



WESTERN RECORDER

KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL

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Women urged to become witnesses at WMU meet Apr. 5-7 in Lexington

Five sessions built around the theme "Be Witnesses" comprise the state WMU convention program Apr. 5-7 at Lexington's Calvary Baptist Church.

Each session relates specifically to the overall theme, encouraging witnessing in the community, association, state, nation and world.

Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., south-wide WMU president, will address the crowd at all five sessions. Music will be led by Jim Woodward, dean of fine arts, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee. Georgetown College communication arts students will introduce the theme at each of the five sessions.

Musical groups scheduled to appear include the host church's sanctuary choir and the Georgetown College A Capella choir.

Numerous missionaries are expected to address the women also. Included are Jack Palmer, superintendent of missions, Bethel and Logan associations, Russellville; Mary Moschella, US-2er in northern Kentucky, Ft. Thomas; Laverne Musser, chaplain to Kentucky race tracks, Florence; Victor Lyons, Southern Seminary student and former summer missionary; David Book, home missionary, Lake Placid, N. Y.; and foreign missionaries Mrs. Daniel Cobb (Thailand), Frances Pendley (Yemen) and Mrs. Hugh Young (Japan); and Mr. and Mrs. Wiley B. Faw (Nigeria).

A feature on WMU age group organizations will be presented at each session by state office staff members Mrs. Harold Phillips, Rosa Fiechter, Anna Mary Byrdwell and Nancy Ferrell.

Special events include a centennial victory celebration honoring churches and associations having reached WMU's centennial goals for the last year, immediately following Thursday evening's session; Friday luncheons for associational WMU directors and parents of missionaries; a tour of Georgetown College at 4:15 p.m. Friday; and a Baptist Young Women dinner that evening at Immanuel Baptist Church.

Mrs. Horace Hambrick of Georgetown is president of Kentucky's Woman's Missionary Union. Kathryn Jasper of Middletown is state executive director.

The initial session opens at 7 p.m. Thursday. The program concludes Saturday at noon.



Mrs. Gregory



Palmer



Miss Moschella



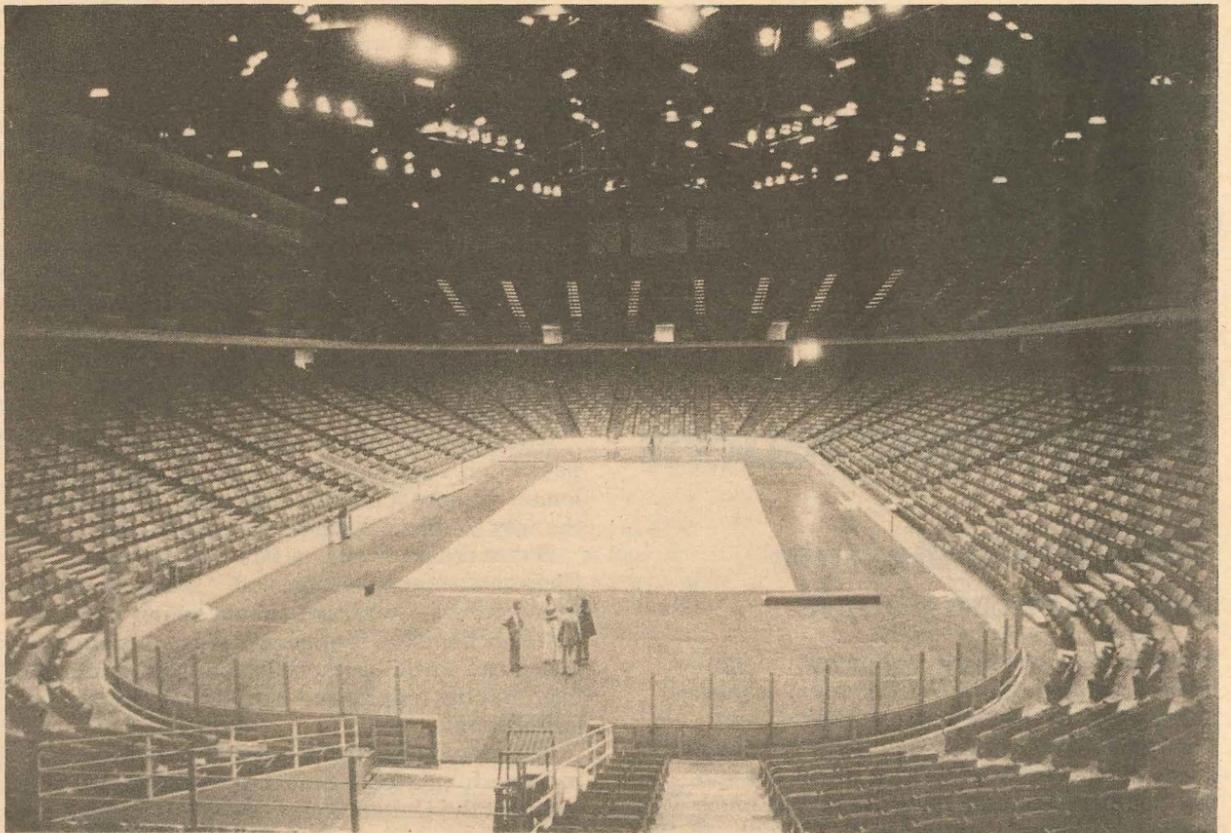
Mrs. Cobb



Faw



Mrs. Faw



The Summit, in Houston, Tex., is site of the 1979 Southern Baptist Convention. It will seat 17,200 for conventions sessions June 12-14. The small group is

standing where the speakers' platform will be. The floor will be covered with chairs. The view is from the choir seating.

Communication seminar leaders think "It's now or maybe never!"

"It's a one-of-a-kind meeting," Jesse Stricker, state stewardship-promotion director, declared one day last week in his office in Middletown.

"It's a first for Kentucky," Kathryn Jasper, state WMU executive director, chimed in. "And it's not presently calendared to be repeated in the next several years."

Stricker and Miss Jasper are co-planners of the first statewide communications conference set for Mar. 29-30 at Elizabethtown's Severns Valley Baptist Church. Working with Claud O'Shields, eastern representative of the Southern Baptist Radio & Television Commission, they have developed a line-up of 13 90-minute workshops offering professional skills to the novice as well as the seasoned communicator.

