

WESTERN RECORDER

KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL

VOL. 152, NO. 43, NOVEMBER 1, 1978

Capital funds approved by Golden Gate trustees

The executive committee of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary's trustees voted approval of the seminary's capital funds/endowment programs, encouraged the administration to expand its branches to key cities in the west and took steps to ease the housing crunch caused by enrolment increases.

The first phase of the capital funds/endowment program will amount to \$6,500,000. It includes the cost of the Cauthen chair of missions, the library, student housing, a recreation center and the Chapel/World Mission Center.

The housing crunch received high priority. Steps were authorized to make possible at least 40 new multipurpose housing units because of a recent capital grant from the SBC Cooperative Program.

President William M. Pinson Jr. reported on progress of courses offered to non-degree, ethnic and bivocational students. Classes in the Los Angeles area and the Bay Area have been functioning with plans for enlargement underway.

The trustees endorsed a stronger program of internships in cooperation with constituent churches in which students may receive credit for practical work done in ministry positions.

They also participated in Founder's Day activities, featuring an address by Harold K. Graves, president emeritus, the dedication of the E. Hermond Westmoreland Chair of Evangelism and the presentation of the Harold K. Graves Award to Guy W. Rutland, a Decatur, Ga., businessman and Golden Gate trustee. The faculty presents the award annually for outstanding service to the seminary.

25,000 Bibles approved for Russian Baptists

Baptists in the USSR have been granted permission to import 25,000 Bibles and 5000 concordances in the Russian language.

News of the highly unusual decision by Soviet authorities came to Baptist World Alliance headquarters in a cable from the All Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the Soviet Union.

C. Ronald Goulding, director of the BWA's division of relief and development, said the Russian language Bibles and concordances are available through the Bible Society in Brussels, Belgium.

The BWA's relief and development committee is making a special appeal to its 111 member bodies around the world to help meet the expense.

Westerhoff, Piland help SBTS observe RE's 25th anniversary

by James H. Cox

"Theory without practice is useless, but practice without theory is dangerous," John Westerhoff, religious educator at Duke University, informed a Louisville audience last week.

"Religious education is a discipline dependent upon theology," he told 200 Southern Seminary students, faculty and friends marking the 25th anniversary of the School of Religious Education.

Westerhoff was principal speaker for two days of festivities highlighted by a banquet focusing on the past and future of the RE school.

"I'm concerned that we will not have the imagination our forebears had," Westerhoff exclaimed. "We may lose out in the race to attract people to our cause if we do not figure out alternatives as people and as times change." He cited the Sunday school, saying it has "served well," but that another vehicle may be required to reach people in the future.

"We need a new theology of the child," he con-

Merger study panel begins task

Two church staff members, a college president, an editor and two denominational executives have been named to a special committee investigating the possibility of merging the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission with the SBC Sunday School Board.

The SBC Executive Committee voted in September to call for such a study after George E. Bagley, executive director of the Alabama Baptist Convention, proposed the idea.

The Executive Committee asked that the two SBC agencies name three persons each to form a study committee and to report to the Executive Committee by February 1979.

The three Sunday School Board representatives are

SWBTS inaugurates Dilday, elects Elder, Newport, more

Additions to the administrative staff and faculty and changes in title nomenclature and assignment for several administrative officers highlighted action of trustees at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

It was Dilday's first meeting with the board since becoming president Aug. 1, 1978.

Lloyd Elder, assistant to the executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was named executive vice president effective Nov. 15, 1978.

John P. Newport, professor of philosophy of religion at Southwestern, 1952-76, will return to the faculty Jan. 1, 1979, and will become vice president for academic affairs and provost Aug. 1, 1979.

Newport, currently professor of religion at Rice University, Houston, succeeds Jesse J. Northcutt, who will retire as vice president for academic affairs July 31, 1979 and become Westmoreland professor of preaching Aug. 1.

A change in nomenclature was made for John Seelig, vice president for administrative affairs, who became vice president for public affairs.

Felix M. Gresham, dean of student affairs, received a new assignment as seminary chaplain and director of student aid.

New faculty members appointed, effective Jan. 1, 1979, were William A. (Budd) Smith, instructor in foundations of education, and Thomas D. Lea, associate professor of New Testament.

Smith, a December candidate for the doctor of education degree, currently serves as an adjunct teaching assistant at the seminary. Lea is pastor of Hunter Street Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

Norman Wiggins, president of Campbell College, Buies Creek, N. C., and chairman of the Sunday School Board trustees; Henry Love, church administrator for First Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., and a trustee of the board; and Grady Cothen, Sunday School Board president, Nashville.

Brotherhood Commission representatives are William Hardy, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Columbus, Miss., and chairman of the commission trustees; Jack U. Harwell, editor of The Christian Index, Georgia Baptist state newspaper, Atlanta, and a commission trustee; and Norman Godfrey, director of the commission's ministries section and convenor of a four-member cabinet which has run the commission since the accidental death of Glendon McCullough, executive director, Aug. 23.

Hardy, who presided over the committee's first meeting in Memphis, location of the Brotherhood Commission, issued the following public statement:

"We're going to make as complete a study as possible of all aspects of this proposed merger of the Brotherhood Commission into the Sunday School Board. Many factors must be considered. The ultimate question must always be what is best for Baptist men and boys' work in local Baptist churches and in our denomination.

"We urge any Southern Baptist who has facts or opinions about this proposed merger to communicate immediately with any member of the six-member committee. We want as much input as possible from as many sources as possible as we study the question."

Into Church Training? Then you'll soon be into discipleship, too

The Church Training Department of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the Evangelism Section of the Home Mission Board will join efforts toward increased emphasis of discipleship training.

"It's really a new day," said C. B. Hogue, director of the Evangelism Section. "Two agencies have united themselves to do the job that really needs to be done in Southern Baptist life."

The two Southern Baptist agencies believe the unified effort will give a balanced alternative to a wide variety of approaches to discipleship training from nondenominational sources which ignore Baptist traditions, polity and doctrine and may not be rooted in the local church.

Roy Edgemon, director of the Church Training Department, said a proliferation of discipleship training concepts, whether intentional or not, "tear away at the local church and fragment Christians."

"As the Southern Baptist Convention continues to grow in new areas, especially in this era of a Bold Mission Thrust to reach the world and nation for Christ, we must emphasize our distinctives more than ever or lose our identity," he said.

