that fusses and fights all the time?" he asked. "I want to be a part of a fellowship that unites and nurtures and supports and gives me strength. I can't make it out there in the real world by myself. I need you as brothers and sisters."

■ **Well-known in the community.** Miller reminded messengers that their church has a reputation in its community.

"The community knows whether you're in harmony or not. The community knows whether you really love them or not," he said. "Do they know us as that bright shining cathedral on the hill that is distant from them or do they know us as a congregation with open arms and open doors and open attitudes of inclusion for all men and women?"

Pollard mixes trademark humor with seriousness of God's calling

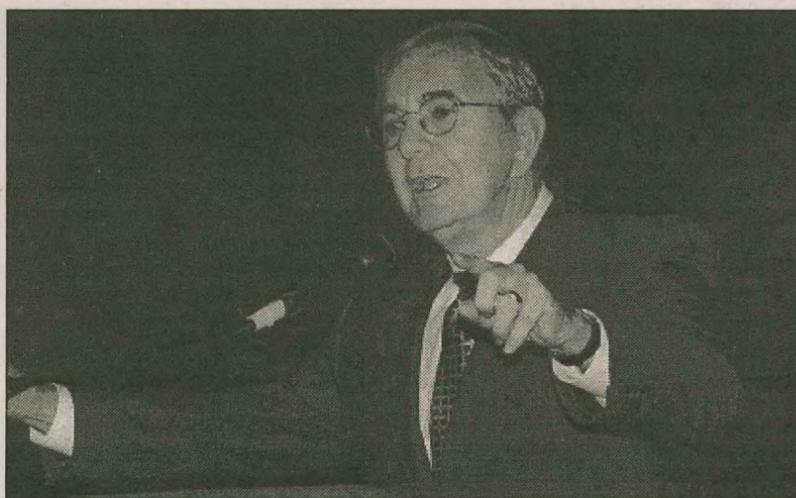
MURRAY—Sharing a spiritual pep talk with Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers, Mississippi Baptist leader Frank Pollard delivered the closing message during last week's KBC annual meeting.

"In many senses the convention is kind of like the huddle of a football team," said Pollard, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. "We need to come together, remember who we are and what we're about and what we're doing."

Sprinkling the message with his trademark humor, Pollard recounted experiences about growing up in rural Texas. He reminisced about Claude Hedges, a Baptist deacon who "thought God and his church had called him to reach every 10-year-old boy in two counties."

Noting that Hedges "came after us," Pollard said the deacon's commitment made a significant spiritual impact in his life.

Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church of Jackson, Miss., cited the biblical examples of Moses, Joshua, Gideon and the apostles as individu-



FRANK POLLARD The Mississippi pastor noted that God's people are often His answer to those who are crying for help.

als who faithfully responded to God's call to service.

"In most every case the answer of people crying out to God is God's people," he noted. "God is saying, 'My people are the ones who are needed here.'"

When the children of Israel cried out to God during their bondage in Egypt, "God said, 'I have seen. I have heard. I am concerned. I am coming down to help. Moses, come here, you are My answer.'"

Once God addressed each of

Moses' excuses and concerns, "Moses did it. He became that leader," Pollard said. "He led the people through all those miraculous times."

After Moses died and Joshua answered God's call to succeed him, the Israelites moved into the Promised Land, Pollard noted. "Even though they took the Promised Land, they never claimed the promised life," he added. "It takes courage to take the land but it takes character to keep it."

Describing other examples of God's answer when people cried out for help, Pollard noted Gideon's role as God's "military messiah" and the apostles' willingness to be "used of God to turn the world right side up."

Turning to 21st century culture, Pollard told the convention crowd, "All around you and all around this world are people who are saying, 'I'm lost. I'm starving. I'm hungry.'"

"They're crying out to God," he said, "and God is saying, 'I have seen. I have heard. I am concerned. I am coming down to help you. Kentucky Baptists, come here, you are My answer.'"

Messengers 'recognize value' of faith statements

"I don't look to the Baptist Faith and Message when I find my sermon for Sunday morning. I look to the Scripture."

Willis Henson, interim pastor of Hawesville Baptist Church

Continued from page 1

Barnes told messengers that committee members "unanimously approved the report you have in your hand. We feel very strongly that the Holy Spirit has led us to this position."

Affirming the committee's "unity in diversity," committee member Billy Compton, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, noted that "God has brought us to this unity in this time of diversity."

Regina Morgan, a messenger from Zions Cause Baptist Church in Paducah, voiced concern that "we're endorsing something we shouldn't endorse."

Noting that other state conventions and Southern Baptist entities interpret the 2000 document more narrowly, she said, "I don't know how to clear up this dilemma that if some people don't support every line of the revision, they lose their positions."

"There is nothing in this report that would cause anyone to lose their position so that is not a proper interpretation," Barnes responded. "Many conventions have acted in somewhat different manners. We feel this is best for Kentucky Baptists."

Mark Whicker, pastor of Brodhead Baptist Church, commended the study committee for their work.

"I see nowhere in there this binding me, my church or the convention to any document of faith," he said. Citing the convention theme, "Fulfilling the Mission," he added, "That's what we need to do. I support this. I thank the committee. I urge the passage of this recommendation."

Willis Henson, interim pastor of Hawesville Baptist Church, noted that the committee proposal "affirmed the authority of Scripture."

"I don't look to the Baptist Faith and Message when I find my sermon for Sunday morning," he said. "I look to the Scripture."

Calling for the vote, Henson urged messengers to address the issue "and



KBC 2001, Murray

Fulfilling the mission

IN FAVOR Mark Whicker, pastor of Brodhead Baptist Church, speaks in support of the study committee's report on the Baptist Faith & Message. "I see nowhere in there this binding me, my church or the convention to any document of faith."

move on with the business of Christ in this convention."

Attempts to amend the report on the floor of the convention never materialized. Some conservatives reportedly wanted a straight yes or no vote on endorsing the 2000 statement while some moderates wanted to eliminate any mention of specific faith statements.

Prior to the vote, KBC President Jim McKinley explained that messengers were voting on the entire report and recommendation. In addition to the focus on Scripture and the value of various faith statements, the report's preamble includes "certain Baptist beliefs and practices that Kentucky Baptists cherish," including biblical authority, local church autonomy, cooperation and opposition to creedalism.

The recommendation encourages Kentucky Baptist churches and associations to "use confessions of faith as

resources to inform and edify Kentucky Baptists concerning the basic tenets of our faith." Specific faith statements cited in the report are "The Philadelphia Confession of Faith (1742), The New Hampshire Confession of Faith (1833), and The Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1925, with revisions in 1963, 1998 and 2000."

Reflecting on the strong vote in favor of the proposal, Barnes told reporters, "One of the things the strong vote said today is the body here respected the judgment of the committee."

Noting that the committee "theologically and geographically represents all of Kentucky Baptist life," he said the report "reflects where a majority of Kentucky Baptists are."

"We've never been very amenable to being pushed to either extreme on any issue," he said. "I think what they want to do is get on with the positive

Recommendation:

As Kentucky Baptists, we adopt the Bible as the basis of all our faith and practice. Historically, Baptists have used various confessions of faith to better explain their understanding of the Bible.

As Kentucky Baptists, we acknowledge the value of all these documents, especially The Philadelphia Confession of Faith (1742), The New Hampshire Confession of Faith (1833), and The Baptist Faith and Message Statement of 1925, with revisions in 1963, 1998 and 2000. We encourage Kentucky Baptist congregations and associations to use confessions of faith as resources to inform and edify Kentucky Baptists concerning the basic tenets of our faith, and thus equip us as we seek to fulfill our historic commitment to evangelism, discipleship, missions, education, godly living and mutual cooperation in bearing a Baptist witness to the world.

work going on in the Kentucky Baptist Convention. That's the focus of our people.

"To the average person in the pew, this subject is not the big issue because it's not going to change how they do missions, how they do church and how they worship."

Addressing concerns that the report could be misinterpreted as elevating the 2000 faith statement above previous versions because it is the most recent, Barnes said, "As a committee we felt the wording was very plain. It refers to multiple statements and multiple years. We are talking about each individual document—1925, 1963 and 2000" as available resources for Kentucky Baptists.

"We feel as a committee that this report and recommendation is best for Kentucky Baptists," he explained. "We obviously would like to see this be the position of Kentucky Baptists as far as we can see in the future."

Record CP budget adopted, report given on possible office move

MURRAY—Kentucky Baptist Convention messengers approved a record Cooperative Program goal of \$23.2 million for the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

The CP budget, a 3.49 percent increase from the current year, was among a series of CP-related proposals approved last week by messengers without debate or discussion.

