

WESTERN RECORDER

Vol. 152, No. 21, May 24, 1978

The Bridgebuilders* TV Schedule

MARKET	STATION	CHANNEL	SCHEDULE	
Evansville	WTVW	7/ABC	June 1, 7:00-7:30 p.m.	Thursday
Hazard	WKYH	57/NBC	June 1, 7:30-8:00 p.m.	Thursday
Cincinnati	WLWT	5/NBC	June 2, 7:00-7:30 p.m.	Friday
Lexington	WLEX	18/NBC	June 2, 7:00-7:30 p.m.	Friday
Nashville	WSM	4/NBC	June 2, 7:00-7:30 p.m.	Friday
Knoxville	WATE	6/NBC	June 2, 8:30-9:00 p.m.	Friday
Huntington	WSAZ	3/NBC	June 3, 7:30-8:00 p.m.	Saturday
Louisville	WHAS	11/CBS	June 3, 8:30-9:00 p.m.	Saturday
Paducah	WPSD	6/NBC	June 4, 12:30-1:00 p.m.	Sunday
Louisville	WHAS	11/CBS	June 11, 8:00-8:30 a.m.	Sunday

**New color motion picture filmed entirely in Kentucky for the state Woman's Missionary Union by the SBC Radio & Television Commission. (See WR, 3/22/78 and 5/3/78 issues for more information.)*

Tennessee Baptist Executive Will Retire As Scheduled

The Tennessee Baptist Convention's executive board has responded to a change in federal retirement laws in a different manner from that taken two weeks ago by the Kentucky Baptist executive board.

The Kentucky board changed its retirement program effective immediately to accept governmental provisions beginning in 1979 allowing employees to remain on their jobs until age 70. Franklin Owen, executive secretary-treasurer, became the first employee so affected. He had been scheduled to retire Dec. 31, 1978, but

can now remain up to five years longer. He will be 65 in June.

The Tennessee board tabled a motion which would have allowed a similar extension to its chief executive, Ralph Norton, and other board employees. Norton is scheduled to retire Dec. 31 under present policy. A search committee is seeking his successor.

In the Tennessee board discussion a member observed that the debate revolved around "one minute of time" — between the midnight retirement deadline Dec. 31 and the effective date of the new law Jan. 1.



Ralph E. Norton

About That Convention . . .

In Atlanta Call MARTA, (The Bus Co.), Can Help

Bus routes serving two major points of Baptist interest in Atlanta have been added for convenience of messengers attending the Southern Baptist Convention in Georgia's capital city June 13-15.

The SBC transportation committee has arranged for buses to pickup and deliver SBC messengers at the SBC Home Mission Board building, 1350 Spring St., N.W., in downtown Atlanta and the Georgia Baptist Center, 2930 Flowers Rd. S., in northeast Atlanta.

Tom Duvall, SBC transportation committee chairman, repeated an earlier appeal for SBC messengers to use charter buses going from major downtown hotels to the World Congress Center. Fare will be 35 cents each way.

"Many parking places exist around the World Congress Center," he explained. "But people who work every day in downtown Atlanta use them. We urge SBC messengers to ride buses going from their hotels to the center."

Duvall urged SBC messengers not staying in close-in motels to park cars in the Atlanta Civic Center parking lot (\$1 per day) and ride SBC shuttle buses to the World Congress Center. The civic center is at the corner of Piedmont and Forrest avenues.

Bus service will start one hour before each SBC session and continue for 30 minutes after each session closes.

Card Carrying Baptists?

Messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 13-15, must have proper credentials for registration.

Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, urged churches to elect messengers in business meetings and see that they come with proper credentials.

"Registration cards are available from the executive secretary of each state Baptist convention," Porter said. "Each messenger should fill it out in detail, be sure it is signed by the pastor

or church clerk, and present it to a clerk at a registration booth in order to receive a copy of the convention program, a messenger identification badge and computer-card ballots for voting.

"A messenger who comes to the convention without proper credentials must apply to the credentials committee for registration," Porter said.

He said each church is entitled to a minimum of one messenger and a maximum of 10 under the SBC constitution. Every cooperating and contributing SBC church may send one messenger and one additional one—up to the maximum—for every 250 members or \$250 in contributions to the work of the convention during the fiscal year preceding the meeting.

Messengers who lose identification badges or ballots will not have them replaced, Porter said, to protect the integrity of the voting process during the convention.

"Due to the anticipated large number of messengers, we decided to begin registration Sunday, rather than Mon-

Gays Will Picket Anita in Atlanta

Gay rights activists plan to demonstrate against the June 11 appearance of Anita Bryant during the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

"We are not objecting to her coming and speaking," said Victor Host, coordinator of the Atlanta Gay Rights Alliance. "We are not picketing the Southern Baptist Convention. What we are demonstrating and picketing against is what she stands for; not her visit and not the convention."

An estimated 2000 persons are expected to take part in the demonstration, which will feature a 6 p.m. rally June 11 in Central City Park, a march to the Georgia World Congress Center where the Pastors' Conference will be held and a two-hour picket.

Host said the demonstration will be non-violent. "We will not attempt to get into the Pastors' Conference," he said. "We don't belong in there and we're not going to try to get in." He said if there's any trouble, "it won't come from us."

Tim Hedquist, assistant to the treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee and convention manager, said: "We have made normal security precautions. My concern is that individual Southern Baptists do not precipitate anything. Many times the reaction to something like this is worse than the action."

Atlanta police officials said extra lawmen have been alerted for the demonstration.

Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., and president of the Pastors' Conference, called on Southern Baptists attending the Sunday night meeting to "behave like Christians."

Smith said when he was told of the proposed demonstration, his "first reaction was to call Anita and cancel. But I thought if her own people will not stand up for her, who will? I think we ought to give her this opportunity to speak . . . to show Atlanta and the nation Christian standards.

"I think this is the time to get behind this courageous Christian who is bucking the tide of immorality."

day, at the Georgia World Congress Center," he explained.

Room in Atlanta Inns?

About 65 percent of the hotel and motel rooms set aside for next month's annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta had been taken by May 1.

The SBC Housing Bureau said that 34 hotels in Atlanta had committed 7000 rooms for SBC messengers. As of May 1 about 4500 of those rooms had been assigned.

Following are the 16 hotels-motels which still had vacancies: Atlanta Cabana, Airport Hilton, Stadium Hotel, Colony Square, Days Inn (Clairmont Rd. and Shallowford Rd.), Dunfey's Royal Coach, Ramada Inn (Central and Airport), Riviera Hyatt House, Rodeway Inn Lenox, Sheraton Biltmore, Terrace Garden, Peachtree Travelodge, Howard Johnson Airport and Capitol Inn.

Address of the SBC Housing Bureau is 233 Peachtree St., NE., Atlanta, GA 30303.

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

WESTERN RECORDER

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Paul Whitler, Business Manager

Published by Western Recorder Inc., Box 43401, Middletown, KY 40243 weekly, except for one week in July and December. Second class postage paid at Louisville and additional mailing offices.

Subscriptions: Single, \$3.68; foreign, \$3.75; church budget, \$2.50. Payable in advance, except church accounts, which require tax exemption number.

