



WESTERN RECORDER

KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL

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Baptists find a sea of tranquility along the Ohio River at Owensboro

A regular convention attendee called this year's Kentucky Baptist Convention session in Owensboro "the most tranquil in years."

A reporter for the Owensboro paper described the scene as an "atmosphere of harmony."

A helium filled balloon which burst against the sanctuary ceiling of First Baptist Church was the "most explosive element" of the opening session, the reporter claimed. The balloon was a remnant of a state mission fair emphasizing Bold Mission Thrust.

The remainder of the 141st annual convention was much the same.

In marked contrast to several controversial issues which other state conventions tackled at the time Kentucky Baptists met, Kentuckians shied away from headline grabbers. The hottest debate of the week—and a mild one at that—was whether to allow the Kentucky Baptist Board of Child Care to spend up to \$2 million in unrestricted funds. After wrangling over the issue during two business periods, messengers voted to permit the board to appropriate these donations without restriction. The board responded by assuring the convention it would report how such funds were spent to the convention.

A series of mild resolutions were adopted by the messengers. One supported the flow of information on world hunger, another commended the state racing commission for disallowing Sunday thoroughbred racing and one expressed opposition to the sale and use of alcoholic beverages in Kentucky state parks.

In a three-way race for the state convention presidency T. Hicks Shelton of Paducah was declared winner. Shelton is part time missionary of West Kentucky Association and retired from the state mission board staff at the end of 1976. He had been evangelism director for 11 years.

Shelton appeared in a run-off with John Dunaway, pastor of Corbin's First Church, after David Bratcher, pastor of Henderson's First Church, was eliminated from the competition.

Messengers elected Austin Roberts, pastor of Danville's Lexington Avenue Church, as first vice president. He defeated J. William Hall, pastor of Gethsemane Church, Danville.

Eugene Enlow, pastor of Louisville's Beechmont Baptist Church, ran opposed for second vice president.

Reelected convention secretary and assistant secre-

tary, respectively, were A. W. Walker, Anchorage, and Leo T. Crismon, Louisville.

On the recommendation of its executive board the convention adopted a 1979-80 fiscal budget of \$10.7 million. This includes a basic operating budget of \$8.8 million, a Bold Mission challenge goal of \$1.2 million and \$700,000 in anticipated additional revenue. Co-operative Program receipts will be divided 35% to SBC causes and 65% to KBC work.

A motion to ask Kentucky Baptist churches to financially support the placing of the 10 commandments in every public school room in the state was passed.

The messengers heard numerous reports of work being done by the convention. They observed what was being accomplished by the state mission board in Bold Mission Thrust through an hour-and-a-half tour of more than a dozen exhibits offered by the various departments of work.

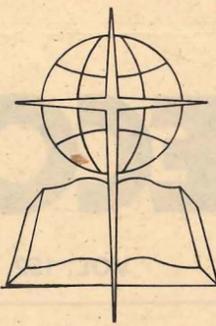
The convention will meet next year Nov. 13-15 at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, and Nov. 11-13, 1980 at First Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

The convention in Owensboro voted to meet Nov. 10-12, 1981 at Lexington's Immanuel Baptist Church.

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 Whittler, Business Manager



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C. R. Daley

Daley Observations

A sweet spirit in Owensboro

The theme song for Kentucky Baptists in annual convention last week in Owensboro could well have been "There's a Sweet Sweet Spirit in This Place." That's precisely what it was. Veteran convention goers had to scratch their heads to remember a convention of more sweetness and harmony.

The convention was not expected to generate any furor and it lived up to this expectation. The messengers saved their ardor and steam for Bold Mission Thrust which they met upon arrival, lived and breathed in every session and hopefully took home in abundance to the churches.

Even the resolution period which is about the only place left for messengers to sound off brought forth only routine though important resolutions. The thorny issues like doctrinal stance of Baptist teachers, abortion and woman ordination which occupied several other state conventions this year were left alone in Owensboro. This does not mean Kentucky Baptists don't have strong convictions on these issues nor that they all agree on them. It means we respect one another's differing convictions and are not about to jeopardize our harmony and diminish our cooperative efforts by trying to push our views down each other's throats.

The only spirited debate in Owensboro was over the Kentucky Baptist Child Care Program, a matter of concern for several years. And in this debate participants fell over themselves being gentle and considerate of one another. Not one harsh word was heard on this or any other matter during the whole convention.

We learned something about a convention program this year. This is that an interesting and inspiring meeting does not have to have denominational celebrities. Not one Southern Baptist Convention board or institution head was there but we had fresh and interesting presentations on behalf of all our areas of ministry. The program was well planned and the attendance was good in every session.

The convention offered many the first time opportunity to see and to hear Georgetown College president Ben Elrod. They were much impressed and responded with a standing ovation following his address.

One departure from the script was the choice of Hicks Shelton as convention president. The messengers had the choice of three of the ablest men ever nominated for president. It seemed a shame we could not have John Dunaway, David Bratcher and Shelton since they have all contributed so much to Kentucky Baptist life. Shelton was a surprise nominee last year and narrowly lost. The messengers decided this year to take advantage of his rich experience and commitment as well as to honor him for his long and outstanding ministry.

It would be hard to find a more qualified president. Coming from a long line of Kentucky Baptist preachers, Shelton is grounded in the past, alert to the present and committed to the future of Kentucky Baptists in kingdom enterprises. He has been the personification of Bold Mission Thrust all his ministry. (See page 3.)

The highest moment of the convention came with the convention sermon by David Bratcher. "Bratcher" is another great name in Kentucky Baptist history and David lived up to the Bratcher standard of excellence. (See pages 8, 11.)

Retiring president John Kruschwitz is appreciated as much as any president who ever served. He started humbly, served humbly and retired

humbly. In the meantime he was one of the most active contributors and his fair presiding made a major contribution to the harmonious spirit.

The hospitality of the pastor David Nelson, First Baptist Church and the entire Owensboro community left nothing to be desired. Where else are Baptists treated to free parking and treated in every other way as royal guests?

When executive secretary Frank Owen dropped the curtain on the 1978 convention and president Hicks Shelton assumed office with a commitment service, messengers headed home thanking God for being a Kentucky Baptist and praying, "Lord, give us more conventions like this one."

Executive board to go to court

The executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in its pre-convention session authorized legal action to remove the Baptist Building in Middletown from the tax rolls of Jefferson County. The county tax assessor placed the building on the tax roll several years ago.

In other action the board members:

- Adopted a retirement policy for executive board personnel replacing the policy adopted in May;
- Changed a long standing policy on liens taken on churches receiving grants from the convention;
- Authorized executive secretary Frank Owen to proceed with plans for a Baptist-Roman Catholic dialog;
- Gave final approval to a salary administration plan and merit program;
- Endorsed a financial campaign to be conducted by Georgetown College;
- Approved a \$55,000 expenditure for capital improvements at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly as funds become available;
- Heard a progress report on the remodeling of the Baptist Building;
- Referred a proposal for the creation of a council on Christian education to its nomination and program evaluation subcommittees for study.

The taxation of convention property has been in question several years. The Baptist Building was placed on the Jefferson County tax list on the grounds it was not a church used for regular worship. No legal steps were taken against this action at the time partly because a print shop was operated in the building. Printing operations were discontinued in September 1977 and now it is felt legal steps are appropriate.

At its May meeting this year the executive board approved a new retirement policy taking into account the national legislation prohibiting mandatory retirement before 70 for all organizations employing 20 or more persons. The former policy for executive board personnel called for mandatory retirement at 65.

John Dunaway, chairman of the administrative committee from which the recommendation came, explained that additional information made available since May indicated some of the provisions of the policy adopted then were questionable and thus the need for a policy to supersede earlier actions.

The adopted policy has three main provisions:

- (1) Fringe benefits to be continued for all personnel all along as employed. (The May action cut off some fringe benefits after 65.)
- (2) Employees urged to retire at 65 but no mandatory retirement before 70.
- (3) Regular evaluation process for personnel each year after 65 as before 65.

A long practice of the convention has been to take liens on the property of churches to whom grants were made. This was to protect the interests of the convention in case the church ceased to operate or changed denomination affiliation. Upon the recommendation of administrative committee, board members voted to discontinue this policy due to rising costs of preparing liens and the impracticality of such an arrangement.

Liens will continue to be taken on churches to

whom loans are made.

The idea of a Baptist-Catholic dialog in Kentucky was advanced some time ago by Catholic leaders. Such dialogs have already taken place in several states. Executive secretary Owen said tentative plans call for about 30 representatives of Baptists and a similar number of Catholics to participate in a dialog scheduled for Sept. 24-25, 1979.

The idea was approved. No opposition was expressed during discussion of the matter but some negative votes were registered.

A revised salary administration plan and a merit program for executive board employees has been under consideration during the past year and part of the new plan was approved in the May 1978 meeting of the executive board. The finalized plan was approved after thorough explanation by executive secretary Owen.

Georgetown College asked for and received approval for a financial campaign to meet pressing financial needs of the school. The campaign will adhere to convention guidelines which request institutions not to make appeals to be included in church budgets but recognize the right of institutions to make appeals for support from individuals and friends in any amount.

A recommendation from the Christian education subcommittee to authorize the formation of a council on Christian education, separate from the executive board in identity, raised opposition. After brief discussion the motion was referred to the nomination and program evaluation subcommittee for further study. In the discussion concern was expressed that such a step might lead to a separate Christian education department with staff members which once was a part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention organization.

Upon the recommendation of the church services subcommittee a \$55,000 expenditure for improvements at Cedarmore Assembly was approved as funds become available. Included in the improvements would be a multiple purpose building, remodeling, including air conditioning of the old dining hall, employment of a consultant to relate items in the long range plan to the master plan for Cedarmore and grading which includes a service road to the boys' camp.

A progress report was given on the remodeling of the Baptist Building. The contract for the million dollar plus project was let last May and completion is scheduled for the summer of 1979. Part of the cost comes from an accumulated fund for maintenance of the building. It was announced that a \$1 million loan for the remaining needed funds has been arranged for one-half of one percent above the prime rate for 10 years.

