



Drummond



Morris



Pollard



Ring



Weber



Tallant



Bingham



Ford

State Evangelism Conference Jan 16-17 at Elizabethtown

by Jim Cox, Associate Editor

Once again Kentucky Baptists will converge at Elizabethtown's Severns Valley Baptist Church Jan. 16-17 for their annual evangelism conference.

"Bold Commitment and Bold Witnessing" are twin thrusts of this year's conclave, according to Jay Brown, Middletown, director of the KBC Evangelism Department. This will be Brown's first meeting since assuming that position last April.

Sessions begin Monday afternoon and continue through Tuesday evening.

Individual session themes, and principal program guests for those sessions, are listed here:

Monday, 1:30 p.m.—"The Evangelistic Church Praying Boldly"—Lewis A. Drummond, Louisville, Billy Graham associate professor of evangelism, Southern Seminary; Wallace J. Morris, Bowling Green, evangelist; Ramsey

Pollard, Memphis, retired pastor and former president, Southern Baptist Convention.

Monday, 6:30 p.m.—"The Evangelistic Church and Bold Preaching"—David Ring, Liberty, Mo., evangelist; Jaroy Weber, Lubbock, Tex., pastor, First Baptist Church and former president, Southern Baptist Convention; Ramsey Pollard.

Tuesday, 9 a.m.—"The Evangelistic Church and Bold Living"—Reid D. Hardin, Atlanta, director of renewal evangelism, Home Mission Board; David P. Haney, Memphis, director of lay renewal, Brotherhood Commission; Harold D. Tallant, Louisville, church evangelist, Highview Baptist Church; Lincoln N. Bingham, Louisville, pastor, West End Baptist Church; Jaroy Weber.

Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.—"The Evangel-

istic Church and Bold Witnessing"—Finley Baird, Louisville, layman; Ramsey Pollard; Jaroy Weber.

Presiding over the sessions will be Jay Brown, Franklin Owen and A. B. Colvin, all of the KBC staff in Middletown.

Music leaders include Don Spencer, associate, Church Music Department, KBC, Middletown, and these ministers of music: Jim Cordell, First, Somerset; Ronald Sholar, First, Hopkinsville; Allen Case, Severns Valley, Elizabethtown; and Julian Sugg, Harrodsburg.

Special music will be provided by the Blessed Assurance Singers, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cordell, a Northern Kentucky male quartet and soloists Robert Philipps, Jane Holloway (former Miss Alabama), Ronald Wilburn and Gary Griesser.

Spring Bayou 1st In State Baptisms For 1976-77 Year

The top 20 churches in baptisms during 1976-77 (through August) across the state have been announced by the KBC Department of Evangelism.

Churches, associations, pastors and number of baptisms are:

1. Spring Bayou, West Union, Bob Jones, 173
2. Ninth & O, Long Run, LaVerne Butler, 170
3. Glendale, Warren, Richard P. Oldham, 150
4. Stithton, Severns Valley, Gene B. Waggoner, 141
5. Vine Grove, Severns Valley, Ralph O. Aday, 108
6. Porter Memorial, Elkhorn, James K. Pierce, 101
7. Cumberland, Pine Mountain, Joe B. Brown, 99
8. Unity, Greenup, Harold Cathey, 92
9. Highview, Long Run, William Hancock, 88
10. Immanuel, Elkhorn, Ted Sisk Jr., 83
11. Severns Valley, Severns Valley, Verlin C. Kruschwitz, 80
12. Oneida, Booneville, George R. Bausum, 78
13. Calvary, Boones Creek, Robert Pryor, 73
14. Laurel Springs, Red River, Loran R. Pyles, 71
15. Valley Station, Long Run, Ronald D. Bullock, 70
16. Hopkinsville, First, Christian County, David M. Gardner, 69
17. Walnut Street, Long Run, Wayne Dehoney, 69
18. Franklin, First, Simpson, Eugene M. Fleming, 68
19. Ormsby Heights, Long Run, Dallas Vincent, 66
20. Gethsemane, Long Run, Hayward R. Casey, 63

WESTERN RECORDER

January 4, 1978

Kentucky Baptists' Weekly News Journal

Vol. 152, No. 1

Oklahomans Cut Ties With Their Baptist Hospital

Baptist Medical Center, Oklahoma City, will be transferred without charge from ownership and operation by the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma to a non-profit, nonstock corporation composed primarily of Baptist laymen.

The Oklahoma convention's board of directors moved to divest themselves of the hospital at a meeting Dec. 6.

The recent conflict between the hospital's directors, Oklahoma Baptists and members of the hospital staff over the order by the Oklahoma Baptist board to stop gender dysphoria procedures (sex change operations) was not specifically stated as a reason for dropping hospital ownership.

The 50-member corporation that will take over operation of the hospital is composed of 30 Baptists and 20 non-Baptists and will be known as Baptist Medical Center of Oklahoma Inc.

The name Baptist will remain with the 500-bed facility as long as three conditions are met: 1. At least 60 percent of the members and directors of the corporation are members of churches cooperating with the state Baptist convention and are approved by Oklahoma Baptists; 2. The Baptist chaplaincy program presently in effect at the hospital must be continued in all significant aspects; 3. No gender dysphoria surgery or abortions on demand may be performed at the hospital.