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C. R. Daley

Daley Observations

Another Choice In Sunday School Literature

One more step is being taken in the cafeteria style for churches in choosing Bible study materials. A new curriculum for Bible study is being produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board and will be available to churches Oct. 1 of this year.

The new curriculum will be known as the Bible Book Series. It will be a systematic study of all 66 books of the Bible over a nine year period. Some study of both Old and New Testaments will be included each year. It will focus on learning and understanding the content and message of each book in the Bible with applications of the message to life situations.

With this new offering churches will have three choices for Bible study materials. Until a few years ago we had only one choice. This was the Uniform series which covers the major areas of the Bible in six-year cycles. Then came the Life and Work series which is a study of scripture selections related to contemporary life and work of adults and youth.

The Bible Book Series is a welcome addition. It makes sense to study the Bible through. It's really one book of 66 volumes and one volume or part of a volume cannot be properly understood apart from the rest of the book.

How valuable the new series will be depends upon how it is prepared. If it comes up to the quality of the other two series it will be worth considering. Before changing to the new series, however, it should be examined. Sample adult and youth lessons of the Bible Book Series are available free of charge from the Baptist Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, TN 37234.

Southern Baptists produce some of the most excellent Bible study materials available anywhere. But quality of materials must be matched with quality of instruction. Unfortunately we are much further along in producing quality materials than we are in producing quality instruction. And that cannot be ordered from the Sunday School Board.

State papers which run commentaries on each week's Sunday school lessons will be faced with the question of whether to add this new series for a weekly commentary. Some state papers have discontinued these commentaries since they increased from one to two and more will probably do so rather than try to find space for three or decide which to use and which not to use.

Guest Editorial

Shortcuts and Shortchange

Edgar Cooper, Florida Baptist Witness

Years ago when men went to sea in wooden ships, experienced sailors were an imperative to navigate hazardous waters. So when a young man looking for a seaman's job went to a hiring hall in London, he was asked if he had ever been around the horn. Shipping companies and sea captains wanted experienced men who had made at least one and preferably two trips in the rough seas around Cape Horn. The would-be sailor admitted he had never made that voyage. The hiring agent took him to a back room. In the middle of the floor lay a steer's horn. The agent instructed the job seeker to walk slowly around the horn. The young man did as instructed. "Now you qualify," said the agent. "You can have a job!" In our thinking we can easily sympathize with a ship's captain who finds himself in dangerous seas with a crew that sails under false pretenses claiming experience and training they don't have.

Likewise some Southern Baptist pastors endanger the image of the ministry when they blatantly claim to have theological training they don't have. Longing to be recognized as learned individuals, they shamelessly take shortcuts offered by diploma mills or sub-standard schools in order to be addressed by the coveted title of "doctor." However such shortcuts invariably hurt and shortchange the minister, the congregation and the Heavenly Father. A minister cannot do his best when operating under false colors, the congregation cannot respect a charlatan, and the Heavenly Father is grieved over the mistaken values of his servant.

It seems that preachers are more gullible in this area of ego building than any other profession or calling. Honesty, integrity, character and common sense are cast aside in the pursuit of spurious degrees and titles. Capitalizing upon the silliness of God's prophets, unscrupulous businessmen and educators make millions preying upon this weakness of ministers for exaltation. A pastor friend was disgusted by the following letter which offered him an honorary doctor of divinity degree for a price:

"Some time ago you were recommended to our trustees as a prospect for an honorary degree. Our trustees have recommended that Lennox Christian College go ahead and confer the honorary doctor of divinity degree upon you.

"Now, LCC is a new college and at present we are not accredited — but we will be, as soon as our library reaches around 50,000 volumes. The money to confer the degree had to come from our Library Fund, and it costs us for records, office work, telephone calls, printing and for our staff. It will cost us \$65.00 for every degree conferred. So we must replace this money in order to expand our library for accreditation of our college. We are asking that you send a gift to the Library Fund to help us meet the requirements for accreditation."

The Universal Life Church in Modesto, Cal., also offers frustrated academics a doctor of divinity degree. However, it requires work! The student must answer some questions from a Bible, purchased for \$5, and send in \$100 for the degree. In their brochure Universal Life calls it "the degree people have been

waiting for." Unfortunately there are enough "suckers" around to keep these exploitative enterprises in business.

So widespread is the practice of getting academic recognition by purchasing a doctor's degree or "earning" one by doing inferior work that it is hard to tell who has the right to be designated by such a high-sounding title. At most Baptist meetings nowadays a moderator or presider doctors everybody just to be on the safe side. This tends to cheapen an earned degree and makes a mockery of the blood, sweat and tears that have been poured out by scholars in pursuit of genuine academic achievement. Perhaps it would be better to just ignore degrees in our relationships and concentrate on calling each other brother. At least it would keep us on a more equal footing and cut out the prevailing nonsense that a doctor's degree makes one preacher a little better than another. We need to remember that the quality of the meat of the pig is not determined by how many curls it has in its tail!

On the basis of hard work and study, I am entitled to place a Ph.D. after my name. However, I have a sneaking notion that when I am through here and go to meet the Lord, he won't greet me as doctor. I pray he will call me "good and faithful servant" — which in my book is better than the highest or most-distinguished degree on earth.

Baptist Forum

Even Greater Than Jesus

Re: "The Great Commission and Charismatic Gifts" by Marion T. Duncan.

I suppose that I must assume that Brother Duncan's article is solemnly "amened" by most Baptist theologians, but those who would accept his reasoning that "Tongues, along with other charismatic gifts, ceased after the maturing of the early New Testament church" would be hard pressed to explain to members who derive hope from healing prayers where such hope is justified.

Fortunately the renewal in the church, the body of Christ, is across the entire spectrum of denominations, and it is NOT believed that God has in any way changed from what he has said, that he is the same today and tomorrow, as he was yesterday. . . .

The manifestation of the Holy Spirit in healing, wisdom, knowledge, prophecy and in many ways not amplified by Paul still continues among those who ask in faith believing, and in many cases where those who do not believe but are sustained through prayer of believers. God is still doing his work among his people and to spend so much space in a Christian paper to justify the aird "faith" of Mr. Duncan can only take away some measure of hope from those who have not had a mountaintop experience with the Holy Spirit.

The mighty effort we are making as Baptists in evangelism, the expenditure of money in worldwide missionary effort and where tremendous numbers are being won to Jesus Christ, the works of the Holy Spirit in continuum from yesterday to tomorrow, should be believed.

God is not the author of confusion, but the Hebrew

church refused to believe in the works of Jesus, as we today are to believe in the works of the Holy Spirit, in doing greater works than even Jesus . . . as promised by Jesus.

Aiken M. Lord, Owensboro

Your response to Mr. Duncan's views is appropriate but your supposition is wrong. Mr. Duncan's views on the Holy Spirit are his only and they would hardly be "amened" by most Baptist theologians. This gives another occasion to remind readers that material used in *Western Recorder* or *Southern Baptists*. Opinion articles like Mr. Duncan's are used to stimulate reaction and dialog in search of more truth. The editor's views are found only in the editorials but they are not to be regarded as any "official" view.—Editor

Spirit of the Living God

I wonder how long the Holy Spirit will have to work around the organized church? We are told that the sin of the world is unbelief—but it's also the sin of the church!