Business manager Barry Allen announced that Cooperative Program income for the first two months of the 1978-79 fiscal year amounted to \$1,041,401. This was \$292,000 under the goal for these months but was \$35,000 more than was received during these months last year.

The next meeting of the executive board will be Dec. 11-12 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly.

Hicks Shelton:

A candid interview with the KBC president

The new president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is T. H. Shelton, retired director of evangelism at the state level and currently the part time associational missionary for West Kentucky Baptist Association.

Shelton was nominated for president at last year's convention and lost by a narrow margin to John Kruschwitz of Ft. Thomas, Ky. For all practical purposes, however, the nomination in '77 set the stage for the election this year.

In the past, the popular denominational statesman could not be elected to state office because of his job. Mandatory retirement two years ago—in his words—“opened that door.”

This year Bill Cubine, pastor of Immanuel Church, Paducah, made the nomination.

First round balloting Tuesday afternoon narrowed the presidential field to Shelton and John Dunaway, pastor of First Baptist Church, Corbin. As in 1977, a narrow margin elected the new president but this time the margin favored Shelton.

Hicks (the name by which his friends call him) Shelton built a reputation as a man of the people while he served the evangelism office in Middletown. He has no intention of changing that image now. His philosophy of service is based on what he calls, “Response to the people.”

In this interview he talked with Western Recorder about Bold Missions: the key, he believes, to an effective year in office.

WR: Mr. Shelton, you have served Kentucky Baptists in almost every conceivable capacity. You've been a pastor, headed a convention office, served as associational missionary and now you embark upon a new role—that of president of the state convention. How do you see that role and what will your major emphasis be as you approach the coming year?

SHELTON: My whole philosophy, intent and purpose will be to take a positive approach to missions and evangelism. Let's put our shoulders to the things we do best. Baptists have always agreed on evangelism and missions. Those are the things that hold Baptists together.

WR: Bold Missions is a popular term among Southern Baptists but we tend to define that term differently. Do you feel our differences present major

obstacles to actually accomplishing Bold Missions?

SHELTON: I think we're in the midst of a fine move toward togetherness. The attitude of the convention for the past two or three years has been such that we CAN work together. I think this convention has been positive. I think John Kruschwitz has done a marvelous job of bringing people together in peaceful transaction. We haven't always agreed but when we have disagreed we have done it rather smoothly. And we've dealt with some questions that have been difficult.

WR: How does Bold Missions fit your ministry?

SHELTON: It was my commitment as a pastor. We began three mission churches in the 15 years I was pastor of Latonia Baptist Church. I've been engaged in missions and wanting to do mission work for many years.

WR: You follow some rather distinctive personalities in John Kruschwitz and Ted Sisk. How would you compare your own projected style of convention leadership to theirs?

SHELTON: I have very high personal regard for John Kruschwitz. He embodies one of the best witnesses and personal soul winners in the Southern Baptist Convention. And I have the same regard for Ted Sisk but I'm not John Kruschwitz or Ted Sisk. As I mentioned before, these men have led this convention to a very close knit fellowship and I hope to reap the benefits of their leadership. I think they've made it possible for me to fit in as one who will URGE total commitment to Bold Missions.

I'm just Hicks Shelton and I'll be myself. Whatever Kentucky Baptists want me to do, I'll try to do, but I'll do it in my own way.

People expect me to speak to them and kid 'em. They don't expect me to sit off by myself and be reserved.

Harold Sanders said to me one time, “People sure climb your frame, don't they?”

I told him, “Yep, and if they ever stop, it'll scare me to death.”

That's just me.

I like to speak. I'm not bashful at all. If churches ask me to speak, if associations ask me to speak, I'll go. I'll do what I can in urging that WE really do something positive for Bold Missions. I'll insist that we get on with action—that we not just make plans.

WR: Have you had time to decide whether you'll continue as a part time minister and associational missionary?

SHELTON: I haven't quite made that decision. As I grow older I'm learning that if you'll just listen to what people are saying and if you watch what's being done, you'll see what God is doing. When I went to west Kentucky I told them that I would stay two years. That time is up in December. Whether I stay or not depends on how God works. I'd like to say, when John hands me that gavel, “I'm free. I can go and do as God wants me.” A lot depends on what I feel God is doing with the people.

WR: If you were free—completely free—to do whatever you chose to do in this position, how would you carry it out?

SHELTON: I would encourage. I would CHALLENGE people to do something about the needs of the world.

My concept of a president, other than moderating the board meetings and the convention is, simply, to do what the people feel like they would like their president to do. The convention is not made up of churches but of messengers FROM churches. The president doesn't serve churches but PEOPLE. Therefore, I want to try to meet the needs of the people committed to Bold Mission Thrust.

WR: Our denominational leaders are projecting 1979 to be a year of peace for Kentucky Baptists. Do you feel that this “Year of Peace” will afford the right medium for the accomplishment of Bold Missions? There are still minor controversial issues that exist in the convention.

SHELTON: I don't believe you have to settle those issues before you go about Bold Missions. The church that has ordained a woman or the church that has accepted alien baptism can be bound together with churches that wouldn't think of such things. The unifying factor is the love FOR and the DESIRE TO PREACH the pure gospel of Christ. They don't have to come together on personal differences. They come together on Christ.

My friends and I can disagree and we can tell each other how much we disagree. I don't believe harmony demands that we agree on all points. Harmony means that you and I can get together—work together—without agreeing on every little detail.

WR: Does that mean that as Kentucky Baptists we should forget our differences?

SHELTON: People don't have to FORGET their differences, that's not the point. If you have a conviction about something, STAND for that conviction, BUT don't refuse to work with me for Christ because you and I disagree. As long as we can believe in the power of God to save man and transform people, then we'll work together.

WR: You've been around Kentucky Baptists for a long time. How do you think this generation of Kentucky Baptists stacks up against other generations with regard to accomplishing Bold Missions?

SHELTON: My grandfather worked his ministry from a horse and buggy and the back part of the county was just about the limit of his reach. My father had a Model T Ford and later a Model A Ford and he got out 100, maybe 200 miles or better. My ministry has seen distance as no problem.

I think this generation has the opportunity to respond to the challenge—more opportunity than any other generation has had.

WR: What other programs do Kentucky Baptists need?

SHELTON: We really don't need another program. We just need commitment to get the job done. I think we may overplay the term Bold Missions because it becomes a cliché.

WR: How can people keep Bold Missions from becoming a cliché, as you say?

SHELTON: I think that's our job—yours (Western Recorder's) and mine. We need to encourage. We need to be positive.

My honest conviction is that the whole spectrum of Baptist life—your paper, the Sunday School Board literature, the preaching, the man in the pew—has got to reflect a positive outlook.

WR: You've told us that you really want to be where the action is. Does that mean that any of our churches can call you?

SHELTON: As long as I am not already engaged, I'll try to go anywhere I'm asked. As the Lord opens the doors, I'm ready to go.

Kentucky Baptists may write T. H. Shelton at 3920 Linda Drive, Paducah, KY 42001, or call (502) 554-1557.



I think we're in the midst of a fine move toward togetherness.



I would challenge people to do something about the needs of the world.

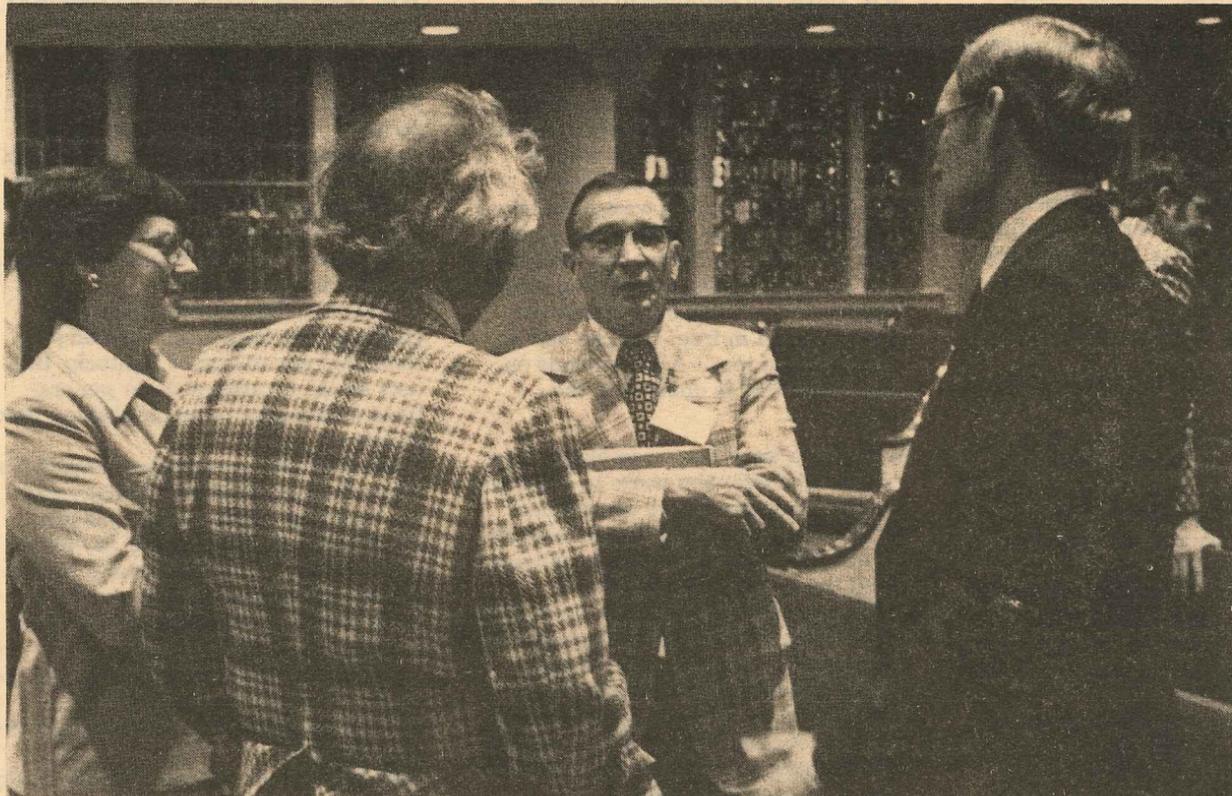


The unifying factor is the love for and the desire to preach the pure gospel.



