

DEVASTATION! STATION! ION!


WESTERN RECORDER
APRIL 13, 1974

Devastation struck many Baptist churches during the first few days of April when tornado winds touched down in several sections of Kentucky. Because of the importance of these events, this issue contains a thorough report of the tornado damage as compiled by *Western Recorder* staff members.

People And Places

John W. Clark, 2284 Kingsley Drive, Macon, Georgia 31204, reports that he will be visiting in Louisville June 4-21, and will be available for supply preaching. In Louisville his address will be 2035 Sherwood Avenue, telephone number 459-2726. Brother Clark says he is retired but still keeps busy with supply preaching and serving as interim pastor.

James H. Hubbard, formerly of Kentucky, celebrated his 93rd birthday on March 20. He is still active but has failing eyesight.

The Sunday School class to which he belongs in the Wornall Road Baptist Church in Kansas City has expressed profound appreciation for him as a Bible scholar, teacher, pastor and preacher. He is an ardent reader of the *Western Recorder* and periodically corresponds with the editor.

J. C. Bigbee, pastor of Clarkson Baptist Church, resigned on March 24 in order to enter full-time evangelism. Bigbee was a former school teacher and has been a pastor for 12 years in Kentucky and Tennessee. He is a graduate of Western Kentucky and he and his family will make their home at Route 1, Portland, Tennessee.

Harlan Woods, Jr., principal of Oneida Baptist Institute for the past two years has resigned in order to accept the directorship of a career education program under the auspices of the Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative. He will complete the school year at Oneida before moving to Hazard to assume his new duties.

Clinton B. Coots, a well-known Kentucky pastor for many years, died at his home in Ashland on March 28. He died of a heart ailment and pneumonia. Coots was a native of Louisville, a graduate of old Bethel College, the University of Louisville and the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Pastorates served by Coots were Germantown, Dover, Augusta, Elsmere, Leitchfield First Baptist, Unity in Ashland and Second Baptist in Madisonville. Since retirement several years ago he had been pastor of a mission in Ironton, Ohio, and interim pastor of churches in Huntington and Ceredo, West Virginia, and Portsmouth, Ohio.

Coots served several terms on the executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and was also for a number of years the Kentucky representative on the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Boden Coots, one son and one daughter. The memorial services were conducted by his pastor, Ira McMillen, Jr., and interment was in the Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville.

DEVOTIONAL



Jack R. Traugott
Baptist Youth Crusade
President
Greenup Association

"Our Lord Jesus Christ"

Jesus! Isn't the name just wonderful! It just thrills my soul everytime I hear someone mention it! Here is some of the history of our Lord I found, I hope it blesses you as it has me. "Jesus"—There is something about that Name!!

Jesus Christ, truly God and truly man, was born in Bethlehem, a town of Judea some six miles south of Jerusalem. Eight days later He was circumcised in accordance with the Law of Moses and given the name Jesus, meaning Savior.

After the forty days' interval prescribed by the Law, Mary His mother and Joseph went up to the Temple for her purification and to present Jesus to God. While they were there, Simeon, inspired by the Holy Spirit, recognized Jesus as the Christ, that is, the Anointed One of God, the Messiah.

Later, forewarned of Herod's massacre of the children, Mary and Joseph fled with Jesus to Egypt, but they returned after Herod's death and settled in Nazareth. When Jesus was twelve, they traveled to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. While there, Jesus went off on his own to the Temple where Mary and Joseph found Him in a discussion with the Doctors of the Law who were astonished at his wisdom.

Some eighteen years later, Jesus was baptized by John and manifested as the Messiah. Before beginning His public ministry He went into the desert to fast and pray. For the next three years Jesus taught, worked miracles to vindicate His divine authority, and gathered around him faithful followers, twelve of whom He chose and trained specially as His Disciples.

By His death on the cross He accomplished mankind's redemption, and three days later arose from the dead. During the next forty days He visited His followers a number of times and on one of these occasions He told His chosen Twelve to preach His Gospel to all nations. After this, his work on earth completed, He ascended into Heaven. □

Church Chuckles by CARTWRIGHT



"This is to cover what the winds did to my brand new \$5 hairdo!"

IN WAKE OF TORNADO —

Baptists Suffer Varying Degrees Of Damage

Extensive damage resulted to Baptist church property and to Baptist families as scores of tornadoes touched down in almost every area of Kentucky, April 3. Only the western part of the state seems to have been spared from the disaster. Destroyed communications facilities greatly hampered efforts to gather verified reports on destruction or damage of Baptist churches and pastoriums and death or injuries to Baptist families including pastors and staff members.

Exhaustive efforts on the part of the *Western Recorder* staff members, pastors and mission superintendents over the state have resulted in the following information which is likely far from complete.

The most extensive damage to Baptist churches and homes of pastors and staff members seems to have been in Brandenburg, Louisville, Frankfort and Stamping Ground.

Eastern Kentucky

Reports from Baptist officials in the eastern part of the state indicate no severe damage nor injuries. John Ross, mission superintendent of the Greenup Association, said he knew of no damage in the Ashland area.

Robert Jones, who lives in Stanton and is associate mission director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was out of town but his office secretary reported no known damage except a small amount to the Allensville Baptist

Church in Boone's Creek Association which is in the process of constructing a new building.

Mission director Louis Shepherd in Somerset reported no known damage to Baptist church buildings but six known casualties in Pulaski County were members of Baptist congregations. Four were members of Piney Grove No. 2, Nancy, Kentucky, and two belonged to the Cedar Point Church at Ingle, Kentucky.

South Central Kentucky

Tornadoes hit down in Junction City, south of Danville, and in other areas of Boyle, Lincoln and Mercer counties. A house trailer used for the pastorium of South Danville Baptist Church was the only Baptist church related damage reported. Tommy Lynn is the South Danville pastor.

Newspapers report eight deaths in Clinton County and four in Wayne County in southern Kentucky but efforts to reach the Baptist mission superintendent for the area have been unsuccessful. One of the listed casualties in the newspapers is known to have been a member of the Stoney Point Baptist Church in Clinton County. W. R. Bradshaw, who lives in Jamestown and is pastor of Oak Grove in Russell County, was reached and reported no known damage to churches in the area.

Glenn Durham, a *Western Recorder* director and printer in Harlan, Ken-



tucky, reported no known damage in extreme southeastern Kentucky.

Another *Western Recorder* director, Pastor Rollin Burhans of Bowling Green, did not know of any Baptist church damages in the area though Warren and Simpson counties reported three casualties.

The office of George Jones, executive secretary of the Northern Kentucky Association which includes all the Covington-Newport area, also reports no storm damage to any churches of the area.

