

Western Recorder

NOVEMBER 24, 1973

Sharing
Christ
Through His
Word

136th
Annual
Session

Owensboro,
Kentucky

Kentucky
Baptist
Convention

Missionary News

Furlough

Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Love (Guyana) can be addressed at 1481 Briarwood, Abilene, Texas 79603. He was born in Salem, Kentucky. They were appointed by the FMB in 1965.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis P. McEntire (Paraguay) may be addressed: Box 4, Cumberland, Virginia 23040. Before they were appointed by the FMB in 1970, he was pastor of Belmont (Kentucky) Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Myers (Panama) can be addressed at 4616 Roswell Road, N.E., Apt. QQ1, Atlanta, Georgia 30342. Before they were employed by the FMB in 1968, he had been recreation director for Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Keith Parker (Switzerland) may be addressed: Route 1, Brevard, North Carolina 28712. Before they were appointed by the FMB in 1969, he was pastor of Worthville (Kentucky) Baptist Church.

On the field

Mr. and Mrs. G. Wayne Buck, missionary associates in Israel, can be addressed at Box 19293, Jerusalem, Israel. She is the former Jeannine Strange of Lexington, Kentucky.

RA Candidates For Mission Service

Nearly 400 Southern Baptist boys became candidates for mission service and more than 1,900, including 28 from Kentucky, professed their faith in Christ as a result of Royal Ambassador summer camps, a denomination-wide survey shows.

Kentucky RA camps registered 407 of the 19,600 boys who attended 160 weeks of camps in 27 states. During the nine weeks of Kentucky camps, six boys volunteered for mission service.

Camping has traditionally been used by Royal Ambassadors to implement the basic task of mission education for boys in Southern Baptist churches.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hicks, missionary journeymen to Israel, can be addressed at P.O. Box 20, Nazareth, Israel. Mrs. Hicks, the former Bev Miller, was born in Georgetown, Kentucky. Before they were employed by the FMB in 1973, they were graduated from Georgetown (Kentucky) College.

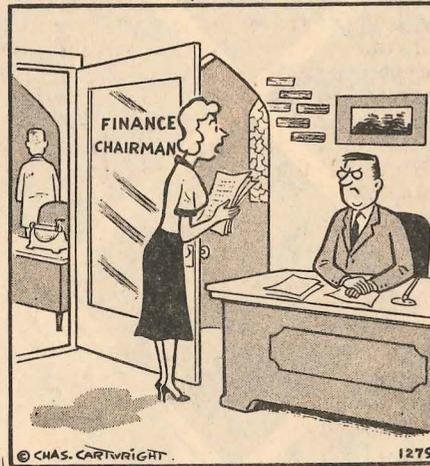
Mr. and Mrs. Norman F. Lytle, missionaries to Israel, can be addressed at Box 20423, Jerusalem, Israel. She is the former Martha Yocum of Louisville. Before their appointment by the FMB in 1964, he was pastor of Zion Baptist Church, Reynolds Station, Kentucky.

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Musen, missionaries to Kenya, can be addressed at P.O. Box 82947, Mombasa, Kenya. He was born in Boyd County, Kentucky, and lived in Ashland. Mrs. Musen, the former Jenny Rossetter of Kentucky, was born in Bowling Green and lived in Smiths Grove and Center.

Other

David Charles Whitten, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Whitten, missionaries to Spain, married Sharon Ann Dennis on August 25, 1973, in Kingston, Jamaica, where they both serve in the Peace Corps.

Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



"Better hadn't call the congregation stingy! How about 'arrested generosity'?"

WESTERN RECORDER

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

KENTUCKY BAPTIST BUILDING MIDDLETOWN, KENTUCKY 40243

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DEVOTIONAL



Leo M. Buschur
 Pastor, Fairview Baptist
 Church, Ashland

The Hidden Word

This is a true story. Please read it carefully as this New Testament shares its experience as a testimony to you.

One day last winter as my owner, a preacher, and I made our way down a hospital corridor a lady stopped us. I just knew this was going to be a good day for me. You see, my preacher-owner usually carried a friend of mine in his shirt pocket. But today, he had me in his hand, right out in the open! Well, this lady saw ME, and asked my preacher-owner if he were a pastor. To this he said that he was. The lady then asked him to speak to a relative who was a patient. Another lady was near by and entered the conversation. Her husband, who suffered a heart attack, was preparing to go home, but, she wanted us to talk with him too.

We talked with him, since he was being dismissed, we made an appointment to visit his home later that day. Me, my pastor-owner, and a dear deacon, drove to the home. Upon entering the home, my preacher-owner opened me, and read, from my pages, God's Word. It felt so good to be used! But I was rejoicing from cover to cover when that lost man said "yes" to Jesus Christ. Since that day my little friend has rarely been used. Now I am not very big, only about 4x6, but I can be seen.

In this particular incident, it was the New Testament that was used to open a witnessing opportunity. As far as the ladies were concerned, the pastor could have been just another visitor in the hall. Isn't it wonderful how God can use various means of getting His message to the lost! We truly need to hide His word in our hearts but we need also to show His word in our lives.

Western Recorder:
 a necessity for mission-minded churches

WESTERN RECORDER

Standing In The Gap

Text: Ezekiel 22:30

Scripture: Ezekiel 22:1, 7-13, 26, 29-31

My fellow Baptists, may I be allowed your indulgence before my message to say that it is a privilege to address this great convention. There are so many of you whom we could hear with great profit. As retiring president, I have a deep sense of the courtesy extended me in being asked to deliver a president's address.

Let us all praise our dear Lord for the good year we have experienced in our Kentucky Baptist Convention. Our baptismal record is exciting, totaling 22,266, and our giving record reached an all-time high and resulted in meeting our goal of \$4,300,000 and an additional \$314,678.25 beyond it. Amen! The calm, steady, open and dynamic leadership of the man God has placed at the helm as our executive secretary has been a large part of the answer to the fine spirit we are all enjoying and the cooperation it takes to do such a job. Thank God for Franklin Owen. But thank God also for every staff member, and for every pastor and each one who is a part of our great convention. You are the ones God is using to write new chapters in our history and open up new frontiers of Kingdom service.

What an important three days this can be. What is said and done here to a large degree can help set the pace for us all in the coming year. I pray we will not only hear and rejoice at the good reports and enjoy the excellent fellowship, but we shall enlarge

By T. L. McSwain
Pastor, FBC, Richmond

our vision, dedicate ourselves anew to our task, and accept the light and leading of the blessed Holy Spirit.

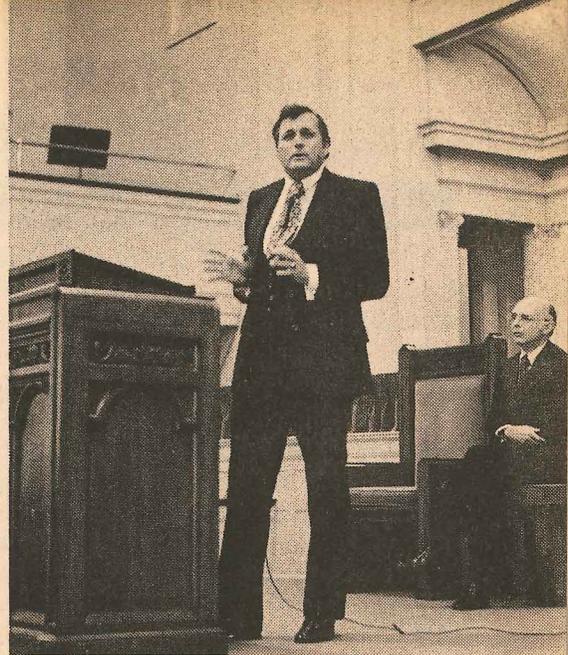
The text, Ezekiel 22:30, is a plaintive cry from God's prophet for a man or men to fill the breach. Patriot he was, Ezekiel was still not blind to his country's faults. God's man is heart broken over the appalling conditions. The nation of the Jews was in a desperate condition. Their defense was broken down and God was ready to rush in through the breach with devastating vengeance. God is a merciful God and longsuffering, and though His is the threatening power, yet in a wonderful clemency God looks for someone to fill the gap and help in saving the nation. Unhappily, no such man was to be found.

The catalogue of the people's sins was a long and terrible one. Idolatry, violence, murder, disrespect for parents, profaning the sabbath, lewdness, sexual excesses and perversion, tyranny, bribery and extortion. Oh, what an indictment. The marvel is not the threatened judgment, but that it was delayed so long. To make matters worse, even the prophets, who should speak God's truth, were deceiving and misleading the people and profaning holy things.

The nation's political and spiritual leaders were rapidly plunging the country into disaster. God's man cried out for men to stand in the gap and help avert the impending crisis and sure judgment. In every age men are needed to turn the tide, to stand in the gap and ward off chaos and destruction.

From the depths of my soul I feel like crying today, "Oh God give us men." The country was bankrupt for the lack of men. Bony-fingered, hollow-eyed skeletons — just shadows of real manhood — seem to stalk the land. Paralytic hands seemed to dangle impotently. Injustice, dishonesty, impurity and contempt for God caused millstones to be hung around the nation's neck, and righteousness was under cover. The judgments of God were coming. Doom was robed in black night. It was during this lamentable condition that God's prophet stepped forth and sounded the bugle call for men, with trumpet-tongued loudness, in order to save the day and promote righteousness.

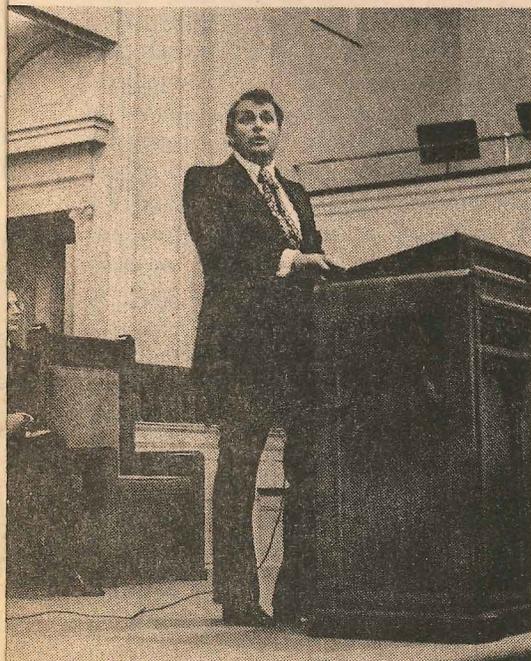
No more clarion call can be bugled to men today. Men of sterling worth



are needed to meet the burning issues of this desperate hour. The call for men — honest, true, and noble men — should sound with world-resounding echo, and tremendous urgency over the land today. Men are needed to drive back the enemy threatening our liberties and priceless heritage. True men are needed in political life, religious life, business, educational, industrial, professional life and in labor. If we cannot find men for this hour then hope is gone and lights indeed burn low.

Our nation is on tiptoe in these perilous times. Democracy is on trial and we must ask whether a nation so divided can long survive. Our talk has changed from that of celebration of our 200th anniversary to confrontation as cries continue to mount for the impeachment or resignation of our chief-executive. We have been sickened at the spectacle of Watergate, and we have seen one man after another tumble in disgrace from the inner circle of the White House. President Lincoln once stood on a great battlefield of the Civil War and declared that the crisis then was "testing whether" our nation "can long endure." He issued a call that "this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth." Blood is not now being spilled on battlefields of the homeland, but the same concern exists. Demagogues seize power when government flounders and where there is confusion and despair among the people. Will democracy survive? If we let God have His way and if we determine to let these events be used to call us to deeper dedication — yes. These events can be used to challenge us to purge out the undesirable elements and make democracy stronger and more desirable.

(Continued on page 18)





The Owensboro Convention -- A Good Meeting In A Good Place

Inspirational preaching, encouraging organizational reports, more than enough miscellaneous business, good fellowship and a warm reception from the Owensboro community; these are the things that will probably be remembered about the 136th annual session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Its billing as a streamline convention did not quite hold true. The committee on order of business did omit much, but what was left ran overtime and we encountered again the usual problem of having to extend time for miscellaneous business. One possible help for next year did come. Wayne Dehoney moved to eliminate several annually reporting convention committees. In adopting this motion the messengers felt that executive board employees did the work and ought to report the results. Also, eliminating the committees removed some duplicate reporting.

But generally, the convention sessions moved along rapidly, aided greatly by president T. L. McSwain, despite his bent of telling funny stories. The sessions were also inspirational. The convention sermon by Henry Schafer was so well received that a successful draft Schafer for president campaign resulted. This is not to imply that Schafer campaigned for the office. He did not. But the Bellevue Baptist Church pastor's joy in serving Jesus was so obvious in the sermon that the majority of messengers wanted him for president.

It has been our privilege to work with the new president for the past six years as he served on the *Western Recorder* board of directors. We have known him longer. We look forward to the leadership he is capable of giving Kentucky Baptists during 1973-74.