Harmony means we can work together without agreeing on every detail.

Convention sidelights: it wasn't all business



Conversing with Western Recorder editor C. R. Daley (facing camera) are Sunday School Board staffer

Ernest R. Mosley (r) and Helen and Bob Brown (back to camera). Brown is pastor of Lexington's Trinity Church.

Hostess, child, salesman, clerk, others all saw the convention in different ways

A Tuesday visitor to Owensboro last week was Old Man Winter. He had delayed his arrival this year, and on Monday of the convention a newcomer from Alabama was overheard saying, "I'm burning up here. I thought it was cold in Kentucky."

She experienced some typical November weather before she left the convention.

The sloppiness outside did not seem to deter the warmth and fellowship characteristic of a state convention, however.

Mrs. Clara Nance, hostess at First Church, Owensboro, enjoyed seeing "old friends greet one another and new ones meet." She could tell by the frequent hearty laughter that pastors were testing their year's collection of jokes on their peers.

"The food and free coffee were well received," she added.

From a different perspective, four-year-old Rebecca Hartley, daughter of Darrell and Bonnie Hartley of Russellville, had fun gathering free gifts from the displays and "playing and singing" in the nursery at First Church.

One nursery worker told of a mother from Louisville with a 14-month-old. She was so thrilled to have the freedom to be with her husband and attend the convention sessions.

"I've needed this break more than you'll ever know," she confessed to the ladies.

Bill Polk, book store coordinator, described the conventioners as relaxed and jovial. He and his staff enjoyed brisk business, especially with the January Bible Study materials and "Priorities in the Ministry" by one of the Pastor's Conference speakers, Ernest Mosley.

A minister's wife viewed the meetings as "weak overall." Her favorite event was the Ministers' Wives banquet where she enjoyed the atmosphere, food and program.

Tom O'Neal, chaplain at Louisville Hospitals, didn't bring his wife along. He left a wake-up call one morning for 7 a.m. When his wife called a few minutes before 7 the next day he answered the phone with "I'm awake. Thanks for calling," and hung up without giving his wife a chance to reply.

Behind the scenes of the smoothly run proceedings, Clarence Nemitz, coordinator for the host church,

cited an excitement and willingness on the part of his church to help. He was grateful for the cooperation he received on all fronts. His convention comment was that the meetings have been "definitely more inspirational than controversial."

The city of Owensboro enjoyed this quiet, cordial group.

"We couldn't have asked for a nicer bunch of people," said one hostess at a local motel restaurant. A department store clerk noted parking problems for mid-town employees. In the same breath she said, "But I'd gladly give up my parking space for the good work that they do for religion in our state."



Colleges welcome alumni at convention functions

Kentucky's three Baptist colleges conducted alumni gatherings during the 1978 Kentucky Baptist Convention in Owensboro.

Friends of Campbellsville College gathered Tuesday evening for refreshments and fellowship. President and Mrs. W. R. Davenport, vice president J. Alvin Hardy and other members of the faculty and staff were present to greet about 50 guests at Third Baptist Church.

Ben M. Elrod, president of Georgetown College, presided over his school's annual alumni breakfast Nov. 15. The breakfast, attended by 165 people, was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. George Hays for the 19th consecutive year. Hays is a trustee of the college and underwrites the breakfast in memory of his father.

Elrod emphasized his administration will be leaning toward the churches in every area of the school's life. He noted Georgetown's enrolment this semester has shown a 10% increase over last year.

Cumberland College also held a breakfast for alumni and friends Nov. 15. Leon Simpson, director of ministerial training at the college, presided. Over 100 persons attended.

Following the meal, J. M. Boswell, Cumberland president, expressed appreciation to the group present and all friends of the school for what Cumberland has been able to do. He expressed his delight with the fact that 1700 students enrolled in on-campus programs this semester.

Boswell noted Cumberland had provided \$3 million in student aid, "offering educational opportunities to people who might not otherwise be able to attend college."

Annuitants honor 17

The annual fellowship luncheon for the Kentucky annuitants was held Nov. 14 at Gabe's Restaurant, Owensboro.

Leo T. Crismon of Louisville presided and Franklin Owen, executive-secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, brought greetings.

Thirty-six annuitants retiring within the year were recognized. T. Hicks Shelton of Paducah led a memorial for 17 annuitants who had died within the year.

Members of the Kentucky Baptist Reserve committee for 1979 were introduced to the gathering. They include: J. D. Herndon, A. L. Meacham, T. Hicks Shelton and I. L. Baughn.

Brown pushes 79-82 drive for Bold Missions Thrust

"If it is to be, it's up to me," challenged Jay Brown, director of evangelism for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, quoting the Bold Mission objective of Warren Hultgren, Tulsa, Okla.

Brown hinged the ultimate success of Bold Mission on the individual commitment and personal thrust in faith and witness.

In his comprehensive outline of the state's Bold Mission plans, Brown recommended goals and objectives for 1979-1982 for the convention's adoption.

He also proposed a series of regional and associational meetings in the coming year to "inform, inspire and train" all churches to participate in this emphasis in a greater way.

Characterizing Bold Mission Thrust as "evangelization and congregationalization," Brown urged his listeners to give every person in Kentucky an opportunity to "express, renew and share" his faith in the coming years.

At left, little Candy Wallace of Columbus, Ky., enjoys a balloon she received when she attended the departmental fair during the Kentucky Baptist Convention at Owensboro.



Cox



Mrs. Drumel



Mrs. Flanagan



Hancock



Miss Harris



Oldham



Miss Rothwell



Webb

Sue down, hospitalized

Sue Owen, wife of state executive secretary-treasurer Franklin Owen, suffered injury when she fell in a restaurant while attending the Kentucky Baptist Convention last week.

Mrs. Owen tripped on three steps descending to the dining room of the Owensboro Motor Inn and fell headlong to the floor. A compression fracture of the second lumbar vertebra resulted.

She was hospitalized at Owensboro-Daviess County Hospital. At present it is not clear how long it will be before she will be moved.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Owen expressed gratitude that apparently there has been no nerve damage and no permanent damage. They also related their appreciation for the prayers and concern of many.

Wives see 'way we were'

"The Way We Were and What We Can Be" was theme of the Kentucky Baptist Ministers' Wives Fellowship banquet Nov. 14 at Third Baptist Church. The event was sponsored by Kentucky Ministers' Wives Fellowship and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

Tables were decorated with kerosene lamps and arrangements of dried flowers. Hostesses wore old fashioned dresses and bonnets.

Ministers' wives of Daviess-McLean Association offered a booklet of favorite recipes to guests. Entertainment was provided by Gaye Matthews, First Church, Owensboro and the Son Shine Puppets, Third Church, Owensboro.

Officers for 1978-79 were presented. They include: Mrs. Pat Wood, Paducah, president; Mrs. Jackie Griffin, Louisville, vice president; Mrs. Elaine Armstrong, Beaver Dam, program chairman; Mrs. Nancy Perkins, Williamsburg, secretary-treasurer.

Mrs. Homer Joiner, homemaker from Columbiana, Ala., addressed the Ministers' Wives Fellowship. Mrs. Lena Romans of Mt. Washington presided.



New officers of the Kentucky Ministers' Wives Fellowship include, seated (l) Mrs. Pat Wood, Paducah, president; Mrs. Nancy Perkins, Williamsburg, secretary; and standing, Mrs. Elaine Armstrong, Beaver Dam, program chairman.

Meet the press: Western Recorder's eyes, ears were all over last week's convention

Western Recorder's convention issue coverage took a giant leap forward this year by utilizing the resources and talents of a team of volunteer staff reporters. These men and women pooled their efforts to be everywhere Baptist news was being made last week in Owensboro. We are pleased to introduce them to you. —Editor

The 1979 WR press staff included, in addition to the editor: James H. Cox, associate editor and press cov-

erage coordinator; Mrs. Mary-Ann Drumel, Philpot, Ky., freelance writer; Mrs. Virginia Flanagan, director of public relations, Campbellsville College; Gregory Lee Hancock, pastor, Stanford Baptist Church; Deborah Jean Harris, director of public relations, Missouri Baptist Children's Homes, Bridgeton, Mo.; Robin Oldham, coordinator of communications, Georgetown College; Gail Lynn Rothwell, journalism intern, Western Recorder; and Bill Webb, journalism intern, Western Recorder.

In having fun, can one stay too long at a fair?

Displays brought to the convention by the various departments of the Kentucky Baptist Convention provided a festive departmental fair this year.

As the fair opened its doors Tuesday afternoon calliope music drifted down from the third floor displays and filled First Baptist Church's educational complex. Conventioneers jammed the hallways waiting their turn to observe the displays and, in some cases, test their skills.

Royal Ambassadors staffed a shooting gallery on the theme "Hit the Target for Missions." In the bulls eye of one target was a picture of Frank Owen, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Two other targets bore pictures of Home and Foreign Mission Board employees. Another display featured a gold tee where convention-goers could "Make a Hole in One for Bold Missions."

Woman's Missionary Union had its own "Jasper in a Box" where executive director Kathryn Jasper sold kisses for a dollar, promising all proceeds to go to missions.

Celia Perry of the WMU staff helped interested observers play a "Tic-tac-toe for Missions" game.

Clowns were present in the hallways outside the fair and distributed such favors as ballpoint pens and helium filled balloons. A Bold Missions update film was shown in one exhibit. The Direct Missions Department demonstrated a transcriber for deaf persons.

For missionary, a 1st Kentucky convention

This was May Sue Meuth's first Kentucky Baptist Convention.

It's not that she is not interested—she's just out of town a lot. In fact, she is away more than in her home town of Henderson.

Miss Meuth is home on furlough from her administrative position at Baptist headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia where she has served 22 years.