Nashville Baptists select Carl Duck as missionary

Carl Duck, pastor of Lakeside Baptist Church, Dallas, has been elected executive director of the Nashville (Tenn.) Baptist Association.

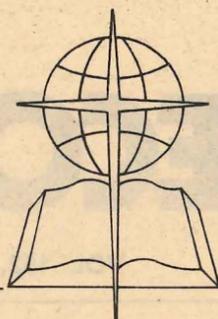
Duck, 50, who chaired local arrangements for the 1974 Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas and has chaired the SBC committee on boards, has been pastor of churches in Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, including his current pastorate of 12 years.

A native of Alabama, Duck is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and received an honorary doctor of divinity degree from East Texas Baptist College. He has had numerous leadership positions on local, associational, state and national Baptist committees and boards.

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

WESTERN RECORDER

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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, Ky.

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

Bold Missions: a slogan or an exciting venture?

Representatives from the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board at the recent Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee meeting in Nashville gave an encouraging report on the number of Mission Service Corps volunteers already appointed and on the field and the number of applicants who will be ready to go when sponsors are found for them. Mission Service Corps appointees are not funded from regular funds of the mission boards but they must support themselves or find support from individuals or churches. There are already more volunteers than there are sponsors to support them.

Southern Baptist Convention president Jimmy Allen, the most enthusiastic personification of Bold Mission Thrust among us, related two inspiring Mission Service Corps experiences in an address to Executive Committee members. One of these was a couple who left their jobs and home in the south for mission service in a north-east state. They went with the expectation of being provided all their basic needs but the promised support fell through and they actually are being provided only \$300 a month. What did they do, return home? No! They are making it on the \$300 a month by having some of their food and other basic needs provided by those among whom they are ministering.

The other example is a retired school teacher who is going at her own expense to teach in Brazil. She had funds for her basic needs but not for her air fare to the mission field. After asking friends to join in prayer for this provision she thought of the answer to her prayer. She would not need her automobile and so she sold it to pay her way to the mission field.

Recently a former missionary to Africa shared with me a report received from the annual meeting of Southern Baptist missionaries to Kenya. The practice of this group is to take a Lottie Moon offering each year at this meeting. This year the total number attending the meeting was about 100 including wives and missionary journeymen. The offering amounted to over \$6000. If a few missionaries with limited incomes can give \$6000, no Lottie Moon goal would be too high for many Baptist churches.

Hurstbourne Baptist Church where I am a member is taking Bold Mission Thrust seriously. We are committed to support Mr. and Mrs. Richard Graham, fellow Hurstbourne members who have volunteered as church starters in a pioneer area. Richard finishes seminary training in December and has already been invited to join six other Southern Baptists in Salt Lake City in building a congregation. Funds for this support will not be in the church budget but will be sought over and above the regular contributions

to Hurstbourne individuals and families.

At Hurstbourne Baptist and every other Baptist church the pastor is the key to such mission involvement. Pastor T. L. McSwain believes the more a congregation gives for missions the more it will have for its own needs. Hurstbourne with less than 300 in Sunday school has a considerable building debt and is thinking about another building soon. This, however, did not keep us from raising our Cooperative Program giving for 1979 by two percent bringing it to \$40,000 a year.

For many Baptists and Baptist churches Bold Mission Thrust is still only a denominational slogan but for those who have become personally involved it is an exciting venture.

On the wall is not in the heart

Ordinarily any proposal for moral and spiritual instruction of young people would receive enthusiastic endorsement on this page but it's difficult to get excited about the legislation enacted by the Kentucky General Assembly earlier this year authorizing the posting of the 10 Commandments in every public school classroom in Kentucky. Neither the kingdom of God nor the morality of youth will depend upon the mere posting of the 10 Commandments on a classroom wall.

Aware of the non-establishment clauses in the Kentucky and United States constitutions, the legislators decreed that the costs of this project would not be paid from tax funds but from private sources. Not much interest was expressed publicly in the project until recently when it appeared funds would be contributed to implement the project. Then a court suit was instituted challenging the constitutionality of the legislation and so the project is halted by court order until the outcome of this suit.

It's hard to see how the mere posting of words from the Bible on a school room wall would constitute establishment of religion but fairness would require that pupils who happened to be Hindus or atheists should have the right to post words from their scriptures or creeds beside the 10 Commandments.

The character and example of the teacher are far more influential than any creed posted on a classroom wall. The most that could be expected from posting the 10 Commandments on classroom walls would be a symbolic value. It's a long way from a wall poster to the heart of a school pupil and the mere posting of the 10 Commandments will not change hearts in a classroom any more than a Bible left on a coffee table will change hearts in a home.

I see no serious church-state separation problem with posting the 10 Commandments on classroom walls and I believe I had rather have my children in a classroom with them than without them. At the same time I doubt if the morality of future generations depends upon what is or is not on classroom walls and so it won't make much difference how the court suit

comes out.

The responsibility for moral and spiritual training of young people is not in tax supported public schools but in homes and churches.

Baptist Forum

Presenting two sides isn't always better

For years I have spoken openly of my appreciation for Western Recorder and for you as editor, believing that we have one of the best among Baptist state papers in openness, honesty and competent attention to basic issues. Against this background, I was disappointed in Western Recorder's reporting of the recent Southern Baptist Consultation on women in church related vocations.

This consultation was sponsored by 11 boards, agencies and institutions of the Southern Baptist Convention and was represented by many of their highest executive officers in a consultation, the stated purpose of which was to inquire into biblical, theological, historical, psychological, sociological and other factors bearing upon matters of perspective and policy.

That half of the limited coverage in Western Recorder was devoted to a man who was not pre-registered, who had no direct input into the consultation, and who arrived loaded down with his own anti-woman pamphlets for which he claimed the infallible guidance of the Holy Spirit, and that major participants and agency representatives were virtually ignored does not appear to me to be a proper stewardship of the power of the press. Of the state papers I have seen (and I have not seen all of them), the Alabama Baptist had the most adequate coverage. Even so, I wished for one holistic story capturing the substance, spirit and thrust of the consultation.

Frank Stagg, Louisville

A tenth for retirement, too

Your editorial in the Oct. 11 issue of Western Recorder concerning the use of denominational funds to boost retirement was read with great interest.

