

Who will follow Allen? History may offer clue

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Southern Baptists' biennial preoccupation with the election of a new convention president is about ready to begin. It comes as the result of a clause in the convention's constitution which states that "the term of office for the president is limited to two years."

Jimmy Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., reaches that constitutional limit at the SBC meeting June 12-14 in Houston, Tex.

Thus, with the election of a new president only a few months away, some are already beginning to speculate on potential nominees. State editors will soon be reporting names of several of those who are presently only whispered about in the corridors of the SBC Building in Nashville and who are currently making the circuit of state evangelism conferences and other local and regional events.

Return to the pages of yesteryear

History may tell us something about the person we will elect in Houston even now, however.

Forty different individuals have been elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention since the convention was organized in 1845. All of these have been men.

By states, Texas leads with eight and Tennessee follows with six. Georgia is just behind with five. Three men each were elected from Kentucky, Louisiana and South Carolina, but there's a catch. One of those elected from South Carolina a century ago moved from that state and was reelected as a Kentuckian.

Two presidents each have come from Arkansas, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Virginia. One was elected from Alabama, Mississippi and Missouri.

The elections of the last three decades may be even more relevant to 1979.

In 30 years we have elected 16 different individuals from seven states. Five were Tennesseans, four were Texans, two North Carolinians, two Oklahomans and there was one each from Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

All of them served the constitutional limit of two years with the exception of K. Owen White of Texas and James L. Sullivan of Tennessee, who chose to limit their presidencies to one year.

Of the 16 elected since 1949, 13 presidents were pastors of large metropolitan downtown churches. Two were laymen—Brooks Hays of Arkansas, elected in 1957, and Owen Cooper of Mississippi, elected in 1972. One, James L. Sullivan, was a retired denominational agency executive.

Of the 13 pastors, two served the same church in Tennessee during their presidencies (R. G. Lee and Ramsey Pollard) and two served the same church in North Carolina during theirs (C. C. Warren and Carl E. Bates).

When they meet at home, they elect their own

The convention has met in 15 states during the last three decades. On five occasions it met in Texas, where it meets again this year. Twice the presiding officer was completing his first year in office at the Texas meetings and was reelected. The remaining three elected for the first time in Texas included an Oklahoman and two Texans. The Texans were elected the last two times the convention met in the Lone Star state (1968 and 1974).

Does all of this suggest that a Texan will be elected in June? Time will tell, but recent history would suggest that a Texan, or someone in a state nearby, might have the inside track.

There is a precedent in modern times for the election of a convention president from a state in which his predecessor resides. While it had not happened in over 50 years, when W. Wayne Dehoney's second

term ended in 1966, H. Franklin Paschall was elected to succeed him. Both were Tennesseans. The outgoing president this year is a Texan. It's an interesting premise.

This writer, like others, has already listed names of potential nominees for this year as he sees them. There are 15 on the list, and all are pastors of large metropolitan area congregations.

Texas tops the list with three. Louisiana and Tennessee are represented by two names each. One resides in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina and Oklahoma.

But God is still on his throne

Let us not leave the subject of presidential speculation with the impression that politics is the name of the game and wholesale campaigning is going on. An illustration may suffice.

Several years ago a prominent pastor whose name had been tossed about as presidential timber was prevented from arriving at the convention on time due to a funeral at his church. He fulfilled his obligations at home, then flew to the convention, arriving a day later than planned. To his dismay, he found his hotel room across the street from the convention had been given to someone else. He had to commute to the convention hall from many miles away.

This prevented any active solicitation for votes on his part, if he had been so inclined. He arrived at the arena, was nominated, and was elected on the first ballot.

The convention registration secretary later assured this writer that the newly elected president confessed to him that he had not lifted so much as a little finger to get himself elected. He did not agree to become a candidate until friends persuaded him the night before the election.

The secretary, who was in charge of the vote counting, declared, "My faith in the Lord has been firmly underscored today."

May it again be so in 1979.

If you don't have a room, how can you participate in electing the president?

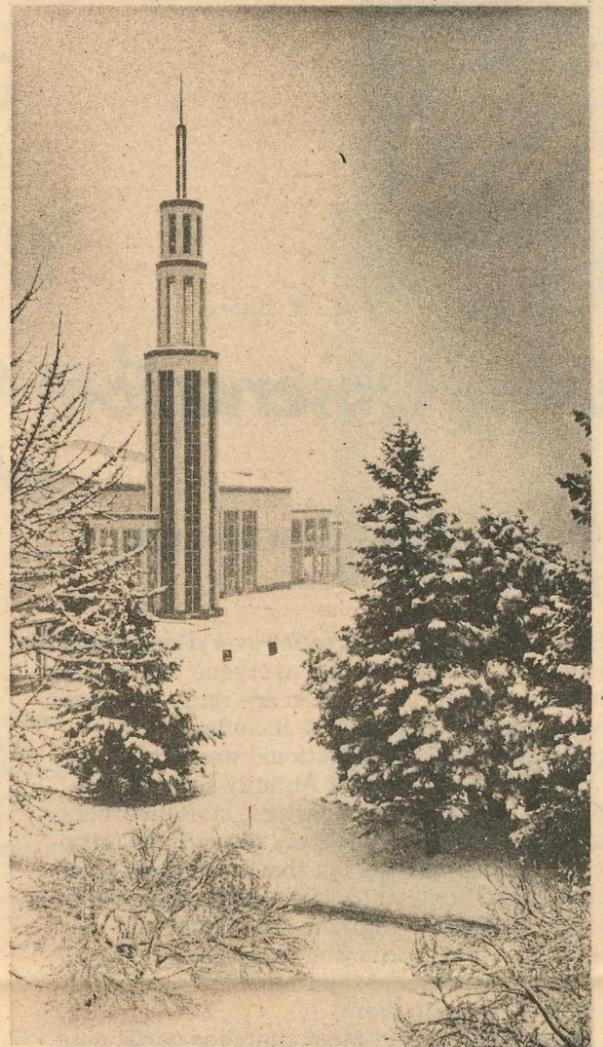
A change of address by Houston's convention housing bureau and the subsequent failure of the postal service to forward some housing forms is confusing registrants for the 1979 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

That confusion, combined with the rapid filling of available hotel rooms for the June 12-14 meeting, makes quick action by those who plan to attend the convention imperative.

