

WESTERN RECORDER

KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL

VOL. 153, NO. 4, JANUARY 24, 1979

Bold mission planning is theme of March conferences in state

Twelve opportunities to assist pastors and associational leaders in bold mission planning will be offered by the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff across the state the week of Mar. 19-23.

Three simultaneous sessions of the Bold Mission Thrust regional awareness conferences will be held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights of that week at strategic locations across the state. Twenty-two KBC, Woman's Missionary Union and Western Recorder staff members have been enlisted to conduct the series of meetings.

Each conference begins at 6 p.m. local time with a fellowship supper. A general inspirational meeting follows the meal. Later, separate group meetings are planned for associational leaders and for pastors. A joint session follows the group meetings. Adjournment is scheduled by 9 p.m.

The series of conferences is under auspices of the KBC Evangelism Department, Jay Brown, director.

Host churches for the regional conferences, and the dates of each event, follow:

Monday, Mar. 19—First, Mayfield; Dry Ridge; Beacon Hill, Somerset

Tuesday, Mar. 20—Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Center, Princeton; Bethlehem, Louisville; Campbellsville

Thursday, Mar. 22—Bellevue, Owensboro; Garden-

Acteens retreat slated Mar. 16-17 at Cedarmore

"Growing Together" is theme of a youth missions retreat Mar. 16-17 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly.

Nancy Ferrell, Kentucky Acteen consultant, said seminars will be offered on day camping, inner-city ministry, evangelism and puppetry. Information on summer mission projects and career possibilities with the Home and Foreign Mission boards will be shared.

Mission board personnel will be present to tell about current trends and needs in missions.

The retreat fee of \$15.00 includes one night's lodging, three meals and program costs.

Further information is available from Miss Ferrell at Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243.

Pastors, for a captive audience, try preaching to an SBC airlift crowd

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will operate an airlift to the Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, Tex., this June. Passengers do not have to be Southern alumni to participate.

Kentuckians may benefit from service from either of three cities—Cincinnati, Louisville or Nashville. All fares include round trip jet transportation, hotel accommodations at the Shamrock Hilton with double or twin-bedded rooms, limousine and baggage service between the airport and hotel and a ticket to the seminary luncheon June 13 in the Hilton ballroom.

Flight schedules follow:

From Cincinnati—Lv. Cincinnati 2:05 p.m. June 10, Ar. Houston 4:54 p.m.; Lv. Houston 2:30 p.m. June 15, Ar. Cincinnati 8:06 p.m. Travel via Delta Air Lines. Round trip package: \$332.00.

From Louisville—Lv. Louisville 3:24 p.m. June 10, Ar. Houston 4:30 p.m.; Lv. Houston 11:45 a.m. June 15, Ar. Louisville 2:30 p.m. Travel via Allegheny Air Lines. Round trip package: \$325.00.

From Nashville—Lv. Nashville 1:55 p.m. June 10, Ar. Houston 4:50 p.m.; Lv. Houston 1 p.m. June 15, Ar. Nashville 3:50 p.m. Travel via Braniff Air Lines. Round trip package: \$311.00.

A \$25.00 deposit is required to hold a reservation with the balance payable by May 4. Additional information is available from Mrs. Jan Barringer at (502) 897-4143 at the seminary.

side, Lexington; First, Paintsville

Friday, Mar. 23—Living Hope, Bowling Green; First, Morehead; Manchester

Information on Bold Mission Thrust resources will be shared at each conference. Material and statistical data will be given to assist in setting bold mission goals. Associational leaders and pastors will be given information about potential church leadership conferences for their associations.

There will be no charge for participation in these conferences, according to Brown.

Enrolment decline misses nation's Baptist schools

Southern Baptist colleges and universities bucked the tide of enrolment decline in the nation this fall.

Total enrolment in the 53 junior and senior colleges and universities sponsored by state Baptist conventions within the territory of the Southern Baptist Convention increased by 0.6 percent while enrolment at the nation's colleges fell by 0.5 percent.

Preliminary figures compiled by the SBC Education Commission indicate that a total of 92,489 students were enrolled in the Baptist institutions. The enrolment figures on the nation's colleges and universities were presented in a preliminary study compiled by the National Center for Education Statistics.

Following the trends set by the nation's colleges, Baptist institutions saw their greatest enrolment increase in the two-year institutions.

Are you able to get cable?

"At Home with the Bible," jointly produced by the Baptist Sunday School Board and Radio and Television Commission, can be seen in 10 Kentucky communities having cable TV systems capable of picking up programs from satellite systems.

The weekly program is seen on three satellite channels, Home Box Office (Sunday, 9 a.m. EST); Christian Broadcasting Network (Sunday, 3 p.m. and Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.); and PTL (Tuesday, 3:30 and 8 p.m.).

In Kentucky, the program can be seen in Ashland, Barbourville, Elizabethtown, Ft. Campbell, Fulton, Glasgow, Henderson, Louisville, Owensboro and Paducah.

The program is telecast Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on Louisville's WHAS-TV, channel 11, and at 8:30 a.m. Sunday on the cable system in Williamsburg.

Catholic priest views Baptists

Joseph O'Donnell, a priest from Newnan, Ga., and a regional worker for the Glenmary Home Missioners, described Southern Baptists from a Catholic perspective to 130 priests and 40 nuns at the clergy conference of the Belleville (Ill.) Diocese:

(1) "They know how to use the public media, with Billy Graham's television ministry one of the best examples.

(2) "Southern Baptists are more open to dialog with us than any of the other Baptist bodies in America.

(3) "They are not 'holy-rollers.' Often, their worship is more formal than some of our services. And their music—oh, it's beautiful, beautiful. You should see what they do with their choirs and congregational singing, and the money they spend on it.

(4) "Southern Baptists are the largest, wealthiest, best organized and most mission-minded of any of the Baptist bodies. One Sunday last year they raised \$35 million for foreign missions. The best we did on any one Sunday was \$5 million.

(5) "They baptize by immersion, and their baptism

Jonathan Creek assembly hosts Feb. 2-3 gathering of bivocational pastors

A conference for bivocational pastors (those doing secular work and pastoring a church) is slated Feb. 2-3 at Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly, near Aurora, in Marshall County.

Bivocational pastors serving west of a line between Owensboro and Bowling Green are invited, according to Robert Jones, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Direct Missions Department.

The conference begins at 6 p.m. Friday and concludes at 2 p.m. Saturday. Total cost is \$10.00. Registration forms are available from local associational directors of missions.

Conference personalities include H. C. Chiles, retired pastor, First Baptist Church, Murray; Rollin Burhans, pastor, First Church, Bowling Green; A. B. Colvin, coordinator, KBC Missions Division; J. V. Case Jr., director of missions, Daviess-McLean Association; T. Hicks Shelton, president, Kentucky Baptist Convention; and Allen Black, director of missions, Muhlenberg Association.

Eight RA congresses set across state Feb. 12-16

Eight regional Royal Ambassador congresses are slated across Kentucky Feb. 12-16, according to Calvin Fields, associate in the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Department.

Each congress begins at 5 p.m. and continues to 8 p.m. local time.

Program formats are identical, including talks by home and associational missionaries and Kentucky men who have participated in foreign mission projects; appearances by Brotherhood Commission editors from Memphis; hot dog suppers; special music; and the election of regional nominees for state Pioneer Congress president.

Congress host churches are:

Monday, Feb. 12—First, Murray; First, Jackson

Tuesday, Feb. 16—First, Calhoun; Georgetown

Thursday, Feb. 15—Hillvue, Bowling Green; High Street, Somerset

Friday, Feb. 16—Mill Creek, Radcliff; Manchester

Radio-TV's Cowboy star?

Tom Landry, head coach of the Dallas Cowboys football team, will receive the Christian Service Award for his commitment to Christ on the playing field and off.

The award will be presented Mar. 1 during the 10th Annual Abe Lincoln Awards program, sponsored by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

would be acceptable by us.

(6) "They have fantastic skills as 'missioners' and 'evangelizers.' Once they find Christ, Southern Baptists feel compelled to tell others. This can irritate some Catholics, especially in smaller towns. But I say to them, 'Keep it up; stir us up!'"

