



WESTERN RECORDER

KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL

VOL. 153, NO. 6, FEBRUARY 7, 1979

Baptist Building addition complete by November?

by Bill Webb, Staff Writer

The Kentucky Baptist Convention hopes to be able to dedicate its new addition when the state convention meets in Louisville in November.

Frank Owen, KBC executive secretary, said there are presently no specific plans for the dedication, however. "Right now it's just the target date," he emphasized.

Owen is enthusiastic about the new facilities.

"We will have spacious committee rooms and this gives us a chapel now. We are a religious organization and it is only fitting that we have a chapel."

In addition, the various KBC departments, plus WMU and Western Recorder will all have ample office space.

"We've been dreadfully crowded for space for some time," Owen notes. "This building barely housed the existing work when we moved out here in 1957. It was built for the existing staff; only Sunday School and Church Training had room for some growth."

The new addition will wrap around the front of the existing building "to give the whole thing a new look."

The building will be one of the first, if not the first, to prominently display the newly-adopted SBC logo on its exterior.

Visitors may enjoy the convenience of various sitting areas. One will be a court with a bubbling fountain, Owen said.

"We also have room for pride in its modesty; we're not just building a monument here," he explained.

The construction, renovation and furnishings are expected to cost about \$1.5 million and the state convention already has a third of that on deposit, he said. The note on the balance is for 10 years.

Rough River Dam is site of librarians' workshop

Rough River Dam State Park at Falls of Rough, Ky., will be the site of the Mar. 2-3 Kentucky library retreat sponsored by the state Church Training Department.

Baptist Sunday School Board church library consultants Jacquelyn Anderson, J. Carlton Carter and Glynn T. Hill will be conference leaders.

Sessions will be offered on cataloging, book mending, how to start a church library, how to go from a library to a media center and how to keep the media center going.

A \$10.00 room deposit should be made by Feb. 17 directly with the park. The zip code is 40119.

Iran crisis poses threat

In the face of an "erratic and uncontrolled situation" in Tehran, Southern Baptist missionary journeyman Michael Joe Sowder has decided to leave Iran.

Southern Baptist missionary Henry E. Turlington told the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board Jan. 31 that although the situation was precarious he felt that if any board personnel were hurt it would be simply "happenstance." The Turlingtons plan to stay, at least for the next week, in Tehran.

Plans for Sowder's evacuation were indefinite at the time of the phone conversation with Turlington, but he hopes to fly out of Iran as soon as arrangements are made. Tentative plans are for Sowder to transfer to Aberdeen, Scotland, to work in a youth ministry.

While Turlington admitted there had been growing anti-American sentiment in the past week, he had not yet decided to leave. "I don't want to minimize the situation," Turlington said. "We do feel less safe than a week ago."

The congregation of Turlington's English-language church has dwindled in the past weeks from over 350 to about 40. But he feels no matter how much the situation deteriorates, a few church members will remain in the city.

Other Southern Baptist missionaries have already left Iran.

Associational leaders readied for VBS clinics across state

The state Sunday School Department has scheduled eight associational vacation Bible school clinics across Kentucky the week of Feb. 19-23, according to Fred E. Halbrooks, department director.

The eight clinics will replace two held statewide in 1978 and earlier.

Each location will offer simultaneous sessions for associational leaders of younger and older preschoolers; younger, middle and older children; youth; adults; general officers; Backyard Bible Study and missions VBS.

Sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. local time and conclude at 2 p.m. Participants should bring their own sack lunches, and drinks will be provided.

Tom E. Huls, Sunday School Department consultant, said no book store service will be available at

these clinics. It is imperative, therefore, that conferees purchase the materials for their age groups before attending a clinic and bring their materials with them.

Dates, host churches and local coordinators for the eight VBS clinics follow:

Monday, Feb. 19—First, Mayfield; Tom Moody

Monday, Feb. 19—First, Pikeville

Tuesday, Feb. 20—Columbia; Jim Fields

Tuesday, Feb. 20—Second, Madisonville; Paul Hampton

Wednesday, Feb. 21—First, Morehead; Gary Southard

Thursday, Feb. 22—Parkway, Lexington; Larry Insko

Thursday, Feb. 22—First, Corbin; George Hensley

Friday, Feb. 23—First, Leitchfield; Bill Crawford

Tennessee, Texas congregations file federal suit; seek relief for their church-sponsored schools

In two unrelated cases Baptist churches in Tennessee and Texas have filed suit in federal court seeking relief for schools they sponsor.

In Tennessee, 42 Baptist churches, including several Southern Baptist, filed suit for exemption from unemployment taxes for their church schools.

In Texas, the First Baptist Church of Dallas challenged an Internal Revenue Service decision that has put its school's tax exempt status in limbo.

Brainerd Baptist Church of Chattanooga, Tenn., was one of two churches summoned to bring its payroll records and testify before a representative of the employment security department.

According to a story in the Chattanooga News-Free Press the suit says the churches were told that if the summonses are not honored, "criminal proceedings will be instituted" by the state against the churches.

The church suit contends the state action violates the constitutional protection of religious liberty and tries to define the mission of a church.

A lawyer member of Brainerd Baptist told Baptist Press "a church is clearly exempt under the law. Whatever ministries a church operates are as much a part of the church as any other ministry."

In fact, says the lawyer, who prefers not to be named, the state is a "johnny come lately" in education because churches first took the responsibility of teaching children to read.

"The constitution does not say the state shall educate," he said. "And the scripture says only the

parents are responsible for the education of their children. No longer can parents delegate that responsibility to non-Christians in humanistic schools."

J. Ralph McIntyre, director of the church and staff support division of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, whose Church Administration Department produces textbooks and materials for such schools, said: "We feel church schools are a legitimate part of the ministry of a local church and should be treated as part of the church just like Sunday school and Church Training."

"As such, government involvement in this area is a gross violation of the church-state relationship."

First Baptist Academy's suit filed in Dallas complains the IRS is delaying a ruling on the school's tax status because it's in the process of adopting a new set of regulations designed to deny exemption to private schools that practice racial discrimination.

The rules, aimed at so-called "segregation academies" that grew up in the South in the early 1970s, would require a private school to follow detailed guidelines assuring it doesn't discriminate against minorities in its admission policies, hiring or administrative policies.

Critics of the ruling charge the regulations assume guilt until the schools prove their innocence.