God has given us a "Spirit of POWER and of LOVE," "Professing themselves to be wise they became fools," "Having a form of godliness but denying the POWER thereof." I looked in my Greek dictionary for the word "blasphemy" and all of a sudden my eyes fell on a word. That word "unbelief." Unbelief in the Holy Spirit equals blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. Why did Marion T. Duncan in his May 3 denial of the power of God (Great Commission and charismatic gifts) use 1 Cor. 13:8 and not even mention that 13:10 says that these things will end only "when that which is perfect is come"? They end only when Jesus returns.

In response to a letter I wrote to WR concerning the gifts of the spirit I received many, many letters and I just want people to know that these were from Baptist people who believe in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Not tongues promoters but Holy Spirit promoters including all the gifts of the spirit.

I've seen broken bones healed by God's power, I've seen eyes that were blind healed and given sight and that's not even a start.

Baptists believe God is still alive! You are not alone! HALLELUJAH!

Theological argument nor any other kind of argument will win the world to Jesus. The Spirit is the "Power of God unto salvation." The Spirit convinces and convicts men of sin.

Tom Cody, Hindman

Let Us Love One Another

I have just read the article "The Great Commission and Charismatic Gifts" by Marion T. Duncan in the May 3 issue of *Western Recorder*.

If some of the teachings of the Bible are not meant for today but were definitely meant for the early church, are we not on dangerous ground when we decide what was right then and is not right now? One could take many teachings and claim they do not apply to our present-day situation, and thus discard them. Is that not taking away from the word of God?

When the Holy Spirit manifested himself at Pentecost and those gathered there started speaking in unknown tongues I am sure this does not mean a foreign language or the word "unknown" would not have been used. This was the language of the Holy Spirit, according to my understanding, and when those gathered at that place were baptized in the Holy Spirit, as was prophesied earlier, they were filled with such power they literally "turned the world upside down." I wish we would not "play down" the miraculous because we do not understand it. What we need today is more people filled with the Holy Spirit of God who will forget self and "put all on the altar for him." He, the Holy Spirit, does not take full control (although he does come to live in the lives of all who accept Christ as saviour) unless we ask him to; and that makes all the difference in the world.

I am a happy Southern Baptist but I know many charismatic Christians who are truly in the Lord's will and have shown their love for him in countless ways. In the church of one of our sons in Florida you can just feel the love of the people for one another and for the Lord, and the first time we attended I could not help thinking of that verse in the Bible, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one for another." How they do love the Lord, and how they do love and preach the Bible. My heart and soul sang with praise for such a glorious and such a wonderful saviour. They preach Christ and him crucified, and one morning the minister said, "We're for anyone who's for Jesus." I liked that. Let us work together in love and harmony for the glory of the Lord, and let us not tear one another down.

Mrs. E. R. (Naomi) Loomis, Covington

Schools Should Have Bible Reading

As you continue your editorials re Anita Bryant and her concerns I believe you are becoming almost as controversial as you think Anita is, at least with Baptists in Kentucky!

I would say without a doubt you and I would not be where we are in our Christian lives today were it not for some school teacher or college professor who influenced us when we were growing up, where freedom of Bible reading rang.

It's clear you have no children in any school today, because if you could see some of the "trash" our students are required to read as literature you would be praising the efforts of our legislators who have put good use of their power, by putting "the Lord's Prayer" back in the classroom. Our own Kentucky legislators worked to get this passed.

As for the Moslems being exposed to the Bible, it's also wrong that, "legally," some of our own Baptist missionaries have had to smuggle Bibles into other countries to teach God's word.

If some children in "Christian America" didn't hear the gospel in a classroom they'd never hear it, at home, in literature class or by watching some of TV.

Let's give the few good moral Christian teachers we have left a chance to shine their light of the gospel, instead of, of all things, our own Kentucky Baptist paper using Bible reading as a controversial issue.

And I was just beginning to think things may be coming back to good morality; it can't get much lower.

At this writing a letter will also go out to Anita Bryant in her support.

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Bryant, Philpot



More Thoughts on Anita Bryant's Goals

In the beginning of our formation as a United States our forefathers set up a government for the people in compliance with the Bible and used God's word as a guide. Our forefathers believed it possible to have a bad crop if we did not obey the dictates of our heart and the Bible being the guide. Why is it that all has been forgotten, that to become a citizen of the United States it is with a statement of an oath "under God." The freedom we have enjoyed is under God. All other religions and non-religions found refuge here and swore to uphold our law "under God." Please, don't make excuses for us to leave God in the background of our everyday life through the schools. Some children never hear the scriptures unless it is at school. What better way to learn about the God in whom we believe? I worry because we should be concerned over souls and to preach and teach the gospel. It is truth. What is more important, a tithe or to use our personalities to uphold Jesus Christ to others that they might be saved? Let's do both.

Mary Ann Phillips, Forest Hills

'God Bless Anita Bryant!'

I would first like to state that I respect your opinion. But sir, I surely do not agree. The Bible commands that I hear you and respect your opinion because you are older, more experienced and most likely better versed than I. But my dear sir, I surely do not agree! God bless Anita Bryant!

The Bible says "I can do all things through Christ, who strengtheneth me." I pledge to her my prayers and any other support I could possibly give her.

It is my firm conviction that prayer and Bible reading should be enacted in all schools, for sanctification purposes and also for evangelism of the teenage student. And if good Christian teachers wish to pray with their class they should be allowed to. My recommendation would be for the United States to look at England, how they worship every morning for the Protestant and Baptist children, and if there be any other denominations present then they are allowed to leave.

Finally I would like to say there is enough backstabbing in this land between spiritual leaders. Let's quit fighting among ourselves over these issues and get down on our knees and pray down God's decision.

James L. Voyles, Cloverport

Write on Target

C. R. Daley is exactly right in his Apr. 26 editorial about Bible reading and prayer in the public schools. There's a lot of hazy thinking among many Baptists on this topic. It's good to read something clear and concise. That's why we're reprinting his comments in the *Illinois Baptist*.

Robert J. Hastings, Editor, Springfield, Ill.

A Word Out of the Past

Southern Baptists are becoming alarmed! Our churches baptised fewer persons last year than in any year in the past 28. We are beginning to wring our hands and view with alarm. SBC President Jimmy Allen warns that we are in a pre-panic state, about to push the button: "There's a kind of queasy feeling down inside that's not quite panic yet, but we're wearing worried furrows on our brows." Other leaders are rushing forward with their three point and a poem prescriptions for our problem.

I'd like to call our attention to a relevant word of counsel which is by no means recent. The most famous Baptist preacher in America during the last half of the 19th century was John A. Broadus. He was professor of homiletics at Southern Seminary and wrote the classic text on preaching, *On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons*. It is still in print after a hundred years!

Broadus was the professor who said of the seminary after the Civil War, "Perhaps the seminary may die, but let us resolve to die first." Broadus died in 1895 at the zenith of his fame.