The way to eliminate such special consideration and, at the same time, not make the receiver feel dependent upon them, is to utilize the entire retirement program administered for Southern Baptists by the Annuity Board.

Since the early 1960's the Annuity Board has pleaded with churches and agencies to provide adequate retirement protection for all of their ministers and employes. Many churches have moved to accept the 10 percent contribution of total salary concept advocated by the Annuity Board for sufficient retirement income. (Churches and agencies may put up to 20 percent of total salary with the board for retirement programming.) Some churches now are paying more than the 10 percent of total salary in order to help their pastors and employes meet inflation head-on.

At the Annuity Board we want to thank you for your continued help of encouraging churches to provide adequate protection. We have come a long way since the basic plan. Yet, we still have some distance to go until all pastors and employes serving Southern Baptists are adequately protected in building age retirement income.

Thank you for your thoughts on this.

John D. Bloskas, Vice President
Annuity Board, Dallas, Tex.

Baptist News in Brief

Why are we slow starting churches? Tanner asks

Bold Mission Thrust and the Mission Service Corps are alive, well and moving forward, William G. Tanner told directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Tanner, who soon will complete his second year as executive director-treasurer of the board, briefed directors on the progress and status of the two key programs during the annual fall board meeting in Atlanta.

"This has been a year of implementation and getting underway," Tanner told directors, referring both to BMT and its companion, Mission Service Corps, which aims at placing 5000 volunteers to serve alongside career missionaries at home and abroad in 1982.

Tanner said Bold Mission Thrust has had five distinctive elements which Southern Baptists would not be doing without the thrust.

"First, we have developed a long range national strategy that has the capability of winning America to Christ. Second, we have genuinely and systematically attacked (ways to reach) the key cities and counties of our nation. Third, we have seen the Mission Service Corps come into being and begin filling a viable need for channeling people volunteering their lives and funds.

"Fourth," he continued, "we have as a convention, because of BMT, adopted some challenging long range stewardship goals. Fifth, we have created an effort of cooperation that has brought our SBC agencies together in a positive framework of cooperation."

Despite the efforts in Mission Service Corps and Bold Mission Thrust the results have been less than expected.

"I don't know why evangelism and church starting have been less than expected," Tanner said. "But I think there's lag time between conceptualizing a program and bringing it into actuality.

"I think it's the fever in front of the infection. I think we are going through the fever now and the work has not caught up with the enthusiasm we have generated in the last year," Tanner said.

He added, however, that he believes baptisms and new church starts will be up in 1978. "I hope this year, and especially 1979, will show an increase in baptisms and new church starts. If it doesn't, I think we're going to have to re-think the whole Bold Mission Thrust and all our priorities."

It's ok to miss work for church, say feds

The U. S. Civil Service Commission announced in Washington new guidelines permitting federal employes to make up time taken off because of religious requirements.

While the new law and guidelines affect only federal workers, they are seen by many observers as the first step toward sweeping public policy to make it easier for persons to adjust work schedules for religious purposes.

Persons affected by the new law and guidelines include Jews, Seventh Day Adventists, Seventh Day Baptists and members of the Worldwide Church of God, among others.

The Civil Service Commission's guidelines state that "an employe whose personal religious beliefs require

the abstention from work during certain periods of time may elect to engage in overtime work for time lost for meeting those religious requirements."

Employes may perform such overtime work in advance or make it up after the fact, the regulations state, but in no case will the employe be paid on a special overtime scale.

Scudder joins MWBTS

Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary named the school's first vice president for business and development and elected an associate professor of Christian ethics in semiannual session.

C. W. Scudder, administrator of internal affairs at Midwestern since 1975, will assume duties immediately as vice president for business and development. A former pastor and teacher, he was professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex. 21 years.

In the newly created business and development position Scudder will continue to be in charge of business affairs, auxiliary services and physical plant operations and will initiate and continue a development program.

Larry Baker, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, Ark. since 1975, is the new associate professor of Christian ethics.

In other action the trustees approved a new position and responsibilities for Doran McCarty, formerly professor of theology and Christian philosophy. As professor of supervisory studies, McCarty will direct the seminary's program of supervised ministries and develop and direct a program for continuing education.

SEBTS after \$3.5 million

Trustees of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary elected E. T. Vinson chairman, approved a \$3.5 million capital endowment campaign and elected Ben F. Philbeck of Kansas City, Mo. as professor of Old Testament interpretation at their semiannual meeting.

Vinson, pastor of Memorial Baptist Church, Greenville, N. C., succeeds Tom Brandon of Sherman, Tex.

Money from the capital endowment campaign will go to recycle the 145-year-old campus, provide married student housing and add to the school's endowment. Southeastern occupies the campus which formerly housed Wake Forest College. The three-year campaign was approved by the SBC Executive Committee.

Philbeck, currently professor of Hebrew and Old Testament interpretation at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will join Southeastern Aug. 1, 1979. He has taught at Carson-Newman College where he received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 1972 and at Southern Seminary.

In other actions the trustees:
—Granted permission to proceed with plans to construct 100 townhouse apartments and to negotiate a loan not to exceed \$2,582,444 for construction of the apartments.

—Authorized the administration to develop a 23-lot residential subdivision to provide building sites for faculty and administrative officers.

—Approved "in principle" a proposal to offer seminary courses for credit on the Mars Hill College campus for ministers in western North Carolina and east Tennessee.

Rosalynn gets briefing on Journeyman program

Stanley A. Nelson of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board explored volunteer mission programs and separation of church and state with Rosalynn Carter in a White House interview Oct. 17.

Nelson, who directs the board's two-year Missionary Journeyman program, requested the interview with Mrs. Carter after she contacted journeymen on trips to Mexico and West Africa. He answered her questions about the relationship between volunteer and career mission programs and discussed problems of separation of church and state raised by president Carter's interest in Southern Baptist missions.

"We're so glad you're a friend of missions, but don't let us use you," Nelson told Mrs. Carter. He believes separation of church and state must be maintained but "could be lost by good intentions."

He said his remarks were prompted by a May 25 editorial by Jack U. Harwell in The Christian Index, Georgia's state Baptist paper. Harwell's editorial criticized Carter for his part in a Washington fund-raising dinner for Mission Service Corps, the Southern Baptist Convention plan to place 5000 one and two year volunteer missionaries on home and foreign fields to work with career missionaries.