The suit said the delay on the ruling has "practically curtailed" the academy's ability to collect donations because it can't tell potential donors whether or not their contributions will be tax deductible.

New interpretation of Israeli antibribery law satisfies Baptist leaders concerning freedom

A new official interpretation of Israel's controversial anti-bribery law says the law was never intended to limit religious freedom.

The interpretation, given by minister of justice Shmuel Tamir, received official status by being made a part of the official gazette of the Knesset (parliament), the "Knesset Protocol."

Tamir's interpretation came after a visit to Israel by Jimmy Allen, Southern Baptist Convention president, to discuss the law and express Baptist concern for religious liberty. The interpretation by Tamir previously had been only stated verbally and in correspondence.

The law, passed by the Knesset in December 1977, prohibits offering material or other benefits to someone to induce him to change religions. The interpretation states "there is no intention whatsoever on the part of the Israeli government to restrict in any way the religious freedom of the Christian community or any other community in Israel or to impede them from the pursuit of normal educational or philan-

thropic activities."

Allen and Baptist leaders in Israel are pleased with this official interpretation. J. D. Hughey, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia, said he was "very glad indeed" to have the clarification which he hopes will be accepted as a guarantee of religious freedom.

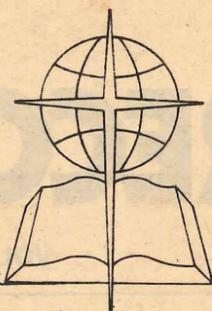
Allen pointed out that in the Israeli legal system, the proper way to obtain an official opinion that is binding on the attorney general is to question the law in the Knesset record. Tamir's official interpretation was given in answer to a two-part question submitted by Knesset member Yitzhak Berman.

Robert L. Lindsey, veteran Southern Baptist representative in Israel, affirmed the value of Allen's visit and reaffirmed Baptists' opposition to bribery as a means of persuading someone to change religions.

He emphasized that Baptists have been concerned about the misinterpretation of the law and have never practiced bribery for conversion.

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

WESTERN RECORDER
(ISSN 0043-4132)
C. R. Daley Jr., Editor
James H. Cox, Associate Editor
Paul Whitler Jr., Business Manager



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. Jag-gers, Cynthiana; Donald J. LaBelle, London; O. G. Lawless, Bowling Green; Ronald P. Moore, Highland Heights; Gilbert Sapp, Russell Springs.



C. R. Daley

Daley Observations

Baptists should beware of corporate mentality

More and more concepts and practices of big business are being brought into the administrative side of state and national Baptist conventions and their agencies. This is to some extent inevitable with the phenomenal growth and present magnitude of Southern Baptists.

Any way one looks at it Southern Baptists are now big business. We number more than 13,000,000 and we have over 35,000 local churches who reported financial receipts of almost \$1,800,000,000 in 1977. Southern Baptist agencies have financial operations which amount to nearly \$100,000,000 annually.

Baptists need all the help available from the business world to properly utilize these vast material and human resources. Efficiency and economy are as important for a denomination as for any secular business operation.

But everything about big business is not desirable for Baptists. The ideal is to take what is desirable from the business world and leave off the undesirable. This is difficult to do and we see disturbing signs that we are embracing the undesirable as well as the desirable from big business.

We are being captured by "corporate mentality." It is more detectable in some denominational agencies than others. A sure sign of this thinking is when administrators are regarded by themselves and/or by their board members as comparable in ability and worth to the presidents of General Electric and General Motors. This kind of thinking puts more and more pressure on the denomination to treat its executives like officials in government and big business.

This mentality leads to demands for higher salaries, retirement and fringe benefits for executives. It leads to a lifestyle on the part of a few which is unknown and unavailable to most Baptists who contribute the funds. It creates an elite group among us and this is totally out of keeping with Baptist concepts.

The first question is why do agency board members who are elected by the convention permit this to happen? The answer is they have little to do with it unless they are willing to become obnoxious. Some of these board members don't even know exactly what the agency executives receive when everything is counted like homes, expense accounts, medical insurance, life insurance, automobiles, retirement, etc.

Even when board members know they usually go along. Some are reluctant to oppose any "official" recommendation while others actually share this "corporate mentality." Some are pastors who would like this same treatment from their churches.

The truth is not many low income Baptists are

elected to our convention committees and boards. The preachers who serve on such committees and boards are generally from larger churches and are fairly well paid. Lay members are usually successful professional and businessmen and some are wealthy.

Being in the upper income group themselves these board members think in terms of higher salaries and generous fringe benefits. That explains why committees composed of such persons make recommendations for salaries and retirement provisions which sound out of place to those who have been taught the concepts of Jesus and Paul on material provisions.

This does not mean those who minister in denominational agencies should not have fair and equitable compensation for their services. It does mean we should not lose our identity as the servants of Christ instead of merchandisers of this world.

There is no doubt about it. There is a contrast between the concepts of "servants of Christ" and "market place executives." In a few Baptist circles that contrast is becoming less and less discernible and this is not good.

Frank Heberlein served well

Frank Heberlein's association with Kentucky Baptists has been unusually successful. As manager of Cedarmore Baptist Assembly he has demonstrated devotion and ability which are truly commendable. His retirement is deserved but has to be regretted because such fellows don't come down the road every day.

Frank's worth is not known by many Kentucky Baptists because of his short tenure as Cedarmore manager and because he works quietly behind the scenes. He came to Cedarmore as an associate and when the Arlis Hinsons left was reluctant to assume full responsibility because of his nearness to retirement. He was persuaded to take charge and it has worked out extremely well.

Cedarmore has been something of a problem for Kentucky Baptists through the years. Emergencies of one kind or another have called for extra expenditures and it was a deficit operation financially for many years. Granted several expensive emergencies were already cared for when Frank took over, his handling has been superb.

The Cedarmore operation has been in the black for two years which many never expected to happen. The buildings and grounds have the finest appearance ever. But the most convincing tribute to Frank's management is the morale of all Cedarmore personnel from the maintenance crew to student summer workers to professional employes.

There is a side to Frank which is known only by a few. In addition to his administrative ability, he is an accomplished musician and has a career of church music in his background.

While his services will be missed, Frank's

friends agree he deserves a less strenuous life. The outlook for a happy retirement is made brighter by a lovely mate who will also be missed by those of us who know her.

Baptist Forum

A little sugar stick?