Georgia Church Elects Lady Deacon Chairman

Mrs. Otis A. Johnson was elected unanimously as chairman of deacons at First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.

She is believed to be the first woman named chairman of deacons in a Georgia Baptist church.

Decatur First Baptist Church has 12 female deacons. Mrs. Johnson was one

Carter's Pastor Sued for Divorce

Charles A. Trentham, pastor of First Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., is being sued for divorce by his wife Nancy.

This is the second divorce for Trentham, pastor of President Jimmy Carter and his family, and the third for Mrs. Trentham. He was divorced by his first wife after 31 years of marriage while pastor of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn. He has been married to his present wife three-and-a-half years.

Trentham was served divorce papers Tuesday, Dec. 13. He conferred immediately with officials in the church. The following evening at the Wednesday prayer meeting he made the announcement to the church.

When asked about the grounds on which he was being sued for divorce Trentham said he had been advised by his attorneys not to discuss the details of the suit.

of the first four elected and ordained in 1952. She and her husband have been members there about 30 years. She has taught Sunday School classes and worked in Woman's Missionary Union all of those 30 years. She has also been chairman of the missions and finance committees and served on the pulpit committee in 1965.

Mrs. Johnson has been director of the business services division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta since 1969. She previously was administrative assistant in the Georgia Baptist Woman's Missionary Union office for eight years and supervisor with the telephone company for 12 years.

"It was not an easy decision," she told the Georgia Baptist Christian Index. "But I definitely felt led of God to accept when the committee approached me. I hope I can make a meaningful contribution to my church."

She added, "I would like to think that I was elected because I am the person for the job and not because I am a woman. If I did not feel that way I would not have accepted."

W. W. Lancaster, pastor at Decatur First Baptist Church since 1965, said, "I am exhilarated by this action. It's a symbol of progress that Christian churches are recognizing ability and dignity of individual persons, regardless of sex."



Kentucky Gov. Julian M. Carroll [r] is presented with a personalized copy of the new Good News Bible by former Kentuckian Robert Bratcher, a Southern Baptist and member of the American Bible Society staff. Carroll was given the Bible "in recognition of the positive Christian witness of both his private and public life." Bratcher, chairman of the team translating the Bible into Today's English Version, is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Seminary.



Are Churches Stealing From Pastors?

A Missouri layman told a group of Illinois Baptist church leaders recently that churches are "stealing the equity that pastors should be building in a house" when they provide a parsonage instead of a housing allowance for the pastor. Milton Morales, a Kansas City financial consultant and a Baptist deacon serving as president of the Missouri Baptist Convention, expressed this view in a deacons-pastors' conference.

The Missouri layman said he was speaking for pastors who cannot speak for themselves. His language might be a little too severe but his point is well taken.

Most Baptist churches providing parsonages never considered they were stealing. Indeed, many Baptist churches have regarded it as something special to provide the pastor's family with a nice home in which to live. It has been considered an inducement in securing a pastor.

But times have changed and so has the economic conditions of church members and their own plans for places to live. Most church families now either own or are buying homes. One goal of nearly every family now is to own a home before or by the time of retirement.

Preachers and their families are not different from other people. They dream of their own homes someday. And why shouldn't they? They know when retirement age comes they will have to move out of the parsonage where they live and where shall they move?

The thinking of church leaders doesn't change as fast as times change. And so many church members who already own or are buying a home haven't thought seriously about helping the pastor have what they are providing for themselves.

It's easy to say a pastor can take part of his salary to save for buying a home for retirement days. But most pastors' salaries are not that fat even if the pastor had the discipline to set aside a house payment every month.

Look at it this way. If a church provides a parsonage worth \$300 rent a month and considers that a part of the pastor's salary, in 10 years the church would save \$36,000 minus mortgage and maintenance costs of the parsonage. In another 10 years the parsonage would be paid for and the church would be the owner.

On the other hand, if the church had no parsonage and paid the pastor a \$300 a month housing allowance, the pastor would own a home in 20 years. When you consider who owns the home after 20

years Mr. Morales may have a point in saying the church is stealing from the pastor.

Mr. Morales confessed the lack of foresight on the part of his own church in this matter. He said his church awoke to the fact that the pastor was going to retire in about 10 years without a dime to buy a home. The church decided to make the pastor buy a house by selling the parsonage and lending the pastor an interest free down payment on a home of his own.

And so a parsonage which once was an inducement for a pastor may now be just the opposite. This surely would not be the case in every instance but church leaders ought to be fair enough to consider it and alert enough to discuss it with the present pastor or a prospective pastor.

This matter is surely not a major one in considering the church-pastor relationship. Other matters are more decisive in the Lord's plan for a preacher and a congregation but the attitude of a church toward such a matter could be indicative of an overall attitude toward a pastor and toward the ministry.

Powell's Charges Are Irresponsible!

Our policy for some time now has been to ignore Bill Powell, a self appointed savior of Southern Baptist orthodoxy. Mr. Powell's charges do no deserve space in a respectable publication but his tactics are such that sincere Baptists need to be alerted for what might appear in the secular press.

