



Western Recorder
MARCH 31, 1977

Stand Up and Be Counted

Many efforts are being made to do something about the low quality and immoral content of television programming. Of all these efforts one of the most unique and potentially effective is being promoted among the churches in Crittenden Association. Dorothy Kennedy of Dry Ridge was thoughtful enough to share the plan with Western Recorder and we are sharing it with Western Recorder readers with a strong endorsement.



A reproduction of two messages, one to commend a sponsor and one to protest to a sponsor appear on the opposite page. These forms can be cut out and filled in simply and quickly. They can also be reproduced by many churches and made available in Sunday school classes and in several other ways to get them into as many hands as possible. For churches that do not have ways to duplicate these forms Western Recorder will provide a

reasonable number upon a request stating how many are needed.

Only one should be put in each letter mailed to television program sponsors. The address of the sponsor generally can be found on the label of the product.

The church youth could be enlisted in this project. Dorothy Kennedy suggests the Acteens and Royal Ambassadors be enlisted to compile a list of television programs and their sponsors along with addresses and the products advertised. This information could be used by the youth in

expressing their own sentiments to television sponsors and it could also be put on the church bulletin board for the convenience of others.

Protests and commendations are more effective with sponsors than with the television networks. The networks live by advertising income from sponsors. Sponsors depend upon customers for profits with which to buy advertising. The way to get at the undesirable television programs is to convince sponsors it hurts instead of helps their business.

It is as important to commend sponsors for clean shows as it is to protest to sponsors for sponsoring questionable programs. In case one company sponsors both good and bad shows, send a commendation and a protest to the same company with labels of products involved.

Concern continues to grow over the trash and filth flooding American homes via television. But program producers and sponsors have not heard the message loud and clear enough yet to clean up their moral waste land.

Millions have protested but millions more need to be heard. Individual communications are far more effective than letters or petitions signed by groups. Letters to sponsors are not all read but are counted and so a letter with one name likely counts as much as a letter or petition with a hundred names. An opinion worth sending is worth a personal signature and a 13-cent stamp.

Peddlers of television filth would deceive everyone into believing this is what most viewers want. This is very doubtful. Decent Americans are still in the majority. They need to stand up and be counted. Do it now.

Baptists and Alligators in Florida

Baptists have been likened to many creatures but, for the most part, they share no common characteristics with alligators. The two do exist side by side, however, in Florida and they make for an exciting and memorable experience for a Baptist editor from Kentucky.

The particular Florida Baptists in this case are members of the Crossroads Baptist Church in West Palm Beach and the alligators are residents of a 200 acre water reservoir for a 2,000 acre citrus ranch managed by Jim Lashley.

Crossroads, though located in the northwest edge of West Palm Beach, attracts members from all over the Palm Beach area. The family spirit which makes a visitor feel at home explains why some members drive 20 miles or more one way to worship at Crossroads.

Charles and Joyce Minch, products of the faith and land of Owen County, Kentucky, are the happy and genial spirits around which Crossroads Baptists gather. Charles is the only pastor Crossroads knows, having come from Highland Heights Baptist Church in northern Kentucky about eight years ago when the group was only a small mission. Sunday school attendance is now around 200, a bus ministry reaches out to other areas, the music and

youth ministries are thriving and the social get-togethers are happy and frequent. Crossroads Baptists have a good time in the Lord and with each other.

Happiness for this editor was to be the leader for a week long Bible conference and revival using the Book of Romans. Preparation was good, music was revivalistic, interest was high and attendance was fair. The Lord blessed with decisions which will bless and be blessed in the days ahead.

So much for Crossroads Baptists. Now for Florida alligators. I was introduced to these by Jim and Ethel Lashley who live more than 20 miles from Crossroads Baptists but feel at home there, especially when it's time for a church barbecue which is pretty often. Jim, an expert on outdoor cooking, is an unforgettable character whose warmth and generosity are as huge as his giant frame.

Jim is the manager of a 2,000 acre citrus farm where not only luscious lemons and oranges grow but where alligators, rattlesnakes, coons, bobcats and other varmint flourish.

To spend a night with Jim and Ethel is an experience never to be forgotten.