Observers in the stricken areas report they can hardly believe what they see in destruction and are amazed that more fatalities did not result.

A detailed account of tornado damage to Baptists will be found on the following pages.

Audubon Baptist Suffers Most Damage In L'ville

Audubon Baptist Church, in one of the first areas hit by the April 3 tornado, suffered the most extensive damage of Louisville area churches.

According to a church spokesman, about half of the church's roof was blown away and the sanctuary ceiling was buckled when the wind apparently lifted it from its moorings and dropped it back in place.

Other damage included the destruction of a brick church sign, a door ripped from its hinges, shingles blown away and severe glass breakage.

LaVern Busey, church secretary, Brownie troop leaders and four children were at the church when the tornado struck. The group gathered in a hallway in the church basement and none were harmed.

"We were really lucky," the church secretary said. "I understand that the tornado was still up in the air a little

bit when it went over us. Otherwise it would have really done a lot more damage."

Audubon church members spent most of Wednesday evening covering church pews with tarps to protect them from further damage. The next day members helped a church family whose roof was blown away. By the end of the day a temporary roof was on the home so the family could continue to live there.

Then attention went back to the church building. By week's end new beams were in place with tar paper providing some protection for the buckled roof and the sanctuary below.

Deer Park church also lost a chimney on the education wing of the building and two trees were leveled in the parking lot.

The major damage to Crescent Hill Baptist Church was glass breakage. The stained glass windows in the church's

sanctuary were blown out and minor roof damage resulted from the winds.

Although Broadway Baptist Church missed extensive storm damage, the pastor's home was not so fortunate. The home of Pastor and Mrs. Edwin F. Perry was totally destroyed. Mrs. Perry was hospitalized with injuries suffered when she could not reach the basement before the storm hit.

She told her rescuers that she had been on her way to shelter when the storm hit. When the house started collapsing, she dived under the dining room table. Her family found her in the area which had been the home's den.

She suffered extensive lacerations and a concussion and underwent surgery Friday, April 5.

Mrs. Perry came through the surgery satisfactorily and is now recuperating at home.

WESTERN RECORDER

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

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Is God Saying Something To Us?

Two of the most oft-heard questions following the violent and disastrous tornadoes on April 3 were, "Is God trying to say something to us?" and "Why does a good and loving God let such tragedies happen to good people who love and serve Him and to church buildings dedicated to the teaching and proclamation of the gospel?"

These are the same questions which have been asked one way or another ever since the first human beings experienced tragedy and suffering. The attempts to answer these questions are countless and all the sermons and books preached and written on the problem of suffering overflow the largest library in the world. Some helpful and comforting answers have been given to these questions. The very fact that we still ask them means no completely satisfactory explanations have been found.

The truth is man has not and never will have complete understanding of human suffering and natural calamities. If we knew these answers, our knowledge would be equal to God's which is unthinkable. To the prophet Isaiah this was revealed long before the perfect revelation of God was seen in Jesus Christ.

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8).

In much of the Old Testament man had a simple and rational answer. The good are protected and blessed but the wicked are damned and destroyed. Sodom and Gomorrah are examples. This is the highest understanding many in ancient times could have and many in our day still have such a simplistic answer for human and natural tragedies.

The only thing wrong with such an explanation is that it is just not so. Human experience with tragedies and suffering cannot be reconciled with this explanation. Some in the Old Testament days understood more of God's revelation than such an easy answer. This is what the book of Job is all about and this makes Job along with some of the Old Testament prophets the apex of Old Testament inspiration and revelation.

The sad truth is too many in our own times have not even accepted the teaching of Job on catastrophes and suffering to say nothing of what Jesus taught

about the Heavenly Father's nature. "For He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust." (Matthew 5:45)

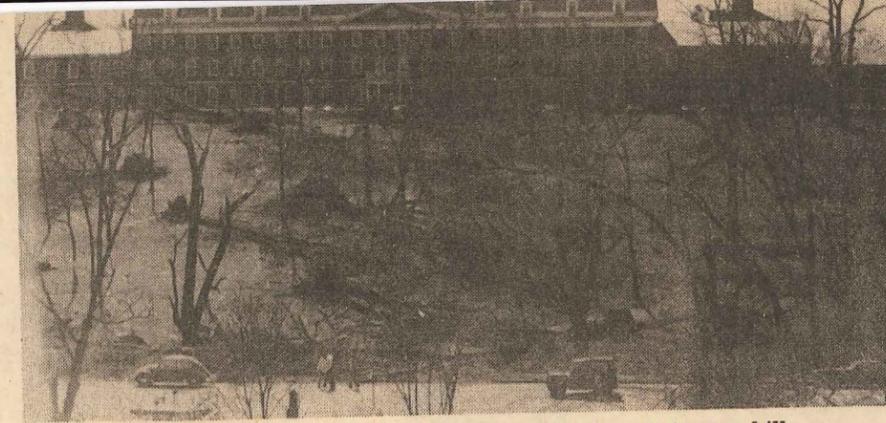
As for tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, etc., there is some natural explanations. Physical laws which were a part of the divine creation are no respecters of persons or communities or buildings when certain conditions of temperature, atmospheric pressure and other weather factors exist, a tornado or flood or drought occurs. All in the path of such weather are subject to its effects. This helps explain why a church is destroyed and a liquor store two blocks away is untouched. In the tornadoes on April 3 we have pictures in this issue of three Baptist churches completely demolished. Only one of many distilleries in the areas of the tornadoes is reported damaged. What does this say?

In the last few weeks I saw a dear friend and one of the best men I ever knew die in the height of his service to the Lord. Weeks before his last breath he knew that there was no human hope for him to live yet his last words were expressions of faith. His agony had been intensified by some well meaning but ill informed friends who assured all illnesses were of the devil and anyone with enough faith could be healed. They forgot to say if the Lord wills.

Space is running out as it always does when one tries to write about the problems of evil and suffering. As to an answer to the original question of course God was saying something to us in the April 3 tornadoes if we have ears to hear. But he was speaking to those untouched by the violent twisters as well as to those who lost all their earthly possessions.

Our response to calamities and suffering should not be rebellion toward God nor resignation to fate but affirmation of faith. We are not just to endure suffering but we are to trust in God to turn it into a victorious experience. This was the experience of Jesus on the cross and can be for every child of God.

God is love but there is a mystery to that love that defies human understanding. Our only victorious response is the kind of faith which let Job say though he slay me yet will I trust in Him and let Paul affirm that God works all things for good for those who love Him.



Southern Seminary scene from across Birchwood Avenue hill.