He felt that Carter's actions raised questions about church-state separation both in the eyes of Americans and in the eyes of foreign governments who grant visas for missionaries.

Carter, long active in Southern Baptist church and denominational life, has repeatedly declared that his denominational activity is as a private citizen and Southern Baptist interested in missions, not as president of the United States.

Nelson said he and Mrs. Carter discussed the philosophy of the journeyman program, designed for those who don't feel called to career service overseas but would like a world view before beginning careers in the United States.

Three Kentuckians picked

Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board appointed 25 persons to home missions service during their fall meeting in Atlanta.

Nine persons were appointed career missionaries; seven, missionary associates; and nine, mission pastors approved to receive financial aid.

Among career appointees are Larry and Kitty Keaton of Mt. Vernon, Ky. Missionary associates appointees include Beverly Gray of Louisville.

The Keatons will serve in New England where he will be a Spanish language catalytic missionary. Keaton, a native of Columbus, Ohio, is a graduate of Carson-Newman College and holds a MDiv degree from Southern Seminary. He has been a Southern Baptist foreign missionary in Spain and mental health consultant educator for Cumberland River Comprehensive Care, Corbin, Ky.

Kitty Ray Keaton, a native of Murray, Ky., is a Murray State University graduate. She also was a foreign missionary in Spain and worked in social casework in Louisville and in Gastonia, N. C.

Miss Gray will serve in Louisville as a Christian social ministries student intern. A native of Sikeston, Mo., and a

graduate of Southeast Missouri State University, she is enrolled at Southern Seminary working toward a degree in social work. She has been a substitute teacher, US-2 missionary and summer missionary.

HMB budget up 14.4%

A record budget of \$32 million plus was adopted by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during the fall meeting of the board of directors.

The 1979 budget of \$32,260,198 is nearly a \$4.5 million increase over 1978, representing a 14.4 percent increase in funding for mission activities in the 50 states and U. S. possessions.

Along with the budget directors committed the Home Mission Board to the "task of evangelizing and congregationalizing" the nation, with approval of eight objectives for 1979.

Funding for the record budget will come from estimated Cooperative Program receipts of \$12.5 million and estimated Annie Armstrong Easter Offering of \$12.7 million, joined with special gifts and income.

An increase of \$35,000 for postage and a \$40,000 increase in building maintenance and utilities is forecast.

The mission section will receive \$23 million or 71.6 percent of the total budget to fund the majority of the 2800 plus home missionaries appointed by the board. The evangelism section will receive \$2.2 million.

Leeper appeals expulsion

Representatives of U. S. and world Baptists appealed to the Turkish ambassador in Washington to have his government renew the residence permit of expelled Southern Baptist missionary James F. Leeper.

Leeper, pastor of an English-speaking congregation in Ankara for 12 years, had his residence permit revoked in May and was expelled from Turkey Sept. 29. After spending a few days in Germany Leeper came home to Dayton, Ky. for the funeral of his mother.

Four persons represented Baptists at the 45-minute meeting with Meliah Esenbel, Turkey's ambassador to the United States—Leeper; J. D. Hughey, the Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Europe, the Middle East, and South Asia; James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs; and C. Ronald Goulding, associate secretary of the Baptist World Alliance.

Ambassador Esenbel, although noncommittal about Leeper's chances of regaining the residence permit, said he would relay the group's concern through the Turkish minister of foreign affairs in Ankara to the prime minister.

During the meeting with the ambassador, Leeper insisted that he had violated no Turkish laws and had never been informed of the reasons for his expulsion.

Ambassador Esenbel said he does not know all the particulars in the case, but said he understands that Leeper had been charged with disseminating "religious propaganda."

W. L. Crumpler passes

W. L. Crumpler, missionary for Crittenden Baptist Association, died of a heart attack Oct. 25.

Funeral services were conducted at Williamstown Baptist Church Oct. 29, with burial following in Birmingham, Ala.

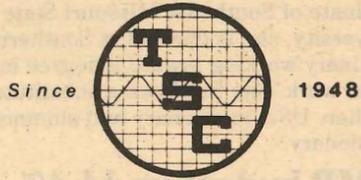
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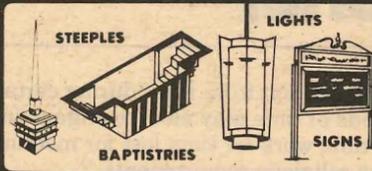
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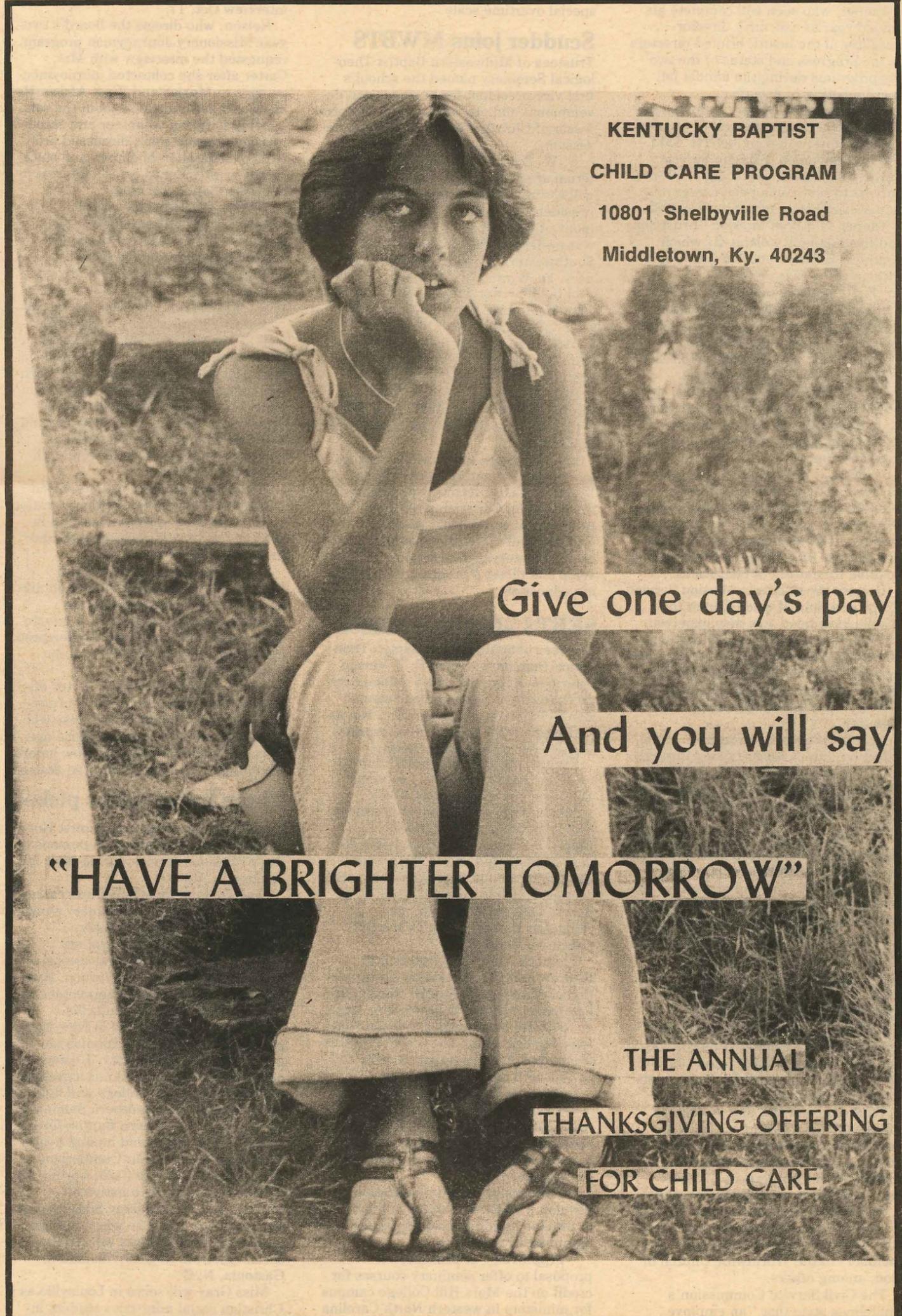
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"What we're doing with senior adults is not unique," Richard Bridges emphasizes again and again.