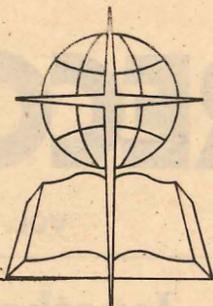
(7) "The psychology and personality of President Carter cannot be understood outside the psychology of Southern Baptists. His personal witnessing is an example.

(8) "In their opposition to government aid to parochial schools Baptists are not bigoted or prejudiced. They do this out of deep conviction about the separation of church and state.

(9) "Baptist ministers do not have as much freedom as our priests. Baptists say they are the 'free church,' but we as Catholics have the freedom. This is due to the autonomy of each local Baptist church. Each church employs and dismisses its pastor, and thus has tighter controls on him. As Catholics, our priests have greater freedom since they are responsible to the bishop, not the congregation."

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

WESTERN RECORDER
(ISSN 0043-4132)
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Published by Western Recorder Inc., Box 43401, Middletown, KY 40243 weekly, except for one week in July and December. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

Subscriptions: Single \$4.20; foreign, \$4.25; church budget, \$3.00. Payable in advance, except church accounts, which require tax exemption number.

Directors: C. Carman Sharp, Louisville, chairman; Harold J. Purdy, Madisonville, vice chairman; Billy D. Marcum, Brandenburg, secretary; William S. Blake-man, Winchester; Tom Butler, Paducah; Curtis Erwin, Glasgow; Garnett Hulette, Frankfort; William D. Jaggers, Cynthiana; Donald J. LaBelle, London; O. G. Lawless, Bowling Green; Ronald P. Moore, Highland Heights; Gilbert Sapp, Russell Springs.



C. R. Daley

Daley Observations

The challenge of a new China

Until 1951 China was one of the principal targets for foreign mission efforts of Southern Baptists. In fact China was the first foreign mission field for Southern Baptists, mission work having started there in 1846. In 1937 Southern Baptists had 413 missionaries on foreign fields and 210 of them were in China.

And so the surprising announcement from Washington that China had been granted full recognition and normal diplomatic relations have been restored is of special interest to Southern Baptists. Foreign Mission Board executive director Baker J. Cauthen, a former missionary to China, reacted by calling upon fellow Baptists to pray "that God may use these recent events to help bring about the reopening of churches in China and permission for resumption of mission work with China's 800 million people."

What are the chances that mission activities might be resumed in China? On the surface there is little encouragement. Visitors to China report there is absolutely no visible sign of religion, pagan or Christian. Early statements from China's leaders indicate American science and technology are welcome but there is no hint that Christian missionaries will ever be allowed in China.

But there are reasons to be encouraged. Prayer changes things even in China and who knows but that the persistent prayers of foreign missionaries and others for China have not been responsible for the latest moves opening China once again to the world.

China, by its sheer size and 800,000,000 souls, must be considered a prime target for evangelization. This may not be accomplished by formally appointed missionaries but there is no limit to the Christian witness opportunities for Christian scientists, business people and thousands of others who will be invited into China.

In spite of being Communist controlled, China stands to become one of the leading nations of the world. The few Americans who have been allowed into China recently say it is true that Chinese now live by high moral and ethical standards. The streets of cities are safe night and day, theft is non-existent, no prostitutes ply their trade and everyone works. Added to this is the self-reliance taught by Mao and the determination to build a great nation. America had some of these qualities in her early days and could use them now.

Though there are no visible signs, who knows how many Chinese, especially the older ones, are Christians only awaiting for the freedom to worship publicly. This freedom may be far off

and may never be but when China opens its doors to other things from Europe and America, Christianity is bound to accompany these things. God is still in control of nations as well as individuals. Let us be ready to enter any door he opens.

The retired have much more to offer

One of the most beneficial developments in Southern Baptist life is the growing use in other ministries of denominational leaders and pastors who retire. Examples are recent announcements that Baker J. Cauthen upon retirement at the end of 1979 as executive director of the Foreign Mission Board will teach missions at Golden Gate Seminary and Porter Routh who retires as executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee next August will be a visiting professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

This is an excellent way to extend the ministries of these proven leaders who have much more to contribute. More qualified teachers could not be found than these two men.

Too many Baptist denominational workers and pastors become sidelined upon retirement. They languish in inactivity and sometimes become bitter and cynical. In the meantime churches and the denomination are suffering for the kinds of ministries these retired persons can provide.

There is a trend now to utilize more of these retirees. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the seminaries are to be commended especially for taking advantage of this wealth of experience and expertise. Churches do well to use them as interim pastors or to call them as pastors.

The more this practice is reflected upon, the more sense it makes. It not only helps the institutions and churches but it takes some of the fear and dread out of retirement. Some pastors and denominational workers who hold on longer than they should could go ahead and officially retire if they were assured other opportunities for their ministry.

There is no ideal retirement age that fits every job or every person. Circumstances should determine when one retires. Some people are older at 50 than others are at 65. It's pathetic to see someone have to retire when everything is going well. It's more pathetic to see someone trying to hold on after most usefulness is over.

The opportunity for a second ministry or at least a change of pace would encourage a worker not to hold on after his or her time of maximum productivity in the position occupied. It would also serve to relieve the fear or the fact of inadequate income in retirement.

Churches, especially ones that cannot adequately support a pastor and family, should consider calling successful pastors who have retired but still have the strength and the spirit to care for a congregation. I know some churches doing this now and they are getting along better than ever before.

Denominational agencies and institutions should follow the example of Golden Gate and Southern seminaries in using highly qualified persons who have retired from their first career ministries.

Guest Editorial

Our Christian dilemma concerning public schools

by Daniel R. Grant
President, OBU

I believe in the public school system. It has been good for America in providing equality of opportunity for a greater proportion of its citizens than any nation in the world. It is doubtful that a predominantly private school system could ever have done this. In addition, our public school system has helped America avoid the deep religious divisions, strife and intolerance that many other nations have had.

Because of these and other values of the public school system, I am deeply concerned at the growing evidence that our public schools are in trouble. In recent years the number of students withdrawing from the public schools and transferring to newly established private academies has swelled to tremendous proportions. Court-ordered busing of students from their neighborhoods to distant communities in order to achieve racial balance can be blamed for only part of the exodus.

Fair-minded observers tell us it is not really the result of racial prejudice, but is actually strong parental concern that (1) there has been a loss of discipline in the public schools, (2) teaching of "the basics" has suffered in recent years, and (3) emphasis on religious and moral values is increasingly being excluded by more strict court interpretations of separation of church and state. We have just come through another Christmas season when more and more public school administrators have decided it is unconstitutional to have Christmas programs or Christmas decorations that have Christ in them. We have been told increasingly that teachers cannot be fired simply for lifestyles that violate traditional Christian morality, such as homosexual behavior, bearing a child out of wedlock, or living with a person of the opposite sex without the benefit of marriage.

We need to find acceptable solutions to all of these problems that weaken the public school system. I hope we can and I believe we can, but it will not just happen. An increasingly rigid court interpretation of separation of church and state will not help. We must find a way to restore the confidence of parents that the public school do teach the basics effectively, do strengthen personal discipline and do have a sympathetic stance on moral and religious values. If we close our eyes to this problem the public school cloud on the horizon the size of a man's hand will soon become a devastating deluge.

Baptist Forum

A good decision—from a lady

I am sorry to say the news story that went out on me last October was poorly put together. I am enclosing a letter I sent to the writer in Nashville for your enlightenment.

There are two points I would be pleased to have amplified in a future letter to the editor column, as follows:

I did not speak against the WMU as such, but specifically said that it was all right for women to get together to pray for missions, and to give other support. I merely criticized the pressure that came out of WMU to give women positions in church-related work that entailed authority over men.

My remark that a man's decision is better than a woman's good decision was not properly amplified. It represents the lesser of two evils, as it is worse to put a woman in an unauthorized position (because it is unscriptural) even though she might make better decisions than a man.

Willel W. G. Reitzer

Baptist News in Brief

Will union solicitation continue where it hurts?

The Supreme Court agreed to decide if Baptist Hospital of Nashville may continue to forbid its employees from engaging in union solicitation in certain areas of the hospital.

