

WESTERN RECORDER

Vol. 152, No. 20, May 17, 1978

Frank Owen Remains State Leader Following Historic Board Session Launching Building & Revamping

James H. Cox, Associate Editor

The Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive board made sweeping changes in its staff retirement plan and its own organizational structure last week during the board's annual spring meeting at Cedarmore.

The change in retirement permits KBC executive secretary-treasurer Franklin Owen, who was scheduled to leave office Dec. 31, to continue up to five more years. Owen has accepted the invitation of the board.

Additionally, the executive board engaged a contractor to construct a new addition to the Baptist Building in Middletown and to remodel existing facilities. A brief ground breaking ceremony was held in Middletown immediately following the close of the board meeting.

The new retirement program for employes of the executive board won on a standing vote by a slim majority of those present. While it recognizes the right of employes to terminate their service at age 65, in keeping with a new law going into effect in 1979, it allows present employes to continue until age 70. It also states that new employes of the executive board will be given contracts specifying the dates of their terminations. Unless requested by the board to remain longer, employes would retire at that time.

John Dunaway, pastor of Corbin First Church and chairman of the board's administrative committee, recommended that Franklin Owen be granted the privilege of remaining in office beyond his retirement date of Dec. 31, 1978. Following discussion the motion passed.

Owen responded by saying, "I don't feel that this old horse is plum done. I don't honestly feel that this is the time for me to lay it down. I do not foresee any desire to work until age 70. But for now, we go on."

The board then dissolved its

15-member search committee appointed last November to find a successor to Owen. Verlin C. Kruschwitz, Elizabethtown pastor and chairman of that committee, concurred in the actions of the board.

Harold Wainscott, Latonia pastor, expressed a personal concern that Baptists should be careful in giving the appearance of approving this latest governmental dictate and intervention into the retirement plans of churches and religious institutions. A motion passed reflecting that concern.

Contractor Employed

R. E. Blevins Construction Co. of Campbellsville, Ky., was employed to complete the construction and renovation of the Baptist Building addition in Middletown. The low bid of \$1,351,450 from a field of five bids does not include a \$55,000 architect's fee and an estimated \$100,000 for furnishings. The architect had originally said the project would be under \$900,000.

Considerable discussion ensued and the board was informed that \$400,000 was now in hand, \$100,000 was expected to be received in this year's challenge budget and another \$100,000 is budgeted next year. The board will finance approximately \$900,000 needed to complete the job.

Ground breaking ceremonies were held Tuesday, May 9 on the lawn in front of the Baptist Building, where the new structure will be situated. Dunaway presided in the absence of KBC president John W. Kruschwitz of Ft. Thomas.

Each department and agency of the convention was represented in turning a spade of dirt for the new structure.

The low bid, the only one received from a non-union contractor, calls for building completion within 365 calendar days.

Board Reorganizes

The executive board meeting at Cedarmore last week also adopted a 17-page document calling for reorganization of the board itself into five standing committees. A sixth panel will act for the full board between sessions.

The standing committees are scheduled to meet at least twice annually and additionally as necessary. Each will have a chairman, vice chairman and secretary. Each of the standing committees, with the exception of the Nomination and Program Evaluation Committee, is linked to a specific group of staff departments or agencies.

The above named committee, composed of 26 members, will fill the dual role of nominating board members for committees and analyzing, assigning and evaluating programs of the executive board.

The four remaining standing committees, membership and departments/agencies they relate to:

- Missions Committee; 36 members; Cooperative Ministries and Christian Life, Direct Missions, Evangelism and Stewardship-Promotion departments
- Business and Finance Committee; 26 members; Annuity Department, Business Office, Kentucky Baptist Foundation
- Church Services Committee; 36 members; Brotherhood, Camps and Assembly, Church Music, Church Training, Student and Sunday School departments and Woman's Missionary Union
- Committee on Agencies; 36 members; Board of Child Care, colleges, Historical Commission, hospitals, schools and Western Recorder.

A broader based Administrative Committee will be comprised of 11 persons, including the five chairmen of standing committees and six members-at-large. The chairman of the executive board and the executive secretary-treasurer will be ex-officio members of all committees.

The reorganization takes effect following the next meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 14-16 in Owensboro. The board itself meets Nov. 13 in that city.

\$10.7 Million Projected

In other matters, the board approved operating budgets for its various staff departments for 1978-79 and voted to recommend to the November convention a 1979-80 budget of \$10.7 million. This is an increase of more than \$2 million over the current (1977-78) budget. The board projected a possible rise to \$14.4 million by 1981-82.

The board considered the question of funding retirement programs for staff members of churches which do not con-



Executive secretary-treasurer Franklin Owen and administrative assistant Doris Yeiser are among those who turn soil at the ground breaking ceremonies.

tribute enough through the state Co-operative Program annually to cover the investment in those annuity plans.

After discussion the board voted to examine benefits for 113 such persons currently receiving this aid from the state convention and terminate aid where churches are able but unwilling to cover retirements through Cooperative Program gifts.

Three employes of the executive board were recognized at a testimonial dinner for their longevity of service.

Forrest R. Sawyer, Brotherhood director, and Mrs. Mary Catlett, office supervisor in the Sunday School Department, received plaques and checks for \$400 each upon 20 years of service. Robert C. Jones, director of the Direct Missions Department, was given a \$100 check upon 10 years of service.

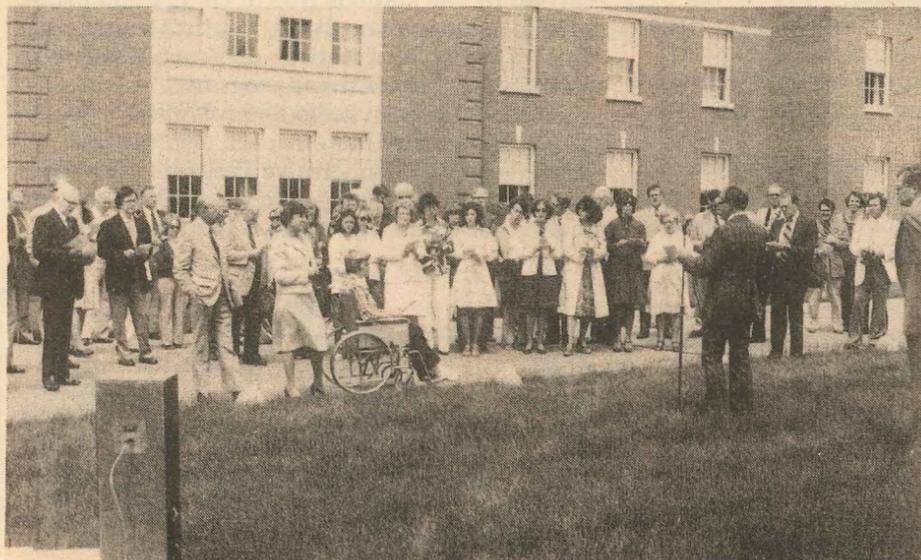
Campbellsville Loan OK'd

A \$450,000 loan from banks to Campbellsville College to pay off outstanding indebtedness of \$1,151,000 to CIT Educational Buildings Inc. of New York will be repaid on behalf of the college by the executive board. The payments to the banks will be credited against monies allocated to Campbellsville as its portion of Christian education funds received through the Cooperative Program.

