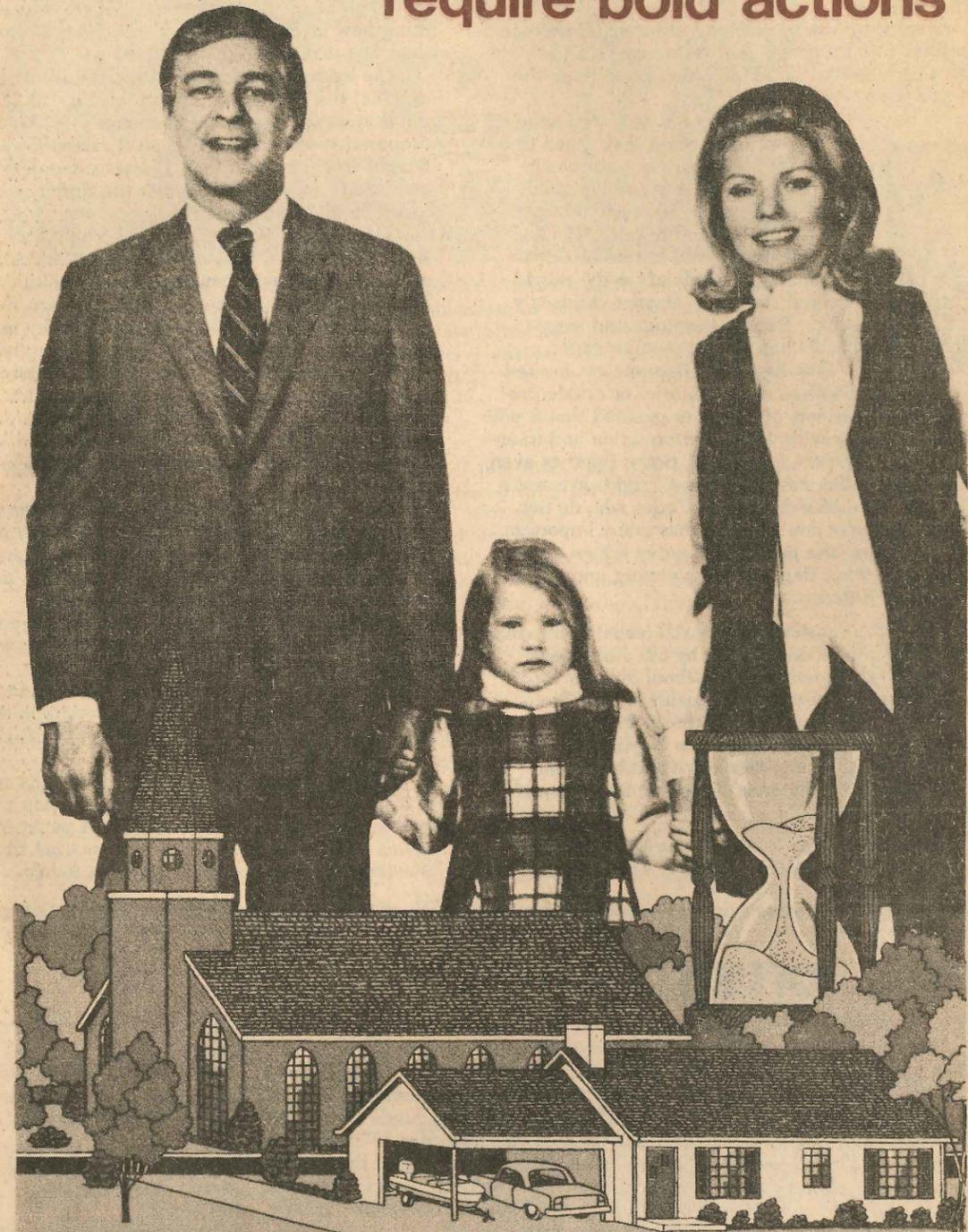


BOLD BELIEVERS

require bold actions



MAKE YOUR WILL MONTH

WESTERN RECORDER

JANUARY 6, 1977

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A Thoughtful and Generous Church

Adversity can be a blessing. The word of God says so and experience verifies it.

