

# Home Mission Board, WMU Move to Strengthen Work with Black Baptists



A black woman has been named consultant in cooperative ministries with National Baptists in a joint effort of the Home Mission Board and the Woman's Missionary Union of the South-

ern Baptist Convention.

Margaret Perkins, 30, of Birmingham, began as consultant Jan. 30 with an office in Birmingham. Emmanuel McCall, director of the Home Mission Board's Department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists, said she will work mostly in Birmingham with the WMU but her salary will be paid by the Home Mission Board.

The Home Mission Board and the WMU have shared consultants in the past but this is the first time a consultant has been named to work with the predominantly black National Baptist groups.

Mrs. Perkins and her husband, Bill, were serving as appointed home missionaries when she accepted the new

position. Her husband will continue as director of interracial ministries in Birmingham. "They are both talented persons with a lot to offer," McCall said.

Mrs. Perkins, a Tuscaloosa, Ala., native, is a graduate of the University of Louisville and Bennett College, Greensboro, N. C. She holds a master of arts degree from Wellesley (Mass.) College.

## WESTERN RECORDER

February 1, 1978

Kentucky Baptists' Weekly News Journal

Vol. 152, No. 5

### Radio Show Goes Stereo

"The Baptist Hour," a syndicated religious radio show, is to begin broadcasting in stereo and originate from the Bible lands in February.

"Baptist Hour" speaker Frank Polard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., spent two weeks in the Bible lands in December with Claude C. Cox, producer, and Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission engineers. The commission syndicates the show on 359 radio stations.

They taped 45 shows at sites which included the Sea of Galilee, Jericho, Jacob's Well, Caesarea, David's Tomb, Lazarus' Tomb, the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, and the Jordan River. A pre-Easter sermon was recorded at the traditional site of the upper room where Jesus shared his last meal with his disciples. The Palm Sunday sermon was taped in the Garden of Gethsemane. Potter's Field and the chapel built where Jesus is believed to have ascended into heaven are sites of the post-Easter sermons.

"We are presenting 'The Baptist Hour' in stereo at the request of the stations who presently air it," said Paul M. Stevens, commission president.

Stevens said the program can now be offered to more stations who have been unable to use it because it was not in stereo.

### Writers Choose Graham

Billy Graham has been named the most influential person in the field of religion in the U. S. today in a poll of 35 religion writers and editors taken by The Christian Century Magazine.

The ecumenical weekly said "the clear winner, receiving almost unanimous support, is evangelist Billy Graham, described by one writer as 'the one and only.'"

Martin E. Marty, an associate editor of The Christian Century, was second in the poll.

President Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist layman, ranked third. The Century quoted one writer as saying he "demonstrates that evangelical religion and politics mix," and another as having

written that he "sets the style for the born-again movement—has popularized it so that even hardened newspaper editors are sure there is a revival going on." A third writer said, "He has made civil religion respectable again without losing us in piety."

### Georgians Ordain Again

Susan Bishop, a chaplain at Georgia Mental Health Institute, has been ordained at Decatur First Baptist Church. She will also become associate pastor for missions at Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur.

### Distaff Ranke Swelling

Second Baptist Church, Lubbock, Tex., has chosen the city's first lady to chair the executive council of deacons. Mrs. Anita Bass, whose husband, Roy, is mayor of Lubbock was one of five women ordained at Second Baptist last year.

This is Mrs. Bass' second time on the executive council. As chairman she hopes to "help the deacons to find meaning and ministry as the ordained." She is currently one of four women on the 64-member Southern Baptist Convention executive board.

### Fisher Sets Retirement



Ben C. Fisher, executive director-treasurer of the SBC Education Commission, has announced plans to retire Sept. 30. He has served in this capacity since 1970. Earlier he had been executive secretary

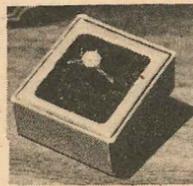
of Kentucky Baptists' Christian Education Commission.

### Two Favor Canal Pacts

Charles W. Bryan, Foreign Mission Board area secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean, and Ervin E. Hastey, associate consultant in the board's Evangelism Department, have urged ratification of Panama Canal treaties by the U. S. Senate. Each spoke as individuals, not employees.

Bryan said, "The decision of the Senate will have more impact on our relationship with Latin America and with all third world powers than anything that will be done in the remainder of this century."

Hastey declared, "It is only right that our government correct an injustice done to the Panamanian people 75 years ago. I am convinced that failure to ratify these treaties would have an adverse effect upon our overseas work for 10, perhaps as many as 25 years."



### Her Final Sacrifice Will Inspire Others

by Judy Touchton

She is a tiny slip of a woman—less than five feet tall and never weighing more than 102 pounds in her 91 years.

Lying in the stark white hospital bed she hardly ruffles the covers. Her greyed hair, still showing tinges of strawberry blonde, gently frames her pale face against the pillow. Her body shakes, struggling against the overpowering cancer as she grasps for breath.

She struggles to open her eyes, her colorless lips move to speak, then close without a sound. She is dying. But she is ready.

In November, in what may have been Myla Koetter Guard's last gesture to support Christian missions, she mailed to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board the diamond engagement ring she had worn more than 70 years.

It arrived in the morning mail packaged in a box that had held steel wool pads, stuffed with tissues and wrapped for mailing in a brown paper sack. A ragged-edged blue ring box held the tiny gold band with a solitaire diamond.

Its arrival had been prepared a day earlier by a note: "I would like it sold and the amount given to some young woman preparing to do mission work or to be used to the best advantage."

The simplicity of her words, the selflessness of her gift, the significance of her gesture, touched many hearts at the board.

In his Home Missions magazine column executive director William G. Tanner wrote, "Mrs. Guard thought her ring might be worth \$250. But who could give dollar value to the sentiment symbolized by such a treasure?"

"Mother never talked a lot about her Christianity... she lived it more," related her only child, Myla Bennett. "She didn't have to talk. She was always at the church—with the Woman's Missionary Union, leading Sunbeams, holding circle meetings."

Mrs. Guard, who until a stroke after Christmas was alert and full of life, wore her engagement ring next to her gold wedding band until the day she mailed it, even though her husband died in the 1950's.

She has always been staunchly independent—living alone in Fayetteville, Ark., spending her winters in Phoenix, Ariz. Three years ago, she moved to Athens, Ga., to be closer to her daughter, but she lived in her own apartment, walking daily the eight blocks to town. Only last year she moved into her daughter's home.

Mrs. Guard knew even before the stroke, which left her partially crippled and unable to care for herself, that she would die soon.

She found out she had cancer at age 81 and has since had several operations. At 89 she had a breast removed. Now lung cancer is slowly ending her life.

She lies in the hospital bed... waiting.

Touched by her gift, Tanner said he would use her ring "to the best advantage"—as a symbol of sacrifice, a rallying point, a challenge to personal support for the new Mission Service Corps, the convention's attempt to place 5000 volunteers alongside 5000 career missionaries.

