

Chenault



Richardson

## Annuity Board adds endowment section

Creation of a new department and the addition of a key staff member highlighted personnel changes at the Annuity Board, according to Darold H. Morgan, president.

B. J. Chenault, senior vice president and treasurer and director of finance and accounting, will become senior vice president and director of endowment Feb. 1.

Harold Richardson, senior assistant treasurer of the Foreign Mission Board, succeeds Chenault on Feb. 1. Richardson's title will be vice president and treasurer and director of finance and accounting.

The new department, approved by trustees in October, will acquire endowment resources from across the Southern Baptist Convention to undergird financially the protection programs offered by the Annuity Board. "We'll pursue wills, gift annuities, trusts, estates and other endowment sources," Chenault said. Contributions will undergird the payment of benefits reflecting extra earnings to annuitants, supplement relief programs and help defray medical costs of Southern Baptist retirees.

## Big year for FMB

A record 350 Southern Baptists became foreign missionaries in 1978—a gain of 25 percent over last year.

The new mark in missionary additions was set Dec. 12 as the Foreign Mission Board approved 23 persons for overseas service. Twenty-one of the December additions were new personnel and two were reappointees. Four others were also reappointed, but do not count in the 1978 total since they will begin serving Jan. 1, 1979.

The 1978 total set new records in three categories, including 181 career appointments, 36 missionary associates and 30 reappointments. The career total topped the previous record of 172 appointed in 1963.

Also included in the record total were 95 missionary journeymen, young college graduates commissioned for two years' service overseas, and eight special project workers, who serve one to two years assisting in overseas medical work.

The 94th mission field, the Caribbean island of St. Martin in the Leeward Islands, was added with the transfer of Mr. and Mrs. James G. Banks from Guadeloupe to begin the new work.

Another country, Burundi in eastern Africa, will be added Jan. 1 when Mr. and Mrs. Dale Gann are transferred from Tanzania. The total number of mission fields will remain at 94, however, since the Seychelles will be dropped at that same time.

## Keep those francs coming

A projected operating deficit of 200,000 Swiss francs (\$116,000) has been reduced by contributions to the Baptist Theological Seminary from unions, churches and individuals.

Combined with severe staff reductions and other economy measures, this means the seminary will end the current year with a balanced budget and is assured of remaining open.

"The response has been nothing short of astounding," seminary president Isam E. Ballenger told the school's new executive board at its initial meeting Dec. 8. Ballenger is a Southern Baptist missionary.

## Church Training on upswing

State church training directors believe a projected increase in enrolment across the Southern Baptist Convention heralds a new day for their work.

The estimated increase of 0.2 percent, or 3556 members, is the first increase since 1963. The statistics were compiled from the 1978 Uniform Church Letter by the board's Research Services Department.

"This was a great way to start the December meeting," said Val Prince, California's church training director. "My feeling is one of gratitude for this small increase, but I do believe it will continue. There is a new awareness throughout the Southern Baptist Convention of the need for discipleship training and the Church Training Department is meeting that need through their materials and programs."

"It is my strong conviction that church training is finally getting back on the track of following the proven paths of the past," said Bob Cook, Florida's church training director. "As Leroy Ford, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said, 'Church training did not die, we tried to club it to death with changes.'"

Robert Audd, Oklahoma's church training director, said that Oklahoma had an enrolment increase of 1034 in church training over last year.

"This 0.2 percent increase over the convention is a big boost to our program on the state, associational and local level," Audd said. "I believe that pastors are realizing that the churches need discipleship training and leadership training to develop and train effective church workers."

Roy T. Edgemon, church training director at the Sunday School Board, said the projected increase is the result of a renewed emphasis by pastors on the equipping of God's people.

"There is a renewed interest in discipleship and I believe pastors and church leaders are awakening to the fact that Southern Baptists are in a discipleship crisis," Edgemon said.

"Although the increase is small, I believe that it will continue to climb as pastors rise to the challenge of equipping all Christians for the work of the ministry."

## SBC baptisms on decline again

For the third consecutive year, statistical projections indicate a baptism decline in the nation's largest Protestant denomination.

Also, the rate of church membership growth in the Southern Baptist Convention showed the smallest increase in the past several decades.

The statistics, prepared by the Research Services Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, were detailed during the annual meeting of the evangelism directors of 34 state conventions affiliated with SBC.

The baptism and church membership projections were based on analysis of 17,361 Uniform Church Letters, the document Southern Baptist churches use to report such data as baptisms, church membership, giving, and enrolment and participation in church organizations. Final figures from the more than 35,000 churches will be available in February, according to Martin Bradley, manager of the board's research services. Bradley estimated that the figures

will be accurate within one percentage point.

Traditionally, baptism and church membership statistics have been indicators of denominational health and growth. According to projections, Southern Baptists will baptize 336,356 persons in the 1978 church year. That is a 2.7 percent decrease from 1977, the lowest in 27 years for the denomination, when 345,690 baptisms were reported, representing an 11 percent decline from the previous year.

In 1975, when the decline began, Southern Baptists reported 421,809 baptisms, and then 384,496 in 1976. The only baptism figure lower than 1977 and 1978 came in 1949, when Southern Baptists baptized 310,226 converts.

The projections indicate 13,200,948 Southern Baptists, an increase of only 0.9 percent over the 13,083,199 reported in 1977.

"We actually are gaining church membership," said Bradley, "But, our rate of growth is declining."

## WFU, Baptist tie jeopardized

Wake Forest University trustees, in unprecedented action, voted to remove the university from control of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

By a vote of 27-6, with two abstentions, the trustees deleted from the Wake Forest charter and bylaws clauses which gave the state convention the right to elect or fire trustees; removed the phrase which states they will operate "as an agency" of the convention; but stopped short of establishing a new procedure to elect trustees which now are elected from North Carolina Baptist churches by the convention.