The Lord works in mysterious and unexpected ways to turn adversities into blessings. An example of special meaning to this writer is the letter which appears on the bottom of this page.



The letter was not only unsolicited but was so unexpected that it had to be read twice before its contents really came through. As a denominational worker I have been blessed with many good things but nothing exactly like this. I have received letters like this responding to needs of needy individuals and churches, Baptist children's homes, Baptist hospitals and even schools but never the state paper.

Few Kentucky Baptists get excited about the state paper unless some editorial or article produces resentment. It is sort of taken for granted that it will always be around to provide Baptist information and interpretation for those who are interested. Some Baptists even believe that, though the state paper is all right, it is not a necessary item in the church budget. Those who do not read *Western Recorder* don't realize that many important things they hear from the pulpit, in Sunday school and in other places about what Baptists are planning and doing come from *Western Recorder*.

Fortunately, some pastors and church leaders do realize the indispensable contribution made by the state paper. Dr. Roy Boatwright, former Sunday school director for Kentucky Baptists and now interim pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Bremen, is one of these. This man probably has worked directly with more Baptist church leaders in Kentucky than any man alive and has found *Western Recorder* to be the most valuable of all channels of Baptist communication.

His successor in Sunday school leadership, Fred Halbrooks, has the same conviction. He says when he asks

those in the many conferences, clinics and other such meetings he conducts where they first learned about something new in Baptist Sunday school work, almost all say they saw it first in *Western Recorder*.

The leaders of Kentucky Baptists decided many years ago that the convention had to have a widely circulated publication to inform and challenge Baptists in the pews in cooperative endeavors. And so *Western Recorder* was bought in 1919. Until then *Western Recorder* was privately owned and thus was not under the directors of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Before 1919 Kentucky Baptist leaders had started a small promotional kind of communication bulletin used mainly to announce denominational meetings and plans. This, of course, was merged with *Western Recorder* and for these many years Baptists in Kentucky have looked to the state paper each week to keep them reliably informed.

Every state Baptist convention has a state paper which it depends upon as the major communication link with its constituents. All these conventions provide part or all the production costs of these papers in order to encourage churches to send the paper to every family in the congregation.

With the help of the state convention the cost of *Western Recorder* is easily within the reach of every church for all its families. Only \$2.50 per year per family or 5c per issue put *Western Recorder* into the mailbox of every family in the church 50 times a year.

There is no doubt about it. A state convention must stay in touch with as many Baptists as possible. So far the state paper is the most effective method for doing this. Closed circuit television or other media methods might replace the state Baptist paper sometime in the future but until then *Western Recorder* will perform this ministry for Baptists in Kentucky.

Keeping Baptists informed is rightly the responsibility of local churches. And since the convention's contribution enables churches to provide the state paper for so little, it seems shortsighted and false economy not to provide *Western Recorder* for every resident family.

Baptist News in Brief



The Kentucky Society of Architects has awarded Baptist Hospital East in Louisville with an achievement of excellence recognition for architectural design. The six-story facility can accommodate 253 patients in medicine, surgery, obstetrics, gynecology, emergency care and comprehensive ancillary and support services. A satellite four-story doctor's building at left is connected to the hospital and reflects its basic architectural design.

Stanley, 47, has had a temporary assignment as press representative with the public relations department of the Baptist General Convention of Texas since his resignation from missionary service in the Philippines in August 1976 after 10 years.

In the newly-created position as director of news and information services, Stanley will be responsible for planning, organizing, coordinating, directing and evaluating the functions of the press and information offices.

Nashville 'Plaza' Site

Trustees for the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation (TBSC) accepted a \$2,775,000 bid for construction of a 123-unit residence for elderly citizens to be built in Nashville.

The project temporarily called "Belmont Plaza" is to be constructed on property near Belmont College, a Baptist school.