Tornadoes Damage Southern Seminary

Southern Seminary in Louisville escaped a direct hit from the tornado that ravaged Louisville Wednesday, April 3, but the seminary did suffer damage ranging into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

In addition several faculty members sustained extensive damage to their homes and several seminary student families were dislocated.

While no buildings were directly destroyed, several were damaged. Cupolas on several buildings were blown away and most of the buildings on the Grinstead Drive side of the campus suffered roof damage.

A tree fell into Mullins Hall cracking the third story at one point and much of the slate roof was blown away. A tree also fell across the brick fence that runs along the front of the Mullins Hall

complex.

The columns at the front of Fuller Hall were blown away along with much of the complex's roof.

Foster Hall, a faculty and staff apartment building, also suffered roof damage and a continuing water leakage problem has forced the evacuation of some residents.

The library building also sustained roof damage.

However, seminary officials emphasized that Southern Seminary was fully insured and that all buildings would be repaired without the expenditure of denominational funds.

What can not be replaced are the trees. Wesley M. Pattillo, director of development, estimated that about 100 trees on the seminary campus were leveled by the tornado. Replacing these

will range between \$500-\$2,000 each, he said.

Three faculty members have been forced from their homes. Marvin Tate, associate professor of Old Testament, is now living in Seminary Village. His home was shifted from its foundation and the back wall blown away. It is considered uninhabitable. Also forced from their homes were Allen Graves and Hugh Peterson. Both lost walls and suffered other damage. No decision has been made about whether the homes can be rebuilt.

Several faculty and staff members suffered lesser damage. These included Peter Rhea Jones, Harold Songer, Frank Stagg, Badgett Dillard, Clyde Francisco, Findley Edge, Pat Pattillo, Norman Shands, Dale Moody, Louis Drummond, Paul Debusmen and David Mueller.

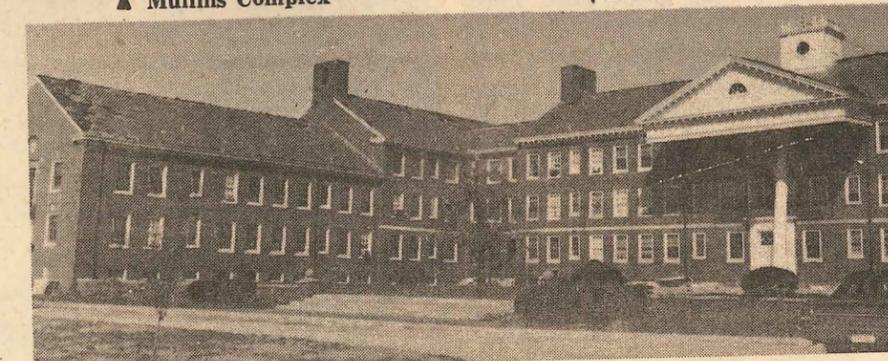
Between 20-25 seminary student families were displaced by the tornado. Most of these received temporary shelter in seminary facilities.

Dean of students Elaine Dickson said reports were not complete but current information indicated at least six students families suffered total losses in the storm.

As of Monday, April 8, most of the Seminary remained without electricity and heat. Food for the 1,000 plus students has been provided by local Baptist churches and area businesses such as Arby's, a national beef sandwich franchise.



▲ Mullins Complex



▼ Fuller Hall

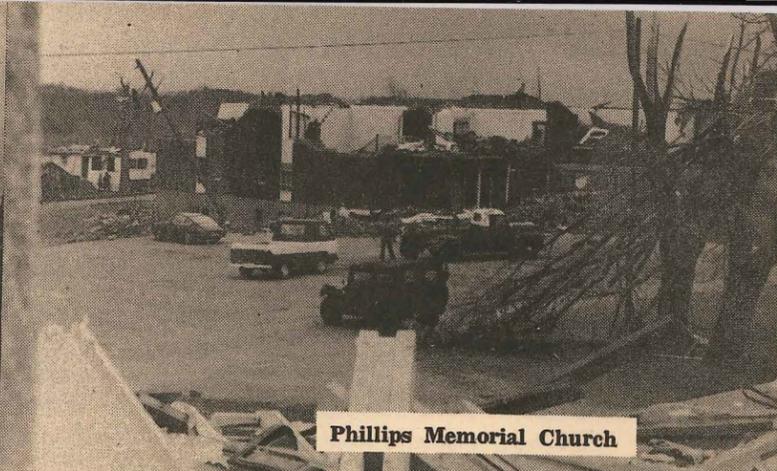


Remains of Marvin Tate's home.

APRIL 13, 1974



Church Parsonage



Phillips Memorial Church

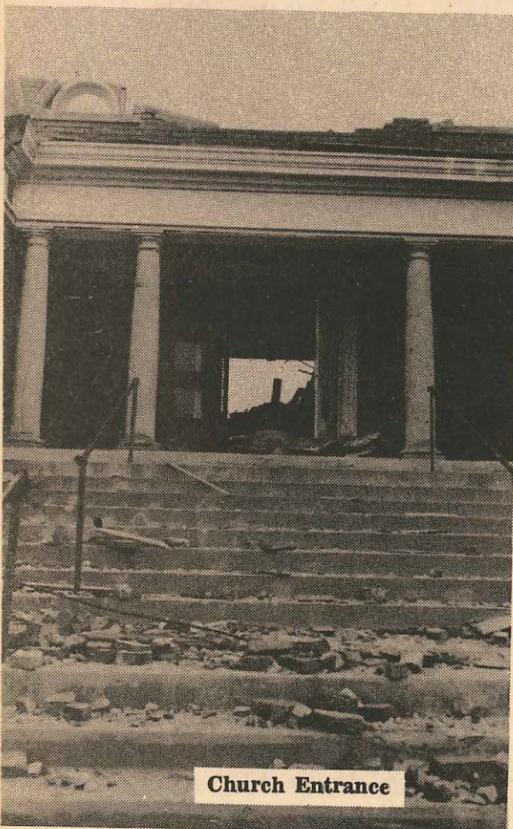
A Phone Call, A Wind Change Billy Marcum's Plans

As they topped the first hill, all appeared normally. But at the top of the second Betty screamed in amazement, "Billy, the church is gone."

Before that reality sunk in, a woman was yelling, "Brother Marcum, Brother Marcum, take me to my children. They are alone at home and they may be dead."

In seconds a second woman came running, asking to be taken home so she could check on her family.

By now the Marcums knew that not only was their church gone but so was their home, their beautiful three year old home so recently paid off.