Perhaps the highest spiritual moment came during the sermon by black Baptist pastor D. E. King. One messenger remarked that the election of officers, which followed the sermon, seemed unimportant and it did. J. D. Grey had the messengers laughing at his humor one minute and saying amen the next. Peter Rhea Jones, Foy Valentine, Owen Cooper, Ben Fisher and more, they were all exceptional.

Executive secretary Frank Owen shared the good news that 14 new churches began cooperating with the Kentucky Baptist Convention during the past year. That is good news. Also in the good news category is the reported upturns in Sunday School and

Bob Terry
Acting Editor

Brotherhood work along with the continued climb in church music. When one adds the evangelistic report of 22,266 converts during 1972-73, and the record amount of offering given through the Cooperative Program, the cause for rejoicing is obvious. Perhaps this information indicates that the decade of downward trends is over. Perhaps soon all our organizations will report gains in their efforts for our Lord's kingdom.

Business matters did ripple the convention waters a few times. A resolution of abortion as originally presented, was promptly handed back to the committee. It was quite obvious that wording a definitive statement for the convention to adopt would be an impossible task. The messengers seemed content, though not happy, to refer to the 1971 KBC adopted report on abortion and to encourage local churches to express their convictions to elected representatives.

One matter obviously laid to rest for a few years was a constitutional amendment. The constitution and by-laws committee recommended allowing the KBC nominating committee the right to choose all executive board members without the association's involvement. The overwhelming vote against the proposal made it clear that most Kentucky Baptists are not ready for such a step.

Any reflecting on the Owensboro convention would be incomplete without mentioning the extreme courtesy and hospitality extended by the Owensboro community. Ladies from the tourist bureau handled the registration, messengers were given courtesy parking tags so they would not have to pay meter parking, excellent news coverage was provided by the local paper and radio stations, several churches hosted or helped with convention related events. When mayor Waitman Taylor, Jr., presented keys to the city to outgoing and incoming officers, it capped a time when messengers felt wanted and welcomed. This was quite a contrast to practically being ignored as we have been in Louisville and Lexington recently. If Owensboro ever decides to invite the convention back, it will find many with fond memories of 1973.

Read this issue of *Western Recorder* carefully. We have attempted to make this a thorough report of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 136th annual session. Next week we will report on the state meetings of our sister conventions.

Untrained Ministers: A Critical Southern Baptist Problem

Trustees of Southern Seminary in May of this year took action authorizing the establishment of the Boyce School of Christian Ministry. The stated purpose of Boyce School, projected as a subsidiary corporation of the seminary, was to provide more adequate educational services to Southern Baptist ministers without college or seminary training.

If trustees of Southern had chosen to do so, they could have recommended directly to messengers at the Portland Convention necessary charter changes authorizing this new venture. They chose rather to seek endorsement of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee during its brief pre-convention session. After discussing the proposal and determining that additional study was needed prior to any action being taken, the Executive Committee referred the matter to its Program Committee.

Action to refer was responsible; otherwise the committee might have made a precipitous decision, and established a precedent for similar actions in the future. The SBC Executive Committee has two regular meetings each year (February and September) in Nashville. During these sessions, considerable time is devoted to careful study of all matters referred to it as well as to other concerns in keeping with its duties as prescribed by the convention's constitution.

There is reason to believe that members of the Executive Committee were encouraged by some seminary administrators in Portland to withhold approval of Southern's proposal until it could be determined what effect the Boyce School would have financially on these other schools. Also, publicity releases by Southern as early as May implied the new school was an accomplished fact, and would open in September 1973.

When the Executive Committee met recently (September 17-19) it accepted a report from its Program Committee stating that deliberation on Southern's proposed Boyce School had been removed from the agenda at the request of the seminary. At the same time the six SBC seminary presidents were asked to report to the Executive Committee in February "what they are now doing for non-degree students and what they might be able to do."

One of the Executive Committee's work groups is currently studying the non-degree student situation at the request of the Florida Baptist Convention, "with the view of financial aid to Florida Baptist Bible Institute." The Executive Committee's Committee of Fifteen, a group responsible for studying the entire program and organizational structure of the Southern Baptist Convention, is reported to be reviewing the non-degree student problem also.

The Religious Herald
Julian Pentecost
Virginia

The problem of untrained pastoral leadership in the Southern Baptist Convention is critical. According to recent reports, more than fifty per cent have received only high school education or less. Reportedly the number is steadily rising as other persons without formal training are ordained.

Each of our six SBC seminaries offers certificate or diploma programs for non-college graduates but fewer than five hundred students are enrolled annually. Four state convention-supported Bible schools reach less than one thousand persons each year. The SBC Seminary Extension Department reaches several thousand others (6,998 for the 1971-72 convention year) through extension centers and home study, but there remains a great unmet need of denominationally-oriented educational offerings for these men.

Independent Bible colleges and seminaries, often anti-denomination in general and anti-Southern Baptist in particular, have rushed in to fill this vacuum. They attract Southern Baptist pastors, who often feel they have no other alternative; they solicit and receive financial support from SBC churches; and they sow seeds of suspicion in direct and indirect ways which will inevitably yield a harvest of distrust in denominational life.

It is our sincere hope that an overall strategy for dealing with this acute problem of untrained ministers will be developed by the SBC Executive Committee. It is altogether appropriate to look to this group for guidance in this particular matter. The Committee of Fifteen has already invested unnumbered hours in an effort to be oriented to the whole of our denominational enterprise as well as to its component parts. Since all of the seminary presidents usually attend Executive Committee meetings, they could be readily available to share their expertise and experience. The need to make more adequate provision for the non-degree student affords the seminary presidents and the Executive Committee a golden opportunity to work together cooperatively in dealing constructively with a significant issue in which every Southern Baptist has a vital stake.

There is ample time between now and June of 1974 for this multi-faceted problem to receive sufficient study on the basis of which specific recommendations can be made to messengers in Dallas. It is of utmost importance that the proposed strategy be comprehensive rather than fragmentary. Time is of the essence, for even while deliberations continue other schools will enroll an increasing number of our pastors. Together — Cooperatively — Comprehensively — Southern Baptists can and should meet this need.

Convention Elects O'boro Pastor President

By Larry High

Messengers to the 136th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention elected pastors from the host city of Owensboro to serve in the top two convention posts during the coming year.

By a narrow margin, Henry W. Schafer, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, was elected to succeed T. L. McSwain as convention president. T. A. Prickett, pastor of Seven Hills Baptist, also in Owensboro, was elected to succeed Henry Huff, who lost the president's race to Schafer, as first vice president of the convention.

Messengers elected Glenn Sullivan, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Russellville, to fill the position of second vice president.

Schafer was born in Floral, Kentucky, in Hancock County. He is a graduate of Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green; and Southern Baptist Seminary where he earned the ThM degree. Before coming to Bellevue this past March he was pastor of Victory Memorial Baptist in Louisville for 13½ years. Previous to that pastorate he served the congregation of Eaton Memorial Baptist, also in Louisville, for 12 years.

He is married to the former Albertine Fulcher of Webster County. The couple has a daughter and son, both of whom live out-of-state.

Schafer served on the board of directors of the *Western Recorder* for six years and was the immediate past chairman of the board's personnel committee. He also has served on the board's administrative committee.

The names of five men were presented to the messengers for their choice of the man to succeed McSwain. They were: Billy G. Hurt, pastor of Immanuel Baptist in Paducah; John Wood, pastor of First Baptist Church, Paducah; Henry Huff, a layman and immediate past first vice president of

the convention, Louisville; David McClure, a layman dentist and past chairman of the deacons at Walnut Street Baptist in Louisville; and Schafer who delivered the convention sermon to the messengers the day before the election.

The first ballot cast by the messengers failed to give any candidate a majority of the vote and president McSwain called for a run-off election between Schafer and Huff. The result showed Schafer narrowly defeating Huff in a contest so close ballots were recounted before official announcement. Although the exact totals were not released to the messengers, the *Western Recorder* learned that only 11 votes separated the two candidates.

The new president was nominated to the convention messengers by Walter E. Bryant, pastor of Kings Baptist in Taylorsville.

That afternoon, nominations were entertained for the post of convention first vice president. Presented to the messengers were the names of T. A. Prickett, pastor of Seven Hills Baptist in Owensboro, and Wallace Morris, pastor of Forest Park Baptist Church in the Warren Association.

Prickett was chosen by the messengers to serve them as the first vice president of the convention this year. David Bratcher of Henderson presented the nomination of Prickett to the convention.

Election of the second vice president followed and again two men were nominated. Wesley Shipp, pastor of Twenty-third and Broadway Baptist in Louisville, and Glenn Sullivan, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Russellville, were nominated to the convention as candidates.

The Russellville pastor was successful in his bid for the position as messengers elected him. Sullivan was nominated by R. D. Baker of London.

The last two positions to be filled were done so without balloting as the

convention reelected, by acclamation, the incumbent recording and assistant recording secretaries. One again elected recording secretary was A. W. Walker of Louisville. Assisting him will again be Leo T. Crismon, also of Louisville.

Monetary Giving

FRANKLIN OWEN

Executive Secretary, Kentucky Baptist Convention



Man is more than a physical being. He is more than flesh. He is a mental being, a spiritual being. He is a conscious, thinking being.

Man's self-consciousness, his living, his conscious existence is mental. A man is what he is thinking every minute of every day. A man is what his conscious mind is every minute of every day. This is why it is so important to keep the mind in good paths. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7)

The more a man's mind is involved with his financial affairs and enterprises, the more this becomes his existence, his conscious self. The man whose mind has become primarily financial is not touched in his soul until he is touched in his money.

A man is what he is thinking every minute of every day. A man who does most of his thinking about his financial maneuvers, plans, transactions, etc., whose money is not proportionately dedicated to his God, is outside of God in his conscious being.

This is why I plead with you young men whose mental lives are filling up more and more with the affairs of the world of commerce. Dedicate yourselves in your money now. I deeply believe if you do not dedicate yourselves in your money, you will become mere financial machines and are apt to end up eventually as stingy old misers.

People of wealth are obliged to give their conscious selves in great measure to thoughtful oversight of their material goods. This becomes the man. Such a man must dedicate himself to God in his material goods or the soul of such a person is outside of God. That is why Jesus felt that the rich young ruler had to sell all he had to enter the Kingdom of God.

If material wealth is what you primarily have and are, then this is the thing you must by all means give.

—Frank Owen



NEW OFFICERS — Messengers elected five men to serve as convention officers during the coming year. They are: (left to right) A. W. Walker, recording secretary; Henry W. Schafer, president; Leo T. Crismon, assistant recording secretary; T. A. Prickett, first vice president; and Glenn Sullivan, second vice president.

Executive Board Approves Student Center, Other Items

The Kentucky Baptist Convention executive board, meeting in pre-convention session at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Owensboro on Monday, November 12,

► voted to accept a bid by the Schaffer Company for construction of a student center on the University of Louisville campus;

► finalized the purchase of additional property for Cedarmore Baptist Assembly originally approved in May;

► upped the mileage reimbursements for executive board staff and board members;

► and approved reports to be forwarded to the Kentucky Baptist Convention in session November 13-15 at Owensboro's First Baptist Church.

STUDENT CENTER: The decision to accept the bid for the University of Louisville center came after the board was advised that a lease between the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the University of Louisville stipulated that construction must start no later than December 3, 1973. "There is the possibility," executive secretary Frank Owen told the board members, "that we may lose the lease if construction does not begin by that date."

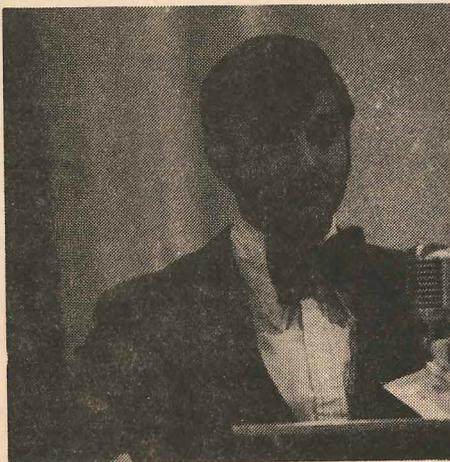
Bids from contractors were opened in Middletown on November 9 but all bids were over the estimated \$234,000 construction cost. The campus ministries committee was authorized to re-examine the proposed plans for the facilities and proceed according to their best judgment.

Corbin pastor John Dunaway asked for the reasons Baptists were building a separate center instead of cooperating in the construction of an ecumenical building now underway on the U. of L. campus.

Don Blaylock, state student work director, responded that Baptists hold a different concept of student work than other denominations. "Our program demands a different style building than the others need," he said.

Before other debate was offered, executive board chairman and convention president T. L. McSwain ruled that debate on the merits of a joint building or a separate building were out of order. "We fought that battle several months ago," he stated. "Now our only decision is whether or not to approve the low bid submitted even though it is more than we expected."