"It's just people ministering to people. And after all, that's what our calling is all about."

Bridges is associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, a congregation which has realized the potential of people in their golden years and is doing something about it. While that church is not alone in reaching out to retirees in Kentucky, it is one of few known to actively support an extensive ministry in this area.

Bridges' comments about the age group seem typical of the church's philosophy toward it.

"All we did was to capitalize on the faith, the experience, and the dedication of this lovely bunch of people," he affirms.

"We have helped them realize that, while their productive money-making years, and years of better health are over, life is not. They have many gifts to share, and so many have been willing to use their opportunities in the Lord's service."

To back up that statement, Bridges claims, "When we say, 'Let's raise the budget,' our senior adults are among the first to support us.

"They are the best corps of church visitors we have," he continues, including hospital and home-bound members.

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

parties are held in February (Valentine's Day), November (Thanksgiving) and December (Christmas). A missionary speaker appeared in April. The May speaker observed Social Security changes affecting people in that age bracket. A Baptist student campus minister led a discussion of the ecumenical movement in July. In September a Baptist Sunday School Board staffer dealing with family ministry offered thoughts on changing family life relationships in the senior years. October's speaker covered money management for senior adults. Interspersed at other times were parties celebrating everybody's birthday and a musical program, too.

The subjects are appealing to senior adults, and the crowds are growing. Bridges says the luncheons are served pot-luck style, with the women bringing vegetables, salads and desserts. No meat is served. Men pay \$1 "if they have it." Nobody is left out because he can't bring lunch or afford the dollar, however.

While the monthly luncheons are a cohesive force in maintaining the momentum of the senior adult

Ridgecrest in the formative years of SAF, Bridges remembers, the people returned with so much enthusiasm it "was not a question of them keeping up with us, but us keeping up with them!" They have also taken a Sunday School Board-sponsored trip to the Bahamas for senior adults.

Thirty-nine members spent a week at Ridgecrest in October. They have also made bus trips to Shakerstown, Horse Cave and Bardstown to see outdoor dramas or plays, and have visited Nashville's Upper Room and Georgetown (Ky.) College, among other places. They are indeed a traveling bunch!

"They're an inspiration to our young people, too," says Bridges. "The young people love them and each year at Christmas they provide a book and a poinsettia for each SAF member. This comes from the juniors and seniors in high school."

The SAF has its own choir and in December will present a musical, "Count On Us," for the church and community. It sponsors a handbell choir, too. It elects its own officers, and plans its own calendar every year. "It's the only group I can depend upon to plan its calendar in detail and have it ready the first of the year," Bridges remarks.

Bridges, incidentally, used to attend every single meeting of the group, but hasn't done so in years. "They are capable of governing themselves," he is convinced.

The program is priceless

How much does all of this cost? Far less than you might think.

Bridges is the only staff member assigned to the program, and of course he carries many other responsibilities in all the age groups. Therefore, no one staff member's salary is assigned to SAF alone.

"Actually, we budget only \$1000 a year for activities," he states, "and we never spend it all." This goes toward equipment, transportation, honorariums for speakers, food, etc. An additional \$3000 is appropriated for crafts.

The senior adults themselves order supplies for the craft center. This saves clerical work in the church office, and by buying in bulk from local distributors they are able to save the church a great deal. Persons making craft items are charged a nominal fee to cover the purchase price to the church.

The senior adults publish their own newsletter about six times annually. They also provide the magazine *Mature Living*, published by the Sunday School Board, to every member each month.

Despite all of this activity, Bridges shares a couple of concerns about senior adults.

One is that—just as in any other age group—there are many unsaved, unchurched people. And it's harder to get this group to witness than other age groups, he believes.

Also, he claims the church has never really begun to meet the needs of senior adults as it should.

"Those who are immobile aren't really being touched," he declares. "We must develop methods of reaching out to them."

He does say that the church has kept its morning worship service on the radio at 5 p.m. (a rebroadcast) primarily for the benefit of these people. "We've had several opportunities to air it live," he states. "But our senior adults prefer it at this time."

Bridges admonishes other churches to take seriously the opportunities afforded by senior adults for service in God's kingdom.

"If you have a bunch of older people sitting around doing nothing, perhaps it's time you did something for them. Maybe they aren't responding because you've given them nothing to do."