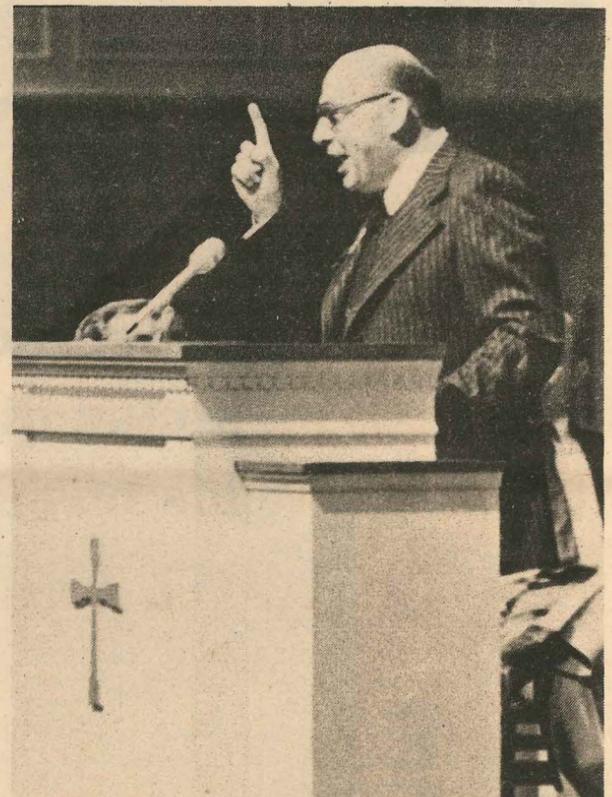
At Owensboro she "personed" (not "manned"—"every time I come home, I need a new vocabulary") the foreign mission booth during the convention.

Her impressions of our state meeting were favorable.

"I am impressed by the large number of Baptists attending the convention," she said. Although she was unable to sit in on many of the sessions due to her display responsibilities, she enjoyed the men's chorale very much. "We don't have mass singing like that in Indonesia," she commented.

On this furlough she is more encouraged by the mission interest and awareness in the local churches. However, she stressed the importance of mission education and awareness of our Baptist heritage among our young people.

"The missionaries of tomorrow are being nurtured in the G. A. and R. A. and Acteen groups of today. Who will carry on if we don't teach them here at home?" she asked.



One way—up? Convention president John W. Kruschwitz of Ft. Thomas makes a point before convention messengers.

Thanks, hunger, racing, alcohol: 'safe' issues approved by messengers

Four resolutions were adopted by Kentucky Baptists in their 141st annual session last week in Owensboro.

All are considered non-controversial and were readily accepted by the body.

The first expressed appreciation to local hosts and to the leadership of the convention.

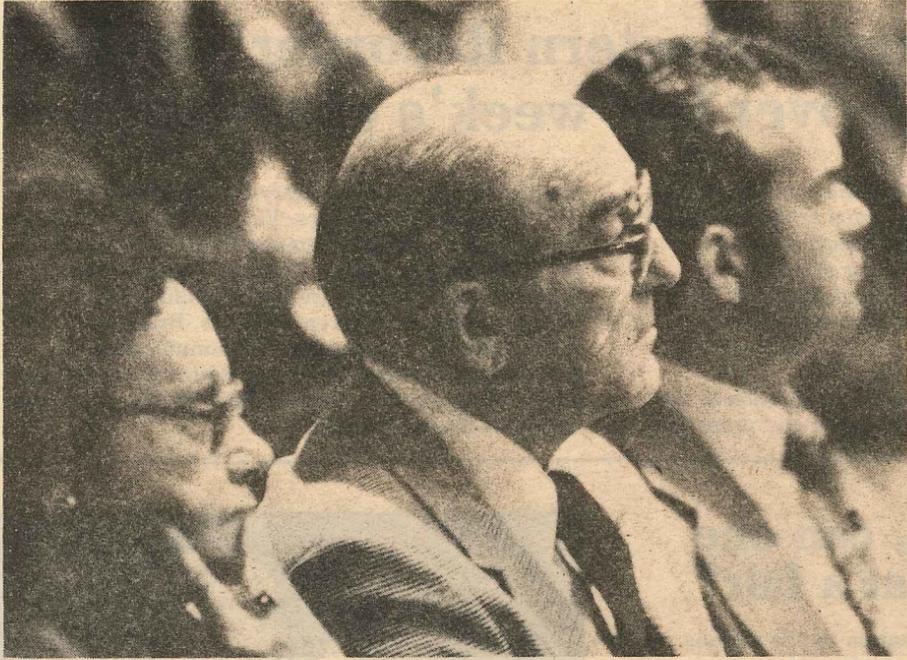
A second resolution requested the executive board to organize its missions committee to include a permanent subcommittee on world hunger. The objective is to make Kentucky Baptists more aware of conditions, causes and solutions of this social problem.

Another resolution requested that the state racing commission deny any future attempts to institute Sunday racing. A letter concerning the action was to be sent to the chairman of the commission and to the governor.

Finally, Kentucky Baptists expressed their opposition to the sale and use of alcoholic beverages at any of the Kentucky state parks. A letter concerning this action was to be sent to the state attorney general and to the governor.

The resolutions committee included J. Altus Newell, Louisville, chairman; Sidney Maddox, Paducah; David Bratcher, Henderson; and Henry Huff, Louisville.

... of leadership

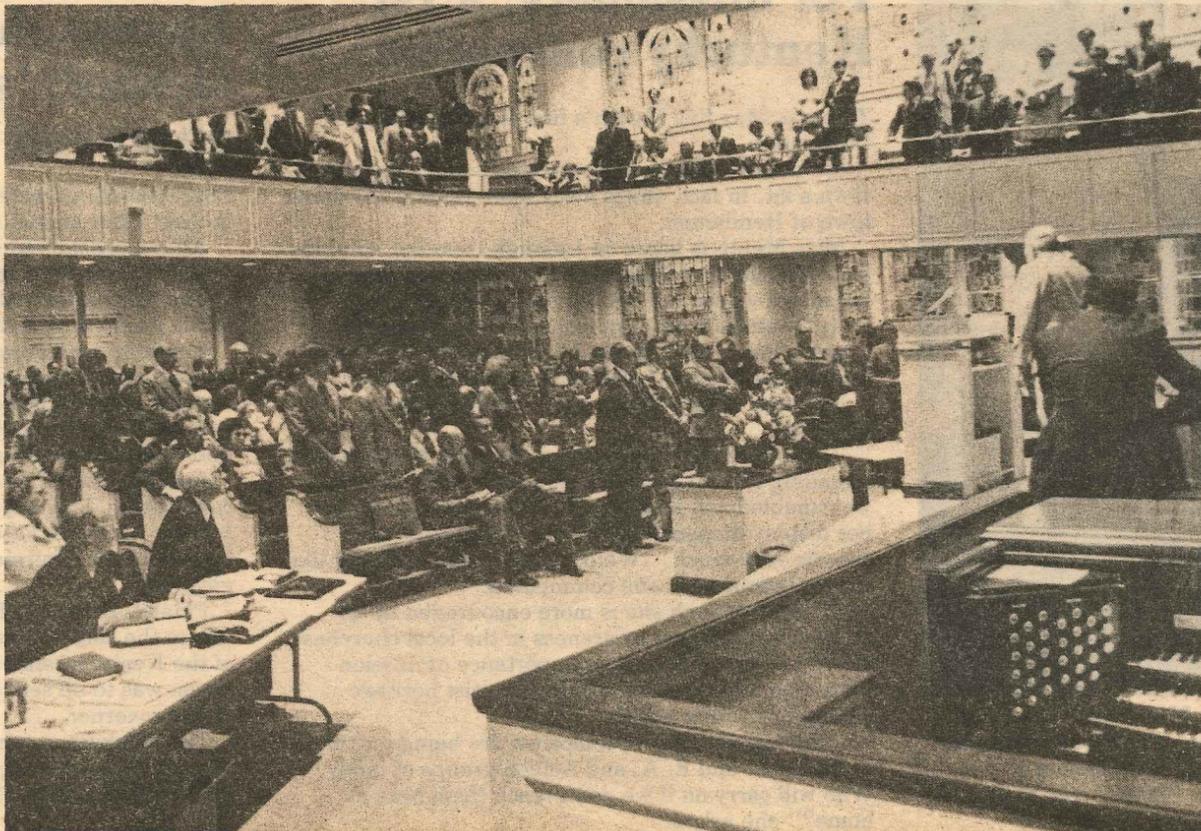


**Seest thou
a man diligent in
his business?**

Proverbs 22:29a



voting . . .