In 1959, on the centennial of the seminary, V. L. Stanfield published a collection of the *Favorite Sermons of John A. Broadus* (Harper & Bros.). One of the messages is entitled "Some Laws of Spiritual Work." It speaks with amazing relevance to our current situation as Southern Baptists.

Broadus' text was John 4:32-38 where Jesus spoke about sowing and reaping. The preacher contended that:

I. Spiritual work is refreshing to body and soul. "The only way to love spiritual work is to keep doing it until we gain pleasure from the doing."

II. "There are seasons in the spiritual sphere—sowing seasons and reaping seasons." Baptisms represent a kind of spiritual harvest time. But harvest is always preceded by careful planting, persistent cultivation and patient waiting. Jesus himself was the long awaited Messiah who came "in the fullness of time."

Broadus argued that there are seasons of spiritual work, seedtime and harvest, within individual churches. Revival is not constant, but periodic. There are also seasons, spiritual highs and lows, in the life of believers.

III. "Spiritual work links the workers in unity." Jesus said that one sows and another reaps. Others have labored and we have entered into their labors. We are to stay at the task of worship and witness. Let's continue it, together. In due course God will give the harvest. The kingdom is not brought in by our frenzied activity and ingenious slogans. We are not required to be successful, but to be faithful and to look to God for the increase. Let us be faithful stewards of our opportunities and trust God for the harvest.

IV. Spiritual work has rich rewards. "And he that reapeth receiveth wages," said Jesus, "and gathers fruit unto eternal life." Often we do enjoy the reward of success in witness and ministry. At other times the annual report looks rather bleak. We need to remember that our real reward comes for being faithful. It is the father's "Well done."

Let's not panic over this statistical decline in the number of baptisms. Rather, let's determine to be faithful "in season and out" and depend on the Lord of the harvest. Selah. This is a helpful word from a pen long still: "There are seasons in spiritual work."

Alton H. McEachern, Greensboro, N. C.

Day of Atonement Needed

Thank you for your editorial on "Why Not a Day of Atonement for Baptists?" For 38 years this need has been foremost in my experience of need, personally and denominationally!

I would appeal to the Baptist Sunday School Board that one quarter's lessons be centered on this problem and its answer. I would further appeal that the subject be presented in the pastor's conference of the SBC and have response from the BSSB in the convention. I would further appeal that regional workshops for pastors and Sunday school directors be conducted over the SBC to explain the need for a day of atonement for Southern Baptists and how in the word of God the answer and solution to our sin is in the blood of Jesus Christ for our sin. But, oh, the Bible teaching necessary to precede such a day, and the prayers of preachers and Sunday school directors before such can be!

Earl W. Hunter, Pineville

Mountains to the Mississippi

Personnel

Suggs Going to Tennessee

Julian S. Suggs, minister of music at Harrodsburg Baptist Church for two years, resigned to become program associate in the Church Music Department of the Tennessee Baptist Convention, Brentwood, effective June 1. He is presently a doctoral student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In his new position Suggs will write a doctoral dissertation on church music leadership. He will also promote, teach and train church music techniques for the Baptist Sunday School Board.

For 22 years Suggs was minister of music in churches in North Carolina and Tennessee. While at Harrodsburg he was an instructor of church music at Southern Seminary and music director for Mercer Baptist Association. At Harrodsburg he directed six graded choirs and two handbell choirs.

Mrs. Suggs is the former Frances Sigmon of Hickory, N. C. They have three children, David 17, Richard 15 and Jeannie 13.

John East to Victory Baptist

John Earl East is new pastor of Victory Baptist Church, Providence. A native of Earlington, he attended Bethel Junior College and was graduated from Austin Peay State University and Southern Seminary.

East pastored First Baptist Church, Woodlawn, Tenn.; Botesville (Ind.) Baptist Church; Colgate Baptist Church, Clarksville, Ind.; and Western Avenue Baptist Church, Connersville, Ind.

He served twice as second vice president of the State Convention of Indiana Baptists and six years as a member of the state executive board. He was also on the Highland Lakes camp planning committee.

East and his wife, Bonnie Faye, a native of southern Illinois, have three children, Scott Alan 13, Matthew Todd 6 and Johnna Lynn 1½.



Faye and Haskell Dunn

Dunn to First Baptist, London

H. Haskell Dunn is new minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church, London, Ky., effective June 4. He has served churches in the Mobile, Ala. association as minister of music and youth and has been associational youth counsel chairman. A native of Mobile, he attended Mobile Baptist College and was a soloist in the Boar's Head Festival (Christmas musical) for three years.

Dunn is married to the former Faye Skelton of Mobile. They have a daughter, Terri 15, and a son, Mike 12.

KBC Yields to Ohio Baptists

A Kentucky Baptist Convention business office employe has been named accountant and office coordinator of the Ohio Baptist Convention, Columbus.

Melba J. Welker, completing requirements for the M.R.E. degree at Southern Seminary, will join the Ohio staff July 31.

She has been working part time in the KBC business office in Middletown during her seminary career. Earlier, the Marble Hill, Mo., native taught high school business courses in Missouri.

Hall Street Calls Cashion

Hall Street Baptist Church, Owensboro, called John Cashion as minister of music. He and his wife, Jerre, are Knoxville natives. He graduated from the University of Tennessee.

St. Matthews Loses Staffers

I. W. (Jake) Stewart has resigned the position of assistant to the pastor at St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, effective May 31. He and his family will move to Charlottesville, Va., where he will enter the insurance business.

Mrs. Sharon Coffman resigned as organist effective June 18 to move with her husband to the Detroit area.

Both Stewart and Mrs. Coffman have served St. Matthews since 1975. J. Altus Newell is pastor there.

Sears is Interim at Woodlawn

Woodlawn Baptist Church, Russellville, has called Roy Sears as interim pastor.

James Duvall to Olmstead

James R. Duvall is new pastor at Olmstead Baptist Church, Russellville. He comes from Bible Baptist Church, Clarksville, Tenn.

Duvall and his wife, Linda, are Boone County natives. He received his B.A. degree from Campbellsville College and did graduate work at Austin Peay University.

The Duvalls have five children. Kenny and Mary are students at Clarksville Baptist College. Nancy, Laura and Amy live at home.

Bryant is Cox's Creek Interim

Walter E. Bryant, Boston, former pastor of Cox's Creek Baptist Church, is interim there. He previously served the church as pastor two different times and the church as pastor once for a total of over 15 years' service.

He retired from active pastorates in 1975. He pastored last at King's Baptist Church, Mt. Washington, for 14½ years. Bryant is a graduate of Mercer University and Southern Seminary.