Trustees were told that financial arrangements could be worked out by Feb. 1, 1977, so that construction could begin at that time, and the contractor estimated the facility would be completed in 14 months.

The board's estimated total cost of Belmont Plaza was \$3,052,500. Board leaders emphasized that costs for completing the facility would stay within a \$5 million debt ceiling imposed on TBSC by "messengers" to the Tennessee Baptist Convention in November.

Is TV for Profit Only?

The most degrading aspect of television is the "commercial" and to attack the sexuality and violence on TV without going to the root of the system — profit — is wasting time and effort, a Baptist college professor said during a regional hearing on TV and morality in Montgomery, Ala.

Arguing against theories that TV exists to communicate and entertain, Robert L. Perkins, professor and chairman of the University of Alabama's department of philosophy, told a Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Christian Life Commission panel "Precious little is ever communicated" via television.

"Since so little is presented for consumption by rational and cultivated minds, one is driven to the conclusion that the purpose of TV is not to communicate at the rational level," but is instead, profit motivated, he cited.

Mrs. Catherine Allen, assistant to the executive director of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and director of public relations, Birmingham, questioned the moral and ethical fiber of those who write, edit, produce and fun television.

She further charged that television is totally lacking in a balanced presentation of the pleasant realities of life.

"Although I'm a media person with a thorough appreciation of the creative power of television and with appreciation for the economic value of advertis-

ing, I feel that I can best keep a small candle burning for moral civilization by not owning a television set," she concluded.

Mrs. Louise Potts of Montgomery, another witness, decried the influence of television on young children:

"When a child witnesses a dozen or more screen murders in an afternoon and evening in his own home, day after day for years, he can't hold human life as sacred; nor can he regard the brutal ending of life a tragedy."

Mrs. Potts, a specialist in early childhood education and an employe of Alabama WMU, suggested that parents make rules concerning television viewing. She noted that preschoolers "act out what they see on television and that horror stories evoke bad dreams and continuing fears . . ."

She cited other effects, such as "give away" programs, which lead youngsters to think life "consists of being lucky."

Stanley Heads FMB News

Robert L. Stanley, former missionary and former journalism teacher and newspaper reporter and editor, has been elected director of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's news and information services.

He will also serve as chief of the Richmond Bureau of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.



Jaroy Weber, pastor of First Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will be "Baptist Hour" speaker on radio January-May 1977. The series is produced by the SBC Radio and TV Commission, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Baptist Forum

OUR HUMBLE THANKS

The Bethlehem Baptist Church, Bremen, Ky., Muhlenburg Association, has *Western Recorder* in its budget.

We have read your articles on the financial needs of the *Recorder*. The membership of our church wishes to express to you and your co-workers our deep love and appreciation for you and your work. We are enclosing a check payable to *Western Recorder* in the amount of \$200.00 as a token of our

appreciation.

With the Cooperative Program receipts the highest in history it is our opinion that sufficient funds should be allocated to the *Recorder* to supply all its needs. It is our hope that other churches will respond in some measure to help make *Western Recorder* greater in every way.

Many people depend upon the *Recorder* for thorough and complete news and information of Kentucky Baptists'

life and work.

May the Lord continue to bless you and yours as you continue to honor him and serve our churches.

Roy E. Boatwright
Interim Pastor

Deacons:
Martin Wayne Drake
Bill Loney
Billy Fagan
Gus Noffsinger
Raymond Stierman
Harold L. Vincent

Eckles Gregory
Robert Noffsinger
S. H. Jones
Mickey Peneler

Cover Story

Sharing in Bold Missions

by Grady L. Randolph

"Bold Missions" for the last quarter of the 20th century is the Southern Baptist Convention's theme and objective. As you look down this corridor of time, what is your response and what will be your response?

Some will simply say, "This isn't any different than what we have heard the past quarter century," and continue doing what they have done in the past. Others will make no response at all, as in the past. Still others will say, "This is a grand and noble theme and objective, and I sure would like to be a part of it. However, the odds are against my sharing in it since I will probably not be living then."