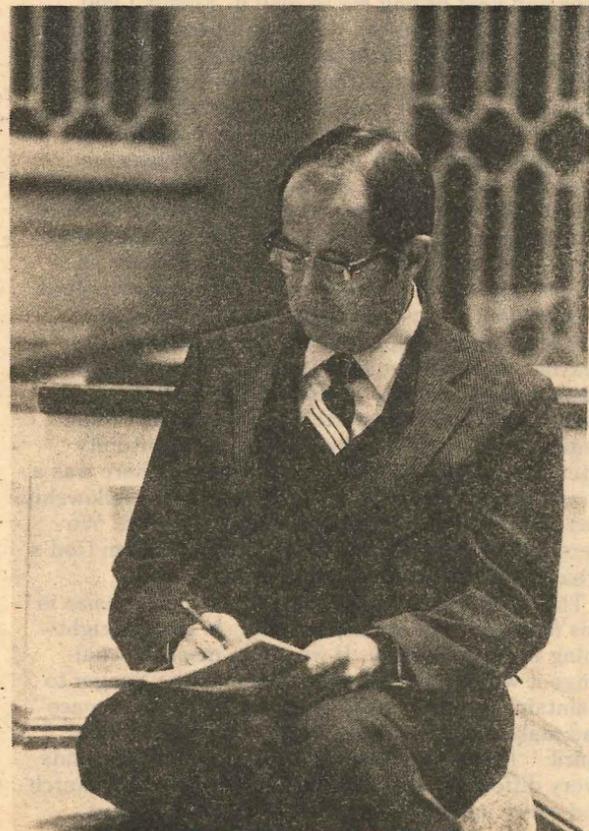
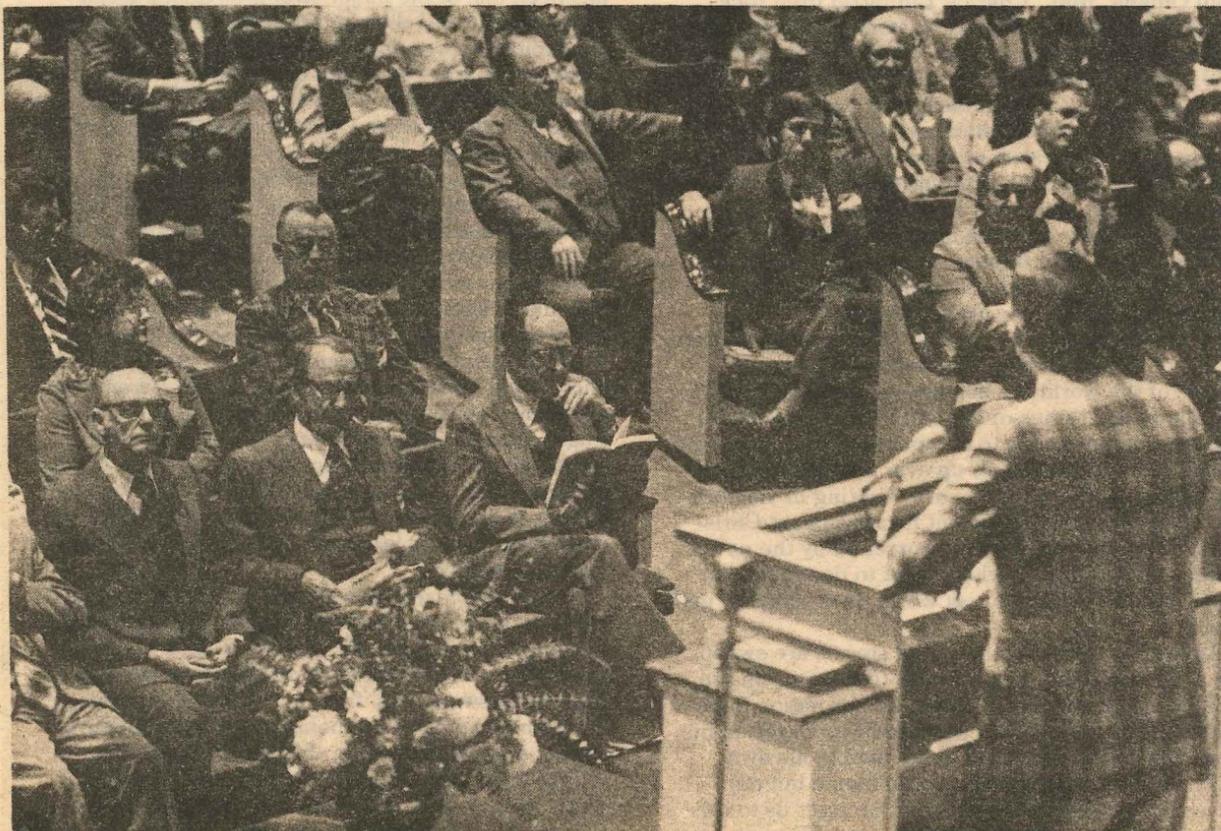




discussion . . .



consideration . . .





Bratcher



Owen



Bunch



Elrod



Kruschwitz



Paschall



Stewart

Conventioners hear 'bold' messages

Franklin Owen
KBC executive secretary

Are we on a pinnacle and already tilted slightly toward the downhill of the other side? Or have we reached a plateau from whose heights we shall have proved to have stalled only for consolidation and regrouping to rise on to greater heights.

Those of us in denominational positions are embarrassed and even frightened to go about urging you to adopt such tall goals in any of the categories of Bold Mission Thrust lest you call us "fools" for Christ's sake, foolhardy, unrealistic.

Yet, may I remind you that the program isn't a bit different in scope and maybe less in proportion than the day Jesus said to his little handful of disciples standing before the whole world, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations. . . ."

David T. Bunch
HMB Mission Service Corps director

God takes the initiative to give victory. Like in the days of Gideon, God is taking the initiative to bring victory to his proclaimed word.

Spiritually sensitive leaders can capture God's methods to accomplish great victories when most consider defeat apparent.

In 1925, God gave to the Southern Baptist Convention a method of stewardship and finance for missions, evangelism and benevolence—it is called the Cooperative Program. In 1977 another new methodology of missionary endeavor was launched by the SBC . . . the Mission Service Corps.

I lay upon your hearts to do something—pray and give.

Ben Elrod
President, Georgetown College

A strong force is taking over America. That force is not an external enemy. The force is made up of millions of young people in our nation destined for positions of leadership in tomorrow's world.

I believe in the mission and the work of Baptist colleges and universities and I believe in their worth more than ever.

As a result of my life changing experience at a Christian college, I have dedicated my life and substance to institutions of higher learning that promote Christian truths without apology and which answer the needs of our souls as well as those of our brains.

As Baptists we should dare students to dedicate their intelligence and their goodness to the cause of Jesus Christ.

William A. Kruschwitz
FMB representative, Louisville

Christianity, by its very nature, is a missionary faith. Throughout the biblical record we find God seeking men and women through whom he can share his message of love and redemption with all mankind.

The pattern I observe as persons consider missions is very similar to the decision making process that many Christians use as they discover places of ministry.

It begins with an openness, a willingness which leads one on a pilgrimage of exploration. This exploration process may be lengthy but it ends with a time of affirmation which in retrospect we often refer to as God's will for our lives.

H. Franklin Paschall
Pastor, FBC, Nashville

There's never been a time in my life when emphasis on the local church was needed more than it is now. Any kind of mission program that bypasses the local church ought to be left alone.

If I were head of an agency of the Southern Baptist Convention I would get down on my knees, for the agencies are the servants of the local church.

The time has come for Southern Baptists to rearrange their priorities. This has to start in the local church. Let's take some things that aren't of paramount importance and reduce them in size. Some of our SBC agencies ought to be trimmed down as a starting point.

If we're serious about Bold Mission Thrust we're going to have to get on the cutting edge.

Don H. Stewart
Executive vp, New Orleans Seminary

You will be interested in knowing that over 8800 ministers are being trained currently in our six SBC seminaries. The growth rate has slowed and some of the enrolments show a slight decline.

We (all of us) are not doing as well as we should in "calling out the called" and in directing them to one of our six SBC seminaries to get the training they need for successful service.

Boldness is the quality so many are lacking in their efforts at sharing their faith in an effective witness. Boldness is often lacking because of an inadequacy in preparation. Men who can give a clear message are essential to the success of our bold mission effort.

Convention sermon:

by David Bratcher, Pastor, FBC, Henderson

Ephesians 4:1-16

The challenge of the Bold Mission Thrust on which we Southern Baptists have embarked has placed me somewhat in the position of Jeremiah for "there is in my heart as it were a burning fire." As the plans and the goals for bold missions were unfolded my imagination was fired and I began to catch the vision of what such an effort could mean. But the urgency did not fully dawn upon me until I had read a book entitled *The Light and the Glory*, written by Peter Marshall and David Manuel. My wife had read this book and kept urging me to read it. Finally I laid aside my science fiction "entertainment" reading and began to read *The Light and the Glory*. I could hardly lay it down. In it the authors pose the question, "Did God have a plan for America?" From the evidence which they set forth one is forced to conclude that God must have meant America to be the new promised land and her inhabitants to be a chosen people. But it was chilling to realize how far we have drifted from God's plan and how near we must be to the point of no return. Now the awful need for an awakening of God's people and a concentrated effort to proclaim the gospel began to make itself felt. The inspiration to boldly reach out in mission endeavors came when our association was given the opportunity to launch a bold mission project and my church voted to do its part. We, as a church, then began to reach out in other ways and opportunity after opportunity opened to us. Suddenly there was a new spirit of dedication in the church and a fellowship and oneness that we had never before known. We were united and excited. As we began to claim God's promises his blessings poured out upon us.

This brings me to the thing I want to emphasize in this message. The task ahead of us is almost frightening in its immensity. If we are to meet the challenge it will require all of us. We must be "eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" and make ourselves "one body" filled with "one Spirit." Indeed we must be bold enough to lay aside every difference and diversity and unite every church and every individual member in an all-out effort. Let me illustrate with what I would like to call a

modern parable. I once pulled an oar in an eight-oared whaleboat. The men who made up that crew had all the resources that were needed to drive that boat through the water. We had been physically trained until we were at the peak. We had been disciplined to work together as a crew. We had been given the necessary knowledge. But that crew was about the most diverse group of men that could have been gathered together. There was little Joe Begando from Pittsburgh, Kan. There was big Pete Marchetti from Omaha, Neb., Charles Talliferro from Richmond, Va., and Abe Bernstein from Brooklyn. There was an Irishman from Boston, a German from Louisville, a Frenchman from New Orleans and me. We were all different in nationality and background. But one stormy night that whaleboat was launched into raging seas on a rescue mission. With our own and other lives at stake all differences were put aside. We were one crew; we rowed as one man.

There is need for a rescue mission today and that need is urgent. We Baptists are divided and diverse when the challenge calls for unity. We have the resources but will we use them together?

Let's look first at the urgency. Our world is in the throes of violent change. Suddenly the have-not people of the world are demanding their share of the so-called good things of life and resorting to brutal and inhuman methods to obtain them. The hates and prejudices that have built up over centuries of discrimination and oppression are erupting in violence and even Christian lift violent hands against Christians. All of this upheaval is worsened by the power politics of the "isms" which want to dominate our world and are willing to risk world destruction to gain power.

America is beset by chaos and storms are sweeping across our land that threaten to drive us on the reefs of social anarchy. God set up our nation to be a light to the world, yet we seem to have forgotten his blessings and have turned every man to his own ways. And there is no one we can blame but ourselves. The communists have not brought us to this state and the morally decadent states of Europe have

not forced us to accept their philosophies. Instead the blight has spread from within and we ourselves have eagerly accepted the baals of materialism and physical self-satisfaction.