Mr. Powell has written a book in which he charges a number of Southern Baptist leaders, especially Baptist college and seminary teachers, with heresy. His charges are so unfair and his integrity so questionable that not one of the Southern Baptist state editors will endorse him nor circulate his charges.

In desperation Mr. Powell has turned to the secular press in an effort to get sensational treatment of his charges and to sell his book. He has provided religion writers of major daily newspapers advance copies of his book and has followed up this with special appeals to them to headline his charges.

Among the special targets of Powell are Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City. Newspaper articles based on the charges in Powell's book will likely be seen and read by many sincere Southern Baptists in Kentucky and elsewhere.

The accusations of Powell which may appear in the secular press should be ignored. So should his charges. One of Powell's severest attacks is upon Professor Wayne Ward of Southern Seminary. His charge that Wayne Ward cannot be trusted is enough to distrust Powell completely. Everyone who ever

sat under Ward's teaching or preaching knows him to be a conservative scholar of utmost integrity. One has to be not only uninformed but also desperate to question Wayne Ward's belief in the inspiration of the scriptures.

Those who are prone to give credence to anything Powell says or writes should recall his outright misrepresentation of Sunday school literature he tried to sell which he claimed was produced by Baptists but which turned out to be produced by another publishing company with no Baptist connections. One who would not be truthful about literature he was trying to sell to Southern Baptist churches cannot be trusted to speak the truth about professors he accuses.

Powell clearly has a messianic complex. He sees himself as savior of Southern Baptists. He has even selected a model savior in another denomination and is patterning his tactics after the crusader who led one faction in the recent split of Missouri Synod Lutherans.

Southern Baptists are not perfect. There is always a place for constructive critics with integrity and truthfulness. Seminary and college religion faculties occasionally might need purging but by responsible administrators and trustees and not by self-appointed messiahs who recklessly distort the truth.

Southern Baptists who hold the Bible in such high esteem are understandably upset when told their leaders are not true to the scriptures. This is why even irresponsible critics get a hearing and some support. Every generation of Baptists has had these destructive critics and Mr. Powell fills this role today.

Baptist Forum

PAIN TRUTH

I have seen many people in all stages of declining health; those, who on appearance have nothing to offer to family or society. But how can I really make that judgment?

Can one really believe that abortion on demand is wrong while believing that euthanasia on demand is right? If one's life has the right to begin under the sovereignty of God, should not the end of his life have that right also?

I find W. A. Criswell's remarks on this subject disturbing. How old is "old" and how much pain is "time-to-be-killed" pain?

Mrs. Henry Hasty
Shepherdsville

Western Recorder

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

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DON'T HIBERNATE THIS WINTER...

INCREASE YOUR CHURCH'S COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING!

The Ministry of a Will

by Grady Randolph

In the day by day operation of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation we tend to become more and more involved with the administration of the various funds which we manage. When it becomes possible to "get away" from the technical operation we begin to see where it all originates and what purposes or ministries it serves.

A look into our files tells us what the ministry of a will is all about.

"I direct that the balance of my estate be paid to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation . . . and that the income from the investment of the principle be equally divided between the Home Mission Board . . . and the Foreign Mission Board . . ." This brief clause brought to the Foundation over \$100,000 which is earning money for these two mission agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention. So we see the ministry of a will at home and around the world.

"I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation . . . one-tenth of the value of my estate, . . . which will be paid through the Cooperative Program, as adopted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention." This will enables the decedent to continue after death what he had practiced in life,—tithing and giving through the Cooperative Program to all causes.

"All the rest and residue of my estate . . . I give . . . to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, a Kentucky corporation. The income therefrom is to go to Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. . . ." Baptist schools and colleges in Kentucky render a ministry in which many Kentucky Baptists participate through a will.

"Another one-sixth of said rest and residue of my property, real, personal and mixed, wheresoever situated . . . I give to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation . . . to be held in trust . . . for the use and benefit of Spring Meadows, a Baptist children's home, located at Middletown, Ky. Another one-sixth of said rest and residue . . . to be held in trust by said corporation for the use and benefit of the charity fund of the Central Baptist Hospital at Lexington, Ky. with the income from said portion of my estate to be used to assist in paying the hospital expense at said hospital of such indigent persons as the governing authorities of said hospital may deem most worthy." So, the will enters another phase of ministry: caring for the needy in our child care ministry and in our Baptist hospitals.

"I direct that the residue be delivered to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation which shall administer it, in perpetuity, as a scholarship fund . . . the income from the investment of which shall be used to provide scholarships for needy young men and women in Kentucky Baptist schools . . ." Another field of ministry is entered through a will: young men and women being trained for life and service in a Baptist college.