"Church secretaries, associational office staffs, pastors, ministers of education, public relations committees, women's leaders, media center and church library personnel, potential denominational writers and people involved in recording or broadcasting the worship services will find these workshops extremely beneficial," said Stricker.

The program allows each registrant to select the four workshops in which he is most interested. Consultants may also be arranged privately with program leaders, who represent denominational agencies in Louisville, Nashville, Atlanta and Ft. Worth. Professional communicators living in other cities are also included.

"But the time to act is now!" Miss Jasper reminded. "To help us anticipate the crowd, we really

encourage advance registrations," she explained.

A \$5 fee payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention provides all program materials and includes a fellowship dinner Thursday evening at Severns Valley Church. Checks should be mailed immediately to Communications-Writers Workshop, Kentucky Baptist Building, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243. A brochure describing the 13 workshops is available on request from that address.

The conference opens at 1:15 p.m. Thursday and concludes at noon Friday. Brief general sessions precede the workshops in the afternoon, evening and morning. Communications exhibitors will be available to meet with participants during coffee breaks.

The 13 workshops include:

Creative Displays and Interest Centers, Church Audio Cassette Ministry, Beginners in Broadcasting, Radio, Television, Cable Television, Writing for Religious and Secular Press, Freelancing and Curriculum Writing, Total Church Public Relations, Broadcast Engineering-Sound Systems-Church Acoustics, Associations and Church Newsletters, Workshop for People Not Mechanically Inclined and Evangelism Through Mass Media.

"It really is a power packed program," O'Shields observed. "It's a golden opportunity for those who need specific help to acquire it at very little trouble and expense."

"And, it may be a long time before we in Kentucky have a shot at this kind of expertise again," Stricker concluded.

REGISTRATION FOR STATE COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

Name

Position

Church

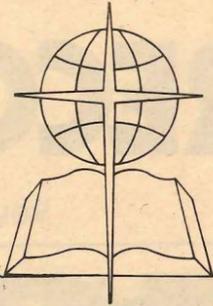
Association

Enclose \$5.00 registration check payable to Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Mail to: Communications-Writers Workshop,
Kentucky Baptist Building, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243

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

WESTERN RECORDER
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Paul Whitler Jr., Business Manager



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C. R. Daley

Daley Observations

Can you tell the truth and trust the people

Probably the most neglected moral and ethical issue among Southern Baptists today is peacemaking and nuclear weapons disarmament. Though noted for having seminars and conferences on almost every subject under the sun, few Southern Baptists have ever given much attention and time to world peace. The Feb. 16-18 convocation on peacemaking and the nuclear arms race held at Deer Park Baptist Church in Louisville was one of the rare efforts of Southern Baptists in this field but it was not a denominational project. It was conceived, planned and carried out by a seminary professor, a seminary student and the Deer Park pastor. They are to be commended.

There are several reasons why Southern Baptists don't give much attention to world peace. One of these is we don't have a clear theology on peace. We are all for it up to a point. We even preach it in times of peace but in times of war we have mostly not only justified war but have made it a holy endeavor. (Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition.)

Another reason why Americans feel less urgency than some other people in peacemaking and disarmament is that we have never suffered in our own land from the tragic destruction of property and life in modern warfare. If we had been in England or Europe or Hiroshima or Nagasaki during World War II, peace might be number one on our prayer lists and efforts.

I'll tell you a way to become concerned in a few minutes. Listen to an informed speaker describe the nuclear arms stockpiles of the United States and the U.S.S.R. which by now are large enough to destroy the world several times over. Consider that Russian intercontinental ballistic missiles are aimed every minute of every day at all the major industrial and population centers of the United States and that from one man the signal could be given to fire these missiles which would virtually wipe out America. Our only recourse would be to set off our arsenal of similar destructive nuclear weapons insuring the virtual destruction of Russia. Small comfort.

Who should have greater fear of such an eventuality, Russia or America? Russians, we would likely say because we have been taught they are the bad guys and we are the good guys. The truth is, however, the United States is the only nation which has ever dropped a nuclear bomb in war and we have always justified it instead of expressing regret.

Neither the United States nor Russia trusts another. Probably the greatest deterrent to a first strike by either is the ability of the other to retaliate with equal destructive power.

Add one more factor to this dark picture and hope dims still more. This is the fallibility of

man. How long can we go without a mistake or a miscalculation by someone who would set off the end of civilization as we know it?

If the Bible is correct in its description of the demonic nature of man, what hope have we, especially when we realize men who don't even believe there is a God have the power to destroy the world? Of course God controls the world ultimately including those who don't even believe in him but history reveals that God has not often interfered with man's bent toward self-destruction.

Quite frankly I'm pessimistic. At the present pace I don't see how the world can stand much longer without a nuclear holocaust. This may be the way God lets this age come to its end.

But to resign to such a fate should not be a Christian's stance. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers," and that should be our ideal however hopeless it appears. Ways to promote peace and world brotherhood should be sounded from Baptist pulpits and heralded in Baptist publications.

We should pray for peace and pray for those in powerful places for making world peace. This includes the United States president, United States senators and others related to SALT II and other human efforts to save the world from destruction.

Peacemaking should be a Baptist priority

There is a noble philosophy among Baptists which is easier to mouth than to practice. It is expressed in the maxim, "Tell the truth and trust the people."

Is this always the best policy in reporting Baptist news? Is all the truth to be told all the time or is it better for some things which are true not to be shared with all Baptists? If so, what are these things?

The answer to these questions is not a categorical yes or no. Generally to give the actual facts is the best way to handle a difficult story. To conceal the truth by lying or to withhold facts which Baptists have a right to have is patently immoral. Our government claims that lying when our national security is at stake is justified but such situational ethics doesn't apply to Baptists in news reporting.

But not everything which happens in Baptist life is or should be reported. Some things are not worth reporting and to report others would serve no purpose but to satisfy morbid curiosity. Among these are moral lapses of preachers and denominational workers though these should be shared with proper persons under proper circumstances.

The difficult question is how to decide what ought and ought not be reported. Honest and sincere Baptist reporters struggle with this question. They are caught between the obligation to give the facts and their concern for the cause of the Baptist enterprise and for those involved in the news.

We have just been through such an experience in reporting the resignation of Radio and Television Commission president Paul Stevens. Sincere persons were hard put to know how best to handle this story. Radio and Television Commission members decided not to tell all the story. Stevens' resignation was not voluntary as the original news release indicated nor were health reasons the basic explanation which the reader would assume from reading the lead paragraph of the original account. The story was

misleading as well as vague.