Church Entrance

Story and Photos
by Bob Terry
Associate Editor

But circumstances did not permit them time to ponder their own losses. As soon as they reached the disaster area the Marcums had to abandon their car. Debris made passage impossible. Billy took one street and Betty another. Door to door they went checking on church members and neighbors.

Amidst the confusion, Betty's voice could be heard calling to people trapped in basements and cellars. Some who had relatives trapped by wreckage, received comfort from the pastor's wife until help arrived.

On the adjoining street, Billy was helping dig out trapped residents.

The clock ticked toward 4:00 p.m. when Billy Marcum answered the telephone in the kitchen of his Brandenburg parsonage. His wife Betty was calling from the sporting goods store where she had been working for the past three hours. She was anxious for her husband to pick her up so they could begin packing for a trip to Bowling Green to attend the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting.

Billy, pastor of Phillips Memorial Baptist Church, had just finished mowing the grass and was fixing to take a shower and clean up. But instead he got in the car and made the four minute journey to pick up his wife.

At the sporting goods store, Betty was restless. The clouds in the southwest were rapidly approaching and the early afternoon sun had given way to almost blackness. The Monday before, a small tornado touched down in the community leaving everyone a little bit leary of the weather's tricks.

When the winds picked up, the people in the store huddled in a back room for safety and Betty Marcum wondered what was taking her husband so long to get there.

The winds died, the sky lightened and Billy was standing at the front

door. No tornado this time, the group thought. Hurriedly they loaded into the car and headed back to the parsonage to pack for the Thursday trip and to make final preparations for prayer meeting that night.

When stretchers were not available, Billy and the other rescuers improvised. Doors became beds for casualties. Others, the rescuers could pick up and carry to first aid stations that sprung up within minutes of the storms passing.

As dusk neared, Billy and Betty Marcum's paths crossed and they decided to stay together rather than be



Marcums examine piano.

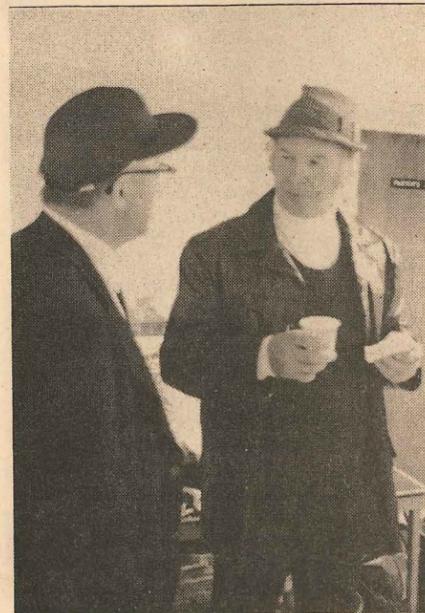
separated by the confusion. The Army was arriving now. There were more ambulances and first aid equipment. Helicopters were rushing in supplies to ease the pain of the injured.

Exhaustedly the couple trudged back toward their own home, now in ruin. They looked around the yard for some clothes they might salvage and surveyed the destruction. In the yard was a new black knit suitcoat Billy bought a few weeks before. Two blocks away wrapped around a tree and covered with mud, he found the pants. He selected a couple of ties from a hanger full of muddied neck wear that he thought might be salvagable and a few other odds and ends.

Mrs. Marcum picked up a few of her things and also found a new pair of red slacks with the tags still on them but they were not hers.

Before they left for Irvington to spend the night with their daughter and son-in-law, Billy stopped to look at the bathroom where he had planned to take a bath. The reality dawned that except for Betty's phone call, he would have been seriously injured or even killed.

The next morning a few church members helped the Marcums move what few possessions they had left down to the house's basement. Then Billy began again to check on the welfare of his church members, neighbors and friends. Some were in the hospital at Fort Knox or Elizabethtown. Some were unaccounted for and their relatives were anxious and uneasy. Some were dead. Numbness seemed to grip everyone. But the numbness did not prevent action.



Charles Blank, right, was one of many Baptist pastors who worked in rescue and relief effort in devastated areas. Blank is pastor of Ekron Baptist Church in Salem Association. He also works for the department of human resources.



Billy and Betty Marcum, standing left center, watch as Phillips Memorial Baptist Church members join other Brandenburg residents to expedite rescue and relief effort. From left, they are: Mrs. Earl Watts (background); Mrs. Roy Neajus; and Mrs. Carolyn Meuth.

In addition to Army rescue efforts, local people pitched in to search for missing residents and to clear debris from the roads so rescue vehicles could get by. In short they did everything that needed doing.

Under Red Cross direction, local church people helped man the registration center for the tornado victims. Others helped administer first aid or distribute the food that began to arrive from other communities.

On Friday, when we were allowed

in for the first time, everyone in town seemed involved in helping clean up the destruction or caring for the storm's victims.

In a moment of reflection, the Phillips Memorial pastor said, "We paid off the parsonage just a few months ago and had plans to renovate the sanctuary. Now I don't know exactly what we will do."

"I guess we will just take them one step at a time, but we will get them done," he said resolutely.



DISASTER HEADQUARTERS — Campbellsburg Baptist Church became the central disaster headquarters for the Campbellsburg community after the tornado damaged the town's business district and several area homes on April 1. Church members aided the Red Cross in staffing the center as it provided food, shelter and clothing for storm victims. There are conflicting reports at this time as to the needs of Campbellsburg residents. Red Cross officials state that all needs have been met and they do not need additional supplies. Jimmy Ray Smith, pastor of Campbellsburg Baptist Church, reports that canned foods and personal items are still needed for local residents.

Seminarians Provide Assistance To Victims

By Larry High

Students at Southern Seminary in Louisville were quick to respond to the need for help after the tornado that swept through the area Wednesday, April 3, left the Crescent Hill community severely damaged.

Seminarians organized disaster centers on campus three hours before any formal relief aid was begun by various county, state and national agencies including the Red Cross.

Moments after the storm had cleared the area, students, realizing that personal injury on the campus was slight, poured down the hill behind the Mullins complex as they launched their initial attack on the Grinstead Drive area.

One elderly resident, his home in shambles, said he was still standing dazed when a seminary student began to go through his home looking for injured persons.

Several people needing medical assistance were carried up the long hill to the on-campus clinic which was staffed by seminary student nurses.

Only one hour after the storm had ravaged the area, seminary students met to coordinate and plan an organized method of aiding the victims. The lobby in Mullins was set up as an impromptu command post where volunteers would be told where to go in the Crescent Hill area to assist someone.

The Woman's Missionary Union hall, undamaged by the storm, was opened and manned by students for disaster victims needing food, shelter, clothing and help in moving from their damaged homes to the WMU hall.