Negotiations with CIT will result in the college saving in excess of \$1.2 million in interest and other charges by borrowing enough from banks to pay off its debts. The college expects to be debt free within six years.

Five new members were elected to the executive board at this meeting. Their names, home towns, associations and board committee assignments are: Truman Debord, Middlesboro, Bell, finance; Lloyd Price, Hardinsburg, Breckinridge, Christian life; Malcolm Lunceford, Frankfort, Franklin, program; James H. Hamblin, Buckhorn, Middle Fork, Christian life; and William Owens, Bloomfield, Nelson, Christian education. Owens' term expires in November while all other terms continue until 1980.

In addition, Mrs. Horace Hambrick of Georgetown, new state WMU president, was named to the church services committee of the board.



The ground breaking crowd sings, led by state music director Eugene Quinn.

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

WESTERN RECORDER

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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.



C. R. Daley

Daley Observations

Momentous Decisions Made

More momentous decisions were made in the Kentucky Baptist Convention executive board meeting last week than have been made by board members in many years. Any one of the matters decided would have made for a significant meeting. The number of important matters decided made it a very significant meeting. In addition to adopting a detailed Cooperative Program budget for 1978-79 which generally is the big matter considered in May, board members also

- Approved a reorganization plan for the executive board
- Approved a new retirement policy for board employes
- Requested executive secretary-treasurer Franklin Owen to continue serving though his retirement had been set for Dec. 31, 1978 and put him under the provisions of the new retirement policy
- Approved an approximately \$1,500,000 building contract for renovation and additions to the Baptist Building
- Agreed to cooperate in a plan for early retirement of building loans for dormitories at Campbellsville College.

The reorganization plan of the committee structure of the board has been in the making for several months. It involves only a few significant changes from the present structure but it realigns subcommittee functions in keeping with the staff organization now in use in the Baptist Building. Some concern was expressed in preliminary consideration of the new structure that it might result in more centralization of power in administrative offices but no objection was raised when the plan was presented for adoption.

The present mandatory retirement of board employes at 65 had to be reconsidered in light of recently passed national legislation and the interpretation that the legislation does apply to religious organizations such as the executive board. The observation of Harold Wainscott that acceptance of such government regulations of religious organizations might be too hasty was appropriate and further modifications might have to be made in light of more information and interpretation of the national legislation.

The board's administrative committee which presented the new policy for retirement had only a limited time to study the matter and so some refinements may have to be made. This is especially true of one provision of the new policy which calls for contractual arrangements with board employes by which retirement would become effective regardless of age unless the employe is asked to remain.

The way it is working out appears somewhat unfair to some staff members who have retired in recent years. Some of these were employed

when the retirement age was 70 but had to retire at 65 when the ruling was changed. In the meantime some employed when mandatory retirement was 65 will now be able to work up to 70.

The request to executive secretary Owen to continue serving seemed appropriate in light of his vigorous health, the high esteem he enjoys with Kentucky Baptists and the several important unfinished projects and programs with which he is vitally connected. The invitation to continue is a tribute to the personal popularity of Dr. Owen and to his outstanding leadership.

The plan which will take the almost unbearable debt burden off Campbellsville College was good news indeed. It was most appropriate for the board to cooperate in the plan since it involves no additional financial commitment to Campbellsville but only channels part of the present allotment to the lending banks instead of to Campbellsville.

These actions taken by the executive board last week stand to influence profoundly the future of Kentucky Baptists. It behooves all of us to undergird these actions with personal support and prayer.

Trying to Reach The Uninterested

June 21 is Baptist Radio and Television Sunday on the Baptist calendar. This will call for no special observance in most churches but it does afford opportunity to take note of this growing ministry which stands to become an even more important tool for the outreach of Baptists.

Our radio and television ministry is not as much appreciated as it should be by many Southern Baptists mainly because its aim, its scope and its quality are not widely known. Here are several observations designed to enhance appreciation for this ministry in which Southern Baptists are investing about \$2,800,000 this year.

The audience aimed at by Southern Baptist radio and television programs is not Baptists or other Christians. It is the unchurched and the uninterested. In spite of opinion polls showing the vast majority of Americans believe in God, about half of all Americans show no interest in religion and live as if there is no God. They have no regard for God's church, God's day or anything else religious.

Southern Baptist radio and television programs are designed to capture the attention of those who are not looking for anything religious. And so traditional religious services are not used. Rather an indirect approach is used hoping to get the viewer's or listener's attention and turning it toward God.

This is why Southern Baptists do not put on such telecasts as those produced by Billy Graham and Oral Roberts. These are aimed especially to people already interested and actually are partly used to raise funds for the projects of ministries of these world renowned religious personalities. Baptist radio and television programs never solicit contributions. Rather they are contributions of Southern Baptists to Christian witness designed to reach the person, not his pocket-book.