Perhaps the truest measure of the depths to which our society has fallen is the loss of moral soundness. Sexual promiscuity has become a way of life and we scramble to accommodate it through legalized abortions, permissive sex education, and even more effective birth preventatives. The family unit, which has been one of the major strengths of our social development, has disintegrated to the point that we are rapidly approaching a ratio of one divorce for every two marriages. Child abuse and the mental and physical abuse of one's mate seem to be increasing at a frightful rate. Parents have abdicated their positions of leadership and discipline and every member of the family is seeking for independence, as much and as soon as possible. Our youth have revolted and lash out at any authority or escape into the mindless self-destruction of drug abuse. And the index of our moral decay is our indifference to it. Pornography has insinuated itself into every facet of our lives and only a few ripples of protest have temporarily slowed it down. Corrupt personal and business practices that once would have been soundly denounced from every pulpit now elicit hardly any comment. And even the tragic spectacle of a president caught lying to the people and then attempting to cover up those lies by manipulating our trust in the office has by now been shrugged off with the fatalistic comment, "What can one expect from politicians?" Even major scandals fail to scandalize.

I could go on and on with this recital for the list of sin is endless. Let sum it up by pointing out that God has begun to withdraw his blessings and we are floundering in a morass of problems that seem to have no answers even from our vaunted technology. I do not believe that I am being overly pessimistic or simply a prophet of doom. Instead I believe I am telling it like it is. That a Bold Mission Thrust is of vital urgency. It is later than we think. The storms are
Continued on Page 11

Bold oneness in bold missions

Convention Statistics

Presidential Appointments

The following chairmen of committees of the convention were named by newly-elected KBC president T. Hicks Shelton:

Committee on Order of Business—William J. Sullivan, Louisville

Committee on Credentials—William L. Tichenor, Princeton

Committee on Arrangements—James B. Lewis, Louisville

Committee on Resolutions—David Bratcher, Henderson

Committee on Public Affairs—Carl Fields, Georgetown

Committee on Obituaries—Bob Durham, Owensboro

Committee on Constitution and By-Laws—Bob Wallace, Paris

Committee on Nominations—W. D. Jagers,ynthiana

Committee on Committees—T. A. Thacker, Louisville

The following chairmen of committees to report in 1979 were named:

Cooperative Program—James K. Pierce, Lexington

Home Missions—William Kaufman, Louisville

Foreign Missions—Bob Jones, Lawrenceburg

Conventionwide Education—William K. Simmons, Lexington

Radio and Television—Grady Baskin, Greenville

Board of Child Care

Terms Ending 1979:

*Mrs. Frances Estes, LaGrange

Term Ending 1980:

Terrance Freeman, Glendale

Term Ending 1981:

David Perkins, Williamsburg

Terms Ending 1982:

Archie Allison, Owensboro

Ronald H. Bradley, Waddy

Donald P. Garrison, Henderson

*Mrs. Leslie Langley, Elizabethtown

E. F. Perry, Louisville

Georgetown College

Terms Ending 1982:

*H. C. Francis, Prestonsburg

*Carroll Hubbard Jr., Mayfield

*Curtis McCoy Jr., Madisonville

*W. Vincent Pierce, Ft. Thomas

*Ira Porter, Louisville

*William Snowden, Winchester

Lloyd Stoment, Louisville

*Laurel True, Frankfort

Campbellsville College

Terms Ending 1980:

William Holladay, Centertown

*William Parman, Lebanon

Terms Ending 1982:

LaVerne Butler, Louisville

*Kenneth Curry, Brandenburg

Albert Gisler, Danville

*Willie Greer, London

*Herbert Keeton, Campbellsville

*James L. Noe, Campbellsville

*Forest Shely, Campbellsville

*Mrs. J. Ed Weller, Hodgenville

*Charles Gray, Cole Spring

Cumberland College

Terms Ending 1982:

*Sam Ballou, Corbin

*Charles Barnes, Louisville

*Charles Buhl, Williamsburg

*Charles Osborne, Corbin

Term Ending 1980:

*Charles Freeman, Williamsburg

Clear Creek Baptist School

Terms Ending 1980:

Herbert Jukes, Hazard

Terms Ending 1981:

J. William Hall, Danville

*Harry M. Hoe, Middlesboro

Herschel Jennings, Arlington

*R. O. Johnson, Lancaster

*Curtis Phipps, Georgetown

*Mrs. Cecil Yeary, London

Oneida Baptist Institute

Terms Ending 1982:

*John Baird, Danville

*Squire Baker, Manchester

*Saul Goins, Manchester

Bill Messer, Lawrenceburg

Historical Commission

Terms Ending 1981:

Larry Smith, Louisville

Ira V. (Jack) Birdwhistell, Drakesboro

Bruce Wills, Wickliffe

Baptist Hospitals Inc.

Terms Ending 1982:

*Roy Keith, Elizabethtown

*Carl Marquess, Paducah

*C H Richardson Jr., Louisville

*Gus Robertson Jr., Murray

*Robert Swope, Lexington

G. Allen West, Louisville

Temperance League of Kentucky

Terms Ending 1981:

*Daniel S. Crawley III, Stamping Ground

E. C. Dockery, Morgantown

I. Houston Lanier, Lexington

Richard Oldham, Bowling Green

Eugene Reynolds, Catlettsburg

Term Ending 1979:

Representative from the Christian life group of missions committee of the board

Committee on Committees

Committee on Order of Business

Terms Ending 1980:

Rollin Burhans, Bowling Green

William J. Sullivan, Louisville

Committee on Credentials

Terms Ending 1980:

Verlin Kruschwitz, Elizabethtown

Malcolm Lunsford, Frankfort

Bill Whittaker, Murray

Term Ending 1979:

Earl Shoemaker, Paducah

Committee on Arrangements

Terms Ending 1980:

Tallant, Francis, Bowling Green

Bob Young, Louisville

Committee on Resolutions

Terms Ending 1980:

John Kruschwitz, Ft. Thomas

Eldred Taylor, Somerset

Committee on Public Affairs

Terms Ending 1980:

Billy G. Hurt, Frankfort

Ted Sisk, Lexington

Committee on Obituaries

Terms Ending 1980:

North Central Region:

R. T. Daugherty, Williamstown

Northeastern Region

Robert Reynolds, Inez

South Central Region

Austin Roberts, Danville

Southwestern Region

J. David Clapp, Fulton

Terms Ending 1979:

Western Region

Bob Durham, Owensboro

Central Region

Harold Mauney, Taylorsville

Committee on Constitution and By-Laws

Terms Ending 1981:

*Badgett Dillard, Louisville

Sid Maddox, Paducah

David Nelson, Owensboro

Committee on Nominations

North Central Region

Bill Jagers,ynthiana

Northeastern Region

Robert Simpkins, Forest Hills

John M. Sykes, Ashland

Southeastern Region

Maurice Barnes, Manchester

Andy Reese, Barbourville

Southern Region

Hollie Miller, Munfordville

South Central Region

George Price, Greensburg

Southwestern Region

Wayne Newby, Hopkinsville

Western Region

Harold Skaggs, Calhoun

Jeff Day, Seebree

Central Region

Billy Marcum, Brandenburg

Dallas Vincent, Louisville

Special Reports

Cooperative Program

Person to report—James K. Pierce, Lexington

Alternate—Wyman Copass, Paducah

Home Missions

Person to report—William Kaufman, Louisville

Alternate—T. A. Prickett, Owensboro

Foreign Missions

Person to report—Bob Jones, Lawrenceburg

Alternate—Joe Bill Brown, Cumberland

Conventionwide Education

Person to report—William K. Simmons, Lexington

Alternate—Bill Ray, Elizabethtown

Radio and Television

Person to report—Grady Baskin, Greenville

Alternate—Ray Cummins, Corbin

Committee on Nominations

Preacher of Annual Sermon for 1979—Billy Hurt, Frankfort

Alternate Preacher—William J. Sullivan, Louisville

State Executive Board

Association; Nominee; Term Ends

Bracken; Charles Hedrick, Maysville, 1981

Christian County; John Christian, Hopkinsville; 1981

James H. Stewart, Hopkinsville; 1980

Crittenden; Harold Jones, Dry Ridge; 1980

Daviess-McLean; Bill Gray, Owensboro; 1981

Don Bratcher, Owensboro; 1979

East Lynn; Farrell Isenberg, Magnolia; 1981

East Union; Lonnie Riley, Williamsburg, 1980

Edmonson; L. G. Brown, Brownsbille; 1981

Elkhorn; Mrs. Catherine Kuhnle, Lexington; 1981

Darrell Cruse, Georgetown; 1981

Jerome Brown, Lexington; 1981

Enterprise; Hobert N. Reynolds, Inez; 1981

Franklin; Gerard Howell, Frankfort; 1981

*Stanley Salchli, Frankfort; 1981

Freedom; Ernest M. Harris, Albany; 1981

Fulton; G. W. Moon, Crutchfield; 1981

Gaspar River; *R. Forest Taylor, Morgantown; 1981

Goshen; Jim Fulkerson, Big Clifty; 1981

Graves County; William O. Gamblin, Melber; 1981

Green Valley; *Russell Hibbs, Henderson; 1981

Henry County; *Ollie Stivers, Pleasureville; 1981

Irvine; H. B. Edwards, Manchester; 1981

Jackson County; No nominee; 1980

Laurel River; Donald J. LaBelle, London; 1981

Liberty; Larry Doyle, Glasgow; 1981

Claud McCubbin, Hardyville; 1979

Lincoln County; W. Elmore Ray, Elizabethtown; 1981

Little Bethel; *Thomas C. Arnold, Madisonville; 1981

Daniel Knight, Madisonville; 1981

Long Run; Edward Boyd, Louisville; 1981

T. A. Thacker, Louisville; 1981

Thomas Caudill, Fern Creek; 1981

T. Howell Upchurch, Valley Station; 1981

*P. A. Stevens, Louisville; 1981

Roy Carlton, Middletown; 1980

Lynn Camp; Carl Evans, Corbin; 1981

Mercer; Arnold Moon, Harrodsburg; 1981

Mt. Zion; *J. W. Jones, Corbin; 1981

Nelson; Bill Owens, Bloomfield; 1981

Pastors enjoy pews-eye-view

Pastors often complain that they rarely get to hear other preachers preach. But the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference was the exception to the rule last week at Owensboro's First Baptist Church.