"Mrs. Guard," Tanner added, "I want to show that ring to Southern Baptists across the nation urging them to match your sacrifice..."

Mrs. Guard would be pleased with that decision, says her daughter, "but sending the ring was no sacrifice for her. It was something she planned and did... just as she has always planned her life and her death. She has made her funeral plans... selected the clothes, shoes, hat she will wear, picked out her casket and made arrangements with the funeral home here for her funeral in Fayetteville."

Yet with plans made for death, Mrs. Guard has not given up life.

On the outside of the envelope she received from the Home Mission Board thanking her for her gift and sending her a copy of Tanner's column, she noted the date.

"Rec'd. Dec. 2, 1977," her note read... just as if she planned to live forever.

### KBC Building Closed

Kentucky Baptist Convention offices in Middletown were closed Jan. 16-20 and 26-27 due to weather conditions.

Future emergencies may force closing of these offices at any time during winter months. Visitors should telephone (502) 245-4101 to determine if the building is open before starting out during adverse conditions.



## Perils for a Denominational Worker

Last week we pointed out the need for perennial examination and evaluation of our denominational organization. This week we take a candid look at the personnel that mans this organization.

More than 20 years of close observation convinces me that Baptists for the most part are served well and generally get their money's worth from those who fill the many offices on the state and national level. However, the same observation convinces me there are special temptations for denominational workers and that we are succumbing to these more and more. This can happen without realizing it and it behooves us to watch carefully for the first signs of infection and sickness.

There is something about serving in a denominational office which puts leaders out of touch with those sitting in the pews. This can be numbing and deadening. It can lead to complacency and complacency to insensitivity which is spiritual suicide.

This danger exists on every level of denominational organization and even in churches when size and organization remove ministers and staff members further and further from the members. It is a special peril on the level of metropolitan district associations, state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention agencies and institutions.

The bigger a denominational organization becomes, the wider the gap becomes between the denominational worker and Baptists in the pew. The denominational leader thinks organization and promotion and tends to forget how it feels to be the object of constant pressure to conform and to cooperate. The pressure for the organization to succeed statistically generates a zeal which sometimes causes some denominational leaders to regard people as little more than objects of manipulation.

Consider some special perils for denominational workers. The first is the bureaucratic syndrome which plagues a large denominational organization like it does big government. There is always a tendency to create more and more officers and to employ more and more people to run the organization. Contributions can come to be regarded as automatic as tax receipts and the constant temptation is to use more and more of the contributions to administer the rest of them.

Professionalism is a growing attitude of more and more denominational workers. Like doctors, lawyers and other professionally trained people, some effective and popular denominational administrators expect to be paid according to their training and skill rather than to be cared for comfortably while they minister. This professionalism has grown to a point that it is not unknown now for a fee to be mentioned when other arrangements are being made with a popular denominational speaker.

Closely related to professionalism is materialism and greed which tempt a denominational worker like they do a pastor and everyone else. An effective preacher serving a denominational agency or institution has a special temptation. He needs to preach and to stay in touch with the churches. However, the temptation is to turn visits with churches into lucrative pulpit supplies, interim pastorates, revivals or Bible conferences. With a little rationalizing he can lapse into serving himself while saying he is serving the Lord and the churches. He can even come to devote time and energies to these extra activities which rightfully belong to the ministry for which he is employed. For a popular denominational preacher or teacher income from moonlighting might exceed the total pay for pastors of some small congregations.

Prestige and status are also a sinister temptation for denominational leaders.

We tend to judge each other by the level of pay and by how much personnel we have to supervise. Since a full time secretary is a status symbol, who wants to be served by a secretarial pool? Promotions, salary raises and fringe benefits are a major concern and generous expense accounts are expected.

Finally, denominational workers have a strong temptation to become less energetic if not downright lazy. Strict supervision is not expected for higher level denominational workers and self-discipline is not easy for any of us. Secretarial help and associates are often available to stay by the stuff and do the sweating. It is easy to settle down to a routine of coming to work, checking phone messages, processing mail, joining colleagues for coffee breaks and lunch, giving assignments to associates and clerical help, signing letters and taking off early to run an errand or to make a near or distant appointment. Travel time for some approximates time in the office.

Some of my colleagues in denominational service will disagree strongly with what has been said above. Others will agree at least in part but will question airing such linens openly. The observations, however, are based on my own experience as a denominational worker and are intended to be more confessional than accusatory.

Maybe I should reserve such confession and preaching for myself but I have generally found open confession is good for all and that the sermon I have prepared to meet my own needs speaks helpfully to the needs of others.

We are not sick unto death but the best way never to be is to always realize we are susceptible.

### Guest Editorial

## Why 'Rebaptize'?

by Warren Hultgren

Pastor, First Baptist Church, Tulsa

The question frequently arises, "Why do Baptists 'rebaptize' when someone joins from another denomination?"

This is a very important and legitimate question that I will try to answer briefly.

1. The scripture teaches that "God's sequence of obedience" is salvation . . . . baptism . . . . church membership (Acts 2:41-42).
2. The essential element in salvation is faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ . . . . our confidence in the fact that Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again (I Cor. 15:3-4). One cannot be more a child of God or more saved than he is the moment he places his faith, trust, self and sin upon the person of Jesus Christ. At this moment, we are born into the family of God.
3. The act of baptism is not essential to salvation. There are those who build their whole doctrine around a few verses of scripture that link "repentance and faith" as prerequisites. Baptism is important in its place, but it has no saving virtue . . . . it is an outward declaration and dramatization of our inward faith in Jesus Christ. By going down into the water, we are entering a place of death. By rising out of the water, we have said eloquently and obediently, "I want you to know what I already know and in the way he told me to tell you, that I am staking my eternal salvation upon the death, burial and resurrection of Christ as my savior."

Baptism is not something the minister does to us. It is something we say to others, and we portray it as Christians have for over 2000 years.

4. Church membership, in an assembly of believers, is part of what it means to be a Christian. We do not become a Christian by church membership but fellowship with God's people in his church on earth is taught throughout all of the New Testament. We are to live, not in spiritual isolation, but in spiritual fellowship and in mutual encouragement.

5. This leads us to the question that has been posed many, many times. Inasmuch as I personally did not become a Baptist until age 21 and came from another evangelical denomination, I feel I can speak with some measure of experience.

One reason Baptists "rebaptize" those from other denominations is because many have not trusted Christ as savior in the first place. Another reason is that some have been baptized, either by sprinkling or immersion, for the wrong reason. They have been baptized, either in order to be saved or as an act of parental dedication and commitment. The most important reason to me is that Baptists do not view the act of baptism by immersion as sacramental . . . . this means it does not save or impart spiritual grace to the individual. It does not make one a Christian, more Christian or a better Christian . . . . it is an act of obedience and testimony following conversion.