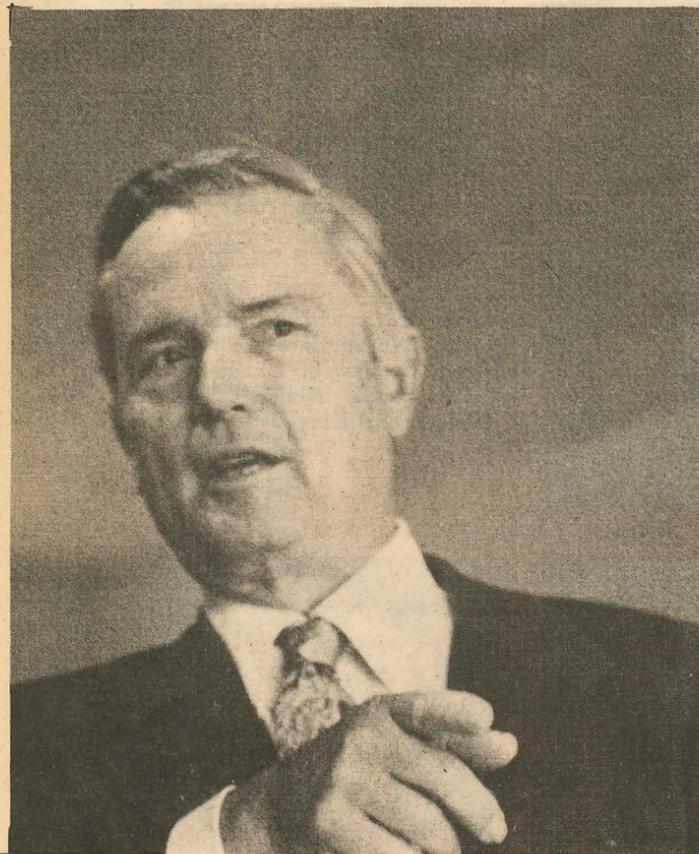
The ministry of a will is as broad and far reaching as the causes of Christ and the concern of Baptists; such as state missions, seminaries, schools and colleges, children's homes, home and foreign missions.

What is the ministry of your will? In addition to the care of family and loved ones, is it involved in Christian ministries as the wills quoted in this article? It can be if you so desire and if you so plan.

**BOLD BELIEVERS THROUGH
A GROWING COMMITMENT**

cooperative program

MAKE YOUR WILL MONTH



The preacher announced to his congregation, "In response to your questions, I have prayed for God to tell me whether there are golf courses in heaven. The good news is there are many golf courses in heaven; the bad news is that five of you have a tee time on the South Pearly Gate Course later this month."

But the apostle Paul viewed departing to be with Christ as the best news he could get.

Why have so many Christians lost their eager anticipation of heaven?

A recent seminary chapel speaker reported that a woman church member answered his inquiry about her health by saying, "I feel so good that I feel bad because I know I will never feel this good again."

Perhaps God's blessings that permit most of us to live in a relatively secure, affluent society have made the present so

attractive that we dread tomorrow. This world we live in is so good that we cannot imagine a better one.

I can hear you disagreeing with me because you think the news media with their exposes have left us with frustration, despair and insecurity. That is what I thought until I studied a recent Kettering Foundation survey conducted by the 30 members of Gallup International Research Institutes. In each of the 10 items North America scores higher than any other part of the world, in the study which covered 70 nations and 90 percent of the population of the free world.

Here is a sample:
"Satisfaction with Family Life": North America, 73 percent; West Europe, 64 percent; Latin America, 60 percent; Africa, 18 percent; Far East, 18 percent.

In terms of "Health" the same geographical divisions came out: 63 percent; 51 percent; 48 percent; 33 percent; 18 percent.

For "Leisure Time" the response was 58 percent; 48 percent; 51 percent; 30 percent; 13 percent.

"Housing": 55 percent; 49 percent; 37 percent; 14 percent; 14 percent.

In summary, Americans are better satisfied with life in this world, despite all of the disturbing exposes and clever advertisements to make them want something else, than any other people. Further, they are preoccupied with trying to improve their present lot. No wonder millions are not interested in news about the eternal tomorrows; and even some Christians consider the preacher or the physician who reminds them that heaven is

close at hand, to be the bearer of bad news.

Recently I was talking by long distance to my brother when the surgeon came into the hospital room to report on his wife. "Bad news—cancer." I caught the plane home as soon as I could to visit my sister-in-law at the hospital. How do you tell a beautiful young woman that heaven is closer—and make it good news? That was what was on my mind as I entered the hospital room but she had already prepared a message for her visitors. It was a little sign in front of the flowers on the window sill beyond her bed. It said, "God is greater than all my problems."

Now that is Good News. God sent his only son into this world to make it a better antechamber for our house not made with hands eternal in the heavens.

Viewpoint

The Good News and the Bad News

by Duke McCall
President, Southern Seminary

Christian Education

34 Kentucky Students Start the New Year Smiling With Degrees and Diplomas from Southern Seminary

Thirty-four students from Kentucky were among some 223 students who received degrees and diplomas in commencement exercises at Southern Seminary Dec. 16.

Owen Cooper, Baptist layman and businessman from Yazoo City, Miss., spoke to the graduates. A former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and an active leader in Southern Baptist life, Cooper

received the E.Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award during the graduation ceremony.

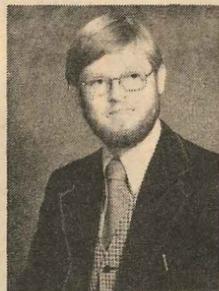
Seminary president Duke K. McCall presented degrees and diplomas to students in the schools of theology, church music and religious education.

