

Western Recorder

"... lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

Matthew 3:9, 10



Zachry, Bray Receive Christian Trips

Bethlehem Community churches will present their annual "Christmas in Bethlehem: A Living Nativity Scene." The scene depicts the birth of Jesus in a stable. It may be seen December 22-25 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Bethlehem is located in Henry County on Highway 22.

H. C. Zachry, pastor of the Winchester Baptist Church, and his wife were recently honored in a surprise ceremony in which the church presented them a check to cover a trip to the Holy Land.

First Baptist Church, Paducah, declared Sunday, December 7, "Bob Kersey Day." Kersey is minister of education at the church and immediate past president of the Kentucky Religious Education Association.

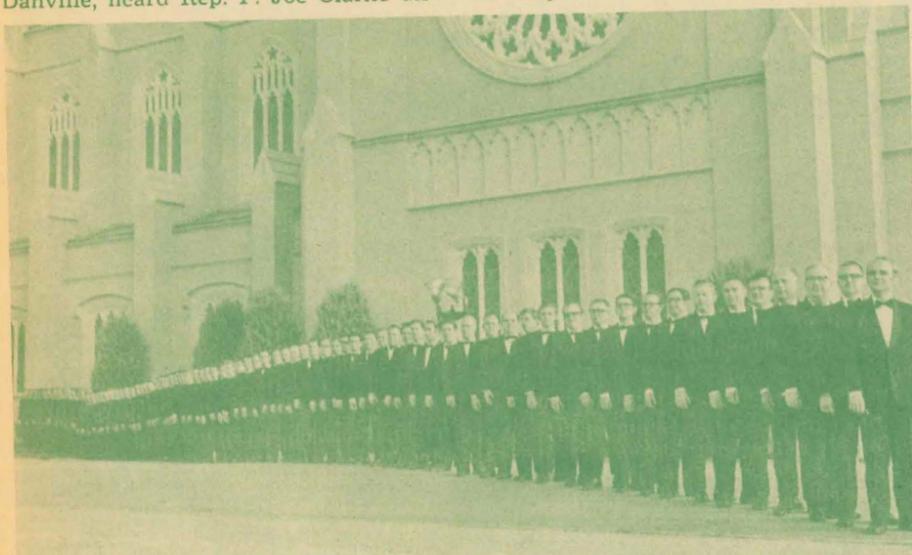
Lexington Avenue Baptist Church, Danville, heard Rep. P. Joe Clarke dis-

cuss "Federal Aid to Parochial Schools" Sunday evening, December 7. Such a bill will come before the Kentucky House in January.

First Baptist Church, Paintsville, recently held a reception honoring Walter F. Spradlin on his 90th birthday. Over 100 persons attended.

Jack Edwards was ordained to the gospel ministry at the Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington, on Tuesday, December 2. Participating in the service were representatives of the Highland Baptist Church, Lexington, and the Ashland Avenue church.

New Bethel Baptist Church, Benton, voted December 7 to send their pastor, Thomas Bray, to Jamaica to participate in a revival crusade December 29-January 8.



MAKING TELEVISION DEBUT—The Centurymen, a 100-voice men's choir composed of Southern Baptist ministers of music, will be featured in a half-hour NBC television special at 1:30 p.m., December 28. Above the group poses between rehearsals and recording sessions at the Radio and TV Commission studios in Ft. Worth, Texas. Five Kentuckians are among the 100 men. They are: Wayne Bickers, Yellow Creek Baptist Church, Owensboro; Doyle Searcy, First Baptist Church, Glasgow; Philip Mullinax, First Baptist Church, Mayfield; Jack Jones, Rosemont Baptist Church, Lexington; and Gene Sutherland, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville. Only two states have more representatives in the group than Kentucky's five.

DEVOTIONAL



ISAAC McDONALD
Pastor, Lone Oak Baptist Church,
Paducah

Stardom Christianity

"And he said to them, 'What do you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?' And they said to him, 'We are able.'"

MARK 10:36-39

The attitude of self-importance as is sometimes exhibited by Broadway and Hollywood stars has not invaded the ranks of Christian fellowship in recent days—it has been with us from the beginning.

Before the death of Jesus, the disciples were always scrambling for lime-light positions. This was exhibited in the lives of James and John as Mark records their request for the privilege of sitting at Jesus' side when He came into His glory.

This attitude among Christians is present in almost every existing fellowship of believers. There are those who seek prominence and position while being unwilling to pay the price of service that less noticeable positions often demand. These are not persons lacking in talent, but rather, persons who are lacking in Christian maturity and commitment. They are obsessed not with a desire to serve, but with a desire to be served—indeed, to be noticed! Whatever contributes to their elevation among the brethren, especially when it involves a display of personal ability or attracts attention to them, is an opportunity to be desired and used by them.

Certainly, some can more ably serve than others. There will always be a place in the Kingdom for their service. But in this matter of serving Christ we must not lose sight of the fact that one's attitude toward his service is of prime importance. The only place in God's Kingdom for stars is in the crowns of the saints. These stars will not say that we have been important, but that we have served and that we have forgotten ourselves as we served in His name!

WILLING

Usually, men are not born kings. They are born princes, and after the ruling monarch dies, they inherit the kingdom. Jesus' birth was unique. The Wise Men searched, not for just a baby, but for the "King."

"Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" they asked.

Here was renewed the unfolding drama of the double search. Early in the Old Testament, God came down into Eden, searching for Adam and Eve, who by disobedience had broken fellowship with Him.

"Where art thou?" God asked.

In the beginning of the New Testament, we find the second act of the drama of the double search. Jesus came into the world, and men began to hunt for God in the way destined to find Him.

"Where is he . . .?" the Wise Men asked. "We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Many theories have been offered concerning the celestial phenomenon they saw. But there is only one acceptable explanation—that it was a miracle of God. In the heavens, God set a sign pointing to the miracle of the Incarnation. Men can do many things, but only God can hang a star in the sky. These astronomers recognized that.

God speaks to each man according to his own understanding. The Wise Men would not have listened to a sermon. Angels would not have meant as much to them as to the shepherds; by the Old Testament, the Jews were prepared to accept the message of angels. To call attention to His new message, God hung a star in the sky to tell the whole world, "This is My beloved son. Seek Him. Hear Him. Serve Him."

The Wise Men

We need to develop more of the spirit of the Wise Men. They followed one great purpose—to find God and worship Him. In Matthew, their striking figures walk across the pages of the Bible and out into obscurity. But because they saw God's Son, they went back another way and with a different spirit.

The person who comes to the manger, the cross, and the empty tomb worshipping Jesus as the Son of God will never be satisfied to go back to his old life. He is not the same. He has a new life, a new hope, a new Master. Real and lasting personal peace comes from seeing the Star and seeking the Christ Child.

Where did these Wise Men come from? We do not know their names or their origins. Some scholars believe there may have been as many as twelve. Tradition has localized them to three, because they brought three different kinds of gifts.

What kind of men were they? They were patient men; they studied the slow-moving stars and scanned the almost unchanging heavens. They were not Jews, but they searched for knowledge of God. The sky which He had created was open to them, and "The heavens declare the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1). With perseverance, these men had waited for the fulfillment of God's promises.

Suddenly, in one heart-stopping moment, they made a great discovery. They cried aloud in amazement. No longer were the pages of their ancient manuscripts aged and brittle, but alive and contemporary. Their eyes beheld what their predecessors had been looking for through the centuries, the sign of the star.

Now it was time to act.

The star was all they needed for a while. They started out at the first sign of God's revelation. Some of us want everything right now. But God gives just enough strength for the day and enough starshine for the night.

How long was their journey? Through weary weeks, perhaps, they tracked the star across the featureless desert. If

WATCHERS

you have a divine purpose in your life, it will cause you to give up ease and comfort. Following Jesus always demands sacrifice.