The action came just 24 days after messengers of the Baptist state convention voted 1276 to 1048 to continue a study for a new relationship between WFU and the convention. Only a week earlier the chairman of the study group, Frank Campbell, said the group was "confident we can come up with a solution that will be satisfactory to Wake Forest and the majority of the convention that we can live with a long, long time."

A statement from James W. Mason, chairman of the board of trustees, said, "There is no arrogance in our conclusions, no impatience, but rather a carefully determined judgment that the board's autonomy must be clearly established before the convention and Wake Forest can appraise how they can best help one another. This has been done."

According to an earlier legal opinion the trustees have "no duty under the law to carry out any expressed directive made to them by the Baptist state convention, or its general board." The legal opinion said that in conflicts between the trustees and the

convention final authority "legally resides in trustees of the university and not the convention."

"The trustees now have the legal right to select their successors," said Mason, "but it is the clear intent of the board to work closely with the Council on Christian Higher Education of the convention, or other bodies which the convention may choose, in determining how new trustees will be selected and what criteria will be used."

According to a statement the trustees inserted into their charter they "shall endeavor to work in close harmony with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina and to promote its educational ministries."

At the September general board meeting Wake Forest president James Ralph Scales asked for "an affiliate" relationship with the convention rather than the current agency role. As an agency Wake Forest last year received \$815,000 from the convention and is scheduled to receive \$937,000 this year.

Convention president Mark Corts suggested those funds "could and should" be held in escrow "until the matter is finally resolved." He predicted a recommendation to that effect would be made at the general board meeting Jan. 30-31 in Raleigh.

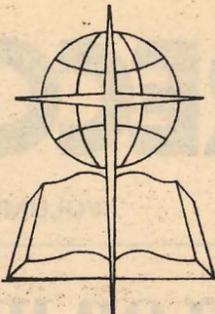
Mason told a Greensboro newspaper "We are determined to operate as a Christian university, hopefully with the Baptist state convention. But we won't knuckle under to economic blackmail."

The convention contribution is less than two percent of Wake Forest's \$58 million budget, but is matched in gifts by the Reynolds Foundation which are contingent on the Baptist affiliation.

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

**WESTERN RECORDER**

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C. R. Daley

## Daley Observations

### How will Southern Baptists be judged?

How will 21st century religious historians characterize Southern Baptists of the last quarter of the 20th century? Will it be said of us, "This was their finest hour," or, "This was the beginning of their demise as a prophetic witness?"

There is no doubt about it. Bold Mission Thrust is generating some enthusiasm and some zeal among Southern Baptists. But is it possible that some of the sources of our current enthusiasm have possibilities of leading to our demise as a truly spiritual force in American life?

By this I mean our newly acquired status as a religious group. In our own sight we are becoming, if we are not already, "the people of God" instead of "a people of God." We have succeeded and we humbly admit it by boasting that we are the largest evangelical group in America and second in membership only to the Roman Catholics who don't really count according to some Baptists.

The clearest example of this new and high status of Southern Baptists is their access to the White House. The habitation of the White House by fellow Baptist Jimmy Carter has given more visibility and status to Southern Baptists than anything in all our history.

And we have not failed to capitalize on it. Mission Service Corps, one of our most exciting Southern Baptist projects of this generation, was first suggested by the United States president. Its first plans were laid in a White House meeting of the president and Baptist leaders and its kick-off came with a video appearance of President Carter at the 1977 Southern Baptist Convention in Kansas City.

Baptists go to and from the White House with regularity. More Baptists have been entertained in the White House in the last two years than in the 100 years before Jimmy Carter became president. Southern Baptist leadership by the end of the Carter presidency will be divided into two groups, those who have been entertained in the White House and those who haven't and therefore are envious.

This is a new position for Baptists. Throughout our history we have been outsiders looking in, now we are insiders looking out. We have been suspicious of others mixing politics and religion, now we are being suspected of using the White House for religious gains.

To put it another way, we have been the leaven and not the lump. Now we are the lump and the question is whether there is enough leaven among us to leaven the whole lump.

This new visibility of Baptists is not to be scorned. It could help us greatly. On the other hand it could mar our image. This depends upon what others see as they look closely at us.

Do we appear to others to be really concerned for every person in this world for his or her sake or to be engaged in another denominational program to boost sagging statistics?

Do we appear to be interested in saving the souls of starving people while not concerned for their hungry bodies?

Considering Baptist emphases upon buildings, finances and social gatherings, have we developed a new Baptist trinity—buildings, budgets and bellies?

Do we demonstrate the lifestyle of Jesus Christ or are we as greedy and gluttonous as those who scoff at Jesus Christ?

Will we give money to send the gospel to the other side of the world but not walk across the street to witness to a neighbor?

The bottom line question is not will we give or will we go but do we really care? This whole suffering world is waiting for someone to love and care and that world begins next door and sometimes even in our own household.

If we really care, the world can be changed. If not, Southern Baptists and Bold Mission Thrust will be judged a failure. And historians will not say of us, "This was their finest hour," but "This was their fatal hour."

### A matter of necessity

It hurts but it has to be. Western Recorder subscription rates were raised by 50 cents beginning Jan. 1. It hurts because our goal is to have the state paper in every Baptist home in Kentucky and we don't want the price of it to hinder this goal.