Committee chairman James Highland, pastor of First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, pointed out that \$303,-



ON STUDENT WORK — Committee chairman James Highland offers an explaining to the executive board concerning the proposed student center at the University of Louisville.

857.32 was already on hand in the Baptist Student Union Center Improvement Fund. He stated that this money could be applied against the total cost of construction. Furnishings for the center will come to about \$21,500.

PROPERTY: Administrative committee chairman Henry Huff of Louisville moved that the executive board purchase 79.83 acres of property from William and Joyce Bohannon. The property adjoins Cedarmore Baptist Assembly. In May, the board approved the purchase of an estimated 60 acres at a cost of \$24,000. But when the tract was surveyed, the actual acreage totaled 79.83. The board then had to approve the purchase of the surveyed tract at a total agreed to in negotiations

between executive secretary Owen and the owner.

TRAVEL ALLOWANCE: Travel for executive board employees was raised from 10 cents per mile to 13 cents per mile. Board members will now receive 10 cents per mile instead of the former 8 cents. Executive secretary Owen told the assembled members that he had surveyed all of the other states to see what rate was paid their staff members. The rate, he indicated, was between 10-15 cents per mile. "And all those receiving 10 were in the pipeline of changing it," he added.

"We have researched this thing carefully," Owen stated, "and we can prove that it takes 13 cents per mile for our staff to operate their cars in an equitable manner."

About the difference between the rates paid staff members and board members, Owen said, "Most board members are church employees. This means that the church is the primary source of support, not the executive board. But staff members have only the executive board for support."

The executive added that if the board wished to adopt the 13 cent level of reimbursement for themselves, this was their prerogative. "You make the decisions," he pointed out. "Those of us in Middletown simply carry them out. What ever you do, you do to yourself."

REPORTS: Reports approved for convention consideration included such topics as penal reform, mental health facilities, work with handicapped persons and continued support for the Christian Education offering to provide scholarships for first-time students at Kentucky Baptist colleges.



NEW LEADERSHIP IN THE STATE — Franklin Owen, executive secretary-treasurer, welcomes new members of the KBC into the fellowship of Kentucky.

Amendments Spark Most Debate

A proposed constitutional amendment sparked the longest and loudest debate during the 136th annual session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The proposed amendment to article seven of the KBC constitution called for the convention's nominating committee to nominate all members of the executive board. This would eliminate the association's role of nominating two persons for each executive board vacancy. From the list provided from the associations, the nominating committee now selects persons to be presented to the convention for ratification.

Wayne Dehoney, chairman of the constitution and by-laws committee and pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, presented former KBC president J. T. Miller of Whitesville, who presented the amendment.

Miller explained that each level of Baptist life is completely autonomous from any other level of Baptist life. "Nobody tells Chestnut Grove church what to do," Miller declared, "except the members of Chestnut Grove. Authority does not flow up or down in Baptist life," he continued. "Each group is autonomous."

Miller contended that the present practice of having the nominating committee pick from a list prepared by the association violates Baptist polity since the convention is not free to pick who it wants on its own executive board. It can only choose from a list submitted by the association.

"The proposed amendment will help us put our house in order by conforming our practice to our polity," he declared.

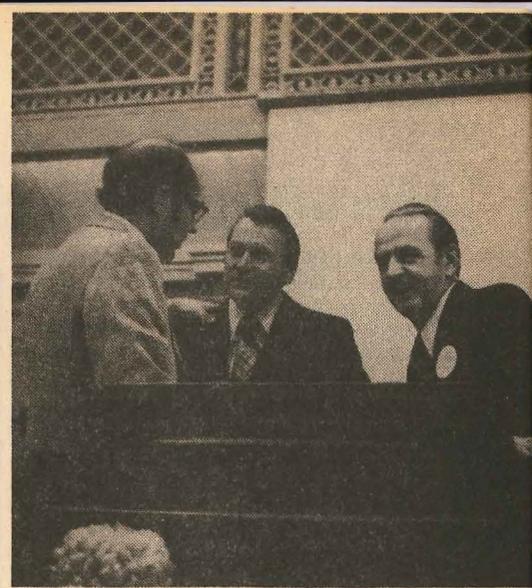
By Bob Terry
Acting Editor

Questioning the wisdom of the amendment was Billy Hurt, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah. Hurt stated that democracy is the most inefficient form of government in existence. "I will leave to your imagination what the most efficient is," he stated. The Paducah pastor said he had returned to Kentucky after spending a five year stint in another state where the convention's executive board was completely autonomous and it had resulted in disaster. "I question Kentucky following such a lead," he said.

Former KBC president John Huffman, pastor of First Baptist Church, Mayfield, told the messengers he had hoped to live long enough to see Kentucky Baptists adopt such a plan as the proposed amendment. "Article five of the constitution," Huffman explained, "is explicit when it says that the convention can exercise no authority over any other Baptist body. The opposite is also true. Yet, we insist on the associations exercising control over the convention by limiting the selection of person who may serve on the convention's executive board.

"Brethren, not being on the executive board is not too great a price to pay for being right," he declared.

Caldwell County associational missionary Harold Greenfield agreed that the convention is autonomous but he argued that the Kentucky Baptist Convention is not self-sufficient. "The convention needs the support and involve-



Eldred Taylor, left, attempts to interpret Robert's Rules of Order for presiding officer T. L. McSwain, center, and Walter Bryant.

ment of the association," he said. "I see no reason to change from our present plan."

Another messenger asked who was more qualified to select board members than local churches and associations who know their people.

When the vote came, the proposed amendment lost by more than a 3-1 majority, 128-389.

A second constitutional amendment was adopted after little debate but much parliamentary wrangling. Dehoney presented an amendment to article 10 which specified that each Baptist church in friendly cooperation with the convention was entitled to two messengers for a membership of 100 or less. One additional messenger could be had for each additional 200 members but no church could have more than 10 total messengers.

The amendment defined "friendly cooperation" as being sympathetic with the convention's purposes and work and a bona fide contributor to the convention's work.

Walter Bryant of Louisville raised the question of Pentecostal trends among Baptist churches. He moved that the report be referred back to the committee for additional study to define what a Baptist church is, especially as it relates to pentecostal trends.

After consultation with parliamentarian Eldred Taylor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Somerset, and presiding officer T. L. McSwain, Bryant withdrew his motion since it was not appropriate to the question of messenger eligibility. Bryant was told that he could come at a later miscellaneous business session with a new motion asking for such a study but no motion was introduced.

With this cleared up, the proposed amendment to article 10 was approved by the necessary two-thirds vote.



TO THE FIGHT — Recent retirees raise their hands to signify they have now joined The Kentucky Baptist Reserves, the title of a new organization of retired Kentucky Baptists. A large group of reservists gathered for a Tuesday luncheon at First Baptist Church, Owensboro, during the convention week. Officers of the group are Keevil Judy, H. B. Kuhnle, A. W. Walker and C. Ford Deusner.



HONORED — Kentucky native J. D. Grey, center, retired pastor of First Baptist Church, New Orleans, is congratulated by executive secretary Franklin Owen, left, for the honors received at the convention. Grey holds a plaque presented him for outstanding Christian service. T. L. McSwain holds a Kentucky Colonel certificate awarded Grey by Governor Wendell Ford.

Grey Headlines Ministers' Conference

Prior to the convening of the 136th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, another meeting, equally important to many, was held at the First Baptist Church, Owensboro.

This was the Kentucky Baptist Ministers' Conference which met November 12-13. The theme of the conference revolved around "We preach Christ: The Man and His Message." Pastors from across the state gathered to hear messages, music and interpretations in the cram-filled two-day session.

The theme interpretations were delivered by G. Allen West, executive director of the Long Run Association of Baptists. Messages were presented by John Boyle of Southern Baptist Seminary; William Turner, pastor of Central Baptist in Lexington; John Huffman, pastor of First Baptist, Mayfield; William Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist in Louisville; Rollin S. Burhans, pastor of First Baptist, Bowling Green; Earnest Mosley, department of pastoral ministries, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; and J. D. Grey, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, now retired.

In his message, "Preaching Christ Today," Grey called for pastors to reassess their call to the ministry. He told the gathering of pastors, ministers of music and education, that if God hadn't called them to be a minister then they should get out of the field.

Grey said the question of whether pastors were preachers or teachers was one that kept recurring from time to time. He added that every good preaching ought to have some teaching in it. According to Grey a message that gets through to the hearts of peo-

ple is not dependent upon the volume of voice used by the pastor but rather the spirit he puts into it.

Grey was ordained 48 years ago in 1925 and for 36 of those years he was pastor of the First Baptist Church, New Orleans.

New officers were also elected to serve the ministers' organization for the coming year. Chosen president was Odell Leigh, pastor of First Baptist, Danville. The ministers then elected Bill Sullivan, pastor of First Baptist, Benton, as their vice president. Chosen to serve as secretary-treasurer of the group was Jay Brown, pastor of Farmdale Baptist, Louisville.



NEW OFFICERS — Newly elected Pastors' Conference officers are, left to right, Odell Leigh, First Baptist Church, Danville, president; Bill Sullivan, First Baptist Church, Benton, vice president; and Jay Brown, Farmdale Baptist Church, Louisville, secretary-treasurer.

'Owensboro Experiment' Termed Successful

What has been referred to as the "Owensboro Experiment" was termed successful by J. Chester Durham, assistant to the KBC executive secretary, who was responsible for local arrangements for the executive board.

"Owensboro Experiment" refers to moving the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual session to different cities within the commonwealth rather than alternating between Louisville and Lexington. The question was, which plan would involve more Baptists in the annual session?

Registration from Owensboro, Durham said, showed more messengers and visitors than attended the 1973 session. Messenger registration totaled 955 with registered visitors reaching 592, for a grand total of 1,547. Last year's total was 1,332 in Louisville.

"We know there were more people in Louisville than the figure indicates but there were more in Owensboro, too," Durham said. "This first sampling is encouraging."

Next year's convention will meet at First Baptist Church, Paducah. The following year Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown will host the annual session.

Because of the 200th anniversary of Baptist preaching in Kentucky coming in 1976, the messengers voted to hold the anniversary convention session in Harrodsburg, the site of the first Baptist preaching.

The decision was made this year rather than next, the usual time, to allow the Historical Commission and a special bicentennial anniversary committee to make definite plans to commemorate the event.

Report Of Committee On Nominations

WESTERN RECORDER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms Ending 1976

Carmen Sharp, 1733 Bardstown Road,
Deer Park, Louisville 40205
John M. Sykes, Box 787, Ashland 41101
Harold J. Purdy, Box 607, Madisonville 42431
Rollin-S. Burhans, 1232 Chestnut Street,
Bowling Green 42101

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms Ending 1976

Sidney Maddox, Box 546, Hopkinsville 42240
Cy Waddle, Somerset Oil, Route 7, Box 22A, Somerset 42501
Charles C. Baird, Box 218, Adairville 42202

BOARD OF CHILD CARE

Terms Ending 1977

Anthony Carson, Box 397, Muldraugh 40155
Ronald R. Dunn, Box 284, Franklin 42134
John Harrison, Route 2, Box 33, Stanton 40380
Bill D. Whitaker, 825 Adams, Sturgis 42459
Richard Shields, Owsley Drug Company, Booneville 41314

Term Ending 1975

Mrs. Ralph Richards, Louisville

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terms Ending 1977

Mrs. Wayne Cisney, 402 Paradise Street, Greenville 42345
Ed S. Wilson, 506 Kentucky Avenue, Pineville 40927
George E. Hays, Jr., 3903 Norbourne Blvd., Louisville 40202
Ted Gilbert, 1214 Richmond Road, Lexington 40502
W. Vinson Pierce, 75 Henry Avenue, Ft. Thomas 41075
Kenneth McCracken, Lookout Heights, 1860 Dixie Hwy., Fort Wright 41011
Eldred M. Taylor, Cardinal Drive, Route 1, Somerset 42501
James Boyd, 104 Shady Lane, Lawrenceburg 40342
Randy Fox, 1509 Applewood Lane, Louisville 40222

CAMPBELLSVILLE COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terms Ending 1977

Ralph Aust, 103 Summit, Fort Thomas 41075
Henry Huff, 170 Westwind Road, Louisville 40207

W. R. Mann, Route 5, Campbellsville 42718

George R. Gaddie, Route 3, Campbellsville 42718

Douglas LeNeave, 1332 Cherry Drive, Mayfield 42066

Bruce V. Hartsell, Box 26, Shepherdsville 40165

Norman Cabbage, Leitchfield

Wayne Dehoney, 220 W. St. Catherine, Louisville 40203

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terms Ending 1977

Charles D. Barnes, 11018 Brechin Road, Louisville 40243
Carl Sears, 403 Maple Avenue, Falmouth 41040
James D. Roland, Bank of Williamsburg, Williamsburg 40769
James Croley, D.M.D., Gunn Bldg., Pineville 40831