It is to this last response that I would like to make a "bold" suggestion. Through the use of a will or a properly established charitable trust, you can plan today to be a definite part of our "Bold Missions" effort in the next 25 years. Our educational institutions—colleges and seminaries—will continue to have the responsibility of training those young men and women who are called to go as missionaries in the next 25 years.

These institutions must have your support on a long-term basis through an endowment-type gift. An endowment

established by your will or trust will assure our educational institutions of continuous support, but will also give you a definite part in their mission.

Recently the Foundation was notified that it was the beneficiary in a will which was written by a Baptist layman in 1962. This man left almost all of his estate to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to establish a scholarship fund for young people attending Baptist colleges. Surely some of these young people will be a part of the Bold Missions thrust of the Southern Baptist Convention, and the man who was a vital part of this died in 1976.

A person "lives" beyond his lifetime on this earth through the things in which he invests his life—a family, the church, a school, or a worthy cause. Many times these things are reflected in the way a man writes his will, thus preserving both the estate and the cause in which he has a deep and abiding interest.

See your attorney today about getting a will made or brought up-to-date by remembering the Lord's work. For more detailed information call or write to:

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation
Box 43433
Middletown, Ky. 40243

Mountains to the Mississippi

Duo in State Concerts

Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, will present a sacred concert by Robert Hale and Dean Wilder Jan. 10 at 8 p.m.

Hale is leading bass-baritone of the New York City Opera Co. and Wilder is director of vocal studies at William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.

The concert artists are making several Kentucky appearances, including Severns Valley Baptist Church, E'town, Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m. They will be on the evangelism conference program at Severns Valley Jan. 17.

Take Me Back to Texas

Bill Blackburn, 30, Southern Seminary graduate and former pastor of Burks Branch Baptist Church, Shelbyville, has returned to his native state as a staff member of the Baptist General Convention of Texas' Christian Life Commission, Dallas.



Double Exposure

January has traditionally been 'Make Your Will Month' on the Southern Baptist Convention calendar and observed in many churches. The 'Cover Story' article above suggests how Kentucky Baptists, through their state Convention-owned Foundation, may leave an investment after death in the things that really matter by creating a permanent trust to nurture future generations. "Bold Believers Require Bold Actions" is theme of the 1977 emphasis. Hopefully, many Kentucky Baptists will involve themselves in this ministry after pausing to reflect on God's bountiful goodness and mercy.

Vol. 151, No. 1

BOLD BELIEVERS require bold actions



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HISTORY of the Sinking Spring Baptist Church. (150 pages) Church was constituted in 1831, just 13 years after West Kentucky (The Jackson Purchase) was acquired from the Chickasaw Indians. Price, \$1.50 postpaid. Send orders to the Sinking Spring Baptist Church, Murray, Ky. Route 7, Zip 42071.

Christian Education



Fifty-seven representatives of 56 Pulaski County Baptist churches dedicated their extensively remodeled cottage at Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville. Pulaski Baptist Association built the cottage in 1952 and recently donated \$3,300 for complete renovation of the two-bedroom student residence.

Baptists Graduate 500,000

Seventy-one Southern Baptist-related colleges, seminaries and schools across the nation passed the one half million mark in total graduates since the first one of them was founded in 1825.

The schools have recorded 502,683 graduates through the end of the 1975-76 school year, according to Ben C. Fisher, executive director-treasurer of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), Nashville.

The system of schools currently includes 43 senior colleges, with 352,675 graduates; 10 junior colleges, with 70,984 graduates; seven theological seminaries, with 40,321; seven academies, with 17,319; and four Bible schools, with 2,456.

The oldest institution on the list is Furman University, Greenville, S. C., founded in 1825 and showing 15,464 total graduates; and the newest is Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla., founded in 1966 and showing 258 graduates. Baylor University, Waco, Tex., founded in 1845, has the most graduates, with 53,235.

"More important than numerical totals," said Fisher, "is the need for our educational system to emphasize Christian values which make a difference in the quality of life of the students we graduate."