The justices agreed to a request by the National Labor Relations Board to review a decision by a federal circuit court denying hospital employees the right to solicit for union membership in areas of the hospital where patients commonly mingle with the public during nonworking-hours, such as the gift shop or cafeteria.

The union local filed a protest with the National Labor Relations Board, which agreed that the hospital policy violated a portion of the National Labor Relations Act giving employees the right "to self-organization, to form, join, or assist labor organizations . . . and to engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining."

Supreme Court witnesses many obscenities in '79

Returning to the bench after a month's absence while they worked on cases already heard this term justices of the Supreme Court disposed of a cluster of obscenity cases.

The high court, over the objections of three justices, declined to review a California law which exempts theater productionists from prosecution under obscenity laws, while leaving owners and theater managers open to prosecution. The latter had claimed that the law violates their equal protection under the law.

Justices William J. Brennan Jr., Potter Stewart and Thurgood Marshall, who oppose most obscenity laws on First Amendment grounds, indicated they would reverse the convictions of those bringing the appeal.

In four Georgia cases involving men who were convicted of distributing various sexual devices and publications the court declined to hear a challenge to that state's laws forbidding the sale of objects designed "as useful primarily for the stimulation of human genital organs." The same three justices dissented, saying they would overturn the convictions.

Mistaken for prowler, minister fatally wounded

Roy Akehurst, minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church, Francis, Okla., was shot and killed Jan. 9 when he was mistaken for an armed prowler while working at his part time job with an Ada appliance store.

The Ada district attorney said homicide charges will be filed against the woman who fired the fatal shot.

Akehurst, a 21-year-old student at East Central State University, Ada, and another employee were preparing to complete installation of a washer at the woman's residence. The woman had been notified by the store owner that the men were en route to her house.

Just before the shooting, the woman called Ada police, reporting that two men were approaching her house with guns, and that if they tried to enter, she would shoot them. She apparently mistook tools the workmen were carry-

ing for guns.

Akehurst was shot in the chest as he started to leave the house after seeing the woman with the gun. The other worker escaped injury. Police found Akehurst still alive, but bleeding profusely as he lay near the front porch. He died at a local hospital.

Jimmy Carter didn't stop Baptist love in Taiwan

Southern Baptist missionaries in Taiwan are experiencing closer ties with Taiwanese Baptists in the wake of President Jimmy Carter's decision to sever political ties with that country.

"We missionaries are beginning to experience a new feeling of love flowing from our Christian brothers and sisters and from this is coming a new relationship between missionaries and Chinese co-workers," reports Martha Cohen, Southern Baptist missionary press representative in Taiwan.

At a regularly scheduled co-workers' meeting, held two days after Carter's announcement, a Chinese pastor put his arm around one of the missionaries and said, "Don't worry; we'll protect you," Mrs. Cohen says.

But so far the missionaries in Taiwan have not needed protection. Mrs. Cohen reports that most of the Chinese people have remained polite to Americans living on the island nation and friends have been especially loving and considerate.

The China Baptist Convention, organization of Baptist churches in Taiwan, bought lapel pins of the Republic of China flag and gave them to the missionaries to wear so they could identify themselves as friends of Taiwan.

Springfield, Mo., church believes in generosity

A Missouri church has successfully utilized the concepts of Together We Build to accumulate resources for Bold Mission Thrust, the Southern Baptist Convention plan to evangelize the world by the year 2000.

First Baptist Church of Springfield, Mo., pledged \$455,837 over the next three years to be distributed evenly between missions projects and building maintenance and improvement.

The 1100-family congregation established a \$758,000 budget and gave \$16,000 to the Lottie Moon offering, \$2000 over its goal.

In addition, the church received before the first of the year \$44,000 toward the M and M project—despite the fact that no pledges were due until after Jan. 1.

"The enthusiasm of the membership for this particular emphasis is unprecedented in my experience," said the church's pastor, T. T. Crabtree. "It is my prayer that perhaps other churches will do something similar and thus enable the Bold Mission Thrust to really get off the ground."

HMB names Kentuckian; announces other changes

Two Southern Baptist Home Mission Board staff members were named during the January executive committee meetings of the board of directors.

James Hamblen of Columbia, Md., was named associate director of the De-

partment of Metropolitan Missions and Gary Leazer of Ft. Worth, Tex., was named assistant director of the Department of Interfaith Witness.

Directors also appointed four missionaries, five missionary associates, one US-2 missionary and approved 33 missions to receive financial aid for new mission congregations.

In addition, by action of the directors, Warren Rust, who has served on the staff of the board in the Metropolitan Missions Department, was moved to national consultant status.

Since 1976, Hamblen has served as field consultant in metropolitan missions with national responsibilities from his base in Maryland.

Leazer, who will join the staff Feb. 1, will work with interfaith witness specializing in American Christianity with particular reference to sectarian movements.

Among new missionary associates names was Joanne LeGette of Louisville. A native of Westminster, S. C., she will serve as a church extension intern in Southfield, Mich. She holds a masters degree in social work from the University of Tennessee and MRE and MDiv degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

How do you spell relief? FMB urges, M-O-N-E-Y

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board virtually depleted its disaster relief funds by appropriating more than \$46,000 in January. An additional \$143,000 was allocated from hunger relief funds.

Only \$7831 is left in the board's general relief funds, which are kept separate from those earmarked for hunger. The \$100,000 set aside last year by the board for use in case of major emergency needs has also been depleted.

"There will be no easy way to meet relief needs unless funds come in," said W. Eugene Grubbs, the board's consultant on relief ministries. "We do not have enough for even the most minimum response in case of a major disaster."

The board's policy on hunger fund utilization requires that the money be used in projects that are directly hunger-related. The general relief funds may be used for hunger relief but are most often used to provide shelter, medicine, blankets and clothing.

As an example of such relief projects Grubbs pointed to the board's major January relief appropriation. A health care project in Ghana requires \$25,000 to deliver 50,000 inoculations to fight a growing measles epidemic. Three volunteers will participate in the project. In Ghana measles is often a fatal childhood disease. Currently about 80 percent of the children in the pediatrics ward of the Baptist hospital in Nalerigu, Ghana, are suffering from measles.

In Cali, Colombia, flood victims will receive \$5000 in relief aid and \$500 in relief aid. In Malaysia-Singapore, the Vietnamese refugees, often called the boat people, will receive both hunger and general relief aid.

Ugandan refugees living in Kenya will receive \$87,800 for shelter and medicine. A vocational training project to combat urban hunger will teach sewing skills to 450 people over a three year period. These adults represent

2700 family members, resulting in a total cost of less than \$33 per person helped.

MSC calls 27 to go—but no funds available

Twenty-seven overseas Mission Service Corps volunteers are ready to go but lack financial backing, says coordinator Lewis I. Myers Jr.

Myers, of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, made the statement as the board approved eight more volunteers at its January meeting. These bring to 39 the total assigned overseas under the new corps, which plans to put 5000 volunteers to work beside missionaries for one or two year periods at home and abroad by 1982.

The board also gave conditional approval to 12 college-age young people pending further screening by Texas Baptists. Six of these 12 will be chosen to receive financial backing from the Texas Baptist Student Department.

At this point, Myers said, the Foreign Mission Board has more than 40 persons being screened. But requests for such personnel continue to come in from the mission fields faster than volunteers become available and sponsors can be found to support them. About 200 persons already have been requested and more requests arrive each month.

Glynn D. McCormick of Paducah, Ky., is already in Guatemala as a teacher at the inter-American school there.

Two, four, six, eight—that many publications they're gonna liberate!

An independent survey of eight Baptist Sunday School Board publications indicates those works stereotype women as homemakers and mothers and representation of female writers according to topics reinforces that image.

Kay Wilson Shurden, an English teacher from Shelbyville, Ky., reported that results of her study of women and their implied roles in Southern Baptist literature to the "Word and Way," newspaper for Missouri Southern Baptists, in its special women's issue Jan. 4.

In her survey Mrs. Shurden found an overwhelming majority of men writers for youth and adult publications, while 89 percent of the writers for children's literature were women.

Also, graphics and subjects of stories majored on boys and their activities, while girls were usually depicted in the homemaker role of helping mother, "usually in the kitchen preparing a meal."