Actually Stevens' resignation resulted from a dissatisfaction with his performance and not to resign could have resulted in his dismissal and forfeiture of his retirement benefits. Some of us heard these things but commission members would not verify them. Some of these things were originally in Western Recorder's editorial treatment of this event two weeks ago but they were deleted because there was no verification.

It remained for a secular newspaper reporter to get the facts and report them. This may be the correct way but I doubt it. As a Baptist reporter responsible to keep Kentucky Baptists informed of significant Baptist events, I resent having to depend upon a secular news source though I appreciate Bruce Buursma's digging out the story.

When everything is considered, openness is the best policy for Baptists. To the extent it is practiced it has served Baptists well. Decisions and actions we cannot explain and justify should not be taken and done.

Tell the truth and trust the people.

Baptist Forum

How can we fail to do right?

May I be granted the privilege of having a small place to express by belief in placing the 10 Commandments in our schools?

Those who have used their power in removing all religious training in our public schools have not failed to express themselves; why should we as Christian people not express ourselves and stand up for that which we know is right?

I wonder how many of the older generation remember Bible reading and prayer having a place in our schools? Many things have been forgotten, but that sacred moment shall never be forgotten.

Our missionaries are not only giving their time, but their lives, to carry the message to those who have never had a Bible or heard of the 10 Commandments. How can we, as missionary Baptists, not have a part in placing the 10 Commandments in the school room for some child who has been denied that same privilege?

Pray, and give, that someone might be enlightened to the teaching of our Lord.

Mrs. H. J. Milby, Louisville

Schools trying to cop out?

We in America have taken the separation of church and state too far. We have sown to the wind; and now we are reaping a whirlwind of rebellion, crime and delinquency among youth. Satan has control of thousands of young people whose hearts have never been regenerated by Jesus Christ and Satan is desperately determined to destroy America from the inside and to gain his ultimate purpose of world domination.

There should be some formula worked out that would give young people moral and spiritual training in the school based upon the 10 commandments and the sermon on the mount. The scripture says, "Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Moral and spiritual training cannot be left to the home and the church alone. Young people spend too little time at the church and in the home. The school has them most of the time, and the school has a responsibility. The Bible teaches that we are to train our children "precept upon precept . . . line upon line . . . here a little, and there a little (Isa. 28:10), and that includes the school.

If Christianity is to survive we as people of purpose, integrity and faith must stand together in unswerving loyalty and faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus gave his all for us and he expects our all. If we do otherwise, the future of our nation is hopelessly dark.

Joy E. Stinson, Sharon Grove

Mountains to the Mississippi

Ordinations

Northside, Princeton, ordains two Northside Baptist Church, Princeton, recently ordained two men as deacons: John Bard and Don Darnell.

Personnel

Ivey to Viola Church, Hickory
New Ivey is the new pastor of Viola Baptist Church, Hickory.

He came to Hickory from a mission pastorate in Ravensden, Ark.

Ivey and his wife Linda are the parents of a son Marshal and two daughters, April and Angelia.

Stamps joins Woodland Avenue staff
Gerald F. Stamps accepted the call to become assistant to the pastor at Woodland Avenue Baptist Church, Lexington, where Ernest Sacra is pastor.

A native of Memphis, Tenn., Stamps is a graduate of Memphis State University and Southwestern Seminary.

He has been involved in several associate pastorates and music ministries.

Willmoth becomes Fern Creek pastor
James G. "Jim" Willmoth became pastor of Fern Creek Baptist Church, Louisville, Nov. 12.

Willmoth came to Fern Creek last Aug. 1 as minister of education.

Willmoth was born in Illinois and grew up in Missouri. He received the BA degree from Ouachita Baptist University and the MRE from Midwestern Seminary.

He has served on church staffs in Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri and Michigan.

Willmoth and his wife Sherri, a graduate of William Jewell College, have three sons: Geoffrey, 6, J. J., 3, and Jeremy, 2.

Fournier to Second Baptist, Marion
George F. Fournier is the new pastor of Second Baptist Church, Marion.

He came to Marion from Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Boaz. He is former pastor of Friendship Baptist Church, Paris, Tenn., and assistant chaplain at Kentucky State Penitentiary at Eddyville.

Fournier has done work at Union University and Mid-Continent Baptist Bible College.

He and his wife Lucy have a son, Paul, 18.

New staffers at Lebanon
Lebanon (Ky.) Baptist Church has added two Campbellsville College students as staff members.

Lance Howerton was called as minister of music.

Rick Sandlin was called as minister of youth. He will be assisted by his wife Marty.

Northside, Winchester, adds staffers
Northside Baptist Church, Winchester, has added two staff members.

Earl Lee Barnett is associate pastor in the ministry of outreach and Gary Conner is associate pastor serving in youth ministry.

Lewis E. Searcy is the Northside pastor.

Tennessee post for Carroll Owen
Carroll C. Owen has been named convention ministries director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention effective Apr. 1.

He is the younger brother of Frank Owen, executive secretary-treasurer of the KBC.

Carroll Owen has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Paris, Tenn., since 1962 and was state convention president in 1976.

He will coordinate the departments of student work, Brotherhood, Church Training, Sunday school, evangelism and missions.

Hall joins Pleasant Hill staff

Jewel Gene Hall has joined the staff of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Campbellsville, as educational director, assistant pastor and youth director.

Hall is personnel director and a counselor at Taylor County High School and has pastored several churches in the area.

Thurman Eaton is the pastor at Pleasant Hill.



Hall



Reid

Hillview Church calls Letcher Reid
Hillview Baptist Church, Louisville, called Letcher Reid as pastor effective Mar. 25.

Reid comes from Elizabeth River Baptist Church, Chesapeake, Va.

He holds a BA degree from the University of Richmond, and MDiv and DMin degrees from Southern Seminary.

Reid has participated in Home Mission Board evangelistic crusades in Canada (two), Australia and Hawaii. He has served in several associational offices and is a writer for adult Sunday school lessons for October-December 1979.

Reid and his wife Virginia are the parents of three grown children: Nancy Carol, Letcher III and John.

W. Earl Nelson retires

W. Earl Nelson has retired as pastor of Hyland Baptist Church and is available for supply.

He may be reached at 1018 S. Main St., Henderson, KY, phone (502) 826-3774.