You've Come a Long Way

A \$27,932 scholarship fund was established at Southern Seminary in honor of the seminary's first lady.

The Marguerite McCall Scholarship Fund exceeded a \$25,000 goal in cash and pledges. Mrs. McCall is the wife of

Frank Owen



START WHERE YOU ARE

I have read the above title to a book, but cannot find it or its author's name just now. It speaks to the mood of January and to the starting of a new term for students going back to school.

Someone has said, "This is the first day of the rest of your life." The same can be said for every day. Everyone starts again every day and one must start where he is.

Don't try to start with yesterday. It will have all sorts of regrets. Don't carry the discouragements that it leaves with you into today. Start where you are.

Leave off your lament of yesterday's lost opportunities. Don't be paralyzed with a heavy heart over what might have been. Start where you are.

Don't postpone the start because the present opportunity is too small. Sometimes errors or failures of yesterday have reduced today's opportunity to something less than might have been. Don't let that discourage you from taking whatever opportunity today has before it. Start where you are.

Don't procrastinate until something bigger comes tomorrow. Bigger things come from our faithfulness in little things. It is the man who uses wisely the opportunity that he has, who is apt to gain the bigger opportunity tomorrow. ("... thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things..." Matt. 25:21).

There is tremendous religious truth behind this idea of starting where you are. Jesus takes the repentant sinner as he is. One's reception into the kingdom of God is immediate upon one's meeting the condition of repentance and confession of sin, acknowledgment of Christ as Lord and Saviour.

God receives one on the direction in which his life is aimed, rather than on the degree of achievement. Reward will be on degree, but our status as children of God depends on our direction. He is ready to receive you. There is no reason for you to delay. Start where you are.

Duke K. McCall, seminary president for 25 years.

Four Named Directors For State BSU

Four persons have recently been employed as campus ministers of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Student Department, according to Don Blaylock, director.

Danny Flanagan, Jamestown native, began duties at Campbellsville College Sept. 1. A Campbellsville graduate, he also holds degrees from Southern Seminary and the University of Louisville. Since 1969 he has been employed by the Kentucky Department of Human Resources, Frankfort.

Mrs. Flanagan, the former Virginia Ponser of Pulaski County, was also employed by Campbellsville College as director of public relations and alumni.

William David Sawyer, campus minister at the University of Louisville Medical School on a part time basis since Oct. 1, is a graduate of Henderson State University in Arkansas. He is a student at Southern Seminary and married to the former Susan Atchinson.

Mikel Robinson was employed part time at Kentucky State University Nov. 1. A Huntsville, Mo., native, he is a graduate of Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Tex. He and his wife, Janet, a Ghana native, are both enrolled at Southern Seminary.

Rebecca McCoy became interim campus minister at Murray State University Nov. 1. She is a native of Bainbridge, Ga., and a graduate of Georgetown College. A recent member of the BSU drama and recreation team, she is also a special worker with youth for the state Sunday School Department.

Sunday School Lessons

Lessons for Jan. 16, 1977

by H. C. Chiles, Murray, Ky.

International Series

Jesus Declares His Mission

Luke 4:14-24

After his entrance upon his public ministry, Christ made a preaching tour in Galilee and returned to Nazareth with a longing to make known the way of life to his own townspeople, all of whom knew him. He resorted to the synagogue on the Sabbath to join in public worship, as had been his lifelong custom.

It was the custom in the synagogue that when a distinguished visitor was present the one in charge of the service would invite him to read the scriptures and then deliver any message he might have for the people. Such an invitation was extended to Christ and, always alert to embrace every opportunity to speak to the people, to preach and to serve, he readily accepted the invitation. In a synagogue service two lessons were read: the one from the Law and the other from the Prophets.

When Christ stood to read, the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Turning to the 61st chapter of that great prophecy, which begins with the statement, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me," he read the verses which declared God's purpose to send the Messiah to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who were bruised and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. Perhaps the most significant thing about our Lord's reading of this portion of Isaiah was where he stopped—in the middle of a sentence, with only a comma separating it from the next words. Had he read more, Christ could not have given the explanation which he did.