Sleep is sweet in a citrus grove with cool breezes wafting the perfume of lemon blossoms, the lonely sound of a whippoorwill and the growl of a bulldog sniffing the scent of some night varmint. Ethel's breakfast comes soon after the roosters announce the dawn and the hens begin to announce their day's delivery with a cackle.

The 200-acre irrigation reservoir nurtures alligators by the scores and bass by the hundreds. In March Florida bass hit top water plugs all day long and so do alligators. On one cast a five foot alligator beat the bass to the splashing plug but Charles and I wanted none of him and

he wanted none of us. About the time I reached to cut the line the gator released his artificial catch so I have a scarred plug and he has a slightly sore mouth as souvenirs.

But the biggest thrill of the fishing expedition was not the bass nor the alligator but seeing high schooler Jeff Minch and his sweetheart, Debbie, land their first fish on a top water bait.

A Baptist editor travels many roads but rarely finds such a Crossroads. The Lord's people and the Lord's creation make almost a heaven on earth for a visitor.

Clip and mail to two companies doing commercials

CONSUMER POWER "Money Talks"	CONSUMER POWER "Money Talks"
Because we approve the show	"....." Name of show
"....." Name of show	I have purposely bought this other product and am sending this enclosed
which follows your commercial, I have purchased your product and am sending the enclosed	 as proof of purchase.
..... as proof of purchase.	I find this show too
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My Name	My Name.....
Address	Address.....
City of T. V. Broadcast	City of T.V. Broadcast
.....	
State	State.....

TV Film Portrays Saviour

"I was brought to tears at least a dozen times by this powerful and graphic film," declared the president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission after he emerged from a six-hour preview showing of a controversial television film on Christ.

Paul M. Stevens of Ft. Worth made that comment in the wake of complaints from across country from people fearing remarks made by the director of "Jesus of Nazareth" indicated that the film would downgrade the divinity of Christ.

The film will be aired in two parts on NBC in prime time on Palm Sunday, Apr. 3, and Easter Sunday, Apr. 10, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. each night, EST.

"Although I can't speak for Southern Baptists, I think Christians all over America should pray that 'Jesus of Nazareth' will have the greatest viewing audience possible because of the effect it could have in bringing people to a personal knowledge of Jesus," Stevens told Baptist Press.

"It wasn't perfect," Stevens said of the film. "There were some things I would have changed, but they are not consequential to the person of Christ, the savior and messiah. Over and over again Christ is presented in the film by

his friends and his enemies as Jesus, the son of God, the savior of the world."

Ky. Baptist, St. Anthony Announce Joint Venture

Two Louisville hospitals that have been next door neighbors for more than a half century will begin a formal plan of sharing some facilities and services.

The participating hospitals are Kentucky Baptist and St. Anthony, located in the Highlands area on Barret Ave. Their joint effort is believed to be the first such Baptist-Catholic sharing in Kentucky and among only a handful of medical sharing operations in the nation.

Working together under a joint committee representing each hospital, the two institutions will form the Highlands Medical Center. It will include overhead, covered connecting ways from each hospital to an expanded professional plaza that will be renamed Highlands Medical Plaza.

Currently existing on the St. Anthony Hospital grounds is a 20,000 square foot, three-story professional plaza, operated by Nolan & Nolan Inc., architects. The Nolan firm will begin construction in mid-April of a 30,000 square foot addition to the plaza. The addition will have space for 20 or more

doctors' offices.

The covered connecting ways from each hospital will join at the plaza. The connection will allow easy movement of patients from one hospital to the other for treatment.

While the planned formal affiliation is a new step, the two hospitals have been trying out cooperative use of facilities for the past 24 months.

"While it is important to stress that each hospital will retain its independence and religious identity, there are many areas where we can avoid costly duplication of equipment and services," said Ben R. Brewer, executive vice president of Louisville Baptist Hospitals.

St. Anthony Administrator R. Michael Abell agreed. "If we are to properly serve both the citizens of the Highlands and a larger area, each hospital needs the joint strength of the proposed Highlands Medical Center," he said.

Many formal details remain to be worked out, including the exact nature of the Highlands Medical Center operating body and various professional matters guided by the medical staffs of each hospital, according to the two hospital officials.