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terms Ending 1976

Ray E. Cummins, 201 4th Street, Corbin 40701
Ed Farris, Box 427, Pineville 40977
Herbert R. Booth, Union 41091
J. C. Helton, Pineville 40977
John Hughes, P.O. Box 880, Danville 40422
Warren Robbin, 102 College Park Drive, Barbourville 40906

ONEIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terms Ending 1977

Cecil E. Yearly, P.O. Box 417, 203 S. Main, London 40741
Saul Goins, Manchester 40962
Oscar Davidson, 148 Woodland Drive, Somerset 42501
John M. Baird, 216 Maple Avenue, Danville 40422

BAPTIST HOSPITALS, INC. DIRECTORS

Terms Ending 1977

William Austin Roberts, 444 Pleasantwood Drive, Danville 40422
Kelley Rogers, 864 Robin Road, Lexington 40502
Don Burke, 1101 Cherokee Road, Louisville 40204
A. B. Clarke, 5128 Dunvegan, Louisville 40222
Willis W. Henson, P.O. Box 1362, Paducah 42001
Howard Z. Gray, 4050 Magnolia Drive, Paducah 42001

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Terms Ending 1976

David Green, Lancaster Avenue, Richmond 40475
Bill Day, 1226 Luson, Bowling Green 42101
Casey Morton, Lee Junior College, Jackson 41339

TEMPERANCE LEAGUE OF KENTUCKY — TRUSTEES

Terms Ending 1976

Henlee Barnette, 2909 Meadowlark Avenue, Louisville 40206
A. L. Meacham, 309 N. Fifth Street, LaGrange 40031
Raymond Ward, Rineyville 40112
Carl Sears, 403 Maple Avenue, Falmouth 41040
Deryl C. Watson, Box 146, Madisonville 42431

Term Ending 1974

Chairman of Christian Life Committee for 1973-74

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Association—Nominee and Term Ends

Bell — Ronald R. Rich, 201 Lake Hill, Middlesboro 40965	.....1976
Bethel (new membership) — Eugene Reynolds, Box 67, Auburn 42206	.....1976
Blood River — Arthur D'haillecourt, Route 5, Benton 42025	.....1974
—Richard E. Walker, Box 189, Murray 42071	.....1976
Booneville — Maurice Barnes, Manchester 40962	.....1976
Caldwell — Jesse Hatfield, Princeton 42445	.....1976
—Jerry Thomason, Fredonia 42411	.....1974
Casey County — *George W. Smith, Sr., Route 5, Liberty 42539	.....1976
Christian County — Wayne C. Newby, 123 Country Club Lane, Hopkinsville 42240	.....1976
Crittenden — *Gilbert Longbons, Route 1, Dry Ridge 41035	.....1974
Daviess-McLean — Harold Butler, 628 Wing Avenue, Owensboro 42301	.....1974
—Kenneth Johnston, Route 1, Utica 42376	.....1975
—Harold Skaggs, Box 283, Calhoun 42327	.....1976
—Howard Matthews, Box 8, Utica 42376	.....1976
—T. A. Prickett, 1709 Alexander Avenue, Owensboro 42301	.....1976
Elkhorn — Gary King Sharp, 476 Doncaster Court, Lexington 40505	.....1976

—James Carr, 400 Kenawood Drive, Lexington 405051976
 —Robert Vickers, Route 4 Cleveland Rd., Lexington 40505.....1976
 —Henry Johns, Box 22, Versailles 403831976
 Franklin — Bill Hartung, 1142 Holmes, Frankfort 406011975
 Graves County — Ronnie Stinson, Route 2, Hickory 420511976
 Green Valley — Orville D. Hickey, Box 91, Poole 424441976
 Liberty — Harold W. Barnes, 114 Yancy, Horse Cave 427491976
 Lincoln County — James K. Adams, Box 56, Crab Orchard 404191975
 Little River — Ovid Boyd, Route 5, Cadiz 422111976
 Logan — Clifford Basham, Route 2, Box 321, Russellville 42276.....1976
 Long Run — Wayne Dehoney, 220 W. St. Catherine, Louisville 402031976
 —Edwin F. Perry, 4000 Brownsboro Road, Louisville 402071976
 —Dallas Vincent, 2120 Lower Hunter Trace, Louisville 40216.....1976
 —*Ira Porter, 11 Ridge Road, Louisville 402051976

—Mrs. James Duncan, 1256 Farmdale Ave., Louisville 402131976
 —Joe Priest Williams, 2854 W. Market St., Louisville 402121976
 —Donald Zuberer, 7907 Crest Way, Louisville 402191976
 Lynn — Robert E. Robinette, Route 2, Box 304, Upton 42784.....1976
 Mercer — Raymond Long, Route 3, Harrodsburg 403301976
 Mt. Zion — Sam B. Smith, Route 2, Box 291, Corbin 407011976
 Muhlenberg — James R. Doyel, Route 1, Greenville 423451976
 —Brodie Ambrose, Box 57, Bremen 423251976
 North Concord — John F. Partin, Route 4, Barbourville 409061974
 Northern Kentucky — Larry Cook, 47 S. Main, Walton 410941976
 —James Taulman, 3 Charmain Circle, Fort Mitchell 41017.....1976
 Ohio River — Wilbur Webb, Box 384, Marion 420641976
 Ohio Valley — Bill D. Whittaker, 825 Adam, Sturgis 424591976
 Pike — Curtis H. Warf, Bowles Addition, Pikeville 415011976

Pulaski County — Burney Manning, 121 Norfleet Dr., Somerset 425011976
 Red River — Billie Wright, Route 2 Box 23, Stanton 403801976
 Rockcastle — Jack Bruce, Box 428, Mt. Vernon 404561976
 Russell County — Ronald S. Davidson, Route 4, Russell Springs 421421976
 Russell Creek — Carlis Compton, 104 Oaklawn Dr., Greensburg 427431976
 Salem — *Russell Adkisson, Rhodelia 410611976
 Severns Valley — *Chester Igleheart, 821 N. Main St., Elizabethtown 427011976
 Shelby County — *Lester Bohannon, Route 1, Shelbyville 40065.....1976
 —Wallace Williams, Box 1, Finchville 400221976
 Simpson — Wilbur C. Powell, Route 1, Meadowlawn Dr., Franklin 421341976
 South District — Daniel Lovell, Route 1, Lancaster 404441976
 South Union — A. G. Miller, Route 1, Jellico, Tennessee 37762.....1976
 Sulphur Fork — James Bland, 306 Main St., LaGrange 400311976
 Ten Mile — Glynn Harwood, Elliston 410381976
 Union — Carl Sears, 403 Maple Ave., Falmouth 410401976
 Warren — Richard Oldham, 1000 Roselawn Way, Bowling Green 421011976
 —New Membership — O. G. Lawless, 416 Emmett Drive, Bowling Green 421011976
 Wayne County — L. C. Meadows, 205 Park Avenue, Monticello 426331976
 West Union — Enoch Robertson, 1715 Bloom Avenue, Paducah 420011974
 —John A. Wood, 2890 Broadway, Paducah 420011976
 —William J. Sullivan, 905 Olive St., Benton 420251976
 —Jewell Barrett, 1374 Ramona Drive, E., Paducah 420011976
 Whites Run — John W. Farmer, 801 Sycamore St., Carrollton 410081976
 Tates Creek — Mrs. Ray Salyer, Richmond 404751976

*—Asterisk denotes layman

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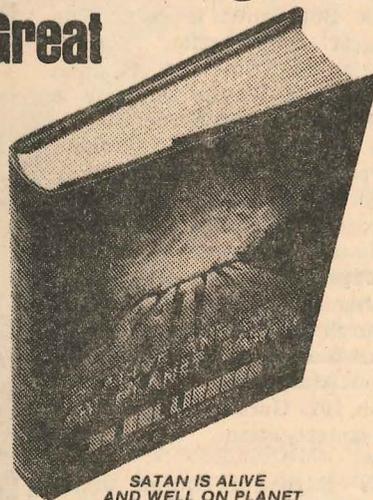
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Convention News

A substantial portion of the convention program contained reports to the messengers by the directors of the convention departments headquartered in Middletown. These reports included the highlights of the past year within the departments and the prospects for the coming year.

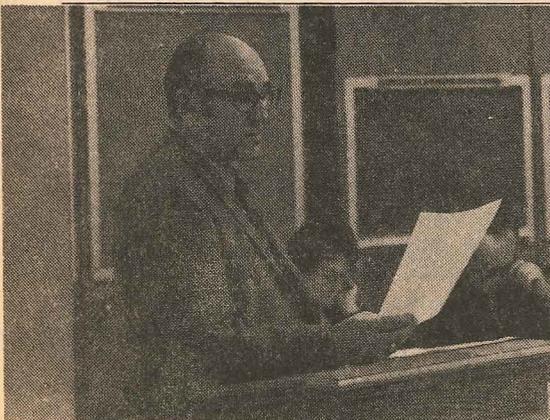
During the Wednesday evening session a new format was introduced for the presentation of the reports to the convention. A panel discussion was organized and as Chester J. Durham, associate convention executive secretary-treasurer, presided as the department directors told of their work since the convention last met and the future of their respective departments.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION: Under the direction of Kathryn Jasper, reported much of its work during the past year was in the area of enlistment and enlargement and witnessing through mission action.

The department also proudly reported that the combined special offerings for state, home and foreign missions exceeded a million dollars for the first time.

Also with pride, the department reported all WMU activities in the state increased in number. The future for the department holds the goal of more growth in mission action and support by Kentucky Baptists.

EVANGELISM: The department of evangelism and its director, Thomas H. Shelton, reported that mass evangelism is once again coming to the front. There seems to be, the report



SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS — Thomas H. Shelton, director of the evangelism department, devotes much of his time to travelling across the state to conduct evangelism clinics and suggest ways a church can reach prospects.

Messengers Hear Optimistic

stated, a return to the spirit of the old-fashioned revival. Shelton reported that 318 KBC churches reported no baptisms last year. Although this is the smallest number in several years, the future calls for this department and other pastors to help these small churches in an effort to reach more people.

The report also indicated that the department is available to help churches in the areas of lay witness training, life style evangelism and renewal evangelism. Added to the report of the evangelism department was the announcement of the top ten Baptist churches with the most baptisms during the past year.

Heading the list with a total of 280 baptisms is the Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville. LaVerne Butler is pastor of the 3,300 member congregation.

Following in order are Glendale in the Warren Association. Richard P. Oldham is the pastor who baptized 202 new members here. Vine Grove Baptist follows with 200. Ralph Aday is pastor of the Meade County church. Trinity Baptist in Lexington is next in line with 166. Bob Brown is pastor. The state's largest congregation, Walnut Street Baptist in Louisville, is fifth with 159 baptisms. Wayne Dehoney is pastor. Following Walnut Street is Valley Station Baptist with 118. Ronald Bullock is pastor of this congregation. Garden Side of Lexington is next with 117. James Herd is pastor. Highview Baptist in Louisville is next on the list with 116 baptisms. Billy Hancock is pastor of this congregation. The First Baptist Church of Whitesburg, whose pastor is Bill Mackey, is next with 104. Rounding out the list is Cedar Grove Baptist with 102. Gerald Jones is pastor of this congregation.

MUSIC: Eugene F. Quinn, director of the department, called the growth of his department "phenomenal." He reported a growth rate of 9.8 percent during the past year, bringing the current enrolment of church members involved in the music program to 50,376.

Quinn also reported at least 1,085 music awards were earned in the past year throughout Kentucky. Also, at least 14,216 participants from 520 churches were involved in the state-wide music projects. This, he said, includes the attendance at the Jesus Festival held in Louisville at Freedom Hall

earlier this year. This music event sponsored by the KBC led to the salvation of 34 young people and the life commitment of over 100 other young people.

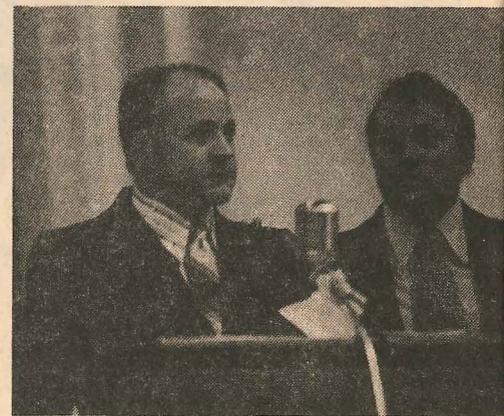
CHURCH TRAINING: James H. Whaley, director, reported that, for the 1971-72 associational year, 2,138 KBC churches provided 957 training unions with a total enrolment of 71,328. Mic Morrow, associate director, said the department expects a continued period of growth this year.

Whaley reported a promotional emphasis was begun this year around the theme, "Church: The Sunday Night Place." The plan for improvement of current programs and enlargement has been requested by approximately 138 Kentucky churches.

Whaley also indicated good participation in the state youth speakers tournament, the state youth Bible drills, and the Bible explorers drill held at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly.