Tim Hedquist, SBC convention manager, says about five percent of the housing forms being sent to the old address are being returned.

Hotel room requests should be sent to this new address: SBC Housing Bureau, 1522 Main St., Houston, TX 77002.

Hedquist indicated that as of last week 73 percent of the reserved rooms are assigned and more than half of the designated hotels are completely full. No rooms are available in the following hotels: Albert Pick Motor Inn, Allen Park Inn, Astro Village Hotel, Crestwood Motel, Executive Red Carpet Inn, Grant Motel, Holiday Inn-Central, Holiday Inn-Medical Center, Holiday Inn-West Loop, LaQuinta Inn-Greenway Plaza, Marriott Hotel-West Loop, Ramada Inn-Dome, Ramada Inn-Greenway Plaza, Stouffer's-Greenway Plaza, Sun Valley Motel, Tideland's Motor Inn, Tides II Motor Inn and the Travelodge Tower.



Winter wonderland

An eight inch snow bathed Glorietta [N. M.] Baptist Conference Center in beauty recently.

Louisville peace talks gain endorsement by Criswell

A convocation on peacemaking and the nuclear arms race in Louisville has drawn support of a leading conservative Southern Baptist spokesman.

"It is my earnest prayer that some solution can be found for the illimitable waste spent on armaments that could be so desperately useful for the poor and the lost of the world," W. A. Criswell said.

"Southern Baptists need to begin taking the biblical call to peacemaking more seriously," adds Criswell, pastor of the 20,000-member Dallas First Baptist Church.

The convocation, to be held Feb. 16-17 at Louisville's Deer Park Baptist Church and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is a response to a resolution passed at the 1978 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta.

Prominent Christian peace activists, as well as government and church officials, will speak at the convocation. Among them will be Dale Brown, former moderator of the pacifist Church of the Brethren; C. Welton Gaddy, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Tex.; Phil Strickland, Christian Life Commission, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas; U. S. Sen. Wendell Ford, D-Ky.; and William Dyess, assistant deputy secretary in the U. S. State Department, Washington, D. C.

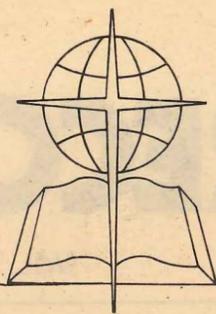
Criswell has long been regarded as a champion of political and theological conservatism, and his statement on nuclear weaponry is an important boost to organizers of the Louisville meeting.

"Just because a man is fundamental and believes in the whole Bible does not mean he doesn't believe in world peace," Criswell told The Dallas Times Herald. "That is just a crazy idea of the left wing liberals."

"War is the most destructive of all realities we face in this life. And a nuclear war—can you imagine what that would mean today?"

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

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C. R. Daley

Daley Observations

God's retired servants need help

Higher and higher prices for everything required to sustain life are hurting everyone but the ones hurting most from inflation are retired persons with fixed incomes. These include retired preachers and denominational workers.

The Southern Baptist Annuity Board which tries to help churches, pastors, staff members and denominational workers prepare for retirement is now pointing out that retirement plans considered adequate a few years ago are no longer adequate. Churches are being told that their present contribution to retirement plans must be increased if their ministers are not to suffer upon retirement.

How right this is! Most churches participate only in Plan A of the Annuity Board. This plan has now become very inadequate. For example, I checked the records of my own Plan A which is the same as that for most ministers. I learned that if I participate at the same level I now participate until I am 65, my projected monthly income from Plan A would be about \$200 a month. Who can live on \$200 a month these days?

There is considerable discussion presently of retirement benefits for church and denominational workers. From this discussion something helpful will probably result. Denominational agencies and hopefully churches will reexamine their present retirement benefits for workers and most likely will upgrade them. Don't be surprised if the present recommendation of putting an amount equal to 10% of the total income of employees into a retirement plan is not increased to 15% or more by some denominational agencies. The Annuity Board can be expected sooner or later to make such a recommendation if inflation continues.

But what about denominational and church workers who are already retired and are trying to make it on woefully small fixed retirement incomes? These are not nearly so likely to be helped and this is sad.

Among retired preachers and denominational workers and their survivors there are many sad stories to be found. Here is one in the area of denominational retirement benefits which disturbs me.

Among the friends of my wife and me is the widow of one of the most loyal denominational workers I ever knew. He gave 36 years of his life to serving one Baptist institution. His was not a high paying job but an important one. He and his wife literally gave themselves to the institution taking little thought of themselves or their needs for retirement.

He retired at the age of 69. His retirement benefits from all sources were very limited be-

cause of poor retirement plans at that time and relatively low pay while working. Because of the limited amount available from denominational annuity he chose a plan which brought most of his annuity to him and his wife in the first 10 years of retirement. He is now dead but she has lived past the first 10 years of retirement. Consequently what's left for her is extremely little.

To be exact she is receiving from the Annuity Board \$12.50 a month or \$150 a year. Fortunately Social Security is much more help but her total income simply won't take care of her. She has mortgaged her home and the outlook is indeed bleak.

The plight of this widow doesn't mean the Annuity Board and this Baptist institution have not been honest. It means retirement benefits provided in that day are totally inadequate today.

The institution has been made aware of the situation and will surely give careful and compassionate consideration to this need.

It's proper but it's not enough for one denominational agency to consider and recommend proper retirement provisions for workers of that agency. It's time for the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, or the convention itself, to consider this crisis and recommend some relief for loyal servants of the denomination who are now suffering.

In the meantime churches should take steps to see that their staff members and their survivors not come to the place in old age when they will have to look to charity to survive. That's exactly the prospect so far as what many churches are now doing.

Now it can be told

There is some important information which we would generally bally-hoo but which we have been keeping the wraps on. It's not that we don't want the right people to know about it but we don't want the wrong ones to have sufficient notice to louse up things.

This information is the 1979 dates of one of the most important of all Baptist get togethers. It's the state evangelism conference which for many years has met in early January. The problem is that the weather makers seem dead set against this meeting and have wrought havoc and especially the last two years.

Year before last blizzard type weather descended upon the gathering cutting down attendance and actually cutting short the meeting. Last year was worse. A full fledged blizzard moved in preventing all but a handful of people reaching the place and these had difficulty getting back home when the meeting was called off.