Whatever the final official structure, both men stressed that a patient will continue to be a patient of one of the individual hospitals.

Double Exposure

Is there one more unsung hero(ine) in the church than the secretary? Behind every great man there's at least one woman; and if he has a secretary, there's probably two women keeping him in line. In smaller churches one gal Friday may literally do it all, while the multiplicity of programs in larger churches demands that each secretary specialize. National Secretaries' Week in April is a good time to genuinely recognize the talents of these unsung heroines. Long Run Baptist Association will do it again, third year in a row, with a luncheon for its church and denominational secretaries Apr. 21.

Vol. 151, No. 13



Western Recorder

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

Published 50 times per year by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43401, Middletown, Ky. 40243. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

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by H. C. Chiles, Murray, Ky.

International Series

Jesus Lives!

The Burial of Christ — Mark 14:42-47

After Christ's atoning work was finished, respect and honor were paid to his body. Joseph of Arimathea, a believer, acted quickly by going to Pilate and obtaining permission to remove from the cross the body of our Lord and to prepare it for burial. It frequently happened that the bodies of criminals were never buried, but were simply taken down from the crosses and left for the vultures and scavenging dogs to consume.

Joseph was a man of wealth and position, and a member of the Sanhedrin. However, like Nicodemus, he had not made a public confession of his faith in Christ because he was afraid of the Jews. Joseph courageously approached Pilate and requested the body of the crucified Christ, which acknowledgment was an act of friendship with the deceased. Upon receiving permission to take the body of Christ, Joseph and Nicodemus prepared his body for burial, the former providing the fine linen in which his body was wrapped and the latter supplied the spices. They tenderly and lovingly laid the body of their Lord in a new sepulcher which was hewn out of a rock in the garden and had been prepared for Joseph's own entombment. Then they rolled a huge stone in front of the entrance. The next day Pilate authorized the chief priests and Pharisees to seal the entrance to the tomb and to station soldiers there to prevent the tomb from being robbed.

The Resurrection of Christ — Mark 16:1-8

At sunrise on the morning after the Sabbath Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went to the tomb to anoint the body. Usually the bodies of loved ones were anointed at the time of death but these friends had not been given the opportunity of thus honoring their master. Had they really believed his promise that he would rise again the third day, they would not have gone near the tomb, but would have known it was empty.

Upon entering the tomb to perform their ritual, the women saw the white-robed young man sitting within the sepulcher. He assured the women they were no longer to be looking backward to one who had died, but they were to be looking forward to one who was alive.

The women immediately went and told the disciples and Peter about the glorious victory of Christ over the grave. The fact that a special message was sent to Peter reveals the compassionate and loving heart of our saviour toward his erring disciples.

Life and Work Series

Witness of the Risen Lord

After Christ was crucified and buried, the apostles were filled with bewilderment, consternation and fear, probably thinking they would be the next to suffer a similar death. Christ had told them repeatedly he would rise from the dead, but they did not have any idea his resurrection would actually occur.

John 20:1-2

Certain women observed where Joseph and Nicodemus had interred the body of Christ and then returned to their homes and rested on the Sabbath. Their hearts were sad because their Lord was gone and, they thought, never to return. At dawn the next morning after the Sabbath, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome took aromatic spices and went to the tomb for the purpose of anointing the body of Christ as an expression of their love for and devotion to him. As they hastened to the tomb, they wondered how they might remove the huge stone from the entrance. Upon their arrival, they were amazed to find the stone had been rolled away.

Instead of lingering about the tomb in wondering why the body of Christ was not there, Mary Magdalene ran quickly to Peter and John. She informed them that the body of Christ was not in the sepulcher, hoping this disturbing news would arouse their interest and their efforts to locate it. This alarming news caused Peter and John to investigate the matter hastily. They ran to the tomb and entered it, but were amazed when they failed to find Christ's body, so they returned to their homes promptly. Since Christ had told them repeatedly about his forthcoming death and resurrection, one might have expected Peter and John to have been at the tomb awaiting his resurrection, but such was not the case.

John 20:11-18

Mary Magdalene was unable to remain away from the tomb where her Lord's body had been placed. Feeling that she could not give up the Christ who had done so much for her, Mary stooped down and gazed into the tomb. There she saw an angel in white apparel sitting at each end of the place where they had laid the body of Christ. Mary thought someone had stolen the body. It had not dawned on her that Christ had arisen as he had predicted.