We offer no apology for doing what has to be done. We do offer an explanation and plead for understanding. Our budget item for mailing Western Recorder in 1978 was \$37,000. Due to an unexpected raise in postage rates our actual mailing costs will be about \$55,000. Another postage increase is scheduled in 1979 which means more than \$55,000 will be required for this item. The 50 cents raise in subscription rates on the basis of present circulation will yield about \$25,000 additional income which will scarcely take care of more than postage increases. The cost increases in printing, paper stock, office supplies, utilities, etc., will have to be reckoned with also.

We believe pastors and church members will understand and will not drop Western Recorder because of this increase. We are encouraged because our last increase two years ago did not cause many cancellations. After all, everything else we have costs more and Western Recorder performs a service for Baptists which is not

available anywhere else.

At \$3.00 per family Western Recorder is one of the best bargains going. For churches which prepare and mail their own newsletters, Western Recorder can even be a money saver. We can combine Western Recorder with the church newsletter for only the cost of Western Recorder subscriptions plus \$6.00 a week and put it in the mailboxes of church members. The item in the present budget of many churches for the church mailout will more than pay for Western Recorder combined with the church news each week.

Give us a chance.

### Presenting your staff

Beginning on page 4 in this issue of Western Recorder and continuing for several weeks we will attempt to familiarize our readers with personnel of the Baptist Building staff in Middletown. It has been almost four years since this was last done. These short vignettes were prepared by staff writers James H. Cox, Gail Rothwell and Bill Webb. They are purposely brief but should acquaint all of us with those who have been called to service through the ministries of the KBC executive board, Woman's Missionary Union and Western Recorder.



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In the nineteenth century, children under our care were primarily in need of the basic necessities of life: food, clothing, and shelter. These things were provided, along with spiritual guidance. Now, the necessities of life are available to most children, and so they come to us with different needs.

Today's vulnerable children bear scars within. The kind of life-situation that placed those scars in the child's life can also lock that child into a life that is filled with fear and distrust of himself and others. This in turn brings on an attitude of failure. These are vulnerable children who are not able to cope with the demands of life.

Our Child Care Program is here by the grace of God to provide hope. The program is here to help these children overcome anger and distrust and to help them find meaning and purpose for their lives. This can be done best in a Christian atmosphere in which the ultimate goal is to help each child to be rightly related to God and His church.

Child care is the responsibility of every Christian. To love one's neighbor as one loves himself is to accept this fact. Certainly children in need and families in crisis are responsibilities of individual Christians. The Child Care Program of Kentucky Baptists is one resource which enables individual Christians to help fulfill their responsibility for loving others.

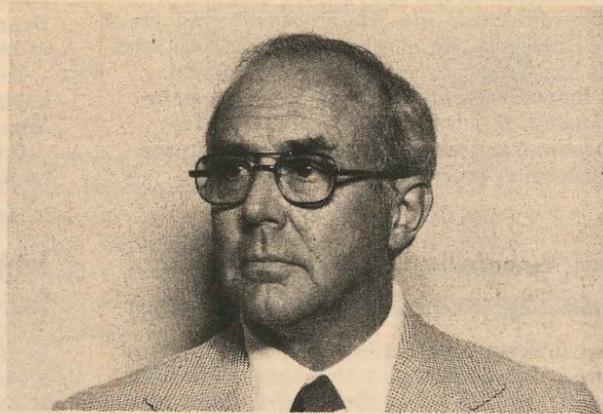
The financial demands of providing for hundreds of children every year are met by Kentucky Baptists and their friends. The need continues to be great, and many Baptists and their friends want to help carry on this vital ministry. Wills and bequests can be left in one of two ways.

First, they can be left, as most are, in the form of unrestricted gifts. These monies can be used as the Board sees best. Initially these monies are invested and the interest used until the need of the children calls for spending some of the original gifts.

The second method is by restricting the gift to permanent endowment. Hence, the principal is left intact permanently, and only the interest is available for use in the child care ministry.

All of us could leave at least 10% of our estate, whether large or small, to the Child Care Program. The savings in taxes would pay for much of the gift.

There are others of you — like those in the past — who can give greater amounts through your will. Just as you will live on as a child of God in the Kingdom of Heaven, so make plans for your material gain to live on in the name of and in the service of Christ on earth.



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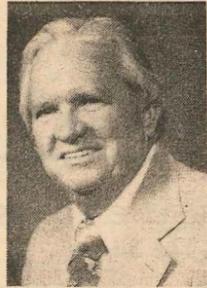
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# Presenting your Baptist Building staff



Halbrooks



Mrs. Phillips



Colvin



Ison



Randolph



Hays

## Halbrooks obsessed with work, but sets goals for the future

"Bible study is my obsession," state Sunday school director Fred E. Halbrooks confidently affirms.

"I believe everything in the church is dependent on the Sunday school, including Bible teaching, evangelism, stewardship, missions, training and ministries. To me, Sunday school is paramount in advancement of the kingdom of God," he avers.

One can't be around Fred Halbrooks long without sensing some of his enthusiasm for this work. He is convincing in his unqualified belief that "Sunday school must be the priority in Southern Baptist churches if they are to continue to grow numerically."

Even though he is challenged by his job, Halbrooks admits that the door is never closed for other adventures which offer opportunities for growth. He would like to continue as state Sunday school director until age 65 or 70, but he gets turned on by thoughts of being a college dean of students, a foundation executive or the pastor.

He's already identified nine personal goals for the future, among them to return to Brazil—where he and wife Hazel, who often leads preschool conferences across Kentucky—were Southern Baptist missionaries from 1955-73. "If not Brazil, then some other country to give a few more years to foreign mission work," Halbrooks adds.

Equally important is his desire to "improve and perfect my life and role as a husband and father." Fred and Hazel are parents of two sons, Bill, 30, and George, 27, both substitute teachers in the Jefferson County public school system.