Nine Kentucky students received the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree; four received the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree; one received the Doctor of

Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree; six received the Master of Church Music (M.C.M.) degree; one received a diploma in religious education (Dipl. R.E.); and 13 received the Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.) degree.

Kentucky graduates are pictured below and their hometowns and degrees are listed.

Paul Andrew Aday, Vine Grove, M.C.M.; Richard Dale Astle, Lexington, M.Div.; Terry Eugene Belew, Covington, M.R.E.; Andrea Blankenship, Nicholasville, M.R.E.; Bobby G. Blankenship, Edmonton, M.C.M.



Aday



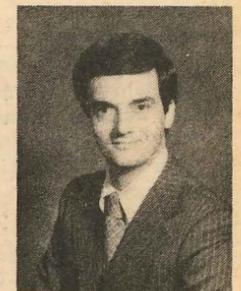
Astle



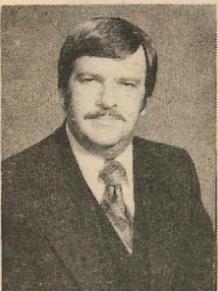
Belew



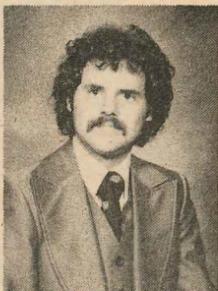
Blankenship



Blankenship



Bridges



Cain



Chaudoin



Chaney



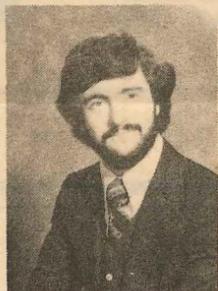
Dalton

James G. Bridges II, Newport, M.Div.; Mark Osage Cain, Paducah, M.C.M.; K. Lee Chaudoin Jr., New Castle, M.R.E.; Adriana Chaney, Stanton, M.R.E.; Rozanna Dalton, Sturgis, M.C.M.

Donald Ira Eskew, Ashland, M.R.E.; Dan Ray Francis, Covington, M.Div.; Tarasa Jean Herkamp, Maysville, M.R.E.; William R. Higgs, Nicholasville, M. Div.; Joseph Hilton Hunt, Bloomfield, M.R.E.



Eskew



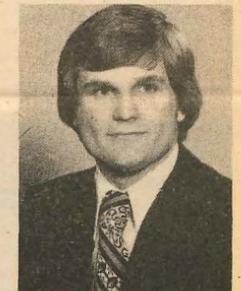
Francis



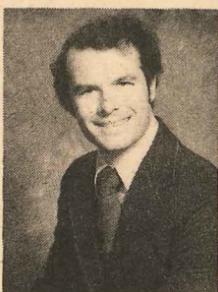
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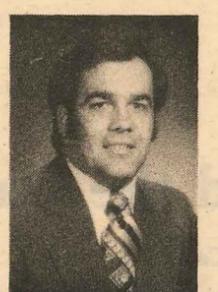
Higgs



Hunt



Hutchinson



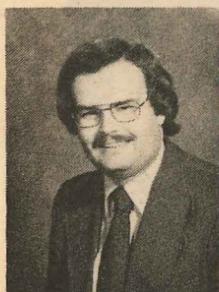
Insko



Jewell



Jones



King

James L. Hutchinson, Owensboro, M.Div.; Garry Wayne Insko, Brooksville, D.Min.; Susan Y. Jewell, Louisville, M.R.E.; Raymond Jones, Highland Heights, M.Div.; Michael Earl King, Franklin, M.R.E.

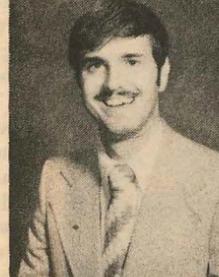
Luetta Ellen Lowrey, Glasgow, M.R.E.; Edwina Mills, Guston, M.R.E.; Tommy Wayne Mobley, Louisville, D.Min.; Terrence Wade New, Corbin, M.Div.; Harold Price, Louisville, Dipl. R.E.



Lowrey



Mills



Mobley



New



Price

Bob Glenn Reeder, Henderson, M.C.M.; Jay Register, Bowling Green, M.C.M.; John Elvis Sowell, Louisville, M.R.E.; Ronald Williams, Central City, M.Div.; Donald Withers, Russell Springs, M.Div.



Reeder



Register



Sowell



Williams



Withers

Not Pictured

Thomas M. Atwood, D.Min.; Gary Leonard Kasey, M.Div.; S. Eugene Rittenhouse, M.Div.; Donald R. Word, M.R.E.

On the Air

Radio and Television Commission Honors Elizabethtown Broadcaster

Billy R. Evans, president, WQXE Radio, Elizabethtown, is one of 21 broadcasters who has received a Certificate of Excellence for his entry in the Ninth Annual Abe Lincoln Awards for Broadcasters.

The Abe Lincoln Awards were created and are sponsored by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Ft. Worth. They are intended to honor broadcasters throughout the country for their achievements in ad-

vancing the quality of life in America and for helping the broadcast industry enrich its service to the public.

