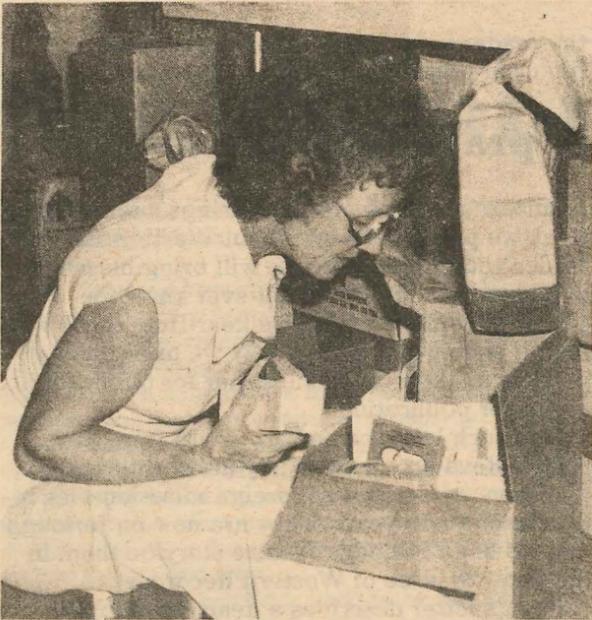
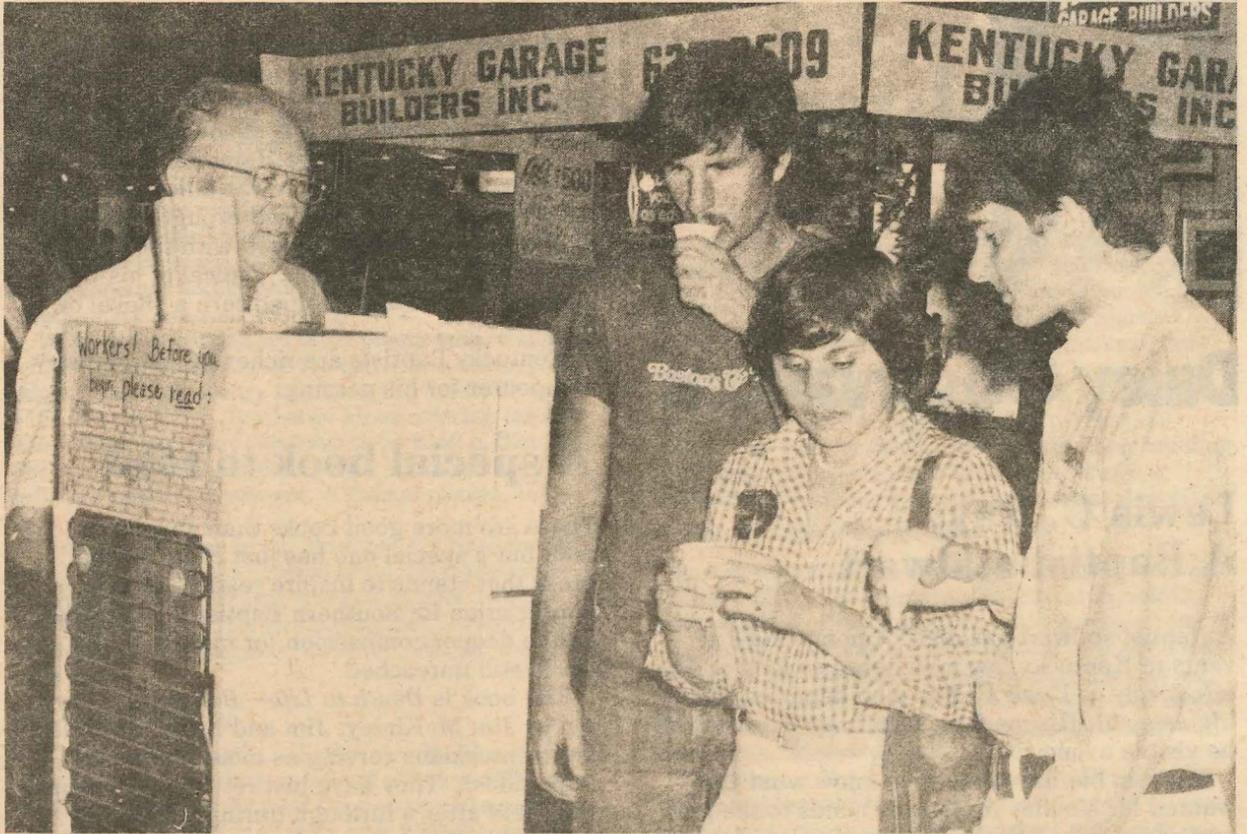


# WESTERN RECORDER

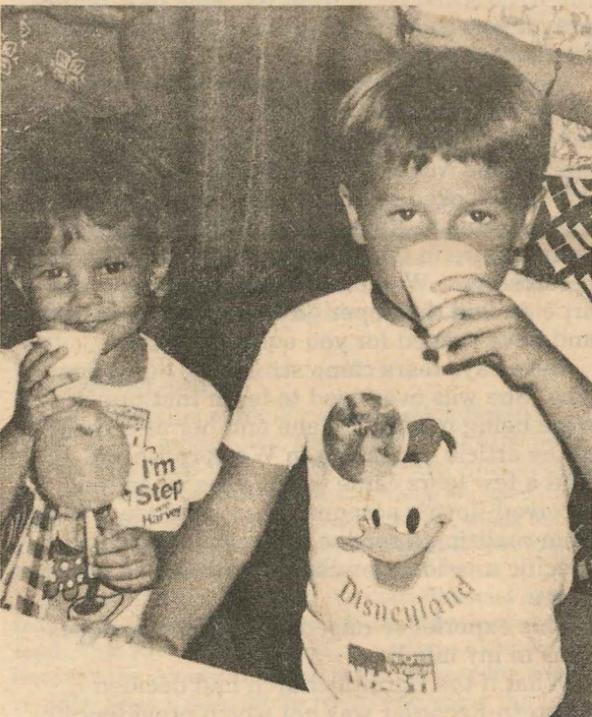
Vol. 152, No. 34, August 30, 1978



Mildred Craycroft, First Baptist Church, Brandenburg, searches for more pamphlets for the display table at the fair booth.



James Craycroft (left), First Baptist Church, Brandenburg, chats with young people who stopped for a cup of cold water. The booth remained open for the duration of the state fair.



Youngsters need a thirst-quencher, too. This young lady (left) and her big brother seem to enjoy the cold water as well as the other attractions at the fair at Louisville.

## Cold water in Jesus' name

Water. Cold, clear water. Cold, clear water given in Jesus' name.

More than 200 workers joined in sharing cups of cold water from Anita Spring Water Co., LaGrange, with visitors to the Kentucky State Fair at Louisville.

Workers reported in shifts while the attractive booth was open—10 and 11 hours a day—during the duration of the fair Aug. 17-27.

Young and old paused at the display, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Association and Long Run Association, for a cup of cool refreshment.