The majority of authors of traditionally women-related, home and family articles were women, though 82 percent of the writers of the adult curriculum studies are male.

Sunday School Board president Grady Cothen said in response to the findings that "It's quite possible that some materials in fact do appear discriminatory."

"We are concerned that we properly represent a biblical perspective on women," Cothen said. "An in-depth study of all Sunday School Board material is under way to determine whether we in fact misrepresent a biblical perspective on women."

Presenting your Baptist Building staff



Huls



Miss Ferrell



Cox



Brown



Miss Yeiser



Jones

A trained laity Huls' method of accomplishing Bold Mission

In 1957 Tom Huls married his childhood sweetheart, Sharon Collman, Crothersville, Indiana's local beauty queen. Today, he's a father of three (Connie is married and 20, Tommy is 18 and John is 13) and his two grandchildren make him the youngest looking grandpa you may ever meet.

A mere 11 years ago Huls was serving the only profession he had ever known, barbering. But the Lord called him from being a layman to preaching and led him to Southern Seminary.

Huls served pastorates at Scottsburg and Jeffersonville, Ind. and Elizabethtown's Immanuel Baptist Church. Last August he joined the KBC staff as associate in the Sunday School Department.

"My concept of the pastor as an equipper of people was broadened to include the training of lay people all over the state," Huls explains.

He tells you pointedly that "if Bold Mission Thrust is ever to take place it will do so through lay leadership," and "the Sunday school is the vehicle for accomplishing bold evangelism."

Asked his opinion about the future of Sunday school, Huls affirms, "The basics of a successful Sunday school will remain the same. We may teach those basics through mass communications or some other form but the concepts will not essentially be altered."

Huls, an avid golfer and camper, is also optimistic about the future.

"People are wanting to learn. Bold Mission Thrust is making this an exciting time in which to live and work. We really have no other way to go but 'up,'" he believes.

Huls coordinates personnel for Sunday school and vacation Bible school training opportunities, also, and is enthusiastic about regionalization plans to be introduced in 1979. These will bring training opportunities closer to local churches as opposed to statewide training events.

Ferrell a 'moped person' but also an Acteen person

"I'm a moped person," grins Nancy Ferrell, describing one of her latest interests. She also enjoys playing racquetball and traveling.

Those are her hobbies.

She also enjoys her position with the state WMU—Acteen consultant and camp director at Cedar Crest (for GA's and Acteens).

"One of my objectives is to communicate the worthiness of the Acteen program," she says. "I think young people are willing to commit themselves to things of worth and I think our program is one that's worthy."

She not only plans Acteen programs and events but is deeply involved in leadership training as well. The emphasis is on the local church, though training is usually conducted at the associational level.

For eight weeks each summer Miss Ferrell is a "camp person." At camp she has her best chance to become personally acquainted with the Acteens themselves.

She also values her relationship with staffers. "I feel a responsibility in developing potential in staffers," she says.

"There is a real trend now in trying to present the picture of youth education as a total program," she explains. "Missions is not optional. Acteens and other young people need to work together and communicate that to the local churches."

Miss Ferrell holds a BA degree from Florida State University and the MRE from Southern Seminary, where she is currently working on the EdD degree.

"Part of my continual goal is to be current, always striving to reach my potential. Anytime I'm not doing that I'm doing myself and others a disservice," she notes.

She has been to Brazil three times on missions trips—once to teach missionary children for a year, once for a three-week project and once to summer camp.

She attends Crescent Hill Church.

For Cox, writing has become full and part time ministry

"I can't remember a time that I didn't want to write," James H. Cox, Western Recorder associate editor, mused recently.

"Since my daddy first brought home an old typewriter, when I was only seven or eight, there was something magnetic about it that instantly drew me to that keyboard," he continued.

Cox has developed that interest into a full time career and an avocation, too. For 20 years he has held communications posts with the Baptist Sunday School Board, Belmont College and Western Recorder. His day of writing often continues when the work day ends. Several nights a week, and on many weekends, he freelances for denominational magazines. In two decades he has seen several hundred articles and curriculum assignments published in Southern Baptist periodicals. About 50 new ones are already scheduled by editors to run in 1979.

Cox views the work he does at Western Recorder and freelancing in much the same manner as a pastor sees his own. "It's a calling," he asserts. "The ministry of writing is as much my pulpit as the pastoral ministry is the preacher's."

A native of Pineville, Cox is a graduate of Peabody College, Nashville. He and his wife, Sharon, are parents of Robin Ann, 14; James Jr., 11; and Jodi Beth, 4.

Aside from freelancing, Cox enjoys swimming, hiking, picnicking, travel, gardening and he is a collector of radio memorabilia. In fact, he maintains a library of hundreds of hours of old shows, on tape and recordings. He is also an avid fan of country music. He directs a Sunday school department in his church, Woodland Baptist, Middletown.

At Western Recorder, Cox assumes responsibility for putting the paper together and publishing on time. Editing, design, photography, advertising, proofreading and writing are assigned to him and a staff of two journalism interns and a compositor.

Brown—personal witnessing is among his top priorities

"I see the main thrust of my work as the planning, promotion and implementation of personal witnessing," says Jay Brown.

And the state director of the Evangelism Department practices what he preaches.

"I try in some way every day to give some kind of personal witness," he notes. "You have to plan that; it doesn't just happen by itself. At every opportunity I conduct witnessing workshops."

Brown's department plans and coordinates activities such as area evangelism fellowships (10 of them in 1979), state evangelism conferences, state youth evangelism conferences, renewal evangelism conferences, interfaith witness conferences and church minister of evangelism conferences.

"We're introducing a new concept in evangelism teaching methods—T.E.L.L. Evangelism Strategy. It is done through an electronic module with a cassette and visual screen," Brown explains.

His department is also involved in planning for simultaneous revivals in Ohio April 1-8.

One of his major responsibilities is as chairman of the state Bold Mission Thrust committee. In conjunction with that emphasis, 12 regional awareness conferences have been planned during the week of Mar. 19-23.

But work doesn't consume all Brown's time. He enjoys fixing things and woodworking, and he and his wife Cecile enjoy roller skating, swimming and skiing. He is a cartoonist, having created a character called "Kernel Cornball." A fan of true country music, he plays the guitar, ukelele and harmonica—and occasionally becomes a one-man band.

An honorary Kentucky Colonel, he and his wife are the parents of two children, James Michael and Mrs. Nancy Ellen Sharp, and have six granddaughters.

Brown holds the AB degree from Howard College (Samford University), MDiv from Southern Seminary.

Three executive secretaries later Doris Yeiser is still around

The lady who has served three Kentucky executive secretaries as personal secretary confirms, "My work has been my life."

Doris B. Yeiser left her native Owensboro in 1951 to join the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff.

Presently, she is "deeply pleased" about the new construction which will add considerably to Baptist Building space in Middletown. "It's long overdue," says Miss Yeiser.

She's aware of other concerns that need attention, too, particularly with reference to records. She refers to "several projects I'd like to see brought up to date to benefit future personnel."

Miss Yeiser, who has been active in the Kentucky Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, and served as its president in 1975-76, maintains the interests of the clerical staff. "I'd like to see training provided for new workers, as well as for those already here," she declares. "We need an on-going self-improvement program."

Miss Yeiser would personally like an opportunity to attend seminars on time and office management, record keeping and library science.

In 1975 she was promoted to the newly created professional position of administrative assistant. Her major duties include answering correspondence, working with the executive secretary in staff and board meetings and with convention committees, working with convention secretaries in publishing minutes of meetings and supervising the executive office.

Miss Yeiser entered church work in 1947 as secretary to Robert Humphreys, pastor of Owensboro's First Baptist Church.

Her service in Middletown includes being secretary to Eldred Taylor, Missions and Evangelism Department, 1951-54; and to executive secretaries W. C. Boone, 1954-61; Harold G. Sanders, 1961-72; and Franklin Owen, 1972-present.

Jones: missions should be heart of everything we do

Twenty years of dedication. That describes Robert Jones, head of direct missions. "I think missions ought to be the heart of everything we do," he says. "Through missions we can encompass all the work of the denomination in carrying out the great commission."