A native of Decatur, Ala., Halbrooks is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, and Southern Seminary. He has served several Alabama pastorates.

"The future challenges me for something that can be done about it," he surmises. "I want to spend my time, resources and money preparing for the future that gets brighter every day."

## Travel, teaching combine to offer fascinating work for Gwen Phillips

"I'm here to help people realize the need for these organizations," Gwen Phillips acknowledges. "If I can accomplish that, then I've made a contribution."

Mrs. Phillips, Girls in Action and Mission Friends consultant for the state Woman's Missionary Union, reflected one day on her present assignment.

"I dearly love teaching leaders how they can be effective with children. I love to travel and to be personally involved with leaders as opposed to simply communicating through letters," she declares.

And travel she does! During the summer Mrs. Phillips is at Camp Cedar Crest at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly at least once each week for eight weeks. She directs two mother-daughter weekends there during the summer. She conducts camp for three full weeks at Jonathan Creek Assembly. She attends the state and Southern Baptist Convention meetings and annual WMU conventions of both groups. She's at national WMU headquarters for a week each January, and will return there for two additional weeks in 1979. Summers include a week at Ridgecrest, and last year, a week at Glorieta, too. She visits local churches helping with their program. And among her most favorite things is leading four fall weekend GA fairs across the state, which drew 1300 girls in 1978.

How does husband, Harold, whom Gwen married in May 1977, respond to all this travel? "He's learned to cook, to eat out or to get himself invited out," she laughs.

Harold and Gwen both are Nashvillians, although she was born in Memphis. She's a graduate of Carson-Newman College, taught fourth grade a year in Augusta, Ga., then went on to Southern Seminary for the MRE degree. She came to her present work upon seminary graduation in the spring of 1976.

Harold, meanwhile, is minister of education at Louisville's Deer Park Baptist Church. He, too, is a graduate of Southern Seminary.

## Colvin: office time, travel 'almost gets into two shifts'

"I average speaking at least five times a week, usually at night," A. B. Colvin reflects. "Most of my work is after working hours; it almost gets into two shifts."

Colvin is assistant to the executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and coordinates the state missions related departments, including direct missions, evangelism, stewardship and cooperative ministries.

He is also director of church-minister services—working with churches seeking pastors, and pastors seeking churches—and that's where much of the traveling comes in.

"The best help I can give people is to sit down and talk with the (pulpit) committee," he explains, "and help them get their wits about them. I come only on request of the church."

"The chief joy I have is being able to see the right man in the right place at the right time in a church situation. I see excitement when the right man is at the right place and the Lord is really using him."

Colvin, a pastor himself for 18 years, says he likes to hear about pastors who lead their people to be active.

"In direct missions, stewardship, evangelism and cooperative ministries, our goal is that we would do more and more mission work on a smaller part of the budget," he explains. "We encourage local units to assume more financial responsibility."

A graduate of University of Kentucky and Southern Seminary, Colvin joined the state convention staff in 1958 as director of the Missions and Evangelism Department, became director of the Direct Missions Department in 1965 and assumed his present position in 1974.

He is married to the former Irene Shearer. They have two daughters, Mrs. Richard Weller and Mrs. Max Carr; a grandson and a granddaughter.

Colvin should be a familiar face around the state; he figures he's been in half of the KBC churches.

## Ison wants enjoyable retirement for himself and others as well

Byrd Ison has the same goal for himself that he has for ministers, denominational workers and agency and institutional personnel in Kentucky.

"When it comes to retirement, I want to be able to retire gracefully and enjoy my remaining days with my wife, family and grandchildren," he says.

And as director of the Annuity Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, he wishes the same kind of retirement security for his fellow ministers in Kentucky.

"My goal is to enlist every one of our 2200-plus churches into as much of the annuity program as I possibly can and continue to upgrade and increase protection," he explains. The SBC Annuity Board also offers life and insurance coverage.

One of Ison's personal goals is "to take more seminary work. I want to keep abreast of conditions at the seminary and the lives of the students, since I have a great deal of contact with them and do a great deal of counseling with them."

He is uniquely prepared for his annuity position with a career in business and insurance, several years in associational work, a stint on the KBC executive board and 18 years in the pastorate.

Ison earned his BA degree from University of Kentucky and is working toward his MA degree in secondary education.

The U. S. Army veteran is married to the former Elnora Trimble, herself a graduate of Pikeville College. They have three daughters, Mrs. Marcia Jean Endicott, Mrs. Melanie Carol Hillock and Miss Elizabeth Anne Ison, and three grandchildren.

When he's not in his office or out in churches promoting the Annuity Board's programs, Ison enjoys hunting, fishing and collecting antique furniture.

A veteran of almost seven years as annuity director, Ison says, "I'm grateful for my opportunity to minister in this position."

## Randolph sees foundation as means of continued support

"I see one of my main functions as trying to acquaint as many Baptists as possible with the work of the foundation so they can see it as a means by which they can continue to support Baptist work even after their lifetime," states Grady Randolph, executive secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Randolph, who has been with the foundation for 10 years, has served in various pastorates in Nashville, Louisville and Harrisburg, Ill. He has also been superintendent of missions for Elkhorn Association.

The foundation operates under the supervision of a board of directors elected by the convention. The board reviews the work of the foundation monthly and supervises and approves all investments.

Giving through wills is the main source of funds the foundation receives.

Randolph states that the primary purpose of the foundation is to receive gifts for endowments, invest them, then distribute the income to the Baptist cause designated by the donor.

The foundation also does fund management for those Baptist institutions which request placement of funds.