In view of this, it does not seem inconsistent for Baptists to say to those who have not experienced believer's baptism, "We do not question your salvation or the fact that you are trusting Jesus Christ as your personal savior. We do, however, wish that you would share with us your testimony of faith in the way our Lord commanded."

If people really believe that we are not questioning their profession of faith or reflecting adversely upon the denomination from which they come, I believe it is much easier for them to say, "Not only will I be willing to share my testimony through baptism but do it willingly as an act of public commitment to the lordship of Christ in my life."

Baptists are not better than anyone else . . . . there are no exclusive franchised dealers of salvation . . . . there is only one way of salvation and that is through faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism is the outward symbol and act of identification, obedience and public declaration.

## Western Recorder

*Ernestly 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.

C. R. DALEY JR. . . . . Editor  
JAMES H. COX . . . . . Associate Editor  
PAUL WHITLER JR. . . . . Business Manager

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

C. Carman Sharp, Louisville, chairman; Harold J. Purdy, Madisonville, vice chairman; Billy D. Marcum, Brandenburg, secretary; William S. Blakeman, Winchester; H. Stanton Carney, Paducah; Curtis Erwin, Glasgow; Garnett Hulette, Frankfort; William D. Jagers, Cynthiana; John W. Kruschwitz, Ft. Thomas; Donald J. LaBelle, London; O. G. Lawless, Bowling Green; Gilbert Sapp, Russell Springs.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Individual, \$3.68 (tax included), Foreign, \$3.75; Church Budget, \$2.50 All except church accounts payable in advance. Church accounts must have tax exemption number

## Powell Responds

Your editorial titled "Powell's Charges Are Irresponsible!" was a real shock to me. And of course it hurt! I'm quite disappointed that you would say such things about a brother in Christ. I regret you feel the way you do.

No one who knows the truth about my motives and my ministry has any basis to question my commitment and loyalty to the word of God and to our great denomination.

Most of my ministry has been in service to our SBC. For 11 years I served on the leadership staff of our Home Mission Board. For more than three years I served as superintendent of missions for the Chicago Southern Baptist Association.

Those who know me are aware of my dedication to the infallibility of the Bible and to carrying out the great commission through our Southern Baptist Convention. I believe most Southern Baptists share this same heartbeat for evangelism and missions. And like many other Southern Baptists—as well as evangelicals outside the SBC—I am greatly concerned about the drift in our denomination away from the inerrancy of the scriptures.

I believe you would not have said what you did if you had read the book before you wrote the editorial.

In fairness to me and my ministry I hope you will publish this letter so your readers will know they can obtain additional information about this by reading *The SBC Issue and Question* as well as the *Southern Baptist Journal*.

William A. Powell

## Editor's Response

Your charges were checked before the editorial was written and a word by word reading of your book confirms they are unfair and irresponsible. Have you considered that it is possible to believe in the infallibility and the inerrancy of the scriptures but not practice love for the brethren which the New Testament teaches? The Pharisees fell into this in the name of saving orthodoxy.

C. R. Daley

## Are Powell's Charges Exposing a Baptist Watergate?

I agree with several of your statements in your article, "Powell's Charges are Irresponsible," Jan. 4, 1978.

You say, "Southern Baptists who hold the Bible in such high esteem are understandably upset when told their leaders are not true to the scriptures." You are right, many of us are very upset! We are held together as a denomination, not by a program, but by our "like faith" and a common belief in the inerrancy and authority of the Bible. Our churches give sacrificially to support our state and world-wide causes, through the Cooperative Program, including our colleges and seminaries. (Our church gave 53,000 last year). If there are professors on the payrolls who believe and teach the Bible contained errors in its original manuscripts they should be exposed and expelled from our schools. Do you agree?

Then you said, "There is always a place for constructive critics with integrity and truthfulness." You are right again. Yet anyone who raises a question as to the statements made by numerous college and seminary professors are branded "irresponsible and without integrity."

Daley, when such things as an outright denial of the deity of Christ is made by the head of the religion department of a Baptist institution, such as was made by Robert S. Alley, professor and chairman of the department of religion at the University of Richmond, an institution of Virginia Baptists (reported in *Western Recorder*, Dec. 21, 1977) then it is time for Southern Baptists to get alarmed.

Daley, surely you would not consider W. A. Criswell, K. Owen White, Harold Linsell, J. T. Odle and the like to be irresponsible and without integrity? Yet these men have raised the same questions as Powell.

It seems to me the man who takes a salary from sincere trusting people then denies the very truth he is employed to teach is the one who is without integrity!

I disagree with your statement "The accusations of Powell which may appear in the secular press should be ignored. So should the charges." Daley, do you think Baptists are incapable of judging the facts for themselves? NO!! Don't sweep these charges under the rug and allow the questions to confuse and trouble us. Your statement concerning the secular press is shocking and irresponsible. Perhaps you should reread your own editorial in the May 12, 1973 issue of the *Western Recorder* where you praise the persistence of the press in pursuing the "Watergate" scandal. You warned then of such a thing as a "Baptist Watergate."

Instead of ignoring the allegations, let those who are accused answer by a clear affirmation of their belief in an inerrant, infallible, authoritative Bible. This would settle the issue. If there is nothing to hide there is nothing to fear. If, on the other hand, they do not believe in an inerrant Bible let them have the integrity to refuse a salary paid by Baptists who do believe God's word.

I have been a loyal Southern Baptist pastor for over 20 years. I was elected by the brethren to serve on our state executive board. I believe I speak the sentiments of the vast majority of Kentucky Baptists.

Harold Cathey, Pastor  
Unity Baptist Church  
Ashland

## From A Disciplinarian

I read the letters to the editor that are printed in *Western Recorder* regularly, but this is the first time I have attempted to reply to one. Now I will write a few words in reference to the letter from E. Glenn Hinson.

First, it is not my purpose to acclaim either brothers Powell or Hinson. But brother Hinson's letter contains at least 30 illogical statements which should be answered in detail. I will attempt to show that temptation.

I wish to look at the arguments that he presents as a whole and see what we or it adds up to.

The first paragraph of the teacher's quarterly for Jan. 15, 1978 will help, I think.

Discipline is a word that has fallen into disrepute in recent years. We think of discipline as something that interferes with our freedom to enjoy life (salvation and religious exercise). We do not want anyone or anything to restrict us from realizing our desires. Judges 17:6; 21:25: Every man did that which was right in his own eyes. This sums up brother Hinson's letter. This was an unhappy time in Israel. Are we coming to this among Southern Baptists?

Charles E. Daniel  
Bardstown

## Was Jesus a Baptist Church Member?

Please don't tag me as an independent for I am not for William Powell. I am a Southern Baptist and I have held every office in the association from superintendent of missions to pastor.

However, I wholeheartedly disagree with Hinson's idea that Baptists began in the 1700's. We are the only people who can date our beginning back to Jesus Christ's ministry. There have been Baptists ever since John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River (Mark 1:9-11; Matt. 3:3-17).