The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission is the world's largest producer of radio and television programs for public service time.

The Ninth Annual Abe Lincoln Awards program will be held in Ft. Worth Feb. 9, 1978. Billy Graham, renowned evangelist, will speak. He will receive the Radio and Television

Commission's Distinguished Communications Medal.

"Although Mr. Evans is not among the 11 Abe Lincoln finalists from which the top winners were selected, the fact that he earned a Certificate of Excellence indicates he was rated very highly by the Abe Lincoln judges," said Paul M. Stevens, president, Radio and Television Commission.

"In many cases people who received Certificates of Excellence were only

points away from those broadcasters included in the top 11 finalists," he said. Judges were broadcasters from across the country, several of them previous Abe Lincoln winners.

Kentucky broadcasters who have received Abe Lincoln Merit Awards include Hand Lindsey, WHOP, Hopkinsville, 1971; Thomas Shelby Watson, news and public affairs director, WAKY, Louisville, 1973; and D. J. Everett III, news and public affairs director, WHOP, Hopkinsville, 1974.

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BIBLE STUDY

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- 3 Vacation Bible School Clinics for Associational Age Group Teams:

February 21st - First Baptist Church Madisonville
23rd Porter Memorial Baptist Church Lexington
24th First Baptist Church Pikeville

(Each clinic will include 10 different age group conferences)

- Associational Leadership Workshop - Toccoa, Georgia March 20-23, 1978. Detailed information available from Associational Directors of Missions and the KBC S.S. Dept. Mileage and registration will be paid by our department for age group workers. Three days of training for \$27.50 per person.

PASTOR-SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR WORKSHOPS

- 6 Workshops are planned for 1978. The emphasis will be for churches under 150 in attendance. Workshop materials and meals will be provided free to each pastor and director.

February 10-11 Mid-Continent Bible College - Mayfield
April 14-15 Campbellsville Baptist College - Campbellsville

AGE GROUP LEADERSHIP TRAINING

- April 24 - First Baptist, Paducah
- Florence Baptist Church, Florence
- 25 - Crabtree Avenue Church, Owensboro
- Central Baptist Church, Corbin
- 27 - First Baptist, Bowling Green
- First Baptist, Hazard

28 - Gardenside Baptist, Lexington
- Irene Cole, Prestonsburg

ACTION CAMPAIGNS AND INTERPRETATIONS

- January 9 Christian County Baptist Association Office 6:30 p.m.
- February 2 Crittenden County Baptist Association - Skyway Restaurant, 7:00 p.m.
- March 10-13 Franklin County Associational ACTION Campaign

BIBLE VENTURE WORKSHOP

- May 6-10 Northern Kentucky Association

FREE MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM S.S. DEPT.
P. O. Box 43433, Middletown, Ky. 40243

- Duties of Adult Sunday School Department Leaders
- Duties of Adult Sunday School Class Leaders
- Duties of Youth Sunday School Class and Department Leaders
- Duties of Children's Sunday School Workers
- Responsibilities of Preschool Sunday School Workers
- Responsibilities of Cradle Roll Workers

Missions & Ministries

Poor Spelling Tells Rich Stories

"These bible studies are truly a blessing to me. I enjoy studying God's word. My bible has proven to be a valuable friend. God talks to me through his word."

The spelling is poor but the sentiment is that expressed by some 100,000 persons who have been enrolled in the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Correspondence Bible Course.

The course — covering all 66 books of the Bible — is offered free to those who make a request. It's now used by some 1500 persons per month and 8000 are in the current file.

The course, which began in the fall

of 1947, is "probably one of the best kept secrets around," says Frank Crumpler, director of evangelism Planning for the HMB. "In the past 30 years, some 100,000 persons have participated in the course although not all have completed it."

Many of those who use the material are prisoners — some 1080 are on the current list — but many other persons make use of the small booklets of material prepared by writers for the HMB.

Crumpler says the course is intended for pastors who have not had the opportunity of attending Bible college or

seminary, for Sunday school officers and teachers who are interested in better preparation and those who simply seek better understanding of the Bible.

The course is not intended as a substitute for or supplementary to Sunday school literature, but appeals to people who want to study the Bible but have limited opportunities to do so," says Crumpler.

One — a prisoner serving 35 years for armed robbery in Oklahoma — wrote: "I tried to rob a store and got myself in more trouble than before. All my life I made the wrong choice and each time turns out to be worse than before."

"Now the time has come for me to make another choice, and this time, I can't go wrong. I have asked God to take over my life. I've asked him to teach me how to serve him."

"I ask you to please send me this Bible course so that I may feed this great hunger for God's word. God bless you . . . for making it possible for others like myself to be able to receive the word."

A Texas prisoner serving five years for bad checks noted his life had been a mess. He had been married three times and had four children. He served time for "drugs, robbery, car theft, forgery, bad checks and many other things."

He wrote: "I have been studying the Bible constantly through the free Correspondence Bible Course which I receive from the Home Mission Board . . . I have come a long way in the past few months with the Lord and have been studying the Bible day and night. I don't have the space in this letter to tell you what is truly in my heart and how great my love for the Lord is . . ."