Sorting through piles of salvagable items became normal procedure for students who rushed to aid tornado victims along Grinstead Drive behind the seminary.

Students worked long into the night Wednesday moving families to the campus and helping residents who chose to stay in their homes prepare for night.

Thursday morning students checked at the switchboard in Mullins to volunteer their help. They were organized into groups and given assignments of where they could be of assistance in the area. Students, acting as scouts, went through the community asking residents what help they needed and if they were in need of food, medical supplies, clothing or shelter. The scouts then reported back to the switchboard where they listed what families needed assistance in some form or another.

Students worked throughout the day and into the night at several areas in the community. Up to 300 students were giving assistance in the Crescent Hill area at this time. Civil defense officials said seminary students were the backbone of relief efforts.

Friday morning again saw students back in the community. They were patching holes in walls and roofs of damaged homes. Rolls and rolls of plastic was stretched across gaping holes where walls once stood.

Chain saws buzzed as trees were cleared from yards, off cars and away from homes.

Saturday and Sunday students began to haul the rubble out of the area to landfills. Twenty-five foot trucks were loaned to the seminary students by

Ryder Truck Rental for use in hauling fallen trees and damaged materials to the landfills. The trucks were also utilized to move families from the area to new residences.

Students have been so busy working in the devastated area one would hardly guess that many themselves suffered property damage. Scores of student cars were severely damaged, some beyond repair, when the storm moved through the area.

Realizing all the work that must be done in the area students have gone through the same routine since the storm. They check at the switchboard for assignments and then move out into the community doing whatever they can to be of assistance.

One student said he thought this was the first time many of the community residents knew there was a Baptist seminary on the other side of the hill.



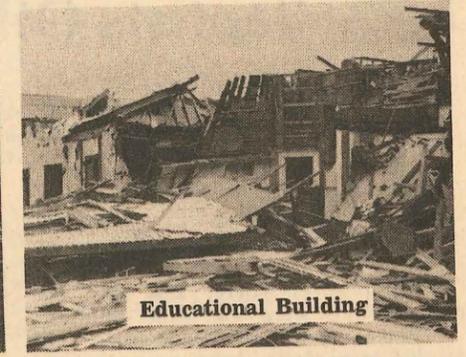
This home, on Grinstead Drive, directly behind the seminary, was one of many in the area left inhabitable by the tornado. Seminary students helped move many families to locations either on the campus or in other sections of town.

Evergreen Church Building & Parsonage Destroyed

The sanctuary and educational building of Evergreen Baptist Church, near Frankfort, was leveled by a tornado that struck the area Wednesday, April 3. Witnesses reported the storm hit the church at approximately 5:50 while cutting a mile wide swath through the community.



Parsonage



Educational Building



Evergreen Baptist Church was severely damaged by the tornado. Few walls were left standing as church members began to sift through the rubble for salvagable items.



Sanctuary

The parsonage of Yancey Sanders, less than one-quarter mile from the church, was also demolished. Along with its roof and carport the back section of the home was blown away. He and his family were moved to another location within the area soon after the storm.

The home of Larry Smith, minister of education, was also severely damaged.

Two church members, living near the church building, were killed during the storm as it ripped through their homes.

Uninjured members began the long task of clearing the present church site almost as soon as the storm had cleared. They canvassed what remained of the recently built \$110,000 sanctuary for undamaged hymnals, doors and Sunday School materials. Church members said the salvaged materials would be used in a new church building.

Behind the rubble of roofs, walls, windows and brick three church buses were destroyed. One was carried almost 150 feet from its original parking site before being dumped by the fierce wind.

Church members said they hoped to begin rebuilding as soon as the present site was cleared.



NO SERIOUS DAMAGE — Providence Baptist Church near Frankfort escaped serious damage Wednesday, April 3. The tornado blew out most of the columns on the front porch and did minor damage to the building's roof. The parsonage was also relatively untouched although trees were toppled all around it.

Storm Brings Havoc To McQuarys, Local Baptists Offer Help

Kathrine McQuary sat at the piano giving lessons to three pupils when the walls of her Brandenburg home began to shake.

Instinctively she pushed the three children down the nearby basement steps and then grabbed a door and held on. When the wind passed, the top of her home was gone. Walls were cracked. Glass was everywhere. But she was alive and so were the three children.

William McQuary, meanwhile, was driving back from a Bardstown meeting. He noticed the dark clouds in the

west but thought little about them. It was not until he reached Brandenburg, about 30 minutes after the storm passed, that he realized the horror that struck the Ohio River town.

His wife was alive but his home was gone and so was his business.

A photographer by trade, McQuary operated out of the basement of his house. The storm had ruined much of his equipment and many portraits and prints were damaged beyond repair. A home the McQuarys rented to a neighbor was gone. The lady who rented the home was dead, killed in a downtown building.

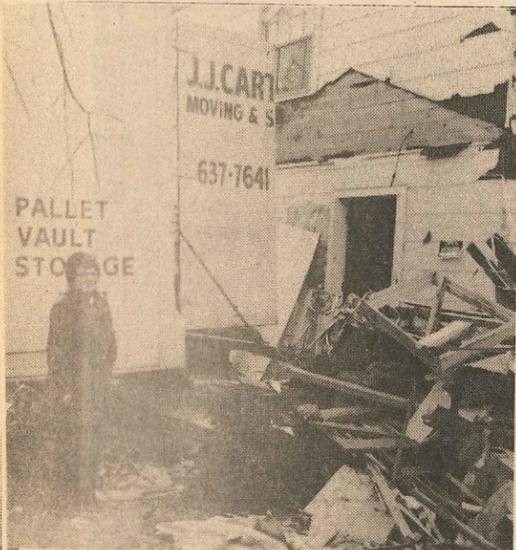
McQuary has been a member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention executive board for the past three years. As a member of the KBC Historical Society, he has been instrumental in providing the portraits of former executive secretaries that hang in the reception area of the state Baptist Building.

Mrs. McQuary is the association music director for Salem Baptist Association.

The family is just one of hundreds that suffered in the April 3 tornado. But the family was also more fortunate than many.

By Friday, a moving van came to help move the few items salvagable. And Baptist people came to help. Rock Haven Baptist Church pastor Ralph Shepperson and a church deacon and his family, helped the family sift through the debris and load up what could be saved.