Congregations

FBC, Paducah, honors John Wood
First Baptist Church, Paducah, recently observed the 15th anniversary of pastor John Wood.

The congregation used a special anniversary issue of the church publication to honor Wood and his wife Pat.

A statistical review revealed church membership grew from 1591 to 2316 in the 15 years, Sunday school from 902 to 1702 and budget from \$150,000 to \$600,000.

Additions to the church during the years have been 592 by baptism and 1326 by letter and other ways.

Salem Association eyes mission project
Salem Association has formed a summer youth missions committee to send laymen and young people to Southern Hills Association in Ohio.

The group hopes to win people to

Christ and to start a new church under the sponsorship of a Southern Hills Association church.

The Salem Association group will be coordinated by associational music director Katherine McQuary, Church Training director Ralph Shepperson, Sunday school director Jack Simmons, Brotherhood director Russell Adkisson, WMU director Thelma Shacklett and Graig Sherouse, chairman of the missions and evangelism committee.

Sherouse is the chairman and Mrs. Jack Simmons the secretary of the summer youth missions committee.

The association is seeking adult and youth volunteers from throughout the association.

Bowling Green choirs to be at SBC
The church choirs of First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, have been invited to sing at the Southern Baptist Convention June 12-14 in Houston, Tex.

The choirs are under the direction of Carl Moman, minister of music.

The Bowling Green choirs will also participate in a mass choir in the Astrodome with Cliff Barrows directing.

FBC pastor Rollin S. Burhans and associate pastor Richard Bridges plan to lead a group of 120 members to the convention in view of the choir invitation.

B.P.W. honor for Jenny Stotts

Jenny Stotts, secretary to the president of Campbellsville College, was named Woman of Achievement for 1978-79 by the Campbellsville Business and Professional Women's Club.

Burke to teach Catholic deacons

Donald J. Burke, pastor of Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, has been invited by the Louisville Roman Catholic Archdiocesan Department of Continuing Education for the Clergy to teach the gospel of Mark to the permanent deacons of the archdiocese.

Through most Roman Catholic history the order of deacon was but a temporary stepping stone to the priesthood. Since Vatican II an order of permanent deacons very much like the practice of Southern Baptists has been set up. The Louisville archdiocese has 35 permanent deacons.

Burke notes that while Mark is the book for the January Bible Study among Southern Baptists this year, it is the gospel which is being read through by the Roman Catholic lectionary

during 1979. Also, during Lenten season this year the passion narratives from the gospel of Mark will be read in Roman Catholic masses.

FBC, Madisonville, honors Thomas Croder C. Thomas was recognized recently for 25 years as superintendent of building and grounds at First Baptist Church, Madisonville.

The church celebrated the 25th anniversary of the occupation of its auditorium Feb. 15.

During the preceding week the entire church staff honored Thomas with a surprise luncheon, an engraved plaque and a love gift.

Thomas helped in the construction of the auditorium 25 years ago and became superintendent of building and grounds the same week the congregation began using it.

Churches join in history meetings
Corn Creek Church (1800), the oldest church in Trimble County, and Poplar Ridge Church (1858) are jointly sponsoring a series of Baptist history conferences Apr. 29-May 2.

Deaths

Earl Burns dies Feb. 10

Baptist minister Earl Burns, 72, died Feb. 10 at Kenwood Nursing Home in Richmond, Ky.

He was a member of Egypt Missionary Baptist Church and retired pastor of Crane Creek Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife Nellie; two daughters, Anna Stacey and Phyllis Jean Smith; three sons, Herman, Charles and Clyde; a sister, Effie Hacker; 14 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Charles Floyd dies of heart attack

Charles R. Floyd, whose wife Annette is an employe at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, died Feb. 3 of a heart attack.

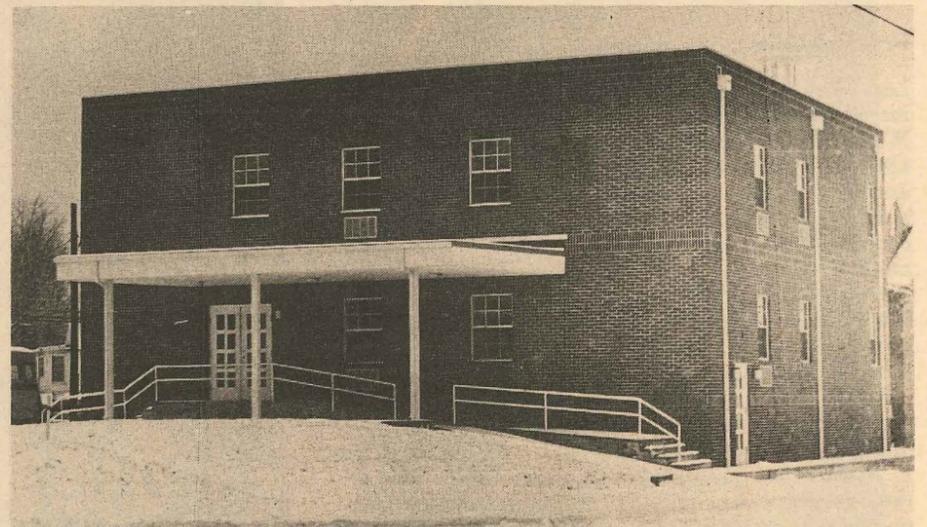
The funeral was Feb. 6 in Shelbyville.

Jim Jackson dies at 82

Jim Jackson, 82, Artemus, died Jan. 16 at the age of 82. He was for many years the pastor of Big Brush Creek Baptist Church.

Jackson's ministry in several Knox County churches spanned 50 years.

Arnold Petrey and John Partin officiated at the funeral Jan. 19 at Hoppers.



Northside Baptist Church, Princeton, dedicated a new educational building and held an open house Feb. 25. The new building contains 12 classrooms, offices, rest rooms, a fellowship hall, recreation area and kitchen. David Royalty is pastor.

There is no neutrality: these 10 Commandments an affirmative voice

by Robert Parker

Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad" (Matt. 12:30). Neutrality is impossible!

There is an attitude of dualism today which assumes that God is only interested in what goes on between the church walls. Teach the 10 Commandments or any part of the Bible in the church but do not permit this to be posted on public walls. A piety which concerns itself within church walls and leaves the schools and government to run on their own is a profane piety. This dualism, therefore, which divides the world into sacred and secular denies that God is the absolute owner of the entire world: "The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof" (Ps. 24:1).