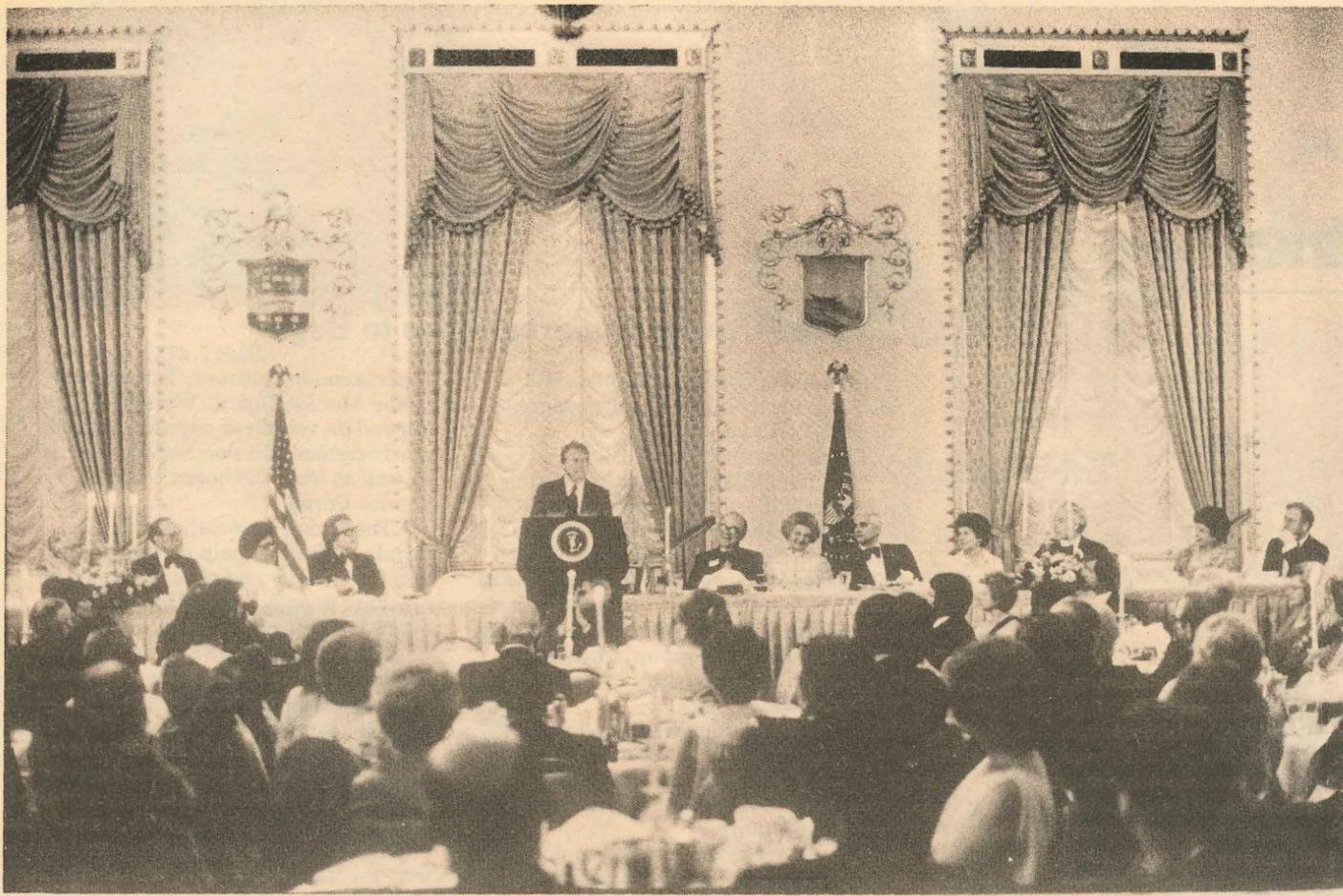
With this philosophy it makes sense to use non-traditional ways to capture the attention of listeners and viewers. For example, radio programs distributed by the Radio and Television Commission use country music, the top 40 popular tunes, rhythm and blues music aimed at blacks as well as choral music and informal worship. Television programs include cartoons (a tremendous success), documentaries, episodes using athletes and a series on interesting contemporary subjects. The 40 formats now available for radio and television stations have something of interest for every kind of listener or viewer.

By now the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission is the world's largest producer of nonsectarian, public service and television programs. But the quality of programs has never been sacrificed for volume of production. In fact, quality has to be the first consideration since radio and television stations have so many available programs to choose from to fill the limited public service time reserved for such programming.

An often heard complaint is that Baptist Radio and Television programs come on at such unreasonable times. This is true in many places but it must be remembered that these programs are carried by the stations free of charge and prime time is seldom given away. Baptists might help by contacting local stations and requesting more acceptable time for these programs.

Southern Baptist radio and television programs are another outreach effort made possible by the Cooperative Program. The least we can do next Sunday is to thank God for it and to pray for those who make it their ministry.





President Jimmy Carter addressed more than 200 Southern Baptist laypersons urging support of the SBC's Mission Service Corps, a plan to place 5000 volunteer missionaries on home and foreign fields by 1982. Seated at the head table at Washington's Mayflower Hotel (l-r): the Rogers M. Smiths (he is administrative assistant, Foreign Mission Board); Jimmy

Allens (SBC president and wife); Owen Coopers (Baptist laymen of Yazoo City, Miss.); Fred L. Greggs Jr. (Carter's Sunday school teacher and wife); Carter's pastor, Charles Trentham, First Church, Washington; and the William G. Tanners (he is executive director-treasurer, Home Mission Board).

New Bible Book Series Will Provide Choices

Southern Baptists' diverse nature, coupled with repeated requests for a content approach to Bible study, led to the development of a new Bible Book Series curriculum, according to two Bible teaching leaders at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

Robert G. Fulbright, director of the Bible Teaching Division, and Harry M. Piland, Sunday School Department director, said they expected the "Bible Book Series" to help people more clearly see the total picture of the biblical revelation.

Fulbright explained that the content approach began with the selection of a scripture passage, followed by the application to human need determined from the book topic. The King James Version of the Bible will be used.

"Each Bible book will be studied in its entirety," Fulbright explained. "Then, after nine years, every book in the Bible will have been studied."

"There's a hunger for Bible study now more than we have seen in a long time," Fulbright said, "and by offering three curriculum lines we are trying to give churches some alternatives to decide which best speaks to the needs of their youth and adults."

Although there are basic differences in characteristics of the three series Fulbright and Piland emphasized that each series was "biblically based and doctrinally sound."

The Bible Book Series will begin with a six month study of Genesis when the

series is first available in October 1978, followed by one quarter each of Mark and Exodus to complete the 1978-79 year.

Study of the series will not move straight through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation but an attempt has been made to balance Old Testament and New Testament books in each year's cycle.

Parochial Aid, Bingo Die

Missouri legislators defeated parochial aid and Bingo gambling proposals that earlier looked as if they had some life when the 1978 legislative session closed.

A parochial aid bill that would have provided a \$500 state tax deduction for tuition paid to parochial and private schools had earlier cleared the state senate 18-16.

Another parochial aid bill that would have paid parochial schools \$50 per child for evaluation services was dropped by a house and senate conference committee.

Four senators threatened a filibuster to keep a Bingo gambling bill from coming to a vote before the constitutional adjournment time of midnight Apr. 30. The bill's senate sponsor, Democratic floor leader John Schneider, was not able to get it to a vote and it died.

Texans Vote Bets Down

Texas voters put parimutuel horsetrack gambling out to pasture for the ninth time in 25 years on the same day a national TV audience saw anxious bettors watch Affirmed and jockey Steve Cauthen win the 104th running of the Kentucky Derby in Louisville.

Democratic primary voters defeated the issue 657,338 to 602,011 (with 246 of 254 counties reporting), while voters in the Republican primary defeated it 49,766 to 48,987. Victory over parimutuels came by a 52.2 percent margin in the Democratic primary, and a 50.4 margin the Republican primary, in which all votes are in. The combined margin against parimutuels was 52.1 percent.

SWBTS Wins Case

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary has won the first round in its battle with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission over the filing of certain employe information with the agency.

U. S. District Judge Eldon Mahon has denied a request by the EEOC for a summary judgment and ordered a trial date set for the year-old suit. The EEOC is seeking to force the seminary to file EEO Form 6 which provides information on the number of employes and their duties, pay and tenure and to identify employes by race, sex and national origin.

A spokesman for Judge Mahon said the refusal to grant summary judgment did not indicate the EEOC was wrong but meant simply that there were important facts that could be decided only in a trial.