God gave definite guidance, as He always gives special revelation for the need of the hour. In the multitude of our problems, there is sufficient grace through the sympathetic Savior. "I will never leave you nor forsake you," Christ said.

When the Wise Men neared the end of their journey, the star was visible no longer. They entered Jerusalem and asked directions to the palace. Surely a king would be born in a palace, they reasoned.

Logical thinking could not have been more wrong. King Herod was not even a Jew. As soon as he learned the purpose of the Wise Men, he began his own evil search. "Where is Messiah to be born?" he asked his scribes anxiously.

The men whose duty was the preservation of the Word of God answered, "In Bethlehem," and quoted the prophecy. But they went right back to their dusty libraries. Some people have historical knowledge of the Bible, but no urgency to find God. We need leaders who look for a star to follow, who have a goal, a guide, and a purpose.

The symbolic gifts

The Wise Men brought symbolic gifts. They had a great quest, and they gave it everything they had.

What do we offer Jesus? Christmas is a time of sharing and love. "For God so loved . . . that he gave his only begotten son." If we love, we also must give.

First, the Wise Men gave gold. It was the symbol of royalty, but it was a very practical gift. Joseph and Mary were poor, and perhaps this money was used to finance their trip to Egypt.

Money is a transfer of ourselves, of our devotion, of our dedication. If God's work lacks gold, it is because he does not really have us. For where a man's heart is, there will his money be also.

Next, the Wise Men brought frankincense, a rare and expensive spice used in worship. This symbolized the prophetic office of Christ, whose whole life and death were pure and fragrant in the sight of God.

They also brought myrrh, for a king who was also a priest. The priests offered myrrh with the sacrifices as a symbol of suffering, prophetic of the cross. It was a bitter herb that also had medicinal properties, reminding us that Christ was the Great Physician.

Did the Wise Men understand what their gifts meant? I doubt it, but they gave God what they had available. He doesn't ask us for what we do not have. He wants us to give what we have, in His name, even if it is only a cup of cold water.

The worship experience

When the Wise Men came to Bethlehem, they had a worship experience. They were men of wealth and wisdom, but they fell on their faces before the young Child and adored Him. They saw Mary, they noticed Joseph, but they worshiped the child Jesus. To worship is to pay humble homage, to magnify another above oneself.

After that worship experience, they received a revelation of God's will, the voice of God telling them to go back another way. Sometimes God will give a sign; sometimes the fleece will be wet, and sometimes we have to follow the instincts of our own hearts. But in communion with God, in worship, He will speak to us.

Herod never saw the star. He was unprepared to worship and tried to find Jesus by proxy. That never works.

Only after the Wise Men left Herod's palace did they see the star again. It stood over the house where the Child was, giving them precise guidance.

A star, as we think of it, has five points. This star had five qualities: hope, love, peace, joy, and eternal life. These blessings should be present in our lives as we follow Christ's star.

by R. Earl Allen
Rosen Heights Baptist Church
Fort Worth, Texas

WESTERN RECORDER

"Earnestly contend for the Faith which was once for all delivered to the saints"—Jude 3

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Cost of making cuts must be assumed by those sending pictures for publication.



In Search Of A Merry Christmas

It's difficult for a serious minded Christian not to become completely cynical with the modern American celebration of Christmas. Before Thanksgiving the ugly head of Christmas commercialism rears itself and by early December the stampede is on. The streets are jammed and the parking lots are running over all hours of the day and many hours of the night.

In spite of the heavy stocking of stores for the Christmas rush, it is not unusual in early December to be told by clerks that you came too late and that the supply is exhausted. One looks in amazement at the shoppers and their purchases and wonders where all the money comes from or will come from when the bills are sent next year.

What a strange way to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ! How do we justify the spending of so much on each other in the name of one who had no place to be born but a stable and as a man had nowhere to lay his head? Is there any similarity between the modern ring of the cash register and the ancient song of the angels announcing the birth of Jesus to poor Judean shepherds?

Jesus came to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind and to set at liberty them that are bruised. What in our celebration of his birthday is akin to the purposes of his coming?

Though we deplore what we see, we really should not be surprised that the world uses the birthday of Christ for its own selfish aims. It was always that

way with the world. Most of those in Jesus' day were only interested in the bread he provided for their stomachs and not for the bread of life he offered.

It remains then for his followers today to resist the abuse of his birthday and to use it for his glory. And this we can do.

The Lottie Moon Christmas offering for foreign missions offers a wonderful opportunity to put Christ first in Christmas. These gifts will do all over the world what Jesus came to do.

Many Baptist churches now have a special Christmas offering to be used for missions at home or aboard and for other ministries. This is wonderful for the ministry of the church but even more important for the members who are confronted with how they will remember Christ at Christmas.

Most of us have a Christmas gift list. On this are loved ones and friends who will be remembered. Who is included on your list and who is at the head of it? Should any Christmas have a list which doesn't include Christ? After all, it's His birthday. Should any follower of Christ pay more for any Christmas gift than what he gives to the cause of Christ at Christmas time?

These are searching questions. They must be answered by those who believe Christ is the center of the Christmas celebration. Many will spend much this year in search of a merry Christmas but only those who put Christ at the head of their list will experience a truly merry Christmas.

The Ministry Of The Byrdwells

Many more names will have a more prominent place in Kentucky Baptist history but no name will ever be more deserving of a place near the head of the list. The name is Marvin M. Byrdwell, manager of Cedarmore Baptist Assembly for the last 20 years. The testimonial dinner given December 4 in his honor by the Executive Board gives occasion to recognize the unique ministry of Marvin Byrdwell.

The quiet, humble spirit of this man tends to let him be overlooked. He sounds no trumpet before he performs his good works. Indeed, he is generally so busy that no time is left to talk about what he does.

Marvin is a rare combination of a master craftsman and a minister. He is an expert in his field but no less a conscientious minister of God living and proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. He does many things well and all he does is in the spirit of Christ.

He has lived through the lean years and the more prosperous years for Cedarmore. When he came 20 years ago it was little more than a wilderness. What buildings were there were totally unsuitable for the purposes of a Baptist Assembly. The first facilities were built on a shoestring budget. Barns were used for dormitories. An open air tabernacle was the only auditorium and a kitchen-dining room building had

to serve many other purposes. Gradually under Marvin's efficient and economical supervision Cedarmore began to take the shape of a respectable encampment. The W.M.U. Conference building and the motel-like housing accommodations were big accomplishments for their day.

Then came the new era for Cedarmore. The beautiful lodge with its modern and comfortable facilities transformed Cedarmore. The development of the boys and girls camps, the new water and sewage installations and the most recently constructed conference center next to the lodge makes Cedarmore one of, if not the most outstanding assembly grounds of any state Baptist convention. Through all this Marvin has remained the quiet, conscientious and humble man he was at the beginning 20 years ago.

The greatest contribution of Marvin, however, is not to be found in the physical development of Cedarmore. It is in his influence upon the young people who have served under him through the years. Hundreds of youth have come to Cedarmore as staff

workers during the summer seasons. With rare exceptions they have left much stronger Christians and many of them are leaders in Kentucky Baptist life today.

On some of these young people Marvin took a chance. They were not all the settled and committed Christian youth ordinarily desired for such responsibility. Marvin was confident the spirit of Cedarmore would transform them and with rare exception it did.

There are two chief explanations for Marvin's ministry. One is his utter dedication to the Lord, the other is his wife. In fact it's almost impossible to talk about Marvin apart from Mrs. Brydwell. They go together and complement each other beautifully. What one cannot do for you the other can, and together they can fill every reasonable request of any Cedarmore guest.