Other actions included approving a division of funds totaling 64 percent for the KBC and 36 percent for SBC causes. The 64/36 percent allocation completes a three-year plan to increase SBC gifts to 36 percent. Messengers approved a challenge budget goal of \$1.3 million with the same distribution of challenge funds for KBC and SBC causes.

Messengers also heard a report from KBC Executive Board leaders about the possibility of a new Baptist Building facility. Bob Long, chairman of the board's business & finance committee, and Billy Compton, chairman of the administrative committee,

explained that convention leaders are exploring the option of selling the KBC's current facilities to a developer in exchange for a new facility to be built nearby.

If negotiations move forward, Compton said Executive Board members will vote on the proposal at their Dec. 10 meeting.

Executive Board members heard a report from developer Fred Faulkner the day before last week's annual meeting convened.

He said his firm, Faulkner Hinton & Associates, is negotiating with Jefferson County officials about the possibility of leasing the Baptist Building to house the county's East End Government Center.

Noting that the KBC property is one of three locations county officials are considering, he said they are seeking a location that would be available by July 1, 2002.

Faulkner said the proposed timeline includes county officials recommending a location by Nov. 26, the

KBC Executive Board voting on the proposal Dec. 10 and Jefferson County Fiscal Court taking action Dec. 11.

"If we can get the transition put together on both sides," he said, "we'll be ready to begin construction Jan. 1" on a new Baptist Building facility to be located on six acres on nearby Hurstbourne Parkway North.

"There are some things converging here in a timely fashion," KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey told board members. "I think there are some good possibilities here. One of the benefits is maximizing our investment."

Executive Board members authorized KBC President Jim McKinley to appoint a building project committee to oversee the transition efforts.

McKinley appointed Compton, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, as chairman. Other committee members are:

- Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville.
- Charles Barnes, a member of

Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

- Truett Cocanougher, director of missions for Bracken Baptist Association.

- Travis Collins, pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington.

- Wyman Copass, pastor of Indian Creek Baptist Church, Fountain Run.

- Dot Crace, a member of Oakland Avenue Baptist Church in Catlettsburg.

- Jerry Dooley, a member of Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville.

- Larry Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church of Cold Spring.

- Kevin Ezell, pastor of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville.

- Dan Ferguson, pastor of Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville.

- Bob Long, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

- Charles Midkiff, former pastor of First Baptist Church of Greenville.

- Dan Russell, pastor of Central Baptist Church in Paris.

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Author tells educators more Sunday schools need TIGERS

By Dannah Prather
Kentucky Baptist Convention

MURRAY—What Sunday schools need are more TIGERS, according to author Josh Hunt who spoke to the Kentucky Baptist Religious Educators Association conference Nov. 12 in Murray.

Using the TIGER acrostic from his book "You Can Double Your Class in Two Years or Less," Hunt said that if Sunday school leadership focuses on building relationships, they will see growth in their classes.

"Teach a halfway decent lesson each week. Invite every member and every prospect to every fellowship. Give Friday nights to Jesus. Encourage the group toward ministry. Reproduce your group," Hunt said, explaining the acrostic.

While teaching ability and preparation are important, Hunt said, "You don't have to be Chuck Swindoll to grow a Sunday school class. There's more to church than just two good lectures each Sunday."

Looking for people with "the Pied Piper ability" and equipping those people to teach could be more effective than trying to find gifted educators or theologians in a congregation, Hunt said. "Recruitment is almost everything."

Hunt said his research for the book uncovered that "North America is the only continent where the church is not growing. What the church needs to be doing is helping Sunday school teachers double their class sizes in one to two years. If we can do that, then we can turn the world upside down."

The second and third points of his outline—the "T" and "G" of the acrostic—are very personal to Hunt because he has seen it yield results in his personal ministry. Working with a dedicated group of ministers and laymen, he recalled a consistent cam-

paign of weekly visitation and sharing the gospel that yielded only one profession of faith in a year's time. "I'm not telling you that visitation doesn't work," he said. "I'm just saying we were miserable failures at it."

Inviting every member and every prospect to every fellowship every month and giving Friday nights to Jesus are the foundations of relationship evangelism and Hunt has seen them work. "The problem with relationship evangelism is that you can't put it on your calendar, your to-do list or your Palm Pilot," he said. "By giving Friday nights to Jesus, you have found a way to put relational evangelism on your calendar."

Noting that "it doesn't have to be Friday nights," but any regularly scheduled time of fellowship, Hunt said "the magic words (to a prospect) are 'Hey, we're having a group of people over for Diet Coke, coffee cake and table games. Want to come?'" He shared with the educators that 90 percent of the visitors he invited to his home eventually joined the church, many of them making professions of faith.

"What's in the coffee cake?" quipped one conference attendee.

"The main ingredient of the recipe is l-o-v-e," Hunt replied. "The greatest deed is not to share the words about grace, but to be gracious."

During their meeting, Kentucky Baptist Religious Educators Association elected officers for the coming year: President Ross Robinson of Paducah First Baptist Church of Paducah, President-elect Glenn Cummings of Immanuel Baptist in Lexington and Secretary-Treasurer Lena Romans of Beaver Dam Baptist Church.

KBREA will host a fellowship retreat at Barren River Lake Resort May 2-3, 2002. For details, call (502) 254-4730 or toll free in Kentucky (888) 254-5708.

KBC 2001, Murray
**Fulfilling
the mission**

Baker named DOM of the year

MAYFIELD—Larry Baker, director of missions for Christian County Baptist Association, was named director of missions of the year last week.

Baker was presented the award during the annual DOM fellowship, held in conjunction with the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Also during the meeting, new officers were announced for the coming year:

■ President Carl Boyd of the Pike Baptist Association in Pikeville.

■ President-elect Royce Pile of Ohio Valley Baptist Association in Sturgis.

■ Secretary-treasurer Rick Lucas of Sulphur Fork Baptist Association in Crestwood.

■ Newsletter editor Rick Robbins of Northern Kentucky Baptist Association in Erlanger.

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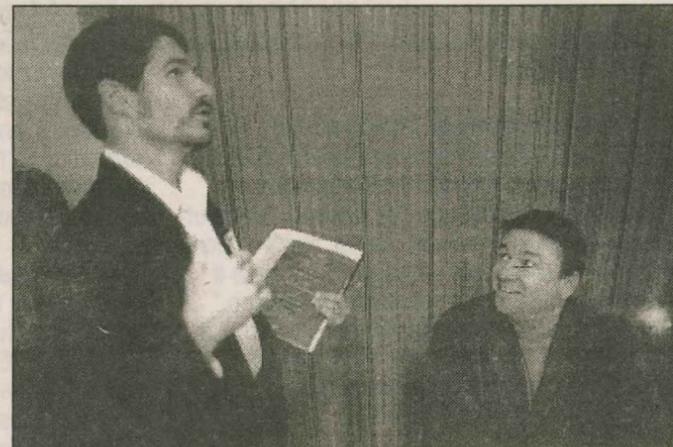
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TALKING MUSIC Joseph Martin (right), a concert pianist and composer of church music for choirs, talks with Matthew Fields of First Baptist Church of Barbourville during the annual Kentucky Baptist Music Conference. The meeting was held at Westside Baptist Church in Murray in conjunction with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting. Officers elected are: President Shannon Thomas of First Baptist Church of Paris, Vice President Jim Krutza of Rich Pond Baptist Church in Bowling Green and Secretary-Treasurer Bill Thomas of First Baptist Church of Hodgenville. The conference nominating committee is Don Phillips of First Baptist Church of Franklin, Jack Gordon of Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville and Jerry Wright of First Baptist Church of London. The member at large is Ron Thredgill of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

AGENCY REPORTS

Campbellsville University. Enrollment reached a school record 1,776 this fall, according to President Mike Carter. "The state of Campbellsville University is strong and growing stronger academically, financially and spiritually." The school set a record for financial gifts this past year. Improvements and renovations are under way for Campbellsville's athletic center, library, aquatic center and environmental education center. More than 500 volunteers have participated in Campbellsville's Kentucky Heartland Outreach ministry, which performed repairs on nearly 50 homes for low-income residents.

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. Average enrollment for the 2001 academic year was 186 students, and 35 students graduated in May. This past August, Clear Creek opened a satellite center in Kingston, Tenn. Clear Creek graduates are serving in practically every Kentucky county, 33 states and such countries as South Africa, Korea and Tanzania, said President Bill Whittaker. "At Clear Creek God has demonstrated what He can do, as founder L.C. Kelley said, 'with people who have nothing but a little faith.'"

