

WESTERN RECORDER

DECEMBER 16, 1976



The 1976 Christmas List

This is the season for Christmas lists. They are seen wherever one looks from letters to Santa Claus to church publications listing needs for catch up budget gifts, Lottie Moon goals and local Christmas baskets.

The whole bit of Christmas can be depressing if it is mainly concerned with exchanging expected greetings, lavishing gifts on family members, searching for gifts for those who already have everything and wondering what the giver will get in return for his generosity. The peak of depression comes in February when charge accounts come due.



Christians are supposed to know but we seem slow to really believe it is more blessed to give than to receive and that the well really have no need for a physician. I have contributed my share to Christless Christmases but my Christmas list this year at least be-

gins with an effort to learn the joy of giving without hope of receiving in return anything more than the joy of giving.

My first 1976 Christmas gift is a check for a black

mother and her children in Georgia whose living place and meager possessions were totally destroyed in a recent fire. I confess I am not altogether unselfish in this gift since this good woman ministered with tender heart and kind hands to my mother in her last days. But my Christmas is already merrier because of the prospect of a little merrier Christmas for this unfortunate family.

The second Christmas gift this year is the annual Lottie Moon gift which with millions of others will surpass \$29 million for Southern Baptist foreign mission causes. For many of us this part of Christmas has become as traditional as a Christmas tree and turkey and dressing.

My Christmas list this year will again include some gifts mostly unneeded by those receiving them and maybe even unappreciated but they will come from a sincere heart. I trust the Lord will forgive what's wrong in this.

In 1976 I am searching for a merrier-than-usual Christmas. Too long I have let others experience blessedness by giving to me and not receiving from me. I'm searching for a piece of the blessedness. Even this may be selfish but it is the kind of selfishness that does not condemn the conscience.

Bluegrass in December

To the disappointment of some first time visitors the famed bluegrass of Kentucky is never blue — not even in spring-time when it drapes the rolling hills of central Kentucky with a waving carpet of lush green. In the winter bluegrass is as brown as if it were dead but the disrobed landscape of bluegrass land in December has a haunting beauty unknown in seasons of green growth.

The crystal streams that follow the winding valleys through fields and meadows are half frozen on a cold day in December. Famed race horses and less famed but more profitable sleek cattle munch on the brown but nourishing grass and slake their thirst from the little creeks flowing over bone strengthening limestone.

The narrow roads in bluegrass country are lined with maples, walnuts and an occasional sycamore and locust. In summer the trees form a beautiful canopy over the enchanted traveler but in December they are as naked as the fields from which the season's burley has been cut. In spite of bright sunshine snow patches remain in fence corners and especially on the shady side of picturesque stone fences many of which are a monument to slave labor of long ago.

Such scenes partly account for the real estate reputation

of wealth and security in central Kentucky. But to the more discerning the true riches of this bluegrass country are in the hearts of its people, their homes and the churches that dot the countryside and stand on the main corners of towns like Lexington, Winchester, Nicholasville, Georgetown and Paris.

A visit to one of these churches was the occasion for this pre-Christmas blessing. And what a church!

Central Baptist Church in Winchester is aflame and aglow with worship, learning and all kinds of activities for all ages. An expansive and magnificent activities building added recently to the existing facilities is attracting hundreds for meaningful participation every day of the week.

The explanation for Central is strong lay leadership inspired and channeled by a resourceful staff of ministers headed by Pastor Ron Stone.

The occasion for my visit for Sunday services reveals the spirit of outreach of Central. Ron Stone was in Traverse City, Mich., for dedication services of the facilities of a pioneer church sponsored by Central.

No wonder Central has had 600 additions since 1971 and has 60 so far this year.

W.R. Elects Sharp, Kruschwitz New Leaders

C. Carman Sharp, pastor of Louisville's Deer Park Baptist Church, has been elected chairman of the directors of Western Recorder by the board in its semi-annual meeting.

John W. Kruschwitz, pastor of Highland Hills Baptist Church, Ft. Thomas, was elected vice chairman.

Mrs. Julia Woodward, Lexington, was reelected secretary of the board.