The department also reported on programs other than church training that were assigned to the department. Among these included vocational guidance, family life, church recreation and church administration.

BAPTIST STUDENT WORK: The department indicated that college enrolments in the state are on the increase and the department, under the direction of Don Blaylock, is moving to keep pace. The report announced that the ground for the new Baptist student center at the University of



DO I HEAR A SECOND? — T. L. McSwain (right), president of the convention, asks messengers for a motion to accept the report of Baptist student work in Kentucky presented by Don Blaylock. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

Reports From Department Heads

Louisville campus will be broken next month.

Blaylock reported that the State Convention of Baptist Students was well attended and the other conferences held throughout the year were equally successful.

The summer missionary program, under the direction of the department, also continues to grow and prosper.

INTERRACIAL COOPERATION:

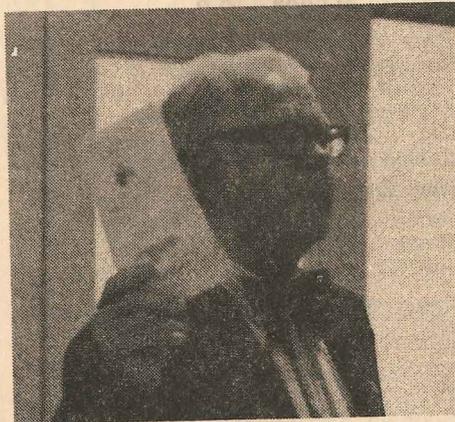
The outgoing director of the interracial cooperation department, William H. Rogers, reported that work and cooperation with other races continues to grow. Four regional conferences were held during the year to give emphasis to the work being done under the direction of Rogers, who will leave the department on December 1 to accept new responsibilities with the Child Care Board.

Rogers reported that grass roots liaisons continued to be built in an effort to strengthen relationships with pastors and laymen.

A series of Human Relations Conferences scheduled for the week of February 4-8, 1974, were cancelled by the department because of the lack of personnel to carry on this program after the resignation of Rogers.



ON THE ROAD AGAIN — William H. Rogers, director of the interracial department, spends much of his time meeting and talking with black Baptists. Rogers will be leaving this department soon to begin new duties with the Child Care Board.



PITCHING AGAIN — Byrd Ison, director of the KBC annuity department, informs another group about the annuity program. Ison is charged with informing and enlisting Baptist employees throughout the state into the program.

ANNUITY: Directed by Byrd Ison the department reported that of the 2,220 plus churches in the KBC nearly one-half of them, 1,056, are enlisted in the department's program. This represents 1,227 employees.

Currently, Ison reports, approximately 350 persons drawing retirement benefits from the Annuity Board. These disabled or retired men and women collected payments of more than \$750,000.

During the past year the department has provided almost one-quarter million dollars in matching funds for the various annuity programs.

Future plans for the department center around the drive to get more churches and personnel involved in the annuity program. The emphasis on enrollment into the program will not stop until 100 percent of the churches and personnel are covered by the department's work.

BROTHERHOOD: Forrest R. Sawyer, department director, told the messengers that he and associate director Calvin Fields made 308 personal visits to churches or associations during the past year. This, he said, represented travel to 68 of the 80 associations affiliated with the convention.

Sawyer reported over 200 KBC boys and men attended the Fifth National Royal Ambassador Congress held in St. Louis in August. In his report to the messengers Sawyer stated that 33 percent of KBC churches are now engaged in some sort of Brotherhood work. In the future, Sawyer reported, the goal is to achieve 50 percent participation by 1983.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: The department report was presented by Roy E. Boatwright, director of that department. He reported that a large amount of time and attention of the department's work had been devoted to a People Search. Through the emphasis of the program Boatwright reported that the departments' staff visited 33 associations.

He also indicated participation in three state-wide bus ministry clinics. Enthusiasm and attendance for this program was so impressive that the department has scheduled state and regional level clinics for next year, according to Boatwright.

During the past year the department reported conducting 99 associational projects in one-half of the associations.

Department personnel are also responsible for programs of Vacation Bible School, January Bible Study Preview, library services, church building and preschool and children's work.

BAPTIST FOUNDATION: The big news out of the Baptist Foundation department, under the direction of Grady L. Randolph, was the decision of the Clear Creek Baptist School to transfer its entire endowment fund to the Foundation for management.

The effectiveness of the Foundation is evident in the report that \$327,352 in new funds were added to the trust's assets handled by the Foundation. This brings the cost value of all the trust handled by the Foundation to an all-time high of \$5,043,257. These new funds came from more than 25 sources and ranged in amounts from \$5.88 to over \$200,000.

Future plans of the department call for expanded promotion of the work of the department in an effort to acquaint Kentucky Baptists with their opportunities through the Foundation.

STEWARDSHIP-PROMOTION: Director Jesse C. Stricker reported that "Live the Word through Christian Giving" was the theme this year for the Stewardship-Promotion department. He pointed out that Baptists have occasion to be concerned about their record in giving. According to Stricker's report the average Southern Baptist gave 2 1/4 cents of each dollar to the church in 1962. A decade later this had declined to 1 and 4/5 cents. He pointed out that in comparison to other religious groups in America, Southern Baptists rank fairly low in individual giving.

The program of the Stewardship-department during the past year has centered around the church and its relationship to mission support, its budget, its members' giving, and its members' Christian money management.

Committee On Committees

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

North Central Region:

Robert B. Wallace, 916 Main Street, Paris 40361 — Elkhorn Association, 1975; Paul J. Godsey, 31 West Washington Street, Burlington 41005 — Northern Kentucky Association, 1975

Northeastern Region:

John M. Sykes, Jr., Box 787, Ashland 41101 — Greenup Association, 1975

Southeastern Region:

Ray E. Cummins, 201 Fourth Street, Corbin 40701 — Mt. Zion Association, 1975

Southern Region:

Eugene M. Fleming, P.O. Box 441, Franklin 42134 — Simpson Association, 1975; Guy Gordon, Elkton 42220 — Bethel Association, 1975

South Central Region:

Gilbert Sapp, Route 2, Box 34, Russell Springs 42642 — Russell County Association, 1975; Odell Leigh, P.O. Box 132, Danville 44022 — South District Association, 1975

Southwestern Region:

William J. Sullivan, 905 Olive, Benton 42025 — West Union Association, 1975; Franklin Skaggs, Box 506, Eddyville 42038 — Caldwell Association, 1975

Western Region:

David Bratcher, 307 Center Street, Henderson 42420 — Green Valley Association, 1975

Central Region:

Wendell Romans, Mt. Washington 40047 — Nelson Association, 1975

Terms Ending 1975

David Bratcher, Henderson; Ray E. Cummins, Corbin; Eugene M. Fleming, Franklin; Paul J. Godsey, Burlington; Odell Leigh, Danville; Wendell Romans, Mt. Washington; Gilbert Sapp, Russell Springs; Franklin Skaggs, Eddyville; William J. Sullivan, Benton; John M. Sykes, Ashland; Robert B. Wallace, Paris; Guy Gordon, Elkton

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS

Terms Ending 1975:

John Wood, 343 Wallace Lane, Paducah 42001; R. D. Baker, 217 South Main, London 40741

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Terms Ending 1975:

Harold Wainscott, 38th and Church Street, Covington 41015; William Austin Roberts, Lexington Avenue at Fourth Street, Danville 40422

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS

Terms Ending 1975:

Kenneth Cole, 812 Oxcroft Court, Lexington 40501; George S. Munro, 335 W. Fort Thomas Avenue, Fort Thomas 41075

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Terms Ending 1975:

Edwin F. Perry, 4000 Brownsboro Road, Louisville 40207; Fred T. Moffatt, Jr., Box 407, Shelbyville 40065

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES

Terms Ending 1975:

William Yancey Sanders, Route 7, Frankfort 40601; Tom C. Nix, 318 Zondale, Lexington 40503

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

Terms Ending 1975:

Verlin C. Kruschwitz, Box 448, Elizabethtown 42701; Bryant Hicks, Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville 40206

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Terms Ending 1976:

J. J. Owens, 2825 Lexington Rd., Louisville 40207; Winn T. Barr, 209 South Miller Street, Cynthiana 41031; O. G. Lawless, 416 Emmet Drive, Bowling Green 42101

COMMITTEES TO REPORT TO KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION 1974

Committee on Cooperative Program

Douglas T. Strader, Route 2, Shepherdsville 40165; Elmore Ray, Route 1, Waynesburg 40489; Robert C. Vickers, Route 4, Lexington 40505

Committee on Home Missions

Mrs. Edith Puckett, P.O. Box 1320, Berea 40403; Charles Burress, Box 26, Perryville 40468; Charles Harris, 1908 Bashford Manor Lane, Louisville 40218

Committee on Foreign Missions

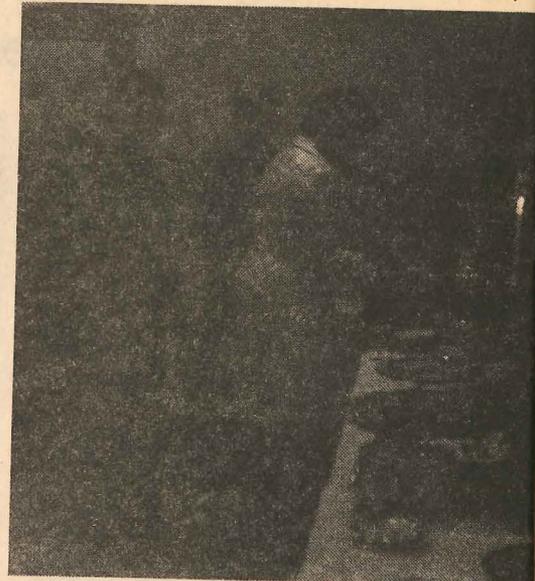
William Goodan, Box 325, Whitley City 42635; Mrs. Ray Mullendore, 1302 Eastland Drive, Bowling Green 42101; Harold Rose, 1709 Alexander Avenue, Owensboro 42301

Committee on Radio and Television

William Whittaker, 825 Adams Street, Sturgis 42459; Hershel Luttrell, Route 2, Harrodsburg 40330; William A. George, Route 2, Box 313, London 40741

Committee on Conventionwide Education

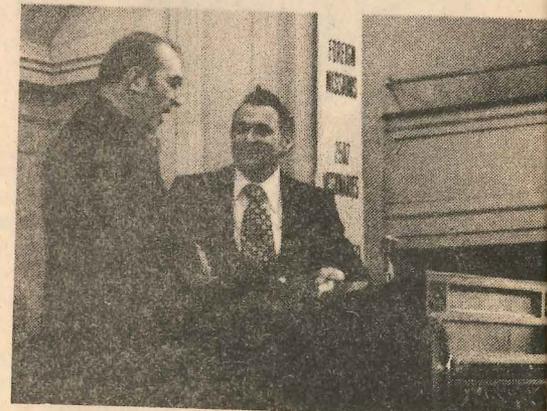
Ralph Hopkins, Cumberland College, Williamsburg 40769; David L. Jester, Campbellsville College, Campbellsville 42718; Harland Woods, Jr., 238 Sheridan Drive, Oneida 40972.



RECEPTION — WMU ladies at the host First Baptist Church prepared a reception for women attending the KBC. This event took place Monday evening.



PREACHER OF THE YEAR — Jack E. Stephens, left, from Pikeville, receives the A. S. Petrey Mountain Mission Preacher of the Year Award from Henry Huff. He is a layman from Louisville and the presiding first vice president of the convention's 136th annual meeting.



PRESIDENT HONORED — Frank Owen, left, executive secretary of the KBC, presents outgoing convention president T. L. McSwain with a plaque as a gesture of appreciation to McSwain for his hard and long work for Kentucky Baptists as their president.

Energy Crisis, Abortion Are Resolution Topics

The energy crisis, abortion and The Baptist Faith and Message were topics of resolutions adopted by the messengers attending the 136th annual session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

A total of five resolutions were adopted by the messengers as they expressed appreciation to the Owensboro churches, city administration, tourist bureau and news media and commended executive secretary Franklin Owen for his year of service and pledged to him continued cooperation.

LaVerne Butler, pastor of Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville, served as chairman of the four-member committee. Others serving were Ted Sisk, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington; Rollin Burhans, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bowling Green; and *Western Recorder* acting editor Bob Terry.

Below are the completed texts of the five adopted resolutions.

ON FUEL CONSERVATION

Inasmuch as there is an apparent shortage of energy fuel in our nation and,

Whereas the President, Richard M. Nixon, has requested the citizens of the nation to take certain measures to help ease this shortage, and

Whereas Kentucky Baptists are ever mindful of their stewardship and citizenship responsibilities to conserve our natural resources

Therefore, Be It Resolved that Kentucky Baptists be urged to conduct themselves in accordance with the President's appeal to conserve energy, and

Be It Further Resolved that we ask churches, agencies and institutions of this convention to give consideration to how they might further implement the President's appeal.