Kentucky Baptists have had many capable and devoted people to serve them and hopefully will have many more. None have or likely will excel the Byrdwells. Thankfully they are still with us.

A Threat Hangs Over Our Heads

With all the merriment and excitement of the Christmas season Kentuckians must not forget that a serious threat hangs over their heads. This is the bold and determined drive of Roman Catholic leaders to secure state funds for parochial schools.

In spite of an earlier feeling that mention of this grave matter should be made in this last *Western Recorder* issue of 1969, the editor had decided to leave it out of the Christmas issue. The nearer the deadline came, however, the deeper the conviction that it must be included.

Roman Catholic educators are working day and night to influence legislators and public opinion for their requests. They were present to present their case at the pre-legislative conference at Kentucky Dam Village recently. Legislators report they are approached at almost every turn for support of state aid to parochial schools. Their presence in Frankfort in January with the convening of the general assembly can be fully expected.

In the meantime there is mostly apathy on the part of non-Catholics. This is hard to understand in light of what is at stake. If the bid for state aid to church schools succeeds, not only will we lose the church-state separation principle which has been observed throughout Kentucky history, but we stand to jeopardize our entire public school system. Our public schools are already hard put for sufficient funds for quality education. What would happen if a portion of their present support were siphoned off for private and church related schools?

Some Baptists express reluctance to speak up because they feel we are guilty of the same things in using government loans at Georgetown College. This is not so. No matter how one feels about government loans for Baptist colleges, outright grants for parochial elementary and high schools are another matter. It is one thing to use a loan (even with favorable terms) which will be paid back and it is another thing to seek outright grants of public money.

The wording of the Kentucky constitution would seem to rule out the constitutionality of any legislation providing direct aid to parochial schools. But we cannot depend upon this in light of other court rulings on this archaic constitution.

It would also seem that a rurally dominated legislature would insure defeat of parochial school aid efforts. Most Catholic influence is concentrated in urban centers while rural Kentucky is mostly evangelical in religious outlook.

The trouble is rural legislators will be prone to give in to pressure from the Catholics if pressure is not exerted against their proposals. This is why we must speak up.

This is also why it is important that the Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Board has provided for a person to be in Frankfort during the General Assembly to offset the influence of parochial aid lobbyists.

This matter should be mentioned in every church in Kentucky and sentiments conveyed to representatives and senators before they gather in Frankfort in January.



Sinking Springs Baptist Church

Church Levelled By Fire, Suspect Arrested, Charged

Sinking Springs Baptist Church in Blood River Association was leveled by fire early Tuesday morning, December 9. The only items saved included air conditioning units mounted on the church's exterior, the outdoor bulletin board and the literature for the coming January-March quarter.

According to reports appearing in the Murray newspaper, *The Ledger and Times*, the fire was set by an arsonist.

The newspaper report said the Murray Rescue Squad was called out at 1:03 Tuesday morning to a fire on a nearby farm. Shortly afterwards, the Murray City Fire Department received word that the Sinking Springs Church was ablaze.

The city fire department answered the call since the county rescue unit was already out.

The rescue squad had sprayed nearly half a tank of water on the burning house when it received word of the church fire. The county firemen pulled off the house fire and went to the church since the house was unoccupied and the fire was out of control.

The county truck emptied its remaining water into the city truck and went for more water the report said. But before the county unit could return the city truck had exhausted its water supply. The fire broke through the ceiling and was out of control. The brick building was totally destroyed.

Wednesday morning a suspect was arrested for questioning in connection with the church fire.

Later the suspect was charged with setting the fire originally answered by the county rescue squad as well as the church fire.

The defendant denies any knowledge of the fires.

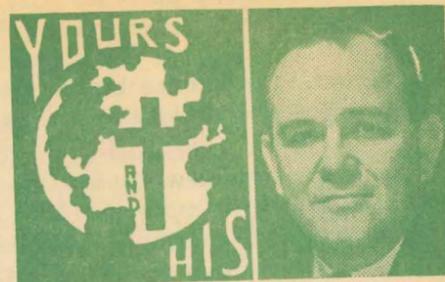
Terry Sils, pastor of the 450-member Sinking Springs congregation said the building was constructed in 1959. It was insured for \$82,000 and the contents for \$3,000.

The church held its Wednesday meeting in a nearby school. The board of education has offered the church use of the school until the building is restored. Neighboring churches have offered hymnals, literature and other items including use of buildings.

Stagg To Lead Study Of James In Christian County

A one-day survey of the *Book of James* will be conducted for area pastors on January 3rd at the First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville. The teacher will be Dr. Frank Stagg, Southern Seminary professor of New Testament. The morning session will begin at 9:30 C.S.T. with an afternoon session following lunch. Those attending will provide their own lunch and are also advised to bring Bible and notebooks.

Dr. Stagg will be with the First Baptist Church for the study of *James* and Pastor Sid Maddox thought pastors in the area who expected to teach the book could be helped with a one-day survey. The day is planned especially for pastors but any others interested in the study are welcome, says Maddox.



Merry Christmas

Merry, merry Christmas to you and your kin. May the Spirit of Christ, in wonder and warmth, fill your being and make all things new and real in your life and work.

I wish I could visit you this Christmas, sit in your home, eat at your table, talk heart-to-heart, and sing the songs of the Saviour's birth. If I could, I'd lead one: to the tune of "Brahms Lullaby," we'd sing:

*Long ago there was born in the city of David,
A sweet holy Child who was Jesus our King.
Angels sang at His birth,
Lullaby, peace on earth,
Angels sang at His birth,
Lullaby, peace on earth.*

And then you'd start one dear to you and we would rejoice and be glad and thank God for His Unspeakable Gift of His Son and talk of His mission in the earth through us. That would bring us around to our primary concern—sharing Christ of Christmas with the whole world. That's our purpose. It's personal. It's corporate. I witness alone. I witness in concert with others. I am part of His body. The body is His bride. We love Him and we love the brethren; and we love the lost brethren, too, who yet walk in darkness without Him. So, may Christmas bring us from the cradle to the cross to the concern of witness and work to make Him known to all men.

Church Treasuries

Christmas is giving. Many churches, like the wonderful people to make them churches, like to make sacrificial offerings for Christ's cause at Christmas time. Why not?

Many check the church's check stub and balance—and say, "I'm going to give it all to Christ through the church and the Cooperative Program of all Baptist churches."

So, we look for extra "love checks" from the churches. Year-end gifts. "We have a balance in the treasury" gift. "We love him more" gesture of concern.

Yes, perhaps your Lottie Moon Christmas offering led you to see that you—and-the-rest-of-the-church should make a special offering for world missions through the Cooperative Program.

The Devil never put that wonderful thought in any Christian's mind—But Christ of Christmas is always trying to suggest such wonderful things to His own.

HAROLD SANDERS

Graham Joins Criswell In Blasting SBC Liberals

Evangelist Billy Graham told 800 top Southern Baptist leaders in Nashville he agrees with Southern Baptist President W. A. Criswell of Dallas "when he warns us against error that can destroy us from within."

Graham's comments drew strong "amen" comments from the Baptist leaders when he questioned why Baptists would want to adopt the same methods and theology of the Europeans, when they go to Europe and see so many empty churches there.

The famed evangelist was apparently referring to Criswell's highly-publicized remarks earlier this fall when he urged liberals who cannot accept the convention-adopted statements of faith to leave and join another church instead of boring from within "and destroying us."

"We have a responsibility to guard against error," Graham said in his speech at a luncheon sponsored by the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission in connection with the Southern Baptist Planning and Promotion Conference.

Graham warned that "one of Satan's techniques is to infiltrate us," and that Baptists must always guard against theological error within their ranks.