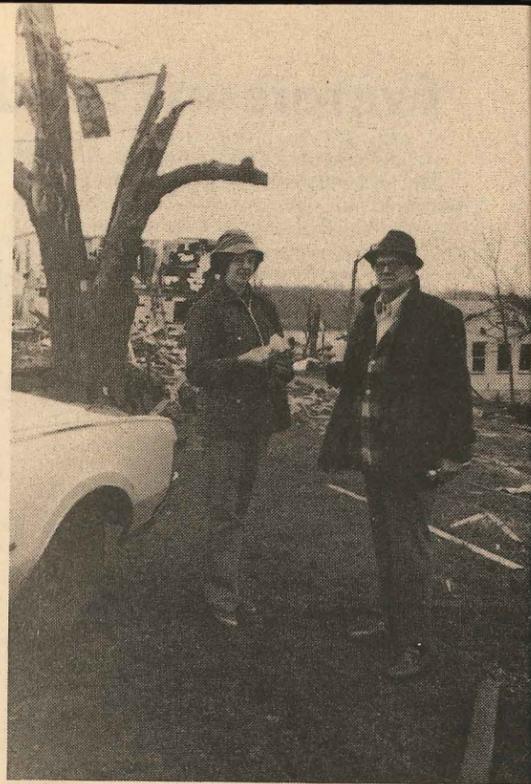
Beside the front door hung a sign reading "Open House", an ironic note for a home with walls and roof missing. "We have to keep laughing," a worker remarked, "otherwise we might cry."



Mrs. McQuary stands beside a moving van and surveys the damage to her home as well as the debris from an adjacent dwelling. She survived the storm without injury.



A family of volunteers helps the McQuarys pack up and move out.



William McQuary drinks a cup of coffee with a relative from Owensboro who came to offer the family aid.



Rock Haven Baptist Church pastor Ralph Shepperson spent several days helping Brandenburg residents.

April 3 - Not A Typical Day At Seminary

By Larry High

The day began like any other Wednesday at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville. Students scurried to and from classes burdened under the usual heavy loads of textbooks. In a few hours the day's events would become etched on their minds for years to come.

Most seminarians had completed their Wednesday schedule of classes when word spread of tornado warnings for the area. Perhaps it was their rigorous extracurricula schedules or the normalcy of hearing severe weather warnings this time of year that prevented the students from heeding the impending danger. Life went on as usual in the Mullins Dormitory complex.

As the afternoon wore on and the skies darkened several of the more alert pupils took note of the potential disaster and sprinted through the halls urging others to take caution. The atmosphere was still of "it couldn't happen here."

At 4:30 the sky became strangely dark, almost as if nature had lost its sense of timing and ushered in night too early. Then the impossible became real. While casually gazing across the back of the campus, down the sloping hill behind Mullins and onto Grinstead Drive another student and I saw the imminent danger coming.

Ominous black clouds, almost at roof top level, were churning, rolling and moving as we had never seen before. There it was. All the pictures of what it was supposed to look like became vivid as the funnel began to rip trees and homes apart like a child knocking down building blocks.

Quickly I dashed across the hall to my room to close the partially open window. "Hey, don't do that," the cry came, "the glass will break under the pressure. Leave it open."

The clanging of the fire alarm system began to sound its eerie warning as curious students, oblivious to the situation, came from their rooms to see what the commotion was about. "Get down to the basement. It's headed this way."

Like schoolboys we fled down the two flights of stairs, skipping two or three with every bound. The dungeon-like basement was already filled with frightened students crouching beside the concrete walls. I slipped, unnoticed, into an empty spot and assumed the kneeling position. Head tucked between our legs we could hear the howling wind. Through an open window we sneaked peeks. Debris filled the area as if a winter snow storm were moving across the campus. Not a word was spoken during what seemed to be fif-

teen minutes but in actuality was only one or two.

The small room was filled with a sense of prayer. One got the feeling that seminarians were praying as never before.

As quickly as it had appeared over the horizon only minutes earlier, it was gone. Cautiously we stood up not knowing whether we should wait for some kind of all clear signal. The suspense became too much. I ran up the stairs, almost as fast as I had come down them minutes before, and swung open the heavy white doors.

Could this be the same beautiful community I had come to love or did the wind transplant us to a horrendous war devastated area? My first glimpse was of leveled homes, toppled century-trees and crunched cars. Could there be anyone in those once stately homes? Surely they must be dead.

I returned to the back of Mullins complex gaping at the once beautiful community. It was obvious it had suffered far more damage than the seminary. What were trees and roof tops compared to the destruction along Grinstead Drive?

Elaine Dickson, dean of student affairs, was feverishly trying to find someone with a car to transport some seminary students with minor injuries to a hospital. Again and again the reply came, "I can't drive my car." Students by the score had lost their cars as they fell victim to fallen trees.

The word began to spread that a meeting would be held in the Mullins lobby to discuss and coordinate rescue and clean-up operations.

Students quickly jammed into the small room anxiously awaiting instructions. Badgett Dillard, vice president for business affairs, picked his way through the crowd and managed to reach the stairway. Standing in full view of the would-be volunteers he called the students back to reality. Commenting on the apparent lack of serious injury and damage to the seminary family he called for a time of thanksgiving in prayer. After a period of silent hushed prayer George Beasley-Murray, professor of New Testament, led in a prayer of gratitude. He then told students that classes would be canceled so they could help the community around the seminary.

Robert Rainwater, a seminary student from Louisiana, began to organize the students. We should divide into two groups, one going into the Grinstead Drive area to help there and the re-

mainder to stay on campus and begin to clear the fallen trees that were blocking the roads. Kenneth Herren, director of the physical plant, had already surveyed the situation and wanted the campus roads open in case of fire or other emergency.

Like soldiers going into battle students split up into two groups and began their respective tasks. As night fell and seminary roads, for the most part, were clear more students went into the devastated area behind the campus to help.

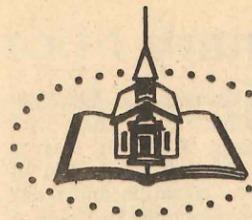
The announcement came that the Woman's Missionary Union hall on campus would be open to provide shelter, first aid and food for community residents in need. Students worked into the late night helping families pack their belongings and evacuate to the WMU hall.

The day was nearing an end. It was now well into the early morning hours as the students began to return to their rooms to sleep for a few hours until daybreak. Then it would be back into the community to begin cleaning up.

As students returned to their rooms countless stories were told of rescues from flattened homes and cars. The initial shock and fear were over as tired students looked forward to the days ahead of rebuilding a community near death.



Student cars were often victims to falling trees as tornado winds hit Southern Seminary in Louisville. Larry High, Western Recorder Intern, inspects damage to a student from Maryland's car.