Many picked up tracts and brochures and chatted with Baptists manning the booth.

In addition to KBC personnel and workers from Long Run, Baptists came from Nelson County, Severns Valley, Shelby County and Salem County associations to hand out water.

Robert Langdon, pastor at Hazelwood Baptist Church and coordinator of the project, said that the cost of the project was \$1550.

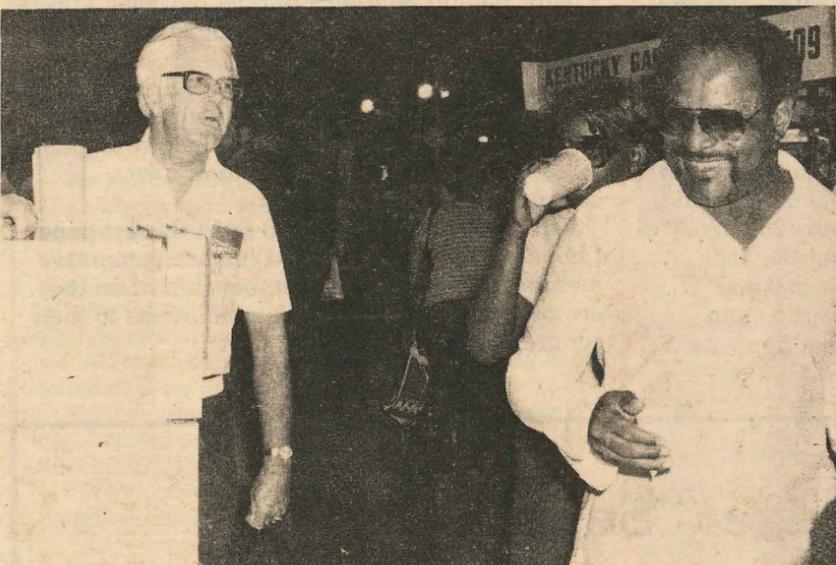
"All of that was for materials," he said. "The labor was all donated. And the water alone was over \$500."

The bold graphic display at the booth was the work of Randy Hedden, a member at Hazelwood and an employe of an exhibit firm, who donated his work, too.

Alan Jolly, chairman of the Long Run public relations committee, led a session in public relations training to many of the workers before the fair started.

Several other churches, individuals and companies donated items or services used in the exhibit.

When the booth finally closed the past Sunday, Baptists had shared 25,000 cups of cold water in Jesus' name.



Byrd Ison (left), director of the Annuity Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, entertains a thirsty fair-goer.



A scripture passage and a bold graphic display attracted thirsty fair-goers to the booth sponsored jointly by the KBC and Long Run Association.

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

#### WESTERN RECORDER

C. R. Daley Jr., Editor  
James H. Cox, Associate Editor  
Paul Whitler, Business Manager

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C. R. Daley

## Daley Observations

### Lewis C. Ray: A Baptist stalwart

A Baptist stalwart has died. Among God's servants in Kentucky few ministered so long and so effectively as Lewis C. Ray who departed this life Aug. 19. His mark on Kentucky Baptists will be visible a long time.

Early in life Ray seemed to know what God wanted for his life. He put his hands to the plow and never looked back. He was converted at the age of 10 and was baptized in Green River along with 35 other converts.

He preached his first sermon at the age of 19 but was already an experienced churchman by that time. At 15 he was superintendent of his home church Sunday school and at 16 was moderator of Edmonson Association.

In a day when few Baptist preachers thought formal education was important and a good many Baptists rejected educated ministry altogether, Ray determined to take advantage of training opportunities. He attained the best training Baptists offered at Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Georgetown awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1949 in recognition of his outstanding ministry.

Ray was first and foremost a pastor and a builder. During college and seminary days he was pastor of a half dozen smaller congregations and in all his ministry he was related to more than 50 churches. Twenty-eight years of his ministry were spent with two Louisville congregations. At Franklin Street Baptist Church he led in the construction of a new building whose magnificence is still apparent. During his 15 years at Baptist Tabernacle he inspired the congregation not only to build but to move to an entirely new sight.

Always vigorous, he never slowed down after official retirement. Church after church turned to him for help and he was interim pastor for more than 30 congregations during retirement.

Ray was also a denominationalist in the best sense of the word. He was Baptist through and through. There is hardly a place in Baptist denominational life he has not served and when given an assignment he got it done and done well.

It was my privilege to serve with him on several committees. He stated his convictions with-

out hesitation and was a skilled debater. We were not always in agreement but we remained fast friends.

My last sight of him was at the groundbreaking service for the Baptist Home for the Elderly in Louisville on June 25. It was a hot afternoon but Erma, his dear wife, had brought him early and he was obviously pleased with the coming to pass of a long time dream. Typical of his stamina, he painfully helped turn a shovel of dirt.

Kentucky Baptists are richer for his ministry and poorer for his passing.

### A special book to read

There are more good books than anyone can read but a special one has just come off the press that stands to inspire readers to new appreciation for Southern Baptist missionaries and to deeper compassion for masses in the world still unreached.

The book is *Death to Life—Bangladesh*, written by Jim McKinley. Jim and Betty McKinley are Kentuckians serving as missionaries in Bangladesh. They have just returned to the mission field after a furlough during which Jim finished his book.

Jim talked to me some months ago about the possibility of writing some account of the experiences of his family in Bangladesh including the flood and civil war in 1970 that resulted in the death of 500,000 people. He was convinced he had a message worth telling and I agreed. After reading the book I am even more convinced.

Typical of Jim he wanted no personal profits from the book but wanted all profits to be used for special projects in Bangladesh. He even dreamed of having the book sold in a way that would bypass book stores so that more of the profits could go to meet the staggering needs in Bangladesh.

Jim is dreaming of two critical needs being met with profits from the book. These are a Baptist camp and a large auditorium to seat 500 to 600 people. There are no such facilities for 250,000 Christians in Bangladesh.

Pastor Bill Hancock and Highview Baptists in Louisville were so impressed with Jim's dream that they agreed to advance the money for publishing the book. In this way the total profits above the actual printing costs will go to mission needs in Bangladesh.

The price of the book is \$3.00 and is being sold in lots of 50. What is hoped is that many churches will order 50, 100 or even 1000 and sell them or give them to church families. This is a unique plan but it allows churches or individuals who know the McKinleys to share in this project. Surely the Highview church is magnanimous in advancing the printing costs and deserves help in distributing the book. Orders are to be sent to Highview Baptist Church, 7711 Fegenbush Lane, Louisville, KY 40228, telephone (502) 239-3269.

This plan for possible profits from the book does not mean it is merely a money making project. The message of the book is the main reason for its being written and what happens to

the reader is far more important than any financial profit that might result from it.

### A prayer and a tear

A sincere prayer sometimes brings a tear. Each week we prepare and send out Western Recorder with a prayer that it will bring blessings to its readers but we cannot ever know for certain its effects unless we hear from those who read it each week. That's why we urge readers to write us their reactions either for publication or not for publication.