* * *

ON THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

Whereas, the Baptist Faith and Message was adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in May of 1963, and

Whereas, this statement of faith is an outline of beliefs generally accepted by Southern Baptists, and

Whereas, the Kentucky Baptist Convention cooperates with the Southern Baptist Convention,

Therefore, Be It Resolved that all Kentucky Baptists be encouraged to familiarize themselves with the 17 articles contained therein, and

Be It Further Resolved, that personnel of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's boards, agencies and institutions be encouraged to conduct themselves in accordance with this statement.

ON ABORTION

Whereas any move toward what is generally called "abortion on demand" is not consistent with traditionally held Christian morality, and

Whereas the entire question of abortion is highly controversial, but of deep interest to Baptists of Kentucky, and

Whereas we recognize the seriousness of any question that involves life and death decisions, with abortion being that kind of decision, and

Whereas the legal status of this matter is not clear, the Kentucky statute by which we have been governed having not been tested in court since the recent ruling of the United States Supreme Court, and

Whereas the issue of abortion is the subject of pending legislation before the next session of the Legislature,

Therefore Be It Resolved that we ask our churches to study the Report of the Christian Life Committee as printed in the *1971 Annual of the Kentucky Baptist Convention* pages 178-181, and

Be It Further Resolved that this Kentucky Baptist Convention declares support for a Kentucky statute which will

1. Prohibit the wanton waste of human life in the practice of abortion
2. Protect the right of expectant mothers to the full range of health care for the preservation of their life and health, and

Be It Further Resolved that we recommend the convention instruct its Christian Life Committee to keep abreast of this important issue and that they so advise the convention, its executive board, the *Western Recorder* and the members of the churches.

* * *

ON FRANKLIN OWEN

Whereas Dr. Franklin Owen has served the Kentucky Baptist Convention as executive secretary-treasurer for his first year and

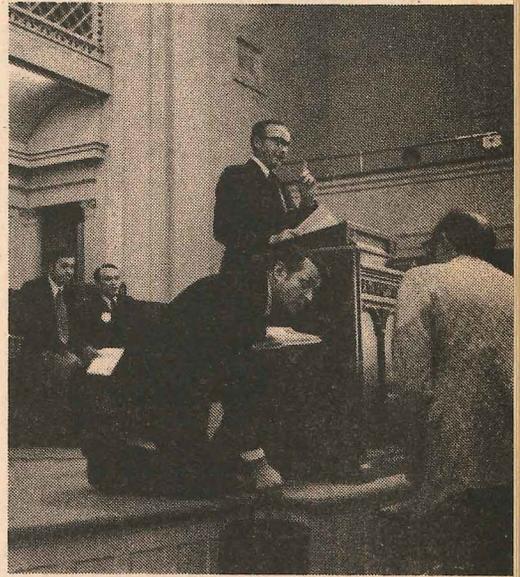
Whereas Dr. Owen's ministry has produced a spirit of harmony and unprecedented growth in all areas,

Therefore Be It Resolved that we express our sincere gratitude to Dr. Owen for his outstanding leadership as a Christian statesman, an effective executive, and an enthusiastic leader and pledge him our cooperation in every endeavor to carry out the Great Commission as Kentucky Baptists.

* * *

ON APPRECIATIONS

Whereas the 136th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist is in session with the First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Kentucky; and



Eldred Taylor, right, confers with KBC president T. L. McSwain while debate occurs on proposed abortion resolution.

Whereas the messengers from the churches throughout the state are enjoying the facilities and the hospitality from the labors of others;

Therefore Be It Resolved that we express our sincere appreciation to the First Baptist Church and her pastor, David Nelson, and the church staff for their warm Christian hospitality extended to us; and

Be It Further Resolved that we express our heart-felt gratitude for the unusual hospitality and the community spirit manifested by the city of Owensboro, especially the city administration, tourist bureau, and the other churches in the courtesies extended in parking, in the registering of messengers, and in many other ways that made us feel that the city as a whole really wanted us to come; and

Be It Further Resolved that we express our appreciation to the Owensboro area news media for the excellent coverage given this annual session, and

Be It Further Resolved that we express our appreciation to the Convention officers: T. L. McSwain who faithfully served as our Convention President; Henry B. Huff, first vice president; Samuel C. Gash, second vice president; A. W. Walker and Leo T. Crismon, our secretaries, for their faithful service;

Be It Further Resolved that we also express our thanks to all those who contributed in any way to these sessions and that the secretary of the Convention send copies of this resolution to all persons named herein.

The Full Gospel In Trust, King

"Had Jesus told his disciples that 2,000 years from that time the church would be largely a Gentile organization, they every one would have resigned from the apostolic role," declared D. E. King, former Kentucky pastor now serving the Monument Baptist Church in Chicago, Illinois.

"Jesus said he had much to tell His disciples but they were unable to hear it when he ascended up into heaven," King pointed out. "That is why the full gospel is in trust and the Holy Spirit is our guide to all truth."

The former pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Louisville, speaking at the 136th annual session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, pointed out that what John saw in Revelation was not from the words of Jesus, but a special vision seen by the apostle when he "was in the spirit on the Lord's day." Paul's vision of Heaven was unde-

scribable, the black pastor reminded his audience.

"And Jesus ties it all together, what is written in the Bible and the rest of the gospel that is in reserve, in trust of the Holy Spirit," he declared.

King said that one of the main problems of this country is that Christians know the Bible from cover to cover but they do not know the Christ of the Bible. "People are tired of our bookishness. They want to see men and women who have been changed by a risen Christ. Until we get this Christ we will continue to have Watergate and every other kind of gate," he emphasized.

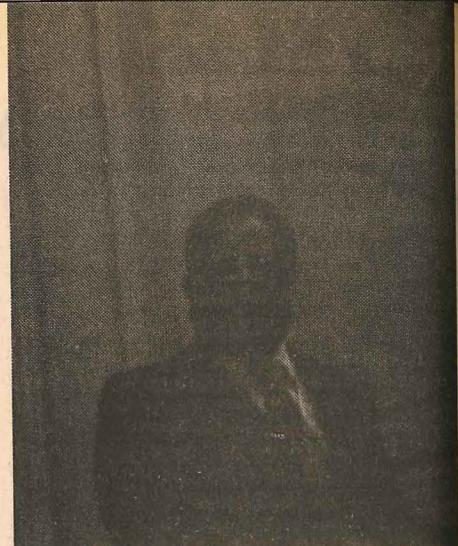
"I would not preach without taking a text from the Bible," King said, "but we place too much emphasis on this Book as sacred as it is. We do not preach the Bible. We preach Christ."

The west Tennessee native reminisced with the messengers about his early church days and about his first pastor, a man who could hardly read.

"We never thought Brother Brown was preaching from the Bible," King mused. "We thought he was coming to report what he had just seen and heard.

"This is what it will take to save this world. Our message is not just what is written on the lines of the Bible. It is what is written between the lines too. Christ has left in reserve what He could not give to the early apostles. We must become living epistles where people can read about Jesus," he shouted.

"When we appear before God He



D. E. King preaches.

isn't going to ask us how much we know about the Bible, how many buildings we built or how much money we gave. God is going to call for those who know Jesus when he says, 'Come ye blessed.'

"And you do not go to heaven with skin color. There is no whiteness, no blackness, no classes or what have you in heaven. In Christ we are all one, Jew and Gentile, bond and free."

King told the assembled messengers that he loved everybody, black and white. "But you do not get an attitude like that from a printed page," King said. "That kind of victory over prejudice comes only from a personal relationship with Jesus."

"If the Holy Spirit has been assigned anything, it has been to lead us to see that part of the gospel that is in reserve, which the disciples were not able to receive. But mainly, the Holy Spirit helps us see Christ and if we ever see Jesus Christ, we will never get over it," he concluded.

Officers Chosen

Several groups chose new officers during the Kentucky Baptist Convention week in Owensboro. Below is a list of those made available to *Western Recorder* and not reported elsewhere in this issue.

MINISTERS OF MUSIC

President: Charles Douglas, First Baptist Church, Princeton

Vice president: John Boggess, Crestwood Baptist Church, Frankfort

Secretary: Wallace Miller, Eaton Memorial Baptist Church, Owensboro

Pastor Advisor: Truett Coca-naugher, Kentoboo Baptist Church, Florence

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

President: Lyman Austin, First Baptist Church, London

Vice President: Richard Hale, Buena Vista Baptist Church, Owensboro

Secretary: Mrs. Lyman Austin, First Baptist Church, London

MINISTERS WIVES'

President: Mrs. T. L. McSwain, First Baptist Church, Richmond

Vice President: Mrs. Wyman Copass, Reidland Baptist Church, Paducah

Secretary: Mrs. James Highland, First Baptist Church, Williamsburg

Program Chairman: Mrs. Wayne Dehoney, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville



ALUMNI BREAKFASTS — Bob and Millie Mills presided over the alumni get together of Georgetown College where he serves as president. Also holding alumni breakfasts were Campbellsville College and Clear Creek Baptist School. All were well attended, some with overflow crowds. A breakfast meeting for Kentucky newcomers was sponsored by the KBC's executive board and hosted by Frank Owen.

Penal Reform, Mental Health, Taxation Are Topics

Kentucky Baptist churches should "discover the needs of prisoners in your area and minister to them by establishing regular visits, contribute books for library, assist in job placement, contact a distant pastor, etc." The Christian life committee suggested to messengers attending the convention that all churches affiliated with the KBC take the above action as soon as possible.

The committee, acting upon a resolution passed at the 1971 annual Kentucky Baptist Convention, offered their suggestions about penal reform after studying and investigating the content of the resolution.

The resolution (see pages 218, 219, 1971 Annual) stated the convention's belief in the sanctity of human life, urged fellow Christians to support legislation and funding to implement true correctional programs that would provide for educational and vocational training opportunities for those in our Kentucky prisons.

The committee also suggested that churches contact the interracial department, Middletown, for information on what other churches are doing, what material is available, what agencies and legislation need support from churches.

It also urged Baptists to write letters to the press for needed improvements in the facilities and training programs in local, state and federal prisons.

After completing a study of comprehensive care centers in Kentucky the committee found that their purpose "is not only to treat those with mental or emotional problems, but also to help prevent or alleviate conditions that are mentally unhealthy."

As a result of that study and the information gained the committee recommended that the Christian life committee be authorized to secure or prepare a pamphlet to assist pastors in knowing when the service of comprehensive care is needed and how to get help.

They further recommended that the direct missions department encourage each associational missionary to obtain a speaker from the Regional Comprehensive Care Center to explain the services of the facilities at an associational executive board meeting and/or another scheduled associational meeting.

In an effort to inform as many Baptists as possible about the work of

comprehensive care, the committee also recommended that the executive secretary of the KBC invite the director of practical programs to set up a booth or some other appropriate display at the 1974 annual convention.

Finally, the committee recommended that pastors make use of these facilities in ministering to their communities.

The convention voted to accept the report of the committee and also voted to accept all the recommendations that its report contained.

Messengers and visitors to the convention also heard the committee on public affairs report that it "commended the Supreme Court for its courageous independence of political expediency." The committee also urges that Baptists renew their commitment to the First Amendment with its guarantee of separation of church and state and religious liberty.

The committee also reported that it had reviewed the subject of tax exemptions for churches and concluded that churches should "refuse to pay taxes on facilities used for worship and related activities like education and recreation." However, the committee report stated, "it doesn't seem fair that other taxpayers should have an extra burden in order for churches to have public services without charge." The committee defined "public services" as police and fire protection.

It concluded, therefore, that some kind of arrangement should be worked out so that the church can contribute its share of the cost of public services.

The committee also restated a 1971 Southern Baptist Convention resolution that enunciated the belief of Baptists about voluntary prayer. The committee stated that Baptists have consistently opposed any change in the First Amendment.

'Recorder' Announces Price Hike

Western Recorder acting editor Bob Terry announced a price increase during the paper's report to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The price of the paper will be \$2.00 through the church budget plan and \$2.75 for individual subscriptions.

Terry cited increased mailing cost and paper cost as the main reasons for the move. Since July, paper has gone up \$10 per ton. It will go up another \$10 the first of January and another \$15 per ton the first of July," he told the messengers. Mailing cost recently increased \$70 per week, one step in a program designed to increase second

class postage by 700 percent in five years.

"*Western Recorder* directors authorized a price increase about a year ago," Terry said, "but we have been trying to make it without the extra 25 cents. We simply cannot do it any longer."

Terry said he hoped Kentucky Baptists would understand the reasons for the price increase and continue to subscribe to the paper.

As outlined, new subscriptions after January 1, 1974, will cost \$2. Others will be charged the new rate when their current subscriptions expire during 1974.

Evangelism Confab To Feature Newport

The 1974 State Evangelism Conference will meet at the Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, on January 21 and 22.

Speaker for the occasion, John Newport is a graduate of Southern Seminary and is now the professor of philosophy of religion at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He is the author of the book, *Demons, Demons, Demons*.