The EEOC, which has appealed the denial, contends that compliance to its agency's regulations is required because the seminary is an institution of higher learning employing more than 15 persons.



Putting finishing touches on three night sessions of the SBC meeting in Atlanta are (l-r): Rosser McDonald, Radio-TV Commission; Bill O'Brien, Foreign Mis-

Baptist News in Brief

Word & Way Adds Chute

Michael D. Chute, director of college relations at Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo., has been hired as managing editor of Word and Way, the Missouri Baptist newspaper, effective June 5, according to Bob Terry, editor.

Chute, 27, was a public information specialist four years in the public relations office at the Baptist Sunday School Board before he went to Southwest Baptist College where he has been responsible for the news bureau, all college publications, photography services, community and media relations and director of alumni services. He also taught basic journalism courses.

A native of Waynesville, Mo., Chute earned the B.A. degree from Oklahoma Baptist University. He is completing work on the M.A. degree at Southwest Missouri State University.

Arson Sentence Awarded

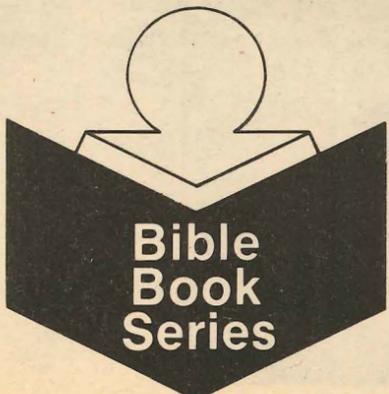
Roy K. Palmer, 17-year-old Lincoln, Ga., youth has been sentenced to two six-year prison terms for his part in the burning of two churches in Wilkes County, Ga., in December 1977.

Palmer pled guilty to the charges and was awarded the terms, to run concurrently. Charges on the burning of two churches in Lincoln County during the same spree with two other juveniles are pending.

During the court sessions Washington First Baptist Church pastor Albert W. Huyck Jr. and several other pastors pleaded for leniency on Palmer's behalf.

In church conference, Mulberry Baptist Church which had been totally destroyed by the boys, who admitted they had been drinking and smoking marijuana, voted to forgive them and ask the judge for leniency. The white youths denied having any racial motives in the destruction of the predominantly black church.

Ten Baptist churches have burned in Georgia since July 4, 1977.



A NINE YEAR STUDY OF ALL THE BIBLE

sion Board; Bob Thrift, First Church, Waco, Tex.; Mrs. Catherine Allen, WMU; Ed Seabough, Home Mission Board; and Lloyd Householder, BSSB.

Missions & Ministries

South District Busy

South District Association officers and department directors for 1978-79 were elected at the annual spring session at Junction City Baptist Church.

William Hall was elected moderator; Harold Reynierson, associate moderator; P. O. Thacker, clerk; Kenneth Whitehouse, assistant clerk; Sam Smock, treasurer; and Austin Roberts, assistant treasurer.

Newly elected directors include Roy Allen, church training; Harold Reynolds, brotherhood; Ernest Martin, stewardship; Steve Fagenbush, youth; Mike Crain, co-chairman; Mike Moynahan, VBS and preacher for the annual sermon; and Ty Clenney, alternate.

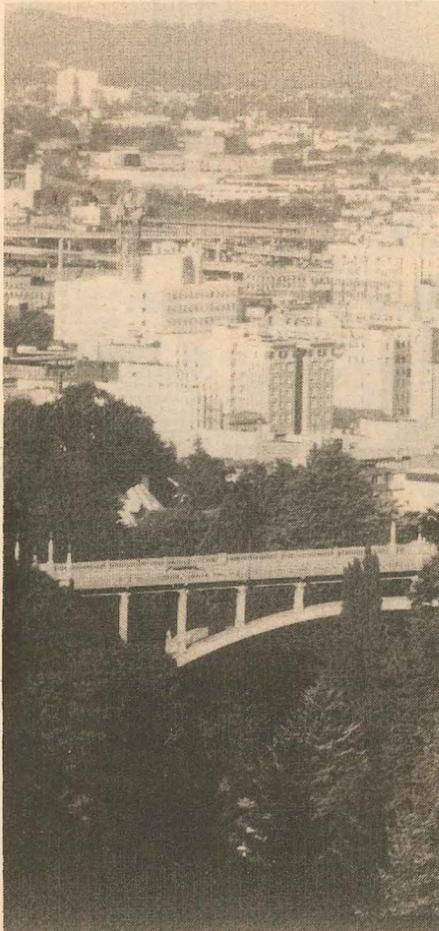
Directors reelected include Lemar Baugher, Sunday school; Miss Phyllis Cooley, WMU; Kenneth Findley, music; William Hall, evangelism; and Sam Smock, missions chairman.

After the election Frank Owen, Ky. Baptist executive secretary, spoke on the Bold Mission Thrust.

South District Walkin' Tall
Eighty-three persons turned out for the third South District Association walkathon for home missions.

Churches participating and the number of persons from each included: Southern Avenue, 24; Parkville, 15; Mitchellsburg, 14; Hyattsville, nine; Hedgeville, seven; Lexington Ave., five; Calvary and Junction City, four each; and Lancaster, one.

The 10 mile walk was concluded with a potluck supper and youth rally.



Portland, Ore. sprawls across a large section of land, housing 1,250,000 persons, of whom 700,000 claim no relationship to any religion.

25 New Oregon Congregations to Begin

This summer Southern Baptists will simultaneously begin 25 new congregations in Portland, Ore.

The date is July 23.

"There are now 50 churches and missions in Portland," says Darrell Evenson, director of missions for the Interstate Baptist Association. "The 1970 census showed 1,250,000 people in the four counties which form the association, with 700,000 not belonging to any church or religious group. That's 65 percent of the population of our area unchurched."

Evenson added that of the 500,000 who say they are members of some religious group many are Mormons, Buddhists or members of other non-Christian groups.

"There are many, many people here who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and saviour," he said.

Portland is one of the key cities selected by the Home Mission Board for special efforts in evangelization and congregationalization. Key cities is one of four target areas of Bold Mission Thrust in the U. S. Others are key counties, cultural and lifestyle groups and communities in transition.

"In our 50 churches and missions there are about 6000 members," says Evenson. "That is a very small percentage in the midst of a very great need."

The missionary pointed out associational leaders have selected 80 potential sites for churches and missions, but narrowed their focus to 25 potential sites for the mid-summer thrust.

The Interstate Association will receive help from the Union Baptist

Association in Houston, Tex. and the Home Mission Board. Workers will also depend on volunteer support from the newly-formed Mission Service Corps, as well as from the board's Christian Service Corps.

"The Union Association will send people up here to help us conduct Action Campaigns and other methods of reaching people," says Dan Stringer, executive secretary of the Northwest Baptist Convention, which is headquartered in Portland.

The Home Mission Board will provide teams of seminary couples for a 10-week project during the summer aimed primarily at cultivation and nurturing of the new congregations.