One such letter came last month from Reva Milby. Reva and Gene Milby are Kentuckians who have ministered as foreign missionaries in Rhodesia for 15 years. They are now on furlough and we did a full page feature story on them in the June 28 issue of Western Recorder.

Reva's letter describes a heart warming experience which took place while she and Gene were working with Royal Ambassadors at Boone's Creek Baptist Camp near Winchester. On Wednesday night Gene stayed at camp with the RA's while Reva went to speak during the prayer service of Corinth Baptist Church which is adjacent to the camp.

The Corinth church members did not know about the plans to have Mrs. Milby for prayer meeting and so when Reva appeared at the church she was not immediately recognized. But one lady looked at her in surprise and said, "Why, you are Reva Milby. I know you from your picture in the Western Recorder. The day I received that Western Recorder and read the article I laid the paper on the table by my bed and have prayed for you every day since."

Reva says tears came streaming down her face. She was overjoyed to learn that prayers were being made for Gene and her as a result of the article appearing in Western Recorder. And a few tears came to our eyes when we received Reva's account. They were tears of joy from realizing a reader was moved to pray for specific missionaries she never saw nor expected to see.

This experience raised several serious questions in my mind.

- What if the Corinth church had decided Western Recorder was not worth providing its church families?
- What if the lady had not read the June 28 issue of Western Recorder that was put in her mailbox?
- How many other stories in Western Recorder have been used to inspire readers to pray?
- How bad off Southern Baptist outreach efforts would be without the humble and sincere prayers of people like this lady.

The Lord uses many means to call and send missionaries, to lead Baptists to support and pray for our missionaries and to inspire Baptists to be the light of the world in their own communities.

One of these means is the state Baptist paper. I hope pastors, deacons and finance committee members will always remember this when they are preparing budget recommendations to their congregations.

**State Missions Week of Prayer Sept. 10-17**

# Are the churches' priorities misplaced?

by Joe N. McKeever, Pastor  
First Baptist Church, Columbus, Miss.

Thirty thousand Baptist churches looked on longingly last year when a woman left two million dollars in her will to a country church up the road a few miles from here. What my church could do with that kind of money, we all thought. We dream of our churches experiencing that kind of sudden prosperity.

Yet this is precisely what is occurring in hundreds of Southern Baptist churches. They experienced good growth in membership, and church income goes up accordingly. In some cases their budget income doubles in four or five years—budgets of a half-million dollars and more.

So the membership finds itself faced with the same decision as our friends in the next county with the two million—what to do with this newfound wealth. It is sad to see that many of our churches are failing miserably the test of new wealth: they are choosing to spend the money on themselves.

The process is deceptively simple and natural. A million dollar gymnasium would be nice . . . with architecture that blends with the sanctuary, of course. A full renovation of the educational building with expensive furnishings is always in order. Then we could add another staff member. Naturally, he will need an office and a secretary. And perhaps we should telecast our worship services—even if other local Baptist churches are doing so and the area is saturated.

It is amazing how creative we can become when we begin rationalizing our self-indulgence. J. Edgar Hoover used to say that no one ever committed a crime without first justifying his deed in his own mind.

## A staggering need

I sat in a meeting of the Foreign Mission Board in April. In two quick votes, the Board spent \$150,000 to buy nothing. The value of the dollar had sunk so low in a number of countries, our missionaries were finding it difficult to survive. So a cost of living raise had to be given to several hundred people just to keep them at the same level where they had been.

The board then discussed the poor financial outlook facing the International Baptist Seminary in Switzerland. This year its deficit will be perhaps \$100,000 because the American dollar is losing its value so rapidly. Soon a difficult decision concerning the future of the seminary must be made.

The leaders of our foreign mission enterprise take seriously the plan to have 5000 career missionaries on the field in 22 years. Our denominational leaders have challenged our 35,000 churches to double the Cooperative Program giving by 1982.

While these challenges seem plenty bold, consider what will be necessary by the end of the century. To support one missionary family on the field will cost \$103,000 annually. The Lottie Moon offering (around \$32 million last year) will have to be \$150 million in the year 1999! All of this is based on an annual inflation rate of six percent. A dismal picture, to be sure.

Yet back at home in our churches it's business as usual. So many seem content to up the Cooperative Program a little over last year and to give normal emphasis to the Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon offerings. The big money, however, we spend on ourselves.

## Misplaced priorities

I read the same church bulletins you do. The one from the church which takes an annual offering of \$70,000 for local needs, yet its total Cooperative Program giving in a full year is slightly over \$50,000. And the bulletin from the church running 1300 in Sunday school that wrote "Bold Goal" over its Home Missions offering target of \$2000. Their weekly offering is \$15,000! And who can take the time to count the bulletings of churches that talk glowingly about the Great Commission, but set mission offering goals no higher than one week's budget income. The actual number would shame us all.

## Who can speak up?

Our missionaries feel the contrast deeply but are too considerate and kind to embarrass a host church by condemning its materialism. One missionary saw his dream for a strategic worship center in a populous Asian city discarded because the needed \$250,000 was not available. Yet on his return to the states he watched in silent anguish as one neighborhood church spent half that much on a parking lot!

Only a foolhardy pastor would write an article about this problem, since in one way or another most of us are guilty. We all want as much salary as the church will give us and a house that is comfortably furnished. We suffer the same temptations as our members when it comes to expensive investments in buildings and furnishings.

## Some are responding

Across town from my church is a fine neighborhood congregation that is taking seriously the Lord's mandate. They have prayed and talked and planned as to how they can double their Cooperative Program giving by 1982. Their decision was to increase the percentage each year.

Scattered throughout our state are a precious few churches that give a minimum of 25 percent, 30 percent, or more to God's work outside their building. Invariably, they have done so because of strong leadership which has brought them in this direction.

## A time for radical discipleship

I am a dyed-in-the-wool Southern Baptist. I love our denomination. Furthermore, I count not myself to have attained or to be guiltless on this subject. But it is disturbing the way our leaders find new directions, new goals and new terminology to challenge us into greater service—only to watch as we strip the labels from these exciting packages and apply them to our tired, drab, lifeless efforts.

The solution is a rebellion of concerned preachers, staff members and lay-people who will stand up and put a stop to the ungodly materialism that holds our churches in a death-grip.

I would love to see us draw a line and say this much we will spend on local needs but every dime beyond this will go to take the gospel of Christ into the world. Are there churches that could live on 25 percent of their incomes and send 75 percent into the needy areas of God's kingdom?

I keep thinking of a preacher and his wife who came upon a scene where a father was rescuing his two children from a burning house.

Next Sunday the preacher illustrated his sermon with the story of how he and his wife watched a desperate father rushing into the home to bring out his two children. Later, on the way home, he remarked that the congregation had not responded to the story; they had only stared at him. The wife replied, "You forgot to tell them the house was on fire!"

When the needs of our lost world are so critical, when the opportunities before Christians are so thrilling, but when we go on with business as usual building monuments to someone's ego, the only conclusion is that someone has failed to tell God's people the house is on fire. God grant that we will get our priorities right while we still have time to do some good.

things. That . . .