For 20 years I've been saddened by our Baptist churches soft-pedaling the biblical principle of the human body as the temple of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian. Now the issue has reached the pages of Western Recorder about Coca-Cola. Lack of positive teaching about the value of our bodies undoubtedly has resulted in 40 percent of alcoholics with religious connections being Baptists and the vigorous defense in use of soft drinks in Baptist churches.

Since the '40's there has been a civil war in America between the food-establishment with their science henchmen and the natural nutritionists who intend to make America healthy through correct eating (and drinking).

This week the preeminent food-establishment nutritionist came out strongly in his newspaper column by blasting his strongest volley against America's increased use of sugar and consumption of soft drinks producing the two national diseases of tooth decay and obesity which contribute to most all other diseases. So finally, on this one item both camps of food factions are united.

But, alas! our Baptist brethren refuse to reclaim the importance of our bodies which one day will be raised in likeness to that of our Lord's. It seems to me as the centuries roll on we who are Christians should be in the process of becoming better Christians.

Homer Wm. Smith, Louisville

Grapes of wrath

The Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, unanimously adopted the following resolution Jan. 19, 1979:

WHEREAS the Coca-Cola Bottling Company has announced plans to enter and expand the wine business (cf. Courier-Journal 11/26/78, Page E 1), and

WHEREAS the Company intends to use its international marketing expertise to help sell its wines, and

WHEREAS there are approximately ten million known alcoholics in the United States, and

WHEREAS alcoholism contributes to a minimum of 50% of all crimes and costs the American public above \$42.7 billion per year, and

WHEREAS the Bible clearly states "look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright" (Prov. 23:31), and

WHEREAS the Ormsby Heights Baptist Church has for years utilized the products of the Coca-Cola Bottling Company,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Ormsby Heights Baptist Church register its protest to the Coca-Cola Bottling Company by removing their products from its premises and sending a copy of this resolution to the local bottling plant and the Coca-Cola executive vice-president, Albert E. Killeen, in Atlanta, Ga., and that the church encourage each of its members individually to consider their purchasing patterns of Coca-Cola products in light of these developments.

Dallas Vincent, Pastor

Baptist News in Brief

Public affairs panel responds to issue on Ten Commandments

by C. R. Daley, Editor

The Kentucky Baptist Convention public affairs committee in a meeting Feb. 1 adopted a statement which amounts to a caution on vigorous efforts presently being conducted to place a copy of the Ten Commandments in every public school classroom in Kentucky.

The committee reviewed the legislative action (House Bill 156) of the Kentucky General Assembly, the litigation instituted by the Kentucky Civil Liberties Union, the opinion of the Kentucky attorney general on the constitutionality of the legislation, the action of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in affirming the action of the General Assembly and the progress so far in implementation of the legislation. The following report was adopted by committee members.

The committee on public affairs, in keeping with its convention assignments and in light of Kentucky Baptist Convention action sanctioning HB156 providing for the posting of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms, has given careful consideration to this matter.

The committee recognizes the right of individuals and churches to respond to such proposals according to their religious convictions.

After careful and lengthy discussion, the committee summarized the complexity of this matter in the following statements.

1. In light of past court decisions, it is likely that HB156 providing for the

posting of the Ten Commandments in the public school classrooms will eventually be declared unconstitutional.

2. House Bill 156 is presently in litigation. The future of this legislation is, therefore, uncertain.

3. Should HB156 be declared unconstitutional by the courts, it is possible that the court's interpretation of the scope of the bill would permit it to be used as a legal basis for the posting in public schoolrooms of material by non-Christian groups or religions. Many Baptists would be strongly opposed to such an eventuality.

4. The committee urges all Christians to use their uncontested freedom to teach the Ten Commandments in their homes and churches.

House Bill 156, passed by the Kentucky General Assembly on Mar. 17, 1978, authorized the placement of a durable, framed 16" x 20" copy of the Ten Commandments in all public school classrooms. The bill became law without the governor's signature.

The legislation authorized the state superintendent of instruction to distribute the framed prints but that no state funds be used for this purpose. Funds for the project were to come from voluntary contributions to the state treasurer for the project.

On Aug. 28, 1978, Edward Fossett, head of the legal and legislative services of the Kentucky Department of Education, received an opinion from the Kentucky attorney general that House Bill 156 was not unconstitutional under

either the state constitution or the federal constitution. The opinion also agreed that local groups could raise the funds for and supply the framed prints to their own school districts in addition to letting the prints be distributed to local school districts by the state Department of Education.

An organization known as the Kentucky Heritage Foundation began a campaign on Sept. 15, 1978, to raise funds needed to place a framed print of the Ten Commandments in the 31,000 public classrooms in Kentucky. The executive director of this organization is Tom Riner, a Louisville minister and the husband of State Representative Claudia Riner, who sponsored House Bill 156. A number of pastors of Baptist churches in Louisville and across the state are vigorously working to raise the needed funds. Other Baptist pastors in Louisville and the state are showing little interest in the project.

The legislation was sanctioned by messengers to the 1978 Kentucky Baptist Convention in November 1978 and by the Long Run Baptist Association composed of Baptist churches in the Louisville area in October 1978.

On Oct. 9, 1978 Kentucky Civil Liberties Union attorneys filed suit to ban the Ten Commandments from public schools in Kentucky.

Judge Squire Williams restrained the state superintendent of public schools from using state money or state employes to print and distribute the prints. Judge Williams denied a

request to prevent local groups from providing and delivering the prints to their local schools.

In some counties local groups have already prepared and distributed the framed prints to every classroom. The Kentucky Heritage Foundation reports that by Jan. 16, 1978 over \$25,000 had been received for this project. Executive director Riner says the framed prints will cost \$10 apiece.

In response to an inquiry from Representative Claudia Riner concerning the status of funds sent to the state treasurer for the Ten Commandment plaque project, state treasurer Francis Jones Mills says the funds are frozen by order of Judge Williams until the litigation is settled. However, the restraining order did not prevent funds being accepted by the state treasurer. The money sent to the state treasurer will be used for the project if the court ruling upholds House Bill 156. If not, it will be refunded to the donors.

The committee on public affairs of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is instructed by the convention to "keep the Kentucky Baptist Convention advised on all matters of particular interest to Baptists taking place at the state, national and international levels, with particular reference to the separation of church and state."

Current members of the public affairs committee are Carl Fields, chairman; Ted Sisk, George Jones, Billy Hurt, Hicks Shelton, Frank Owen and C. R. Daley.