The 10 Commandments assign themselves to any and every wall in and out of the church because of their explication of sovereignty. They emphatically affirm that there is no realm outside God's government. They teach that sovereignty is beyond man, the state and history. There is a great and inseparable thought between reference of authority and dominion in the words "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth" (Phil. 2:10) and the third commandment. The exercising of profaneness in the third commandment denotes "being outside the Lord." There is not a split second or a particle of dust in the universe that is outside the dominion of God. Any isolation of God's word and God's law in government is a violation of the third commandment and gross profanity. "The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain" (Ex. 20:7).

Can we afford to be timid and afraid to challenge the humanistic and pagan attitudes of our society? Is not our faith one that flows out of the church like a river and finds its way into every "nook and cranny" of human life! Yes, our faith and God's law addresses itself to every realm—in deed to the whole world as Jesus Christ is Lord of all! If government exists by God's authority, then government and education cannot exist in his absence.

Not church-state issue

Posting the 10 Commandments in public schools or elsewhere is not an issue of separation of church and state—not a matter of the government regulating religion. It is a matter of setting forth the word of God and his law described in principle in Ps. 103 where "he made known his ways unto Moses."

Fundamentally, church and state must be separate as divine institutions; however, government is non-existent without law and law issues value judgments which depend on religious presuppositions. The American legal system is built upon biblical law.

Any attempt to understand western civilization apart from this impact and Christian heritage is fictitious and a naive denial of 20 centuries. Furthermore, we have no moral obligation to grant equal wall space to dogmas which have had no history in shaping American legal heritage.

The 10 Commandments have stood alone in being recognized as fundamental to American jurisprudence and the basis of our common law and our criminal codes. The colonial governments adopted the 10 Commandments as the basis of their courts. No other document can make these historic claims to our heritage.

Presentations in Washington

Last week, I presented a framed copy of the 10 Commandments to an assistant of President Carter for the White House. A copy was presented to deputy attorney general Benjamin Civiletti, in the U. S. Justice Department. Deputy attorney general Civiletti stated that we cannot emphasize the Lord, these commandments and divine things enough in government. Both senators and all seven congressmen from Kentucky were presented copies to be hung in their Washington offices. Several including congressman Carroll Hubbard quickly found a spot to post the beautifully framed copy.

While in Washington my attention was drawn to the 10 Commandments prominently displayed in marble relief above the head of the chief justice of the U. S. Supreme Court as well as on two other walls in the Supreme Court building. This mammoth 10 Commandments display forms the base of the American eagle, symbolizing that American laws and institutions have historically been rooted in this universal code of conduct. America is personified in the form of a man with his arm resting on the 10 Commandments.

The worth

We cannot place a traffic signal in our hearts—it must be seen with the eye. The purpose of the law is not to save but to restrain evil, protect life, provide justice and to reveal sin. Recognition of law is honor to God, for it is he who said, "Thou shalt not." "You cannot legislate morality," say some; yet, all legislation is concerned with morality. Our laws concerning theft, murder, slander, perjury, manslaughter, etc., are moral laws representing a system of morality based on biblical law.

What's being done in Kentucky

Twelve counties have completed fund raising and are placing the 10 Commandments in each classroom: Crittenden, Gallatin, Graves, Hancock, Hopkins, Livingston, Ohio, Shelby, Webster, Whitley and Wolfe.

In addition 18 other counties are nearing completion with framed copies being posted in some schools: Ballard, Boyle, Breckinridge, Bullitt, Casey, Estill, Floyd, Harlan, Harrison, Hickman, Jefferson, McCracken, Marion, Mason, Magoffin, Monroe, Pulaski and Taylor.

Not only are 30 counties actively posting the plaques but 50 other counties are being organized by pastors to raise funds for this project in their schools.

Many associational missionaries have ordered framed copies to use in organizing local Baptist churches.

Yes, it's legal

Thousands of copies of the 10 Commandments have been and are being posted in classrooms—not by the state—but through local initiative.

Some have been confused by the suit against the new state law. This law requires the state to print and post the 10 Commandments if funds are available. Consequently, the state never had any of the plaques printed or posted.

The issue before the court is not whether a teacher can have a copy of the 10 Commandments in the classroom. The issue is whether the new state law mandating that the state print and post the commandments is constitutional.

When the Kentucky Civil Liberties Union's attorney asked the judge to restrain the Ohio county schools officials from accepting copies from the Ohio County Baptist Association, the judge denied the request and

said this arrangement was perfectly legal.

What you can do

The Kentucky Heritage Foundation is supplying the framed copies of the 10 Commandments to local churches for the cost of manufacturing—\$10 each. Any church or individual desiring to present the 10 Commandments to a particular school should send \$10 for each classroom to: The Kentucky Heritage Foundation, 1143 E. Broadway, Louisville, KY 40204.

The K.H.F. will send the copies directly to the sponsoring church for presentation to the school. For example, the Ten Mile Baptist Church furnished copies for each classroom in Gallatin County. In Jefferson County, Highview Baptist Church and Ninth and O Baptist Church have already raised over \$25,000 for the Jefferson County schools.

Call (502) 584-3639 or 937-5234 for further information on how you can help put them in your schools.

We are not introducing an innovation or a novelty. We are, indeed, restoring the faith and practice of early America and its spiritual foundation.

An appeal

To ignore or by-pass the moral demands of the scriptures "leads not only to chaos but also, as history has illustrated, to the totalitarian state—a government that totally controls its citizens."

The Mayflower Compact signed just before the landing at Plymouth Rock was based on biblical principles. Those who established the Massachusetts Bay Colony set forth in their New England Confederation their purpose for crossing the Atlantic—"We all came into these parts of America with one and the same end, namely to advance the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ."

Upholding the kingdom of Christ is a basic issue in this conflict. We find that the opposition to the publicizing of these commandments falls into two categories. Opposition either manifests a spirit of anti-nomianism (rejection of law), or a great underestimating of the power and significance of the word of God. Who is on the Lord's side? Let him stand in the great and sovereign name of the king! Neutrality is suicidal and it is sin.

Robert Parker is executive vice president of the Kentucky Heritage Foundation and pastor of Kosmosdale Baptist Church, Valley Station.