New directors welcomed to the board are: O. G. Lawless, pastor, Calvary Baptist Church, Bowling Green; Curtis Erwin, pastor, First Baptist Church, Glasgow; and William D. Jagers,

pastor, Irene Cole Memorial Baptist Church, Prestonsburg.



Sharp

Kruschwitz



Miss Teenage America, Rebecca Ann Reid of Dallas, is an active member of Royal Haven Baptist Church in her city. The 17-year-old high school senior won the honor in Tulsa over 46 other challengers Nov. 27. "I asked God to take me and use me. And that's what I want him to do now with me as Miss Teenage America," said Becky. "God deserves the credit—certainly not me."

Society Picks Reynolds

William J. Reynolds, secretary of the Church Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, was named president-elect of the Hymn Society of America Inc., a recently reorganized inter-church, inter-faith organization.

Four other Southern Baptists were named to society offices or committees.

Harry Eskew of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary faculty was named editor of "The Hymn," quarterly publication of the society.

Southern Baptists named to committees were Hugh T. McElrath of the faculty of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; Robert Fort of the faculty of Stetson University, Deland, Fla.; and Mrs. Donald Winters, recently retired from the music faculty at William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss.



Reynolds



Roy D. Campbell [R], director of evangelism, Atlantic Baptist Convention of Canada, visited Southern Baptist Radio & TV Commission staff to see how they use TV to spread the gospel. L to R: Truett Myers, Jerry Pillow, Bob Thornton.

S.S. Tops SBC Gains

The largest Sunday school enrolment gain in 21 years and significant increases in total receipts and mission expenditures dominate the 1976 statistical picture for the Southern Baptist Convention, according to preliminary estimates compiled by the Research Services Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The only decreases predicted for 1976 are in baptisms and Church Training enrolment, according to reports received from more than 26,000 Southern Baptist churches.

Total Southern Baptist Convention receipts projected for 1976 will top \$1.6 billion, an increase of nearly 12 percent over last year's total of \$1.47 billion. The final figure is projected to be near \$1,651,209,000.

The bicentennial year was a banner year for Sunday school, with an expected ongoing enrolment of more than 7,470,000 people. It marks the fifth consecutive year Sunday school enrolment has increased, and the additional 189,320 members over last year makes the enrolment gain the highest since 1955.

According to projections, mission expenditures also recorded a large increase in 1976. Total expenditures are expected to be more than \$263,042,000, a gain of 10.7 percent over last year's \$237,617,406.

Estimates for church membership indicate an increase of 1.4 percent over 1975, with a predicted total of 12,913,962 members. Last year's figure was 12,735,663.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Central Honors Yancys

Central Baptist Church in Ohio River Association honored Rev. and Mrs. Philip Yancy on the occasion of Yancy's fifth anniversary as pastor. The church has also recently burned a note covering the indebtedness of the church and the world hunger fund sponsored by the youth department has passed the \$200 mark.

Open House for Lasters

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Shepherdsville, held an open house Dec. 10 in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Cecil Laster's retirement. Laster served for 43 years in the ministry.

Ghostly Money

Temple Hill Baptist Church and Siloam

Baptist Church of the Glasgow area employed a unique method of raising gifts through the Cooperative Program. A Halloween "spook house" resulted in raising more than \$130 for Cooperative Program use. James Jones is Temple Hill's pastor and Carroll Medley is the Siloam pastor.

Sullivan at Adairville

James L. Sullivan, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, spoke at Adairville Baptist Church on Dec. 12. A luncheon was held for local pastors. Randall Rogers is pastor of the church.

Puckett Retires

Garnett E. Puckett, former pastor of churches in Campbellsville, Lebanon and Elizabethtown, has retired and is living in Mobile, Ala. He is now interim pastor of West Chickasaw Baptist Church, Mobile. He is the brother of Roy Puckett who recently retired after a 30-year pastorate of Eastern Parkway in Louisville and Harold Puckett, a Baptist layman in the Middletown area.

Revivals

Woodburn Baptist Church, O. S. Murphy, pastor, reports an effective youth revival with a youth group from Cumberland College leading the services. Among the results were four professions of faith and several rededications.



Van Buren Baptist Church, Anderson County, has relocated due to construction of the Taylorsville Dam project. This new debt free building with educational plant was dedicated Sept. 19. Lewis Searcy brought the dedication sermon. William Hagan is pastor.