This year we're trying to cross up the blizzard schedulers. We changed the dates for this important meeting. The time has come now, however, to broadcast the plans including the dates and hope the weather patterns for February are already fixed and that Feb. 26-27 will not bring intolerable weather and traveling conditions.

By now readers of the above paragraphs recognize the irony. Weather conditions are determined not by weather people but by natural laws which God put into effect with creation. He can and does suspend natural law when he chooses but he doesn't generally send fair weather for religious gatherings and blizzards for distillery conventions. That kind of theology would be hard put to explain the weather in

Kentucky on the first three Sundays this year.

Attendance for the evangelism conference in Elizabethtown Feb. 26-27 should be an all time high. Preachers and laymen are always hungry for inspiration and they know this meeting offers the highest. Missing the blessing last year must be something like the ancient Hebrews' missing the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for Pass-over. It's hard to wait for the next time to go.

Another consideration is the disappointing decline in baptisms last year. There's enough concern among us to send us to any meeting that might help reverse last year's trend. It's amazing how far the influence of an inspiring two-day meeting will reach.

As usual a program of outstanding speakers and leaders has been arranged. Elizabethtown is centrally and conveniently located with good facilities and superb hospitality.

Baptist Forum

Ecumenically speaking, of course

I want to express my heart felt thanks and congratulations to the Western Recorder on such a fine newspaper. I enjoy reading it every week. However, I must wholeheartedly disagree with a statement in your Jan. 3 issue that said Baptists are Protestants.

First, let's define the word "Protestant." It means "any Christian belonging to a sect descending from those that seceded from the Church of Rome at the time of Reformation." So, what you are saying by believing this is that the Baptist Church is just another branch or sect that descended from the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore, you must also believe that the Catholic Church was the first church—the one Jesus built.

If you believe this, why are you a Baptist? If I believed that our church came from the Catholic Church and it was the one Jesus founded, I would immediately go out and join the Catholic Church.

I am proud to be a Baptist—a member of the church Christ founded. Are you? If so stand up and be counted for Christ. If you are not proud, we that are will pray for you.

Michael Alexander, Benton

Sour grapes, maybe?

Onions to you for your editorial concerning Coca Cola in the Jan. 17 Western Recorder.

While it is true that Christians should voice concern about, and take other appropriate actions to stem the rise in beverage alcohol consumption, it needs to be pointed out that the acquisition of wineries is an action of the Coca Cola Atlanta parent company. You, unfortunately, suggested that churches should remove Coke machines. This course of action would adversely affect only the local Coca Cola bottler, which is basically a family-owned concern. They own no wineries and are basically connected to the parent company only through use of the Coca Cola trademark and purchase of syrup which is mixed and bottled locally.

More appropriate protest action against the parent company would take the form of protest letters to the company and sale of stock in the parent company, as some other religious groups are doing. To try to hurt the business of our locally-owned distributor because of poor judgment on the part of the parent company does not seem to be an ethically sound Christian witness. After all, we don't refuse to buy groceries from stores that sell alcoholic beverages. If we did, we probably wouldn't buy groceries at all.

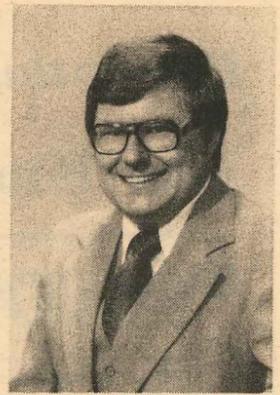
No longer is it valid that "the fathers have eaten sour grapes and the children's teeth are set on edge" (Ezek. 18:1ff). Let's put the blame where it should go and not where it is convenient.

David Haley, Louisville



Jesse Stricker
Middletown, Ky.

STATE COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE



James H. Cox
Middletown, Ky.



Kathryn Jasper
Middletown, Ky.

MARCH 29-30, 1979

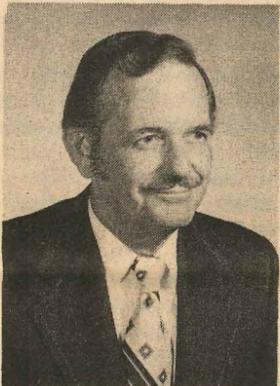
Severns Valley Baptist Church Elizabethtown, Kentucky



W. C. Fields
Nashville, Tenn.

ESPECIALLY FOR

- Pastors
- Ministers of Education
- Church Secretaries
- Sunday School Teachers & Officers
- Church Training Leaders
- WMU & Brotherhood Officers
- Church Public Relations Committees
- Church Media Center Staffers
- Church Members Who Want to Write
- Superintendents of Missions
- Associational Office Staffs
- Church TV & Radio Volunteer Staffers
- Denominational Employes
- Agency Communications Staffs
- College & Seminary Communications Students
- Anyone Who Communicates Within/For the Church



Claud O'Shields
Wilmington, N. C.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 29 — 1:15 p.m. and 7 p.m.
FRIDAY, MARCH 30 — 9 a.m.

Communications exhibits throughout the conference
Fellowship dinner Thursday evening at the church



Wesley M. Pattillo
Louisville, Ky.

General session topics:

"Mass Media Evangelism"
"Broadcast Media Looks at Religion"
"What Southern Baptists are Doing in Electronic Media"

Communications workshops
(choose any four):

Creative Displays and Interest Centers—Darrell Wood, Director of Communications, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville

Church Cassette Ministry—John Brown, Consultant, Japanese Victor Corp., Knoxville, Tenn.; Cookie Jones, Technical Sales Representative, Magnetic Tape, Agfa-Gevaert, Atlanta, Ga.

Beginners in Broadcasting—Jimmy Waters, TV Evangelist, Macon, Ga.

Radio—John Cobb Smith, Assistant Vice President, Radio and Television Commission, SBC, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Television—Bob Taylor, Radio and Television Commission, SBC, Ft. Worth, Tex.; John Wood, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Paducah; Bob Kersey, Associate Pastor, First Baptist Church, Paducah; Robert Young, Associate Pastor, Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville

Cable—James Fadely, Video Systems Consultant, Gray Communications Consultants Inc., Birmingham, Ala.