Not all those who study the course are prisoners. One pastor in New Mexico wrote: "In my library I have at least 10 books and commentaries on Romans. I have seen the teachings of this book in a way I have never seen before. Too bad such a course is not studied by all preachers."

A Florida housewife wrote: "It (the course) has enriched my life. It is enlightening and helpful to those who take the time to study the Bible and answer the questions."

Lillian Scott, coordinator of the course, says lessons "are not mailed out in bulk, but are sent to individual students." While it is intended for individual study, it can be used for group discussions or for class material in Bible studies.

On an average month some 1200 certificates are issued; one is sent with the completion of each book in the

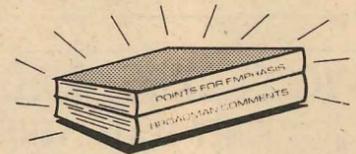
series. Mrs. Scott says there is "no way of knowing how many certificates have been sent out during the 30 years the course has been in operation."

In addition to individual enrichment the course also has been used as an evangelism tool.

One woman wrote: "Thank you for your kind help. Two more ladies have accepted Christ as savior during the study of lesson six. This makes every one of the regulars having made a decision for him, a total of more than 40 over the past four years."

Marketplace

WELCOME TWO OLD FRIENDS!



Need help in studying and planning your Sunday School lessons? Broadman annually publishes two helpful commentaries on the International Uniform Lessons.

POINTS FOR EMPHASIS 1977-78

William J. Fallis, editor
Its convenient size and concise treatment of the Bible lessons have helped make it a widely popular Bible study guide.

Large type edition, \$2.25
Pocket-size edition, \$1.50

BROADMAN COMMENTS

Donald F. Ackland and other writers
Designed especially for teachers—lesson material is divided into three sections: studying the Bible, applying the lesson, and teaching the class.

Broadman Comments, 1977-78, \$3.95

Broadman Comments, January-March 1978, \$1.50

Broadman Comments, April-June 1978, \$1.50

(Released Feb. 1978)

at BAPTIST BOOK STORES
from BROADMAN



Frank Crumpler checks over letters in the files of the Correspondence Bible Course offered by the HMB. Lillian Scott, seated, is coordinator of the course, assisted by Mamie Chastain. They handle 1500 letters monthly.

NEW YEAR—NEW START

Frank Owen



Today is the first day of the rest of your life. Every day is a new beginning. God mercifully responds to every sinner's confession, anytime, anywhere, every time he confesses; and lets him start anew, so long as his heart is right and his confession sincere, his intentions the best.

The new year, though, seems somehow the most measurable new start time we have. This is what brought the New Year's resolution into being. 1978! A brand new slate, a new year. What are you going to write in 1978? How are you going to write in 1978? Open the record book of your life, lift up the pen, what will you record in 1978?

How many more chances will you have to write a good year? Will you have all of this one? Pray that you will and promise God to write to his glory.

What noble resolve have you not

yet fulfilled? What good intention have you continued to postpone? What worthy decisions have you held in abeyance, unmade?

Hezekiah was told to "set thy house in order for thou shalt die and not live" (II Ki. 20:1). It isn't likely that you and I will be given this kind of warning. God has already given it to us through the record of Hezekiah and he is reminding both of us of it in this writing, as I write it and you read it. Is your house in order? Don't go into 1978 without setting it in order.

Hail, New Year! Let me be ready for you. Let my life throughout this year be ready. Christ makes men new. He puts new life, a new nature where the old life and the old nature was. He does this upon our surrender to him. What a time for Christian decision! New life for a new year in Christ.

I WANT MY CHURCH TO GROW by C. B. Hogue

If you have ever said "I want my church to grow," you will welcome the vision and freshness this book offers. It is both inspirational and practical as it presents case studies, offers procedural suggestions, how-to-do-it forms, basic outlines, and worksheets for the "church on the grow."

As director, Evangelism Section, the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, C. B. Hogue is in one of the key leadership positions of American Christianity. In *I Want My Church to Grow*, he shares his vision and his commitment, his wide experience and practical outlook.

\$5.95



C. B. Hogue says, "Concern for church growth must be genuine."



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The Tangibles

Publishing your church news in Western Recorder may significantly reduce your expenditure for printed mailouts currently budgeted. It will save you postage, even more if your members are now receiving a church newsletter and Western Recorder each week. Just as important, you'll be spared the additional personnel, machine maintenance and material costs of addressing, sorting and address plate making, plus delivery to the post office for weighing and mailing. Personnel now confined to precious hours of newsletter production will be freed for more important duties, resulting in greater office efficiency and more financial benefits to the church.

3 Each Monday your page[s] are inserted for all subscribers in your church family, and by Wednesday members have received the complete package—your church news, state and southwide denominational news and, in many areas, local associational news, too.

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3. Number to receive it. [We offer you the Recorder's lowest available rate, five cents per church family per week. All resident families must be included in your mailing lost. For 50 families your cost would be \$2.50 per week; for 500 families, \$25.]



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Western Recorder

Serving Baptists of the Bluegrass Since 1825

Sunday School Lessons

Lessons for January 15, 1978

International Series

by H. C. Chiles, Murray, Ky.