Randolph sees the promotion of estate stewardship as an important function of the foundation. In conjunction with estate stewardship the foundation conducts will clinics, estate planning seminars and personal conferences.

For the first time in history the foundation has come near the eight million dollar mark in total assets and the yearly income has been the highest on record.

Randolph and his wife June attend Hurstbourne Baptist Church. They are parents of Wayne, 31, Memphis; Darlene, 29, Atlanta; and Mrs. Karen Woolum, 22, Lexington. He is a graduate of George Peabody College, Nashville, received his MDiv degree from Southern Seminary and has done graduate work.

In his spare time he is an avid golfer.

## Man-behind-the-scenes keeps convention going

Douglas Hays is one of the vital but little heard of parts of the ministry of the state convention. He began working with Kentucky Baptist Convention as an assistant accountant in March 1967. At that time the convention had no computers, no electronic calculators and the accounting system had no account numbers.

Hays assumed the responsibility for programming and operating the accounting machine which was purchased in 1968. He continued to work in this capacity until the present computer system was installed in 1975. In January 1978 he was reclassified as accountant and data processing supervisor.

Prior to the installation of the present computer system Hays was actively involved in researching, evaluating and planning to determine the type of system best suited for the convention. He created, designed, tested and implemented the over 100 programs currently in the convention library. In addition to this he designed the 400 accounts of the general ledger system.

Hays was born in Louisville in April 1933. He graduated from Louisville Male High School in 1951. His father suffered a heart attack which forced him to change his plans to attend Georgetown College. He began working for Citizens Fidelity Bank and Trust Company and attended University of Louisville at night and received his degree in accounting.

He has been chairman of deacons, treasurer, training union director and chairman of the finance committee at Hazelwood Baptist Church in Louisville.

In his spare time Hays plays the organ. He leaves Beechwood each Sunday morning to be organist of Portland Avenue Presbyterian Church, which he has done for 20 years. He is also a member of the Louisville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

His commitment to God and service makes him invaluable to the ministry of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

# How much does your church budget for its newsletter?

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**Oaklawn News**

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**DECEMBER CALENDAR**

1-2 Literacy Workshop - Versailles  
Executive Board - Trinity  
3 Diacon Conference - Reasematt  
7 T.A. Workshop - Porter Memorial  
12 Music ShopTalk - Levas' Restaurant  
23-26 Office Closed

**REFLECTIONS**

On Saturday evening, November 4, I assisted in the ordination of two deacons at Stonehill. I always enjoy worshiping with this church. Recognition Night for Royal Ambassadors is always a significant event in Elkhorn. Twelve churches participated with an attendance of 139. The dedication of those working in this program is an inspiration to us who believe in mission education for boys in our churches. November 10 at Russell Cave was a memorable event.

On Sunday, November 12, I visited the Russell Cave Baptist Church and heard Bill Amos, Executive Director of the Child Care program in Kentucky. Elkhorn churches have given strong support through the years to the Kentucky Child Care work. We pray the offering this year will exceed the goal.

At night I attended the evening services of Calvary Baptist Church. Reed Polk is pastor and we rejoice in the continued growth of this church in the inner-city. It was my privilege to attend the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Pastors Conference. My feeling about the convention reflects what many of you thought that Bold Mission is becoming our challenge as Kentucky Baptists. It needs to be more than a slogan or program. It must become the life-style of all of us. Every person we meet needs Christ and his church following.

Hicks Shelton was elected president of the convention. On Sunday evening November 19, we returned to Millville for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner. This has been for many years an outstanding event of the year. Garner Clark serves as pastor of this congregation and look back upon the years with appreciation for the opportunity God gave me to serve there.

May God's blessings upon the church be multiplied as they serve in this area of our Association.

—Harold

**Elkhorn Association**

Western Recorder - December 6, 1978

**DECEMBER CALENDAR**

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**Church Family**

**Special Announcements**

**Church Calendar**

**The Sower**  
Seeds for Thought

**COMMITTED TO CARE**

In a time when inflation is spiraling . . . when Bold Missions is compelling . . . and when plain old common sense, austerity and stewardship are called for, it makes sense to discover methods of extending the value of tithes and offerings to their fullest potential.

At Western Recorder, we've felt the unbelievable pinch of skyrocketing second class postal rates, just as every church affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention has. Our postage bill more than doubled in 1978. Our churches are laboring under similar burdens. Yet, we are still under a conviction that news from the churches, state and Southern Baptist Convention leads to a responsive, caring, giving, sharing constituency.

We think we've found a way to help us all in this cooperative enterprise. Western Recorder is now offering to piggyback local church news on the outside covers of its publication to provide church members with weekly news from many sources in one package.

The job can be done as economically as you wish. If the church secretary prepares copy on her typewriter and furnishes it to us in camera ready form, your only charge is the \$6.00 plate-changing fee our printer passes

on to us. If you prefer to have your page typeset rather than typewritten, you negotiate with a typesetter for the best deal you can find, give us your copy and still pay only the \$6.00 fee. No additional costs, except \$1.75 for each photo included. No more. Can you beat that price anywhere? Tell us if you can! We'd like to save our own churches more money, too!

Some other things you should know: 1) You don't have to add your entire membership to the mailing list to receive this service—only resident members or families. 2) You may run your material every week or sporadically—as you choose. You will be charged the \$6.00 just the weeks you run church news. 3) You may use one-half page or the whole page for your news. If you use the half page, you may specify which half you prefer.

Think of the time the church secretary will save in extensive preparation and mailing of the church newsletter! Think of the paper and printing savings! And think of the postal savings to your church because Western Recorder is absorbing your postal burden for you! If you don't have more to invest in missions and local church programs as a result, something is definitely wrong.