Writing for Religious and Secular Press—Bracey Campbell, Supervisor, News and Information Section, Office of Communications, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

Freelance and Curriculum Writing—James H. Cox, Associate Editor, Western Recorder, Middletown

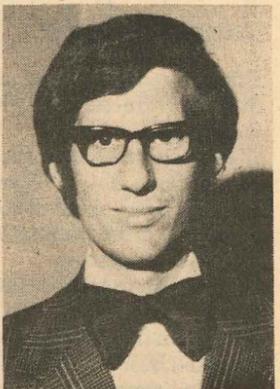
Total Church Public Relations—W. C. Fields, Assistant to the Executive Secretary and Public Relations Director, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.

Broadcast Engineering/Sound Systems/Church Acoustics—Glen Collins, Electronics Consultant, Technical Industries, Nashville, Tenn.; Bill Hammond, Television Division Manager, Technical Industries, Nashville, Tenn.

Associational and Church Newsletters—Wesley M. (Pat) Pattillo Jr., Vice President for Development, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville

Workshop for Persons Not Mechanically Inclined—Andrew B. Rawls, Director of Media Services, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville

Evangelism Through Mass Media—Don Fearheiley, Supervisor, Bible Correspondence Section, Bible Teaching Division, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.



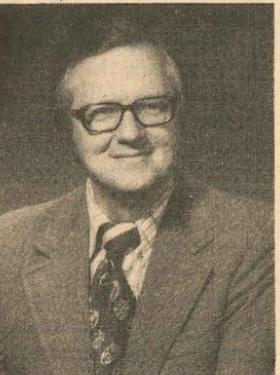
Andrew B. Rawls
Louisville, Ky.



Darrell Wood
Louisville, Ky.



Bracey Campbell
Nashville, Tenn.



Don Fearheiley
Nashville, Tenn.

\$5.00 registration fee covers program materials and fellowship dinner. Payable in advance to: Communications Workshop, Stewardship-Promotion Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243

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Kentucky Baptist Convention and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union

Presenting, your Baptist Building staff



Quinn



Stricker



Mrs. Dobbins



Whaley



Miss Jasper

For Quinn, church music has a missions emphasis

Eugene Quinn is something of a "music missionary." Shortly after earning the Master of Church Music degree from Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., in 1947, he became the first secretary of the state music department for Illinois Baptists.

When Quinn came to Louisville to enrol in the doctoral program at Southern Seminary in 1956 KBC officials named him part time secretary of the state music department. He took the position full time in 1960 and has been here since.

His "music missionary" interest has spread to foreign fields, too; he has been involved in short term mission trips to Japan and the Philippines (on two occasions).

And what might he expect to find himself doing after retirement? Why music missions, of course.

It's no wonder then, when you ask Gene Quinn what's happening in the Church Music Department, he quickly answers, "The emphasis this year is on music in missions."

"We've told them to go but we haven't told them how," he explains. He sees a great challenge in leading churches to involve their music resources in missions.

In a recent letter to Kentucky music directors Quinn outlines ways in which choir members may witness to others.

Quinn says his department's purpose through the years has pretty well remained the same: "To develop the best leadership for the churches and to help members use music as effectively as possible for the glory of God."

He notes much progress during the past 22 years. "Three years ago we reached the 100 mark of full time ministers of music in Kentucky," he adds.

The Quinns, who live in Lyndon, include Mrs. Quinn, the former Phronsie Bizzell, and four children, Janice Ann, Philip C., Paul Edwin and Carla Fay.

Stricker gives information, seeks Baptists' involvement

Effective communication is a key goal for Jesse Stricker, director of the KBC Stewardship-Promotion Department.

His department works with individuals, churches, associations, the KBC and the Southern Baptist Convention in the areas of stewardship, the Cooperative Program, promotion (of the state convention) and Christian education.

"We like to tell Baptists around the state what we're doing," he explains. "If we can get them involved and give them the information, we know they will make the right decisions through the Lord."

"We haven't come to grips with what the Bible is teaching us about stewardship," he insists. He sees stewardship as more than tithing money.

Still, the effectiveness in reaching Bold Mission Thrust goals is dependent to some extent upon faithful giving. "If we are going to reach the world by the year 2000 it's going to take a sizable amount of money."

Other responsibilities of the multi-faceted department include the preparation of news releases and the distribution of five-minute news programs to Kentucky radio stations. It also handles matching funds scholarships and serves as liaison between the five Baptist supported schools in Kentucky and the KBC Executive Board.

Stricker was a pastor for 16 years before being tapped for denominational service. He has traveled in Europe, Africa and Alaska in his current post.

A native of St. Louis, Mo., Stricker earned the AA degree from Southwest Baptist College, Bolivar, Mo.; the AB degree from Southwest Missouri State College, Springfield; and the BD from Southern Seminary.

He and his wife Elva are the parents of three children, Mrs. Beth Perkins and Barry and Pam Stricker. They also have a grandson.

He served in the U. S. Navy aboard the USS Roy O. Hale during World War II.

Wanda Carpenter Dobbins: only the name is different

There's a new name in the Church Services Division these days but the face is a familiar one. The name is Wanda Carpenter Dobbins—the last name was added when she and seminarian James Dobbins were married in November—but the face is the same one known to youth and youth workers across the state.

And as KBC youth consultant her philosophy of ministering with youth hasn't changed either.

"The initial commitment to Christ is really important," she says, "but after the emotional excitement church going stops if we don't provide ongoing discipleship training."

"The biggest challenge is trying to stay in touch with the ever changing youth culture and knowing how to help youth leaders minister to youth in a culture that is often different from the church environment."

"The challenge of really listening to youth is the most important thing in youth ministries. It is a sign that adults are developing relationships with youth. And that is important to youth."

Mrs. Dobbins is responsible for three basic groups: youth themselves, volunteer youth leadership and professional youth ministers. In addition to planning events such as summer camp, Bible drills and speaker's tournaments for youth, she also coordinates sessions and retreats to enable leaders to minister more effectively.

A veteran of three years in her position, Mrs. Dobbins is a graduate of Western Kentucky University, Southern Seminary and the University of Louisville Kent School of Social Work.

She has been a summer missionary to New Mexico and to Jamaica, and a missionary journeyman to Ghana. And she and her husband are giving consideration to the possibility of a career in foreign missions in the future.

Mrs. Dobbins has also written articles for several denominational publications.

James Whaley coordinates several state departments

James Whaley is coordinator of the Church Services Division at the Kentucky Baptist Convention and assistant to the executive secretary-treasurer.