North Carolina Baptists approve discontinuing Wake Forest funds

The general board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina voted Jan. 31 to cut off funds temporarily to Wake Forest University.

The 110-member board voted overwhelmingly to place the \$936,937 Cooperative Program allocation for the university into an escrow account.

In December Wake Forest University trustees voted to remove the university from control of the state convention. Convention president Mark Cortis suggested at that time that Baptist funds to the school "could and should" be held in escrow "until the matter is finally resolved."

The state convention's council on Christian higher education, whose subcommittee recommended the escrow account, endorsed the move. The executive committee of the general board, meeting a day earlier, voted unanimously for the proposal.

The general board also approved a recommendation that legal counsel be obtained "concerning all of the questions currently under discussion relative to the relationship of Wake Forest University and the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina."

Wake Forest University president James Ralph Scales told the Biblical Recorder, North Carolina Baptist newspaper, the school will have no cash flow problem until at least the end of May.

"I don't think the convention is going to come apart or the relationship with Wake Forest will be permanently im-

paired if we don't have a solution by the next meeting (in May)," Scales said.

The nearly \$1 million allocation going into escrow is four percent of Wake Forest's Renolda campus budget. Matching funds from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation are contingent on the Baptist affiliation. The next installment on that money is due in July.

China: 'devoid of religion'

Her first return home to mainland China in 30 years convinced Cherry (Mrs. Y. K.) Chang there is an urgent need to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

There is no active, public churchwork in China, according to Mrs. Chang, a Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board member and home missionary in California. "Many people practiced Buddhism before the Communists came. Now there is no public Buddhist worship," she said.

Mrs. Chang, who was born and raised in mainland China, had not visited her homeland since late in the 1940s. She and her husband were students at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., when the Communists took over. Although she had tried before to visit China this was the first time she was granted permission for a visa. She was able to spend a week with her 88-year-old mother and to see other friends and relatives.

"Every citizen has freedom to believe on his own, but he's not allowed to tell about his faith," she said.

A distant relative, who was a department head at a prominent university and pastor of a local Baptist church before the Communist takeover in the early 1950s, told her religion courses are being taught in the universities, but it is the philosophy of religion—theology without conviction. He is now teaching at a university.

She said she was cautioned not to visit several Christian friends who, although released from prison and living at home, were not really free.

Mrs. Chang said it is not likely that missionaries will be allowed to enter China. "While I was there a friend told me he had read in a publication that China would welcome all overseas Chinese and others, except missionaries," she said. "But I told my Christian friends that Christians are praying for them and that no matter what happens, we are all one in the body of Christ."

Mrs. Chang exhorted the members of her own Southern Baptist denomination to "get busy. We must preach the gospel to as many as possible before doors are closed," she said.

Baptists in China via TV

The doors to China have inched open and a Southern Baptist film was one of the first western influences to cross the threshold.

"Symphony," a production of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, along with television network films, is to be shown on Chinese national television concurrently with

Teng's visit to the United States, according to Jeffrey Gralnick, vice president, special projects, ABC News.

The Baptist film, which premiered August 1978, on ABC's "Directions" series, is part of a request by the Chinese government to the networks for films that would better orient their people with the U. S.

"Symphony" was chosen because it is a good indication of the American culture which is what the Chinese are looking for," said Gralnick.

The film features the Ft. Worth Symphony Orchestra and the contribution music makes to the enrichment of man's spiritual life.

For women too: Jasper

Kathryn Jasper, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, said there's something for the ladies during the state communications conference Mar. 29-30 at Elizabethtown.

"At least four workshops were planned with women in mind," she declared.

She identified them as "Creative Displays and Interest Centers," "Writing for Religious and Secular Press," "Associational and Church Newsletters," and "Workshop for Persons Not Mechanically Inclined."

The two-day event offers 13 workshops from which participants may select four. A \$5.00 registration fee is payable now to: Stewardship-Promotion Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243.

The workshop agenda was published in the Jan. 31 issue of Western Recorder.

KBC construction: time for humor, too

Construction of new KBC facilities and remodeling of existing facilities has caused some inconvenience to employees and visitors.

Even so, no humor has been lost in the situation.

Barry Allen, KBC business manager, recalls when a new representative of a company that deals with the Business Office made his way through the only present entrance—the back door.

The rep—a black man—quipped, “This is the first time in a long time I have had to walk in the back way.”

George Raleigh Jewell, former Western Recorder editorial assistant, strolled back into the catacomb-like former WR printing building in search of the paper’s Circulation Department.

In a few minutes he returned, remarking, “They’re not back there; there’s no door there anymore!” The main door to the circulation office had in fact been sealed up. One has to travel deeper into the “catacombs” to find the new door.

Frank Owen, executive secretary, claims the building’s one-door dilemma is just the opposite of the man who had nine cats and nine holes in his house, rather than one hole for all nine cats.

“The man explained, “When I say ‘scat’ I mean scat.”

“We’ve got far more cats to scat through our one door,” Owens chuckles.

There is something good to say about having just one outside entrance, Owen notes: “It’s made for fellowship.”

Jesus saves from racism

by John A. Wood

The story is told about the new Christian who was trying to follow his church’s instruction to witness. He stopped a man on the street and said, “Brother, are you saved?” The man replied, “From what?”

Christians have given various answers to this man’s question. Of course, the theologically correct answer is, “From sin,” but we have too often limited sin to certain forms of evil that are not particularly tempting to us. And we have too often understood sin to mean primarily sins of the flesh including such things as drunkenness, sexual immorality, gambling and pornography.

Without minimizing the dangers of the sins of the flesh, the Bible emphasizes more strongly the sins of the spirit, which include attitudes toward other people and the behavior that grows out of these attitudes. Paul’s list of sins in Rom. 1:29-32 and 2 Tim. 3:2-7 names more sins of the spirit (covetousness, pride, ingratitude, without natural affection, covenant breakers, mercilessness, etc.) than sins of the flesh.

Racism is the pernicious doctrine that all white people are congenitally superior and that all people of color are congenitally inferior. The sin of racism is the sin of despising those for whom Christ died, of thinking of ourselves more highly than we ought to think, of inexcusable pride, of judgmentalism.

The sin of racism includes unworthy attitudes toward people of other racial and ethnic backgrounds, as well as private practices and public policies that discriminate against these people. The gospel of Jesus Christ applies to these areas just as much as it does to such areas of life as prayer, stewardship and Bible study. “There is power, power, wonder working power in the precious blood of the Lamb”; and that power is desperately needed today in the area of race.