Cumberland College. The school's Mountain Outreach ministry program is celebrating its 20th anniversary and will build its 100th home next summer, according to campus minister Dean Whittaker. More than 150 students served through the program this past year, and 19 church volunteer teams from around the United States assisted with new construction, renovation and winterization projects. On campus, 16 students made professions of faith during the past academic year. Cumberland's total enrollment is 1,707 students.

Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. In the wake of a lawsuit challenging the faith-based institution's use of state funds, the agency plans to launch a national fundraising effort soon. "We'd like to raise enough money in the next three to four years that we can tell the state, 'Keep your money. We'll still serve your kids. That's our goal,'" said KBHC President Bill Smithwick. One of the two points of the lawsuit has been dismissed, but the other will take some time to resolve, Smithwick said. "This may take many years before it is decided and it could go all the way to the United States Supreme Court."

Oneida Baptist Institute. President Bud Underwood thanked Kentucky Baptists for their financial support through the Cooperative Program and the Father's Day offering. "Without that there would not be an Oneida, and it's been that way for 102 years," he said. "You make it possible for us to help you fulfill the mission." Student Elizabeth Wood of Maysville noted that 80 percent of students come from broken homes. "I'm really glad I came to Oneida. It's a place where I can really fit in."

Kentucky Baptist Foundation. Last year, the foundation distributed more than \$300,000 to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the third largest contribution for the Kentucky Cooperative Program. During the past five years, earnings for Baptist causes through the foundation totaled \$5.9 million. "The foundation exists, not for itself, but for the rest of the family," said foundation President Barry Allen.

Georgetown College. Bill Crouch recently celebrated his 10th anniversary as Georgetown's president. As part of the school's goal to reach Phi Beta Kappa accreditation standards by 2007, Georgetown has launched a campaign to raise \$96 million for capital improvements by 2004. "I'm proud that 46 percent of our students are Baptist students," Crouch added. "We invest \$4 million in financial aid to allow them to be at Georgetown College." Asked if he or Georgetown trustees were planning to distance the school from the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Crouch said, "Just the opposite is true. ... We're doing everything we can to remain faithful and true in a relationship to the Kentucky Baptist Convention."

Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. In the four years since this agency was organized to run Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek assemblies, the two campuses' have increase the number of "camper days" by more than 33 percent to 39,691. Cedarmore recently completed the first phase of a renovation plan, as Boone Lodge's exterior and dining room received face lifts. Phase two will improve Boone Lodge's bedrooms. In its second year, the new Crossings at the Creek summer camping program exceeded capacity. "This year already promises to be bigger than last year," he said, noting that construction recently began at Jonathan Creek for a new worship center and two 32-bed lodges.

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. Kentucky Baptists contributed \$834,649 to this past year's Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions. That's a 7.8 percent increase compared to the previous years and it surpassed the basic goal of \$800,000. The extra money went to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's New Work Fund to help start new churches in the commonwealth. Kentucky WMU continues this year with its Project Help: Literacy emphasis, encouraging churches to learn about and participate in literacy missions work.

Baptist Healthcare System. The system provides service to 49 counties through hospitals in Louisville, Lexington, Paducah, Corbin, LaGrange and Hardin. Each hospital has health fairs, information classes and other programs to increase the health of residents in their service area. Not only is Baptist Healthcare System one of the commonwealth's largest employers, but with charitable care work exceeding \$21 million last year it also is a significant provider of health care for uninsured and underinsured Kentuckians.

Western Recorder. The oldest weekly Baptist newspaper in the nation celebrates its 175th anniversary this year, noted Editor Trennis Henderson. "Even more important is our present and our future. Every issue of the Western Recorder is essential reading to help your church members gain a vision of ministry beyond the four walls of your church." The paper also serves many Kentucky Baptist churches by printing their newsletters on the paper's back page. The Western Recorder also publishes monthly newspapers for five smaller state Baptist conventions: Hawaii Pacific, Iowa, Minnesota-Wisconsin, Pennsylvania-South Jersey and Utah-Idaho.

Compiled from written & oral reports

CONVENTION NOTES

■ **Attendance down.** A total of 1,732 messengers registered for this year's annual meeting in Murray. That number was a 19 percent decrease from the 2,139 messengers who were in Bowling Green last year. In 1999, 1,372 messengers attended the KBC meeting in Covington.

■ **Public affairs issues increase.** The KBC Public Affairs Committee recently added an extra meeting to their annual schedule in order to keep up with the several ethical and public policy issues on which they will attempt to educate Kentucky Baptists. With a \$500 million deficit projected by the state government, many people expect a new push for expanding gambling in the state, said committee chairman John Chowning.

■ **Temperance League reports.** The Temperance League educates local churches how to fight local "wet/dry" votes on whether to allow alcohol sales, said Executive Director Claude Witt. Seventy-five of Kentucky's 125 counties remain dry, he noted. The league also works with Citizens Against Gambling Expansion to fight pro-gambling legislation. Witt thanked Kentucky Baptists for their financial support, noting that every Baptist association in the commonwealth has contributed to the Temperance League.

■ **Louisville to host 2004 meeting.** Messengers adopted the recommendation from the convention's committee on arrangements that St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville host the 2004 meeting. Next year's meeting will be at Cumberland College Nov. 12-13. The 2003 meeting will be held at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. Craig Loscalzo, pastor of Immanuel was chosen to deliver next year's convention sermon.

■ **'Mission Board' proposed.** Messengers heard a first reading from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's constitution and bylaws committee to change the name of the KBC's executive board to "Mission Board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention." Because it requires a change to the KBC constitution, messengers will vote on the issue when the committee presents a second reading at next year's meeting.

■ **Be it resolved, sooner.** Messengers also approved a recommendation that resolutions must be presented before the close of the afternoon business session of the first day of the convention. That requirement will allow ample time to copy and distribute all resolutions by the morning of the second day, when they typically are voted on, according to Ted Sisk, chairman of the KBC's committee on constitution and bylaws.

Caring that continues

Someone has said, "The world tomorrow will belong to those who give it hope."

Your Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children is all about providing hope and care to hurting families and children through Christ-centered ministries. Not only is KBHC the oldest Southern Baptist-related childcare ministry in the nation, but it is also the largest private childcare provider in Kentucky. President Bill Smithwick, the staff and the board of KBHC are committed to presenting a clear message of Christian values as they strive daily, under God's leadership, to reach children and families with Christ's love and compassion. They are dedicated to the improvement and adaptability of their services to meet the changing needs of children and families in the context of the unchangeable and unconditional love of Christ.

Thanksgiving is the time each year as a Kentucky Baptist family each of us has the opportunity to express our gratitude for this beloved ministry by our gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering. Larie and I already have made our gift, and I encourage you to experience the joy of giving again this year, or for the first time. What a difference we

Kentucky Baptists are making in the lives of these children and families, and it takes all of us praying, giving and volunteering to meet the various challenges this very specialized ministry faces, now more than ever, and not just at Thanksgiving.

You have the opportunity to help ensure this vital Christ-centered ministry of caring will continue with strength and stability, until Jesus comes again. With a gift of cash, appreciated real estate or securities, life insurance, retirement assets and/or a bequest in your will or revocable living trust, you can both establish a perpetual legacy of your commitment to Jesus Christ and ensure this ministry. Perhaps you need to receive income during your life in order to give a particular asset. A charitable gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust may be just the solution for your consideration.

Laurie Valentine, our trust counsel, and I would consider it a privilege to assist you in making a gift for "caring that continues" through your Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children.

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, 19605 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40223; (888) 254-5701; www.ky.baptistfoundation.org

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION



Barry Allen

Potter in midst of heated debate on literary good & evil

Continued from page 1

The difference of opinion on this matter, however, is illustrated by the content of the Focus on the Family Web site where Murray's article is published. The conservative parachurch ministry does not dismiss Harry Potter outright. Instead, the family.org site offers somewhat contrasting opinions and reviews.

"From every indication given in both her books and in her interviews, author J.K. Rowling has no intention of drawing children into the occult," writes Lindy Beam, a youth culture analyst for Focus on the Family. Beam quotes Rowling as saying, "I don't believe in the kind of magic that appears in my books."

In reality, Beam suggests, "children who read about Harry will probably discover little about the true world of the occult. That's why some Christian leaders and Christian publications find these books to be more fantastical than threatening."

Some Christian leaders and publications take a diametrically opposed view to the openness expressed by Beam, however.

Jeremiah Films, producer and seller of the anti-Potter video, calls the books "accurate in their presentation of witchcraft."

In an article published by Baptist Press, one of the video's narrators adds to this warning: "The incantations Rowling has written are whimsical, but the principles of witchcraft are accurately presented."

But not all conservatives find fault

with Harry Potter.