"As assistant to Franklin Owen, I help in any way I can," he claims. "I work particularly with detail planning and preparation."

The Church Services Division works with other departments in setting goals, budgeting to meet those goals and evaluating how the goals are met.

The division includes Sunday School, Brotherhood, Church Music and Church Training departments, camps, assemblies and student work. "In addition we work very closely with Woman's Missionary Union," adds Whaley.

Whaley has been with KBC for 25 years. He came as director of the Church Training Department, later moving to coordinator of the Church Services Division. "As coordinator I seek to work out problems in scheduling, assignments and other work between the various departments," says Whaley.

Seminary Extension and working with senior adults are two additional assignments of the Church Services Division. Last year there were 15 extension centers in the state and about 70 correspondence students. Whaley states that there are over 400 churches in Kentucky that have some type of senior adult club or organization. He adds that the department works with churches in establishing a senior adult ministry and with associations and different areas in joint senior adult activities. Each May a senior adult retreat is held at Cedarmore.

Whaley received his business administration degree from Emory University, Atlanta and Religious Education degree from New Orleans Seminary.

He and his wife, Wilma, have three children.

They attend Woodland Baptist Church, Middletown, where he is a deacon, teaches an adult men's Sunday school class and is active in Church Training.

Bold Mission Thrust—not possible without WMU, Miss Jasper says

"If we do anything really worthwhile in Bold Mission Thrust it's going to depend on what WMU does, and how forceful we are."

The conviction is that of WMU state executive director Kathryn Jasper, who mused one day recently on where WMU has been and where it seems to be going.

In her eight years in Middletown, Miss Jasper has seen "a tremendous churchwide advance in WMU."

An example is in the annual state missions offering which has jumped from \$120,000 in 1970 to \$300,000 last year. She cites "increased education to needs and caring through the whole church and families" as reasons for these significant increases. "Training has contributed heavily, too," she believes.

Miss Jasper thinks the growth of recent years will intensify in the future. "A trend toward more and more churchwide mission activities promoted by the pastor will be seen," she predicts.

Miss Jasper reports, as the state WMU begins its second 100 years, its number one priority is to increase the number of functioning WMUs in the local church. The organization has set a goal of 300 new WMUs for every three years through 1987.

Born in Somerset, Kathryn Jasper is the daughter of a mountain physician who was committed to the people of that area, and who felt the call of the Lord to preach. Her dad received a year of training at Southern Seminary, and preached at Cumberland and Verda, Ky.

A graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, Miss Jasper holds the MRE degree from Southern. She taught in a one room schoolhouse before becoming youth director at First Church, Owensboro. She later held BSU positions at Mississippi State College for Women and in Jackson, Miss. From 1961-70 she was director of activities at Memorial Baptist Hospital, Houston. In her final year there she also served on the recruiting staff at Houston Baptist College.

She is a member of Hurstbourne Church.

Allen: stewardship is KBC's primary business function

"I am a layman with a professional, theological education. I feel privileged as a layman to have this educational background." This is how Barry Glen Allen, business manager for the KBC, describes himself.

Allen holds a BBA degree from the University of Mississippi, Oxford and an MDiv degree from Southern Seminary.

The responsibilities of the business office encompass accounting, data processing, personnel, budgeting, financial reporting, risk management, money management, property management and general services which include printing, mailing, purchasing and telephone.

Allen states that the number one business function for the convention is one of stewardship. "We are a support service for the executive board, churches, association, the convention and its agencies."

Allen explains that the business office doesn't have a program assignment but "supports everyone else in the accomplishment of their assignments."

In addition to being the business manager Allen's title also includes assistant to the executive secretary for coordinating the Business Division departments. This includes the Kentucky Baptist Foundation and the Annuity department. As assistant to the executive secretary Allen serves as a communications channel.

"My job is a full time administrative assignment," says Allen, "but occasionally I do have time to assist individual churches and associations in whatever way I can to better manage the affairs of the church."

Allen and his wife, Larie, attend Broadway Baptist Church, where he is a deacon, chairman of the finance committee and Sunday school teacher.

"I can say God has given me a tremendous opportunity, at an early stage in life, to be involved in the ministry to which I was called," he adds.

In his spare time Allen enjoys golfing, fishing and traveling.



Allen



Lanier

Lanier's figures say 80 percent unsaved

"If you want to accomplish anything in the mountains," asserts I. Houston Lanier, "you've got to go there to stay.

"Nobody goes in overnight and makes an impression upon the mountain people," the associate director of Kentucky Baptists' Direct Missions Department is convinced.

Lanier, who is also director of mountain missions for the convention, has a decade to his credit in that area. Immediately prior to his appointment to his present job in June 1977 he was missionary of Laurel River Association eight years, the territory surrounding London, Ky.

Earlier the Texas-born Lanier served pastorates at Sturgis, Columbia and Manchester, Ky., and mission appointments in Indiana and Kansas City, Mo. He's a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark. and Southern Seminary. He married the former Aileen Wilson of Evansville, Ind. They are parents of four married children, each of whom lives in a different state.

One senses Lanier's enthusiasm for the particular assignment he now holds in a brief conversation.

"We so badly need more and better trained leadership in the mountains," he suggests. "It's my duty to create an awareness of needs, to help people discover their opportunities and to encourage them to match those opportunities with people who can carry them out."

Lanier reports that only one out of five people in eastern Kentucky is a Christian.

The mountain missions territory he serves out of an office at Lexington's Chevy Chase Baptist Church encompasses 34 counties, 22 associations, 621 churches, 14 associational missionaries and 26 local missionaries. Lanier records all of his calls on pastors and visits the 26 churches supported by the Direct Missions Department at least annually.

Series ends

The series of vignettes on personalities at the Baptist Building in Middletown concludes with this issue. For those who may be saving it for future reference, the series began with the issue of Jan. 3 and continued each issue of the month. The Western Recorder staff has received many favorable comments on the series, and trusts it has provided interesting, helpful and enjoyable reading for all. Knowing the people who labor in your behalf helps open the lines of communication and leads to a greater understanding and appreciation between the people in the pews and their denominational servants.