- Indeed, we are not lost—when we know the Lord as our personal saviour; and
- When the way seems darkest, we have only to call upon our Creator, for he is with us at all times; and
- God sometimes speaks to the rest of us, touching our lives profoundly, through his little people here on earth; and
- He will help us choose the better road if we put our lives into his hands; and
- He will keep us safe on the journey toward our final destination when we trust him implicitly.

And in the seconds which followed, I thanked God for a Sunday school teacher somewhere in that child's past who reinforced my preschooler's love for God. The impressions she has now have been imbued with love by her mother, her father, her sister, her brother, and undergirded by a dedicated teacher who helped her to know that God is very real.

Those of us so fortunate owe a debt which can never be repaid. Only in time eternal will we realize the ultimate magnitude of those who endowed our children with such important values.

"Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein" (Mk. 10:15).

—James H. Cox

## A little child shall lead them

Some time ago our family was traveling at night in a densely wooded area in one of our Kentucky state parks.

We had made the mistake of leaving the center of park activity to seek out a certain recreational area without benefit of verbal directions or a map, and, quite frankly, we had had a time of it. The dimly lit road was revealed through a misty fog only by the moon and the headlights of the car. Each time we encountered a new fork in the road we had to make another decision, without any real foundation for making it.

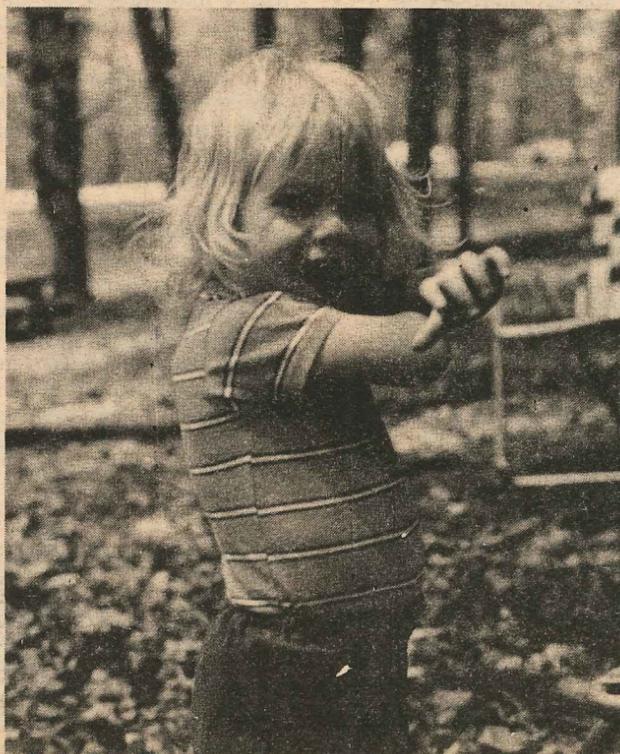
Finally, after 15 or 20 minutes of futile searching, I pulled to the side of the road and stopped, declaring, "I'm sorry, folks. I'm afraid we're lost."

"We're not lost, daddy!" my three-year-old daughter, sitting on her mother's lap, blurted out in hasty response. "God is with us!"

Out of the mouths of babes!

My wife acknowledged, "There's text material for a dozen sermons in that."

And in that moment, I realized a whole lot of



# Brotherhood executive dies in Memphis crash

by Jim Newton

Glendon McCullough, executive director of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission since 1971, was killed in a head-on, three-car collision during afternoon rush hour traffic in Memphis Wednesday, Aug. 23.

Also killed in the accident was Mrs. Frances Sheffe, wife of the president of a Memphis investment firm, whose Cadillac swerved into the center lane of Poplar Avenue, hitting McCullough's car head-on.

McCullough's Chevrolet Caprice was overturned and crushed and the Memphis Fire Department rescue squad had to cut his body free of the wreckage.

Funeral services were scheduled for McCullough Saturday, Aug. 26 at Union Avenue Baptist Church in Memphis, with graveside services at Arlington Cemetery in Atlanta Monday morning, Aug. 28.

McCullough, 56, had been executive director of the Brotherhood Commission for seven years, coming to the position after 12 years as director of the Personnel Division for the SBC Home Mission Board. He would have been 57 Sept. 9.

McCullough had sought to steer the Brotherhood Commission in new directions, with emphasis on involving men and boys in volunteer mission projects, lay renewal, disaster relief and flexible organization approaches.

A personal friend of President Jimmy Carter, McCullough was married to the former Marjorie Jones, a missionary to Brazil, in 1974 during wedding services at the Governor's Mansion in Atlanta. President Carter, then Governor of Georgia, was McCullough's best man.

McCullough gave the Brotherhood Commission high visibility in the national media by inviting President Carter to speak to the National Conference of Baptist Men in Atlanta June 16.



Glendon McCullough (l) looked on in the Oval Office of the White House in May 1977 as President Jimmy Carter welcomed Louisville layman P. A. Stevens, then chairman of the Brotherhood Commission. Carter is a former commission member.

## Carter responds

President Carter telephoned the McCullough family Friday morning to express his personal sympathy.

During the 10-minute telephone call the President spoke personally to Mrs. McCullough and each of the four children by a previous marriage. He told the children what a fine contribution their father had made to the cause of Christianity and why they should be proud of him.

Calling from the traveling White House in Jackson, Wyo., where he is on vacation, the President said he and Mrs. Carter were very distraught when the news of McCullough's death reached them on the Salmon River in Idaho. The White House Press issued the following statement concerning the death:

"Both Rosalynn and I were deeply saddened to learn of the death of our

good friend, Glendon McCullough. He was a wise and charitable man whose life and career exemplified the finest qualities of a man of God. For all of us whose lives he touched, Glendon McCullough cannot be replaced. We extend our deepest sympathy to Marjorie and the family."

SBC president Jimmy Allen called McCullough "a missionary statesman." "Southern Baptists and the whole Christian community have lost a champion of world missions," said Allen in a telephone report from Brazil through Baptist Press.

## SBC leaders speak

Several other Southern Baptist leaders praised McCullough for a lifetime of missionary concern and sensitivity to human needs.

Noting McCullough's radiant, optimistic spirit, Baker James Cauthen,

executive secretary of the SBC Foreign Mission Board, praised his contributions to foreign missions, pointing out that he spent a year early in his career teaching at a Baptist school in Fukuoka, Japan.

His counterpart at the SBC Woman's Missionary Union, Carolyn Weatherford, described him as a friend, a missionary and a Christian "who always felt people were more important than a set of plans."

Porter W. Routh, executive secretary of the SBC Executive Committee, and William Tanner, executive director of the Home Mission Board, also praised McCullough for his contribution to the enlistment of laymen.

McCullough had been in good health until the time of his accident, despite a serious heart attack in Atlanta in 1971.

His first wife, the former Ernestine Kesler, died in 1969 of cancer, leaving McCullough with the responsibility of rearing four young children—Kathy, then 12; Ken, 10; Beth, 8; and Debby, 6.