Race Relations Sunday was put on the denominational calendar to help churches focus on an issue that needs constant attention throughout the year.

Observe Race Relations Sunday, Feb. 11. Observing this emphasis won’t solve the nation’s racial crisis. But it could be a start.

Lord Jesus, save us from racism.

Stewardship means more than money, St. Matthews discovers

by Gail Rothwell, Staff Writer

Stewardship has taken on a new meaning for members of Louisville’s St. Matthews Baptist Church.

When the stewardship committee met in August to plan for needs and resources during the coming year it looked for a fresh approach that would excite the membership.

“We wanted to emphasize participation by the total membership,” James L. Hannah, stewardship chairman, explained. “We knew some people could have strong feelings against pledging, so we seized on the biblical concept of stewardship, not asking for pledges but for commitments to daily prayer, boldness in personal witnessing, increased support and participation in church programs and finance.”

He continued, “We knew we were under the leadership of the Lord when everyone on the committee got caught up in the enthusiasm. Lots of good things began to happen and we felt the program would be successful.”

J. Altus Newell, pastor, stated that Jesus emphasized growth and not the amount of giving.

“In the past we have emphasized amount but through this new program we are stressing participation.” Newell said that the program gave people who hadn’t been able to participate before a chance to get involved. Separate commitment cards were designed and distributed to adults and children.

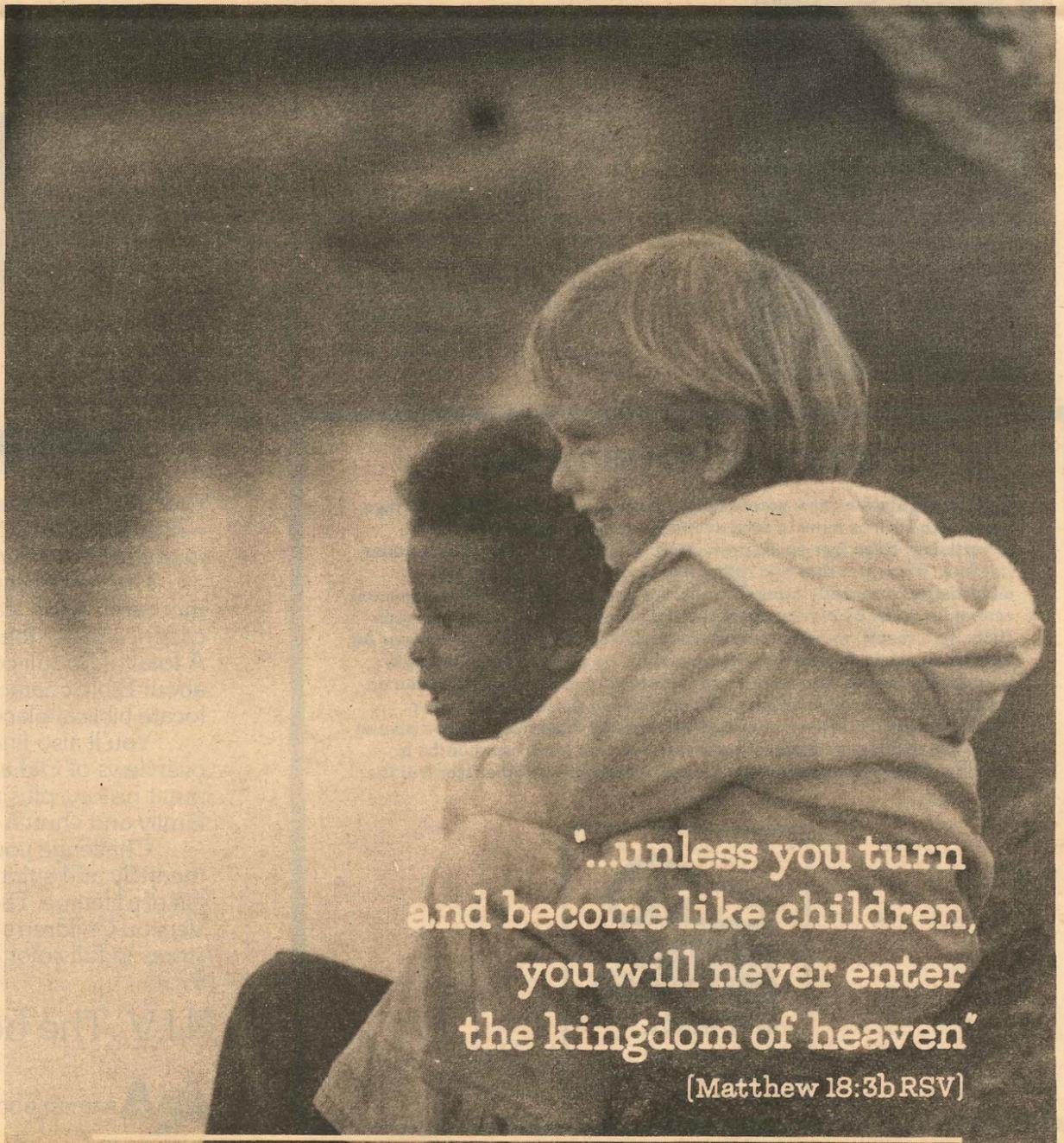
The stewardship committee started with a study of the biblical meaning of stewardship. Newell delivered four sermons under the theme “The marks of a MASTERful manager.”

The four sermon areas were responsibility, growth, compassion and grateful/joyful. Newell began with the premise that by necessity everyone has to be a manager. In the New Testament the steward was the supervisor, the developer, the manager of the possessions of the owner.

Nov. 12 was designated as Commitment Day. Individuals and families were asked to come forward in the morning worship service to present their commitments in an act of worship and dedication. In a letter sent to members prior to Nov. 12 Newell stated, “If there is only one area in which you can take a new step of faith, please do so, for the key to growth is taking one step at a time.”

That first week more cards were returned than ever before. By the end of the year two times more cards than before had been returned. Sunday school attendance jumped nearly 100 and financial stewardship was more than \$100,000 ahead of the same point a year earlier.

Newell reported, “We have heard only the finest comments about this new approach from our membership.” Visitors have been requesting sample materials to take back to their churches.