So a Baptist preacher baptized Jesus and that made him a Baptist, a member of the church Jesus started. John has a divine name from heaven (Luke 7:28).

According to Jesus' statement in Matt. 16:18 the Baptist church will be here until he calls it home. So if Hinson is right, Jesus is wrong. I personally prefer to put my faith in the word of Jesus.

We still have in the missionary Baptist church the doctrine the Lord gave to the Baptist church (Matt. 28:18-20): preaching, making disciples, baptizing by immersion only and the Lord's supper.

Mr. Hinson may have come out of the Protestant movement but thanks be unto God we didn't.

Lloyd D. Perrin  
Cadiz

## Flynt Still Hustlin'

Your article, "Flynt Quits Post as Porn Publisher," suggests Flynt has still not disassociated himself from the magazine. He appointed his own replacement and therefore is obviously in control. The reader must assume Flynt remains the owner and still profits from pornography. A true hustler, now he is trying to hustle the public into believing he is something quite different from what his actions prove.

Marshall Hacker  
Cincinnati, OH

## Bi-vocational Poor Term

I've noted several articles using the term bi-vocational for pastors working secular jobs in order to afford to pastor a church. I question the use of this term. According to the Bible there is one calling—to be a Christian. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "Consider your calling, brethren" and to the Ephesians, "Walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." It is as much God's calling for a pastor to earn money to pay his debts and care for his family as it is to proclaim God's message from the pulpit. The ministry of a pastor working to honor the Lord is neither secular nor bi-vocational.

Orman Stegall  
Mayfield

## Baptist News in Brief

### BPRA, Editors, Executives Set Arizona Talks

Three separate Baptist professional organizations concerned with communications have set annual meetings this month in Scottsdale, Ariz. They will observe the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention while there.

The 315-member Baptist Public Relations Association is scheduled to meet Feb. 12-15 and includes institutional and church public relations leaders across the Southern Baptist Convention.

A Kentuckian, James H. Cox, associate editor of *Western Recorder*, will preside over the BPRA sessions. Theme of the group's 24th annual workshop is "Contemporary Public Relations for Pioneer Spirits."

The 33 editors of state Baptist journals and other members of the Southern Baptist Press Association will convene Feb. 14-16. Jack U. Harwell, editor of *Georgia's Christian Index*, will preside.

James H. Landes will moderate sessions of the state executive secretaries Feb. 14-16. He is executive secretary, Baptist General Convention of Texas.

All three meetings are scheduled in the same hotel in Scottsdale, a suburb of Phoenix.

### Baptist Courses Ok'd

Fourteen courses offered by the Southern Baptist Seminary Extension Department's Home Study Institute are worth at least three semester hours of college credit each on a college degree program.

An evaluation was conducted by the

American Council on Education's Office on Educational Credit. Results will be published in the next issue of the "OEC Newsletter" distributed to 23,000 educators and policy makers in postsecondary education.

"The effect of the evaluation will be to assist Seminary Extension students who wish to transfer their course work toward a degree at a college or university," said Raymond M. Rigdon, director of the Seminary Extension Department.

In the past most students seeking to transfer Seminary Extension courses to degree programs have received only one hour of credit per course completed. As a result of the ACE recommendation students in the future may receive three hours of credit per course.

Seminary Extension is a department of the six theological seminaries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Although the ACE project applies to home study (correspondence) courses only, the Seminary Extension courses involved are used both in home study and in study in Seminary Extension centers.

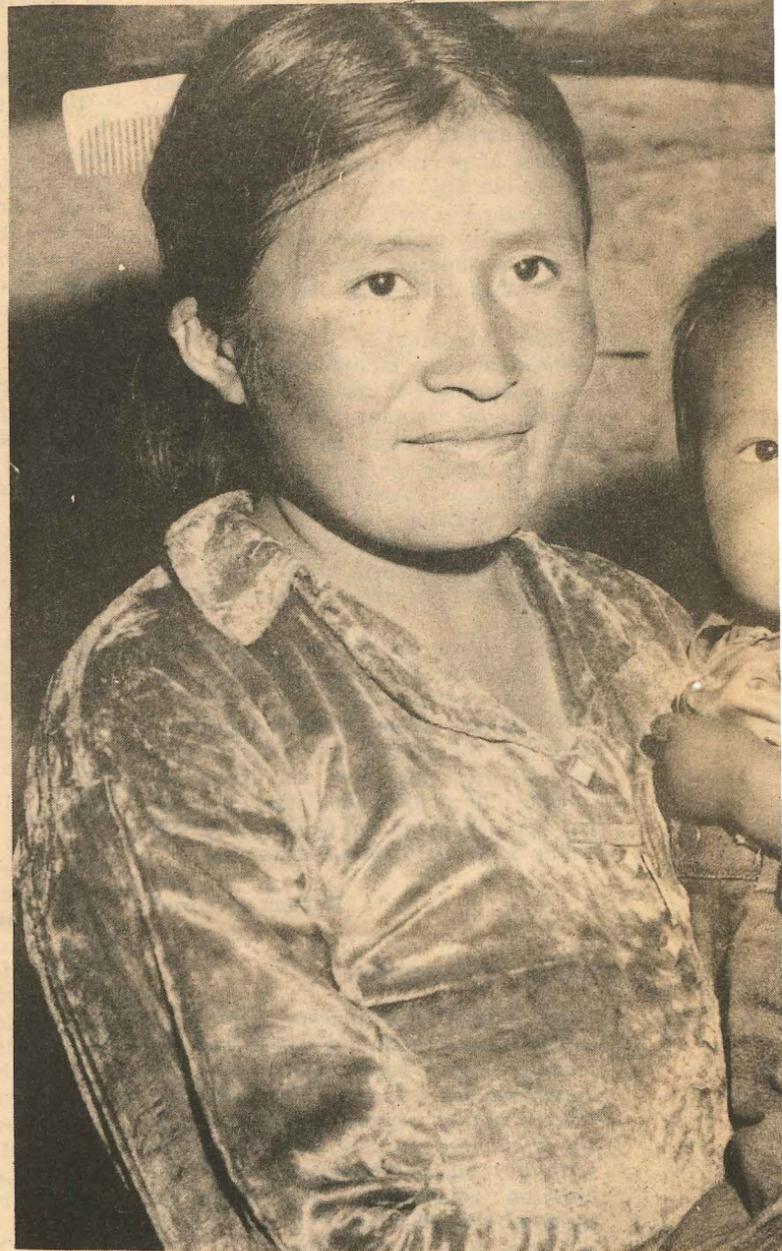
### Annie Surpasses 95%

The Annie Armstrong Easter offering for home missions received \$10,745,967 during 1977, or 95.52 percent of its goal of \$11,250,000.