The association also has applied for two US-2 missionary couples to work with the new churches. The US-2 missionary program is a short-term project designed for college graduates to test their call to missions.

"We have been working closely with Bennett Cook (an HMB staffer) who is coordinator for the Portland key city effort from the Home Mission Board," says Evenson.

Funds from the board will help provide church starters—ministers who establish new congregations—as well as salary assistance through church pastoral aid to provide full time ministerial leadership for the fledgling congregations.

Every Baptist who contributed to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions has a part in helping plant 25 new congregations to meet the needs of 700,000 lost and unchurched persons.

Prison Evangelism Growing Ministry on Southern Baptist Mission Field

Baptist Teams Witness to Filipino Prisoners

Prisoners.

For many this word brings to mind visions of men in striped suits behind bars in gray, dark buildings. But for Southern Baptist missionaries Jack L. and Gladys Martin this word brings to mind two other words—Christ and food.

For the past three years the Martins and members of English-speaking Calvary Baptist Church in Bangkok have worked both foreign and Thai prisoners on a monthly basis. At special holidays, like Thanksgiving and Christmas, the foreign prisoners are treated to dinner or sweets.

Last year the group prepared Thanks-

giving dinner for 70 foreign prisoners, putting each food item in separate plastic bags. Christian books, tracts, correspondence courses and cassette tapes came with the food.

At Christmas the Martins and nine young people from the Martyns church prepared a bag of sweets for each of the foreign prisoners. Again 70 plastic bags of cookies, chocolate fudge, hard candy and tea bags were prepared to go with tracts and a Bible account of the Christmas story.

In the past six months 13 foreign prisoners and 30 Thais have accepted Christ.

Thai Missionaries Give Christ and Food

Eleven gospel teams from 15 Baptist churches in the Manila area witnessed to prisoners in the national prison recently during a large scale witnessing program.

Teams simultaneously entered the 11 brigades or dormitories in the famous central prison which houses over 6000 prisoners. Pastors, deacons and Sunday school teachers participated in the event. Only men were allowed in the prison.

The program took place as the result of efforts and planning of a prisoner, Roger Arienda. For over a year he had been organizing Bible classes among the inmates and families of prison employees located within the prison compound. Arienda, a former radio-

television commentator jailed as a political activist shortly after martial law was declared in 1972, has become a Christian while a prison inmate and plans to be a Baptist evangelist upon his release from prison.

Teams conducted Bible study groups in the prisoners' living quarters. Approximately 50 prisoners gathered in each group. Many expressed a desire to believe in Jesus.

In a letter written after the event, Arienda said that the prisoners dubbed the Bible teachers "Gospel Commandos." His letter continued, "It was rightly so because the simultaneous 'attack' on the 11 brigades was the first in the history of the national prison ministry."



Missionary Gladys Martin and youth stuff bags of goodies for Thai prisoners.

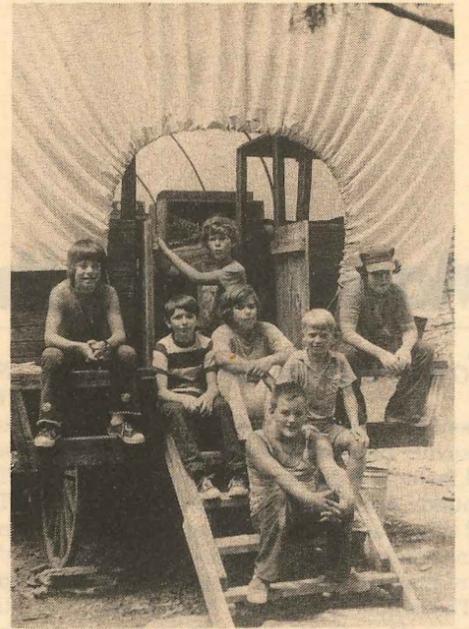


Roger Arienda (holding letter) looks over a letter with part of 11 teams.



• LUNCH TIME

R A B R O CAMP



• A WAGON CHAPTER

**BROTHERHOOD DEPARTMENT
KENTUCKY BAPTIST BUILDING
P. O. BOX 43433
MIDDLETOWN, KENTUCKY 40243**

1978 APPLICATION

CAMP DATES — 1978

(Registration Mondays at 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Boys should be picked up 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Fridays.)

- June 12-16
- June 19-23
- June 26-30
- July 3-7
- July 10-14
- July 17-21
- July 24-28
- July 31-August 4
- August 7-11

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many WITNESSES, the same COMMIT thou to faithful men, who shall be able to TEACH others also.”
II Timothy 2:2



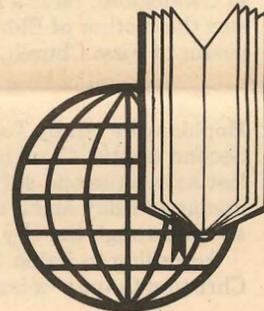
July 7-8 (Father/Son)
July 14-15 (Father/Son)



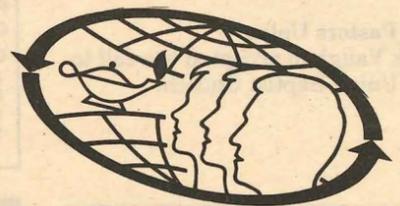
BOLD WITNESSING



BOLD COMMITMENT



BOLD TEACHING



• THE OL' SWIM HOLE

• FUN BOATING IN DRAGON LAKE

• LEAVING FOR HOME



Mountains to the Mississippi

Congregations

Hiseville Celebrates 95th

Hiseville Baptist Church celebrated an old fashioned day and dinner on the grounds Apr. 30. The church is 95 years old this year. Many wore period costumes and several long time members were honored for their faithful services.

Those honored include Mrs. James Cowan, Mrs. C. G. Depp, D. D. Lessenberry, Mrs. Bessie Montgomery, Mrs. Edna G. Nunn and Mrs. Lera Smith. Each received a plaque and flowers. Timothy Owings is pastor.

Hazelwood Homecoming Planned

Hazelwood Baptist Church, Louisville, will celebrate their 75th anniversary and homecoming July 16-23.

On July 22 a homecoming banquet will be catered and advance reservations are requested.

All former members who plan to attend should contact the church as soon as possible. Former staff members are invited as special guests.

Mrs. Roark Honored

Mrs. Sevilla Roark was honored in a special service by First Baptist Church, Totz. Mrs. Roark is the only surviving charter member of the church (as far as is known).

Evarts Builds

Evarts Baptist Church, Upper Cumberland Association, reported their average attendance in Sunday morning Bible study for March was 176. They have begun building new educational space.

Personnel

Menshouse Takes FBC, Greenup

Keith Menshouse is the new music and youth minister at First Baptist Church, Greenup.

Webb Retires

Ralph Webb retired after 12 years as pastor at Louisa Baptist Church.