In 1999, just as the third book in the series was published, conservative Christian commentator Charles Colson wrote a column telling parents it's OK for their children to read Harry Potter books.

"It may relieve you to know that the magic in these books is purely mechanical, as opposed to occultist," he wrote. "That is, Harry and his friends cast spells, read crystal balls and turn themselves into animals, but they don't make contact with a supernatural world."

A recent column in the conservative political magazine National Review went so far as to say the new Harry Potter movie may actually do the nation good. The movie "will have much to say about good and evil and the necessity and nobility of fighting evil for the sake of justice," wrote Thomas Hibbs, associate professor of philosophy at Boston College.

Brett Younger, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, and father of young children, agrees that there's good to be found in Harry Potter.

"The stories are not about potions, cauldrons and sorcerers so much as they are about loneliness, love and loyalty," he said. "What's magical about Harry Potter is that it takes readers into the world of the imagination and the wonder of story. We can all be joyless muggles (non-magical peo-

ple in Potter's world) who need to exercise our hearts and minds. Stepping into a fictional world helps us see our own world in a new and different way."

And it is a fictional world, insisted Marion Hogan, a Baptist pastor's wife and seventh-grade English teacher in the Houston area who has read the books and has talked about them with her students.

"If you declare all stories that have witches and wizards as evil, then you have to throw out every fairy tale there is," she explained. "Some people want to take this to the point where you can't even have a fairy tale story."

The best advice is for parents to be well informed and discerning, suggested John Echols, a veteran children's minister, consultant and author of children's curriculum pieces who lives in Chattanooga, Tenn.

"I'm not going to read this book with my 5-year-old who has trouble distinguishing between reality and non-reality," he said. "But by the time a child is in fourth or fifth grade, they've had that lesson about fiction vs. non-fiction."

"When things happen in the story that are fantastical, like the troll coming in or flying on a broomstick, at the end of that chapter, you say, 'That was a really great story. Too bad it can't be true.' That's the parents' job to remind them it can't be true."

While acknowledging valid con-

cerns about exposing children to the reality of Wicca and the occult, Echols insisted the Harry Potter stories are far-fetched and fantastical.

"I don't think modern-day witches and wizards are like Harry Potter," he explained. "Maybe they do put spells on people and curse people and those kinds of things, but the things Harry Potter does are fantastical."

"If you get really upset about that as an adult, I want to say to the adults: 'It's not true. This is a fantasy. Even modern-day witches and wizards don't fly around on broomsticks.'"

From a theological perspective, Echols said, he finds more to fault with some standard Disney fare, such as "Anastasia" and "Pocahontas" and "Atlantis."

"There are a lot of theological issues in 'Pocahontas' that nobody complained about. She's a historical figure, and it's harder to say to children, 'This is a historical figure but it's a fantasy.' Which part of it is real and which part is not real? With Harry Potter, you can say the whole thing is a fantasy."

Regardless, concerns about Harry Potter could create more opportunities for children and parents to read and talk together, Echols said.

"If your child wants to read it, read it together and talk about it while you're reading. If there's a place that makes you uncomfortable, articulate that in front of your child."

And as for the movie, "If you're concerned about it, go to it by yourself before you take your children."



Blessing the little children

By Robert Dunston

Cumberland College junior Ellen Barnes, daughter of Clay and Ann Barnes of Charlotte, N.C., spent her summer working as a Kentucky Baptist Student Union missionary in Arkansas serving at the Judsonia Emergency Receiving Home, a facility associated with the Arkansas Baptist Children's Home.

The home serves as a temporary place for abused, neglected, abandoned or troubled children from ages 6 to 17. Typically six to seven children stayed at the home during any given time.

Children came and went throughout the summer, but the staff and Barnes worked hard to create a family atmosphere. Each day everyone sat down for family meals. Many of the children who stayed there had never had such a family experience.

Barnes planned activities, drove the van, led daily Bible studies and served as a spiritual encourager. Despite a limited budget for summertime fun, Barnes kept the children busy. She swims on the Cumberland College swim team and enjoys athletics, so she refused to allow the children to sit in front of the television.

Barnes took the children to the local pool, to free movies, to the park and to a local lake. On Sundays and Wednesdays everyone at the home went to the local church. Despite the children's occasional behavior problems, the church never failed to welcome them with open, loving arms.

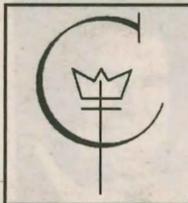
Two of the boys stayed in the home for the entire summer and Barnes came to know them very well. Before the summer ended one had accepted Christ. Two other children who spent some time in the home also became Christians.

Barnes remembers one special, touching experience. On one field trip the director brought his 1-year-old grandson. An 11-year-old boy staying at the home loved playing with the baby during the day. As they drove home the boy turned to Ellen and asked, "Miss Ellen, I just don't understand why someone would have a kid and not love them."

We rejoice that Barnes was there to love them all in the name of Christ. She would love to minister to young people in the future.

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

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE



Happy endings and beginnings

A few months ago, I shared with you a story about a boy who had put his thoughts on paper about what his life was like in KBHC foster care. "Before I came here, I never had a house. I never had a Christmas tree. I never had a birthday party." The list went on from there. Brandon's words were so humbling. Hopefully you have seen his essay reprinted in this year's Thanksgiving Offering materials. We referred to Brandon as "Billy." A marked change in his circumstances now permits us to use his real name.

As reported in last week's Western Recorder, Brandon and his sisters were welcomed into the home of a wonderful single woman named Rosemary. Without hesitation she invited the three into her life because she feels called to be a mom. After coming to live with Rosemary and attending church regularly, Brandon made a profession of faith and was baptized. He immediately began praying that God would make it possible for Brian to live with the family again. It took about a month from the time Brandon began praying until God opened the door. Now, for the first time in two years, Brandon, Brian, Alicia and Christina are

together. They are preparing for perhaps the safest, warmest, healthiest and most loving Thanksgiving of their young lives.

You are a part of this reunion, Kentucky Baptists! You laid the groundwork for Rosemary to become a foster parent and you have helped her along the way. The best part of the story is that Rosemary is now in the process of making these children a permanent part of her family through adoption. Pray for this foster mother as she strives to be the best parent she can possibly be for four children who have known hardship, instability and fear most of their lives. As you give this year to the Thanksgiving Offering, I hope you remember them and smile.

Since 1998, I've said often in this space that KBHC needs the support of Kentucky Baptists now more than ever. That urgency still exists as we continue through various trials. Remember the children and families in your prayers and with your dollars this Thanksgiving. They need you.

Bill Smithwick is president of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. Contact KBHC at (800) 456-1386 or at www.kbhc.org

HOMES FOR CHILDREN



Bill Smithwick

One story, two opinions

NASHVILLE—With some loving Harry Potter and others despising the magical character, how can committed Christians come down so far apart on this issue?

The answer may be found in differing worldviews, said Cliff Vaughn, associate director of the Baptist Center for Ethics in Nashville. Vaughn holds a doctorate in American cultural studies from Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

"Worldviews are like lenses," he explained. "They affect the way we see the world. In broad terms, people speak of two worldviews. One is objective, whereas the other is interpretive."

"In the case of Harry Potter, one worldview sees an evil. No bones about it. It must be eradicated. The other worldview says not necessarily. The world isn't that tidy, and the book's malevolence isn't a foregone conclusion."

"In the final analysis, Christians who see Harry Potter as evil probably find less room for discussion about Potter. For them, Potter is an evil waiting to be discovered. Other Christians don't see evil in the heart of Harry. Any evil they see there is the evil people make of it."

Finding one's way between these two opposing positions may not be easy, but it may be possible, he insisted. It's certainly worth a try, because the basic issues involved in the Potter debate won't dissipate.

"Years ago, the Smurfs were public enemy No. 1. Then it was He-Man. Now it's Harry Potter. This wave of concern demonstrates yet again there's nothing new under the sun."

Conference leaders elected

MURRAY—The following officers were elected for next year's pastors' conference:

■ President Steve Hill, pastor of Valley Creek Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

■ Vice president Paul Chitwood, pastor of First Baptist Church of Somerset.

■ Secretary-Treasurer Alan Dodson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Hazard.

Outgoing conference president Paul Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church of Pikeville, said he hopes pastors at the pre-convention meeting took away "something that will give them a word of encouragement or a new focus."

Noting low attendance, Badgett said, "It may be too much to have three speakers in a row" at each session. "I don't know what the answer is but I certainly hope the conference continues."