At Bowling Green, First, they found a bunch of lovely people and called them senior adults

One of their number, Joe Kimbrough, handles many benevolent cases which are brought to the church's doorsteps. "He will counsel and assist the drunks every time we call him," Bridges allows.

"These people are giving themselves. We tell them, 'Let someone else worry about giving a lot of money. Your income is limited now. But you have all the time in the world.' The response has been overwhelming."

In the beginning

How did First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, begin its emphasis on senior adults, and how extensive has that ministry become?

It dates back at least until the early 70's when Rollin S. Burhans, former president of Kentucky Southern College, was called as pastor. Bridges feels it was a marriage made in heaven when Burhans led the church to call him from a Texas pastorate to Bowling Green.

A native of Hopkinsville, Bridges was educated at Baylor University. His Texas pastorate was in a retirement center and thus he was devoting much of his time to people over 65.

First Church, Bowling Green, had already recognized the fact it had a large contingent of people 65 and over in its membership, with the potential of many more nearby. This made Bridges an attractive candidate. One of the expressed purposes in his coming there was to launch such a ministry.

In early 1971, shortly after Bridges' arrival, the church began to lay the groundwork for an effective senior adult ministry. But it was unprepared for the dilemma it found itself in when a committee to make recommendations for the program could not agree on the terminology "senior" adults. This one problem sidetracked the whole program for 10 months!

The impasse was resolved, however, when Bridges and a couple of other members literally told the committee "senior" was the best word available, and it was time to move ahead. "That's the only time we ever rammed anything down their throats," he laughs, "but we had to do something to get it going."

The name, incidentally, stuck.

Now, members readily refer to their group as the SAF (Senior Adult Fellowship). The organization has been given program status and visibility within the church alongside the Sunday school, Church Training, Brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Union.

In 1972 the group began holding monthly meetings. Those events are still happening today although attendance has increased from 40 or 50 then to 100 or more now.

Lunch to suit everybody's tastes

A look at the 1978 calendar for these luncheons reveals much about the group. For instance, seasonal

ministry at First Church, by no means does this activity stand alone.

An old house next door to the church's educational building has been renovated and converted into a center for the senior adult program. It is the base of operations for an extensive hobby and crafts program conducted every week day by the SAF members themselves.

One room houses several looms which were given by Hayward Brown following the death of his wife a few years ago. Regular instruction is offered every week for those who wish to learn weaving. In an adjoining room, the same is true of quilting. Beautiful patchwork quilts are donated to nursing and children's homes and other similar sources.

Perhaps the most fascinating activity in the senior adult building, however, is the ceramic room. Currently, about 45 SAF members are making pottery and vases. Some bake designs on their works, and all pieces are hand painted. It is a tedious, time-consuming hobby but is helping the creative person rediscover talents which perhaps have lain dormant for a long, long time.

In addition to these activities, there is a Sunshine Committee which telephones members as often as every day or two to check on the safety, health and needs of members.

Such a comfort to take the bus

The organization travels extensively, going to Ridgecrest or Cedarmore every year. After its first trip to

Hayward Brown (standing) supervises the ceramic making at the SAF center. At left, Mrs. Martha Morgan isn't old enough to join SAF, but loves to participate anyway. Others are Mrs. Ella Willoughby and Mrs. Louise Griffing (r.).



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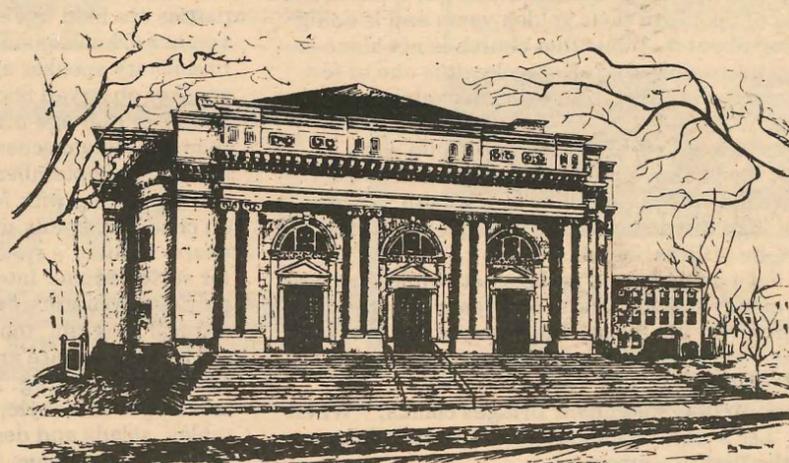


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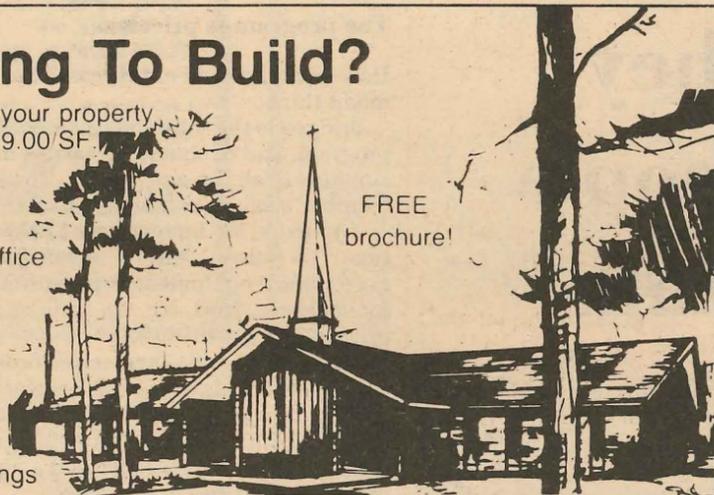


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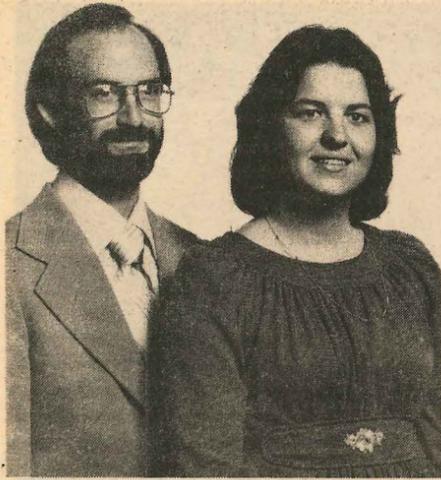
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Kentuckians named foreign missionaries



Gregory and Wanda Holden

The following Kentuckians were among 45 persons named as new missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board in October.