Robert Parker [l] and Sen. Wendell Ford hold a copy of the framed 10 Commandments.

Baptist News in Brief

Allen, Routh, Cauthen meet Chinese ambassador

Three Southern Baptist leaders met Mar. 6 with the People's Republic of China's new ambassador to the United States to express Southern Baptist interest in sharing the gospel to all people, including those in mainland China.

Meeting with ambassador Chai Tse Min at the Chinese embassy in Washington, D. C., were Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio, Tex., SBC president; Porter W. Routh of Nashville, Tenn., executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee; and Baker J. Cauthen of Richmond, Va., executive director of the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

The meeting was a "tap on the door" to Christian witnessing that had been closed since the communists took over the country, said Cauthen.

He said they were courteously received in a typical oriental manner and at the end of the hour-long meeting Allen led the group in prayer that "in God's own way, good might come to all people from the relationships which are developing between the United States and China."

Ambassador Chai told the Baptist delegation that the Chinese government permits freedom of religious belief but also permits opposition to it. The government does not encourage people toward religious faith as it is committed to Marxism.

As the Baptists left, they gave the ambassador a copy of Good News for Modern Man (the Today's English version of the Bible) and a letter calling attention to "three matters of much significance to millions of American Christians." The letter expressed concern for the reopening of Christian churches in China and requested permission for Christians to worship publicly. It also asked for the privilege of importing, printing and distributing Bibles and Christian hymnbooks and for missionaries to travel, reside and witness in China.

Constitutional convention dangers hinted by BJCPA

A Washington-based Baptist group warned that a possible constitutional convention called to force the federal government to balance the budget should "preserve intact the entire Bill of Rights."

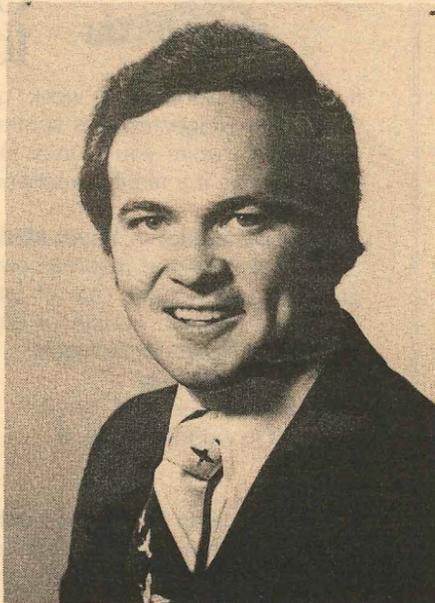
The Baptist Joint Committee is composed of official representatives from eight U. S. Baptist bodies and the Baptist Federation of Canada and deals with a variety of public affairs issues which affect the life of the churches and their agencies and institutions.

In expressing its warning on the potential dangers of a constitutional convention, the Baptist Joint Committee expressed its preference for the "traditional method" of amending the constitution by which Congress first adopts an amendment and then submits it to state legislatures, three-fourths of which must ratify it before the amendment is incorporated into the constitution.

The other amendment method provided for in Article V of the Constitution requires Congress to convene a constitutional convention if two-thirds of the state legislatures call for such a parley. Twenty-nine states have thus

far called for such a convention to be convened and to adopt an amendment forcing the federal government to balance its budget.

Hamm going to UK BSU



Mark Anthony Hamm, pastor at Crittenden (Ky.) Baptist Church for the last year, has been elected Baptist campus minister at the University of Kentucky effective Apr. 15.

Hamm, 28, is a native Louisvillian and a graduate of Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green. He holds MDiv and MRE degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

From 1972-73 he pastored Calvary Baptist Mission, Scottsville, and from 1973-78 he was assistant pastor at Louisville's Westport Road Church.

He and his wife Laura Jeanne have no children.

Dallas, First, still first

First Baptist Church, Dallas, still ranks as the largest congregation in the Southern Baptist Convention, according to 1979 rankings of the top 10 SBC churches, but two new churches have joined the top 10 and others have changed position.

The Dallas church has 20,045 members.

But, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., which led the Southern Baptist Convention in baptisms in 1978 with 1012, moved up from fourth to second, rising from 9935 to 12,217 members in two years.

It replaced Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., which recorded 11,407 members previously but dropped to 10,015 members.

First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., with 8819 members, and North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, with 8099, moved into the top 10 for the first time in 8th and 9th places respectively.

The top 10 rankings for 1979 (based on 1978 statistics) are:

1. First, Dallas, Tex. 20,045
2. First Southern, Del City, Okla. 12,217
3. First, Houston, Tex. 11,133
4. First, Lubbock, Tex. 10,595
5. Bellevue, Memphis, Tenn. 10,015
6. First, San Antonio, Tex. 9404
7. First, Amarillo, Tex. 9347
8. First, Jacksonville, Fla. 8819
9. North Phoenix (Ariz.) 8809
10. Dauphin Way, Mobile, Ala. 7572

Kentucky missionaries ok

Southern Baptist missionaries plan to remain at the Baptist hospital in Jibla, Yemen, even though the U. S. government has suggested they move

north of the capitol city of Sanaa further from fighting in the south.

Jon D. Tillinghast, Southern Baptist missionary physician, stationed in Sanaa, related the missionaries' decision to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board by telephone Mar. 6.

Ruth McConnell of Louisville is a missionary journeyman nurse at the hospital. Nine Southern Baptist missionaries and three other missionary journeymen are in Yemen. All but the Tillinghasts are stationed in Jibla.

Another Kentucky missionary, Francis Reed Pendley of Butler, is on furlough from her assignment as a nurse in the hospital.

The 70-bed hospital in Jibla is the only medical care in this area.

1978 figures show state's Baptists very large force

Total membership of Kentucky Baptist churches is now 724,342 according to figures just released by the Baptist Sunday School Board's Research Services Department. Resident membership is 528,301.

In 1978 there were 15,861 baptisms in Kentucky's 2200 Southern Baptist churches. There were 18,939 additions to membership rolls by letter.

Sunday school continued to lead all church program organizations in enrollment with 365,790. Vacation Bible school was second highest with 173,334. Church music enrollment was third with 62,724 followed by Church Training, 59,183; Woman's Missionary Union, 48,968; and Brotherhood, 16,549.

Kentucky Baptist churches received \$86,890,365 in 1978 and expended \$13,983,703 of it for missions. The value of church property in the state is currently \$385,652,320.