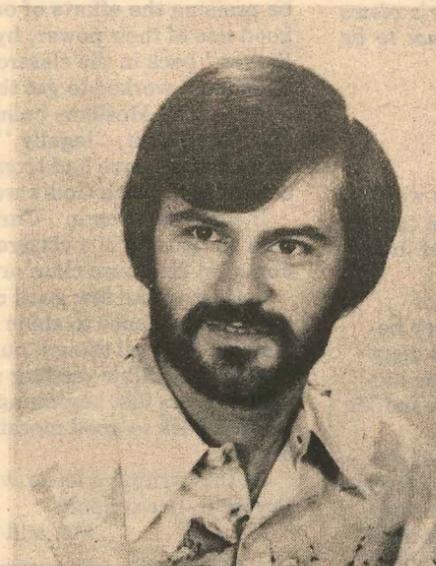
Hester to New Salem

Malcolm Hester assumed the pastorate of New Salem Baptist Church, Cox's Creek, Mar. 21. A native of Alabama, he is a graduate of Samford University and Southern Seminary. He is working on his Ph.D. at the seminary now. He has served as pastor in Crane Hill, Ala., and Providence.

Mrs. Hester is also from Alabama and a graduate of Samford University. They have a son, David.

Celsor Leaves Pleasant Hill

James Celsor has resigned the pastorate of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Russellville.



Webb

Bill Webb Joins Recorder

William R. Webb has been named a journalism intern at Western Recorder, according to associate editor James H. Cox.

Webb, 28, a native of Mt. Vernon, Ill., is a graduate in communications from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, and will pursue the M.R.E. degree at Southern Seminary. His concentration will be in religious journalism.

Married to the former Susan Blue of Mt. Vernon he is the father of two sons.

Webb brings to the Recorder more than seven years of professional newspaper experience. He was part time reporter for the Mt. Vernon Register-News for two years and full time reporter and photographer for that daily paper more than five years. He has also been interim managing editor of the McLeansboro (Ill.) Times-Leader.

He was on church staffs in Blufford and Mt. Vernon, Ill., and has been a student summer missionary to Liberia.

James to First Baptist, Broadway

Mike James is new minister of youth and education at First Baptist Church, Broadway, near Danville. He is a native of Stanford and a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University. He will graduate from Southern Seminary June 2 with a master of religious education degree.

James was ordained May 7 at Calvary Hill Baptist Church, Stanford. He is married to the former Kathy Lane of Versailles.

While in college and seminary he served several churches as minister of youth and education and as minister of music.

Albert Gisler is pastor at First Baptist.

Walker to East Baptist

T. Lynn Walker assumed the pastorate of East Baptist Church, Hickman, Mar. 19. Walker and his family moved to Hickman from Bardstown where he was pastor of Cox's Creek Baptist Church.

Walker is a native of Trezevant, Tenn. He is married to the former Barbara S. Crocker, a native of Milan, Tenn. They and their two children, Billy Lynn, 14, and Cassandra, 11, reside in the new church pastorium.

Walker has also pastored churches in west Kentucky and Northwest Tennessee. He is a graduate of Mid-Centennial Baptist Bible College and Bethel College. He is working on his master's

degree in religious education at Southern Seminary.

Missions

Brents Return to Kenya

Mr. and Mrs. Roy W. Brent have completed furlough and returned to Nyeri, Kenya, as missionaries. Brent is a native of Campbellsburg, Ky., and his wife is the former Diane Hutto of San Diego, Calif. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1972. Their address is Box 1364, Nyeri, Kenya.

Blackford Spotlights Missions

The Blackford Baptist Association World Mission Conference, highlighted by a mission fair at Hawesville Baptist Church, was held Apr. 9-16. Five guest missionaries included William Jester, Nigeria; Kenneth Park, Chile; Ariel Hernandez, Florida; Gregg Richards, Chicago; and Cecil Mills, Eastern Kentucky.

The mission fair featured five booths through the missionaries and nine mission booths set up by groups in the association.

Milbys at Pendleton

Mr. and Mrs. F. Eugene Milby, missionaries to Rhodesia, have arrived in the United States for furlough. He is a Louisville native and she is from Trimble County. Milby was pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Mount Eden, before they were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1963. Their address is c/o Norvin Jennings, Rt. 1, Pendleton, KY 40055.

Cooks Appointed to Kenya

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald S. Cook were among 23 missionaries appointed May 9 by the Foreign Mission Board. They will serve in Kenya where he will work in publications. They attend Southern Seminary.

Cook was born in Aba, Zaire, and also lived in Rethi, Zaire, where his parents were missionaries. He received a diploma from Moody Bible Institute, was graduated from John Brown University with a B.S. degree and was graduated from Sam Houston State University with a B.A. degree.

He has been a supervisor and production coordinator for printing firms in Lexington.

Mrs. Cook, the former Barbara Powell, was born in Owsley County and grew up in Beattyville. She received a diploma from Moody Bible Institute, attended John Brown University and received a B.S. degree from Sam Houston State University.

They have two sons, Stephen Ryan and Richard Perry.



Ronald and Barbara Cook



A Kentuckian, Walter B. Shurden (r), associate professor of church history at Southern Seminary, Louisville, was elected chairman of the SBC Historical Commission. Others (l-r): Mrs. C. W. Rich, Nashville homemaker, recording

secretary; Lynn E. May Jr., SBC Historical Commission executive director, Nashville, treasurer; and H. Leon McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., vice chairman.

Congregations

Storm Fatal to Cadiz Youth

Willard Barkley Mitchell, a 12-year-old boy who attended Sunday school at New Hope Baptist Church near Cadiz, was killed in an accident related to tornado damage in the area May 12. When the storm knocked out power at his home he started to a neighbor's home to get matches. He was struck by a car as he crossed the road.

New Hope Church was heavily damaged in the storm. The roof and supporting structure were torn off and the education building was moved from its foundation. The lot was stripped of all trees.

Donaldson Creek Baptist Church, also near Cadiz, received damage to the roof and windows. Two families lost their homes and others lost out-buildings.

Strader Earns Doctor of Ministry

Douglas T. Strader, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, received a D.Min. degree at Luther Rice Seminary May 5. A native of Muhlenberg County, he is a graduate of Campbellsville College and Southern Seminary.



Strader

Before going to Somerset he was pastor of Little Flock Baptist Church, Shepherdsville.

Register Now for Camp

Christian County Baptist Youth Camp will be held June 19-23 at Jonathan Creek for youth 12-17. Activities include puppetry, multimedia opportunities, camp crafts, drama, music, arts and crafts and Bible study.

A nonrefundable fee of \$5 should be submitted with registration. The remaining \$20 fee is due during check-in June 19. To register, notify your pastor or youth director. Registration may also be mailed to Christian County Baptist Association Office, 229 W. 25th St., Hopkinsville, KY 42240.

Corman on Alcoholism Committee

Dan Corman, Baptist layman from Lexington, is a member of the Joint Committee on Alcoholism and the Church. Corman represents the Kentucky Alcoholism Council on the joint committee.

The committee, sponsored by the alcoholism council and the Kentucky Council of Churches, was established a year ago to support alcoholism recovery and education among churches of the state.

The group recently polled more than 6000 Kentucky clergy to find how many are interested in working with people who have alcohol-related problems.

102 Winners in Bible Drill

Oner hundred two participants in the Kentucky childrens' state Bible drill at Bowling Green Apr. 29 made four or fewer mistakes and were declared state winners. Participants had won at the local church and associational levels to advance to state.

Ten of the winners have been state winners for three straight years.