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for additional information

A representative will be happy to work with you so your church may begin saving money soon!

# A woman and her will

by James Harrell,  
as told to Orville Scott

We descended the stairs to the church auditorium, her right hand nestled gently in the crook of my elbow. Seated in the pew, waiting for the evening service to begin, I glanced through the pamphlet given to those at the session on estate planning during Church Training. It talked about preparing your wife to become a widow.

"I'm going to prepare a companion tract to this one and call it 'How To Prepare Your Husband To Become A Widower'," I told Elizabeth.

Neither of us could know then how much I needed the information in that unwritten tract. Before the next Sunday, she was dead. Suddenly I found myself classified a widower. No warning. No

time for preparation. It happened in the twinkling of an eye. But I am glad she had a valid and up-to-date will.

As I promote the traditional "Make Your Will Month" in January 1979 I speak from experience for the first time.

A woman needs a will because of her husband. If a husband faces the awful fact of his wife's death, he soon learns what "community property" is all about — and it's not necessarily bad. It simply means that he and his wife each own half of the assets accumulated during and as a result of their marriage. Perhaps you know that already. But you may assume that you will receive her assets at her death even if there is no will. This is not true. If you have children, they will inherit all her community property and most of her "separate property," which is property she owned

as the result of gifts or inheritance. If there are no children, the husband inherits all of her community property and a portion of her separate property.

In my case, I had been the only wage earner during the 30 years we were married. But she owned half of our property — and rightly so. We have four children, two of whom are married and no longer our dependents. The other two are college students living at home. To provide for them and to assure their education, I needed the total resources Elizabeth and I had. Without a will, her part of our assets would have been divided among the children, still I would have had the responsibility of the two dependents and their college training.

A woman needs a will because of her children. A mother wants the best for all her children. At the time of Elizabeth's death she wanted desperately that all her children have an opportunity for college. In her will she stipulated that even should I die also, her assets would be used to provide college for her children. Without a will, her property would have been divided four ways upon her death and the two youngest children may not have had the chance to complete college. Their mother did what she could in this respect.

A woman needs a will to conserve expenses. In her will Elizabeth provided that I be named the "independent executor," to serve without bond. This saved time and expense as I set about to carry out her wishes. The steps were to file the will with the probate court along with a formal request that I be named "independent executor." Later it took only a few minutes in court for me to be certified as the one to carry out her directions stated in her will.

Wisely she had provided a self-proving clause. This meant it wasn't necessary that I locate the witnesses to her signature and have them appear in court. Otherwise, that might have been necessary, even if they were long distances away, and it could have been quite expensive.

Since she had named me "independent executor," once I was properly cer-

tified and an inventory of her assets filed, my responsibility to the court ended. No bond was required. No additional trips to the courthouse. No accounting to the court after I carried out the provisions of her will.

With proper provisions in a will, the cost of probate is minimal. In my case, it involved a filing fee of \$35.00 and \$2.00 each for six Letters Testamentary (the documents issued by the court certifying me as the executor to carry out the provisions of the deceased).

An attorney's service is necessary to insure that everything is done properly and to transfer titles and certificates when necessary. In most cases the attorney's time will be only a few hours, and a reasonable fee would be expected.

The total cost, including the fee for drawing up the will, is usually greatly reduced when there is a will.

A woman needs a will to make gifts to Christian causes. Elizabeth wanted some of her assets to go into our Lord's work. She said so in her will. It was done. Without a will, I, nor any other person who might have been appointed by the court as administrator, could have given any part of her assets to any church or other Christian ministry. All of her property would have been distributed exactly as prescribed by law — to her legal heirs — without a will.

A woman needs a will to be assured that her property goes where she wants it to go. Elizabeth's concern, as expressed in her will, were the education of her children, the needs of her husband and support of the Lord's work. Since these desires were clearly stated in her will, I can live out my lifetime with the comforting knowledge that her assets were distributed exactly as she wished. I do not have to constantly face the question "Did I do with hers what she would have wanted?"

James Harrell is secretary of the Estate Stewardship Department, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas.

**A WOMAN and her WILL**

**MAKE YOUR WILL MONTH**

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# China may soon recognize Christians

Evangelistic efforts continue to thrive in a number of East Asian countries, and at least one observer predicts that Communist China soon will recognize the presence of Christians in China.

George H. Hays, in a report for the Foreign Mission Board's December meeting, painted an optimistic picture of progress made in the recently concluded Hong Kong for Christ Crusade, in which more than 3800 decisions now are reported, and said that new churches are being formed in Korea at the rate of almost one a week.

Hays, the board's secretary for East Asia, said Paul Kaufman, head of Asian Outreach, told him in Hong Kong that pressures from within and without will make it mandatory for mainland China officials to recognize that there are Christians within their borders.

In some places in China, Christians meet openly, Kaufman told Hays, and some who had been caught up in Communism are coming back.

"This type of thing, however, depends upon the area," Hays' report

said. "In some areas it is still as closed as it has ever been. They do have some response from radio programs beamed toward mainland China. Peasants crossing the border say they listen regularly to Christian broadcasts."

Hays said that increasing numbers of Chinese students are allowed to study both in the United States and Europe and that these students have more freedom to mix with the people. He believes this will open up more opportunities for Christian students to "reach out to these Chinese students in a friendly and caring way."

While in Hong Kong, Hays said, he met a woman in her mid-40's who had just been allowed to leave China after applying for a permit for 12 years.

"She told me the only way she could maintain her faith through all of these years was by praying with her mother every morning," Hays said. "They had to do it quietly, secretly and in whispers, but she has maintained her faith. God is still at work in mainland China."