Four recipients at the Southern Baptist Radio-TV Commission's Abe Lincoln Awards program Mar. 1 were [l-r]: Porter W. Routh, retiring executive secretary-treasurer, SBC Executive

Committee; comedian Bob Hope; Paul M. Stevens, retiring commission president; and Tom Landry, Dallas Cowboys coach.

Easing in China presents a 'dangerous opportunity'

The apparent easing of restrictions on speech in China presents a "dangerous opportunity," according to a Southern Baptist missionary to Hong Kong.

George Wilson, who just returned to Hong Kong after reaching several years at Southwestern Seminary, said the term "dangerous opportunity" reflects the Chinese philosophy of seeing both the good and the bad in everything.

"As far as China is concerned, there certainly has not been a change of direction," he said. "This is just a step to something right now that is beneficial to the government."

"There is a lot of danger right now" for Christians in China, he said. "There would be a danger if we tried to rush in and find all the Christians, for instance. That might just help the government to exterminate them."

Millie Lovegren, a former missionary to China, left there in 1950. In August she became the first Baptist missionary

who had worked in China to return there.

"I don't think President Carter's recognition of China will make a difference to the witness of Christians in China, but it will cause many more people to pray, and that always has an effect," she said.

The Foreign Mission Board left 392 churches with 123,000 members in China, as well as more than 60 schools, four seminaries, four orphanages, seven hospitals, a university, a home for the aged, and many missionary homes.

The number of Christians in China cannot be known. Some estimate as few as 150,000. Others say three or four million. The only estimate given by a Chinese Christian has been from Episcopal bishop Ting Kuang Shun of Nanking, who told a visiting Methodist group in April 1978 there were 700,000 practicing Protestants and 2.3 million Catholics in China.

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8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Athletic Center

March 31 & April 21



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- Tour the Campus
- Baseball Game in the afternoon
- See the play, "Oliver," April 21

I plan to attend "Get Acquainted Day" March 31 / April 21

I plan to stay overnight on campus. How many people will stay? _____

Arrival Date: _____ Arrival Time: _____

I would like to attend the baseball game during the afternoon.

I plan to audition for a Music Performance Grant. Vocal _____ Instrumental _____

I would like to attend the play performance on April 21. How many _____

Signed _____

Baptist News in Brief

FMB turns down millions from Chinese communists

The Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board submitted no claims and expects to receive no money from the recently signed U.S.-China claims accord which states China will pay \$80.5 million for American property seized by the communists in 1949.

Although the board holds deeds to millions of dollars in mission property in China, Baker J. Cauthen, executive director, said they will seek no settlement on property. In the 1950s when a claims committee was set up by the U. S. government, the Foreign Mission Board decided to submit no claims.

The American Baptist Churches in the USA, on the other hand, decided to enter \$2.5 million in claims. The ABC owned some property in China jointly with Southern Baptists, for which no claim will be made, a spokesman said, but also owned other properties outright for which claim will be made.

Commenting on the SBC Foreign Mission Board's position, Cauthen said, "It has been our hope that ultimately we may be able to have access to the properties to use them for their original purposes. Any financial settlement based on 41 percent of the estimated value as of 30 years ago is entirely unrealistic."

Stevens honored by RTVC

The two top Abe Lincoln Awards were presented by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission to George Ann Victor, creative services director, KHOW Radio in Denver, and David Nelson, former vice president, WBBM, Chicago, and now vice president for station services, television stations division, CBS, New York.

Victor and Nelson were honored Mar. 1 in Ft. Worth's Tarrant County Convention Center.

Special guest was comedian Bob Hope, who received the Distinguished Communications Medal from the commission. Paul M. Stevens, president of the Radio and Television Commission, received a surprise Distinguished Communications Medal.

Stevens, whom the commission's trustees relieved of administrative control in early February, also received the Golden Radio Award from WBAP Radio, Ft. Worth, and a resolution from the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

A 'ladder' day saint?

NBC-TV will present "Jacob's Challenge," the Old Testament story of Jacob's deception of Esau, his older twin brother, Sunday, Mar. 18, at 7 p.m. EST.

You won't read this

by James H. Cox

You won't read this. And the reason you won't is, Western Recorder was voted out of your church budget years ago. But the message is important just the same.

If it were included in an address to the state Baptist convention, you'd probably miss it there, too, for most laymen never attend such meetings.

The subject would be appropriate in "The Deacon" magazine, but there's little chance that you would see it if it were there.

How can you be reached then?

It would seem the only hope for getting this message to you is by word of mouth—from some interested reader of Western Recorder who may share it with you. I hope someone will.

The problem is one that is repeated in Southern Baptist churches over and over. It was driven home to me recently when a Kentucky Baptist pastor liter-

The financial problems have been compounded by the fact he has realized his church "really doesn't care."

ally poured out his heart to me. I have a feeling his situation is more common than any of us realizes.

The problem, basically, is his congregation's lack of adequate provision for him and his family. After serving the same church for nearly two decades, this dedicated servant supports a wife and several teenage children on \$13,500 annually, including housing. Even with his wife bringing in a supplemental income, it has been difficult to stay above water. A siege of illnesses forced her to give up working for awhile, cutting out that income on which they had depended. In the wake of this, the family is now heavily in debt to several doctors and hospitals.

One wonders, if the pastor has it this bad, what it is like for the remainder of the staff and their families, with incomes decidedly less.

The financial problems for this minis-

ter have been further compounded by the fact he has realized his church "really doesn't care." For 18 months he pleaded with his deacons that something must be done to replace the hot water heater in the pastorium because it was failing to produce a sufficient hot water supply to meet his family's needs. He could have had it replaced himself, of course, but this provision by the church is considered one of his benefits, in lieu of more salary.

This, and a lot of similar little things, has caused his wife to view the congregation as cold hearted, indifferent and callous toward human beings. This has placed extra pressure upon the minister himself as he attempts to be true to his calling, yet serve in a realistic world.

The answer most of us would give him is, of course, to look for another church, and he is currently doing just that. But will history repeat itself for the pastor who succeeds him? And what about the staff? Just how long will it take us to realize that our pastors and staff members have certain material needs and obligations which can only be met by fair and adequate compensation?

I am not suggesting exorbitant sums, such as those a very few receive, but salaries to provide a satisfactory living (and a few of the comforts of life) for God's servants as they minister. It would be even better if this could be done without the staff member's wife having to work outside the home, except by personal choice.