They are Greg Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Brown of Owensboro, Yellow Creek Baptist Church, Daviess-McLean Association; Lisa Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Coy L. Brown of Hopkinsville, Second Baptist Church, Christian County Association; Julie Carroll, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Carroll of Ashland, Unity Baptist Church, Greenup Association.

Kevin Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Davis of Lexington, Grace Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association; Dane Ferguson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Ferguson, Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Ohio County Association; Becky Hayes, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hayes of Mt. Sterling, Reid Village Baptist Church, Boones Creek Association.

Betsy Howerton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Howerton of Lexington, Calvary Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association; Karen Mobley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eldred Mobley of Lexington, Grace Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association; Brian Sirles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Urban Sirles of Louisville, Ninth & O Baptist Church, Long Run Association; and Chris Vittitow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. K. Vittitow of Owensboro, Yellow Creek Baptist Church, Daviess-

McLean Association.

Each received a plaque.

Epley Holds Glendale Day

Epley Baptist Church, Russellville, observed Glendale Day Apr. 30 with children from Glendale Baptist Children's Home staying in members' homes and attending services in the church.

Mayslick to Dedicate Building

Mayslick Baptist Church will dedicate a new all purpose building June 4. The structure will contain classrooms and a fellowship hall.

Buffalo Celebrates May 28

Buffalo Baptist Church will celebrate its centennial May 28.

The church history goes back to April 1878 when the South Fork Baptist Church, Hodgenville, appointed a committee to assist in the organization of a United Baptist Church in Buffalo.

On May 1, the committee, 38 charter members who came from South Fork Baptist, and other interested Baptists organized Buffalo Baptist Church.

Services were held in the Buffalo Methodist Church until 1892 when the first church building was completed. An educational building was added in 1922 and a new education building was built in 1952.

The church continued to use its original facilities until 1966 when a new colonial style structure seating 425 was erected. Bill Patterson is pastor.

Revivals

64 Professions in Revival

Sixty-four professions of faith were reported in revival services conducted by Lee Castro at Spring Bayou Baptist Church, Kevil. Pastor Bob Jones said other decisions were also made.

29 Additions at Southside

Southside Baptist Church, Princeton, reported 29 additions including 19 for baptism and a record Sunday school attendance of 458 in revival May 1-7.

Billy Walker of Walnut Ridge, Ark., was evangelist and Dave Ezell, Southside minister of music, led singing. Ezell graduated in music education from Murray State University May 13.

Don Mathis is pastor.

Revival At Mill Creek

Garnet Martin was evangelist for revival Apr. 27-May 3 at Mill Creek Baptist Church. Pastor Amon Martin reported two professions of faith, four additions by baptism and four by letter.

Ordinations

Dover Ordains Two Deacons

Dover Baptist Church ordained Lenius Tune and Otha Hampton as deacons Apr. 30.



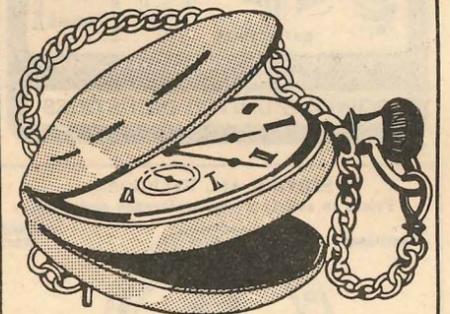
Carter Harrison Corbrey III (l), a student at Clear Creek Baptist School, accepts a Bible from deacon Harold M. Rice at his ordination at Liberty Baptist Church, Denver, Ky., Apr. 9. Corbrey and his wife, Georgia, are the parents of a son, Jonathan.

Thornhill Ordains Two Deacons

Robert Gaines and Arthur Grissinger were ordained as deacons by Thornhill Baptist Church, Frankfort, Apr. 23. James Rice, a newly-elected deacon, was recognized.

Gayle Johnson, a layman from Crestwood, brought the charge. William Hartung is pastor.

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Christian Education

Exxon President at Southern
Howard Kauffmann, president of Exxon Oil Corporation, will be speaker at the spring graduation of Louisville's Southern Seminary. Kauffmann's son Douglas will be among the 280 seniors who are members of the seminary's largest graduating class.

The ceremony will take place at 10 a.m., June 2, in Alumni Chapel.

Kauffmann, a member of Evangel Baptist Church in Springfield, N. J., is a native of Oklahoma.

Sigma Zeta Elects Officers
Sigma Zeta, a national science honor society at Campbellsville College, recently elected new officers at their annual picnic.

Students elected to office were: Darrell Pierce, president; Steve Coombs, vice president; Nancy Carwile, secretary/treasurer; and Doris McDonald, historian. Michael McMahan and Milton Rogers, Natural Science professors, were elected co-sponsors of this honor society.

Seminaries Graduate Seven Kentuckians

Three Southern Baptist seminaries graduated seven Kentuckians in recent commencement exercises.

Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, completed exercises on May 12 at Travis Avenue Baptist Church.

Clarence Martin Brooks, Williamsburg, received his doctorate in education. Irma Vickers Greever, Richmond, received a master of church music degree. John E. Greever, Hodgenville, Ronald King Rudolph, Calvert City, and

David Spencer Shaw, Louisville, received masters of divinity degrees.

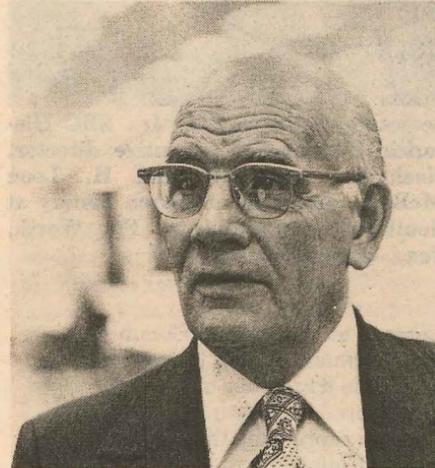
W. A. Criswell, pastor of Dallas First Church, was the commencement speaker.

John Robert Ench Jr., Louisville, received the Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C. Ench is pastor of North Smithfield N. C. Baptist Church. Ench is one of 262 graduates in the seminary's largest graduating class.

Ex-SBC President to Teach

James L. Sullivan, former Southern Baptist Convention president and head of the Baptist Sunday School Board, will take his lifetime of pastoral and denominational experience into the classroom. Sullivan will be visiting professor of church and denominational administration at Louisville's Southern Seminary.

"We are particularly fortunate," said Allen W. Graves, dean of the seminary's School of Religious Education, "to have one with both pastoral experience and such a long and effective denominational ministry to teach our students the basic course in church leadership."



James L. Sullivan

Frank Queen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh M. Queen, Louisville, received the M.R.E. degree, May 20, at Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Queen is married to the former Sherry Tuck, daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. James Tuck of Water Valley.

This graduating class is the largest in the 20-year history of Midwestern with 99 graduates.

Honorary Degrees Given

Georgetown College awarded honorary degrees to four persons during commencement exercises May 20.

They were Edith Monson, Cynthiana; Clyde Sparks, Ashland; Porter Routh, Nashville, Tenn.; and Ellis F. Hartford, Lexington.