His comments concerning theological liberalism came as one of four points in a message in which he said Southern Baptists have something unique to contribute to the world, but also have some corresponding heavy responsibilities.

Harmony Church, Paducah, Dedicates New Sanctuary

The Harmony Baptist Church, West Paducah, dedicated its new sanctuary on November 23, fifty years to the month from the dedication of its preceding building. The new building will seat 450 and was constructed at a cost of \$120,000.

The dedication sermon was preached by Shelby R. Beaty of Paducah who served as interim pastor during part of the period of church construction. Jewell Barrett, Harmony pastor since January, 1969, presided over the service and led in the vows of dedication.

On December 7, cornerstone ceremonies included the deposit of a time capsule containing a list of the church members (368), a dedication brochure, bulletins and news items of the dedication, a history of the church, 1969 coins and a December 7th newspaper.

Harmony Baptist Church was organized in 1875. A one-room frame building was erected in 1877 and served until 1917 when another building was constructed. In 1942 the church property was purchased by the United States Government and the building was moved to a new site at Grahamville.

One of these responsibilities, Graham said, is to remain theologically true to the Bible. The Southern Baptist Convention, he added, is the most evangelical of all denominations and is one of the most theologically sound of all.

Graham said another unique responsibility of the denomination is to continue its strong evangelistic efforts, for "if we lose our evangelistic emphasis, we are lost."

The outspoken evangelist said there is a corresponding responsibility of the SBC in the area of social action. "For too long we have allowed people to point their finger at us and say we didn't have social concern," Graham said.

He urged Baptists to attack the areas of social injustice, racism, war, poverty; and to equally attack the problems of pride, lust, greed and jealousy among individuals. (BP)

Foundation Files Year End Report

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation in its ministry to Kentucky Baptist institutions and agencies has a concern in three areas in its work. First, there is the acquisition of new money, through gifts, trust funds, wills, insurance and income contracts. This past year we received \$188,437.80. Second, there is the matter of growth in our stocks. With the unstable market this past year, we showed a decline here. However, our decrease was not as great as the decrease in the over-all market. Third, we are concerned with income. Last year our income was \$204,992.02, an increase of more than \$23,000 over the previous year. The following is a summary of our audit:

	1968	1969
Investments:		
Book Value	\$3,879,263.99	\$4,118,355.49
Market Value	4,683,975.00	4,355,421.31
	1968	1969
Investment Income	\$ 181,161.71	\$ 204,992.02
New Funds	336,175.18	188,437.80
Income Distributed	171,937.36	199,109.84
Net Increase in Funds	389,817.68	232,679.15
Investment Income Percent of Book Value	4.7%	5.0%
Investment Income Percent of Market Value9%	4.7%

The new structure was completed in 1968. In the dedication brochure Pastor Jewell says, "Only God knows the future—of the lives that shall be changed, comforted and challenged while worshiping under this roof. . . . We expect great things together in the Lord our God."



New Harmony Baptist Church

Faith Church Awards "Talking Hands" Pin

Faith Baptist Church in Georgetown presented a "Talking Hands Pin" to Miss Kathy Stanfield at the close of the morning worship service Sunday, December 7. Making the presentation was Joe L. Buckner, director of special ministries for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Miss Stanfield, a senior at Georgetown College, has interpreted at Faith church for the past two years. Because she will move to Jacksonville, Illinois, following her graduation at the close of the current semester, the church chose to honor her by requesting the "Talking Hands Pin."

To be eligible for the pin one must be a member of a Southern Baptist church, demonstrate his dedication of time, talent and possessions in sincere Christian witness and serve faithfully in a place of leadership in a church's ministry to the deaf for a period of at least two years in cooperation with the church staff.

Buckner said that only seven or eight people in Kentucky currently hold the "Talking Hands Pin."

Continuing to interpret for the deaf at Faith Baptist Church will be Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hunt, senior interpreters for the church.

Buckner said that anyone desiring additional information about the pin or information about the ministry to the deaf should contact him at the Baptist Building in Middletown.



BUILDING DEDICATED—Ghent Baptist Church, Ghent, recently dedicated a 4,000 square foot education building. The new structure, erected at a cost of \$48,000, will provide educational space for all ages including nursery. The building also contains kitchen facilities. A. B. Colvin, secretary of the Direct Missions Department of the KBC, brought the special message at the November 23 service. This was followed by a potluck dinner. Pastor of the Ghent church is Ben A. Baird.

FMB Notes Decade Of Advance

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, in its final meeting of the year, marked "a remarkable decade of advance," in the words of its executive secretary.

Meeting December 4 at its headquarters in Richmond, Virginia, the Board commissioned 36 new overseas personnel and recorded its largest number of appointments for any year, 258, exceeding last year's record 247.

At the beginning of 1960 the Board had 1,381 missionaries under appointment in 44 countries; there are now

2,492 in 71 countries.

"Missionaries are not people who have applied for jobs," said Baker J. Cauthen, executive secretary. "They are people who have felt the impression of God's spirit . . . and have responded because of what they believe is God's will for their lives."

Calling the 1960s also "a decade of evangelism," Cauthen pointed out that Baptists in many parts of the world have enjoyed "outstanding advances." He pinpointed "remarkable expansion in the use of radio and television" as one of the highlights of the decade, and he underlined the strengthening of Baptist work in publications, education, medicine, agriculture and benevolent ministries.

"This is no time to rest upon our yesterdays," Cauthen told the Board. "Every blessing we have received becomes a summons to a larger commitment that we may do the will of God and sound the message of redemption to all mankind."

After two decades of atheistic communism in China the faith and hope of Christians there is not dead, according to an article in a Hong Kong newspaper that was read to the Board by James D. Belote, secretary for East Asia.

In spite of government-permitted purges of Christians as part of the "cultural revolution" in China, and the closing of all church buildings there, cell-groups of eight to 10 Christians meet clandestinely in villages and towns all over China, the article says.

Bibles are so scarce in China that copies become the focal point of the cell-groups and are hidden when not in use, the article goes on. However, radio stations in East Asia are broadcasting the Scriptures into China at dictation speed so that Christian listeners can transcribe them.

A Headline Review Of 1969

JANUARY

Association of Colleges and School Accredits Southern Baptist Seminary . . . American Baptist President Says SBC Has Strategic Role in Reconciliation . . . Cumberland College Awarded \$1,500 Grant . . . Powell Stays as Campbellsville President, Students Ask Building Named for Him . . . Foreign Mission Board Appoints 247 Missionaries in 1968 . . . Criswell Urges New Orleans Convention End with Area Evangelistic Campaign . . . Home Mission Board Accepts Church Loan Management for Kansas Convention . . . Murdered Attorney William S. Tribell Was State Baptist Men's President . . . Racial Crisis Voted Top Baptist Story of 1968 . . . Cuba Frees Missionary David Fite after 42 Months Imprisonment . . . Southern Seminary Joins Metroversity, Expands Co-operative Degree Program . . . 95 Missionaries Complete Orientation . . . WMU Board Approves New Names, Program for 1970's . . . Brotherhood Assumes Missions Guidance Responsibility for Baptist Boys 6-8 . . . J. T. Miller-Plowboy, Preacher, President . . . Seminary Prof. Family, Escape As House Burns . . . Kentucky BSU Appoints 20 Summer Missionaries . . . Georgetown Marks 140th Anniversary . . . University of Louisville Assumes Operation of Kentucky Southern . . . 60's Are Decade of Change for HMB . . . Walnut Street Builds \$1,000,000 Activities Building . . . Forrest Sawyer—Men in Missions . . . Where Are We in Mountain Mission . . . "Mission 70" Planning Meeting Held . . . Spanish Pianist Presents Crusade Concerts in Kentucky . . . Ministers Challenged to Risk Change, Become Committed at Evangelism Conference . . . Baptists Chided For Race Poverty Problems of South . . . Second Baptist Missionary to Cuba Freed, Both May Return to States . . . General Association Invites Kentucky Baptist to Pastors' Conference . . .