Pastors offered several paths to 'Fulfilling the Mission'

By **Trennis Henderson & David Winfrey**
Editor & News Director

MURRAY—Speakers exhorted pastors to "Fulfill the Mission" from several perspectives during the annual pastor conference held on the eve of the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Charles Stewart, chancellor of Rose Hill Christian School in Ashland, told pastors that building a church takes integrity, involvement, intestinal fortitude, inspiration and initiative.

"You cannot build a church sitting in an office," he said, adding that a pastor's work in the community during the week will determine the size of the congregation on Sunday.

"It's time for Baptists to quit this lazy business and get on fire for God," he said. "The door to success is labeled 'Push.'"

Bill Henard, pastor of Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington, said every Christian doesn't have the gift of evangelism but they can develop a passion to win people to Christ.

"Evangelism is not a program. It has got to be a passion," he said.

He said pastors should develop a passion for evangelism that is inspired through personal commitment, intensified through personal conviction and inflamed through personal concern.

He encouraged pastors to build relationships with non-Christians as a way of winning people who are not attending their church. "Is hell a much



PHIL ROBERTS The new president of *Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary* delivered the closing address at this year's pastors' conference.

fuller place because of the events of Sept. 11?" he asked. "That's why we've got to have a passion for evangelism."

David Adams encouraged pastors to fulfill the mission through ministry to youth and their parents.

Adams, a youth and family specialist at Boyce College in Louisville, said too many churches are ignoring their youth.

More than half the current world's population is under age 25, Adams said, but too many churches are failing to reach out to the younger generation.

"The worst prejudice, ladies and gentlemen, is not to be thought of at all," he said. "We say to youth in Kentucky Baptist churches: ... 'Sit down,' 'Shut up' and 'We really don't want you and we certainly don't need you. You make us feel uncomfortable.'"

Preaching from Luke 9, Adams encouraged listeners to be sensitive to

young people's needs, to inspire youth through example, to recognize youths' importance and to empower youth with word and deed.

"The sign of a healthy church, ladies and gentlemen, is that our sons and daughters see great examples."

Phil Roberts challenged Kentucky Baptist pastors to help fulfill God's mission through total church involvement.

"God's plan is for Spirit-gifted leaders to ground and lead and equip the whole body to do the work of the ministry," said Roberts, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. "You're to be out there doing the ministry and involving others to do it with you."

Evangelism and discipleship are the "two great duties and responsibilities of the New Testament church," he added. "Everybody can make a contribution to evangelism. In all of our busyness, maybe we ought to do something simple like invite our neighbors to church."

Noting that "we live in a desperate age" in which "folks have rushed to all sorts of deception," he said God's answer comes back to the plan that "all of us can do the work of sharing the gospel."

Mississippi pastor **Bobby Moore** said prayer "is the most important thing in the life of the man of God."

Moore, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church in Olive Branch, Miss., emphasized that "the prayer life of Jesus was not something that was done occasionally. It was the habit of

His life to meet His Heavenly Father every day."

He said four truths about prayer include: Prayer changes the person who prays, God changes the people who are prayed for, God responds to prayer and prayer binds the power of Satan.

"The ultimate purpose of prayer is not to get prayer answered," Moore said. "The ultimate purpose of prayer, whether prayer is answered or not, is that God be glorified."

Preaching from 2 Timothy 4:1-5, **Rick White** highlighted the role of preaching in fulfilling God's mission. He said effective preaching must be confrontational, transformational and generational.

"It's not the preacher who is confrontational; it is the Word of God that is confrontational," said White, pastor of First Baptist Church of Franklin, Tenn.

Pettiness in the church is a key issue that must be confronted, he added. "People are concerned about things that have nothing to do with eternity," he warned. "At some point we've just got to say, 'If it doesn't matter, it doesn't matter.'"

White said preaching also should focus on helping change the lives of those who listen.

"The people who do not know Jesus are not enemies of the cross; they are victims of sin," he said. "See them through the eyes of Jesus and love them and care for them and build meaningful relationships with them in order to bring truth into their lives."

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Directed by Debbie Winters

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Admission is FREE

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Dr. W. F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute
P.O. Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972 www.oneidaschool.org
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Floridians look forward to Kentucky winter

As winter approaches, the "snow-birds" head for Florida. **Doug and Joli Cullen** moved to Clear Creek from Key Largo, Fla. "We are looking forward to the change in seasons," he said. "We also lived in a high tourist area and stood in line for everything. We like the slower pace in Kentucky and the blessing of new friends on the campus."

They have twin boys in the Navy and three children at home. The biggest adjustment came with a move from a 1,400-square-foot home to a campus cottage of 1,000 square feet. "It's getting more like home; and it is only temporary," Joli observed.

Life in Florida brought Doug some experience in working with people; he operated a lawn service business. "In the summer you could almost stand and watch the grass grow. Working with people helped develop patience. Some customers could never understand why after three days of rain you didn't get their lawn cut; others were a blessing to work with," Doug said.

While in Florida Doug and Joli participated in the pro-life movement; he spoke at some rallies.

"Abortion is wrong, and we hope to be more involved to end it in America. I don't think most Christians are aware that abortion occurs right up to the time of delivery. The practice of partial-birth abortion is a travesty. If we treated our animals as bad as we treat the unborn something would be done. Our heart hurts for

America. We are not a nation under God as it once was. Many of our schools use textbooks that lie about our forefathers. We home school our children to help prevent them from getting away from that heritage," Doug stated.

Joli works at the Family Life Center as a lifeguard. A group of ladies from the community come twice a week for an aquatic exercise program using principles from the Arthritis Foundation.

"When I visited the campus I heard about the need for lifeguards," Joli said. "I got my certificate during the summer and secured the job when we moved. The ladies are a great group; they also always give me tip!"

CLEAR CREEK CHRONICLE



Bill Whittaker

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

'You're Free!'

Women thank God for safety while in Afghanistan prison

By John Hall
Texas Baptist Standard

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Fighting back tears, two Americans thanked God for pulling them through their more than three-month detainment by Afghanistan's Taliban government.

"Thank you to everyone who has been in there with us," said Heather Mercer, 24, who, like her American companion, Dayna Curry, 30, looked healthy. The two spoke to media at a Nov. 16 press conference in Islamabad, Pakistan. "Even if we had a whole lifetime to say 'Thank you,' I don't think it would be adequate."

The former detainees were working for Shelter Now International, a German-based humanitarian aid group, when Taliban officials arrested them Aug. 3.

They and six other Shelter Now International workers and 16 Afghans reportedly were charged with attempting to convert Muslims to Christianity. The 16 Afghans also were freed.

Curry said she was "flabbergasted" by the charges, which she called "80 percent" false. She acknowledged that she did give a book that contained stories about Jesus to an Afghan family, though she said she used the book to help teach Afghans how to read. She also said she did show the family part of the "Jesus" video, which has been distributed worldwide by several Christian groups.

The former detainees recounted how their faith in God helped get them through sleepless nights of hearing the bombings occur in the Afghanistan capital of Kabul.

God "never left me," Mercer said. "The moments I was most afraid, He was with me. I slept under the bed during the bombings, and He stayed with me."

After several delays in the trial due to the terrorist attacks in the United

States Sept. 11 and the ensuing military action in Afghanistan by a U.S.-led coalition, the women said the last few days were some of the most frightening and most joyous times of their lives.