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By H. C. Chiles

(These Lessons for April 21, 1974)



LIFE AND WORK SERIES

Created Male and Female

Genesis 1:26-27, 31

The Trinity consulted, agreed, and decided to make man. The creation of man was the result of God's sovereign decision (verse 26), and by God's direct and immediate act (verse 27). God purposed that man should have dominion over "every living thing" upon the earth. "God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Since God created man in His own image, there is an unspeakable dignity attached to him. What does it mean when the Bible says that God created man in His own image? In no sense of the word does it mean that God is a corporal being, as man is. The Scriptures plainly teach that God is Spirit (John 4:24). So, this image was not material or physical, but rather a likeness of personality. Just as God knows, feels, and wills, so man, made in His image, knows, feels, and wills. No one should set himself against the will and purpose of God.

Genesis 2:18-25

Remember that when God formed Adam from the dust of the ground He breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and he became a living soul. Life came down from God and there is no other plausible explanation for its existence.

Solitude was not good for Adam. He needed companionship. He needed someone to share his joys and purposes, reciprocate his feelings, and assist him in his labors and enterprises. Therefore, God proceeded to create "an help meet for him." He did so by putting Adam to sleep, thereby preventing him from seeing His miraculous act, taking one of his ribs from his side and making Eve and presenting her to him for his wife or helpmate.

After God created Adam and Eve, He gave to them the ability to propagate life, but not to create it. When husband and wife are united in marriage, joys are multiplied, cares are divided, burdens are subtracted, and much happiness is added. Through the union of a man and his wife, God ordained a way whereby life should be propagated. If husband and wife are blessed with children, they are obli-

gated to care for them, to train them, and to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Matthew 19:10-12

Having strongly affirmed the sacredness of the marriage relationship, and having forbade divorce except in the case of fornication, His disciples were shocked and astonished by His high ideal or standard. They concluded that His strictness and high standard were too much for their generation. They went so far as to suggest that, since He had declared that fornication was the only cause for dissolving a marriage, it would be better not to marry at all. If marriage is indissoluble, they said, it would be better not to get married. Christ reminded them that their declaration that it is not expedient to marry would not be acceptable to everybody. When He said, "Not all men can receive this saying," He was referring to their statement, and not His. Christ frankly asserted that God never intended for all to live in celibacy. Christ had a very high regard for mar-

riage. At the same time, He acknowledged that there are three classes who can observe the celibate life: those who are born "eunuchs" and are therefore incapable of the marriage relationship, those who have been made eunuchs by wicked men, and those who voluntarily forego marriage in order to serve the Lord with undivided interests. Christ did not allow His disciples to condemn those who chose celibacy in order to advance the cause of Christ, but He would not allow His disciples to condemn those who did not live the celibate life. The one who has the capacity for celibacy is forbidden to look with disdain upon the one who prefers to marry. Likewise, the person who chooses to marry is forbidden to look down on the one who prefers not to marry. God's blessings are available to each individual who serves the Lord faithfully in his role, whether he be single or married. Marriage is an optional matter. If one decides to marry, he should not do so hurriedly and with the idea that he can break the marriage relationship any time he pleases. ■

INTERNATIONAL SERIES

Spirit Transcends Traditions

The Controversy, Acts 15:1-2a

Where the gospel has been preached either men have proposed a substitute for it or they have sought to change it. To Antioch, where Paul and Barnabas had preached salvation by grace through faith in Christ, certain teachers came from Judea and started a controversy. They bluntly denied the sufficiency of faith in Christ for salvation. Very emphatically they declared that male Gentile believers in Christ could not be saved unless they observed the Mosaic law by submitting to circumcision. In their contention that grace must be supplemented by works, they earnestly and boldly taught error as if it were truth. And their attempt to add circumcision to the finished work of Christ brought great confusion and strong contention. Their agitation caused a great controversy over the

question, Can Christ save or does salvation come through Christ plus something else? And this controversy has never ended, and likely never will.

Paul and Barnabas refuted the false teachings of these unnamed teachers. The thing that aroused the apostles was not the mere observance of the rite of circumcision itself, but their attempt to make it a condition of salvation. After disputing with them for some time, they realized that these men could not be persuaded to give up the pernicious and erroneous teaching they were propagating.

The Conference, Acts 15:2b-12

It was decided that the wise thing to do was to go to Jerusalem and consult with the apostles and elders about this important matter. They wanted this question settled once for all, for the

sake of the Christian movement. The church at Antioch selected Paul, Barnabas, and Titus (Galatians 2:1), and perhaps others, for this mission, and they made the journey.

Upon their arrival in Jerusalem, the group received a hearty welcome from the church, to whom they gave a glowing report of the great things which God had enabled them to accomplish among the Gentiles. Their report of "all things that God had done with them" proved conclusively that the Lord had been with them, blessing their labors, and forming among the Gentiles a people for His name.

It seems that the congregational meeting was adjourned, and that the apostles, elders, and leaders met in a conference to discuss the problem in the hope of reaching an agreement. When the conference was convened formally, the problem at Antioch was presented with the hope of obtaining a ruling on the question of whether salvation was all of grace, or partly of grace and partly of works. After many had expressed their opinions, Peter delivered an extended discourse in which he took the side of Paul and Barnabas, as they described the great things which God had achieved among the Gentiles through them.

Peter's address to the council consisted of a statement of facts and an appeal. The salvation of the Gentiles had not been conditioned on their submission to circumcision or any other ceremonial rite. Therefore, he contended that they did not have any right to require of the Gentile converts what the Holy Spirit did not require. He reminded his listeners that these Gentile Christians had received the Holy Spirit when they had exercised faith in Christ and their hearts had been cleansed.

In his appeal to the Jews he said in effect: "We Jews were not saved by circumcision, so why should we impose this rite upon the Gentiles as a condition of salvation. These were saved by grace through faith in Christ, and we Jews cannot be saved in any other way." Since both the Jews and Gentiles were saved by grace through faith in Christ, and not by works, there was no justification for the Jews attempting to require the Gentiles to be circumcised. Peter concluded his testimony and appeal by saying, "We believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they" (verse 11). Thus he made it clear that none are saved by grace through faith plus works. Peter's masterful statement dealt the critics a severe blow and brought silence within the multitude. The verdict of the council was that it was not necessary to keep the Mosaic law in order to be saved. Both Jews and Gentiles are saved by grace and not by works. ■

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BROADWAY BAPTIST CHURCH —

A Military Base Or A Church

By Chris Evans

The site of Louisville's Broadway Baptist Church looks more like that of a military base than a religious institution. Helicopters, police and military vehicles are interspersed with unrolled sleeping bags on the perimeter of the parking lot. Some reservists and Air National Guardsmen are asleep in a few of the bags.