Ken, now 19, is a student at Texas A & M University, and Kathy, 21, is a Memphis secretary. Beth, 17, and Debby, 15, are living at the McCullough home in Germantown, a suburb of Memphis.

A native of Griffin, Ga., McCullough was a graduate of Baylor University and attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Mercer University awarded him the honorary D.D. degree.

He is a former associate pastor of Druid Hills Baptist Church, Atlanta; Royal Ambassador secretary for Georgia Baptists; dean of men for Baylor University; and pastor of First Baptist Church, Hazelhurst, Ga.

The McCullough family requested that, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the Brotherhood Commission Endowment Fund to finance a nationwide laymen's training center in Memphis.

## Ordered 'Bridgebuilders'?

Baptist Film Center, 317 Guthrie St., Louisville, owned and operated by the Baptist Sunday School Board, maintains 15 prints of the 30-minute color motion picture "The Bridgebuilders." The film was shown on TV all over the state in June and was produced by the SBC Radio-TV Commission for the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

The film is free for church use. A \$5 handling and cleaning charge, plus postage, applies to each rental. Because there is such demand for it, it should be reserved with the film center well in advance of anticipated use.

## 'Together We Build'

Southern Baptist churches planning to expand or build new facilities in the near future should be aware of two seminars planned by the Church Architecture Department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

"Designing Buildings for Church Growth," directed by George Fletcher, will be offered Oct. 9-13 to help churches make decisions for overall building planning.

Churches planning a new or renovated auditorium may be interested in sending a representative to the seminar "Planning a New Auditorium" Feb. 19-22, 1979 at the Sunday School Board.

## Carter to veto tax credit

President Carter declared that he will "have no hesitancy" to veto a tuition tax credit bill if such a measure reaches his desk for signature.

At a nationally televised news conference, the president reiterated his opposition to tuition tax credits as a means of providing relief for college tuition costs or for tuition paid by parents of nonpublic school pupils.

"I do not favor the tuition tax credit approach," the president said. He went on to declare that he opposes such aid at the elementary and secondary levels "even more strongly" for constitutional reasons of separation of church and state.

## Reserve SBC rooms now!

A new housing procedure with "tre-

mendous advantages" for messengers will be inaugurated for the 1979 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Houston.

To accommodate early birds the convention housing bureau is open as of Sept. 1 for the June 12-14, 1979 meeting.

Houston's convention bureau requires a computer form from the registrant. None of the 34 designated convention hotels will take reservations over the telephone.

The short computer form asks simply to know what type room is desired and the first three choices of hotels. Forms are available from Baptist state convention offices or from the Convention Housing Bureau, 460 James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, TN 37219.

## Hunger series on TV

Watch TV and learn about hunger.

That's the advice of the Christian Life Commission, which has had a lot to say recently about both subjects.

The national concerns of the Southern Baptist Convention is urging Southern Baptists to tune in to the Pub-

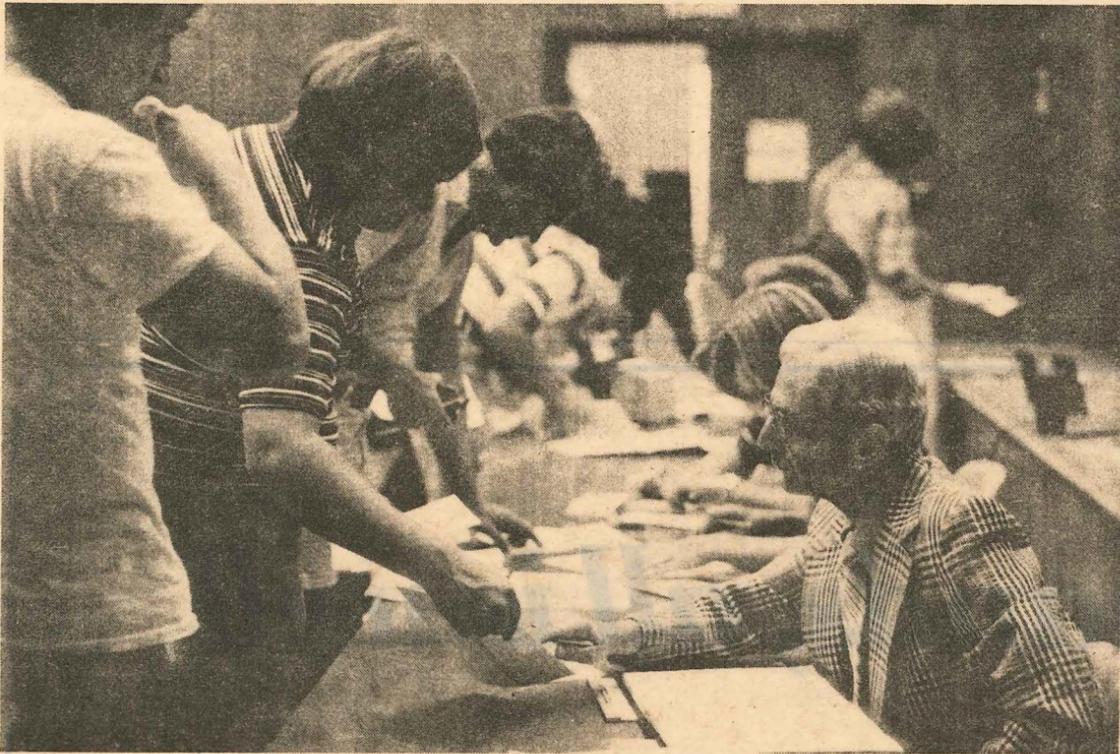
lic Broadcasting System during the week of Nov. 12 for "The Fight for Food," a documentary on world hunger. The three-part series will be aired the week before Southern Baptist leaders gather at a Convocation on World Hunger to explore potential solutions to hunger-related problems.