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Church Music Festivals

CITY	REGIONAL DIRECTOR & ADDRESS	FESTIVAL DATES & HOST CHURCH
ASHLAND	Gary Southard, 4409 W. Jepson, Ashland, Ky. 41101	All Ages - March 23 - Unity
FRANKLIN	Don Phillips, First Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky. 42134	Adult/Youth - March 30 - First Children - March 31 - First
HOPKINSVILLE	Ron Sholar, P. O. Box 546, Hopkinsville, Ky. 42240	All Ages - April 27 - First
INDEPENDENCE	Larry Cook, P. O. Box 278, Nicholasville, Ky. 40356	Adult/Youth - March 30 - Hickory Grove Children - March 31 - Hickory Grove
LEXINGTON	Larry Cook, P. O. Box 278, Nicholasville, Ky. 40356	Adult/Youth - April 6 - Porter Memorial Children - April 7 - Porter Memorial
LOUISVILLE	Jerry Douglas, 9705 Westport Road, Louisville, Ky. 40222	Adult - March 23 - Lyndon Youth - March 9 - Farmdale Children - March 10 - Cedar Creek
MADISONVILLE	Alan Chamness, 307 Center St., Henderson, Ky. 42420	All Ages - April 30 - First
PADUCAH	Ron Sholar, P. O. Box 546, Hopkinsville, Ky. 42240	All Ages - April 6 - Baptist Tabernacle
SOMERSET	Jim Cordell, P. O. Box 797, Somerset, Ky. 42501	All Ages - March 30 - First
WHITESBURG	Robert Young, First Baptist Church, Hindman, Ky. 41822	Adult/Youth - April 20 - First Children - April 21 - First

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Select TWO songs and be preparing your choir to sing their best. (During this time of emphasis on BOLD MISSION THRUST, we would strongly suggest that at least one of your selections be a song with a Missions Theme.)

Mountains to the Mississippi



Mrs. Tallant



Tallant



Adkins



Mr. & Mrs. Martin

Personnel

Barker to Third Avenue, Louisville
Steve Barker is the new minister of education and youth at Third Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville.

A student at Southern Seminary, Barker holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from West Virginia State College.

His wife, the former Anita Sayre, will lead children's church. The couple is from West Virginia.

Leon Larimore is pastor.

FBC, Dawson Springs, calls pastor
Lawson Williamson, 45, is the new pastor of First Baptist Church, Dawson Springs, in Little Bethel Association.

He succeeds Jesse Bell, who retired to Georgia after 25 years as pastor there.

Williamson is the former pastor of Sinking Springs Baptist Church, Murray.

A native of Atwood, Tenn., he attended Bethel College, McKenzie, Tenn., and Union University, Jackson, Tenn.

He and his wife, the former Gladys Jones, have two daughters, Pam, 19, and Beth, 11.

Jimmy Cox to West Pineville
Jimmy A. Cox was called as pastor of West Pineville Baptist Church, Pineville.

A native of Seneca, S. C., Cox is a student at Clear Creek School.

He and his wife, the former Judith Smith, have four children, Lori, 13; Lee, 11; Terri, 8; and Trevor, 4.

Donald Withers to Mt. Pleasant
Donald O. Withers is the new pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Nicholasville.

For the past six years he was pastor of Buck Grove Baptist Church, Ekron.

A 1961 graduate of Campbellsville College, he received the MDiv degree from Southern Seminary in 1977.

Withers and his wife Mary are the parents of two sons, Jeff and Royce.

Dennis Waters to Bainbridge Grove
Dennis Waters is the new pastor of

Bainbridge Grove Baptist Church in the Hopkinsville area.

Waters is a graduate of Mid-Continent Bible College at Mayfield. He and his wife Evelyn have two children.

Mason to Second Baptist, Providence
Lowell Mason is the new pastor of Second Baptist Church, Providence.

A Marine Corps veteran, Mason graduated from Clear Creek School in May 1978.

He came to Providence from Scaffold Cane Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon.

He and his wife, the former Joann Burchett, have three children, Tim, 17; Tom, 16; and Toni, 12.

Glen Crowe returns to Wickliffe

Glen Crowe, a former resident of Wickliffe, has returned there as pastor of Washington Avenue Baptist Church.

Crowe was a pastor seven years before becoming an evangelist in 1975. He has conducted revivals in the U. S. and four foreign countries.

He has a tape ministry and he and his wife Barbara and two daughters have cut several gospel albums.

Delk new Oak Grove pastor

Henry E. Delk has accepted the pastorate of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Freedom Association.

Delk has done mission work in Michigan and has pastored in Pulaski County.

Ordinations

Hanging Fork ordains minister
Hanging Fork Baptist Church, Allen Association, ordained its pastor and three deacons Dec. 10.

Jim Hunt was ordained to the gospel ministry and Billy Joe Moore, Eldon Mutter and Jerry Arterburn were ordained as deacons.

Associational missionary Carline Spears was moderator; Billy Neal Davis was clerk; and H. B. Eaton led the interrogation.

Roy Lee Britt delivered the ordination sermon and Emmitt Strode the prayer. Ralph Garmon gave the charge to the candidates and B. R. Tade gave the charge to the church. Henry Smith presented the Bible.

Adams ordained at Hopewell
Hopewell Baptist Church, Jefferson-town, ordained David Adams to the gospel ministry Jan. 21.

Adams is presently the associate pastor with educational emphasis at Hopewell. He is currently working on his MDiv degree.

Adams is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Adams, formerly of Roanoke, Va.

Browder Tatum ordained as deacon
White Plains Baptist Church, Allen Association, ordained Browder Tatum as a deacon Jan. 14.

Deacon Harry Payne Read was moderator and pastor Dillard Hagan brought the ordination sermon.

Deacon Alvah Williams prayed the ordination prayer and deacon T. C. Simmons presented the Bible.

Associational missionary Carline Spears gave the charge to the church and the new deacon.

Congregations

RAs sponsor walk-a-thon
During November the RA Crusader chapter of Paducah First Baptist Church had a "walk-a-thon" for Lottie Moon.

Nearly \$750 was pledged.

Ridgecrest hosts soul-winning class
Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Ohio County Association, had a two-night soul winning course on Dec. 10 and 17. Sixty adults were enrolled. The associational missionary led the study. Twenty-nine adults made commitments to win souls in 1979.

Jesse Tichenor is the pastor.

Shively Heights reaches goal
Shively Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, surpassed its hallelujah goal during the annual Lottie Moon Christmas offering. The WMU set a church-wide goal of \$2500 and a hallelujah goal of \$3000.