When Christ finished reading, he gave the scroll back to the attendant who had handed it to him, and sat down, which was a sure sign that he was about to speak. This was in keeping with the Jewish custom—they stood when they read and sat when they taught. The attention of all who were present was concentrated on Jesus. They wondered how he would interpret what he had read. Christ made the explicit and startling declaration that Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled in him. When they began to think about the claims that Christ had made for himself, they became very angry. They were highly prejudiced against the truth which he had declared, so they immediately began to quibble about the messenger. They refused to believe what Christ had said because they regarded him only as the son of a local carpenter. Those who rejected Christ and his message had been blinded by insufficient information and hardness of heart.

Bitterly resentful of what Christ had claimed, they resolved that they would put him to death. They cast him out of Nazareth and intended to throw him over a precipice nearby. But God's purposes could not be thwarted, so Christ miraculously passed through their midst, went his way and was not harmed by these prejudiced townspeople. They demanded a miracle, so one was performed by their being prevented from laying their hands upon him.

Life and Work Series

James—A Son of Thunder

Christ chose 12 apostles, empowered them and sent them forth to preach for him.

Luke 9:28-29

Peter, James and John seemed to be more sympathetic and understanding than the others, so Christ chose to have them with him at times of special stress and importance. He took this inner circle with him when he went to the summit of a mountain to pray. There Christ was transfigured.

Luke 9:52-55

On his last trip to Jerusalem, the Saviour sent messengers ahead to a village of the Samaritans to make preparation for his coming and lodging. Because of their hatred for the Jews, the Samaritans refused to provide for him the hospitality which had been requested. This made James and John so angry that they wanted to call down fire from heaven and consume the Samaritans. Grieved by the attitude of his apostles, whom he had previously taught to love their enemies and to do good to those who had wronged them, Christ rebuked them for their intolerance and sought to correct their attitude.

Perhaps the most natural thing for us to do is to criticize James and John for suggesting punishment for those who refused to receive Christ into their midst. But, in reality, we should examine our hearts and see whether or not we truly care whether Christ is rejected or received, despised or honored. After all, isn't it better to be overzealous in defense of the Lord than it is to be careless and indifferent about his name and his honor?

Mark 10:35-40

Very shrewdly James and John asked Christ to give them whatever they might desire. They were attempting to get a sort of blank check from Christ for future benefits with his consent to fill it in as they desired.

In his reply to their ill-advised request, Christ said: "Ye know not what ye ask." They did not understand the cost of the places of honor they had requested; the suffering that must precede the glory. To teach them what was involved in their request, Christ inquired, "Can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" Quickly they responded, "We can," even forgetting to add "by thy help." Certainly their ignorance and self-confidence stood out very prominently in their reply.

Acts 12:1-2

King Herod Agrippa I, a grandson of Herod the Great, decided that he would carry on the family tradition of opposing the work of the Lord. He did so by trying to exterminate the religious leaders or apostles. It is well for us to remember that James was beheaded, and thereby became the first martyr of the apostolic group, and John was the last of the apostles to lay down his life for Christ. The execution of James brought to the other Christians the realization of the seriousness of their commitment to Christ. They knew not how many of them would meet the same fate, nor how soon.

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National Family Enrichment Conference

Ridgecrest

July 9-15, 1977

Note: Because of limited conference center space, attendance at this conference will be limited to the first 450 persons who specify National Family Enrichment Conference in reserving space.

Rates: Vary from \$11 to \$21.50 per day per person for room and meals, depending on type of accommodations desired. A few housekeeping apartments and trailer spaces are available.

To: Baptist Conference Center, Reservations
Ridgecrest, North Carolina 28770

Reserve space for my family at the Family Enrichment Conference, July 9-15

Type of space desired (if available) _____

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I am enclosing \$15 registration for each person (\$7.50 for preschoolers).

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