## Bible gets NBC airing

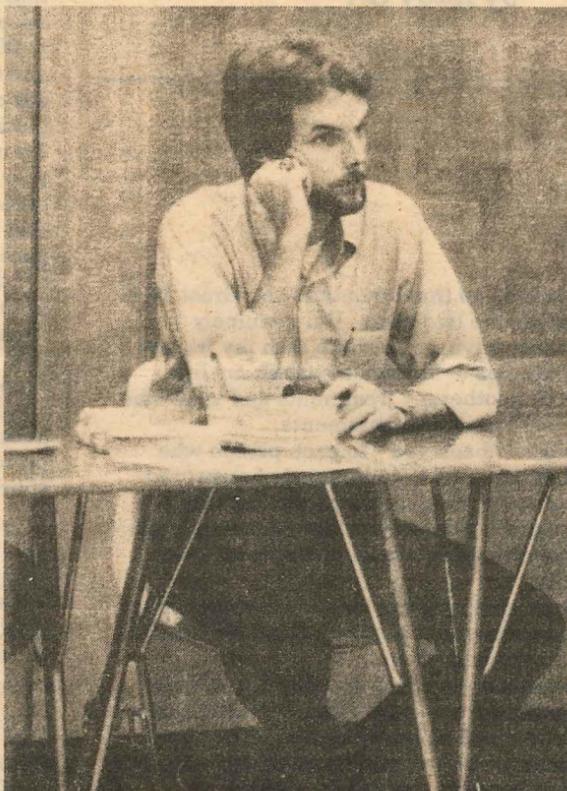
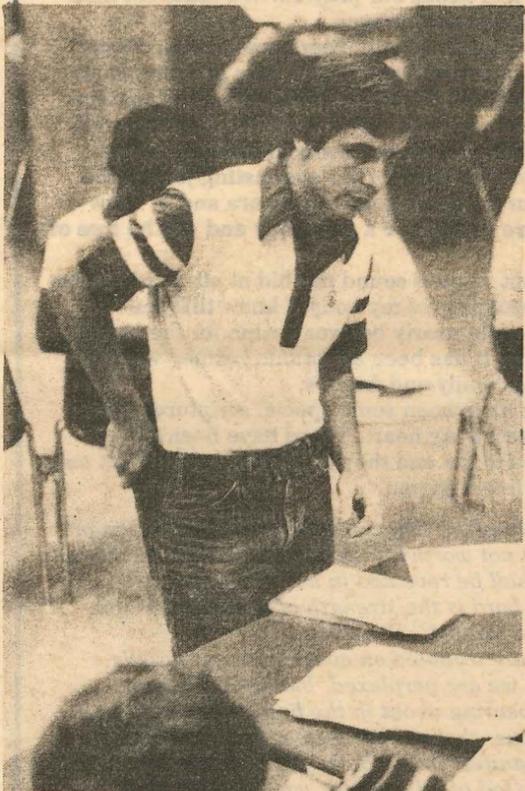
Some of the greatest stories ever told—Noah and the ark, Moses and the exodus of the Israelites, David and Goliath—will be presented on NBC-TV in an epic six-and-one-half-hour production of "Stories from the Bible." It will be broadcast in three parts on consecutive nights during National Bible Week, Nov. 19-25. Lew Ayres, John Carradine and Robert Culp head the cast.

"We believe this is the first time National Bible Week has been recognized on network television in this scope," said Deanne Barkley, vice president Motion Pictures for Television and Miniseries, West Coast, NBC-TV.

"NBC will present the stirring, dramatic Bible stories that are timeless in their appeal and transcend any individual religious conviction."



ABOVE: Registrar Tom Sherwood assists returning students with requests for course changes. RIGHT: It takes patience to make it through the registration process sometimes, as the expression on this student's face shows—"If only that guy would hurry up!"



One of the most dreaded times of registration is the time when wallets and checkbooks are unfurled and lightened. Actually, students at Southern and the other five Southern Baptist seminaries are blessed with reduced fees because of the Cooperative Program.

Not every minute of registration is exciting, a fact witnessed to by this doctoral student serving as an assistant in the registration line.

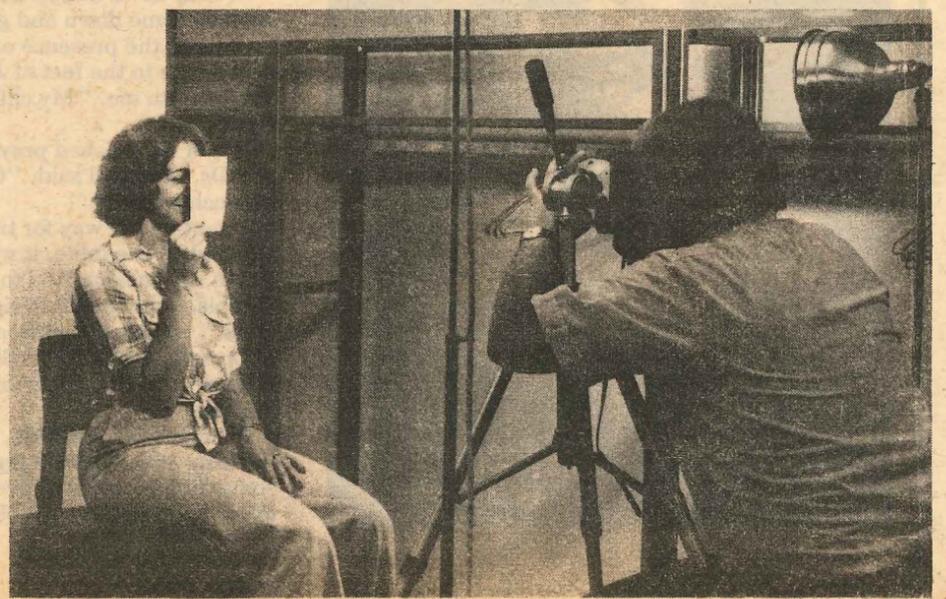
## Signing Up!

An inevitable part of college or seminary life is registration for courses. And Southern Seminary in Louisville is no exception.

Each day hundreds of students zig-zag through rows of tables and people, moving to that ultimate goal: a full schedule of courses for the coming semester.

Southern Seminary will enrol some 3000 students this academic year . . . students coming from virtually every state in the U. S. and more than two dozen foreign countries.

"Smile for the birdie!" Part of the registration process is taking photographs of students and faculty members for the seminary's pictorial directory. The camera shutter was on the move all day long, though some students (right) seem a little "camera shy."



# In God's hands, all is well

Since 1957 Mrs. Ruby Orr has been secretary to several prominent men who have served as division directors with the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. Her bosses have included Leonard E. Wedel, R. L. Middleton, Harold E. Ingraham, Hubert B. Smothers, Bob M. Boyd, James W. Clark and presently E. Dessel Aderholt, Broadman Division office.

In 1976 a doctor entered her room at Nashville's St. Thomas Hospital and told Ruby she had lymphosarcoma (incurable cancer). After enjoying excellent health all her life, she wasn't prepared for that word, and momentarily was stunned.

Her later reply to him was, "Whether I have five days or five months, if I can honor the Lord through my illness, this is my deep desire."

Those who know her best confirm that she has faithfully kept that vow. As an inspiration to all, we share her personal testimony, reprinted from a recent issue of *The Circle*, monthly employe magazine of the Baptist Sunday School Board, and used by permission.



by Ruby Orr

My doctor said I had three months—the Great Physician has given me two years. I'm genuinely grateful for this privilege to share with my friends how God continues to bless and sustain my life. I've had 51 chemotherapy treatments and what was equivalent to 38 radiation treatments.

Let me say a "thank you" to each person who has prayed for me. I'm here because of answered prayer. Your love, 983 get-well cards, your concern, your smile, a squeeze of your hand—all these from friends have given me an incentive to keep fighting to live.

Speaking of answered prayer, let me relate one personal experience this year that occurred while I was taking cobalt treatments.

One day as I left my office going to Vanderbilt Hospital singing, praying, and giving myself a pep-talk which I always had to do, I entered the corridor of Vanderbilt and ran into Dr. Wallace Chappell, pastor of the downtown McKendree Methodist Church. (Ironically, I was reading his book entitled *When Jesus Rose*, which was on the resurrection. As one faces death, the fact that our Lord was victorious over the grave can be very meaningful. We shook hands and I said, "Dr. Chappell, I'm here undergoing radiation treatments and I want you to pray for me."