Sunday school director Woody Simpson suggested the Sunday school promote an over-and-above offering by challenging each person attending Sunday school in December to contribute

an offering in pennies equivalent to his age for each of the Sundays in the month. Total contributed through the "Penny Serenade" was \$486.20. The total Lottie Moon offering was \$3766.92.

Tommy Taylor is pastor at Shively Heights.

Barriers broken at Deer Park

Barriers have been removed at Deer Park Baptist Church as the result of a recent deacon ordination. On Jan. 14, during the morning worship service the church ordained four deacons; two were women. Ordained were Frankie Caudill, Gary Hicks, Martha Hinson and Harlan Brown. Also installed were Adrian Cooksey and Carl Ellis. Along with these six deacons, three associates were installed: Robert Knight, Nancy Bennett and Steve Russell.

The Louisville church adopted a by-law change in September 1978 which enabled all members to be considered for deacon.

Although the issue was introduced over 10 years ago, it was not seriously considered until 1975. Several members became concerned about the limits placed on people in the church and proposed the issue be studied.

The deacons, after months of consideration, presented a recommendation to the church in July 1978 projecting the change.

Tallants graduate from Southern
Charles Phillip and Sheryl Davis Tallant graduated from Southern Seminary with MCM degrees May 1978. In December Tallant received his MRE degree.

The Tallants are currently at Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, Louisville where he is associate minister of music and education and she is pianist.

Effective Feb. 1 the Tallants will be moving to Immanuel Baptist Church, Paducah, where Tallant will be the minister of education.

Adkins receives degree

David Lee Adkins received his MDiv degree from Southern Seminary December 1978.

Missions

Martins appointed missionaries

Mr. and Mrs. R. Jackson Martin were among 20 people named as new missionaries during the December appointments of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board at Talbot Park Baptist Church, Norfolk, Va.

As missionary associates, the Martins will serve in Liberia, where he will be a general evangelist and she will work in church and home. Currently, he is associate pastor of Hoskins Avenue Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C.

A native of Burlington, N. C., Martin received the BDiv degree from New Orleans Seminary and the ThM degree from Southeastern Seminary.

Martin has been associate pastor of Smithfield (Va.) Baptist Church, interim pastor of Ayersville Baptist Church, Mayodan, N. C., pastor of two mountain churches in Clay County, Ky. and pastor of Mountain Valley (Ky.) Baptist Church. At Mountain Valley he taught at Magoffin Baptist Institute and at Oneida (Ky.) Baptist Institute.

Mrs. Martin received the MRE degree from New Orleans Seminary.

They have one son, Samuel Jackson.



The LLL Club Band, a joint music and senior adult ministry of Central Baptist Church, Winchester, is a busy group. A part of the Senior Adult [Live Longer and Like It] Club, the group has given 29 programs at hospitals, nursing homes, churches, civic clubs, retired groups, parades and state parks

since it was organized for Senior Adult Day last May. Ron Stone is the pastor. Associate pastor Larry Insko coordinates the senior adult ministry and Mrs. Robert Pace, music director/organist, directs the band.

Baptist News in Brief

At 71, she's 100 to MSC

A 71-year-old retired school teacher is the 100th Mission Service Corps volunteer to be assigned by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Miss Abbie Leone Hollis of Oklahoma City will serve Calvary Baptist Church in Laurel, Mont., as a church supporter, pianist, teacher, senior adult visitor and literacy worker.

"We feel Miss Hollis' appointment is a milestone," said David Bunch, director of MSC coordinator for the board. "We had hoped to have our 100th volunteer assigned by the end of 1978 or the start of this year so we are right on schedule."

Baptist professor favors ecumenism

A Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary professor feels the time has come for Southern Baptists to reexamine what he called their traditional isolationist attitude toward world Christianity.

John Steely, professor of historical theology, said the Southern Baptist Convention has never forbidden ecumenical cooperation by individual churches, and many churches have been involved in cooperative ventures with good results.

Steely feels other Christians are more open to the

beliefs and practices of Southern Baptists than ever before. The public attention focused on them by the election of Southern Baptist Jimmy Carter as president was an illustration of how little is known about Baptists by society in general. "If we have something significant to say, we are not doing it very effectively," Steely observed.

Missionaries in Iran remain safe

News reports warn of possible civil strife, but Southern Baptist missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Turlington and journeyman Michael Joe Sowder plan to remain in Iran and continue their church work.

A member of the church where Turlington is pastor told Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials that when he left Tehran Jan. 21 the membership of the church had dropped from more than 350 to 50 or 60. The employe of an American business firm said the Turlingtons were aware of the projected return of Muslim religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini from France but felt they were not in any real physical danger.

The missionaries have plenty of food and some heat, but little gasoline and no mail, according to their church member. So far the church has held regular services, missing only one because of a huge demonstration.

Northwest Baptists name new editor

Herbert V. Hollinger, pastor of Foothills Baptist Church, Issaquah, Wash., has been named director of communications for the Northwest Baptist Convention, effective Mar. 1.

His primary responsibility will be to edit the convention's official publication, the Northwest Baptist Witness. Former editor Bill Crews resigned to return to the pastorate.

Ex-Illinois executive has "plans"

Noel M. Taylor, 66, retired as president of Broadway Plan, Inc., in Houston, Tex.

He moved back to his home state of Illinois, where he was executive secretary of the Illinois Baptist State Association from 1946-65. He headed the Broadway Plan since 1967 and will continue as a member of its board of directors.

Boy, are you invited!

A story in last week's Western Recorder implied that only girls were welcome to a youth missions retreat Mar. 16-17 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly.

"We want the boys there, too," said Nancy Ferrell, state Acteen consultant. "It's for all youth."

Sunday School Lessons

Lessons for Feb. 11, 1979

H. C. Chiles

Life and Work Series

What do believers receive?

Romans 5:1-11

The benefits of justification

1. Peace with God. Verse 1.

It is a terrible thing for a creature to be at enmity with his creator. Peace with God means that the conflict between God and the individual is at an end and that the one who is justified has an intelligent and calm sense of friendship and fellowship with his heavenly father.

2. Access into God's grace. Verse 2a.

Through Christ we have access into God's presence and favor. This is the continuing privilege of every child of God regardless of his circumstances.