Vaughan Pastors Union

A. Patrick Vaughan accepted the call to pastor at Union Baptist Church.

Sisk Publishes

Ted Sisk, pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, is the author of an article in the June, 1978, issue of The Church Administration magazine. The article is entitled "Make the Ordinances More Meaningful" and describes ways this congregation and pastor have found to enrich the celebration of these ordinances in the congregation including the television audience.

Dedication for Woodburn Annex

Dedication services for a new annex of the Woodburn Baptist Church were held on Apr. 23. The new annex, constructed at the cost of \$25,000, has been named the "Christian Fellowship Hall." Upon completion only \$5,000 remains to be paid for the structure.

James Chapman, chairman of the building committee, was in charge of the service which coincided with the first Sunday of the Woodburn spring revival with Neal Wade as evangelist. O. S. Murphy is the Woodburn pastor.

Deaths

Mrs. David Taylor Passes

Mrs. David J. Taylor, 92, died Apr. 21 in Owensboro, after a long illness. She was the mother of Eldred M. Taylor, pastor of First Church, Somerset.

Hopkinsville Hit by Tornado

Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, lost its steeple and suffered some water damage Friday night when a tornado swept through the city.

According to Ralph McConnell, Christian County missionary, "Second

Going Once! Twice! Gone!

After a 14 year wait, the First Baptist Church of Paducah stands to receive \$171,990 for its former site in downtown Paducah. The general services administration offered to buy the old First Baptist Church facilities in June, 1964, for use in connection with a nearby United States post office. The GSA and the church reached a verbal agreement on a purchase price of \$198,000 in 1965. Subsequently the plans for the post office were changed and the GSA did not honor the earlier agreement. The property was sold to the GSA in 1977 for \$47,725. Kentucky Senator Wendell Ford and Kentucky U. S. Rep. Carroll Hubbard Jr. introduced a special church-relief bill and by now have guided it through both the Senate and House of Representatives. The Senate measure calls for a payment of \$207,740 but the House version of the bill places the purchase price at \$171,990. It is expected the House version will be accepted by the Senate and that the president will sign the bill. John Wood is the Paducah First Baptist pastor.

Futrell Ordained

Robert Futrell, pastor of Sharon Grove Baptist Church, was ordained recently by Green Ridge Baptist Church, where he was formerly a member.

Interrogator for the ceremony was Randy Davenport, pastor of Green Ridge Church. The charge to the candidate was given by Foster Howard and the sermon by Clarence Woods, pastor of Liberty Point Baptist Church near Cadiz.

Approximately 20 pastors and deacons from the Bethel and Logan Associations made up the ordaining council.

Hall Street Ordains Quinn

Pilson Quinn, graduate of Clear Creek College this year, was ordained to the ministry recently by Hall Street Baptist Church, Owensboro, at the request of Hosman Baptist Church, Tinsley, Ky.

Quinn is married to the former Judy Atkinson. They have one daughter.

Cove Hill Pastor Ordained

G. Bryant Wright Jr., student at Southern Seminary, Louisville, was ordained to the ministry by Monroe Swilley Jr., former pastor of Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church, Atlanta. Wright grew up in this church while Swilley was pastor.

Wright pastors Cove Hill Baptist Church in Carrollton, Ky.

Baptists always respond to emergencies in a very fine way." He indicated that the church became Red Cross headquarters for the community during this crisis and had to do so during this year's severe winter.

John Christian is pastor at Second. Grace Episcopal Church is the only

other local church suffering damage, also losing its steeple.

Baptist people in the Julian and Gracey sections of Hopkinsville suffered extensive personal damage, according to McConnell. There were 17 persons hospitalized in the city but no fatalities reported.

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Home Mission Board leader William Tanner, President Jimmy Carter, and SBC President Jimmy Allen present the challenge of MSC.

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AN ACT OF LOVE (10 min.). This 16mm color film is available free from your state convention office. To become an MSC volunteer or sponsor, write: David T. Bunch, HMB, 1350 Spring St. NW, Atlanta, GA 30309.

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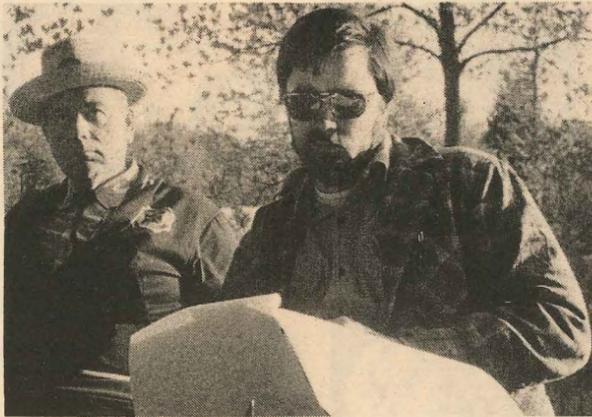
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26 Added to Recorder Trial Plan

Twenty-six additional churches have signed up for the Western Recorder's experimental 60-day free trial program.

After receiving the paper for two months without charge, participating members of these churches will then decide whether to begin receiving the paper at the Recorder's church family rate of \$2.50 per year.

The 26 churches and their pastors: Audubon, Henderson, Donald Garrison; Pleasant Grove, Quality, Aubrey Douglas; Mortons Gap, Leroy Vaught; Tyner, Leonard McWhorter; Quinn, Princeton, Danny Coleman; Water Valley Missionary Ronald Cruse; Pilot, Eubank, J. E. Hail Jr.; Bewleyville, Louisville, James Corbett; Glensboro, Lawrenceburg, Steven Cook; Mt. Haven Missionary, Mayfield, Donald Spindleman; Muddy River, Lawrenceburg, J. L. Page; Carpenter, Williamsburg, Heskell Roaden; Monticello, Rochester, Bill Wells; Union Band, Howardstown, Gary Green; South Fork, Hustonville, William Hanshaw; Immanuel, Henderson, Lyman Smith Allen; Karns Grove, Philpot, Albert Robinson Jr.; Oak Forest, Lewisburg, Leslie Williams; Cedar Bluff, Princeton, Wayne Knoth; Dry Branch, Harrodsburg, David Bluford; Valley View Mission, Irvine, Raymond Brown; Melber, William Gamblin; Oakton, Stanley Letterman; Woodhill, Lexington, Kirk Pate; Wayside, Ashland; Emmanuel, Mayfield, Ray Provow.



Calvin Fields (r) from Kentucky helped inaugurate a convention-wide Royal Ambassador adult campcraft training program recently in Memphis. The program, first of its kind in the convention, is designed to teach men how to teach campcraft skills to boys. Royal Ambassador leaders will take courses in three levels of campcraft—Basic, Standard and Advanced. A man may also earn an instructor's certification to teach the courses to adult leaders. State Brotherhood departments will administer the program, with actual certification coming from a national Royal Ambassador campcraft committee.

Revivals

"Super Sunday" at Cumberland

Cumberland Ky. Baptist Church held a "Super Sunday" service May 7 with evangelist Moody Adams. A native of Louisiana, Adams spoke during Sunday school, morning worship, church training and evening worship to conclude the one day revival. The service resulted in six professions of faith and four received by letter. Joe Brown is pastor.