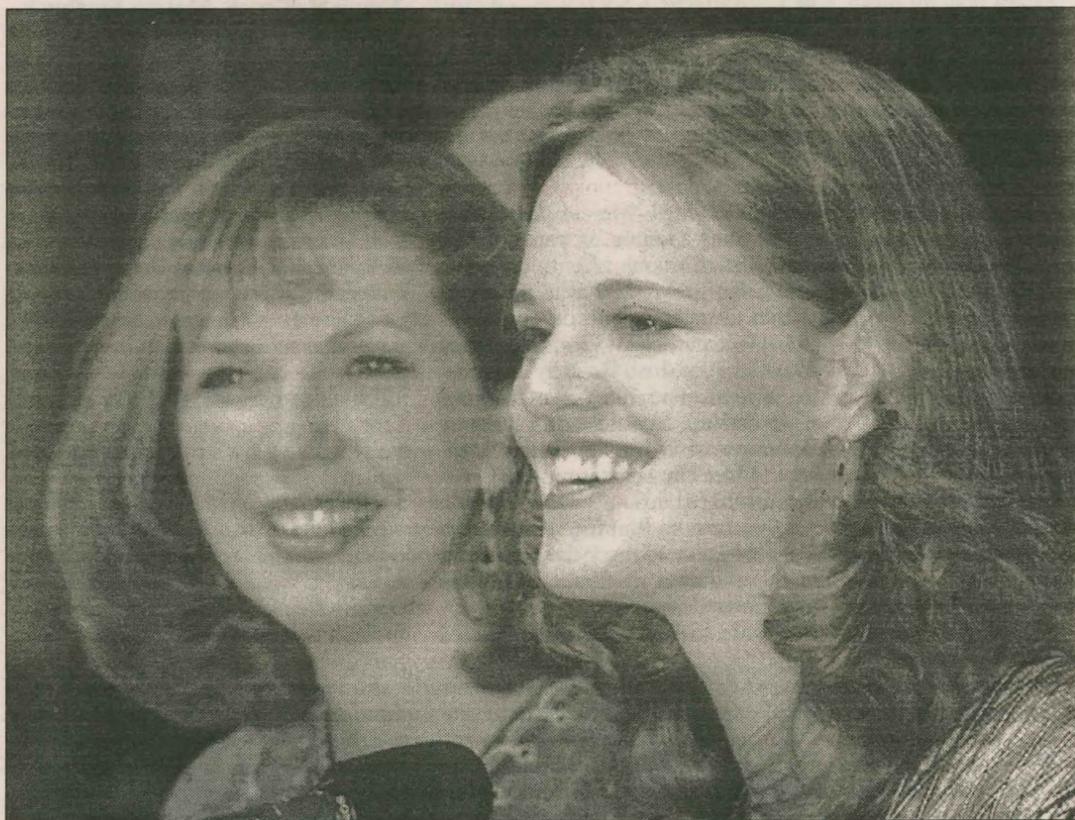
On Nov. 13, when the anti-Taliban forces began to seize the capital city of Kabul, where the women were detained, Taliban officials removed the prisoners from their cells, Curry said. The detainees then watched Taliban forces run by them in full retreat as they rode on top of a rocket launcher toward Kandahar. Along the journey, Curry said Taliban officials told the internationals they should write to their families requesting money to ransom them out of the country.

Despite their fears, Curry said, the group remained calm during the journey, singing, laughing and reading Scripture.

Taliban officials then put them in a steel shipping container, said Curry, who tried to keep warm by curling into the fetal position. The detainees then were taken to a prison in Ghazni, a town about 50 miles southwest of Kabul, where they quickly felt the bombings of the anti-Taliban forces they had become accustomed to in Kabul, Mercer said. She said the group began a prayer meeting and saw the Taliban troops fleeing the city.

The detainees then feared for the worst when they heard a group of troops trying to get into the jail, Mercer said. Rather than being greeted by gunfire, however, the group heard shouts of: "You're free! You're free! The city's free! The Taliban are gone!"

Mercer said the detainees took a hike through the city with a military escort to take in what had occurred. The freed detainees then spent time in an Afghan home before completing what Mercer called a "complicated, difficult process" that involved several last-minute cancellations before



they attempted to meet a military escort out of the country.

Trying not to be seen as they were escorted by a group of troops, the detainees went to a field outside Ghazni, where they were to meet a helicopter that would take them to Pakistan, Mercer said. In order to help the pilots find the group, members of the group made a pile of their head coverings and lit them on fire to signal their location.

"It was the most amazing thing I've ever seen," Mercer said, "to be taken prisoner by one government and to walk out of prison a free person with another government."

The detainees were flown to Islamabad, where they hugged and spoke to family members who had been in constant communication with the U.S. State Department throughout the detainment.

Despite their detainment, neither American said she held animosity to-

ward either the Taliban or the Afghan people. Curry said the Taliban treated them as well as they could have under the circumstances. Some of the officials loved them like sisters and encouraged them to pray and sing to God, she added.

Not only do the women not feel resentment toward the nation in which they were held captive, they also said they hoped their detainment would help the Afghan people. They didn't rule out more personal involvement in the country after a debriefing in central Europe and some time in the U.S.

"We believe because we were there Afghanistan has received so much more attention, which is what they need," Curry said. "They need prayer; they need a miracle."

"In so many ways because our hearts are there, Afghanistan has become our home," Mercer said. "We want to help Afghans in any way possible."

RESCUED Rescued American aid workers Dayna Curry (left) and Heather Mercer smile at a news conference in Islamabad, Pakistan, Nov. 16. Eight foreign aid workers, including four Germans, two Australians and the two Americans, were rescued from the Taliban when U.S. helicopters swooped at night into a field in central Afghanistan and lifted them to freedom. (RNS/Reuters photo by Jason Reed)

Billy Graham association moving offices home to North Carolina

By Adelle Banks
Religion News Service

MINNEAPOLIS—Leaders of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association announced last week that they will be moving the 51-year-old organization from its longtime location in Minneapolis to Charlotte, N.C.

"Minneapolis has been very good to us, but we have run out of room to grow," Graham told ministry employees as they met for a biennial staff conference in West Virginia, a ministry statement said.

Franklin Graham, eldest son of the evangelist and CEO of the association, said his father's hometown was the "most logical" new location for the ministries related to his family.

Most already are in North Carolina. The younger Graham's Christian relief organization, Samaritan's Purse,

is located in Boone.

The Billy Graham Training Center at the Cove is in Asheville. The elder Graham's home is in nearby Montreat. "In the long run, it will allow us to bring a lot more synergy to the ministry," Franklin Graham told Religion News Service.

"This will put everything within a two-hour drive—just going to make it much easier. I believe in the long run it will save us money," he said.

In addition, there are the personal ties to the city and state where the 83-year-old evangelist was born, Franklin Graham said, noting his father's recent recognition as "favorite son of North Carolina" by the North Carolina Senate.

The ministry will move from a 2.3-acre site in downtown Minneapolis to 63 acres on the Billy Graham Parkway north of Charlotte.

"To have space in a city that loves the man that much, it just makes sense to come here for our corporate headquarters if we have to make a move," the younger Graham said.

Relocation is not expected for three to five years.

Mark DeMoss, Franklin Graham's spokesman, said the Charlotte property will cost "around \$8 million."

"It looks like we will get 63 acres for less money than we'll get for selling 2.3 acres in downtown Minneapolis," he said.

Franklin Graham said he also expects that it will cost substantially less to build on the vacant property in Charlotte than it would have cost to expand or move in Minneapolis.

Still, he said it was a difficult decision to leave the Twin Cities area.

"They have been extremely good to a country preacher," he said. "We

have many friends and 50 years of working in that city. This decision did not come easy."

The ministry has 441 full-time workers in the city, plus an additional 250 staffers who work on a part-time or "call-in" basis, Franklin Graham said.

Beyond the well-known evangelistic meetings featuring the senior and younger Grahams as preachers, it includes film distribution and an extensive mail operation among its other ministries.

Although the move is one that Franklin Graham expects will benefit the ministry in the long run, he sees it having a particular advantage in the short term for his father.

"If he still has good health, this will enable him to visit his office and be with his staff a lot more," the younger Graham said.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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

■ Someone gifted in evangelism to work among the Pogoro people in Tanzania.

■ These pastor/leaders in Tanzania: Abell Urio, Charles Kiota, Makarus Kilovere, Yusof Shon, Mwaipasi Mwakapemba, Raphael Mkubwa and Ostin Mwakasaka.

■ English as a second language classes that meet at Good News and New Bethany Baptist churches in Moscow.

■ The search for an executive director for the European Baptist Convention.

■ Short-term volunteers needed to help a new mission in Lagos, Portugal. International Christian Fellowship Baptist Church in Portimao, Portugal, sponsors the mission. Services are held in English, Portuguese, Russian/Romanian and German. Volunteers who can speak any of these languages are needed, according to pastor/missionary Norman Harrell.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Compiled by staff

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Acton Church will hold revival services Nov. 26 to Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. **Todd Parrish**, director of Campbellsville University's Kentucky Heartland Outreach, will be the evangelist. For information, call (270) 465-3462. **John Batcher** is pastor.

■ **DANVILLE**—Mercer Association called **Jack Geurin** as part-time director of missions effective Jan. 1, 2002. He previously was pastor of Bethel Church in Harrodsburg.

■ **LAWRENCEBURG**—Sand Spring Church called **Josh Brickey** as minister of youth. The church also ordained **Cliff Bishop, Scott Brown, Johnny Davenport** and **Jim Freeman** as deacons. **Mike Hamrick** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Clifton Church will hold a note-burning service Dec. 9 at 10:45 a.m. to mark the retirement of the church's mortgage. **Thomas Schreiner** is pastor.

Maple Grove Church ordained

Frank Holbrook, Marcus Starbuck and **David Wooldridge** as deacons. **Ray Hayes** is pastor.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Edgewood Church recently broke ground for an addition to the church facility. The addition, scheduled to be completed next spring, will include Sunday school classrooms and an elevator. **Jim Lyons** is interim pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Red House Church called **Bill Carter** as interim pastor.