Twenty years can seem like a long time but Jones states that "there is always something new and exciting on the horizon. There are so many different kinds of work going on in this department."

The purpose of the Direct Missions Department is to work with churches and associations in carrying out mission emphasis. Some of the work of the department includes Christian social ministries; language, deaf and literacy ministries. In addition the department supplements some of the salaries of the 101 missionaries in Kentucky. Another assignment is to take requests and place people in mission work. "Each summer we have a number of groups interested in doing mission work within the state and we try to place them in mission work opportunities," declares Jones.

Jones states that one change taking place is the recognition of importance of missionary personnel and part time associational directors. "I'm happy to see the emphasis in associational missions."

Jones says that he is pleased with the way Kentucky Baptists are becoming involved in Bold Mission Thrust. "Through Bold Mission Thrust I think we can see that people are beginning to take the Great Commission seriously—this involvement of lay people is very significant—we're making progress because of it."

"We're faced with a lot of problems, but with these come a great challenge for service opportunities in missions," he concludes.

Jones, a native Kentuckian, graduated from Cumberland Junior College, Georgetown College, and Southern Seminary. He is married to the former Maxine Humfleet. His family lives in Louisville and attends St. Matthews Baptist Church.

You think you'd like to own a religious book store?

— Well, it's not that easy, Baptist colporteur says

Baptist Book Store personnel receive approximately 20 written requests each year that new stores be opened, according to William S. Graham, director of the Book Store Division of the Baptist Sunday School Board and former manager of the Southern Seminary store.

"Most of these requests seem to be from people who have a real commitment to the Lord's work and are concerned that a Baptist Book Store is not located near enough to adequately serve the needs of their community," said Graham.

Some people say they want to operate the stores themselves, perhaps on a franchise basis, while others are just interested in getting a store in their town.

However, Baptist Book Stores are owned and operated by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and are not available to individuals on a franchise basis. Managers and other employees of the stores work for the Sunday School Board.

Of the 65 outlets in the Baptist Book Store chain, two are conference center stores, six are seminary stores, five are exclusively mail order centers, six are branch stores and three are Lifeway Book Stores.

"Four of our stores are what we call mission stores," said Graham. "This means that we know these stores may operate at a loss, but we feel they serve a genuine need in certain locations."

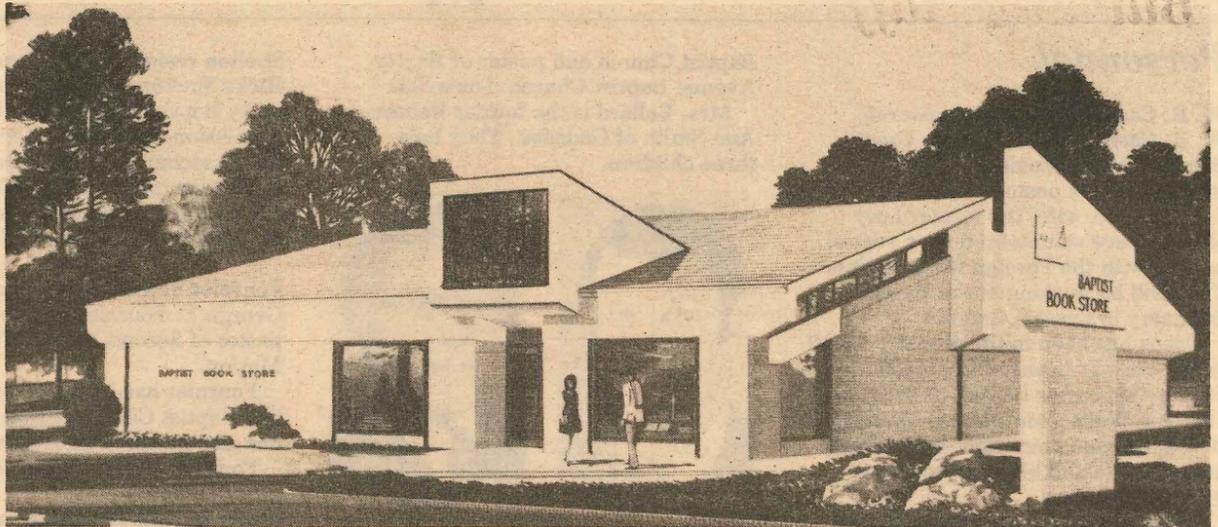
The Sunday School Board is a non-profit organization, but the Book Store Division must return money for the board's overall operation.

"For this reason, Baptist Book Stores have to produce income, and we must be careful where we open new stores," explained Graham. "The number of Baptists in a specific geographical area is one criterion we use in selecting new locations, since our materials are primarily for Baptists."

"Since a Baptist Book Store cannot be in every town where one is desired, the location of existing stores is a factor in opening a new one."

"We try to see that customers get good service as quickly as possible from the nearest store or mail order center," Graham said.

When a new location is considered, the number of



Baptist Book Stores will follow this design as new stores are added or existing stores relocate.

purchases at the nearest Baptist Book Store by persons from the area being studied is considered. The current number of charge account customers from a town is one indicator of the need for a Baptist Book Store in that town.

The overall economic condition and the growth rate of an area are examined before a new store is opened.

"And, of course, we have financial limitations which dictate how rapidly Baptist Book Stores can expand," Graham pointed out.

Graham added that some inquiries about new stores come from people who just want information on opening a religious book store, not particularly a Baptist one. These people are referred to the Christian Booksellers Association (CBA).

"This association, composed of more than 2700 Christian booksellers, can supply valuable advice on opening a book store," said Graham. "They believe a religious book store should be operated on sound business principles because the Lord's money is being used."

He explained that the CBA is very willing to help

anyone opening a religious book store but that an effort is made to be sure the person knows what he is doing.

More than 4000 religious book stores of various kinds are now in operation with 300 new stores opening each year. Approximately 100 of these stores close each year.

"Many people who love the Lord and who love to read think they can serve the Lord best by opening a religious book store," said Graham. "However, they may not have the business skills necessary."

"In Baptist Book Stores we are constantly updating the training of our managers and other employees. We have a manager trainee program for prospective managers, and we try to prepare all employees in the best way to be good stewards of our resources."

Graham said Baptist Book Store personnel are constantly studying the best ways to meet the needs of Southern Baptists, and that they welcome suggestions and requests that help improve service in any way.

Caring for the conference leader

What all who invite program personalities should know, but may never give much thought

by James H. Cox

So you want to invite a guest speaker—or a whole contingent of seminar leaders—to your church. But you don't know where to start. Try these pointers.

1. *Determine your program.* Name your crowd, the group you hope to reach. Establish priorities, goals, objectives. Set the date and location. Decide on a theme.

2. *Decide on the outside help you will need.* What type(s) of program personalities are required? What will be their specific responsibilities? What backgrounds must they possess?

3. *Determine your financial arrangements.* Put down on paper what you can offer your guest(s) in travel allowance and accommodations if needed, plus an honorarium. Do not let your honorarium be a substitute for an adequate travel allowance. If a speaker uses his own automobile he should be reimbursed at least 15 cents per mile, or more. Honorariums may be \$25 for a one-day meeting, \$50 for two days, etc. Larger churches will often offer more. Pulpit supplies may receive even higher honorariums. (If you are using a local person from the community, you may also add \$5-\$10 to his honorarium to cover his transportation expense.)

4. *Select the program guest(s).* Make a list of personalities who can meet the requirements in No. 2 above and who can be secured within your travel budget. Choose a first and second candidate for each spot you have to fill, in case someone can't make it.

5. *Decide who will make contact with program guest(s).* Designate one person to handle the invitation(s) so there will be no embarrassing slip-ups on arrangements. It is best to continue channeling all information through the same contact person to avoid conflicting directions.

6. *Invite your conference leader(s).* Do it in writing, maintaining a carbon, so there can be clear information on what is expected from both parties. Spell out the dates, place, type of group, purpose and theme. Tell each program leader exactly what you want him to do, how much time he will have to do it, the physical facilities and dimensions of the room he will use, and the number of persons you would anticipate for his conference. Include specific travel and on-premises lodging and meal arrangements. You do not have to suggest an amount for the honorarium now, but you should state that there will be one provided. Finally, request a picture and biographical sketch on the subject on acceptance, to be used in publicity. (Of course, you do not have to spell out all of this information in the invitation, but it should be forthcoming well in advance of the meeting.)