FEBRUARY

"Powerline," Teen-Talk Program, Began By SBC Radio-Television Commission . . . Cumberland Receives Grant to Restore Damaged Materials . . . Home Mission Ranks Reach 2,393 in 1968 . . . Negro Ordained, then Called as Pastor of White SBC Church . . . Tax Exempt Status of "Unrelated" Businesses of Churches Challenged . . . Georgetown Trustees Refer Dancing Issue to Committee . . . Two Women Ordained by Faith Baptist, Georgetown . . . New Orleans Prof. Resigns, Calls for Investigation . . . Mississippi Baptist Elect Hudgins Executive Secretary . . . My Two Week Missionary Tour in South America by David Nelson . . . Romney Suggests Church Schools "Drop Out" of Secular Education . . . Why Do Some Baptist College Students Defect . . . Rosell Named Head of Sunday School Board's Student Work Department . . . Pueblo Crew Tells Religious Experiences in Captivity . . . Expanded Public School Support Urged by Baptist Editor . . . Courts Prohibited from Doctrinal Dis-

putes by Supreme Court Ruling . . . Cannibals Kill, Eat Two Missionaries in New Guinea Mission Board Reports . . . Centennial Celebration Scheduled for Spring Meadows June 20-22 . . . Pinnock Resigns at New Orleans, Accepts College Post . . . International Students Retreat Held, Kentucky, Tennessee Students Attend . . . Ted Wainscott, Son of Owensboro Pastor, Killed . . . Blakemans Accept Ridgecrest Post . . . Annual WMU Convention Planned for Glasgow, 2,000 Women Expected . . . Grady Randolph Resigns Elkhorns Post, Accepts Foundation Executive Secretary . . . Evangelism Clinics Prepare for Americas Crusade . . . Financial Woes Plague SBC . . . Criswell Urges De-emphasis of Pre-Convention Meetings . . . Blessitt to Lead Louisville Crusade . . . SBC Opposes Vatican Ambassador . . .

MARCH

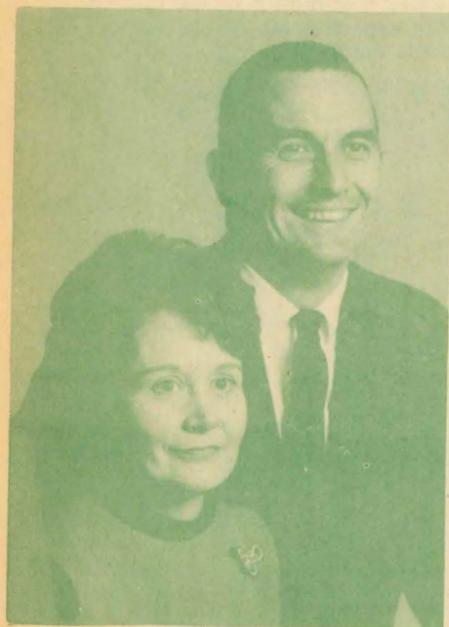
Kentucky YWA's Charter Bus For Glorieta . . . Golden Gate Slates 25th Anniversary . . . Boddie Accepts Professorship, Is First Negro at New Orleans . . . HMB Appoints Couple to Work in Northern Kentucky . . . Sever Baptist Ties with College Taking Federal Grants Editor Urges . . . Millionth Soul Winners Testament to Criswell . . . Baptist Religion Professors Condemn Criswell Book Publicity . . . Shortage of Students May Close Hospital School of Nursing . . . Keep Favorable Tax Policies Toward Churches Congressional Committee Told . . . Annual Youth Night Slated for April 4 . . . Kentucky Baptists Ready Selves for Ohio Evangelistic Campaign . . . Research Scientist Gives World 25 Years . . . Third New Orleans Prof. Resigns . . . State, SBC Offerings Up But Not Enough . . . White Supremacy Missions Determent Speaker Says . . . Heavyweight Boxing Champion to Speak at Youth Night . . . Missionaries Highlight WMU Convention . . . Georgetown Trustees Let Dancing Decision Stand . . . Church Attendance Decline Attributed to "Shock Tactic" of Theologians . . . Sandusky Made Pastor Emeritus at Cloverport . . . Memorial Service Held for Tribell . . . Close Negro Seminary Official Says . . . Motel Worship Services Reach Traveling Families . . . Hippie Evangelist Blessitt "Turns On" Louisville Area . . .

APRIL

Concern, Personalization: Keys to Stewardship Success . . . Long Run WMU Helps Louisville Service Center Celebrate Birthday . . . Georgetown College adds Students to Faculty Committees . . . Land-Between-the-Lakes: A Special Ministry . . . Associational Missionary Helps Churches . . . Grace Baptist Last County Seat Church Founded . . . Kentucky Influence Felt In Brazil . . . True Significance of Christianity Lost Criswell Asserts . . . Revival Progressing Among Space Scientist . . . Baptist Convention Ask Tuition Grants for Private School Students . . . Bomb-Ed Out Church Rebuilds . . . Children's Homes Sign

(Continued on page 10)

Chiltons Appointed To Philippines



Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Chilton

Charles A. Chilton, former pastor of Lone Valley Baptist Church in Campbellsville, together with his wife, Fay, were appointed missionaries to the Philippines during the December 4 meeting of the Foreign Mission Board. They will do evangelistic work.

A graduate of the University of Richmond, Chilton holds the bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville. While at Southern, he worked at one of the Baptist goodwill centers in Louisville.

Chilton told the Board that he first began to believe God was calling him to the ministry when he was a high school junior but he allowed his two major interests, music and athletics, to crowd out the call. Finally, he responded during a revival service, with the vow, "God, you have made a terrible mistake in choosing me to preach, but here is my life."

Mrs. Chilton is also a graduate of the University of Richmond. While her husband was in seminary, she taught elementary school in the Louisville public school system.

Pact With State for Child Care . . . Church Leader Training Seminar's Offered by Sunday School Board . . . Churches Continue to Top '68 Training Awards . . . Louisville's Boyce-Portland Center Closes, Association Faces Crisis . . . Baptists In Eastern Europe Thrive Under Discrimination . . .

MAY

Hull Chosen Dean, New Professors Elected at Seminary Trustee Meet . . . Boddie Declines New Orleans Professorship . . . Northern Kentucky Home Administrator Leo Drake Resigns . . . Kentucky Holds Music Awards Lead . . . Honorary Doctorates Go To Three Kentuckians . . . Covington GA Wins National Contest . . . Burned Out Church Rebuilds . . . Sunday School Board Files Suit Seeking Removal of Glorietta From Tax Role . . . Field Workers Available for Church Music Programs . . . BSU Holds Spring Confab . . . Baptist Colleges Face Financial Woes . . . Mississippi Beaches Provide Evangelistic Opportunity for Students . . . Stetson President Paul Geren Resigns, No Reasons Given . . . Senate Bill Aims at Alcoholism . . . Coming Crusade Excites Ohio Baptists . . . Training Union Drills Draw 797 Participants . . . White St. Louis Church Joins Negro Convention . . . Kentucky Baptists Condemn Militant Tactics . . . Executive Board Asks Prayer for Peace . . . Adults Join Students to Influence SBC . . . Sunday School Board Loses Tax Exemption in Nashville . . . Students Aid Pioneer Area Churches . . . Albany Church Begins Mission Project . . . William R. Davenport Elected Campbellsville College Head . . . Beth Haven Fifth in Baptisms in SBC . . . Clendaniel Named Vice-President at Clear Creek . . . Kentuckians Appointed by HMB . . . NBC Features Southern Baptists During June . . . Child Under Junior Age Should Not Be Baptized SBC President Says . . . Extremism, Racial Crisis Among SBC Agenda Items . . .