Miss Monson is a member of the faculty at Georgetown and served on the school's scholarship committee and the guidance and admissions committee. She will receive the Doctor of Letters degree.

Clyde Sparks graduated from Georgetown College in 1924. After serving as chairman of the science and mathematics department at Campbellsville College for four years, he entered the University of Louisville medical school.

Except for five years in the Navy, Sparks' entire practice has been spent serving the people of the Ashland area. Sparks also served as a Georgetown College trustee. He received the Doctor of Laws degree.

Porter Routh also received this degree. He is the executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, he studied at Southern Seminary, the University of Missouri and George Peabody College.

Born in Fordsville, Ky., Ellis Hartford graduated from the University of Kentucky, earned the master's degree there and the doctorate at Harvard.

Hartford was named dean of the Community College System in Kentucky in 1964 and vice president of the system in 1970 before retiring in 1974.

Cumberland's 'Discovery'

Cumberland College is planning "Discovery" June 9 and 10 for high school students of Kentucky and the surrounding area. The program is designed to help students find God's will for their lives. It consists of discussion groups, testing and interaction with persons in full time Christian service.

Alice Magill of the vocational guidance section of the Church Administration Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and Mike King, Church Training associate of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, are program personalities.

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Yummy Time at SBC

Hungry Baptists won't have to go far to eat during next month's annual meeting of the SBC in Atlanta.

More than 4000 of them will be able to grab light or heavy lunches, American style or international cuisine, right in the Georgia World Congress Center, where the SBC meets June 13-15.

Tim Hedquist, SBC financial planning secretary and general chairman of annual meeting arrangements, said, "It will be one of the finest food service arrangements we have ever had for an annual SBC meeting."

Hedquist said about 2000 persons per hour can be fed a "good buffet lunch" on the same floor level as the SBC meeting hall.

Allen Calls for Prayer

Southern Baptist Convention President Jimmy R. Allen has proclaimed Sunday, June 11, 1978, as a Day of Prayer for Spiritual Awakening and urged SBC churches to hold prayer sessions.

Forrest Feezor of Shelby, N. C., retired executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will conduct a Prayer Service for Spiritual Awakening at 3:45 p.m., Thursday, June 15, during the 1978 convention.

Can Training Be Saved?

The decline in church training involvement by Southern Baptists is producing a "generation of theological ignoramuses," Baptist Sunday School

Board president Grady C. Cothen told 50 church training leaders at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

Roy Edgemon, named to head the board's church training department in December, told the leaders that Equipping Centers—a training concept to be introduced in 1979—will revitalize church training.

The board developed Equipping Centers because many Southern Baptist churches have dropped or greatly reduced their church training programs.

The Equipping Center is made up of a group of units or courses of study built around a basic subject area, utilizing a number of learning approaches. The distinctives of the new approach are short-term training options, flexible schedules, a variety of resources, specialized training and minimal organization.

Routh Suffers Attack

Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, became ill while delivering the baccalaureate address at Wake Forest University but apparently suffered no ill effects.

Physicians reported that the dizziness resulted from dehydration from a virus and that Routh, 66, had no serious medical problem.

Routh, at the Baptist college to speak and receive an honorary doctorate, stopped about two-thirds through his speech and gripped the podium as faculty and some 950 graduates watched.

Richard Janeway, dean of the univer-

sity's Bowman-Gray School of Medicine, rushed to his assistance and helped him walk off the stage. Routh was admitted to Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem but tests revealed no serious illness.

McCall Kin Mom of Year

Mrs. John McCall, a 56-year-old Memphis, Tenn. mother who said she considers herself "liberated through Jesus," has been named American mother of the year by the American Mothers Committee.

Mrs. McCall, member of a prominent Baptist family, said her faith was put to test seven months ago when she discovered she had an ovarian carcinoma, a form of cancer, which had spread throughout her abdomen. But she has learned to cope with her problem through faith in God and Christ.

Mrs. McCall was selected to receive the award during the national convention of the American Mothers Committee which made the selection from a field of 50 state winners in the "senior" division—women whose children are 15 or older.

The mother of three is married to John W. McCall Jr., medical director of health services for Memphis State University. Both are active members of First Baptist Church, Memphis. McCall's brother, Duke K. McCall is president of Southern Seminary, Louisville.

They have two sons and one daughter—John McCall III is acting director of research and grants at North Texas State University, Denton, Tex.; Tim McCall is a surgical resident at

Campbell Clinic in Memphis; and Mrs. Carol Richardson is a speech pathologist.

Hepburn to California

Donald S. Hepburn, director of communications at Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Ft. Worth, has been named to direct the new office of communications and public relations for the Baptist General Convention of California effective June 1.

Hepburn, 30, joined the Southwestern Seminary staff in 1970 as a student public relations assistant and became director of communications in 1972.

He is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and Southwestern Seminary. He is currently treasurer of the Baptist Public Relations Association.

Bagley's Idea Criticized

The executive board of the Baptist General Convention of California has countered a proposal from an Alabama Baptist leader who urged cancelation of the 1981 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Los Angeles.

George Bagley, executive secretary of the Alabama Baptist Convention, urged recently that the convention be canceled and "the millions of dollars" spent on it be used in establishing churches in the west and northwest as part of the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust.

The California board asked, instead, that Southern Baptists coming to the convention share with western Southern Baptists in Bold Mission Thrust in every way possible.

Sunday School Lessons

Lessons for June 4, 1978

H. C. Chiles

International Lesson

Spreading the Good News

Acts 14:8-18

When opposition grew unbearable, fruitful service was no longer possible and enemies were plotting to kill the missionaries, Paul and Barnabas left Iconium and journeyed to Lystra. There a pious Jewess, Eunice, resided. Her husband, who was a Greek, had died, and Eunice and her son, Timothy, lived with her mother, Lois. Both women were Christians and it is possible the missionaries lodged here.

One day while preaching in Lystra Paul observed an eager listener in his congregation. He was a cripple. This cripple was there by divine appointment.

Paul felt led of the Holy Spirit to perform a miracle, so, perceiving the faith of the man who was listening so intently, the apostle commanded him to stand, whereupon the man leaped to his feet and walked. This sudden cure astonished the people. They concluded Paul and Barnabas were more than mere men. They thought Barnabas was Jupiter and Paul was Mercury. They identified Paul with Mercury because his persuasive eloquence corresponded with that outstanding

attribute of the Roman god.

The multitude exclaimed the gods had visited them in the likeness of men. The people wanted to worship them with appropriate sacrifices. When the priest of Jupiter brought oxen and garlands Paul and Barnabas were horrified and did not lose any time in restraining them and explaining the true facts to them.

They informed their listeners they were only men of like passions with them and they had come to tell them about the only true God, to whom credit for the miraculous healing was due. They tried to persuade the people there was one God, Jehovah, creator of heaven and earth, and he only was entitled to be worshiped. These men of God urged the people to trust in the living God and then to serve him faithfully. Paul and Barnabas remained in Lystra long enough to introduce some people to Christ. But it was not long until Paul endured a cruel stoning at the hands of some out-of-town Jews who thought they had killed him. As he was being stoned so unmercifully, Paul must have had memories of the stoning of Stephen, which he witnessed first-hand.