3. Rejoicing in the hope of glory. Verse 2b.

Complete triumph has not yet been experienced or obtained by the believer but he has the assurance that one day he will be conformed to the image of Christ and have a body like unto his own glorious body.

4. Exultation in trouble. Verses 3-5.

When troubles, trials and tribulations are met bravely and courageously, and in dependence on

the divine strength, the Christian emerges purer, better and stronger than ever before.

The proof of God's love

Even though we were sinners by birth, choice and practice, God truly loved us. Verses 6-8 tell us that God's wonderful love reached down to the most unworthy and sinful and transformed many servants of Satan into the children of God.

The blessings of a threefold salvation—verses 9-11

1. Past—When the sinner, who was without Christ, God and hope, repented toward God and believed on Christ, he was regenerated, saved from the penalty of sin, delivered from wrath and reconciled to God.

2. Present—Christ saves from the power of sin as the believer yields himself to him. He will enable the Christian to live victoriously and render a useful service.

3. Future—Christ will save the believer from the presence of sin when he takes him out of this world where sin is so prevalent and takes him to be with him.

International Series

Christ at work through us

Matthew 16:13-21

At Caesarea Philippi Christ asked his disciples whom others said that he was. They replied, that some thought he was John the Baptist, reminding them of their obligation to God; others thought that he was Elijah, calling upon them to live righteously; others were of the opinion that he was Jeremiah, advocating a genuine revival; and still others declared that he was one of the prophets.

To the disciples Christ said, "Whom say ye that I am?" Peter replied, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Christ told Peter that he had not reached that conclusion through human wisdom, but that it had been revealed to him by the father.

When Christ informed the disciples of his approaching sufferings, death, burial and resurrection, they were shocked and astounded. With his usual impetuosity Peter expressed the hope that such would never take place. In response to his remonstrance Christ administered a sharp rebuke to Peter,

John 14:12-14

Christ here assured those who had a deep and abiding faith in him as their personal, loving and omnipotent Saviour and Lord would be enabled to do many of the same kind of works which he had done during his sojourn here in the flesh. His works had been limited largely to Palestine, but theirs would be far more extensive.

Matthew 28:18;20

The 11 apostles made their way to Galilee where they met the Lord Jesus and worshiped him. There and then three things took place:

I. Christ's power was announced. Verse 18.

Christ announced that to him had been given all authority over all creation.

II. Christ's program was advanced. Verse 19.

Christ commanded his followers to go into all the world making disciples for him, baptizing them and teaching them his glorious truths.

III. Christ's presence was assured. Verse 20.

If we expect to enjoy Christ's blessed presence, it is incumbent upon us to advance his program.

Frank Owen

Second Baptist-Catholic dialog

In this very limited space let me try to explain all I can to our people about the Baptist-Catholic Dialog for Sept. 24-25 announced at our last convention meeting. Each of the denominations will invite its own people with the intention to have present about 30 participants (60 in all, which is about the limit that can communicate in two half days)—approximately 10 pastors, 10 denominational leaders and 10 laymen. I would appreciate hearing from people who would especially like to take part, asking forgiveness if hard choices should have to be made with the help of our administrative committee.

This is the second such general Baptist-Catholic dialog in Kentucky. The last one, in Louisville years ago, was proposed and led by the past Southern Baptist Convention president Brooks Hays, who conducted similar meetings in other states. I was an invited participant from my pastorate in Lexington and counted it a very profitable mutual exchange of ideas and information, as well as an opportunity to witness our convictions. No actions were taken. None were planned.

Likewise, the coming dialog has no official standing and no actions are anticipated. This proposal was brought to our office by The Rev. Mr. Joseph O'Donnell, who represents the Glenmary Research Center in Washington, D. C. and who is regularly in liaison contact with Baptist life. (Possibly your read his daily articles on Southern Baptists in the Atlanta papers during last year's convention there—or his article on the front page of our last week's Western Recorder.)

Though this meeting will be entirely informal and unofficial I presented a full advance explanation to both last year's board and our current board of 170 persons. Both bodies strongly favored the meeting.

The Christian faith is proportionately declining in America today. Surely these two strongest groups in the Christian religion, however different, however separate, have things to talk about. We worship the same God. We both call Jesus "Lord."



Mr. and Mrs. William Viser, new Southern Baptist missionaries, and their son, used their last month in

the U. S. to visit family and buy items they would need in Brazil, where he will be a seminary teacher.

It took 13 years, but now they're off to Brazil

Some missionaries are appointed only a few months after they contact the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. For others, like William C. Viser, it takes years.

For Viser, it took 13—longer than any other career missionary appointed in 1978. When Viser first contacted the board he was a junior in high school. When he and his wife Susan were appointed missionaries to South Brazil last July he was a doctoral student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Tex.

Actually Viser didn't contact the board. His pastor, Lloyd O. Barker at McLean Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn., wrote to tell the board that Viser was interested in missionary service. The board took it from there.

After Viser completed a missionary interest form and wrote a brief life history, he received a gift subscription to The Commission, the board's monthly magazine. Viser was on his way to becoming a Southern Baptist missionary.

The board asked him to correspond. He thought they wanted to hear from him every year. "I was forever getting behind in my correspondence. I remember one year I wrote them a 10- or 15-page letter. I thought they wanted to know everything."

Two opportunities while he was a student at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark., re-

inforced his commitment: a mission trip to Mexico with Brotherhood Commission staffers and a Baptist World Alliance youth conference in Switzerland.

As Viser neared the end of his studies at Southwestern Seminary, he and his wife were unsure about their future field of service. A talk with Thurmon E. Bryant, the board's secretary for Eastern South America, revealed their place. They would go to South Brazil, where he would be a seminary teacher and Mrs. Viser, the former Susan Sims of Arkansas, would work in church and home.

From there the Visers' application went like most—life histories, references, medical and psychiatric examinations and a group interview conference at the board's offices in Richmond, Va.

Through it all, Viser says, "The fellowship, the love of people who were going out to a common task was really beautiful. It was like the pieces of a puzzle fitting together."

In July 1978, more than 13 years after his first contact with the board, the Visers were appointed. After completing missionary orientation at Pine Mountain, Ga., they spent January visiting relatives in Arkansas and Memphis.

In late January, the Visers and their son, William Ryan, were scheduled to leave Memphis to serve as Southern Baptist missionaries in South Brazil.