“...unless you turn
and become like children,
you will never enter
the kingdom of heaven”

[Matthew 18:3b RSV]

Marketplace

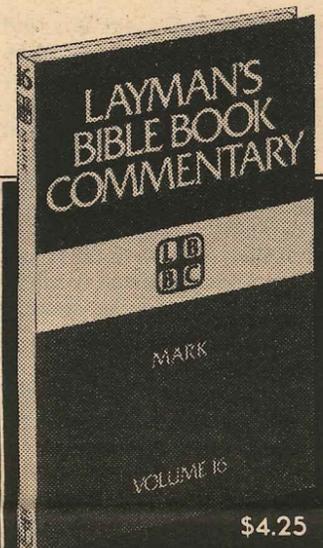
FINANCING FOR CHURCH BUILDINGS
Call Toll Free
ANDY F. HARDY
1-800-231-6068



SECURITY CHURCH FINANCE, INC.

Drexel Church Furnishings
Pews, Pulpit and Chancel Furniture

Phone 704/322-8380
Dept. J. P.O. Drawer 2187
Hickory, North Carolina 28601



LAYMAN'S BIBLE BOOK COMMENTARY
MARK
VOLUME 16

\$4.25

The second volume of the LBBC is written in clear and popular style interpreting the message of MARK for its time and our generation.

Johnnie C. Godwin, manager of Broadman Products Department, authors this volume on Mark and What It Means to Be Born Again.

At your Baptist Book Store
BROADMAN

SERVING ALL RELIGIONS
Prices to satisfy every preference and need

AIR CONDITIONED PARKING AREAS



149 Breckinridge Lane Phone 896-0349

PEARSON FUNERAL SERVICE
Louisville, Kentucky
Member: Ky. Funeral Directors Burial Assn.
Member: National Selected Morticians
by invitation

—Advertisement—

Housewife sells 'glass plate' for \$40; worth \$1,700

NILES, Ill.—The story of a small fortune, lost because a housewife had no idea her glass plate was a collector's item, recently came to light.

In a letter to J. R. MacArthur, chairman of The Bradford Exchange, world's largest trading center in collector's plates, a Madison, Wis., woman wrote: "I had a Lalique 1965 plate . . . which I sold to a friend for \$40. I had not heard of you at that time.

The plate she sold is actually valued at more than \$1,700. Although MacArthur points out that this price is exceptionally high, he said, "I'm afraid others may be losing hundreds or thousands of dollars by not knowing what their plates are worth."

To aid in identifying valuable plates, the Exchange issues a report that includes current prices on more than 900 plates, guidelines on what to look for and when to buy, and the plate evaluation checklist used by the Exchange.

To obtain a copy without cost or obligation, send your name, address, and zip code by Saturday of next week to: The Bradford Exchange, Dept. 4302, 9301 Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, Illinois 60648. (Not available to Canadian residents.)

Write for free Brochure

BAPTISMAL POOLS
Fiberglass Church Products

(615)875-0679
3511 Hixson Pike, Chattanooga, TN 37415



George Herman KENDALL
REAL ESTATE BROKER

1709 Wyatt Pkwy. - Lex.
606-252-0046

LITTLE GIANT
The name to remember for

FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRIES
SPIRES—CROSSES
WATER HEATERS
KRINKLGLAS WINDOWS

Church credit plans available.
Free colored brochure

LITTLE GIANT MANUFACTURING CO., INC.
Dept. 43 / Box 518 / Orange, Texas 77630
Phone: 713-883-4246

Buyers Guide

Looking for a pastor? Pulpit committees will want the new "PULPIT COMMITTEE MANUAL." Order from H. H. Kuhnle, 305 Clinton Road, Lexington, KY 40502. Price, \$1.75 postpaid. Dr. C. R. Daley says — "... the best I have ever seen."

First Century Palestine by Jerrell G. White. \$3.50 postpaid. Order from Memorial Baptist Church, 906 Main, Murray, KY 42071.

For Sale: 28 church pews, 13 feet long, white ends, cherry finish, good condition. Also 7 gothic light fixtures. Contact Burlington Baptist Church, Burlington, KY 41005. 606-586-6529.

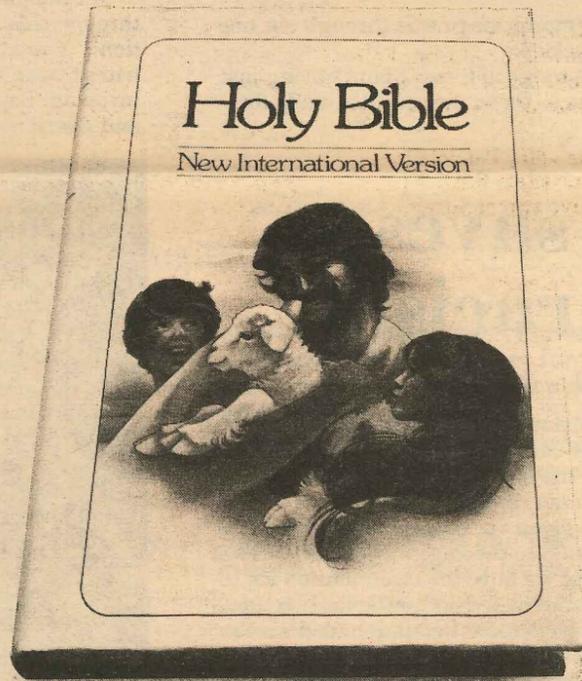
Aluminum Siding, exterior decorating, quality work. Call Colville Aluminum Co. (502) 425-3102.

WOLFE BROS. & CO.
PINEY FLATS, TENN.

Manufacturers of **DISTINCTIVE CHURCH FURNITURE**

Since 1888—Write for free estimate.
Dewitt F. Godby PH. 776-4944
2433 Duncan St. 776-4091
Louisville, Ky. 40212

Give your child the gift to grow by.



Your child's life is a special gift. So give a special gift in return — one that will help him keep growing for a lifetime. Give your child the New International Version Children's Bible.

The NIV's accuracy and readability make it the perfect modern English translation for memorization; its dignity and cadence make the learning process easier than ever before. A total of 36 full-color illustrations provide accurate details about Bible characters and events; eight full-color maps help locate biblical places and events.

You'll also find unique illustrated overviews of Old and New Testament history, plus presentation, family and church record pages.

Challenge your child to grow mentally and spiritually. Give him the gift of a lifetime. The New International Version Children's Bible, now at bookstores in full-color cloth cover, just \$7.95.