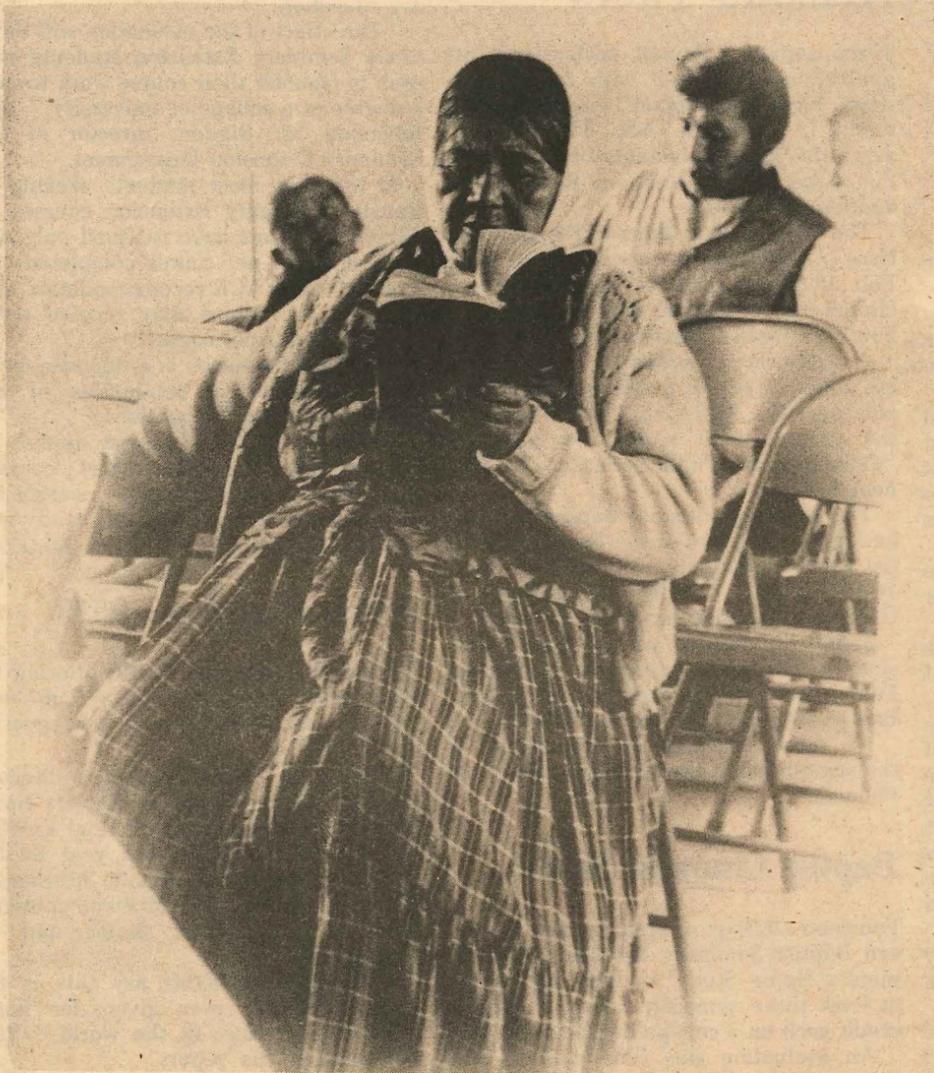
William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, announced final receipts of the offering taken each year by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union for the support of home missions work in the United States and its territories.

"We could probably say this is the largest offering ever given for home missions anywhere in the world," Tanner said in his report.