The center of the parking lot is clear, with the exception of three mobile units, from the Jefferson County Police, U.S. Air National Guard and the Salvation Army, respectively. About ten reservists who are playing softball on the church lawn are the only non-serious inhabitants of the little community.

Broadway, located in the center of the April 3 tornado path, opened its doors about two hours after the disaster struck. For two days, the church was one of the major impromptu relief centers in the county. Civil Defense authorities later set aside the grounds and buildings as a place for county police and military personnel to eat and sleep when off duty.

George Weissling, a Salvation Army Volunteer, heads up the food preparation and distribution center, located in the church basement. He, along with his 17 year old son Larry, have been working the 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. shift.

"Our main responsibility is to feed the Jefferson County Police and the Air National Guard Units working in the area, and referring volunteers to areas where help is needed," Weissling said. "Church members and neighborhood people have been extremely cooperative by bringing in food and offering their time... I can honestly say we don't need anything in the way of food right now."

While Weissling was talking, a homeless family walked up and asked where they might find food. He pointed to the food line and to the kitchen area, where large quantities of donated food were stored. The family strolled to the food line, where they found sandwiches, donuts and soft drinks being served by two teenage girls.

Another man came in and asked where he might find some assistance in moving some large trees from his driveway. Weissling walked over to some off-duty reservists eating at a table and asked if they could help. They complied, and left with the man.

"I can't say enough about these military people," Weissling said. "They get back from working all night and have orders to get some sleep, but they come up and ask what they can do to help."

Outside there is a large stack of donated roof repair materials, including

plastic, aluminum, hammers, nails and some paneling.

Bob Weis, a member of the Louisville and Jefferson County Planning Commission, was in charge of collection and distribution of the materials.

Weis said much of the material was donated by lumberyards, but that the majority of it came from individuals.

"A lot of the church people brought in pieces of plywood, paneling and tar paper," Weis said. "Some folks brought little jars of nails and that sort of thing, and it all helped... It's slowed down a lot, so I guess the people in the damaged homes have what they need to patch things up."

The church, being centrally located in the wind-ravaged area, had about 35 families directly hit, according to Mrs. Edwin Binford, church secretary.

"Some of these homes were only slightly damaged, but others, like our pastor's, were severely damaged or destroyed," Mrs. Binford added.

County Police, Civil Defense and the military units working in the area were uncertain as to how long the relief center at Broadway Baptist Church will remain open.

"They (all the helping groups) are welcome to stay as long as they need to," said Mrs. Binford. "It will definitely take some time to rebuild this part of town."

Mt. Carmel, Nelson Association, Ruined

Mt. Carmel Baptist Church in Nelson Association was declared a total loss after suffering tornado damage. Recently the congregation had constructed an educational wing and added a second floor to the complex. But the high winds knocked the structure off its foundation and damaged walls and roof.

The building also suffered severe water damage when the high winds picked up all of the water out of a nearby pond and dumped it on the church building.

Insurance adjusters called the building a total loss.

Tornado

Gifts



FRANKLIN OWEN

Executive Secretary, Kentucky Baptist Convention

The terrible tornado leaves many of us wanting to be helpful but not knowing how. Some of our own Kentucky Baptist Building people are hard hit. Several churches and pastoriums of our knowledge are destroyed. All of us can, and must, be friends in need to these in our immediate communities, but how may we best reach out to those beyond us?

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is not a direct charity agency, nor does it maintain a disaster fund or readiness. We do operate four hospitals, with some funds of this kind. There are agencies for direct disaster relief, and these are due our individual support. Even so, we who are your employees want to help open another door for all of us to respond to tornado sufferers.

I am taking the liberty of announcing our readiness to receive gifts for tornado victim situations. For best results, send it during April before our May executive board meeting.

We cannot say at this moment just how this money will be disbursed but we promise to give account to Kentucky Baptists at a later date.

We simply want to give you a chance to send funds to a common treasury whose disbursement will take place from this office in light of the then known needs under the direction of the Kentucky Baptist Convention executive board. Possibly a goodly portion of these gifts might be used to currently increase our ever active Loans and Grants Fund, which gives priority to emergency situations.

Some of our local associations may have already started something like this. (I'm aware of Long Run Association.) This is not to compete; such closer to home actions are even more appropriate.

There will be many longer term needs to be met and much suffering, long after the initial emotional appeal passes. We have staff members studying and communicating, and I'm sure your executive board will be glad to give its wisdom of direction for whatever you send to:

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Frank Owen

Stamping Ground Church Destroyed

The small historic village of Stamping Ground in Scott County a few miles northwest of Georgetown was almost completely leveled by the April 3 tornado. Both churches in the village, the Christian and the Baptist, were destroyed along with the bank and other buildings. The only part of the Baptist church left was the pastor's study. Dan Crawley, the interim pastor, was in the study at the time the tornado struck and dived under the desk. The Stamping Ground church was constituted in 1795.

The Stamping Ground pastorium was gutted with only some walls standing. No one was in the pastorium since the church has no regular pastor at this time.

Georgetown College suffered no damages though great confusion and excitement reigned among the students when all lights went out and the dormitories were evacuated as the tornado passed within several miles of the community. Some faculty members and students assisted in clearing the Stamping Ground debris.

No known damage is reported from Lexington churches. Sources in Richmond, Kentucky, also report no known damages to churches in that area.



With its roof and some walls blown off the parsonage of Stamping Ground Baptist Church gave testimony to the fierce wind that moved through the small community on April 3. Since the church is without a full-time pastor no one was living in the pastorium when it was hit.



The Baptist church in Stamping Ground was totally destroyed in the wake of the April 3 tornado. The only room remaining intact in the church was the pastor's study. Interim pastor Dan Crawley reported that he dived under his desk when the storm hit. Sources indicate that three separate storm fronts converged on the Stamping Ground area. The resulting storm was of such magnitude that it almost completely leveled the town.

Consider . . . the real live story of Teresa who was helped by the Sunday School Charity Fund.

Little Teresa had been sick for days before she came to the doctor. By the time she was brought to the doctor's attention she was already dehydrated, along with other complications. The doctor recognized the need for immediate hospitalization and knowing the destitute condition of the mother, called the Chaplain at the local Baptist hospital and agreed to accept the case without charge if the hospital would take it as a Sunday School Charity case.

Through the Sunday School Charity Fund *You Were There* helping in an emergency time of need to continue the healing ministry of the Master. "I was sick and you ministered unto me." When Lord? When needed.

There are many other cases of "Little Teresa" who need help physically and financially. Will you help? Will you *share*? You will have an opportunity to do so through the Sunday School Charity Fund Offering on . . .



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