JUNE

Kentucky Pastor Assumes Post With Christian Life Commission . . . Revival Sweeps Prison Honor Camp . . . LaGrange Miss Culley Wins TU Contests . . . Bank Files Suit Against Kentucky Baptists . . . SBC Messengers Adopt Record Budget . . . Keep Music Relevant To Worship Services Musicians Urged . . . Dehoney Heads Fall Crusade . . . Alteration of Convention Representation Considered . . . Criswell Defeats Smith for SBC President . . . Centennial at Spring Meadows Observed, Ford is Speaker . . . Campaign Against "Adult" Movies Gains Support Radio-TV Director Says . . . Glorietta, Ridgecrest Music Staffs Include 14 Kentuckians . . . University of Richmond Receives \$50 Million from Board Chairman . . . Paul Geren Killed In Two Car Accident Near London, Ky. . . Board Votes To Fight Court Suit . . . Ashcraft Elected To Arkansas Post . . . Record Crowds Overflow New Orleans . . . Seminary Names New Deans, Two Resign . . . SBC Says "Quest" Not Suitable As TU Name . . . SBC Rejects Demands, Principles, Methods of Black Manifesto . . . Doctrinal Statement Signing

Asked . . . Pastors Confab Hears Back to Bible Plea, Social Ethical Issues . . . Trinity Church Gutted by Fire, Pastor Blames Arson . . . Cumberland Kicks Off \$1,200,000 Building Fund Drive . . . First Mount Washington, Dedicated Building, Criswell Guest Speaker . . .

JULY

Messengers Rejected Name, Not Ideas TU Secretary Says . . . Convention Wide "Mission 70" Vocation Conference Set . . . Kentucky Students Serve Churches Across Nation . . . HMB Appoints 16 Students for Kentucky . . . Kentucky Girl Wins Upward Contest . . . SBC Messengers Favor Social Action in Poll . . . Churches Urged to Make Aid to Poor Equal Assets . . . Kentuckian Heads BWA Study Group . . . High Court Agrees To Hear Church Tax Exemption Case . . . Church Tax Reforms Recommended . . . Nunn Addresses Clear Creek School . . . Kentucky Foundation Gets Grant . . . James Heads New York Convention . . . Beth Haven Holds Record VBS . . . Preaching Prof Wins Sermon Contest . . . Kentuckian Trains Journeymen . . . Baptist Programs Nominated for Four Emmy Presentation . . . Official SBC Registration Hits 16,678 . . . Baptist Concern Urged for the Intellectual . . . Older People Explosion Demands Public Action . . . C. Vernon Cole Added to Training Union Staff . . . Louisville Youths Tour New England with the Gospel . . . Nut Resigns to Enter Entertainment Field . . . Baptist Catholic Dealogue States "We Are Brothers" . . . Nixon Rules Out Naming Fulltime Vatican Envoy . . . Foreign Board Appoints 45, Missionary Staff Now 2,502 . . . Herndon Resigns at Spring Meadows . . . Bausum Accepts Faculty Position . . . Coleman Retires from Brotherhood Post . . . Sunday School Board's Tax Assessment Upheld . . . In Toledo, Central Crusade Closes, Now Local Revivals . . . Mountain Missions Conference Draws Record Number . . . Southern Seminary to Host First Jewish-Baptist Confab . . . Chaplain, Evangelist Combine in Prison Revival Effort . . . Us-2er Finds Alaska Filled with Unexpected . . . Ouachita Baptist University Names Dan Grant President . . .

AUGUST

First School for Deacons Held . . . Blessitt Protests Eviction with Fast, Chaining . . . Hugh Peterson Retires from Southern Seminary Staff, Served 32 Years . . . Nationwide Bible Conference Planned . . . Alabama Governor Praised for Campaign Against Pornography . . . Misinterpretations Persist on Court's Prayer Decision . . . Southeastern Seminary Founder Dies . . . Rural Churches Still Vital Part of Community Study Shows . . . Lewis Lynch Joins Clear Creek Faculty . . . Autrey Resigns Evangelism Post, Accepts Professorship at New Orleans . . . Toledo Crusade Closes, Termed "Above Anything Anticipated." . . . Onedia Baptist Institute, A Profile . . . Kentuckians Use Cattle Truck to Reach Ridgecrest . . . Evangelist Indicted for Bad Bonds . . . Seminary Awards Updating Degrees . . . Board Instructs Em-

ployees to Keep Baptist Faith . . . BEST Study Findings Shared in Seminars . . . Five Men Named to Run Kansas Loan Group . . . Three Kentuckians Among 62 Journeymen FMB Commissions . . . First White Baptist Church Dually Aligns With National Baptist Group . . . Kentuckian Bob Denny Succeeds Former Kentucky Pastor as President of BWA . . . Eldon Boone Leaves TU Post, Goes To Indiana . . . European Christianity Reviving . . . Camille Wreaks Havoc For Gulf Coast Baptists . . . Kentucky Baptists Plan Relief Efforts . . . DeBord Elected FMB Promotion Director . . . Moore Joins Georgetown Faculty . . . Baptist-Jewish Scholars Hold First Dialogue . . . Congress, Courts, Church Struggle with Tax Issue . . .

SEPTEMBER

Criswell Deplores Iraq Executions of 15 . . . Meador Retires after 24 Years . . . Help Comes Quickly To Gulf Coast Residents . . . Personal Loss Exceeds Property Damage . . . "Dry" Carry Floyd County Vote . . . Jews Merely Tolerated in South, Conference Told . . . Anti-Semitism Seeds Sown by Church . . . Kentucky Baptists Give Strong Support to Welfare Proposals . . . Pope Gives \$10,000 to Baptist Medical Effort . . . Seminary Lets Music Building Contract . . . Severns Valley Holds Study Course Lead . . . Billy Graham Marks 20th Anniversary As Noted Evangelist . . . Northern SBC Work Not Southern Dominated . . . Cooperative Program Receipts Top Previous Year But Fall Below Goal . . . Parochial School Aid Opposed . . . Graves Installed as Dean at Southern Seminary . . . New Child Care Center Planned . . . Philpot Crusade Schedules Film on Drug Abuse . . . Editor Calls For Restudy of Foreign Mission Program . . . Brantley, Fisher Head BEST Team for Campus Seminary-Open Houses . . . FMB Finds Requests Beyond Resources . . . Murray To Host BSU Convention . . . Heart Attack Claims BWA Leader Nordenhaug . . .

OCTOBER

Two Kentucky Families Among Recent Home Mission Board Appointees . . . Seminary Extension Has Record Enrollment . . . Cumberland Adds Four To Staff . . . Mrs. Sarah Parker, Kentucky Missionary Dies in Alabama . . . Survey Shows Reasons for Denominational Changes, Marriage Tops List . . . Leave SBC If Faith Statements Unacceptable Criswell Urges . . . Five Students Are Guests at Executive Committee Meet . . . Dorsett Fired, Reinstated at Western Baptist Hospital . . . Communication, Finances Top College Woes . . . YWA's Schedule Annual Convention for First Madisonville . . . Three Accept Baptist Student Work Positions . . . Former Kentucky Pastor Fired Over Glossolalia . . . Proposed Constitutional Amendment Debated . . . Falls City Area Crusade Begins Sunday . . . Missionary Preachers Urgently Needed . . . Daley Re-elected Vice-Chairman of Baptist Joint Committee . . . Seminary Offers Revival, Youth Retreat Teams . . . Officers Briefing Slated October 31

Seven Kentuckians Appointed by FMB . . . BSU Convention Draws 1,000 students . . . Moratorium Observed at Seminary Colleges . . . Westmoreland Resigns Kansas Post . . .