White Hall Church called **Chris Anglin** as minister of youth.

Christmas plans

Is your church planning special activities for the Christmas season? Please send information about pageants, nativity scenes and other events by Nov. 26 to Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253; fax (502) 244-6474; e-mail: wesrec@ntr.net.



MUSICAL MESSAGE Members of Kentucky Baptist churches throughout Western Kentucky's Purchase area provided special music in a mass choir during the KBC annual meeting's Tuesday evening missions emphasis. The choir performed several songs throughout the evening under the direction of **Jim Cordell, Doug Crawley, Mike Crook** and **Randy Holt**. The Nov. 13 program also featured performances by a Purchase area orchestra directed by **Reece King** as well as a missions challenge by **Don Kammerdiener**, retired executive vice president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Baptist disaster relief volunteers share 'trauma bears' in New York

By **James Dotson**
SBC North American Mission Board

NEW YORK (BP)—It was the day after the crash of United Airlines Flight 587. As family members of the victims gathered in the Jacob K. Javitz Convention Center, a team of Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers delivered and quickly spread 200 plush toys around a small child-care center in the facility.

While the parents gathered for an informational meeting on dealing with identifying remains of loved ones and other painful details, the idea was to give the children a small reminder from individuals across the United States and Canada that they are not alone.

They call the stuffed toys trauma bears, but the items include purple dinosaurs, bunnies and other creatures. Five years ago citizens of Oklahoma City were the beneficiaries of trauma bears after the Murrah Federal Building bombing. Many of those same people reciprocated by initiating what has become an international response in New York following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Southern Baptist disaster relief workers' relationship with city officials in recent days made the organization an ideal candidate to process and distribute more than 15,000 toys that had been gathering in a warehouse.

"The mayor's office has asked us to distribute the bears," said **John LaNoue**, a 30-year disaster relief veteran from Texas who was called in with his wife, **Kaywin**, to coordinate the effort. He said volunteers "have found it to be a tremendous personal blessing and opportunity for ministry."

Southern Baptists have been one of the primary providers of hot meals for emergency and relief workers since the Sept. 11 attacks, and more recently have developed a large-scale operation cleaning up apartments adjacent to the former World Trade Center complex.

The bears have become one of the symbols of the nation's empathy for

all those affected by the attack. Some of the toys are sent through the mail, while others are left at local memorials for victims.

Many carry notes of encouragement from the donors as reminders that they are loved—by the giver and by God.

Many of the bears go to children who were in some way victimized by the attacks, while others go to children in homeless shelters, hospitals, child-abuse and neglect situations. But they also go to adults, either to pass along to needy children or to keep for themselves.

One police officer told **Mrs. LaNoue**, "You will never know what these bears and T-shirts have meant to the morale of this department, just to know that somebody cares."

Processing the toys begins at the Southern Baptist disaster relief operations center at the Brooklyn Navy Shipyard. Volunteers remove them from cardboard boxes, clean and sort them as necessary, and pack them in plastic bags for distribution.

New toys are given directly to children, while used toys are given to parents to take to their children or to an organization that distributes them to children in Third World countries.

LaNoue said the toys, along with other disaster relief efforts, often give him opportunities for impromptu counseling through brief conversations with overstressed emergency workers. He calls such opportunities "faith flags."

"They remember that, and come back to you and ask you for the faith story," he said.

And other times, like with the families of plane crash victims, it simply is an opportunity to have a part in a national outpouring of love and concern.

As the **LaNoues** drove away from the convention center, they watched as family members of the crash victims filed into the main entrance.

"That is wonderful," **Mrs. LaNoue** said of the bears they had just delivered, "because those children are going to have it hard enough."

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Patricia Chandler, M.D., is a Christian, board-certified adult psychiatrist available through Southeast Christian Community Counseling Center. For appointment call (502) 253-8425.

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister for Petrey Memorial Baptist. Send resumé to: Youth Search Committee, 141 Alto St., Hazard, KY 41701, or e-mail to pmbc@kih.net.

SEEKING: Conservative Southern Baptist church seeks an interim pastor. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, 1604 Sherwood Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42103.

SEEKING: Part-time day worker at downtown fish carry-out restaurant serving lunch only. Christian operation; parking furnished and on bus line. Pay: \$8/hour. Experience not required; ideal for student or spouse. (502) 244-5474; 585-3474.

SEEKING: Part-time minister to youth for New Salem Baptist Church. Our church is located in a rapidly growing rural community 30 minutes south of Louisville. Please send resumé to: New Salem Baptist Church, 2775 Deatsville Road, Cox's Creek, KY 40013, Attn: **Ronnie Pugh**.

SEEKING: Growing church in Northern Kentucky is looking for a part-time youth pastor. Please send resumé to: Youth Pastor Search Committee, Bullittsburg Baptist Church, 2616 Bullittsburg Church Road, Petersburg, KY 41080.

SEEKING: Hyland Baptist Church in Henderson, Ky., is seeking a vibrant worship leader for our music ministry. Anyone interested can send a resumé to: Hyland Baptist Church, 1400 Wright St., Henderson, KY 42420, Attn: Search Committee.

SEEKING: Heritage Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky., is receiving resumé for two full-time staff positions. The associate pastor for family ministries will coordinate ministries for children through college single, with an emphasis on junior and senior high student ministry. The associate pastor for worship will coordinate music, media and worship aspects of the church. Please send resumé to 257 Swigert Ave., Lexington, KY 40505, Attn: **Patricia**.

SEEKING: Scottsville Baptist Church, Scottsville, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor. For more information, visit our Web site at www.scottsvillebaptist.org and click on "Pastor Search Information," or send requests and/or resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Scottsville Baptist Church, PO Box 392, Scottsville, KY 42164.

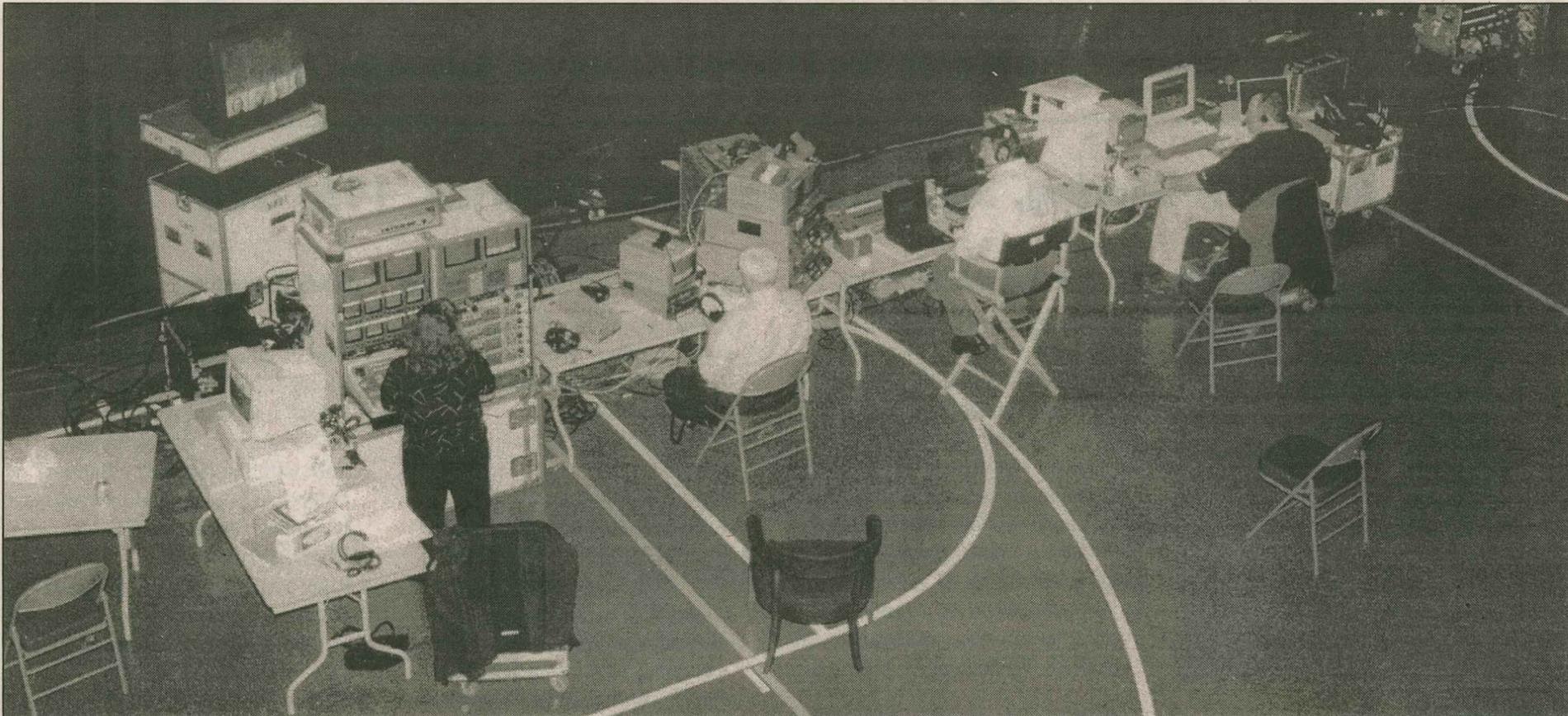
SEEKING: Green River Memorial Baptist Church in Campbellsville, Ky., is accepting resumé for full-time pastor. Average worship attendance: 140. Send to: **Tommy Wright**, 37 Birdie Ave., Campbellsville, KY 42718.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of youth/children for First Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky. Please send resumé by Nov. 30 to: Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 303 East Cedar St., Franklin, KY 42134.