Within a space of 20 hours, pastors listened to seven sermons, three pastoral pep talks, two testimonies and ample special music.

In virtually the only business conducted during the three-session conference, they elected new officers for the coming year.

Bill Whittaker, pastor of First Baptist Church, Murray, was named president; Richard DeBell, pastor of Harlan (Ky.) Baptist Church, vice president; and Jerry Traylor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Olive Hill, secretary-treasurer. All three were elected by acclamation.

Pastors examined their own roles under the theme "Laborers Together." The session themes were "A Pastor Among People," "A Leader Among Leaders" and "A Minister Among Ministers."

In his message, "A Pastor Looks at People," T. A. Prickett, Owensboro, assured pastors, "What the people want to hear from us—whether they be in a rescue mission on skid row or in a stately church—is not our theology, not our philosophy, but Jesus Christ."

Prickett urged pastors to get out among the people, have compassion on them then get personally involved with them.

Charles Chandler, Urbana, Ill., in his message "A Pastor Lives with People," called for pastors to know themselves and be willing for others to see them (pastors) as they are.

"We can expose our problems and still be accepted," he said. "This also means accepting people as they are."

Speaking on "A Pastor Loves People," Bill Mackey, Whitesburg, reminded, "Our purpose is that the love of God might be shared with people. God loves them through us."

During the same session, Calvin Wilkins, Murray, shared his testimony about six mission trips to Jamaica and three to Trinidad.

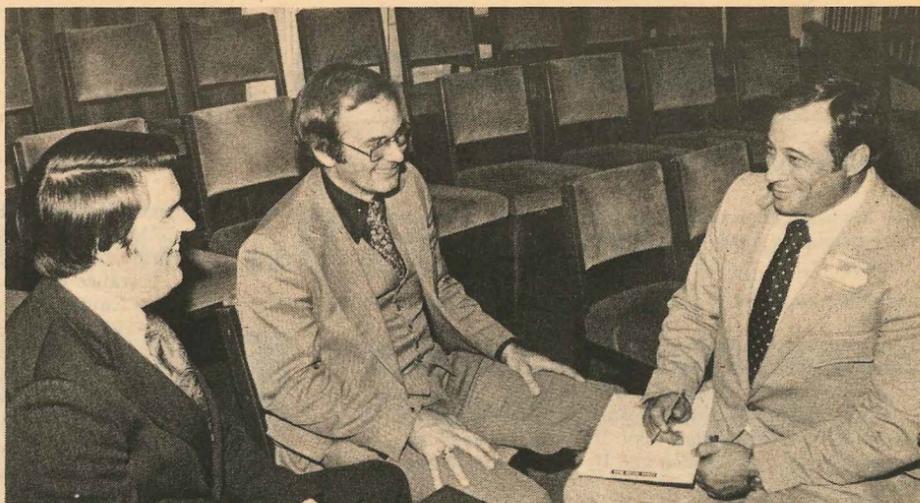
In the second session Monday evening, Jerry Oakley, Springfield, Tenn., in "God's Man Up Front," advised, "We have to be more than a one-man show. We have to be a supplement but not a substitute."

"A pastor must know God's will for his congregation and communicate that will to the congregation."

A. B. Colvin, KBC assistant to the executive secretary, offered the apostle Paul as an example in his message "The Mantle of Leadership."

The audience was silent as he quoted the full text of Paul's moving farewell message to the elders of the church at Ephesus, then preached an expository sermon on the passage.

David Book, associate in the KBC Student Department, assured the messengers, "Your investment in student missions returns big dividends."



These smiling pastors were elected to positions in the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference last week preceding the Kentucky Baptist Convention. They are (l-r) Bill Whittaker, pastor, First Baptist Church, Murray, president; Richard DeBell, pastor, Harlan Baptist Church, vice president; and Jerry Traylor, pastor, First Baptist Church, Olive Hill, secretary-treasurer.

Book shared his involvement in student work as a college student in Kentucky; his opportunity in short term missions in Los Angeles, Indonesia and Appalachia; his past eight years in Kentucky student work; and his recent appointment as a Home Mission Board missionary in Lake Placid, N. Y.

Book led a student team in Lake Placid last summer while on sabbatical and will return as a pastor-minister there to "discover and grow a church," conduct a resort ministry, minister during the 1980 Olympics and coordinate Baptist student work on 10 campuses.

Bill Whittaker, addressing himself to "Partners in Ministry," told pastors in the Tuesday morning session, "It's not easy to be a minister of the gospel."

"We are partners together. We share in the koinonia of ministry. We should reach out to one another for support and encouragement. No one understands our problems like Jesus, but on this side of heaven I don't believe any-

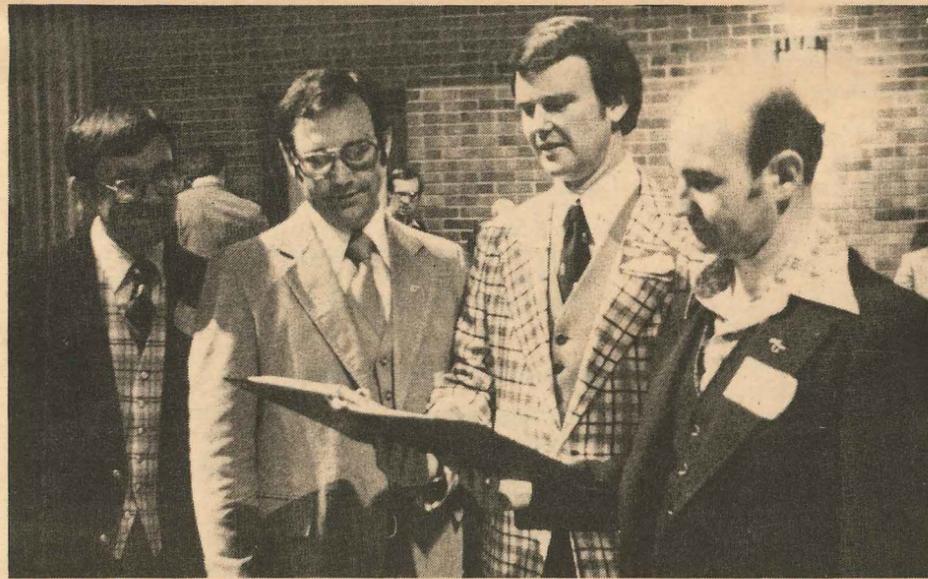
one understands like another minister."

Ernest Mosley, of the Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, spoke to ministers on success in the closing message.

"The chief criteria for success in the ministry is that which God is producing through the Holy Spirit and that which he has promised to produce: love, joy, peace, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, goodness and self-control."

Mosley also made brief presentations on other aspects of pastoral ministry in each of the three sessions.

Special music for the conference was provided by Raleigh Kincaid, minister of music and youth at Sterling; Mary Sue Webb, a graduate student at Morehead State University; Russ Hughes, music minister from Calvert City; the BSU choir from Murray State University; and the Kentucky Baptist Chorale. Jay Flippin and Larry Keenan were accompanists.



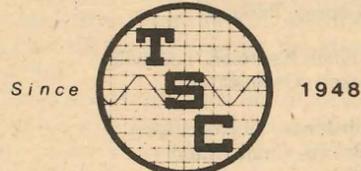
Kentucky Baptist Music Association officers elected last week were (l-r) Ken Hale, First Church, Lawrenceburg, vice president; Lee Webb, First Church, Richmond, president; J. Altus Newell, pastor of St. Matthews Church, Louisville, reelected pastor-advisor; and Bill Hart, South Elkhorn Church, Lexington, secretary-treasurer.

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Continued from Page 8
of destructive fury. The lines are drawn. We can meet the attacks of Satan only with closed ranks and a unity of purpose.

Are we together? To be realistic we need to look at our diversities before we count up our resources. I realize that because of our belief in the autonomy of the local church that we Baptists are as different as was the crew of that whaleboat. I believe strongly in that doctrine and am glad that we are not carbon copies of each other. It's alright to be different but to be divided by those differences is a sin against the "one God and Father of us all" who is above all and through all and is all." Faced by the urgency of our mission every church is needed, every resource must be utilized, every sinew strained, every sacrifice made if the healing gospel is to be proclaimed to all. Let me use an illustration from the days of World War II. I use military and war illustrations without apology because I believe that we as Christians are engaged in a war from which there can be no discharge, the all-out battle against the massed forces of evil.

At the height of the German submarine offensive against our ships in the Atlantic Ocean a huge convoy sailed from Maracaibo in Venezuela with every tanker filled to capacity with the oil that was so desperately needed to sustain our machines of war. It was vital that this convoy get through. The enemy learned of this effort and a submarine wolf pack was dispatched to intercept and fast raider vessels were ordered from their secret bases in the Caribbean. From the moment the convoy cleared the protected waters of the Gulf of Venezuela the crews of the escort vessels went on a watch-on, watch-off schedule instead of the routine one-on, two-off watches of normal sailing routine. Extra look-outs were posted, guns and depth charge racks were manned, radar and sonar probed continuously and either the captain or executive officer was always on the bridge. Under hours of continuous attack all hands stood to battle stations with few breaks. Naturally under military discipline there was no division among those crews as to the necessity for

their sacrificial effort. And I say to you that under the discipline of Christ there should be no division among his forces.

We cannot afford to let petty disputes over doctrine distract us from our mission. Jesus prayed that we might be one with the Father as he is. We cannot afford to sit in judgment on each other to the extent that fellowship is broken. Jesus said, "Go and make disciples," not "make converts to your opinions." When Jesus told Peter to "feed my sheep" he was saying, according to Oswald Chambers in his little book, *My Utmost for His Highest*, "Don't testify how much you love me, don't profess about the marvellous revelation you have had, but—'Feed my sheep.' And Jesus has some extraordinarily funny sheep, some bedraggled, dirty sheep, some awkward, butting sheep, some sheep that have gone astray. . . . The love of God pays no attention to the distinctions made by natural individuality. If I love my Lord I have no business to be guided by natural temperament; I have to feed his sheep. There is no relief and no release from this commission."