It was one of those days that it was an effort to put one foot in front of the other.

He replied, "Let's don't wait, let's just step inside the chapel here and pray now."

We sat down and as he began to pray, heaven literally came down and glory filled my soul. Never have I felt the presence of the Lord so real. He carried me to the feet of Jesus and I felt as if the Lord said to me, "My child, it's going to be all right."

When we finished praying, we stood to our feet and Dr. Chappell said, "God bless you, Ruby, keep in touch with me."

I went on my way for treatment and when I climbed on the table, it was with faith and confidence, and asking God to take his precious fingers and place the radiation right where it was needed most. I repeated a portion of the 23rd Psalm, as I always do, "though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me."

I climbed off the table, drove home—stopping at the drug store and the grocery, prepared myself some dinner, and was even able to do some things to my house. Why? All because of the strength of

this prayer. And Dr. Chappell wasn't too busy with his mind to respond to me with his heart. May we never get too busy to pray for a friend or anyone that we feel needs our prayers. We must not minimize the power of prayer.

What a joy it was to experience another Easter and the beautiful hope that is ours in Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Easter morning found me contemplating reunion with my loved ones and especially my mother who passed away in January of this year. I love to think of the everlasting joys of the home our Lord has gone to prepare and to know that there I will have a new body and will be free of pain.

I do not want to sound morbid at all, but because of the weakness of my body, I know that the voyage could nearly be over for me for the harbor is in view. It has been a glorious journey with my Lord, my family and friends.

There have been some special scriptures that have blessed my heart. These have been God's promises to me and they are inexhaustible. Let me share a few with you.

*"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us"* (Rom. 8:18).

*"The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"* (Ps. 27:1).

*"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair . . . always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body"* (2 Cor. 4:8,10).

*"The God of all comfort, who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God"* (2 Cor. 1:3-4).

So whom can we trust? What can we believe in? Where shall we turn as the foundations are crumbling? There is only one place we find assurance—that is God and his word. "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." These words have been my full assurance during these months that he does care and understands; and nights when I've been awake our Lord is awake too—and these have been holy hours.

Therefore I place myself and all that concerns me lovingly in the hands of the Father, knowing that he is in charge and all is well.

## Pastor's wife fatally shot

The wife of a prominent Tennessee Baptist pastor died from a bullet in the back of the head Aug. 23 when a gun he reached for beneath his pillow accidentally discharged.

Twenty years ago, while he was a student at Belmont College in Nashville, the first wife of Bill Kennedy, pastor of Central Baptist Church in suburban Hixson, also died when a gun he was carrying accidentally fired.

Police said Kennedy told them his second wife, Carolyn, 40, had given him a gun to put beneath his pillow after receiving a threatening phone call and hearing noises he dismissed as a passing automobile.

When the couple was startled awake by breaking glass, he reached for the gun he thought was unloaded. But a bullet remained in the chamber and the

gun went off, killing Mrs. Kennedy.

Nashville police records show that on Jan. 19, 1958, Kennedy and his first wife, Joan, who was six months pregnant, were entering their apartment loaded with packages when a .22-caliber rifle slipped from his grip. When he grabbed for it, it fired.

That incident was ruled an accident by Nashville police. A spokesman for police in Chattanooga said officers are working under the premise the death there was also accidental.

Police said a basement window, directly below the couples' bedroom was discovered broken from the outside. Investigation for attempted burglary is underway. Any person convicted of attempted burglary in connection with the broken glass will be charged with murder, the spokesman said, since the law defines death occurring in the commission of a felony as murder.

Members of Kennedy's church, one of the largest in Chattanooga, rallied around him immediately, answering his telephone and door, keeping press from contacting him.

Kennedy, 43, is president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference and a former chairman of the Hixson Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board and his church was listed in the top one percent of the fastest growing churches in the SBC in a recent Home Mission Board survey.

## Aid to schools defeated

Direct federal aid to private and parochial schools has been removed from an education bill passed by the U. S. Senate.

By a vote of 60-30 the Senate accepted an amendment by U. S. Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D.-S. C., which struck a \$2.5 billion provision of direct grants to private and parochial schools from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act amendments of 1978. This bill amends and extends the ESEA bill first passed in 1965.

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## Sunday School Lessons *H. C. Chiles*

Lessons for Sept. 10, 1978

### Portrait of a Christian

#### Philippians 2:14-30

Writing for the purpose of prevention, Paul penned the simple but incisive command: "Do all things without murmurings and disputings." Paul practiced what he preached. He was a prisoner because he preached the gospel of Christ, but he did not murmur against God or man on account of his bondage. Murmuring is displeasing to God; therefore it should not be indulged in by the Christian.

Not only are Christians to be beneficent influences, shining "as lights in the world," but they are to be positive and effective witnesses.

Timothy was Paul's spiritual child, and the affection which the apostle cherished for him was that of a father for a son. His affection was reciprocated. Their fellowship was mutually enriching. Paul informed the Philippians he would be sending Timothy to them as soon as possible and he would do everything he could for their welfare. Paul expressed the hope he might be able to follow Timothy to Philippi in the near future, anticipating the joyful possibility of bringing great comfort and much joy to their hearts.

### Motivation for the disciplined life

If one's belief and behavior are to meet the standards of Christ, he must discipline himself. Today's lesson suggests certain motives for such discipline.

#### 1. The mercies of God. Rom. 12:1-2

Paul made a very strong and urgent appeal to Christians to "present their bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God," which, he added, was a reasonable service. This kind of dedication is reasonable in view of what Christ has done for us and wants to do in and through us. Christians must live in a world whose spirit and practices are antagonistic to him. God wants his children separated from the evils of this age and dedicated to the doing of his will. The will of God is not something that is to be dreaded, endured or evaded, but it is to be pursued gladly. The divine call, then, is for nonconformity to the world and for surrender to the transforming grace of God. Because God's will for us is perfect, God calls upon us to strive to discover and to do his will. Nothing else is as good for us as compliance with God's will.

#### 2. The membership in Christ's body. Rom. 12:3-5

In the galaxy of undeserved mercies which God provides for us are pardon, peace and power. By what Christ has done for us we should be motivated to discipline ourselves and to present our bodies to him as instruments for his use. There

is no limit to what the Lord is able to do with and through one of the members of his body who is completely dedicated to him.

3. The desire for Christ's approval. Rom. 12:9-12  
These verses set forth a high standard for Christian living and love is the key. In relationships Christians should be characterized by unfeigned and fervent love. "Abhor that which is evil" is an appeal for a conscience on the subject of sin. It means to dread, to despise and to abstain from evil. Also we must cling tenaciously to that which is good and right. Let us prove our opposition to the wrong by our devotion to the right.