Somebody or something caused Mary Magdalene to turn around and she saw Christ but failed to recognize him. As soon as he called her "Mary" his tender and familiar voice revealed his identity.



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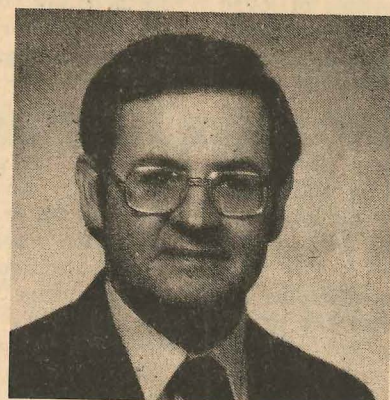
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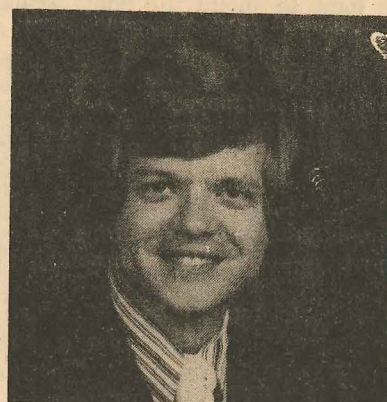
JUNE 27 - JULY 1

A black and white portrait of a young man with dark, curly hair, wearing glasses and a mustache. He is dressed in a dark suit jacket, a light-colored shirt, and a patterned tie. The background is a textured, light-colored surface.

CLAY MULFORD



DAVID BOOK



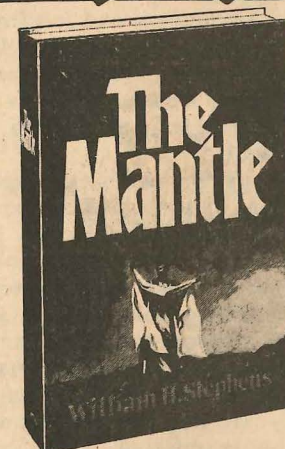
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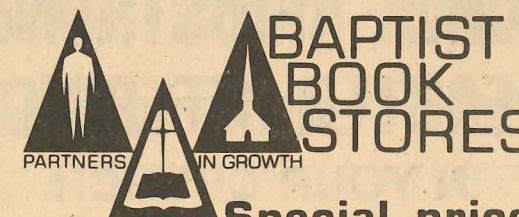
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PASTORS TO CONVENTIONS

Every pastor needs the fellowship experience of the state convention, at least. We meet this fall with Florence Baptist Church Nov. 15-17. Attendance there would make your pastor much more knowledgeable of what is going on in his denomination. He can scarcely afford it as a personal expense, yet it would not be too hard on the church treasury. He may not even realize how much he is missing. If he does, he hesitates to ask you to pay his way, even though it is a widely established custom.

I never shall forget: I was pastor of the Second Church of Highland Park, Louisville, a very small fellowship then that paid me a salary of \$25.00 a week. The little flock voluntarily voted to send Mrs. Owen and me to the 1940 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Ala. The experience greatly increased our vision, knowledge and inspiration. It put us in the mainstream of Baptist life where we have tried to stay ever since.

Your pastor would probably like to go. You would possibly profit from it as much or more than he. He needs to make his plans now—hotel, reservations, etc. I recommend it.

Our thanks to all the churches and associations for their mission support for Cooperative Program and designated Baptist causes during the fiscal year of our convention which closed Aug. 31. You will note that they are listed by church names and in associational groups. We would appreciate your checking the record of your own church and if there is any noted discrepancy in our records to report same to Barry Allen, Box 43433, Middletown, Ky. 40243.

We thank God for the giving of our people that broke all existing records in convention totals during the past year. Pray for continued growing support. Though we are proud of this record, we all know that if it were 100 times this much, it would not adequately honor our Lord for all his benefits toward us.

8 MARCH 31, 1977
WESTERN RECORDER

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1. WESTERN RECORDER will send each active family in your church a free subscription for 60 days.
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