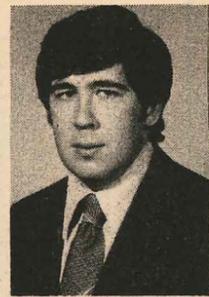
In addition to more than 2700 deci-

sions in the stadium services, the Hong Kong crusade reported about 1100 others made decisions for Christ at services held in churches, schools and other institutions.

Ervin E. Haste, associate consultant for evangelism and church development who spent three months in Hong Kong assisting with the crusade planning and follow-up, said the campaign had resulted in a renewed emphasis on personal witnessing.

He said it also had produced a sense of unity and enthusiasm among pastors, missionaries and other convention leaders and "a deep feeling that evangelism must occupy a more meaningful place in Baptist work than previously."

Hays' report also said response to the gospel in Korea continues, with the number of churches and preaching points now exceeding 600. With the aid of the Florida Baptist Convention, major city evangelization began this year and will continue through 1980 in five major cities—Seoul, Taejon, Taegu, Pusan and Kwanju.



Chaffin



Phelps

## Kentuckians receive Southwestern degrees

Two students from Kentucky received degrees during winter commencement exercises at Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

John Lee Chaffin, Ashland, earned his MDiv degree and Charles David Phelps, Woodbury, the diploma in theology.

Chaffin, married to the former Linda Diane Stephens, is pastor of First Baptist Church, Crawford, Tex.

Phelps, married to the former Kathleen Ann Hackman, is pastor of Central Baptist Church, Malone, Tex.

## Averett College gets land

Averett College has accepted a 112-acre gift from Dan River Mills and will relocate on the land in 1982.

The new site is two and a half miles from the present campus in Danville. In the last decade, the Southern Baptist school has advanced to senior coeducational college status.

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

Lessons for Jan. 14, 1979

### LIFE AND WORK SERIES

#### The sins of men without God

The way in which God saves sinners has never been set forth more gloriously or convincingly than in the epistle to the Romans.

Romans 1:18-21

Romans deals with man's need of a righteousness which he does not possess and is incapable of producing. If man is to come into possession of this righteousness which makes him right with the Lord and with his fellows, it must be imputed to him. Man has been given the choice between the righteousness of God which was revealed in the gift of his Son and the wrath of God which must fall upon those who refuse to believe on Christ.

The two forms of sin which God hates are ungodliness, which is living as if there were no God, and unrighteousness, which is living in the wrong relationship with God and with one's fellowmen.

God made himself known to the Gentiles through conscience and creation, but they abused their

privileges through irreverence, ingratitude and imagining that they were wise in substituting their opinions for God's truth, indulging in empty reasonings and decaying intellectuality.

Romans 1:24-25

As the result of their willful plunge into the depths of sin and shame, God withdrew his restraints from the Gentiles and delivered them to the inevitable consequences of the sinful course which they had chosen.

Romans 1:28-32

One of the saddest statements in the literature of the ages is that God gave these Gentiles over to a reprobate mind. What tragedy could befall man equal to that expressed in the words, "God gave them up to a base mind and to improper conduct"? Nothing is more terrible than being abandoned by God, as were the Gentiles described in these verses.

### INTERNATIONAL SERIES

#### Growing up in Christ

Philippians 3:12-16

Here we are told the secret of the life of the greatest Christian who ever lived. He informs us that, while he was on a mission of persecution, Christ laid hold on him for a definite purpose, namely, to save his soul and to make a great minister and mighty missionary out of him. He yielded to that loving grasp, gave himself wholeheartedly to Christian service, and wielded a tremendous influence for good.

As the end of his career was approaching and he was thinking about his accomplishments, Paul indicated that he was not satisfied with what he had done for his Lord, who had done so much for him, but wanted to do far more for Christ. His ruling passion was to get nearer to Christ, to grow in his grace and knowledge, to be more like him and to do more and better work for him. Paul informed his readers that he was devoted to a single aim. He urged all Christians to have a definite and high aim, and then to concentrate all of life's energies on reaching it.

Paul exhorted the Christians in the church at

Philippi to be united in their thinking as they aspired to become spiritually mature (v. 15), and to abide by the same rules as they advanced toward Christlikeness (v. 16).

1 John 4:13-21

John wanted his readers to know that they were the objects of God's wonderful, yea, almost incredible love. God's marvelous love has been revealed in many ways, but never so fully as when he sent Christ to be the propitiation for our sins.

God's love is not passive, but active. To be born of God is to possess his nature. It is very important that we prove our Christian sonship by our genuine love for others.

God's love for us precedes and is the cause of our love for him. Because of his love for us we should love God supremely and devotedly. Unquestioning and wholehearted obedience to God's commandments is the best evidence of our love for him. A Christ-centered and Spirit-filled life is the supreme expression of love for God. It is also the greatest contribution we can make to the progress of the kingdom of God.

## Frank Owen

### Manifold works

Our office has so many worldwide mission causes to keep in mind as we consider where best to allocate limited Cooperative Program funds. How can we better communicate to our people the greatness of the needs and opportunities for giving? Baptists have great hearts to give when they are informed.

Southern Baptists have recently accelerated their designated gifts for world hunger. Accordingly, the Foreign Mission Board has reorganized its pipelines to channel this giving directly to hunger circumstances through foreign mission station outlets overseas. These hunger gifts usually come through our office and I, too, have noted their increase.

However, as special gifts are focused on these things currently in the limelight (as hunger is now) they tend to compete with established programs for the people's hearts. Presently, general relief funds are weakened as people think of world hunger but not of general relief. The Foreign Mission Board announced last week a careful policy of guidelines to keep funds given for hunger and funds for general relief separated.