4. The ambition to achieve excellence. Phil. 4:8  
In this concise and inexhaustible verse Paul challenges all Christians to cultivate elevating thoughts. He urges them to meditate on the things which are worthy of praise—things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely and of good report. With our minds dwelling on clean things like these, we shall become more like our Lord. Let us give thought and major emphasis to the things which are worthy of praise and imitation.

When the members of the church at Philippi were informed Paul had been imprisoned in Rome they assembled, bringing their personal gifts with them, and designated trustworthy Epaphroditus as the one to carry their gifts of love to Paul.

After completing his mission for the Philippian church, Epaphroditus threw himself into the Lord's service with such ardor that he became seriously ill. When it was reported to the church the members were deeply and prayerfully concerned. When he had recovered sufficiently to return to Philippi, Paul wrote to the church and admonished them to welcome Epaphroditus as an heroic servant of Christ and urged them to bestow upon him the honor which he deserved. Having demonstrated his willingness to lose his life for the sake of Christ and his servant, if need be, Paul wanted Epaphroditus recognized as the hero he was.

A true Christian will manifest a number of exemplary virtues, such as: humility, faithfulness, earnestness, diligence, joyfulness, devotion and thoughtfulness.

Let me share one rather typical pastoral experience. I was visiting an elderly shut-in who also was visited regularly by a Sunday school class and by our Extension Department. "Brother Owen," she said, "I don't give much to the church anymore. It gets along so well, anyway. I send my money to Brother so-and-so, whose work needs it so." She named a public media voice who is now said to receive \$60,000,000 per year. This would be 300 times her local church's budget at that time and 15 times her entire state denomination's budget for world wide ministry.

## Frank Owen

### Ministry

Allow me one more observation on the recent round of articles on what the Wall Street Journal called "The Electric Church," several of whose television evangelists are declared to take in 20 to 30 million in fan mail. Our entire Kentucky Baptist Convention with 2207 churches of 700,000 members probably will fall a little short of our overall goal of eight million dollars for all state and world wide causes. Paradoxically, much of this fan mail giving to huge one-man operations is done by well meaning people who criticize the "bigness" of their denominations. What confusion!

Have people who give to "The Electric Church" considered that their personal, spiritual needs must be met by the local congregation? "The Electric Church" does not visit the sick and sorrowing, does not counsel the troubled. It doesn't perform marriages, nor conduct funerals. "The Electric Church" ignores Heb. 10:25—"not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is."

The local church baptizes, serves the Lord's Supper; it gathers the assembled Body of Christ for corporate worship and to extend the right hand of fellowship. "There am I in the midst . . ." (Matt. 18:20) said Jesus of the assembled church. In such body the Holy Spirit respirates.

"Excuse me, Mrs. Blank," I said, "I must hurry on to make some hospital visits and then meet a family at the funeral home before prayer meeting time."

# Mountains to the Mississippi

## Missions

Kentuckian also injured in Tanzania accident  
A missionary from Kentucky was seriously injured in the same accident that left missionary Ruth Partain of Texas critically injured in Tanzania in March.

Marilyn McMillan was also a passenger in a vehicle driven by Mrs. Partain's husband Jack when it plowed into the back of an abandoned vehicle on a rainy morning Mar. 23.

Mrs. McMillan, the former Marilyn Jones, suffered a broken shoulder, an injured hip and cuts on her head and one foot.

She spent five weeks in traction and some time later on crutches.

Mrs. McMillan and her husband Tom, who have two daughters, Melody and Deborah, were appointed to Tanzania in 1960. He is a seminary teacher.

Mrs. McMillan's mother, Mrs. T. R. (Lucille) Jones, recently visited her daughter's family in Tanzania.

Mrs. Partain, who remained unconscious for weeks and in critical condition for months, is recovering now on the campus of Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth.

## Revivals

Four conversions at Valley Creek  
Valley Creek Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, reported four professions of faith and several rededications during revival Aug. 7-13.

## Ordinations

Donald Flanigan ordained to ministry  
Donald Ray Flanigan was ordained to the ministry by Valley Creek Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, July 16. He is pastor of Piney Baptist Church, Oakdale, Tenn.

Terrence Freeman, pastor of Gilead Baptist Church, Glendale, preached the ordination sermon. Valley Creek pastor George Darnell was moderator of the council.

## Congregations

Latonia Agape Singers to perform  
The Agape Singers, the high school youth choir of Latonia Baptist Church, Covington, will present a concert of secular and sacred music in the DeVou Park bandshell at 6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10.

The free concert will include selections by the English Handbell Choir and Genesis, a select group of 10 voices from the choir.

The choir recently conducted a 10-day tour through Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Colorado.

East Frankfort homecoming Sept. 17  
East Frankfort Baptist Church will celebrate its 16th anniversary with homecoming services Sept. 17.

Paul Simmons, former interim pastor of East Frankfort and professor of Christian ethics at Southern Seminary, will speak in the 11 a.m. service.

The service will be followed by a picnic dinner, recreation and a 2:30 p.m. service which will feature

the Heuke family from Louisville in concert.

East Frankfort started as a mission of the Crestwood Baptist Church and was constituted in 1962 with 87 charter members. Charles Parker is the pastor.

Donald LaBelle to preach in Korea

Donald LaBelle, pastor of First Baptist Church, London, is on preaching mission to Korea with the E. J. Daniels crusade Aug. 23 to Sept. 5.

LaBelle is a Western Recorder director.

FBC, London, and First Baptist Church, Corbin, are involved in an attendance contest during August and September. After the contest is over, the congregations will join in a fellowship meal at Levi Jackson State Park.

## Personnel

Nancy Daniel to DeHaven Memorial

DeHaven Memorial Baptist Church, LaGrange, named Nancy Daniel of Richmond, Va., as minister of education and youth.

Miss Daniel, a graduate of Southern Seminary, began her duties at DeHaven in July.

Also a graduate of Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, Va., Miss Daniel was assistant to the director of media resources at Union Theological Seminary.

"Miss Daniel's ministry is greatly needed to help meet the needs of our rapidly growing congregation," said pastor Doug Olive.

Wilson to East Bend Church, Union

Jackie Wilson was called as pastor of East Bend Baptist Church, Union, in Northern Kentucky Association.

Wilson is a native of Danville and is married to the former Mary Beth Smock. They have two children.

Wilson graduated from Clear Creek Baptist School in May.

Harmon to Central Grove, Albany

James "Jay" Harmon resigned as pastor of Brooksville (Ky.) Baptist Church to become pastor of Central Grove Baptist Church, Route 1, Albany, July 20.

Steve Day to Providence Church

Steve Day was called as pastor of Providence Baptist Church, Laurel River Association.

Day was formerly pastor of Union Baptist Church, Rockcastle County. He and his wife Gwen live in London.

Cochran new Sunday school editor

John T. Cochran left First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, as minister of education to become an editor in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Sunday School Department.

A native Tennessean, Cochran holds a BS degree in art from Cumberland College and is working toward the MRE degree at Southern Seminary.

He was an artist-designer for the Sunday School Board five years previously.

Western Recorder  
August 30, 1978

You are mighty and do wonderful things;  
You alone are God (Ps. 86:10, TEV)