7. *Keep in touch with your conference leader(s).* As the time approaches, your picture may change. You may anticipate more or fewer conferees than you first told him. The study course book you ordered may fail to arrive. Such information, along with church newsletters and bulletins and newspaper clippings promoting the event, will be helpful to the speaker(s). Provide as much advance information as you can, in general.

8. *Purchase any helps your conference leader needs.* Order filmstrips, study course books, supplies, etc., plenty early. And reimburse the conference leader for any such out-of-pocket expenses which he incurs.

9. *See that conference rooms are in readiness plenty early.* Make sure rooms are cleaned; pictures, posters and signs are removed from walls; an adequate number of chairs and tables is provided; chalk, eraser and chalkboard is available; and conference identification signs are posted outside the room. Also

have rooms unlocked several hours in advance so leaders may "set up" at their convenience.

10. *Arrange hospitality for guest speaker(s).* Have someone to meet them if they are arriving by commercial transportation. Provide for their transportation while they are with you if they have no car. Be certain the motel and restaurants they use understand your arrangements for picking up the check. Try to join your conference leader(s) at least once for a meal or fellowship period. Be prompt in introducing guest(s) to the church staff and to your people.

11. *Have a check drawn for them before they depart.* Even if they cannot estimate their return expenses in advance, you can show your immediate appreciation by delivering them an envelope containing their honorarium before departure. The expense check could be forwarded later although it would be best to transact it all before the guest leaves town. This expedites matters and may more readily resolve any questions which might arise.

12. *Write a follow-up letter of appreciation.* No matter how many times you've said "thanks" already, once more—particularly in writing—won't hurt. If possible, express some positive response on the part of those who were in the conference.

A further notation on honorariums and expenses: in some states, if you are using state-approved workers, or SBC agency personnel, their travel or honorariums may already be underwritten. You could tactfully inquire about this with your state office or the agency involved before enlisting your personalities directly.

A little advance planning coupled with some discretion can go a long way toward making your next conference experience all that you hoped it would be. And this will make you a hit among conference leaders. Have a good meeting!

Mountains to the Mississippi

Personnel

W. B. Casey retires from pastorate
W. B. Casey, pastor, Boones Creek Baptist Church, Lexington, will retire from the active pastorate Jan. 28.

He and his wife, the former Lucy Naylor, have volunteered for a year of service with the Foreign Mission Board. They will be working at the Baptist Seminary in Lusaka, Zambia.

Casey has been in the ministry for 40 years. He was licensed to preach in 1931 by Lancaster Baptist Church. In 1933 the Wallaceton Baptist Church, Berea, ordained him into the full time ministry. He and his wife were also married that year.

Since that time Casey has pastored churches in Wallaceton, Freedom, Gravel Switch, Perryville, Lancaster, Burgin, Lexington, Paducah and Miami, Fla.

In addition to the pastorate he has been state board representative, West Union Association; member of the program committee, KBC; treasurer, Miami Baptist Association; state board representative, Boones Creek Association; and Bible teacher at the mountain missions conference.

He has conducted over 150 revivals in 12 states and authored several pamphlets, mostly printed sermons.



Casey

Bratcher

Bratcher accepts new position

David Bratcher has accepted the position of minister of music and Christian activities at Post Oak Baptist Church, Russellville.

Bratcher is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Seminary.

He was minister of music at Audubon Baptist Church, Louisville before going to Post Oak.

He is married to the former Judy Miller of Henderson. They have two children, Sean and Krista.

Tooley associate pastor at Blue Ball
Jerry Lynn Tooley has been called as associate pastor to Blue Ball Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

Tooley, who is from Tompkinsville, is a graduate of Cumberland College, and currently an MDiv student at Southern Seminary.

He was ordained by Tompkinsville First Baptist Church and was pastor of Woodbine (Ky.) Baptist Church.

He is married to the former Alice Norvell of Corbin.

Blue Ridge calls Ballard

Blue Ridge Baptist Church, Wetumpka, Ala., recently called Larry L. Ballard as pastor.

A native of Gadsden, Ky., Ballard is a graduate of Jacksonville State University and has an MDiv degree from Southern Seminary. He has done additional work toward the MRE degree.

He has been associate pastor and minister of youth at North Gadsden

Baptist Church and pastor of Baxter Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville.

Mrs. Ballard is the former Rebecca Ann Smith of Gadsden. They have three children.



Carter

Crain

Carter returns to Wildwood

David S. Carter has resigned as pastor of Franklinton Baptist Church to become pastor of Wildwood Baptist Church, Ashland.

Carter is completing his final year in the MDiv program at Southern Seminary.

He previously pastored Wildwood from 1973-76.

Crain resigns from Hyattsville

Mike Crain, pastor of Hyattsville Baptist Church, has resigned to accept the pastorate of Central Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Oh.

Crain, who has been at Hyattsville for four years, is a graduate of Campbellsville College and Southern Seminary.

He is married to the former Leona Kiper of Grayson County.

Bell assumes chaplain position

Earl S. Bell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pulaski, Va., has resigned to assume the position of principal chaplain for the Department of Social Services, Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Bell, a native of Kentucky, is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Seminary. He also received a master's degree in history from the University of Arizona. He received clinical pastoral training from the Appalachian Regional Hospital School of Pastoral Care, Harlan. He pastored the Harlan County Baptist Church for 11 years.

Bell will be stationed in Frankfort and will be working with recruitment of chaplains and assisting in the development of religious services in the Bureau of Social Services.

Mrs. Crouch new Crestwood minister
Rebecca Crouch has accepted the position of minister of education and youth at Crestwood Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association.

Mrs. Crouch, who began her duties Jan. 1, was previously at Simpsonville Baptist Church.

She has a music degree from Marshall University and an MRE degree from Southern Seminary.

She is married to Robin Crouch, a native of Huntington, W. Va., and doctoral student in religious education at Southern.

Thomas R. Kinman is pastor at Crestwood.

Stithton calls minister of education

Randy Karschner, a graduate of Campbellsville College and student at Southern Seminary, has accepted a position as minister of education at Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff.

Shelton resigns as missionary

Hicks Shelton, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, has resigned as missionary of West Kentucky Baptist Association effective Jan. 15. The convention president now lives in Paducah and has begun an interim pastorate for First Baptist Church, Eddyville.

Fournier new Marion pastor

George E. Fournier has been called as pastor of Second Baptist Church, Marion.

Fournier has been pastor of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Graves County. He has also pastored in Tennessee.

Fournier began duties Jan. 14.

Quinn accepts Dry Ridge position

Philip Quinn has accepted the position as part time minister of music and youth at Dry Ridge Baptist Church, Crittenden Association.

Quinn, who is the son of Eugene Quinn, state music director, is a student at Southern Seminary. He has a music degree from Ouachita Baptist University and had previously been minister of music and youth at Hillside Baptist Church, Camden, Ark.

H. L. Jones is pastor at Dry Ridge.

Allison retires from pastorate

Archie W. Allison, pastor of Buena Vista Baptist Church since 1965, announced his retirement effective Jan. 15.

Allison and his wife are natives of May's Lick. He came to Buena Vista from Hopkinsville where he pastored Edgewood Baptist Church.

During December the church held a reception honoring their more than 13 years of service.

Allison and his wife will live in Elizabethtown.

Congregations

Album produced as memorial

A new folk singing record album of Buell Kazee, well known Kentucky Baptist minister, has been produced by Berea College Appalachian Center. Kazee, who died in 1976, was a folk singer and banjo picker in addition to being a preacher. In his early life he did many folk concerts and records.

The album, done as a memorial to Kazee, can be purchased for \$6.00 from Berea College Appalachian Center, Box 2336, Berea, KY 40404 or June Appal Records, Box 743, Whitesburg, KY 41858.

Northside completes new unit
Northside Baptist Church, Princeton,

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began using its new educational complex Jan. 21. The new unit contains offices, nursery, library and kitchen facilities, fellowship hall and 12 new class rooms.

Cost of the building was \$260,000. David Royalty is the pastor.