Kirk Memorial—Four Decisions

A recent revival at Kirk Memorial Baptist Church, Grahn, Ky., resulted in two professions of faith and two rededications. The evangelist was Joe Mobley and the pastor is Mason Branham. The church is planning for a county wide crusade for June 1979.

Long Lick Reaches Youth

Long Lick Baptist Church, Stamping Ground, Ky., held a youth revival recently with evangelist Tommy Pierce. There were 22 rededications.

33 Decisions for Friendship

Friendship Baptist Church, Irvine, Boone's Creek Association, held revival services Apr. 20-23. William Gay, Booneville, was evangelist. Thirty-three decisions were made. James F. Smith is pastor.

Sunday School Lessons

Lessons for May 28, 1978

H. C. Chiles

International Lesson

Faith Under Fire

Acts 12:1-11

This passage shows us the faith, courage and devotion of the early Christians in meeting persecution. Sharing the murderous propensities of his grandfather, Herod the Great, who ordered the slaughter of the babies of Bethlehem soon after the birth of Christ, and of his uncle, Herod Antipas, who beheaded John the Baptist, Herod Agrippa I determined he would eliminate certain leaders of the early church.

The Death of James — Acts 12:1-2

If any man ever suffered from frustration it was Herod Agrippa I. Having decided he would try his hand at murder "he killed James the brother of John with a sword." His crime in slaying James, one of the three most prominent apostles and the first one to die, was greeted with enthusiasm by the Jews. Evidently Herod's primary purpose in persecuting the Christians was to curry favor with the Jews.

The Detention of Peter — Acts 12:3-5

Peter was arrested on the false charge of being a disturber of the peace and setting forth teachings which conflicted with Jewish traditions.

The Lord permitted the imprisonment for the twofold purpose of teaching Christians the importance of prayer and of showing the followers of Satan the folly of trying to oppose the plan of the Lord.

Life and Work Lesson

The Danger of Getting Sidetracked

A confused sense of priorities caused Lot to be sidetracked from the proper compliance with God's purpose and resulted in his making unwise decisions.

Genesis 13:10-13

In the case of Abraham and his nephew, Lot, wealth was a source of trouble. Their herdsmen quarreled over pasture and water for the flocks and herds. Unwilling for this quarreling to continue, Abraham took Lot to a hilltop where they could view the country. Abraham suggested, in the interest of peace, they part company.

Abraham generously conceded to Lot whatever portion of the land he chose. Instead of seeking God's will Lot thought of financial advantages he would have in the Jordan valley and social opportunities his wife and children would have in adjacent Sodom. Lot eventually moved into the wicked city. Through ignoring the will of God, Lot exposed

The Deliverance of Peter — Acts 12:6-11

When Herod interfered with the Lord's work his doom was settled. For those things God smote him with a loathsome disease and he was eaten by worms and died.

While Peter was chained to the soldiers and locked within a dungeon the church members prayed earnestly unto God for his release from prison. Their prayers were united and believing.

As a result of their prayers God sent an angel to Peter. The angel nudged and aroused him out of his deep slumber and said "Arise up quickly." Peter obeyed and God removed the chains. The angel said, "Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals." Now that he was liberated it was up to Peter to wait on himself. It is ever true God does not do for people what they can do for themselves.

Peter followed the angel to the iron gate at the entrance of the prison without awakening a soldier. The gate swung open and they went out into the street. As Peter followed the angel the latter disappeared.

Peter went to Mary's house where the believers were praying for his release. When Rhoda, Mary's maid, announced Peter was at the door, they stopped praying long enough to declare she was out of her mind. Peter had a harder time getting into that prayer meeting than he did in getting out of the prison.

his family to conditions beyond his imagination. His children were ruined and his influence over others was far from wholesome.

Genesis 19:12-14, 24-29

God informed Abraham he intended to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. In response to the intercession of godly Abraham Lot and his loved ones were given an opportunity to escape. But he had lost his influence over many members of his family and they refused to leave.

When the fire and brimstone rained upon Sodom Lot's wife disregarded the heaven-sent warning and looked back longingly to the city. There and then her blood congealed in her veins and she stood as a monument of the wrath of an offended God. She became a monument of God's power, faithfulness and righteous displeasure of disobedience.

Frank Owen

Could You?

The Bold Mission Thrust goals are very daring, but not impossible. The most staggering one of all is to proclaim the gospel to everyone on earth by the year 2000. Bear in mind, though, that this is nothing new. It is simply an attempt to look again realistically at the Great Commission. It isn't as overwhelming when expressed in Bold Mission Thrust for our day as it was for the disciples, so few in number, when Jesus issued the command that is still binding on Christians: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations."

BOLD GROWING: Proclaiming the gospel to everybody means first the confrontation of individuals. Could you do that? Can we be individual witnesses among the people we know? We could if we would. Shall we?