His subjects will be: "The Christian Confronts Magic and Witchcraft (Satanism and Christian Victory)"; "The

Christian and Astrology (Providence, Free Will and Determinism, and Prediction of the Future)"; "The Christian and Extra-sensory Communication with the Living and the Dead (Prayer, Healing, Spiritualism, Reincarnation, Life Beyond)."

Other speakers will be: evangelist Jack Taylor; Birmingham, Alabama, pastor D. M. Nelson; and HMB evangelism staff member John Havlik. The singer for this year will be a return engagement of Russell Newport, brother to the featured speaker.

Standing In The Gap

(Continued from page 3)

These events can cause the throbbing heart of humanity to pulsate with a passionate longing for a return to God's standards of decency and integrity. Men of God are needed today to rise up and lead the way to a new day. Possessed with the passion of a cause so sweet and a way of life so dear, free-born and twice born men, though wounded and bleeding, will stagger to their feet and march with faces set toward the sunrise of a new day for humanity and Christianity.

"The great world's heart is aching,
fiercely aching in the night,
And God alone can heal it,
and God alone give light;
And the men to hear the message,
and to speak the living Word,
Are you and I, my brothers
and the millions who have heard."

(author unknown)

My fellow Baptists, think if you will of the great need in this hour for men, dedicated and consecrated, marshaled in an undefeatable phalanx on the battlefields of God. Society is sick and needs the Great Physician, multitudes of churches have become apathetic and must be awakened, missionary fires are smouldering and must be rekindled, family altars have fallen down and must be rebuilt, multitudes of Christians are complacent and must be aroused to a burning, compassionate concern. Sleeping churches cannot meet the crisis of a bankrupt people and dead churches cannot cope with living issues. Our day needs men of God!

"Give me a man of God — just one,
Whose faith controls his mind,
And I will right ten thousand wrongs
And bless the name of all mankind."

(author unknown)

God established three divine institutions, and men are needed in each of them — government, the home, and the church. The God who reigns over and rules the universe is not pleased when a handful of men seek to dethrone Him and enthrone themselves. Let us seek out and encourage valiant and God fearing men of faith and courage to seek public offices. If men would respond to God's call to public office in a way comparable to its importance, earth and heaven would be vocal with anthems of joy and shouts of victory. Men in public office will be honest and trustworthy when we as a people demand it and when we are willing to elect men of Christian convictions. Well did John G. Holland pray:

"God give us men. A time like this demands strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands. Men whom the lust of office does not kill. Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy. Men who possess opinions and a will. Men who have honour — Men who will not lie. Men who can stand before a demagogue and damn his treacherous flattery without winking. Tall men — sun crowned, who live above the fog. In public duty and private thinking. For while the rabble with their thumb worn creeds. Their large professions and their little deeds mingle in selfish strife; lo, freedom weeps, wrong rules the land, and waiting justice sleeps. Oh God — give us men!"

It is time for our country to seek out and bring to justice those in high places who have abused the sacred trust, who have broken the laws of our land and trampled decency underfoot, and who have somehow considered themselves above the laws that govern us all. Let us pray that we shall soon get Watergate with its odious stench of scandal behind us, and that faith will be restored in government. Good can come from the crisis we are in, if it but causes all those seeking office to know that wrong will be found out, and only qualified men should run, and that we as Americans demand and expect integrity and honesty. God give us real men in high places — not mere politicians, but statesman and public servants. Let us reaffirm that monarchy was abolished when we won our independence.

Right men are needed to help save the institution of the home — God's very first institution for our well being. America is in deep trouble here. A crack has appeared in the foundation of our nation, and grows worse. One of three marriages are winding up in our divorce courts while others choose to stay together and fight it out to the bitter end. God is seeking men to defend the safety, solidity, and sanctity of the home in our day. Men who provide food, yes — shelter, yes — but who also furnish spiritual leadership and love and discipline. Men are failing in heartbreaking numbers as spiritual heads and God's representatives in the home. Men like old Joshua are needed who said "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." When your family takes refuge behind you; when you know that in you they have confidence and hope; that on you they are depending, you feel that you must not falter in your fidelity. Men are needed to stand in the gap and make up the walls in our homelife.



But oh my fellow Baptists, how urgently men are needed in our church life. This is a supreme need. We do not need men like Gilbert described when he said of one, "no characteristic trait had he of any kind." Men for this hour must have distinctive characteristics — courageous, conquering convictions — the kind who can transform timorous and fearful Christians into formidable forces. Heroic Christians who can achieve the impossible and pull down strongholds of wickedness rooted as deep as perdition. We must be men of a single allegiance, for none of us can serve two masters with distinction.

Be strong!

Say not the days are evil — who's to blame?

And fold your hands and acquiesce— oh shame!

Stand up — speak out, and bravely in God's name.

My fellow Baptists, God is looking for men of heroism. The yawning gaps in the walls of our national, political, civic, and moral life will never be filled without real men of faith. The breaches in our religious walls cry out for genuine men of heroism; cowards do not stand up and speak out for God and the right. Cowards are never faithful in the days of deepest needs. They cower in the shade of their own complacency and satisfy themselves with themselves.

The bravest of the brave have always been found in the ranks of God. Luther bravely stood in the gap when reeking corruption reigned in Rome. His immortal "Here I stand, so help me God" were the words of a brave man and turned the tide in his day. John Huss went to the stake in the 14th century rather than recant his beliefs or falter in his fidelities. His ashes were thrown upon the Rhine, but instead of being washed away, they have enriched every shore and lighted gospel lamps on

darkened continents and become the seed corn of rich harvests of golden grain. Wycliffe, the morning star of the Reformation, bravely placed himself in the gap against the corrupt priests and cardinals of his day — and on and on until today God has had His brave men.

God's causes need men of vision who can help usher in the dawn of a new day. Our denomination needs far-visions men who are real builders and history makers with empires in their minds and the Invisible stamped indelibly upon their souls. God is calling for men of integrity. In spite of all the odious iniquity, revolting lewdness, lamentable crookedness, dastardly dishonesty, unbridled greed, unbelievable conniving, and scandalous wickedness, integrity and honesty are still in vogue in God's plan. They shine like diamonds in the muck and slime of a boggy world.

The supreme call of the hour then is for men to fill places of need in our church and denominational life. Nowhere will one's efforts count for as much. Our convention theme is "Sharing Christ Through His Word" and share it we must with diligence, urgency, and effectiveness. Our mission warms our hearts and challenges our best. Through our churches we must stir dormant spiritual powers and fan them into flames of activity, influence, service, and limitless power to reach people for Christ. As long as man is man, with the sense of eternity planted in him, aware of the presence of divinity everywhere, and cherishing a hope that lights heavens' distant lamps, men must give their best through the church. Our mission to share the Word has every element to challenge the highest, the deepest, the broadest, the noblest that man possesses. There is something in the vastness and imperativeness of this theme, this militant imperial mission, that should call us to our knees and send us forth as armies of marching crusaders for Christ. As we join other Baptists over the world who share the theme, let us pray for the impact of the Holy Spirit's power that can give us the heathen for our possession, and the uttermost parts of the earth for our increase. It can warm the heart of cold Siberia, traverse the Himalayan peaks, subdue Spanish superstition and French infidelity, set Poland and Hungary free, melt the snows of Russian's atheism, trumpet Christ's saving message to China's dense millions, to Japan's Shinto-emperor worshipers, to Africa's black hordes, and to South America's slumbering throngs. Oh for men of God, Spirit-filled, to share the word and bugle the message of salvation to the war-raped people of Vietnam, the troubled Middle East, to India's coral strands, to America's materialistic,

pleasure-mad masses — men who will plant the Rose of Sharon in the desert of the earth, and cause this old sin-scarred, suffering, reeling, hungry, bludgeoned, bloody world, staggering for a suicidal plunge, to catch a gleam of the fairest among ten thousand, to feel the thrill of salvation, to regain its balance and go marching out and on and up for God. Let us share the word that Jesus Christ is not a superstar, but Jesus Christ, the Bright and Morning Star.

Now let us look at ourselves for a moment. Let us as Kentucky Baptists stand tall in these days. God has been exceedingly good to us and we must seek ways to serve Him in larger ways. While we are here let us think through some things and look at some of the ways we operate. If there are better and more effective ways, let us be open minded and not tradition bound. For example, if there might be a more efficient and sensible way of electing our Executive Board members, let us be open in looking at it. Consider that in other areas of our Baptist life, the parent body chooses its own board. Under our present set up, the local association does, and the only choice the Board has is to choose between two nominees. Service is what is needed, not a supposed honor to be conferred. While large representation is ideal, an Executive Board as large as ours may not be as efficient, and the cost of assembling such a large number is enormous. Several state conventions have the Executive Board select the board members through a nominating committee, seeking not only large representation, but more efficiency. Consider also the folly of losing a good man simply because he moves — not out of state, but merely changing locations and leaving one association for another. Under our present system, valuable men go off our Executive Board simply because they move within the state. I have come to the conviction that the men and service and responsible thinking and leadership is what is needed, and not just to represent a certain association. We could do well to think this through and seek improvement. We need also to look closely at areas of real need in our state — how wonderful we had a surplus in our giving this year and could divide it between our schools and Baptist Student Union centers. Is this not missions? Is there a need greater? Our schools must be better supported to survive, and when will we learn that on our large state school campuses there are thousands of Baptists, and we are unable to scratch the surface in ministering through inadequate funds and outdated and small facilities.

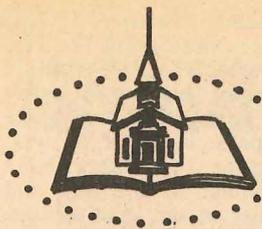
Let us adopt a worthy and challenging budget goal, then do all we can to go over the top again and give an added boost next year to our schools

and Baptist Student Unions. In this day when some are predicting the loss of our Baptist schools as we find it harder and harder in the face of growing government support of our state schools to keep pace, it might be well to remind ourselves that there have been men who stood in the gap and made up the walls in our institutions. I always thrill in reviewing that scene in the history of the Southern Baptist Seminary, in its incipency, located then in Greenville, South Carolina. The struggle was tugging and the load heavy for more men. The day was dark. Four men, Drs. Broadus, Boyce, and two others were together. One of the men said, "we will have to let it die." Another arose and said, "I will agree on one condition, namely that we die first." There the called of the Lord stood. Sometimes you can find blood mixed with the mortar, as sacrifices have been made and lives laid on the line to keep our institutions. Thank God for men who stand in the gap in our denominational life.

In closing let me repeat — the bravest, finest, ablest, most faithful, influential, useful men of the ages have placed themselves in the service of the church and carried on its work. Noah placed himself in the yawning gap at God's beckoning call. Abraham threw himself into the breach and became the friend of God and father of the faithful. Moses, in the jet darkness of Israel's life in Egypt, leaped into the gap and became the emancipator of God's children from captivity. Jeremiah threw himself full length into the gap when sin was rampant, indecency odious, impurity putrid. When the world was damned without God, doomed without hope, and lost without a Saviour, God placed His blessed Son in the gap that separated man from God and Jesus stood in the gap in our place until His head dropped lifeless on His chest and He had paid it all.

God give us men! Courageous men! brave men! good men! righteous, responsive men! faithful men! big-broad visioned men —

Men like Elijah who stood in the gap against the decrees of Ahab; men like Isaiah whose words were hotter than coals of fire; men like Daniel who was more than a match for a king; men like the converted rabbi of Tarsus who blazed highways where paths never ran; men like the tinker at Bedford, whose *Pilgrim's Progress* has blessed the world; men like the shoe cobbler who awakened sleeping churches as his hands pulled the bellcord which inaugurated the modern missionary movement. Men like Judson, Livingston, Yates, Bill Wallace of China — and others who lived, loved, prayed and sacrificed, cried and died for our dear Lord. With such dedicated men to stand in the gap today, it will be the dawning of a new day. Will you be such a man? ■



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By H. C. Chiles

(These Lessons for December 2, 1973)



LIFE AND WORK SERIES

Joy In Witnessing

Luke 15:1-7

While Christ was searching for lost sinners and was striving to save them, publicans and sinners drew near to hear the words of grace which fell from His lips, and they were welcomed cordially by Him. Highly displeased with Christ's attitude toward these sinners, the Pharisees and scribes began to grumble and criticize. Seeking to blight the reputation of the Saviour and to inflame active disfavor against Him, they uttered the bitter invective: "This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them." Their allegation was an unintentional compliment. Christ acknowledged that He did, gloried in the fact, and then spoke this parable.

Christ told about a shepherd who had one hundred sheep, which was an unusually large number for one man to own, and through its own stupidity one of the sheep strayed away. Following the inclination of its own nature, it heedlessly wandered away from the flock and was soon in danger. A lost sheep does not have the propensity or ability to retrace itself and return to the flock and the fold.