N.I.V. The beginning of a new tradition.



NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Federal regulations now assess heavy penalties on second class postage users with 10% or more of total available monthly space devoted to advertising. Even free space promoting Western Recorder is now under this law. We regret that this ruling has forced us to cancel or refuse advertising from many reputable sources because the federal assessment cannot be offset by revenue generated from advertising which exceeds 10%. As a result, we must predetermine advertising space allocations for a given month well in advance to be certain we do not exceed the 10% limit for the month. Our regular advertisers are discovering they can no longer request an ad to appear with only two or three weeks' notice. Available space is often committed two months in advance. If you plan to advertise with us, we suggest reserving space at least two months in advance. We regret this inconvenience, apparently another trend of the times.



WESTERN RECORDER
KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL

Box 43401
Middletown, KY 40243

Mountains to the Mississippi

Personnel

Silver Creek calls new pastor
Carvin Bryant is the new pastor at Silver Creek Baptist Church, Bates Creek Association. Bryant, who came to Silver Creek from First Baptist Church, Fairfield, Oh., has pastored in Illinois, Ohio, Florida and Kentucky.

Bryant is a graduate of Campbellsville College, Carson-Newman College and Southern Seminary.

He is active in Southern Baptist denominational life. He has been a member of the executive committee of the board of trustees of Southern Seminary and president of the Illinois Baptist State Association. Currently he is a member of the committee on boards and agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention, member of the executive board of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio and moderator of Southwestern Baptist Association, Cincinnati.

Bryant has conducted evangelistic campaigns in the United States, Ireland, Scotland and England.

Bryant and his wife, Frances, have three children.

McCants resigns from Fairview
Gerald McCants have moved from Fairview Baptist Church, Russell County, to assume the pastorate of Cave City Baptist Church.

McCants and his wife, Patricia, are originally from Lancaster, S. C.

The McCants have two children, Bryon, 8; and Timothy, 3.

Carmicle called to Palestine
Palestine Baptist Church, Campbellsville, has called Howard "Jackie" Carmicle as pastor. He came to Palestine from Mt. Salem Baptist Church, Hustonville.

Carmicle has an MDiv degree from Southern Seminary.

He is married to the former Elinor Clark of Monterey.

Riddley new GBA RE director
All Riddley, minister of education and youth, Hillview Heights Baptist Church, Bowling Green, has accepted the position of director of religious education for the General Baptist Association of New England.

Riddley is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Seminary.

In addition to Hillview Heights Riddley has been minister of youth at Falmouth (Ky.) Baptist Church, Immanuel Baptist Church, Frankfort, and Owenton (Ky.) Baptist Church.

Riddley and his wife, Karen, have one daughter, Nicole.

Young new Paintsville staffer
Robert C. Young is the new minister of music, education and youth at Paintsville First Baptist Church.

Young is a graduate of Cumberland College. He was previously minister of music at Hindman First Baptist Church.

Young and his wife, the former Judy Rose Main, have three children, John, 7; Robert, 11; and Florence, 12.

Charles L. Milam Jr. is pastor at Paintsville.

Lambert accepts Central pastorate
Don Lambert has accepted the pastorate of Central Baptist Church, Indianapolis, Ind. For four years he has served Millwood Baptist Church, Goshen Association, and Chestnut Grove Baptist Church, Casey Associa-

tion. He is scheduled to graduate from Boyce Bible School in June.

England called to Mt. Vernon
Harold Ray England, pastor of Buena Vista Baptist Church, Mercer Association, has been called as pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Shelby Association.

England and his wife, Leslie, are graduates of Campbellsville College. England holds the MDiv degree from Southern Seminary and is currently working on his PhD in New Testament.

Skaggs accepts Pleasant Grove
Franklin Skaggs has accepted the pastorate of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Caldwell-Lyon Association.

Skaggs was ordained by Madisonville First Baptist Church. He has pastored Diamond Baptist Church, Little Bethel Association; Temple Baptist Church, Daviess-McLean Association; and Eddyville First Baptist Church, Caldwell-Lyon Association.

Congregations

Deanefield wins first place award
Deanefield Baptist Church, Ohio County Association, was awarded first place prize in the Christmas parade at Fordsville. The church voted to give the \$100 prize money to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

Feb. 19-20 Bible conference scheduled
There will be a Bible conference Feb. 19-20 at Pollard Baptist Church, Greenup Association. Program personalities include Jerry Vardaman, former instructor at Southern Seminary, and Joe Underwood, assistant to the executive secretary, Foreign Mission Board.

Swiss Colony hosts enrichment week
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Halsell have completed a week-long Bible enrichment conference at Swiss Colony Baptist Church, London. Halsell taught the gospel of Mark and Mrs. Halsell taught a mission study on Brazil.

Halsell is presently director of evangelism for the Indiana Baptist State Convention.

Enrolment for the course was 77. Forty-nine will receive study course awards.

19-year perfect attendance pin given
Irene Wilkerson, member of Swiss Colony Baptist Church, London, was honored for her 19 years of perfect attendance.

Ministers travel to Puerto Rico
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Doyle, Coral Hill Baptist Church, and Tim Owings, Hiseville Baptist Church, were in Puerto Rico Jan. 8-22 for two weeks of evangelistic meetings.

They traveled with Bill Penley Evangelistic Association under the direction of the Home Mission Board.

Annual pastor-wife dinner held
The annual pastors-wife dinner, Little Bethel Association, was held Dec. 14 in the fellowship room of First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

Deaths

Francis Jean Nolan dies
Francis Jean Nolan, wife of Bill Nolan, pastor, Vicco Baptist Church, died Dec. 16 in Hazard hospital. The Nolans have five children. Three are still at home.

LIFE AND WORK **Why not continue in sin?**

Throughout a Christian's life he encounters temptation but he can and should strive to overcome it and live triumphantly for Christ.

Romans 6:1-4 Either through misunderstanding or because of a willful prejudice against the doctrine of salvation by grace, some advance the argument that this teaching is an actual encouragement to sin, for the more that one sins the more abundant will be the supply of God's grace. As to continuing in sin that grace may increase, Paul says, "God forbid" or "May it not be." One who makes sinning the practice of his life cannot convince informed people that he is a Christian. If and when a Christian does commit an act of sin, he is sorry for it, confesses it to God, asks for his loving forgiveness, and through Christ's enablement seeks to avoid doing so again.