NOVEMBER

Position of Legislative Candidates on Aid to Parochial Schools Listed . . . FMB Adopts Record Budget at Annual Meeting . . . A Summer of taking the Gospel to the People . . . Family Films Outdraw Sex, Violence Movies . . . Severns Valley Leads State in Cooperative Program Giving . . . Alien Immersion, Women Deacons Debated at Elkhorn . . . Baptism Devisive to Arkansas Baptists . . . Church Refused Seating Over Baptism . . . Evangelism Conference Program Set . . . Campbellsville Faculty Holds "Student Centered" Views . . . Koinonia Farms Founder Clarence Jordan, Dies . . . Philpot Terms Crusade a Success . . . Pentecostalism Felt Among Catholics . . . Baptists and Coffeehouses Produce Unique Results . . . Tongue Speaking Produces New Church . . . Baptist Brief Argues for Church Tax Exemption . . . Kentucky Sets Record in Music Awards, Is Third Among States . . . Need New History of Doctrine Garrett Says . . . Luke Oldest Gospel Source Missionary Scholar Holds . . . Kansas Convention Launches \$500,000 Drive Within State . . . Editorial Leads to Sunday Closings . . . Baptist Split on Sex Education . . . Maddox Elected Convention Head, Budget Loans Debated . . . Executive Board Alters Structure, Kills Curb on Special Offerings . . . Steps to Help Meet Human Needs Recommended . . . Resolutions Condemn Pornography, Ask for Healthy Sex Education . . . Convention Adopts Resolution Opposing Parochial School Aid . . . Baptist Support Nixon on Vietnam . . . Convention Asks Clarification of Religious Property Tax . . . Steven's Telegram Calls Senate Doves "Cowards." . . . SBC Seminarians In Anti-War March . . . Southern Seminary Student Support Nixon . . . Criswell Again Blasts Liberals, Anti-War Activities . . .

DECEMBER

Opinions Differ Over Rebaptism . . . How The Foreign Mission Board Operates . . . Southern Seminary Professor Teaches in Rome . . . Court Resets Lawsuit Hearing . . . YWA's—900 strong—Hear Career, Student Missionaries . . . Ken Chafin Accepts HMB Evangelism Post . . . Public Hearings Set On SBC Representation . . . NBC Newsman John Chancellor To Bring "Mission 70" Address . . . Sunday School Board Taxation Upheld . . . God Blessed During 1969 in Race Relations . . . Executive Board Honors Byrdwell, Hears Reports . . . John Flynn Resigns Association Post . . . Board Acts to Help Kansas Baptists . . . Executive Board Gives OK To Government Loans For Georgetown College . . . Cole Named South Carolina Secretary . . . Seminary Enrollment Stays at 1968 Level . . . What It Is Like To Serve Overseas . . . Chinese Reds Reassert Anti-religious Pressure . . . Evangelism Conference Nears



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By H. C. Chiles

(These Lessons for December 28, 1969)

LIFE AND WORK SERIES

The Future Of The Forgiven

When God forgives and transforms an individual, He makes him aware that he is forgiven, motivates him to resist temptations to sin and enables him to serve Him faithfully and effectively.

Isaiah 65:17-25

As a result of the prayers of His people, as recorded in chapter sixty-four, God's answer is stated in these verses. This magnified picture, taken from the prophecy of Isaiah, portrays the ideal toward which God is working. Our study of this passage should be an incentive for us to strive earnestly to conform to God's will for us.

Here we have a prediction or a promise of a great transformation in the existing state of things. In these verses we are not given the complete details as to the exact nature of the change nor the means by which it shall be brought about. It is clear, however, that in His own good time and manner God is going to bring about a complete transformation of this world and its life. He will create new heavens and a new earth, and place His people therein.

In this renewed state the former troubles, pains and sorrows of the earth will be so completely obliterated that they will never be recalled. With the cause of all sorrows and tears having been removed, there will not be any more weeping. The Lord will impart consolation and comfort to the broken-hearted. God will rejoice in His people and they will rejoice with Him. All of their former distresses will be hidden from them and forgotten by them. The saints of God will enter into the fullness of all that He has prepared for them. In addition to complete freedom from anxiety, there will be perfect and unbroken fellowship in the presence of God and His people.

Titus 3:3-7

Speaking through Paul, the Holy Spirit here sets before us the need of salvation. Paul called attention to the previous condition of those who had become Christians. It was far from a pleasant picture that was painted so graphically by the Apostle, but it was a true portrait of the unbeliever. It was a time in their unregenerate state when

Paul, the Jew, and Titus, the Gentile, were foolish, disobedient, deceived, and living in hatred of one another.

Paul was grateful for the divine interposition which made salvation available. This salvation had its origin in God. "Salvation is of the Lord" (Jonah 2:9). It seems to be difficult for some people to grasp this truth. There are some still who imagine that salvation is partly of man.

Works do not result in imputed righteousness. Salvation is not a result of human deeds. From its inception to its consummation, salvation is of the free grace of God. We owe our deliverance from our former miserable lost condition, and our establishment in our present position in Christ, solely to the mercy and the grace of God. The Holy

INTERNATIONAL SERIES

God's Herald

Matthew 3:1-12

Without an introduction Matthew presents John the Baptist in his role of the forerunner and herald of Christ, who boldly announces the presence of the King and the nearness of the kingdom of heaven. Concerning this remarkable preacher who had such an effective ministry, three things are noteworthy.

His preparation

In addition to the instructions which John the Baptist received in the godly home in which he was born and reared, he studied the Old Testament for himself. Then he went into the wilderness where he lived an ascetic life and underwent a discipline which fitted him for the task which he was to perform.

It was not just a happenstance that John the Baptist went into the wilderness to receive his training. In Isaiah 40:3-5 was recorded the prophecy of a divinely appointed herald of the coming of the Messiah. Of Him Luke said that

Spirit is the divine agent in our regeneration. After we are regenerated, He continues to renew our thoughts, feelings, desires, and actions.

When we become the possessors of this great salvation of the Lord, it gives us a new position—"being justified by his grace." Salvation gives us a new privilege—"We should be made heirs." Recipients of salvation have a new possession—"eternal life."

From the time that we become the children of God until we are taken home to heaven, we are rightfully expected to serve the Lord in compliance with His will and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Good works are the fruits of salvation and a positive evidence that we are right in our relationship with God.

"the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness." That in itself was a manifestation of grace.

John the Baptist did not choose the ministry as a profession or enter upon it as a means of earning a livelihood, but because he received a personal call from God to preach and to baptize. Concerning his going forth upon his mission, the Bible says, "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John (John 1:6). God chose, equipped, called, and commissioned him for the important duty of preparing the way for the coming Christ. In modern parlance he was the advance man for the Messiah. His business was to get people ready to receive the Saviour when He arrived on the scene.

His preaching

This rugged, unique and striking preacher was heavily burdened on account of the prevailing wickedness and



the disorders of society. He preached in the wilderness along the Jordan River. His preaching attracted the multitudes. No matter who went to hear him, John the Baptist did not compromise the truth but proclaimed the Word of God without fear or favor. With righteous indignation flaming at white heat, this fearless preacher denounced sin and rebuked the sinners.

While he condemned sin and warned of judgment, he gave the people assurance of the forgiveness of their sins on the condition of their repentance. He challenged them to change their minds with respect to sin, to God, and to self. He not only preached repentance, but he baptized the penitent as an evidence of the fact that they had repented. He taught them that there must be harmony between their profession and their conduct.