Western Recorder

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

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Double Exposure

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea . . . there came wise men from the east . . . , Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him . . . and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy (Matt. 2:1,9-10). When the pressures mount to forget the star and celebrate under the tinsel, help us remember, heavenly Father, the light of the world is the true reason for our celebration.

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HISTORIES of Gasper River Baptist Association and its churches for sale at \$3.25, plus 5% for postage. Written by Judge Otis W. White. E. C. Dockery, Box 67, Morgantown, Ky. 42261.

THE KENTUCKY BAPTIST
CHILD CARE PROGRAM —
A HISTORY OF CARING



CHRISTMAS MEANS MERRIMENT for youngsters around the world. Trimming the tree is an exercise in imagination and anxiety when one considers the treasures concealed by ribbons and wrapping paper that will lie beneath it. For many children in the care of the Kentucky Baptist Child Care Program, Christmas is a painful reminder of broken or separated families. Houseparents have traditionally made an especial effort at this time of year to maintain an atmosphere of love and warmth that tells a child, "We love you--we care about you. Have a Merry Christmas."

Personnel Changes

Clark to Lexington

Southern Heights Baptist Church, Lexington, has called Gary Clark as minister of music and youth. He started at Southern Heights Nov. 15.

Clark came to Lexington from First Baptist Church, Earlington. He is a graduate of the University of Evansville.

Clark is married to the former Phyl-



Clark

lis Pruitt of Henderson. They have three children.

Smotherman Retires

S. E. Smothermon has announced his retirement from the pastorate. He has served the Caneyville Baptist Church for two and a half years and before then was pastor of other churches in Kentucky and in West Virginia. He reports he will be available for interim pastorates, supply work and revivals. His new address is Rte. 2, Auburn, Ky. 42206.

Frank Owen



OUR WESTERN RECORDER

I have felt keen distress as I read Dr. Daley's recent column concerning the reduced size of *Western Recorder* in order to save expenses and his frank admission that *Western Recorder* is in serious financial difficulties. I was glad to note that the trouble lies almost entirely in current bills with no accumulative loss of face or honor and this is certainly to the credit of the good men who operate our paper. His column, and what I have learned since, simply declare that it is time to admit that the income is falling below the outgo and under the present plan of operation, there is no way to assure that this trend will change.

Western Recorder is operated by a separate board of directors and administration from our Executive Board. We have great confidence in their board and administration. It is in this circle that *Western Recorder* decisions are made. If special requests are to be made of the executive board, then it is from the *Recorder's* circle of leadership that such will be expected to come.

One thing for certain: though the executive board and the *Western Recorder* board are elected separately by the convention, each for its own purpose, there is a strong, obligatory relationship between the two of us as we both relate to each other through our parent convention and as the executive board relates to the *Western Recorder* board in behalf of the convention as the body charged with allocating budget funds.

Our denomination needs *Western Recorder*. We can scarcely do without it. If the executive board is called in to help in the matter, I am convinced we would want to respond quickly. Naturally, we would want to share mutually in counseling toward whatever necessary economies or reorganization in areas in which we may cooperatively merge services or perform money-saving routines for each other in such as audits, computer service, records, mailouts, etc.

Sunday School Lessons

Lessons for Dec. 26, 1976

by H. C. Chiles, Murray, Ky.

International Series

The Promise Fulfilled

Luke 2:25-38

In meeting the requirements of the Mosaic law, Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day following his birth. On the 30th day after His birth a rite was performed before a priest acknowledging God's proprietary right in Him and 41 days after the birth a ceremony of purification for Mary took place at the temple in Jerusalem.

While the law demanded a lamb as the offering at the ceremony of purification, in the case of poverty it was permissible to present a pair of turtledoves. Mary made the latter offering. When it was presented at the altar, Mary and Joseph turned to leave for their journey back to Nazareth. Just then, a stranger approached them for the purpose of mingling his rejoicing with theirs. The name of this stranger was Simeon. This aged seer was Spirit-anointed, Spirit-enlightened and Spirit-led.