Lone Oak practices Bold Going

Lone Oak Baptist Church, Willis Henson, pastor, voted to enter a \$7000 building program and to double its gifts to all mission causes within the next five years.

The building program will provide needed educational space as well as recreation and family life facilities.

Accepting the challenge of "Bold Giving," the church will double its Co-operative Program gifts, associational mission support, state, home and foreign mission offerings.

Ordinations

Forest Park ordains two

Jerry Allen and Norris Cooper were ordained as deacons in a special service Jan. 14, at Forest Park Baptist Church, Bowling Green.

Paul M. Welch, pastor, preached the ordination sermon.

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Christian Education

Larry Pumpelly gets Frank Leavell Fund

Larry Allen Pumpelly, a Southern Seminary student, is the 1979 recipient of the Frank H. Leavell Memorial Fund.

A native of Ohio, Pumpelly is a second year student in the MDiv program. He plans to go into student work upon graduation.

The fund was established on July 17, 1953 in memory of Leavell, who served as state Training Union director for Georgia for nine years before going into student work. In 1922 he accepted leadership of a movement which has come to be known as Baptist Student Union.

Leon Simpson leaves Cumberland for Dallas

Leon D. Simpson, associate professor of religion at Cumberland College, was named to a position with joint duties at the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies and First Baptist Church, Dallas.

A native of Snyder, Okla., Simpson

has been associated with Cumberland College since 1967. He also serves on the board of trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. At Cumberland he inaugurated a training program for ministerial students, which, in the past dozen years, has grown to include 187 preachers and 400 students studying for full time Christian ministry.

At Criswell Bible College Simpson will be professor of New Testament and Greek. His duties at First Baptist Church will be under the title of minister to senior adults.

Simpson and his wife, Marilyn, have three children, Leon, 9; Timothy, 8; and Noelle, 4.

Palm Beach Atlantic receives big trust

Victor E. Moore, Palm Beach, Fla., has given a \$600,000 trust to Palm Beach Atlantic College, a four-year liberal arts Baptist college. The deferred gift more than doubles the school's endowment fund.

Campbellsville alumni award goes to Hardy

J. Alvin Hardy, advancement vice president for Campbellsville College, was recently presented the Distinguished Service Award by the college's alumni association.

Hardy graduated from Campbellsville in 1957 and received his AB degree from Georgetown College in 1961. He did graduate work at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Middle Tennessee State University and Western Kentucky University.

Before coming to Campbellsville, Hardy was pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Frankfort, and chaplain of the Kentucky State Police. Before becoming advancement vice president at Campbellsville, he was director of admissions and financial aid.

The alumni association presented the award at its homecoming alumni banquet Nov. 18.

Hardy is married to the former Peggy McKnight. They have three children, Pam, Jim and Kathy.

Georgetown creates youth ministry minor

A minor in youth ministry will be added to the Georgetown College curriculum in the fall of 1979, according to John Butler, academic dean.

The program will incorporate 26 hours of course study in religion, communication arts, music and physical education. It will offer biblical and theological content, study in group behavior and the function of religion, experience in the presentation of literary material, instruction in conducting singing and techniques of recreation.

President Ben M. Elrod said, "I feel that this course of study will meet a growing need of the churches in Kentucky and the region for young people who are capable of directing youth programs in churches while attending college. This curriculum will certainly help prepare young people for such service and for future study in our seminaries. At a time when emphasis is being placed on Bod Missions Thrust I am pleased that the faculty devised such a program."

Sunday School Lessons

Lessons for Feb. 4, 1979

H. C. Chiles

Life and Work Series

What kind of faith justifies sinners?

The principle of grace is what distinguishes Christianity from all other religious systems. Whereas Christianity reveals a work which the Lord has done, other religions insist on men doing.

Romans 4:1-8

In order to direct his readers to the fact of the necessity, importance and value of faith, Paul made reference to Abraham, that illustrious man whose name stands out as conspicuously in the Old Testament as does the moon in a star-filled sky. He quoted Gen. 15:6 to the effect that "Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." If the scriptures teach anything, it is that salvation is received as a gift from the Saviour, rather than through human works. If justification were a human accomplishment, then man would boast about what he had done. Righteousness was divinely credited to Abraham because of his faith and not because of his works.

Salvation is not promised to anybody on the condition of works. "But to him that worketh not, but

believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." Salvation is offered to those who will exercise faith in Christ.

Romans 4:16-18

Abraham's righteousness was not the product of works, circumcision or obeying the law, but it was the result of his faith. Based upon faith, righteousness has been made available through grace to people of both Jewish and Gentile extraction.

Romans 4:23-25

This account of Abraham's justification by faith is more than a record of his personal experience. Paul here reminds us that God will regard our faith in the same light which he regarded the faith of Abraham.

Through an implicit faith in God and a genuine love for him, each Christian can do what Abraham did, namely, go where God wants him to go, do what God wants him to do and by so doing earn the superlative title "friend of God."

International Series

Disciples in the world

Our Lord is very much concerned about the relationship of his disciples to himself, to other Christians and to the world.

The commission—John 17:18-21

In his matchless intercessory prayer Christ did not ask God to remove his disciples from this world. Such a procedure would have deprived them of the discipline which they needed so much. He prayed that his disciples might be set apart to the specific task of representing him effectively.

As the Father had sent his son into the world, Christ was sending forth his disciples as his messengers. He commissioned them to hold forth the word of life to the unsaved.

One is impressed deeply by the fact that, even when Christ was facing the cross, he prayed not only for the disciples who accompanied him but also for those who would be receiving him as their Saviour during the centuries to come. The entire company of future believers would need the same spiritual blessings which the 11 needed.

The conduct—1 Peter 3:8-12

Inasmuch as Christians bear the name of Christ

and are called his followers, it is expected that their lives will be characterized by a type of behavior. They should conduct themselves in such a manner as to convince onlookers that Christ is dwelling in them and determining their attitudes and actions. Peter urged Christians to live in unity, to exercise compassion toward others, to demonstrate genuine love toward their brethren, to be courteous to all, to be a blessing to as many as possible, to refrain from speaking evil and to do as much good as possible.

The conflict—1 Peter 3:13-16

Peter informed his readers that if their conduct were such as to please Christ it would be a rebuke to those who were living in a sinful manner. Peter reminded them that they should not be surprised when subjected to sneers, ridicule, hatred, persecution and suffering. One cannot live a faithful Christian life without encountering persecution in some form. It is encouraging to recall that ill-treatment or persecution has brought many Christians closer to the Lord and has resulted in their being far more useful in his service.

Frank Owen

Mutual trust

I have observed previously that we Baptists have tended to see ourselves as a smallish, direct, simple, folksy denomination; with all our affairs visible and understandable to everybody. It was comparatively easy to maintain a high level of mutual confidence in smallish meetings with full discussions of limited programs and small achievements. Great growth resulted.

Now, our operations are huge, with mission activities in almost a hundred countries abroad and agencies and missions of every sort in the homeland—rural, with racial and national minorities, language groups, rescue mission—you name it. Baptists operate more than a hundred schools, colleges, universities and seminaries; not to mention many special local schools for younger levels. It is hard to inform our people of all the work.

We still bring as full reports as representative assemblies will endure. But there is now too much to report in the time our people can spare for the meetings. We put it all in written reports, but they get so long that busy people don't read all their content.

It is the problem of bigness. It will be more difficult to maintain mutual confidence and trust in bigger future programs unless there is greater willingness to trust each other in our particular assignments of watchcare over the causes we support.

A big denomination can't please God by doing little things. If I cannot be present in all of the committee and board rooms then I must put more trust in the men which our democracy has assigned to particular tasks. I must remember that our Baptist life turns out a majority of people worthy of trust in their decision making where I'm not present to hear all the facts.

We are no longer a smallish denomination with everybody present to see and hear all the data on every action. We must conduct ourselves in a manner that inspires confidence and then trust one another in the Lord's work. If we can't, then God will have to try again to grow another big, strong group with the hope that it can hold together to do his big things.

Baptist News in Brief

Evangelism year begins in North Central states

Southern Baptists in the North Central states have kicked off what they are calling the "largest evangelistic effort ever north of the Ohio River."