# Reach Out and

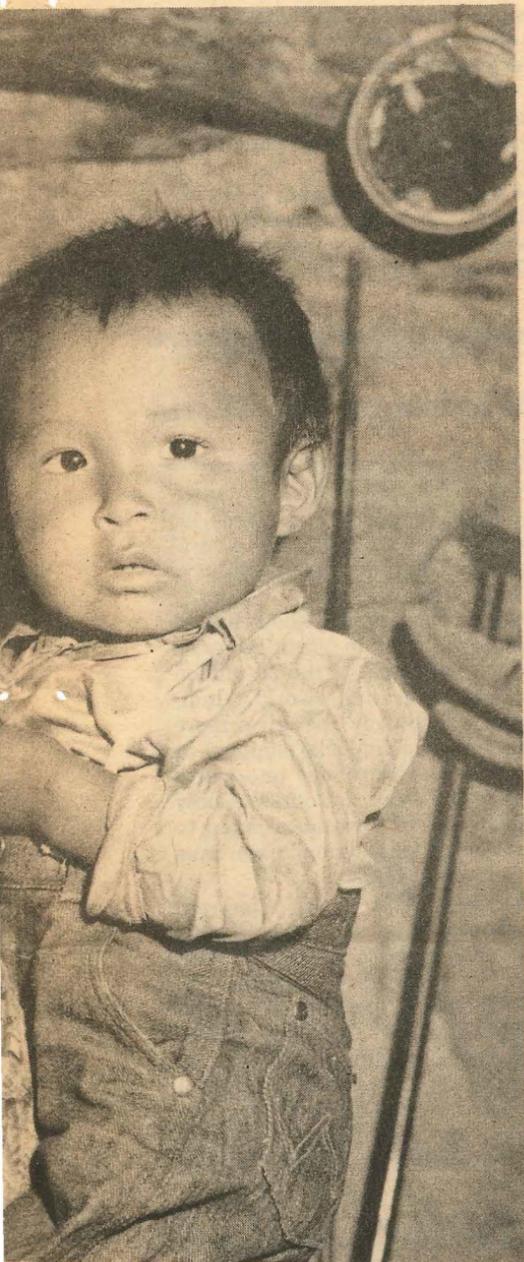


*those who hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled*



*the merciful: for they s*

# nd Touch



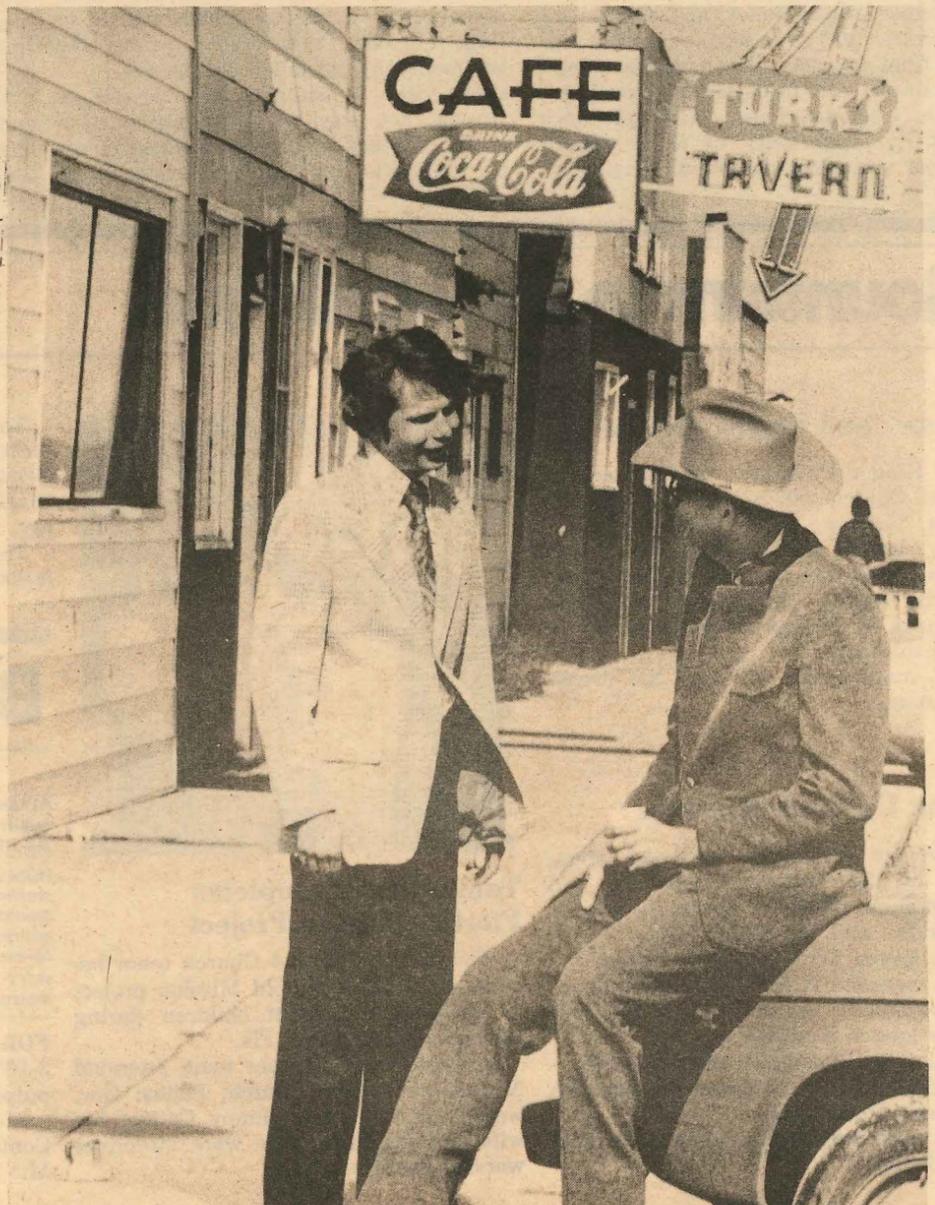
*the meek: for they shall inherit the earth*

*the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven*

*the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God*



*y shall obtain mercy*



## Frank Owen



### Sad Cancellation

We were forced to cancel all but the opening afternoon session of the evangelism conference. About 200 courageous souls assembled amidst a blinding all-day snowstorm. Our abiding appreciation for all who came and for Severns Valley pastor Kruschwitz and people who made preparations. We had already busied ourselves through the morning, calling and canceling speakers scheduled later in the program. Some people asked whether the conference might be rescheduled. Such is not practical. It's a long-range, planned thing, with program personnel that has to be dated long in advance.

This is the second straight year that weather has

seriously curtailed the conference. Last year we had a big snow but it was not falling on the day we met. The roads had been pretty well plowed and we went ahead with inspiring (though reduced) attendance, despite the exceedingly bitter cold. We adjusted the program and canceled about one and one-half sessions. Some speakers couldn't come, etc. This year was just that much worse.

Cancellations such as this hurt our denomination and work. We need these occasions for fellowship and inspiration. We need such time together in spiritual uplift. The weather is knocking us out of them in Kentucky. The snow that fell all day and night was the greatest in Kentucky history. A year ago the cold spell was the worst in this century.

With two straight years of such experience we are rather forced to think about a different date. Maybe our denomination is too oriented to Atlanta, Houston, New Orleans and Memphis weather. Far-flung as we are now, operating in all of the states, we just may be learning that we who are farther north into the weather need to have our own dating schemes. Maybe the changing Southern Baptist center of gravity needs consideration in general planning where reasonable uniformity of calendar is important.

We expect to probe the question whether there are commanding reasons for all the state evangelism conferences to take place at the same season. If there are no unforeseen problems we may go for a different date next year.

## Viewpoint

by Duke K. McCall

The Baptist World Alliance is a window on our world for Southern Baptists. Southern Baptists now spread across North America and have foreign missions in 82 countries. But even that leaves us talking to ourselves. The Southern Baptist expression of biblical faith is reflected so strongly in our overseas missions that they talk like us in a different language.

Through the BWA we are linked with 106 different bodies of "Baptist Christians" who live in 123 countries represented in our mission stations.

To know what is going on in our world we Southern Baptists need to listen not only to convention enterprises we helped to support with money and missionary personnel, but it is also important to hear from Baptists who have no obligations of any sort to us except the obligation of Christian love. Their assurance about the superiority of their organizational structure, operational style and

theological emphases will sound as provincial to us as we must sound to them. Can we learn not just to tolerate each other but to hear and learn from each other?

Some of them are further into urbanization, secularization, governmental control and wild economic fluctuations than Southern Baptists. Alas, the Bible belt setting for Southern Baptists is little more than the grin of the cheshire cat of Alice in Wonderland. Evangelical Christianity no longer dominates our cultural surroundings.

We need to listen to British Baptists not only because they were once the most aggressively missionary and powerful Baptist body to whom we in the United States owe our Baptist heritage; but also because we can learn from their response to a society which began to treat religion as a decorative symbol like the monarchy but much less useful.

We need to listen to the Baptists in Russia, not only because they have a recent heritage of persecution and political opposition, but also because they

have no hospitals, schools, orphanages or mission boards as instruments of Christian witnessing or as a stockpile for denominational loyalty. With them it has been commitment to biblical faith or nothing. Nothing else was permitted them so they have had to rely upon proclamation of the gospel of God's grace. What does that say to those among us who believe that preaching the "Good News" is not enough to justify their church?

Perhaps some of the conventions in non-white countries who also struggle with the issue of race and color would instruct us in both the right and the wrong efforts to handle that persistent problem. Then there are those Baptist unions which have long had orders of deaconesses who, among other things, run hospitals; and the Baptists who consider smoking sinful, lipstick a sign of depravity and beer or wine a table beverage.

How can Baptists read the same Bible and be so different? More importantly, how can they be so different and enjoy the fellowship of a Baptist World Con-

gress in Tokyo, Stockholm or Montreal? Does that remind us that the central issue of our faith is the lordship of Jesus Christ? I hope so.

We Southern Baptists are about half of the 26 million Baptists in North America and the largest segment of the 29 million Baptists throughout the world. Individually and collectively we give more than one-half of the financial support of the BWA and provide about one-fourth the leadership. We can get our way only by persuasion and in a world oriented to the recognition of small groups we have the disadvantage of bigness.