Being a diligent and understanding student of the Scriptures, he had been anxiously awaiting the coming of the Messiah, having received the assurance of the Holy Spirit that he would see the Christ before he departed this life. When Mary and Joseph brought the Lord Jesus into the temple, the Holy Spirit enabled Simeon to recognize the Messiah. He took the babe into his arms and praised God the Father.

Simeon was just toward men and devout toward God. It is not surprising, therefore, that this man had been granted the grace of spiritual insight. The same Spirit that moved Simeon to enter the temple bore witness within him that this babe was the Lord Jesus Christ for whom he had been waiting.

Now that his hope had been realized fully, Simeon was perfectly satisfied and ready to depart this life. He had been faithful to his duty and God had been faithful to his promise, so there was nothing for which he desired to live any longer. He prayed, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Our prayers should be like that of this devout man of the long ago in that they are an outburst of spontaneous adoration, thanksgiving and praise.

As Simeon concluded his prayer and turned to leave, an aged widow, Anna, entered the temple, heard his last words in the presence of the family, recognized the Messiah, expressed her personal faith and proceeded to share the good news about Christ with those who needed to know the saviour, too.

Both Simeon and Anna were deeply grateful to God for providing the long-promised and long-looked-for salvation for both the Jews and the Gentiles. As in the case of these two wonderful people, the yearnings of any and all are satisfied completely when they exercise a genuine faith in Christ, the wonderful saviour and Lord.

Life and Work Series

The Joy of Life in Christ

Christ is the door to salvation

Christ is the only entrance or door to the family of God. He said, "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). One must enter through this door if he is to be saved.

Christ is the door to security

Christ said, "By me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." One who enters this door will find protection from the pangs of the past, the perils of the present and the fears of the future. Christ is the only door to real security. Those who are his are safe forever. He said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:27-29).

Christ is the door to satisfaction

Christ is the door to everything that is good and rich in life—forgiveness, peace, joy, victory, contentment, hope, etc. He came in order that we might have abundant life—the kind that lifts us above the changes and circumstances of the world about us. Christ is sufficient to satisfy our daily needs and to sustain us amid all the temptations, toils, trials and tribulations of this life.

Philippians 1:3-5

Paul went through years of imprisonment and suffering but the Christians at Philippi never faltered in their love for him and devotion to him. Paul paid them a noble tribute when he indicated that his remembrances of them were occasions for gratitude. The strongest and most sacred bonds of friendship are due to a common relationship to Christ, fellowship in Christian service and an earnest cooperation in work undertaken for Christ's sake.

Philippians 1:19-26

Turning to his own hardships, which he experienced in serving his Lord, Paul readily acknowledged that they had contributed greatly to his spiritual development and therefore to his truest and highest welfare.

Regardless of what life meant to others in Paul's case all the strength of his faith, all the fullness of his hope and all the longings of his soul were centered in Christ. The saviour's power lifted him up, strengthened him and filled him with a calm and holy joy in all of his numerous trials. In thought, word and deed Paul sought to reproduce the spirit, character and life of Christ.

Surveying the possibilities of continuing life on earth or dying Paul let it be known that he was ready for either. What a splendid example for us! Knowing that he was in the Lord's hand, and within the circle of his perfect will, Paul was confident that the right thing would take place.

This life of peace, joy and power is within the reach of every child of God. Christ wants us to enjoy a rich and abundant life daily.

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Kentucky Baptists at Work

If You Want Joy . . . Come to Camp

by Jim Cox, Associate Editor

Twenty-six years ago the then existing Southern Region Woman's Missionary Union, affiliated with the Kentucky WMU, established a youth camp which has since brought thousands of Baptist young people closer to their maker.

In 1975 Camp Joy, nestled in the hills of Edmonson County at Brownsville, celebrated its 25th anniversary.

"There is no way to tell the story of



Ronnie Wallace, resident manager, pauses before camp map.

Southern Region without recognizing the fact that besides training for missions in our local churches our greatest missionary thrust has been Camp Joy — our pride, and truly our JOY," a history of the Southern Region WMU states.

The history goes on to tell of the personal sacrifices of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Wells who provided the land and much of the early development of the camp.

"We may have ceased to function in a name as 'Southern Region' in 1973," says Mrs. W. F. Ware, historian, "but

we certainly have just started dreaming when it comes to Camp Joy."