They launched a "year of evangelism" during the annual rally of the North Central States Mission Thrust. More than 4000 persons braved snow and near-zero temperatures to attend workshops and inspirational sessions at Veterans' Memorial Auditorium in Columbus, Oh.

"The centerpiece of the year of evangelism will be simultaneous revivals held in the churches across the seven states Apr. 1-8," said Ray Roberts, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. Included will be churches in the Baptist state conventions in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and the fellowships in Iowa and Minnesota-Wisconsin.

North Central Mission Thrust is a joint effort of the four conventions and two fellowships to reach 30 million people who live in the area, according to R. V. Haygood, associate executive secretary of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

"It was born in 1973 when a meeting was held to find out what we might do to reach the people in this region for Jesus Christ," Haygood said. "The goal is to double the number of churches and missions in the seven states by 1990. We feel that if we double the number of churches and missions we will triple the number of Southern Baptists. We hope to have more than a million Southern Baptists in this region by that year."

James Smith, executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Convention, told participants at the rally that for the "past three years, baptisms have gone down in the area. Our actions have not been quite as long as our talk," he said.

Many of the speakers—including Southern Baptist Home Mission Board director of evangelism C. B. Hogue and executive director-treasurer William G. Tanner—called on the pastors and church leaders to "become revived" before attempting to lead churches into revival.

Featured speaker at the rally was country comic Jerry Clower, a Southern Baptist from Yazoo City, Miss.

We'll keep on truckin': Weatherford

In a response to the Consultation on Women in Church Related Vocations, the Woman's Missionary Union has issued a document detailing 11 policy commitments for renewed efforts in that area of its constituency.

"We have pledged to give attention to areas of need or misunderstanding that became apparent in the consultation," said Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU. "In most of these areas, WMU has been taking some positive action for years. In light of today, we clarify and reaffirm our intentions." One policy commitment is to "show inclusively and

specifically God's plan for women to be bearers of the good news to all people." Others are in the areas of Bible study, theology and doctrine, audience, dialog, jobs, role models, purpose, heritage, self image, missions and the denomination.

Nigerian missionary critical in NYC

Maxine (Mrs. Gordon E.) Robinson, Southern Baptist missionary to Nigeria, is in critical condition in a New York City hospital following the rupture of a cerebral aneurysm.

Mrs. Robinson was hospitalized Jan. 3 in Ibadan, Nigeria, where she and her husband are active in church development. She was flown to Presbyterian Hospital in New York for treatment at its neurological institute Jan. 12.

She was accompanied by her husband and Dr. John Tarpley, a missionary physician. Mrs. Robinson's condition must stabilize before the aneurysm, an enlarged area of a blood vessel, can be surgically removed.

A native of Mullin, Tex., Mrs. Robinson was appointed in 1955. The Robinsons have two children, both of whom remained in Nigeria in school.

Preconference to be "pro"

The Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, criticized last year as "negative," promises to "encourage the pastor" when it meets at the Houston Coliseum June 10-11.

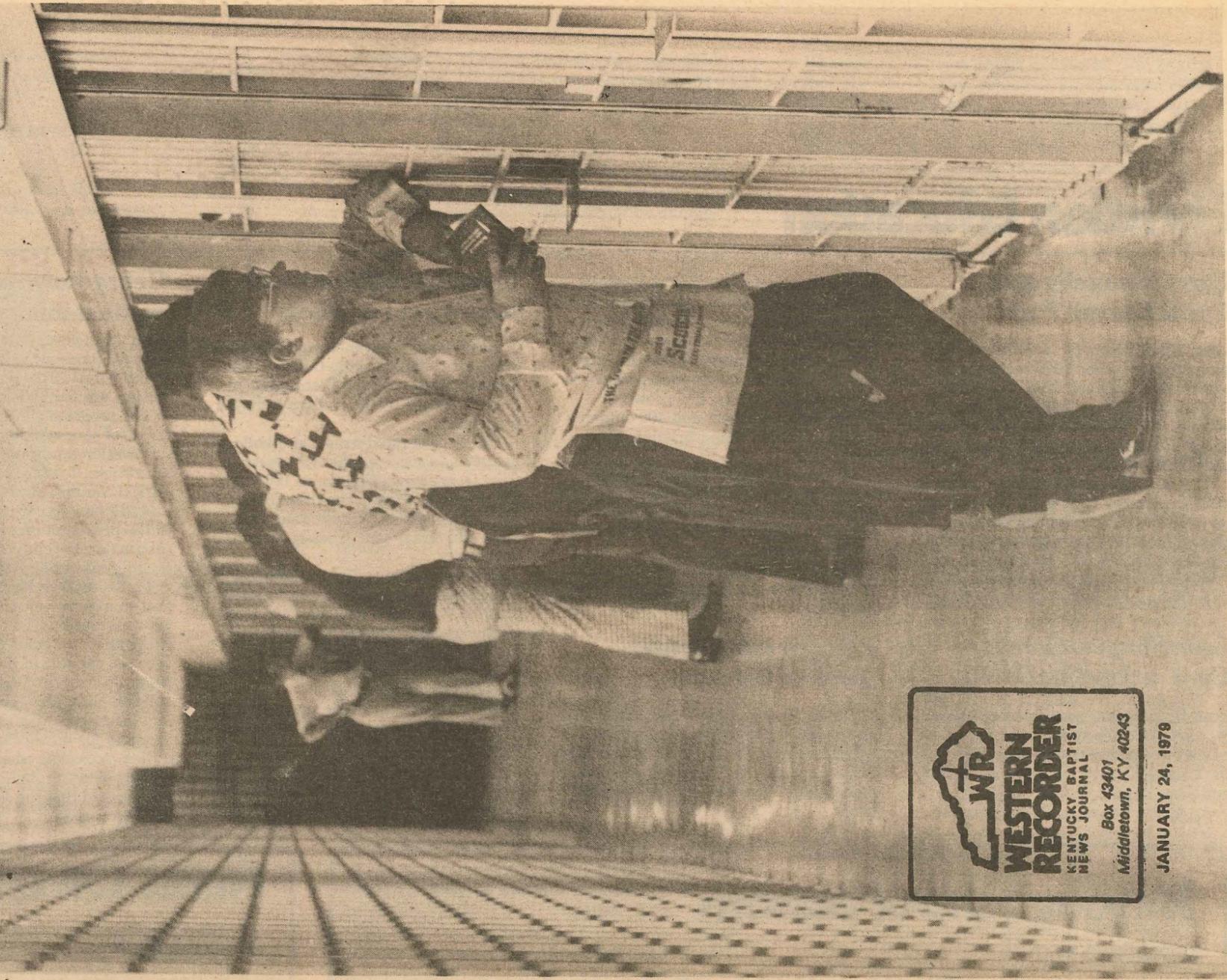
The conference is among a number of pre and post convention meetings surrounding the annual Southern Baptist Convention national sessions at a separate location in Houston, the Summit, June 12-14.

Sermons by Adrian Rogers, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis; W. A. Criswell, First Baptist Church, Dallas; and James Robison, evangelist, Hurst, Tex., anchor the opening session June 10.

Last year's conference drew a rash of negative comments from readers of state Baptist newspapers who said pastors were unduly criticized by preachers at the sessions and not uplifted.

Messages during three Monday sessions will be brought by James Ponder, head of the Florida Baptist Convention evangelism department; Ralph Stone, pastor, North Jacksonville Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.; Richard Jackson, pastor, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.; Jim Henry, pastor, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; Bobby Welch, pastor, First Baptist Church, Daytona Beach, Fla.; William H. Ricketts, pastor, Prince Avenue Baptist Church, Athens, Ga.; Clark Hutchinson, pastor, Eastside Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.; Eddie Martin, evangelist, Lancaster, Penn.; Jimmy Jackson, pastor, Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala.; Charles F. Stanley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga.; and Jerry Vines, pastor, Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., will conclude the conference with a message Monday night.

Carrying out the theme of Baptist Men's Day, observed Jan. 29, 1979 throughout the Southern Baptist Convention, Baptist Men from several Florida churches participate in a well organized prison ministry at the Rayford Prison near Starke, Fla.



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WESTERN RECORDER
 KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL
 Box 43401
 Middletown, KY 40243

JANUARY 24, 1979