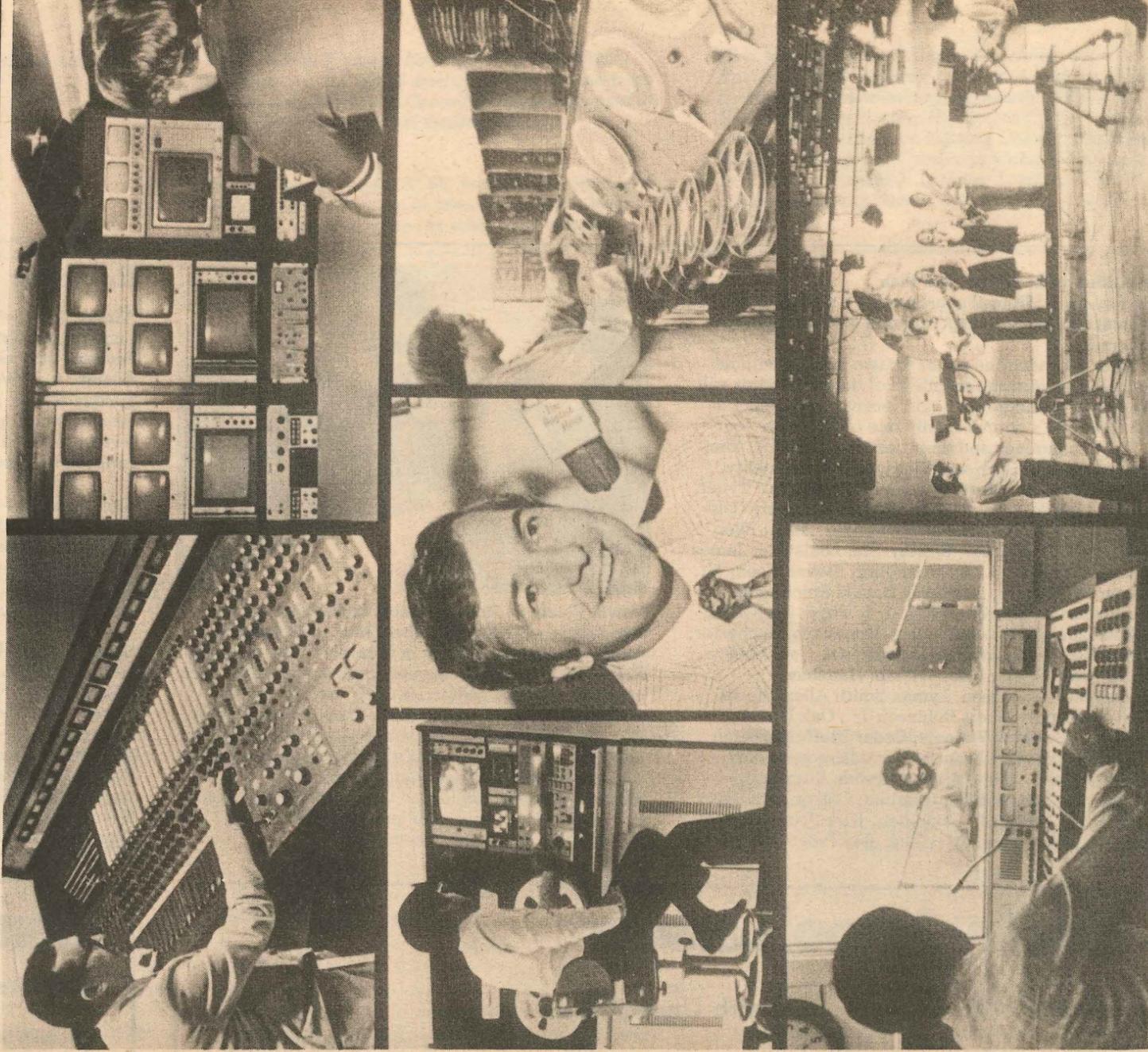
BOLD GOING: Then, there are the ones who are to go, whom those of us not going must send to places where we have very few witnesses or no witnesses except those we are yet to send. Can we double our career mission force three times between now and the year 2000? And, can we find 5000 volunteer missionaries who will pay their own way and donate their services for one or two years of their lives? Will there be enough to go if someone else will pay the way? Will there be enough to pay the way if there are those who will go but can't pay? Can we do this? Shall we?

BOLD GIVING: Our challenge here is to double the Cooperative Program receipts from the churches by the year 1982 and doubling twice more after that by the year 2000.

In our office we recently projected the rate of climb necessary in each of the next four years if the state receipts from the churches are to double by 1982. It's a steep hill but it can be climbed. It must be. Shall we?

Please look at the Cooperative Program side of your church gifts. Project the annual gains necessary for you to double it by 1982. Look at it. Think about it. Pray about it. Can you? Will you? It is no more than an honest, realistic look at what the Great Commission commands. We ought to. We can. Many of us will. Will you?

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Biblical Perspectives on Homosexuality

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Any Christian who takes the issue of homosexuality seriously must view it not only from the standpoint of empirical data but also from the perspective of biblical revelation and ethical considerations.

Genesis 19:4-11 is most often cited as a major teaching about homosexuality. In this passage the men of Sodom demanded that Lot turn over to them his two guests that they might "know them" (v. 5). By some it is argued that this phrase means to "get acquainted," and that the central teaching of the passage is not the sin of sodomy but of inhospitality. But the phrase "to know" (Yada) means carnal knowledge. The same word is used in v. 8 where Lot offers his virgin daughters to the men of Sodom in lieu of his guests. Judges 19 tells a similar story. In this passage (v. 5) there can be no doubt that Yada means homosexual coitus.

Leviticus 18:22 and 20:23 clearly teach that homosexual sex relations between consenting Israelite males were considered wrong because they violate the male and female order of creation.

In the New Testament Jesus never mentions homosexuality. In Romans 1:26-27 Paul speaks of heterosexuals, both men and women, who have "exchanged natural relations" for "unnatural relations." Here homosexuality is placed within the context of idolatry. The people had become confused about the identity of God (v. 23) which resulted in a confusion about their own identity. Hence they perverted natural human sexuality into homosexuality (vv. 25-27).

In 1 Cor. 6:9-10 Paul includes homosexuals in a catalogue of the kinds of persons whose behavior is not in conformity to the will of God.

At any rate there is not a single passage in the Bible that supports consensual sex relations between male adults. The facts remain that there is a general condemnation of homosexuality (overt act) in both the Old and New Testaments.

Christian ethics seeks to identify the grounds, guidelines and goals of human character and conduct in terms of the will of God as revealed in Jesus Christ as Lord.

Jesus was concerned with the moral law, not ritual law. He never taught in terms of rules. Rather he laid down guiding moral principles which can be universalized and applied in every age. He never abrogated the moral laws of prohibition against sexual impurity, killing, divorce and retaliation (Matt. 5:17-48).

While the gospel records nowhere indicate that Jesus dealt with the issue of homosexual behavior, he nowhere affirms, permits or condones it. Rather he

reaffirms heterosexual marriage as God's original intention (Matt. 19:1-9). Indeed the whole canon of scripture clearly indicates that sexual expression should occur within the heterosexual model of marriage.

The biblical ethic of love recognizes the value of every person. Every individual is made in the image of God and therefore has inherent worth in the sight of God (Genesis 1:27). Jesus was the first to bring "the value of every human soul to light, and what he did no one can anymore undo." He saw worth in an adulterous woman (John 8:1-11) and publicans and sinners (Luke 15:1-10). And Paul warns us not to destroy a person "for whom Christ died" (Romans 14:15). To know a person in this sense is to love and to care for him regardless of his race, class or condition.

In the light of love it is wrong to persecute, harass, discriminate against or to destroy any person. Yet such injustices the homosexual has suffered at the hands of society and even the church. Like blacks and other minority groups, the homosexual has been dehumanized often in the name of God!

The Christian ethic holds that homosexuality is not the unpardonable sin. It is not singled out by Paul as being any worse than thievery, idolatry, adultery, greediness, drunkenness and slander (1 Cor. 6:9-10). So why identify homosexuality as the most terrible of sins? Why do church members not have the same abhorrence for the greedy person or the slanderer they have for the homosexual?

The gospel ethic of love is all inclusive. One can love his enemies, but not his deeds. One can love the homosexual, but not his homosexuality. One can love divorced persons without condoning divorce.

The following conclusions appear to be valid. (1)

The weight of evidence points in the direction of learned — not inborn — homosexuality. The claim by homosexuals that "God made me this way" is a doubtful one. (2) From the biblical perspective, homosexuality does not conform to the will of God. (3) There is no evidence that the biblical writers were aware of latent or pseudohomosexuality. (4) Ethically speaking the homosexual is to be treated as a person with basic human rights. (5) There is no biblical teaching relating to the moral viability of a loving, faithful, permanent relationship between partners of the same sex. Rather the biblical implications are that this sort of arrangement is wrong.

by Henlee Barnette