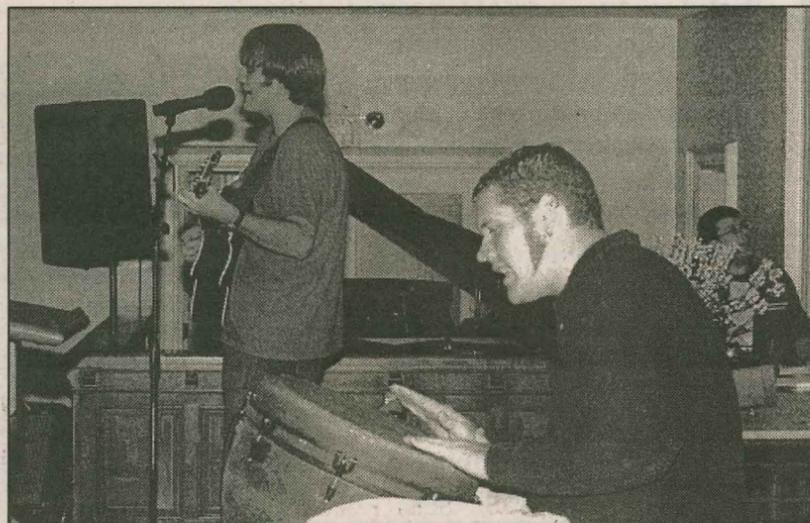
SEEKING: Organist for mid-sized, dynamic, growing church, Sunday morning worship services. For more information, please call Cedar Creek Baptist Church, (502) 239-2129.

WANTED: Obsolete metal letters for old church outdoor sign—flat, 3-inch hook-on type. Oneida Baptist Church, (606) 847-4718.

KBC SCENES



BEHIND THE SCENES A variety of activity takes place off the stage during the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. ■ **Above:** Technicians make sure the sound and video work properly. ■ **Right:** Orchestra members practice on the Monday night before their performance. ■ **Below:** Charles Barnes, chairman of the Baptist Faith and Message Study Committee, talks with reporters after messengers adopted the committee's report. (Photos by David Wlnfrey)



SOUNDS OF MUSIC ■ **Far left:** Alma Randolph, a soloist from Owensboro, sings during the KBC annual meeting. ■ **Left:** Youth with Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children perform an interpretive movement to a song. ■ **Above:** Members of Murray State University's Baptist Student Union lead in worship at a celebration service for Cross Over the Purchase. ■ **Right:** Students at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College sing during the agency's annual report.



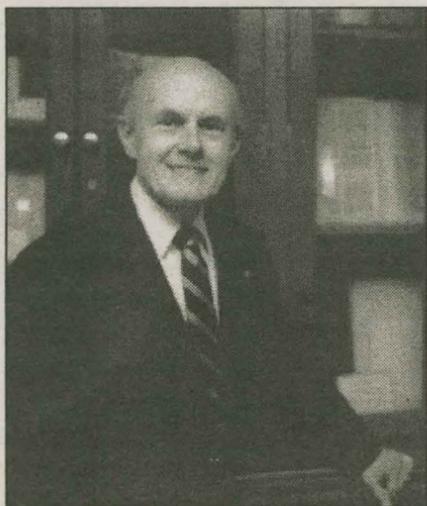
Kentucky Baptist Heritage

Newsletter of the Kentucky Baptist Archives Advisory Board

Bill D. Whittaker, Editor

November 20, 2001

Ronald F. Deering, Southern Seminary Librarian, 1961-2001



After 40 years service on the faculty of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in the service of its internationally renowned library, Dr. Ronald F. Deering retired as Associate Vice President for Academic Resources and Seminary Librarian on July 31, 2001. His retirement date marked an unbroken half-century relationship with the seminary from the time he enrolled as a student in August 1951.

A Product of Kentucky Baptists

Deering was converted, baptized and experienced a sense of call to ministry under the pastorate of V.B. Castleberry, storied west Kentucky Baptist minister, missionary, pastor and founding father of Southern Baptist work in Ohio and Indiana. His introduction into the Christian life and ministry took place in the 1940s in West Side Baptist Church, Hamilton, Ohio (then a part of the General Association of Kentucky Baptists). As a teenager, he preached and conducted vacation Bible schools in and around Hamilton, Cincinnati and Dayton, Ohio; and Blooming Grove, Ind. He also was active in the movement that led to the formation of the Ohio Baptist Convention and the call of Ray Roberts from Danville, Ky., to become its first Executive Secretary.

Educated in Kentucky

At Georgetown College, Deering studied under the legendary Dr. George Walker Redding and became an instructor in Bible at the college during his senior year and in the subsequent summer term following his graduation with the B.A. Summa Cum Laude in 1951. At Southern Seminary he earned the M.Div. (1955), and the Ph.D. in New Testament (1961). As a graduate student, he served as an instructor in Greek New Testament for three years.

40 Years on Seminary Faculty

Dr. Deering joined the faculty as Research Librarian upon receipt of the doctorate. He was promoted to Associate Librarian and Director of Readers Services upon receipt of his M.S.L.S. degree from Columbia University in 1967, and upon the retirement of Dr. Leo T. Crismon, he became Seminary Librarian in 1971. Named Associate Vice President for Academic Resources in 1996, his responsibilities expanded to include not only the central library, but also the music library, audiovisual library, seminary archives, computer lab, multi-media support for classroom instruction and television, online computer databases and support for distance education.

Seminary Tenure Achievements

- ◆ Commendation and support of three seminary presidents: Duke K. McCall, Roy L. Honeycutt and R. Albert Mohler
- ◆ Library holdings grew from some 180,000 items, to a grand total of some 900,000 items by 2001
- ◆ Library annual budget increased from \$120,000 to \$1,289,000
- ◆ The library personnel was enlarged to include seven professional library staff members, 18 para-professional employees and some 20 part-time student employees

Family Man

Following the death in 1965 of his first wife, Geraldine Gibbons, also of Hamilton, Ohio, Deering was married on June 12, 1966, to Edith Ann Proctor of Elkhorn, Wis., and they have two adult sons, Mark Deering of Chesterfield, Mo., and Daniel Deering of Surfside Beach, S.C. Mrs. Deering, also a librarian, has indexed the Western Recorder and published it from 1963 through 2001, and is continuing to do so under the direction of the office of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Executive Director.

Service Beyond the Seminary

- ◆ Supply preacher in scores of Baptist churches in six states
- ◆ Thirty-three interim pastorates
- ◆ Active role in the study and preservation of Baptist history, both with the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society and later the Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission
- ◆ Eight years service on the board of commissioners of the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, 1987-1990
- ◆ Helped plan and develop the new Southern Baptist Libraries and Archives Building
- ◆ Held many offices in the American Theological Library Association including service as president in 1984-85
- ◆ Activities in other local, regional, state and national library organizations
- ◆ Examiner for academic accreditation of universities and colleges with both the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges

"While I recognize the value of the development of the library collection, I feel the most significant part of my work as librarian was teaching undergraduate and graduate students. I helped them develop the skills of doing bibliographical research in developing the ability to do independent and life-long learning. High on the list also would be the development of multi-media learning resources including audiovisuals and lately computer technology and databases, as well as the automation and computerization of library procedures.

"My ministry took a course which I had not planned or expected, but I have derived great joy from it. It has brought me a sense of making a lasting contribution to the life, work and future of Baptists in Kentucky, throughout the United States and in many places where the missionary service of Southern Baptists have reached around the world. I am thankful especially to Kentucky Baptists who in so many ways made my Christian life and ministry a reality."

Ronald F. Deering
Southern Seminary Librarian
1961-2001