The camp is now solely owned and operated by 12 southern Kentucky associations affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention: Allen, Bethel, Edmonson, Freedom, Gasper River, Grayson, Liberty, Logan, Lynn, Monroe, Simpson and Warren.

A 60-member board administers the camp. Five persons from each of the 12 sponsoring associations comprise the board, including the associational missionary, a pastor, WMU, Brotherhood and youth representatives.

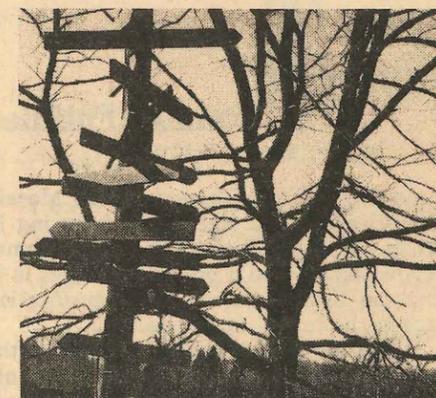
Ronnie Wallace, 33, a Bowling Green native and businessman, was elected three years ago as the camp's first resident manager.

"Spiritually I feel like the Lord has great plans for Camp Joy. We have lots of campers who have been here eight or 10 years. They say there's a special closeness here because we use volunteer counselors. Everybody is a closely knit family," Wallace affirms.

Three principal buildings comprise the 75-100 acre campus now. Included are an office-registration-manager's living quarters, dormitory - dining hall - kitchen complex and multi-purpose lodge. A covered shed provides for outdoor services.

Breedlove Hall, named for a WMU worker, sleeps 115 persons in dormitory rooms. From 175 to 200 persons may be fed at a meal in the ground level dining hall, but as many as 500 have been fed in shifts on special occasions.

The Minnie Berry Memorial Lodge, erected in 1973 and also named for a WMU worker and home missionary, is



Signs of the times at Camp Joy point the way to Tokyo, Taipei, Jerusalem and scripture verses.

heated, providing a place for small groups to meet even in cold months. The lodge sleeps 64 persons and has its own kitchenette, eating and conference areas.

A swimming pool, hiking trails and athletic field complete facilities.

The summer staff includes four cooks, dietitian, two lifeguards, two recreation workers, music director and leadership for the various camp weeks.

The past summer's program included a week of Acteens, two weeks of Girls in Action, two weeks of Royal Ambassadors, a week of music camp and two three-day youth Bible conferences. Associations and church groups also schedule week-long and weekend outings.

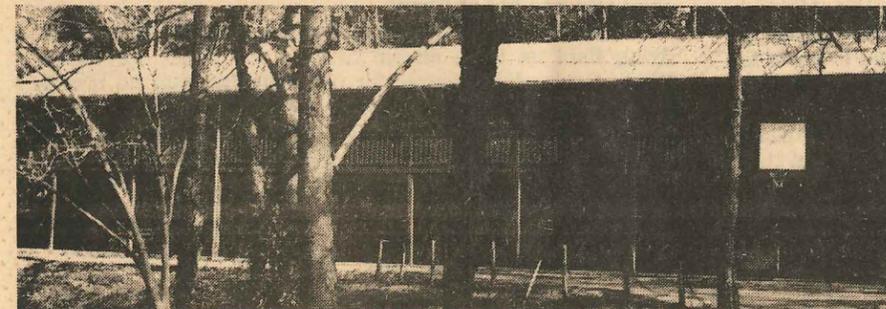
Camp fees range between \$25 and \$30 for five days. The camp's overall budget for last year was \$30,000.

A total of 1,841 young people attended Camp Joy in the 1976 summer season, plus those who came in off-season.

Wallace believes the "basic need of Camp Joy is for its own sponsors to use it. We constantly have calls from churches in Louisville, Owensboro and across Tennessee to use it. But I feel like all regional camps would like their sponsoring churches to utilize their facilities more."

Camp Joy's stated philosophy is "that everyone who comes to Camp Joy will leave with a renewed love for Jesus and a willingness to serve him."

If that objective can be instilled in today's young people, their camp experiences will not have been in vain.



This dormitory-dining hall complex sleeps 115 and feeds about 200.