Gregory and Wanda Holden

Appointed for service in the Philippines, Holden will be a general evangelist and Mrs. Holden will serve in home and church work. Currently he is pastor of Goshen Baptist Church, Glen Dean, Ky. He is also attending Southern Seminary. Mrs. Holden is a teacher in the seminary's childcare center.

Born in Charlotte, N. C., he received the BA degree from Wake Forest

University. From 1973 until 1975 he served as a Southern Baptist missionary journeyman in Saigon, Vietnam, as an interim pastor. Following evacuation of Vietnam because of Communist takeover, Holden returned to the U. S. to work in the Vietnamese Refugee Relocation Center at Ft. Chaffee, Ark.

Mrs. Holden, the former Wanda Durham, was born in Greensboro, Ga. She attended Brewton-Park Junior College and received the BS degree from West Georgia College. For two years she was a special missions missionary, working with Navajos in Crownpoint, N. M., and Vietnamese refugees in Ft. Chaffee under the Home Mission Board.

In 1977 they were assistant resident directors of the missionary journeyman training program in Raleigh, N. C.

David and Linda Fennell

The Fennells will serve in Malaysia/Singapore where he will be a seminary teacher. Currently he is minister of education and youth at First Baptist Church of Benbrook, Ft. Worth, Tex. He also is attending Southwestern Seminary there, working toward the DEd degree.

A native of Lexington, Ky., Fennell graduated from Millsaps College with the BA degree and from Southwestern Seminary with the MRE degree.

The former Linda Lipscomb, Mrs. Fennell was born in Jackson. She

received the AA degree from Hinds Junior College and the BA degree from Mississippi State University.

She served as a summer missionary to Trinidad, West Indies, under the Foreign Mission Board. Most recently she was an elementary teacher in Ft. Worth.

They have one child, Jonathan Shane, born in 1977.

Michael and Gloria Hudson

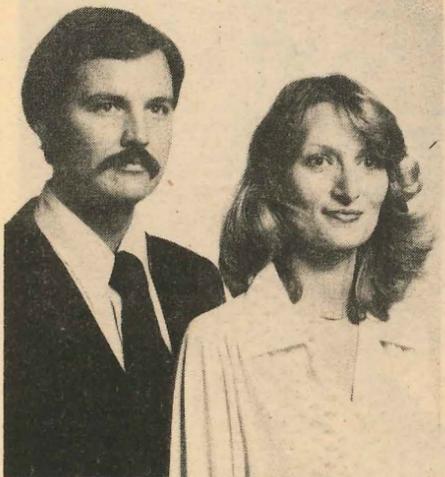
The Hudsons will serve in the Bahamas where he will be a music promoter. Currently they are attending Southern Seminary, where he is working towards a MCM degree. He is also minister of music at Bethlehem Baptist Church and band director for Ninth and O Christian school, both in Louisville.

Born in Port Huron, Mich., Hudson attended Tennessee Temple College and received the BME degree from Murray State University.

He has been minister of music and youth for churches in Paducah and Cadiz.

Mrs. Hudson, the former Gloria Durrett of Paducah, attended Toccoa Falls (Ga.) College, Murray State University and Tennessee Temple College. She has taught kindergarten and served as preschool coordinator for church schools in Paducah and Louisville.

They have two children, Matthew Thurman, born in 1969, and Andrea Jeannine, 1971.



David and Linda Fennell



Michael and Gloria Hudson

Sunday School Lessons H. C. Chiles

Lessons for Nov. 12, 1978

International Series

Reverence for the Sabbath

Exodus 20:8-11

Naturally one inquires: "Who instituted the Sabbath?" and "Why was such a day instituted?" God instituted the Sabbath. The origin of the day really goes back to creation. Six days had been consumed in the setting in order of the universe. In his wisdom God purposed that after labor should come rest, so he instituted the Sabbath. On the Sabbath man was required to cease his labor, to draw apart for rest, and to take time to meditate on the things of his creator and lord, and to build his spiritual life.

In the life in which work, rest, and worship are kept in proper balance there will be an inner peace and various splendid achievements.

Matthew 12:1-8

One sabbath Christ and his disciples were walking through a field of grain. The hungry disciples began to pluck the heads of grain and eat the raw kernels, a common practice.

The critical Pharisees contended Christ

permitted his disciples to violate the sabbath law. These fanatics sought to make it appear that plucking the heads of grain, rubbing out the kernels in their hands and masticating the raw kernels were equivalent to reaping, threshing and grinding.

Christ reminded them that David had eaten the shewbread when he and his men were hungry. He called their attention to the work of the priests on the sabbath in making the necessary preparation for sacrifices.

Upon entering the synagogue Christ observed a man whose hand was withered and useless. The Pharisees asked, "Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath days?" Christ made reference to the incident of pulling a sheep out of a pit into which it had fallen on the sabbath. He taught that, because man is far more valuable than a sheep, it was right and lawful that he should be healed on the sabbath.

Through the marvelous power of the Great Physician the withered hand of the paralytic was healed.

Life and Work Series

Money—barrier or bridge?

Luke 16:19-31

In this passage Christ portrayed two men who represented the opposite extremes of society. In it we see them:

Contrasted in life

The one was rich; the other was poor. The one was elegantly dressed; the other was poorly clad. The one fared sumptuously every day; the other fed on scraps. The one was socially prominent and influential; the other moved about in beggarly isolation. The rich man lived in luxury, whereas the other lived in poverty.

The rich man was covetous and selfish, left God out of his thoughts and life, acquired all the possessions possible and kept them rather than shared them with the needy. Lazarus was extremely poor and suffered greatly, but was not bitter in spirit.

Contrasted in death

As happens with all, these two men reached the end of life's journey and experienced death. Just as there were differences in the circumstances, characters and lives of these men, there was a difference in their deaths.

There is not any reference to the funeral of Lazarus. It is possible that his body was dumped

into a ditch or on the garbage heap. Likely the rich man had an impressive funeral with many in attendance.