But what the BWA Youth Congress means to thousands of our young people would make our investment in the BWA a tremendous bargain. However, in terms of Christian understanding the greatest gift Southern Baptists receive from the BWA is the privilege of sharing—our best ideas, our successful programs, our insight into scripture, our love for God, our bold mission effort to share the knowledge of Christ with the whole world.

## A Window on Our World

## Mountains to the Mississippi

### Cumberland Stages 'Esther'

"The King's Children" of Cumberland Baptist Church will present the musical drama, "Esther," Feb. 18-19.

The drama was written by Teresa Brown, youth director, and is directed by Rebecca Martin. The musical theme was composed by Yvonne Clark, music director for the play.

The youth group will tour the drama this summer.



### Spunk Up Your Marriage

A marriage enrichment weekend, sponsored by the Pastoral Counseling and Consultation Center of Louisville Baptist Hospitals, will be held Mar. 3-4 at Knobs Haven Retreat Center, Nerinx.

The weekend is for normally functioning couples to enable them to discover deeper love in marriage.

Limited to 10 couples, the fee is \$45.

Leaders for the weekend are Marilyn and Derle Underwood.

For more information contact the Pastoral Center.

### Temple Hill Completes Florida Mission Project

A Temple Hill Baptist Church team became involved in a Bold Mission project to work with migrant children during Christmas in Orlando, Fla.

En route the volunteer team attended Maranatha Baptist Church, Plains, Ga., where members met Jimmy Carter, his wife and daughter, who were attending worship services.

The team consisted of James Jones, pastor; Mary Jones, Cleatus Bybee, Eva Bybee, Timmy Miller, Cindy Miller, Marie Ward, Joyce Peden, Louetta Lowrey, Becky Powers and Irene Haueter.

The Bible school resulted in nine professions of faith and one rededication.

## Buyers Guide

ALUMINUM SIDING, exterior decorating, quality work. Call Colville Aluminum Co., [502] 368-1100.

HOMEWORKERS WANTED: Earn 50c each stuffing our letters into pre-addressed pre-stamped envelopes. For details send self-addressed stamped envelope to Williams Agency P.O. Box 33161 Louisville, Ky. 40232. Or start right away. Send \$2 for starter kit and instructions. Church groups welcome.

FOR SALE: 22-12' pews, 12-9' pews, 3-16' pews, pulpit, communion table, 2 pulpit chairs, 1-16' choir screen. Furniture light oak. Good condition. Contact Contact First Baptist Church, Box 638, Mt. Vernon, Ky 40456 or call 256-2922.

### Shively Single's Seminars

Shively Baptist Church, Louisville, is sponsoring seminars from 1-4 p.m. Feb. 5 and 19 and Mar. 5 and 19. The seminars are directed toward single adults. The fee is \$1 per Sunday.

George Herman  
KENDALL  
REAL ESTATE  
BROKER  
1700 Wyatt  
Pkwy-Lex.  
606-252-6046

ASSORTED SWEET ONION PLANTS  
500 plants, \$7.95, 250 plants, \$5.95, 150 plants, \$4.95, all postpaid. FREE instructions and tested recipes.  
TEXAS ONION PLANT CO.  
FARMERSVILLE, TEXAS 75031

PLAN NOW!!! for  
Church Construction  
CHRISTIAN BUILDERS INC.  
P.O. Box 571, Brentwood, TN 37027  
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT  
FINANCIAL CONSULTATION  
SPECIALIZED ARCHITECTURAL  
PLANNING Phone (615) 371-3084

Write for  
FREE  
Brochure

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

BIBLE STUDY



## Promoting Sunday School and Training

### ASSOCIATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL TRAINING

#### \* 3 Vacation Bible School Conferences

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

10 Different Age Group Conferences 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Middle Preschool (3 yr. olds)	Polly Dillard
Older Preschool (4's and 5's)	Elizabeth Britton
Younger Children (6's and 7's)	Mary Branson
Middle Children (8's and 9's)	Helen Smith
Older Children (10's and 11's)	Mary Sells
Youth (12's - 17's)	Wanda Carpenter
Adult	Chip Miller
General Officers	Ken Griffin
Mission VBS/Backyard Bible Clubs	Linda Mulford
Workers with Mentally Retarded	Sue Enoch

#### \* Associational Leadership Workshop - Tocca, Georgia

March 20 - 23, 1978  
 Registration \$5.00 + meals & lodging \$27.50  
 Sunday School Board will pay some mileage

### SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP, BUS MINISTRY AND CHURCH ARCHITECTURE CONFERENCES

\* April 24th Florence Baptist, Florence  
 First Baptist, Paducah

April 25th Central Baptist, Corbin  
 Crabtree Avenue, Owensboro

April 27th First Baptist, Hazard  
 First Baptist, Bowling Green

April 28th Irene Cole Memorial, Prestonsburg  
 Gardenside Baptist, Lexington

Conferences for: Preschool, Children, Youth, Single & Young Adult, Median & Senior Adult, General Officers, Church Building, Bus Ministry.

### PASTOR/DIRECTOR SMALL CHURCH WORKSHOPS

#### \* 6 Regional Workshops Planned for 1978

February 10 - 11	Mid-Continent Bible College, Mayfield
April 14 - 15	Campbellsville College Campbellsville
June 9 - 10	Finley Baptist Church Henderson
August 25 - 26	Southern Baptist Seminary, Louisville
October 13 - 14	Cumberland Baptist College, Cumberland
November 3 - 4	Georgetown College, Georgetown

Conference for pastors and their Sunday School Directors in churches with an enrolment under 150. Many free materials will be given away.

### ACTION CAMPAIGNS AND INTERPRETATIONS

\* February 2nd Crittenden Association  
 Skyway Restaurant 7:00 p.m.

February 13th Muhlenberg Association  
 Baptist Center 7:00 p.m.

March 10th - 13th Franklin County ACTION Campaign

March 31st - April 2nd Mulenberg Association  
 ACTION Campaign

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

- How to Improve Bible Study in Your Church
- How to Use Broadman Sunday School Records
- Church Study Course 1977 - 1978 (Awards)

**LITTLE GIANT**  
 The name to remember for  
 FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRIES  
 WATER HEATERS  
 SPIRES - CROSSES

Church credit plans available.  
 Free colored brochure  
**LITTLE GIANT MANUFACTURING CO.**  
 Box 518 / Orange, Texas 77630  
 Phone: 713-883-4246

**WOLFE BROS. & CO.**  
 PINEY FLATS, TENN.  
 Manufacturers of DISTINCTIVE  
**CHURCH FURNITURE**

Since 1888—Write for free estimate.  
 Dewitt F. Godby PH. 776-4944  
 2433 Duncan St. 776-4091  
 Louisville, Ky. 40212

**FIBERGLASS**  
 STEEPLES  
 AND  
 BAPTISTRIES

**THE Fiberglass Shop** CUSTOM MADE PRODUCTS INC.  
 Box 133 Phone 277-1551  
 Dalton, Ga. 30720  
 Write or Call For Free Color Brochure

FINANCING FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS  
 Call Toll Free  
**ANDY F. HARDY**  
 1-800-231-6068

SECURITY CHURCH FINANCE, INC.