When His critics had spoken so contemptuously about Him, referring to Him as "this man," Christ said: "What man of you having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?" Any man, with a trace of manhood in him, would do that. The divine Shepherd would certainly be inferior to the human shepherd if He did not care for the straying, as well as the upright.

In the Scriptures a sheep is a type or symbol of the believer, not the unbeliever. So, this is a parable of God's dealing with the believer. It pictures God's love for the backslider. He is grieved because of his backsliding, but with His grief is mingled an inexpressibly tender and yearning love.

This parable pictures love as the impulse which governs our Lord's activities. Love's activity is seen in the shepherd leaving the ninety-nine safe in the fold and going after the one which is lost and bringing it home.

Luke 15:21-28

The prodigal's freedom to do as he pleased did not prove to be as enjoy-

able and profitable as he had anticipated. In his poverty and degradation this young man portrayed the condition of the sinner who is living in the world without Christ. Heartsick, homesick, friendless, and penniless, he sat down to think. Ere long he came to his senses. He decided that he would turn from his sinful way of life, return to his home and cast himself on the mercy of his father. In this respect he set a good example for every sinner.

The devoted father was anxiously waiting and watching for the prodigal to return. With a love which the boy could not understand, the father saw the boy in the distance, recognized him, ran to him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. Then he led him into the house, called his servants and bade them place a robe upon his back, a ring upon his finger, and shoes on his feet. He also commanded them to kill a fat calf and prepare a great feast for the celebration of the return of the young man.

Upon returning to the house, the elder brother heard the sounds of the

merriment. One can detect the tones of displeasure and suspicion in his inquiry, "What does this mean?" When he was told that his brother had returned home, he was angry and refused to participate in the celebration. He strongly resented the attitude and action of his father because he was possessed of the hideous demon of envy. The elder brother did not see the condition of his brother, the bigness of his father's heart, the compassion of his father's love, or the good fortune of his own position.

The spirit and attitude of the elder brother were very similar to the critics of our Lord. They did not have any love for the publicans and sinners. Consequently, they resented the fact that Christ loved them and expressed His interest in them and concern for them. The publicans, sinners, Pharisees, and scribes were the objects of God's love as expressed and demonstrated by His Son, but the last two groups refused to receive its benefits. Like the elder brother, they were incensed when others received Christ and were saved. □

INTERNATIONAL SERIES

Why The Gospel Of John?

The Life, John 20:30-31

Guided by the Holy Spirit as to what he should write about Christ's earthly life, John made a very careful selection from the multitude of wonderful things which He did during His ministry among men. He incorporated an account of various miracles which Christ performed in order to prove that He was and is the Son of God. His gospel was written for the specific purpose of revealing the deity of Christ. He sought to prove Who Christ was in order that all who read His record might come to put their trust in Him for time and eternity, and thereby become the possessors of eternal life, of which Christ alone is the source. To all who would believe on Christ, John gave the blessed assurance of obtaining the forgiveness of sins, peace of mind, joy of heart, and riches untold.

The Light, John 1:6-10

Christ is the source of all life and every living being is dependent upon Him for the sustenance of life. He, Who is the source of all life, is also the Light. In the incarnation Christ was the light blazing in the darkness, but men would not receive the illumination which He brought. Through the intervening centuries Christ has kept on shining in the midst of the darkness, ignorance, and hostility of sinful men, but happily the darkness has never been able to overcome or extinguish the light. Regardless of whether or not men have received and utilized the light provided by Him, Christ has kept on shining.

John, the remarkable man who was sent from God, never sought to usurp the place of Christ, Who was before him in time and above him in rank and

dignity, or to call attention to himself, but came to bear witness concerning Christ, the Life and the Light, and to seek to influence others to believe on Him as their Saviour.

The Lord, John 1:11-13

Christ "came unto his own, and his own received him not." This verb "came" denotes a definite act — the incarnation. "Unto his own," neuter plural, refers to His own possessions, or things, or land which He created. "And his own received him not." "His own," masculine plural, means His own people. Christ came to redeem and save His own people, but they rejected Him.

While Christ was rejected by the masses of the people, there were individuals who received Him. Those who received Christ were given the privilege and ability to become the children of God. In Christ we place our faith and to us He gives the power to become the children of God. It is only by supernatural power that people enter God's family. Salvation is not earned, but it is received as a gift. As an empty cup receives from the flowing fountain, so we receive Christ into our empty hearts and lives.

Verse 13 corrects three erroneous ideas that are still prevalent, namely, that regeneration comes by heredity — "not by blood," through self-effort — "nor of the will of the flesh," or through the efforts of organized society — "nor of the will of man." Regeneration, or the impartation of the divine nature to a human being, takes place upon the acceptance of Christ as personal Saviour.

The Suppliant, John 17:1-3

Much of the earthly life of Christ was given to prayer and meditation. To Him prayer was not a mere formality, but a vital experience. He prayed in secret and in public. John 17 contains "The Lord's Prayer."

Knowing that the hour had come for Him to accomplish that for which He had come into the world, namely, to die for the sins of men, Christ prayed earnestly for Himself, not selfishly, but to the end that He might do the will of the Father and glorify Him. In that hour, which had been the goal in the heart of God from eternity, and in which He was going to sacrifice His life's blood, Christ stated in His prayer that He had glorified the Father during His sojourn on earth. This He had done by a perfect submission and conformity to His will. He besought the Father to sustain Him as He faced the awesome experience of death on the cross in order that He might provide and present eternal life to all who would believe on Him as their Saviour. □

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'Share Christ Through His Word,' Prof. Urges

The 136th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention revolved around the theme, "Sharing Christ Through His Word." Throughout the convention sessions, interpretations of the theme were presented to the messengers by Peter Rhea Jones, assistant professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville.

The six 15-minute interpretations which Jones gave were acclaimed as inspirational and as a great help in setting the tone of the annual meeting by Henry Huff, second vice president of the convention.

Each brief exchange elaborated on a specific ministry through which Kentucky Baptists could share Christ. Two of the six presentations dealt with sharing Christ confidently through His Word and sharing Christ through human compassion for human hurts.

In the former, Jones attributed the Bible as being the inspired Word of God because of its transformer power and the amazing coherency it displays

at unexpected places. He offered the books of John, Hebrews and Colossians as proof of his thesis. He said of the people who were responsible for the writing and editing the books, "Men they were, but inspired by the Holy Spirit, they spoke the words of God."



Jones

Jones used the parable of the good samaritan as the basis for his interpretation about sharing Christ through human compassions for human hurts. He explained the parable is a "put down of put-on religion."

He said the reactions of the travellers who passed by the man in need

of help typified the three reactions most people display today. The first traveller absolutely refused to become involved in the situation. He didn't stop or even slow down but instead kept along on his path.

The second traveller, Jones said, was the type that slowed down, looked and then decided he didn't want to become involved with the situation. But he was different than the first man because he did at least slow down and appraise the situation before he hurriedly left.

The third journeyer was the samaritan who did stop and help. Jones explained that compassion is something that is done and this parable assumes personal responsibility.

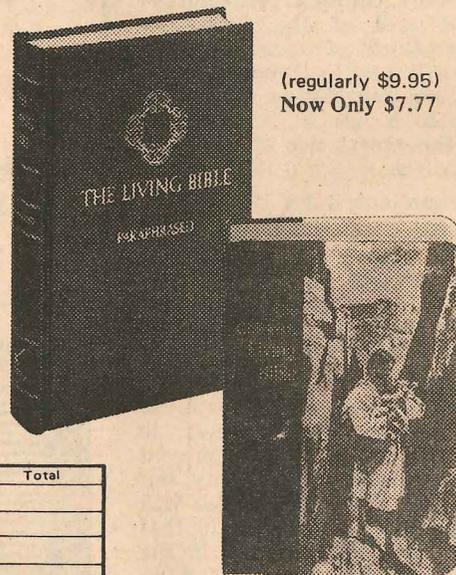
He concluded that compassion therefore requires: personal responsibility, sensitivity to the hurts of others and it is something that a person does. The word compassion, Jones said, is an action verb.

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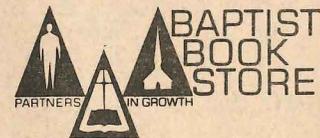


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Dramatic Results In Korean Evangelism

A spirit of evangelism permeating Korea has displayed itself dramatically during recent months.

Southern Baptist missionaries and other evangelical groups are seizing every opportunity to share Christianity with Koreans who seem eager and have made "decisions for Christ" in great numbers. The evangelistic efforts have resulted in thousands of decisions for Christ.

"Decisions registered in a land like Korea vary from expressions of interest in the gospel to profound conversion experiences," explains Winston Crawley, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's overseas division director. "We are grateful for these expressions of Christian belief and interest."

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In the Korean armed forces today, almost 30 percent have professed faith in Christ, as compared to only 10 percent of the general population, according to missionary Don C. Jones.

James L. Wooten, missionary associate, says that 25,000 men in the Korean military heard about Christ in 25 meetings conducted in July by six missionaries and several Korean pastors. About 3,000 decisions were registered.

Missionary H. Cloyes Starnes baptized about 500 Korean soldiers in a river north of Seoul, one of many mass baptisms missionaries have participated in.

Missionaries have been working with base chaplains in the follow-up work with new Christians. One tool used is a Bible correspondence course, enrolling more than 6,500 servicemen as of last December.

Southern Baptist missionaries are encouraged by the spirit of evangelism in Korea. Current signs indicate that the effectiveness of evangelistic efforts in the east Asian country will continue indefinitely. (BP)

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Messengers Adopt Record Budget, Refuse To Alter Current One

A record \$4.8 million budget was adopted by messengers attending the annual session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention held November 13-15 at First Baptist Church, Owensboro.

The vote came after messengers overwhelmingly turned back an attempt to amend the budget with regards to any funds received in excess of the budget goal. George Bausum, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Somerset, attempted to amend the budget to specify that 32 percent of all receipts, no matter the total, would go to mission causes outside Kentucky.

The convention's executive board had recommended that 32 percent of the first \$4.8 million go to causes outside the state. All other funds were to go for capital needs in Kentucky.

Chester Badgett, pastor of First Baptist Church, Campbellsville, and a former president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, spoke against the motion. "What you are doing in this amendment is sealing the death of our colleges," he declared. "All they are asking is a chance for the scraps from our tables and now you would deny them that.

"We are starving our colleges with inadequate support," he continued. "The \$590,000 proposed in this budget for Christian education is the same amount proposed last year. The only chance our schools have is with the overage funds."

Badgett shared with the messengers that Campbellsville College

operated with a \$40,000 deficit last fiscal year. "The \$30,501.76 received last year from budget overage helped erase most of that deficit," he said.

The Campbellsville pastor pointed out that he was the only Kentuckian in recent years to serve as president of the Foreign Mission Board. "I do not believe anyone can question my commitment to missions," he said. "But there are needs at home too and they are mission needs."

When the vote came, only a few scattered voices supported the amendment. The budget as recommended by the executive board, a goal of \$4.8 million,

divided 68 percent for Kentucky causes and 32 percent for all other causes with any budget overage used in the state, was adopted without dissent.

Later, Badgett moved to rescind action by the 1972 convention which specified that 31.5 percent of all budget receipts would go to causes outside Kentucky. "I do not believe last year's convention really knew what it was doing when it adopted this provision," he said. "If we will follow the expressed will of this year's convention and keep any funds over the budget goal of \$4.5 million in Kentucky, our schools will have a better chance to live."

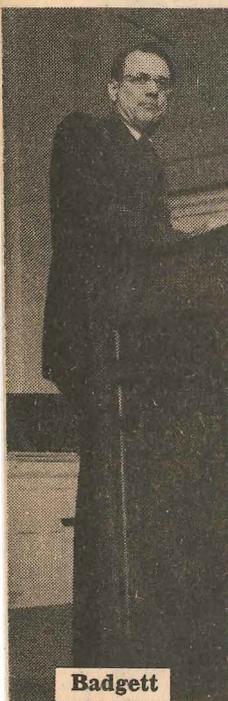
Speaking against Badgett's motion was David Nelson, pastor of the host First Baptist Church. Nelson questioned the wisdom of using all of the budget overage in Kentucky but mainly argued against overruling an action by a previous convention. "This is a step in the wrong direction," he said.

"Last year's convention considered the budget that we are now operating under. That convention made the decision about the use of the funds and this convention should not now change that decision."

Although the Badgett motion received a majority vote 203-167, it failed because a two-thirds vote was needed to rescind the previous action.



Somerset pastor George Bausum offered the only amendment to the proposed budget for 1974-75. He asked that 32% of all gifts no matter the amount go for causes outside Kentucky.



Badgett



GIFTS FROM OWENSBORO — Owensboro mayor Waitman Taylor, Jr., a Presbyterian, presents a key to the city to SBC president Owen Cooper during the Kentucky Baptist Convention's closing session. The mayor also presented keys to the city to the outgoing officers, pictured at rear, and the newly elected officials.