Contrasted in eternity

When Lazarus died he was carried immediately to paradise, a place of happiness, where he found himself with his beloved ancestor, Abraham. What a contrast there is in the state of the child of God and the unsaved person when their souls leave their bodies! For the former death is a gain. For the latter death ushers him into a state of suffering, anguish and torment.

The rich man saw and recognized Abraham, whom he had never seen. And the rich man saw Lazarus "afar off." His prayer for mercy and help was too late; it was after death. He did not want his brothers to come where he was, so he requested Abraham to send Lazarus to urge them to be saved while they had an opportunity. Abraham's answer meant that they had the Old Testament and could read it. If they would not believe it, they would not believe a man who had risen from the dead.

Man's only hope of salvation is in responding to the overtures of God's grace while rational and during this life.

Frank Owen Unforgettable experiences

We shall miss the steady hand of Porter Routh when he lays down the scepter as Southern Baptist Convention executive secretary. A big soul, as well as body, he has long been a powerful, stabilizing force. He is resolute, yet patient; firm, yet humble; both wise and simple, gentle and strong.

Dr. Routh has a great sense of humor and won't mind the following unembellished, unforgettable incident.

He was to begin a week's meeting with us in Lexington, Ky. I met his plane just before the first night's service and took him straight to the church. My wife had brought our three grade-school sons to the church in a different car. Protracted meeting time during school days is pretty hard on a preacher's wife with three young children. My lady tended to get a bit tense in trying to be faithful to the meetings, children and all. She thought school-night meetings should run on time. "The children get to bed too late as it is," she would say. "Don't let the services go overtime."

Dr. Routh preached full length that night and I added words of welcome to him and some new members. Mrs. Owen drove on home with the children, not knowing that I was going to bring Dr. Routh by the house for some scared-up refreshments before taking him to his hotel. She called from the kitchen as we entered the door. "Well, the crowd is apt to be down tomorrow night. After he had already preached too long, you made it worse with too much comment. You can't expect mothers with children to support the services with two of you talking overtime."

Well, there wasn't any way out. I just turned red-faced and said, "Porter, that's my wife, Sue." You can imagine the atmosphere as she came out to be introduced to her victim.

For years after that when he and I would part company after Baptist meetings, he would say, with a twinkle in his eye, "Be sure and give my love to Sue." And, as the years rolled by and friendships grew, the utterance became less and less a source of humor and eventually a genuine, heartfelt greeting.

Southern Baptists will miss such a man. God bless his continued usefulness.



Baptist News in Brief

January Bible Study previews set

Four January Bible study previews have been planned to help pastors and teachers prepare for the study of Mark. Conferences will be held Nov. 4 at Campbellsville College, Nov. 10-11 at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly, Nov. 18 at Boones Creek Assembly and Nov. 20-21 at Cedarmore.

A minimal registration and lodging fee will be charged for the conferences at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore. There is no cost for the conferences at Campbellsville and Boones Creek.

Registrations can be made through the Sunday School Department, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243.

An additional workshop has been planned for Dec. 5-7 at Southern Seminary. Cost of the workshop, which includes 14 conferences, is \$50.

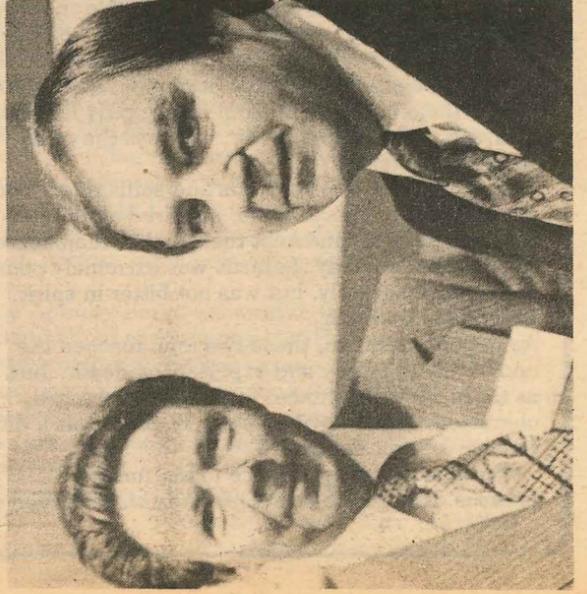
For more information on this workshop contact F. Russell Bennett, Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Road, Louisville, KY 40206.

Convention organized in Nevada

The Nevada Area Baptist Convention was formed as the 34th state convention to affiliate with Southern Baptists. The 34 conventions cover Southern Baptist work in all 50 states.

The formation of the new convention, voted at Redrock Baptist Church, Las Vegas, Oct. 17 took place during "Southern Baptist Week," proclaimed by Nevada Gov. Mike O'Callahan. It came 30 years to the week after the first Southern Baptist church was organized in the state.

Seventy-five churches and missions representing nearly 14,000 members will comprise the new conven-



tion. Previously Nevada Southern Baptists in the southern part of the state were attached to the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention and those in the northern half of the state cooperated with the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

Nearly 300 messengers approved appointment of an executive director, voted a \$376,000 budget, elected officers and decided on Reno, Nev., as the convention headquarters site.

Ernest B. Myers, 53, of Phoenix, Ariz., was presented as the convention's first executive director by a personnel committee.

Myers, now director of assembly development for the Arizona convention, expects to assume leadership of the Nevada convention Jan. 1. He will rent office space in Reno and eventually hopes to secure property for a state convention headquarters.

Messengers accepted with little debate a proposed \$376,206 operating budget. The first budget earmarks 10 percent of receipts from churches or \$3,500 to go toward the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program.

The budget will fund the new executive director, continue the employment of three area missionaries, provide services to local churches and eventually fund a state Baptist newspaper.

NBC to telecast Bible series

NBC has announced that it will present a "Stories from the Bible" miniseries during National Bible Week Nov. 19-26.

The 8½-hour series, to be aired four nights, will include such stories as David and Goliath, Joshua and the Battle of Jericho, Noah and the Flood, Samson and Delilah, Daniel and the Lions' Den, Solomon and Moses and others.

Ernest B. Myers (r) was elected executive director-treasurer of the newly-formed Nevada Area Baptist Convention and A. Rudy Duett (l) as the convention's first president when the convention formed at Las Vegas. Myers, 53, director of assembly development for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, will take over Jan. 1, 1979, when the new convention begins operation in Reno. Duett, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Reno, has been moderator of the Nevada Baptist Fellowship.