**Drexel**  
 Church Furnishings

Pews, Pulpit and Chancel Furniture  
 Phone 704/322-8380  
 Dept. J. P.O. Drawer 2187  
 Hickory, North Carolina 28601

**FREE CATALOG**

- Steeple Kits (Do It Yourself)
- Baptistries & Steeples
- Stained Glass
- Wall Crosses
- Baptistry Heating
- Complete Accessories
- Carillons

(Mail coupon today)

Custom Fiberglass Products Inc.  
 P.O. BOX 101  
 MOUNT JULIET, TENNESSEE 37122  
 (615) 758-5904

Send me your free Catalogs

Church \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

SERVING ALL RELIGIONS  
 Prices to satisfy every preference and need

AIR CONDITIONED PARKING AREAS

1310 S. THIRD Phone 634-3628  
 149 BRACKINRIDGE LANE Phone 896-0349

**PEARSON FUNERAL SERVICE**  
 Louisville, Kentucky  
 Members: Kentucky Funeral Directors Burial Association  
 Members: National Selected Morticians by Invitation

**NATURE FOOD CENTRES** Get Acquainted Sale of Natural Vitamins

EST. 1929

**2 for the price of 1**

Yes! Buy one bottle of any natural vitamin at Nature Food Centres' special low price... GET 2ND BOTTLE (SAME SIZE) FREE. Join over one million thrifty American families who buy their vitamins direct from NFC. Every product fresh, pure, of the highest quality—delivered to your door and sold on a 30-day money-back guarantee. Mail coupon to get two for the price of one now!

**NATURAL d-ALPHA TOCOPHERYL VITAMIN E 400 I.U.**  
 Natural Vitamin E. Pure essence of d-Alpha Tocopherol. Potent 400 I.U. preserved in tasteless gelatin capsules. 100/bottle. NOW \$3.99.

**SUPER STRENGTH ACEROLA-C 300 MG.**  
 Natural Vitamin C. From most potent source: delicious Acerola berry! 5000% more concentrated than orange juice. 100/bottle. NOW \$3.50.

**FOR STRESS AND DAILY PRESSURES STRESS- PLEX**  
 Stress-Plex. Combines B Complex with Vitamin C for proper balance of essential vitamins you may need if daily pressures are getting you down. 100/bottle. NOW \$3.99.

**MULTIPLE VITAMIN & MINERAL COMPLEX FORMULA TM**  
 Formula TM. The same formula, same potency, and the same size as nationally advertised Squibb's Theragran-M but at a much lower price. 100/bottle. NOW \$3.50.

© 1978 NFC

EST. 1929 **NATURE FOOD CENTRES** Dept. JQ028  
 One Nature's Way  
 Wilmington, Mass. 01887

Rush vitamins I've checked below under your 2 for the price of 1 special offer. There's no charge for shipping, and I'm covered by your 30-day money-back guarantee.

E 400 I.U., #113230, 2 bottles for \$3.99  
 C 300 Mg., #111902, 2 bottles for \$3.50  
 Stress-Plex, #200321, 2 bottles for \$3.99  
 Formula TM, #114268, 2 bottles for \$3.50

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mass. residents add 5% tax

CATALOG SENT WITH ORDER!  
 Up to 50% SAVINGS from one of America's oldest, largest, and most trusted health food companies.  
 Check if you only wish Catalog.

PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_  
 STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

# Sunday School Lessons

Lessons for February 12, 1978

## International Series

by H. C. Chiles

### The Joy of Faith in the Lord

Psalm 146:1-10

While most of the psalms are filled with the praises of God, the last five are particularly so. Each begins and closes with "Praise ye the Lord." Gratitude for our salvation and its resultant blessings should prompt us to praise God.

#### The Praise of God's Person—Psalm 146:1-5

The psalmist felt obligated to praise God who was the source of his temporal and eternal life. He announced his intention to praise God as long as he had breath with which to do so. As he contemplated God's graciousness his heart was filled with gratitude. Ascription of praise to God was an act of worship which he refused to neglect.

Unlike the psalmist, we repeatedly approach God with our petitions for the blessings we desire but we neglect to express our gratitude in praise.

Verse three is a warning against putting confidence in leaders because they are human beings and are, therefore, changeable. The help which we need is found in God in whom it is always safe to trust. God's power is unlimited. Our happiness lies in complete reliance upon him who never fails.

## Life and Work Series

Christian commitment brings a child of God into conflict with everything in the world which is opposed to Christ.

John 15:18-20

Why did Christ receive the bitter hatred of the world? Because his sinless life exposed the hypocritical lives of the people he encountered. His matchless character constituted a rebuke to the sinful lives of his contemporaries.

Christ warned the disciples against expecting to have an easy time in life. He told them because they were his representatives they would be hated also. Christ informed them the hatred of the world was a price every Christian must pay.

When early Christians refused to worship Caesar or practice idolatry they encountered bitter persecution. Many were excommunicated from the synagogues and cut off from the fellowship of their friends. Multitudes were put to death. They were accused of being insurrectionists practicing immorality promiscuously and indiscriminately and disrupting families through persuading members to become Christians.

#### The Praise of God's Performances—Psalm 146:6-10

Our creator is entitled to the hearty praises of his children. Since creation God has done many mighty works for his people. His might in creation has been matched beautifully by his mercy in redemption. He has ever been and always will be the only hope of his people. What a comfort to know God will never cease to minister to our needs!

Just as God delivers the afflicted from their distresses he also delivers those who are heavy laden with sin. He refreshes the souls of his people with new demonstrations of his love.

By way of contrast, God turns the way of the wicked to such an extent that their schemes are blasted and their plans are thwarted so completely that their accomplishment is beyond the realm of possibility.

Let all of God's children, individually and collectively, by word and by deed join in praising the king of kings and the Lord of lords who will reign for ever and ever!

## Resources For Facing Opposition

John 15:26-27

Christ assured his followers he was going to send the Holy Spirit to carry on his redemptive work. Through Christians the Holy Spirit would carry on the work Jesus had begun.

John 16:20-24, 33

Upon observing the death and burial of Christ, the disciples' grief would be so real they would indulge in great lamentation as was the common occurrence among ancient Jews when their loved ones passed away. Jesus' victory over death would transform sorrow into an inexpressible joy. The disciples were assured an understanding beyond any they had experienced previously. Their requests in prayer were to be granted also.

John 16:33

Christ acknowledged the disciples would experience tribulations but he encouraged them with the reminder he had overcome the world.

Tribulation must at times be the lot of all of us. Instead of seeking to escape it let us rely upon Christ for strength to be victorious over it.

# Western Recorder

FEBRUARY 1, 1978