Again, there is danger as the people give to these heart-tugging specifics like hunger, disaster, etc. that they forget the overarching importance of foreign missions generally, whose program of proclaiming the saving power of Jesus Christ is the main thing, always.

The primary answer is the Cooperative Program. It includes all missions and all our agencies and institutions at home as well. I tell you, Baptists, most of the things you hear or read appealing to you for gifts, however noble they may be, are usually geared for only very limited service. Your denomination is harnessed up with glorious work going on many, many fronts. It is hard for us to publicize them singly because they are so many and varied. They can all do greater things through our increased giving through the Cooperative Program. This is the overall mission distribution fund.



## Life, death odds for chaplain

The telephone call cut through the merriment of the Christmas party with sobering suddenness.

"Chaplain Rector, we have a possible suicide on our hands. A crewman has climbed the radar mast after threatening an officer with a knife. Could you try talking to him?"

Within minutes, Roscoe Rector had raced his car through the Charleston (S. C.) night to dockside. His mind had raced also, searching for an opening, a beginning period for contact. He reached a landing 10 feet below the sailor and began to talk.

Later, the sailor reflected, "I think I might have jumped if you had not come up there."

While such dramatic incidents are uncommon in any chaplain's work, they do illustrate the suddenness with which life can change from sudden merriment to stark life-and-death confrontation.

Nowhere is this more apt to occur than in the military and to an active duty chaplain like Lt. Ross Rector.

Rector entered the military chaplaincy fully aware of how military life moves in seconds from boredom to high excitement.

He understands because he's been there. Rector spent nine years in the U. S. Navy as an enlisted man.

He remembers the crisis years in his own life when he lost interest in religion and seldom saw a chaplain.

"In those years I never saw a chaplain in my work space. It was only when I went to church — which was seldom — that I saw them. I am determined to get out where the people are," he says, his voice husky, soft, with a trace of Virginia accent. "More than being a preacher, I want to be a shoulder for them to lean on." Work days were long. "You can't be selfish with your time," he says. "Chances for ministry come at all occasions."

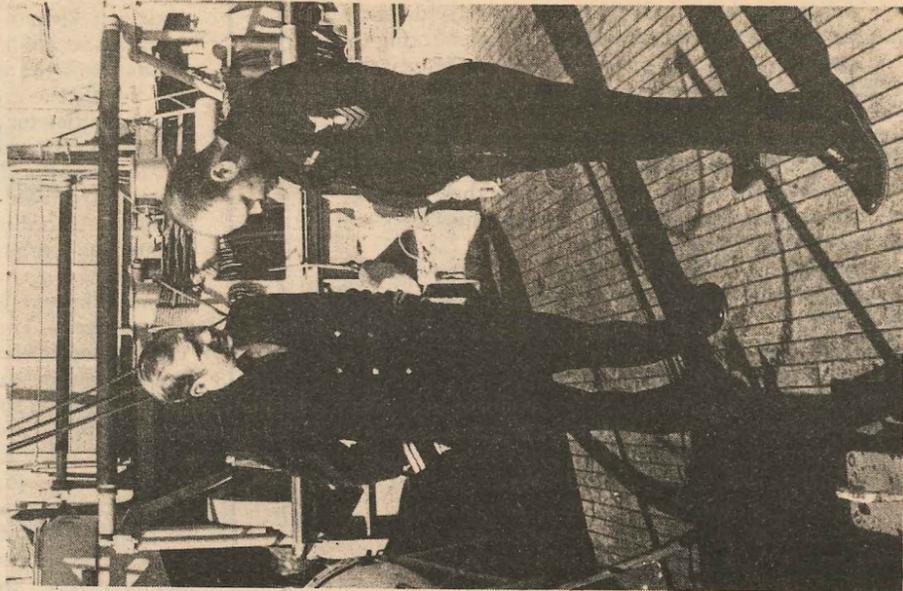
For example, a sergeant asked Rector to go jogging. As they ran, the man began to cry. He'd had more than 20 years in the Marines and now he was tired of being away from home. There were family problems he couldn't handle.

"I could explain I felt the same way," Rector says. "As a chaplain you have your own problems. You miss your family. You like to get letters, too. Just when you are worrying about yourself, someone comes in who is having a hard time dealing with the same frustrations."

But close relationships he'd built in Cherry Point were ruptured when he moved to Charleston in 1977.

There he became one of six chaplains ministering to 73 ship crews — 20,000 persons. Rector's responsibilities include three destroyer squadrons, a total of 12 ships.

"These are 12 little worlds to penetrate and in which to build relationships," he says. In each world he deals with some kind of grief: at separation, anticipated separation, death. He understands that too, since he is often required to make both long and short cruises — from the seven-month stint in the Mediterranean to a two-day excursion with a son scattering the ashes of



Navy chaplain Ross Rector (I) suggests, "I've been through it, too," as he chats on deck.

his dead father.

On board ship he eats breakfast in the crew's mess hall and routinely complains about the coffee, which tastes of chlorine. After breakfast he blames his seasickness on the coffee, but admits he often feels a little sick the first day out on any cruise.

He contacts the son who requested the trip. They talk about the service and decide the son will lead in prayer. The rest will follow Navy procedures.

Precisely at 0750 with gently rolling waves in calm seas, the USS Cone comes to a near stop.

The sun, as though to announce the beginning of the service, breaks through the low clouds, and Rector, in a clear but subdued voice, leads in prayer.

Later that night he leads the ship in evening prayers, a Navy tradition when a chaplain is on board.

Because of his prior service as an enlisted man, Rector can retire in eight more years. Until then, he handles the moves . . . the demands . . . the challenges . . . of being chaplain to men away from home.