The prophet Amos asked a searching question: "Shall two walk together, except they have agreed?" (ASV) If we Baptists are to walk with God we must also walk together with each other. If we are truly covenant people, as we claim, those words, "We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love," must apply to churches as well as church members. We must be able to truthfully sing, "We are not divided, all one body we," in this Bold Mission Thrust. For only in oneness can the Holy Spirit place the resources of Heaven at our disposal. We are going to need all those resources if bold missions is to be any more than a dream in the hearts of a few.

We have resources. Baptist churches are no longer made up of the poor and underprivileged. All we have to do is to look at our buildings to realize that we have great material resources. And we have the physical and mental resources of a talented people. Every time I stand in my pulpit and scan the faces of my congre-

gation I am impressed by the array of talents and mental abilities that are embodied in that group. But we have even greater powers at our disposal. Peter Marshall and David Manuel pointed this out in the book previously referred to. Let me quote:

Christianity is a power religion. Christ has the power to re-create men from the inside out, as every man who has ever met him knows. And one of the early lessons a new Christian learns through experience is that the power of Christ is greater than the power of the enemy. When Jesus shed his blood on the Cross, he broke the back of Satan's power, then, now and forever. One of the ways God teaches a Christian this is by letting Satan harass him, to the point where he calls out to his Saviour—and discovers that, in the name of Jesus, he has authority over the greatest powers of hell!

Brothers and sisters, we have that authority! We have that power if we will but claim it! Bold Mission Thrust can be another great awakening with its tremendous outpouring of the Holy Spirit if we will strive to be "one body through the cross" and if we will let the "one shepherd" lead us.

America can be turned back from the point of no return. God does not even require that the whole nation repent. It is enough if only the Christians, those who truly know him will do this.

If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chron. 7:14)

I truly believe that if Southern Baptists will unite themselves in Bold Missions that God will honor that commitment. God's promise is still available. His call to us has never been revoked.

Let me end this message with a challenge and a prayer. The challenge is to Kentucky Baptists to strain every sinew, make any sacrifice to make the vision of the Bold Mission Thrust an actuality. The prayer is that God will give Kentucky Baptists the grace to be boldly one in bold missions.

Sunday School Lessons H. C. Chiles

Lessons for Dec. 3, 1978

Life and Work Series

Continuing in prayer

Luke 11:5-13

Christ told of an embarrassed host who, with an awareness of need, had a friend to whom he could go, believing that he could and would help him. Approaching him, he was unselfish, specific and persistent in his asking. It was the need of another which caused him to ask. Intercession for the needs of others is the highest form of prayer. We should be persistent in prayer because God is moved by our persistence in asking.

"Keep on asking, and it shall be given to you. Keep on seeking, and you shall find. Keep on knocking, and it shall be opened unto you." Why should we be slow in claiming these wonderful promises?

God's infinite love is exemplified in his provision for his own. Since earthly parents can be trusted to give good gifts to their children, how much more so will our heavenly father care for his own!

International Series

The divine quest

Genesis 12:1-3

1. The plea. Gen. 12:1.

While Abraham was living in Ur, a summons came from God, pleading with him to get out of his native country and away from his kindred, and to go into a land which he had chosen for him. God wanted to get him away from his pagan forbears and their worship. The call of God is always away from a sinful manner of life.

2. The promises. Gen. 12:2-3.

God called Abraham to become the founder of a new nation through which he could work out his redemptive plan. God pledged himself to make of Abraham a great nation, bless him, make his name great, make him a world-wide blessing, bless those who blessed Abraham, curse any who cursed Abraham, and through him bless all the families on the earth. God's protecting care is guaranteed to all of his children who are engaged in doing his blessed will.

Hebrews 1:1-2

When Christ came to reveal God to men, they were so engrossed in their personal affairs and so occupied with their sins that they did not pay much attention to the will of God, as is true of far too many today.

Prayer is a duty which we owe to God, to others and to ourselves.

Luke 18:1-5

Christ spoke this parable for the purpose of teaching his followers "that men ought always to pray, and not to faint." He taught very clearly that earnest prayer should be the regular habit of every Christian. Christ said not to lose heart or to become discouraged and cease to pray.

Christ spoke about a corrupt judge who did not have any respect for God or man. A defenseless widow besought this judge to protect her from an adversary. Unconcerned about her, he ignored her repeated appeals. Convinced that she was right, she persisted. Her insistent pleas for justice finally exhausted the patience of the unjust judge, so he rendered a decision in her favor solely to get rid of the widow. If we will keep on prayer, God will answer our prayers and supply our needs.

Luke 15:4-10

God's grief over the backsliding of believers is mingled with his tender love which yearns for their return. Our Lord pictured a shepherd leaving his flock and searching for the one sheep which had strayed from the group until he found it and brought it back to the flock. He rejoiced over having recovered his sheep and invited his fellow-shepherds to rejoice with him. When a believer wanders from God he, too, will be pursued and restored, bringing great joy to God and the one who is restored.

A thrifty housewife had 10 pieces of silver, but lost one of them. She lighted a candle, swept the house and searched diligently until she found the lost piece of silver, then invited her neighbors to rejoice with her over its recovery.

The parable represents the word of God, used in searching for and finding the missing ones, and the need for our constant cleansing to rid us of that which limits the service of our Lord.

God rejoices when a sinner repents and believes on the Lord Jesus as his saviour. The angels, too, rejoice when sinners are saved. We rejoice when we have witnessed for Christ to the unsaved and then have the wonderful privilege of observing them become the children of God!

Frank Owen

Service motivation

As President Carter's appeal for cooperation in cutting down inflation (by limiting salary increases to seven percent) catches hold (we hope) the question of motivation for service is apt to come more clearly into focus. Those of us in vocations that purport to serve our fellow man are apt to come into clearer notice concerning the reasons we serve.

Much of the modern world serves purely from the money motive. Many people, even in human service vocations, appear to serve purely on the basis of whether and how much they are paid in money. What has become of higher motivation?

The rapid rise of inflation has somewhat had all of us frightened as to whether we had or could gain enough resources to subsist in such rising economy. The public mind, generally, has come to assume that we are on an automatic escalator that can go no way but up, so far as wages and salaries are concerned. Year after year the question comes, "How much will salaries be raised this year?"

If we could get inflation under control, the amount of such annual increase would be reduced or entirely omitted, in keeping with static prices and slower flow of funds. Could the people be made happy with this? How many would still contend over fractional percentages?

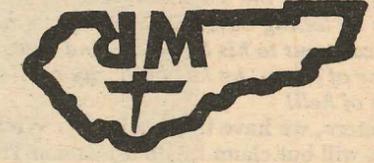
As the spotlight brightens on the motivation question of all who serve it will doubly shine on those of us in Christian service.

Such development should not hurt us or our cause. I suppose we all remember that we in the ministry are where we are out of a sense of divine calling, regardless of what we are paid, or even whether we get paid in worldly goods. Assuming, of course, that we can find some way to earn our bread and still perform that to which God has called us.

Maybe concerns for a frighteningly inflating economy and how to keep up with it has blurred our visions a little, lately, but not much. Any coming experiences that force us to look back to our reasons for life-dedication to Christian service will bring clearly into view again the same vision that we saw initially and have continued to see as we have tried to serve the cause of Christ because he called us.

CONVENTION ISSUE

Messengers among the rafters
at last week's
Kentucky Baptist Convention
meeting in Owensboro



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NOVEMBER 22, 1978

KBREA features Hendrix, Beal

One of the main objectives of the Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association meeting in Owensboro was to help religious educators get acquainted with the task of Bold Mission Thrust.

The main speakers were John D. Hendrix, program design and planning coordinator, Church Training Department; and Will Beal, consultant, Church Administration Department, both of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville. The main topics of discussion centered on relationships, becoming equippers of Bold Mission, equipping supervision and delegation and equipping disciples.

Hendrix, designer of Nexus material, spoke on the concepts and materials of the Equipping Center. "We tried to go back to the New Testament to see what it said about equipping," Hendrix stated that the new materials were trying to develop the idea of apprenticeship discipling.

"The ideal is to pick up with the equipping process the moment the person becomes a Christian. The Church Training Department has designed a 'Survival Kit' for new Christians, because the first few months are the most critical in a new Christian's life."

The survival kit, which should be available in April 1979, is a 50-day 10-minute-a-day study program. It can be done individually or in small groups. The kit contains follow-up material trying to help the new Christian interpret what has happened, how to relate to this new experience, why, etc.

One of Beal's main concerns was the area of delegation and bold mission. "The great task of bringing the gospel to everyone by the year 2000 can be accomplished . . . but not just by you and me, but through delegating the responsibility to volunteer leaders."

Beal emphasized that delegating responsibility is

not giving it to someone else but sharing and growing together.

Beal also spoke of the relationship of the equipper. He estimated 65 percent of the stress in relationships exist within the staff, not the congregations. He shared problems, ideas, feelings and gave some insights on handling staff relationships.

Webb leads music

Lee Webb, First Church, Richmond, was elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Music Association last week in Owensboro.

Ken Hale, First Church, Lawrenceburg, was elected vice president and Bill Hart, South Elkhorn Church, Lexington, became secretary-treasurer. J. Altus Newell, pastor of St. Matthews Church, Louisville, was reelected pastor-advisor.

The Kentucky Baptist Chorale, including members of the music association, sang during the pastor's conference and the opening session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Rudy Howard, retired minister of music, Murray, presented tenure pins to ministers of music serving in a Kentucky Baptist church for 5, 10 or 15 years consecutively.

Recipients of five-year tenure pins were Barry Blakeman, Sturgis; Hal Branson, Henderson; Allen Chamness, Henderson; Hunter Hensley, Lexington; Jerry Howerton, Louisville; Rolando Raganas, Campbellsville; Steve Shirk, Hopkinsville; Charles Wells, Covington; and Tony Whitfield, Paducah.

Jack Duvall, Greenville, received a 15-year tenure pin.



KBREA OFFICERS 1979

The Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association elected as its new officers Terry Hamrick (c), president, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Somerset; William Cromer, president-elect, professor of religious education, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Mrs. Sharla Stone, secretary-treasurer, coordinator of religious education, Beechmont Baptist Church, Louisville. The association voted to have its 1979 meeting at Southern Seminary and to admit college and seminary students for half of the regular membership fee.