His prediction

The preaching of John the Baptist kindled afresh the Messianic hope in many of the people. In view of what they heard him preach, it is not at all strange that some of the people began to wonder if the preacher himself were not the long-expected Messiah. As soon as he learned what they were thinking, with characteristic humility he at once disabused their minds of that idea by asserting that he was only the "voice of one crying in the wilderness."

With commendable humility John the Baptist acknowledged his insignificance in contrast with the Messiah. Whereas, he had baptized many in the waters of the Jordan River as a symbol of a new life and a new allegiance, which was one of the things that made him great in the estimation of so many, he predicted that Christ would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with a fire which would consume the worthless and leave the imperishable. He boldly declared that Christ would be so superior to him that he would not even be worthy to perform the menial act of a slave in loosing the latchet of His shoes.

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MY COMMITMENT TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST

"Ye shall be witnesses unto me" Acts 1:8

Having accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour, I prayerfully commit myself to witness for Christ.

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† (Detach for wallet or Bible marker) (Turn in to church) ‡

MY COMMITMENT TO WITNESS FOR CHRIST

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SCHOOL OF NURSING

Dear Editor:

In the spring of this year, your magazine published an article about our school of nursing as well as an appeal for its support from Kentucky Baptists. I am pleased to report that in August of 1969, seventy-two well-qualified young women were admitted to the school as freshmen. This is the largest freshmen enrollment since 1960. It is evident that our intensified recruiting efforts are paying dividends.

I would like to express appreciation to Bob Terry for writing the article, to your magazine for making public our concern, and to Kentucky Baptists for their expressions of interest and encouragement. In our opinion, these have been vital factors in our increased enrollment. We are very grateful.

Louisville, Ky. Myrna R. Myers
Kentucky Baptist Hospital
School of Nursing

SHARE KNOWLEDGE

Dear Editor:

Dr. Gambrell once said that there was much ignorance among the Baptists and that he had been bothered with it some himself. I have known for some time that I belong to that class and that is why I like to ask smart men for some things that I may know. Paul told Timothy to study, and when I feel that I need help I do not mind asking for information.

One man rightly said that we have a new denomination that has just recently sprung up known as "The Tongue Baptists". Since a number of my

brethren desire to have just what I am asking for, I hope that the brethren that are having these revelations either put it down by mimeograph or in book form so that we fellows who have had to just make out with the Bible may have something to take to our classes in Sunday School and to our pulpits in order that we may better enlighten our people and thereby glorify God.

So in sending this information please just mail it to me and I will see that these desiring the information will get it.

In closing I desire to say that I am not acting in dealing with these burning issues in any ugly spirit. But I am one man that believes that if I have something that others do not have, I owe it to them to help them by revealing the information to them. So come on you tongue Baptists with your information and put it on paper for poor fellows like me.

Mayfield, Ky. L. R. Riley

WALTER PRICE ARTICLE

Dear Editor:

I would like to comment on two recent articles in the *Western Recorder*. First, the article by Walter Price on the "Gift of Tongues" is one of the best that I have read on the subject. It may not answer all the questions, but it clears some of the foggy thinking in this area.

Second, the report on the action of the Elkhorn Association with regard to Ross Range's motion on "alien immersion". The leadership of Elkhorn is to be commended for not allowing this matter to become a point of contention again. This bridge was crossed and the issue thoroughly discussed on three previous occasions and there was little need to do it again. With the tremendous potential in Elkhorn for the cause of Christ, they need unity and harmony. Through the years they have suffered too much disharmony.

Middletown, Ky. Grady L. Randolph

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NEW OFFICERS—1969-70 officers of the Kentucky Music Conference are pictured above. They are (from left to right) Malcolm Lunceford, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Frankfort, pastor advisor; Gene Sutherland, minister of music at Walnut Street, Louisville, vice president; Dean Gray, minister of music at Hartford Baptist Church, president; and Bill Johnson, minister of music at First Baptist, Pikeville, Secretary.

Training Union Materials Corrected

by James Whaley
Training Union Secretary,
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Perhaps you are already aware that the Doctrinal Drills "Victory Over Temptation" for the first quarter, 1970, are incomplete in the Intermediate Quarterlies.

The Scripture reference should have been accompanied by a descriptive sentence.

Philip B. Harris, secretary of the Church Training Department in Nashville, has informed us that this omission was discovered too late to be corrected before the quarterlies were printed.

However, the complete drills are included here for your information.

Doctrinal Drill: Victory Over Temptation

1. The Lord delivers the righteous from temptation. 2 Peter 2:9
2. The Christian must arm himself against temptation. Ephesians 6:13
3. Virtue is rewarded. James 1:2
4. God enables the Christian to stand up under temptation. I Cor. 10:13
5. Devotion in the work of the Lord will not be in vain. I Cor. 15-57-58
6. Victory over temptation is won by faith. I John 5:4

Southwestern Gains New Accreditation

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools approved of accreditation for Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth and accepted Atlanta Baptist College as a candidate for accreditation.

The Southern Association is the major regional accrediting body for educational institutions in the South and portions of the Southwest.

Southwestern Seminary, the largest of the six seminaries operated by the Southern Baptist Convention with a fall enrollment this year of 1,791 students, is the third of the six seminaries to be accredited by the Southern Association.

Previously, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, have been accredited by the association. All three are listed as "special purpose" institutions by the association.

Accreditation basically will mean greater scholastic recognition for the seminary, plus easier transfer of credits between other educational institutions which are members of (accredited by) the association.

All six of the Southern Baptist semi-

naries are also accredited by the American Association of Theological Schools, the organization which is the major accrediting agency for theological seminaries. (BP)

High Schooler Gains College Credits

Jerry Ray Howard is back at Crab Orchard High School in Lincoln County this fall finishing his senior year, but he already has 12 semester hours of college work under his belt.

He will return to Cumberland next summer after graduation from high school.

Only high school students with an exceptional academic record through their junior year and on the recommendation of their principals are allowed to enter the program.

And, Jerry lived up to his high school billing. In four courses at Cumberland he made all "A's". He completed two courses in German and one each in philosophy and history.

Two VBS Clinics Slated In January

Two state Vacation Bible School Clinics will be held in January according to state Sunday School Secretary Roy Boatwright. The first will be held at First Baptist Church, Madisonville, on January 27. On January 29, the second clinic will meet at Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington.

Boatwright pointed out that these clinics are designed for association Vacation Bible School personnel. The association workers will then conduct clinics in their own areas for local church faculties.

"It is imperative that every association have a team at one of these clinics," Boatwright said. "We have new materials for both children and workers. To have another excellent year of Vacation Bible Schools means we have to learn to use this material."

The new Vacation Bible School material for 1970 was released December 1. It is available through the Baptist Book stores.

An Unusual Christmas Gift For The Pastor

by Roy E. Boatwright
State Sunday School Secretary

How can you express, in a tangible way this Christmas, your love for your pastor? Here may be the answer to your question. Give him a check to cover his expenses to attend the January Bible Study Preview at Cedarmore, November 23-24, 1970. Or, mail a check to Cedarmore Assembly earmarked for your pastor for the Bible Study Preview. The suggested study for 1971 is *The Letters of John*. These two days of Christian fellowship and depth Bible study would be a great blessing to your pastor. In turn, he will lead the church in a significant Bible Study.

Last month Stuart Arnold, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, led us in the study of the *Book of James*. This provided a rich experience for all who attended. An increasing number of churches are observing January Bible Study Week, which is proving to be one of the richest experiences for our churches. If your church has not yet made plans for this, talk with your pastor. See if arrangements can be made immediately for a study of *The Letter of James*.

For Inspiration read the Recorder

Merry Christmas



From the staff of
WESTERN RECORDER

This is the last issue of 1969.
The next WESTERN RECORDER
you receive will be dated
January 3, 1970

Evangelistic Conference 1970

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