Life and Work Lesson

Isaac—A Peaceful Man of Faith

Genesis 26:12-14, 16-18, 23-29

Overshadowed by his famous father—Abraham, and later by his prominent son—Jacob, Isaac tried to be at peace with everybody, even when placed in the most difficult circumstances.

At a time of famine in Canaan, Isaac left his home and journeyed toward Egypt. God refused to permit him to go to Egypt, so Isaac stopped at Gerar. There he enjoyed the blessings of God. In the fertile and well-watered soil of that area he devoted his energies to the task of agriculture. As a result of his labors and the divine blessings he had an exceptional harvest and prospered greatly. This irritated the Philistines and they became envious of him. They demonstrated the sin of envy by filling with earth and debris the wells which had been dug by the servants of Abraham during his sojourn there. Implying that Isaac was the cause of the trouble, Abimelech ordered him to leave Gerar, but he did not go very far.

Upon settling in the valley of Gerar, Isaac began

reopening the wells. When water was obtained the Philistines demanded it for their use.

Being a man of peace, and much preferring to suffer injury rather than do wrong, Isaac moved on instead of fighting for his rights. How much happier many of God's children would be if they would only emulate Isaac's example!

Isaac returned to Beersheba and there he had a vision, erected an altar, and established his home. Isaac lived a separated life and others were influenced by his conduct. Abimelech, the pagan king, was so impressed with Isaac's manner of life under provocation that he acknowledged Isaac's God as superior to all others. For this reason he wanted a covenant of friendship with Isaac.

Convinced Abimelech was acting in good faith, Isaac took them into his confidence and made with him a covenant of peace. As we live in fellowship with God, others who are touching our lives will be drawn closer to him because of what we say and do. Peacemakers are needed in many places today.

Frank Owen

More Service

I was due to retire Dec. 31, 1978 at 65 years of age (I can't believe I am that old). I am grateful that the executive board has put me under the new law that will go into effect Jan. 1, 1979. The new law will come into effect one minute after I was scheduled to retire.

I don't know how long I shall work. I do not foresee planning to work until I am 70 years of age. I do believe that we have some real important things in cycle right now that can be brought to better order for smoother transition to my successor a little farther down the road. I'll serve at a bit lower cost to the convention. My fringe benefits cycle out this year.

We shall do our honest best to judge wisely as we go along. From my standpoint, I would expect to give sufficient advance notice for the smoothest possible turnover when the time comes.

The years do change a fellow. I don't believe the old horse is plumb done yet, but one gets a little more conservative with time. My head swims a little more than it used to when we climb high together, but not quite enough more to make me want to quit climbing. For example, the new Baptist Building that we thought would cost \$1,050,000 when we started the idea made my head swim more than when I was younger. When the final bids came in and the low one was \$1,352,000 my head swam worse, but not quite enough to make me want to climb down, unless the board told me to dismount.

The scriptures speak of old age as a time when "they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way" (Eccles. 12:5). I am a little more fearful than I used to be, but only a little. I am going to work on, prayerfully staying in touch with our executive board about the question. I pray for the wisdom to get myself out of the way before fear or health or any other consideration should seriously reduce the effectiveness of my work. I believe ministers are as useful beyond 65 as other professions.

Christian Response to Homosexuality

LAST IN
A SERIES

Southern Baptists' traditional attitude toward homosexuals has been one of contempt rather than compassion, rejection rather than redemption. The following suggestions for a Christian ministry to homosexuals are beamed primarily to Southern Baptist Christians.

1. Our churches need to overcome their fear or "homophobia" of the homosexuals as persons. Such fear is a barrier to a positive ministry of the churches to them. Some homosexuals are lonely people who need Christian concern and understanding. Individual Christians can begin by becoming acquainted with a homosexual who may be a member of a church with a view to helping him in his efforts to live a Christian life.

2. Religious education programs can be developed to help church members to become knowledgeable about homosexuality from biblical and scientific perspectives. Workshops and seminars on the subject can result in a more realistic view of the problem. Myths about homosexuality and stereotypes may be corrected. At the convention level a task force should make a thorough study of the issue and provide guidelines for church action. Colleges and seminaries might provide courses on sexuality including homosexuality so that laypersons and ministers may learn how to deal with the issue in the local church.

3. Should practicing homosexuals be admitted to church membership? Yes, if they meet the criteria applied to any other prospective member and seek to be circumspect in their sex life as demanded of any church member. The church is a redemptive fellowship in which we are all unfinished persons growing toward mature human beings, measured by the stature of Jesus Christ.

4. Should homosexuals be ordained to the ministry? Some churches have ventured to do so. Paul Moore, Episcopal bishop of New York, ordained a professed lesbian to the priesthood, but not without objections from the House of Bishops. The majority of the members of the task force of the United Presbyterian Church U.S.A. believes that homosexuals may be ordained if they manifest such gifts as are required for it.

But ordaining a practicing homosexual to the gospel ministry violates clear biblical teaching against homosexuality. Further as a model for the congregation, the minister is to exemplify the Christian ideal in all areas of life including sex behavior. The same norms of behavior that apply to the heterosexual also apply to the homosexual in sexual activity. And in case a homosexual marries a partner of the same sex

or even the other sex, there will be serious problems. Such a "marriage" would violate the biblical model of heterosexual marriage. If the couple decided to adopt children, their lack of attraction to the opposite sex may be imparted to the children. Would not such unions tend to undermine rather than strengthen the moral and spiritual foundations of the family?

5. Preaching is a means of ministering to people who are lonely, frightened and persecuted. The pastor should seek to dispel the myths about homosexuality and warn members of the sin of despising and discriminating against others on the basis of their sexual orientation. Positively the preacher can uphold the Christian ideal of heterosexuality and manifest the joys of this relationship.

6. Providing pastoral counseling is a positive way of ministering to homosexuals within and without the churches. A trained pastor in a local church can provide counseling for those who want to change to a heterosexual lifestyle. Parents especially need pastoral care when they discover that a son or daughter is a homosexual. The skilled pastor will know when to make referrals and when a person needs pastoral care and psychotherapy on a continuing basis.

7. Churches may engage in outreach ministries to homosexuals. Religious leadership may be provided where there is none in the homosexual community. We have overcome to some degree our antipathy and anxiety about working with alcoholics, drug abusers and racial minorities. Programs have been initiated to meet their spiritual needs. Now it is time to establish ministries to the second largest minority group in our midst—the homosexual community.

8. It is the moral responsibility and task of the churches to work for the civil rights of all persons regardless of sexual preference. It is incredible that the Southern Baptist Convention which stresses separation of church and state, democracy and freedom of religion would call for the denial of the basic civil rights of a minority group on the basis of sexual orientation. But then one remembers that this same denomination a few short years ago called for the denial of the rights of Americans on the basis of the color of their skin.

These suggestions are made as positive ways of Christianly responding to the challenge of homosexuality in the light of research and revelation. The church of Jesus Christ must provide a moral lead.

by Henlee Barnette