Self-Discipline For God's Glory

Nebuchadnezzar captured Jerusalem and took the Hebrews to Babylon as captives. This city, located five hundred miles from Jerusalem, had grown rich and strong at the expense of its prisoners.

The Requisition—Daniel 1:3-5
Nebuchadnezzar issued an order to the effect that a number of outstanding teenagers or young men be selected from the ranks of the Hebrew captives to take the honored place of students at the Royal College. A three-year course was to be offered to them, including the language of the Chaldeans. The Chaldeans were the politicians, philosophers, theologians, and teachers of the nation.

The Request—Daniel 1:8-14

Among the young men selected for special training was Daniel. At the beginning Daniel purposed in his heart that nothing would hinder him from glorifying God. He preferred death to the marrying of his testimony for God. Daniel recognized life as God's gift, but knew the character of a life is determined by its possessor. Controlled by a high, noble and holy purpose, that "he would not defile himself," this heroic young man resolved he would not turn aside from implicit obedience to God regardless of the consequences.

Resolving to keep his body clean and free, Daniel decided not to eat the king's meat. There were three

Life and Work Series

Whose Servant Am I?

John 13:1-15

With the shadow of the cross falling across his path Christ chose to have his disciples with him in an upper room in Jerusalem for a period of fellowship and a last meal together before he left them.

A Pattern—John 13:1-5

It was customary for the servants to remove the sandals and wash the feet of their masters and guests who entered their homes. The disciples did not have slaves to render this menial service and on this occasion neither of them would condescend to wash the feet of the rest. Thoughts of preeminence rather than servitude occupied their minds.

When it became apparent that neither of them would render this needed service for the others, Christ quietly arose from the table, laid aside his outer garments, picked up a towel, tied it about his waist and began to wash the feet of the disciples and to wipe them with the towel.

The disciples were chagrined by his noble deed. Christ could not have done anything that would have made them more thoroughly ashamed of themselves. They could not have been rebuked more severely than by seeing their Lord do what they thought

Daniel 1:3-5, 8-17

reasons for that refusal: first, because the Babylonians ate unclean beasts which was forbidden in the case of the Jews; second, because they ate beasts which had been strangled instead of being bled properly; and third, because the animals which were eaten were first offered as sacrifices to heathen gods. Daniel resolved that he would keep himself free from idolatry.

Daniel approached the official who was personally responsible for him and his friends and requested that for ten days they be allowed to have vegetables and water only, and then at the end of that experiment they be compared with those who followed the king's diet.

The Result—Daniel:15-17

The official acceded to his wish and responded affirmatively. God blessed Daniel and his companions during those ten days and at the end they exhibited a better physical appearance. When the official saw they looked healthier than those who had eaten the king's diet he immediately granted them permission to continue their restricted diet. Thus God honors those who honor him. He blesses those who exercise self-discipline and faithfully obey him. One's character is strong or weak and his influence is wholesome or injurious in proportion to his self-discipline and his obedience to God. Indecision means ineffectiveness.

themselves above doing for each other. His act placed him on the level of the most menial servant. Men who long to appear important rebel at the thought of humility.

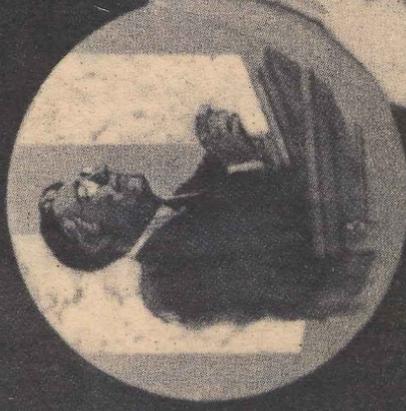
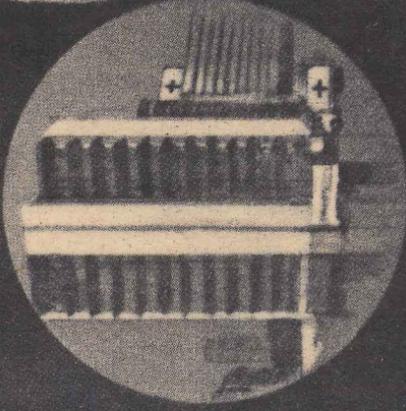
A Protest—John 13:6-11

Peter was the first to utter a protest to what Christ was doing. He said, "Thou shalt never wash my feet." Christ answered, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me." Convinced of his mistake in refusing submission to Christ, motivated by a sense of guilt and realizing he needed a complete cleansing such as only Christ could give, Peter said, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head."

A Precept—John 13:12-15

When our Lord resumed his place at the table he impressed upon them the importance and value of self-denying service. In the light of what he had done for them they were under obligation to render loving service to one another. He taught them that a servant is not greater than his lord and the one sent is not greater than the sender. He made it clear that following him means living a life of Christian service and helpfulness. The real test of greatness is the ability and willingness to stoop and serve.

BOLD BELIEVERS THROUGH A GROWING COMMITMENT



Western Recorder
January 4, 1978

MAKE YOUR WILL MONTH