In baptism, which is an act of public commitment to Christ and of loving obedience to him as Lord, the believer dramatizes the gospel of Christ. His baptism portrays his death to one kind of life and his resurrection to another kind of life. When he goes under the water and it closes over him, the Christian symbolizes his death to sin. When he emerges from the watery grave, like rising from the grave, that act symbolizes his rising to walk in newness of life.

INTERNATIONAL **Living your commitment** SERIES

Colossians 1:9-20 Upon receiving from Epaphras a full report of the Lord's work in Colosse, Paul wrote the Christians there, whom he had never seen, and assured them of his genuine interest in and earnest prayers for them. He expressed his gratitude for their faith in Christ, their love for all the saints, their hope in Christ for the future and their effectiveness in disseminating the gospel. Paul prayed that they might be filled with a thorough knowledge of God's will for them, which is a primary need of every Christian, as well as a prerequisite to Christian joy, growth and usefulness. Paul prayed that his readers might walk in a worthy manner, that they might be strengthened of the Lord to such an extent that their lives would be pleasing to Christ and profitable to others, that they might excel in patience and that they might be grateful to God.

Frank Owen

Product confusion

There shouldn't be any confusion about what a church is trying to produce and pass on to others. Extra curricular church activities are worthwhile only as they contribute to our ability to communicate the gospel and gather lost humanity into the fellowship of God's purpose to reconcile the world in Christ.

Our by-products and side activities must be kept secondary and contributing to the primary. People can get very peculiar impressions of what the church is for if we fail to make our purpose clear. Forgive me for a slightly ridiculous, yet perfectly true story that illustrates.

I was pastor in another city. Across the street from two of our Sunday school annex buildings was an automobile agency. In the front yard of one of our buildings and leaning over the sidewalk was a persimmon tree that bore copiously every fall. When those persimmons became ripe and fell, they

Romans 6:12-16 Inasmuch as their former relationship to Satan no longer exists, Christians should strive to overcome sin. Through yielding themselves to God they enter upon a richer and fuller life than they have known previously.

"We yield ourselves to God as instruments of righteousness or to Satan as instruments of unrighteousness. Unfortunately some allow Satan to use their tongues to say what they should not say, their feet to walk in paths that do not please God and their eyes to observe and to appropriate that which defiles the heart.

Romans 6:20-23 Before we were saved we ignored God, indulged in sin and lived without any interest in righteousness. Now because of our love for him who did so much for us, it is our desire to live righteously.

In verse 23 we have a contrast of masters—Satan and God, in remuneration—wages and gifts, and of condition—death and life. Satan pays wages to all who work for him. In contrast with Satan's wages stands God's gift, which cannot be earned or bought. Eternal life is God's greatest gift to a human being and it is bestowed freely and exclusively through Christ. All who accept Christ as Saviour instantly come into possession of abundant, joyous and endless life.

In verses 12 to 14 Paul mentioned three things which should cause all Christians to be thankful, namely, the portion which they have inherited, the power from which they have been delivered and the price at which they have been redeemed.

In the remainder of this chapter Paul delineated the place of Christ in different spheres. Two of these are set forth in today's lesson. First, Christ was above all in creation. Christ was first in the purpose, promotion, power and preservation of all creation. Second, Christ is above all in the church. "And he is the head of the body, the church." All that the head is to the human body, Christ is to the church. He is the mighty source of its life, the bond of its fellowship and the one for whom it bears witness. Let us give this peerless Christ his rightful place of preeminence in our living, witnessing, giving and hoping.

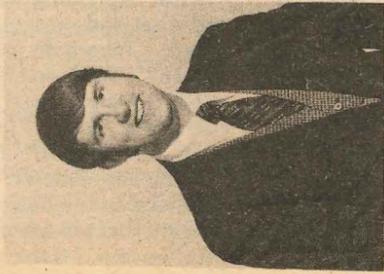
would cover the sidewalk and make a mess to be cleaned up. The janitor and I often spoke of removing the tree.

One day a lady slipped on one of those persimmons and had a right bad fall with considerable bruises. That did it! I instructed that the tree be cut down and removed.

Workmen from the automobile agency rushed across the street and asked to see me. They had stopped our janitor from his work and pled with me not to cut the tree down. "We have been getting persimmons from that tree for years," they said.

After explaining what had happened and what had prompted my decision, I asked, "Where do you fellows go to church?" Well, some of them didn't go at all. (I invited them.) Others went elsewhere. I said, "Do any of you ever go to church here?" None had.

"You see, fellows," I said. "This persimmon tree has confused you. It's religion that we are peddling here, not persimmons. I think we need to cut the tree down and quit misleading people as to what is our product."



GARY GRIESSER



JANE HOLLOWAY

STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE February 26-27

Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown

MUSICIANS

Jane Holloway
(former Miss Alabama)

Jim and Joyce Cordell

Ronald Wilburn

Gary Griesser

Allen Case

Eugene Quinn

Donald Spencer

Blessed Assurance Singers

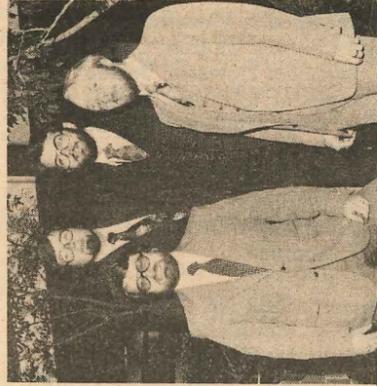
Horizon, the singing
churchmen of northern
Kentucky



RONALD WILBURN



JIM AND JOYCE CORDELL



HORIZON, The Singing Churchmen

SESSIONS

Monday February 26

10 a.m.

Special session on
Lay Renewal

1:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

Tuesday February 27

9:00 a.m.

1:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

SPEAKERS

Jimmy Allen, President
of the Southern Baptist
Convention

J. D. Grey, Evangelist
and Bible Teacher

Ray Roberts, Exec. Sec.
of the State Convention
of Baptists in Ohio

Bobby Sunderland,
Director of Mass Evan-
gelism, H.M.B.

Reid Hardin, Director of
Lay Renewal, H.M.B.

Harold Tallant, Evangelist

Vernon Cole, Director of
Church Training, K.B.C.



OBSERVE
RACE RELATIONS SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 11, 1979

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention



WESTERN RECORDER

KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 7, 1979