Jesus never said that being one of his called would mean an easy life. Few staff members go into it with that in mind. But I have a feeling the Lord never meant for his church leaders to sacrifice their very dignity and self-respect in the pursuit of his tasks, either. Couldn't Jesus' words, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these . . . , apply to us in our treatment of staff members, too?"

Perhaps someone can communicate this to those churches that have never recognized human consideration for their ministers. If we don't do it, some churches may very well lose good men from their staffs, and perhaps from the ministry as well.

Sunday School Lessons

Mar. 25, 1979

H. C. Chiles

LIFE AND WORK SERIES

Romans 12:1 Paul made a strong appeal to the Christians in Rome to "present their bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God," which, he added, was a reasonable service. "Present" means a voluntary giving. This kind of dedication is "reasonable" in view of what Christ has done for us, and what he wants to do in and through us.

Romans 12:2 Believers who present their bodies as living sacrifices to God must still live in a world whose spirit and practices are antagonistic to him. He wants them to be separated from the world because the character of this age is evil, the conduct of those in this age is foolish, the spirit of this age is selfish, and the end of this age is destruction.

Romans 12:3-6a, 10, 13, 15-16 God

INTERNATIONAL SERIES

1 Corinthians 6:15-20 Because the Corinthian Christians lived in the midst of a people who practiced and vindicated licentiousness, Paul placed strong emphasis on the fact that the human body is not designed for indulgence in licentiousness, but that Christ has a just claim upon it and rightfully expects it to be devoted to him and his service. No one has created or sustained himself, he cannot be his own, and does not have any right to injure self in the service of Satan.

If you are a child of God, you have been redeemed. Therefore, it is your persistent responsibility to "glorify God in your body." When one abuses or misuses his body he is abusing or misusing that which belongs to another.

Glorify God in your body by thinking about him, by turning your thoughts into aspirations, and by transforming your aspirations into actions which please and honor him.

Frank Owen

My God

To speak or write, "My God," is a pretty careful matter for people who worship him and consider his name holy.

Some people use it in deliberate and flagrant profanity. It is their way of venting their anger or frustration. Such people need to search the words of the psalmist when he asked God to ". . . cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins . . ." (Ps. 19:12-13).

There are perhaps more people who take God's name in vain (lightly, in emptiness) who give it no thought at all. It is just a by-word, a fill-in expression used by people who are short on thoughtful vocabulary. They don't realize that such misuse of God's holy name comes close in violation to deliberate blasphemy. The commandment, as translated in King James English, forbids the use of God's name "in vain" (Ex. 20:7). If you will look up vanity it simply means emptiness. Thus, to take God's name lightly, without reverence, to just use it as a thoughtless byword, is to drag it down to the trite level of worthless disregard.

Conformed or transformed?

has distributed gifts and graces to different individuals in different measure, it is the part of humility and wisdom to evaluate ourselves correctly. Whatever our gifts may be, they are to be used for the glory of God and for the benefit of others. The most joyous, successful, useful and exemplary Christians are those who live nearest the center of God's will and prove their love for others by what they do for them.

Romans 12:19-21 In this life Christians meet rebuffs, unpleasant circumstances and unkind criticism. The natural tendency is to meet blow with blow, but Christ's way, which is both right and best, is to meet blow with forgiveness and kindness. If we are going to follow Christ, we must learn to forgive and love those who injure us and seek ways of doing good to those who have done us wrong.

Your body: God's gift

1 Corinthians 7:3-7 The Christians in Corinth consulted Paul about problems and he readily gave them sound advice. Prompted by the circumstances prevailing in Corinth they inquired of Paul as to the advisability of marriage.

In response to their question, Paul did not state any rule as to whether or not the Corinthian Christians should marry. He acknowledged that each state had some advantages and he reminded them that the decision to marry or not to marry was a privilege given to everyone. He taught them that the important thing is to follow the leading of the Lord in this matter.

Before marriage God requires all to practice continence, and after marriage all are obligated to be faithful to his or her partner until death. Both husband and wife are to be sensitive to the needs of the other. The sexual relationship is divinely restricted to those who are married to each other.

I am persuaded this is a far worse sin than people generally realize.

I am heart sick at how often I hear it in light regard on television. On programs, in films, with no reverence at all, actors exclaim (and excuse it please) "Oh, my God." Would, that entertainers and script writers had and would use the capacity to express themselves without cheap reference to God's holy name.

Sometimes in ancient Israel God's name was so revered that its utterance was avoided lest it be too lightly spoken. The personalized "Yahweh" (Jehovah) seemed less risky than "Elohim" (God). When some scribes had occasion to write it, they reached for a new quill, never before used, and wrote "Elohim," and threw the pen away. The quill that wrote God's holy name never wrote anything else.

I don't know how lightly or gravely you regard God's name. This is to remind all of us in a society that is dragging his name into exceedingly common and irreverent use of the great commandment, "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord, thy God in vain . . ."




WESTERN RECORDER
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Church Training: the first year

After serving one year as director of the Church Training Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Roy T. Edgemon is beginning to feel comfortable with his position.

"When I accepted the Church Training position I did so with guarded optimism, but after one year I am optimistic and enthusiastic about the entire program and staff," Edgemon said.

Edgemon attributes a large portion of his enthusiasm to the cooperation of the state Church Training directors and Southern Baptist agencies.

"Throughout the year I have received tremendous encouragement from the directors and seen their commitment and excitement grow month by

month," he said. "The agencies also have been very helpful lending their full support to several of our projects and enabling the convention to catch the vision of what discipleship training could mean to Southern Baptists."

Edgemon said some of the high points of his first year have been attending associational meetings, developing a survival kit for new Christians and preparing equipping center modules.

"I spent more than 120 days traveling over the Southern Baptist Convention attending many associational meetings and 'M' nights," Edgemon said. "The miraculous thing is that throughout the year I never experienced dis-

appointment in any meeting from the rural communities to urban centers."

The survival kit, or new member orientation, has become a reality during Edgemon's first year and will be released in June.

"The orientation includes 50 daily sessions for a new Christian and should be the greatest contribution to a new Christian's growth of any materials being produced," he said.

In April the equipping center modules will be released and Edgemon said he counts it a privilege to have had a part in pulling together the modules and seeing them take shape.

"I believe the equipping centers are going to open a new role for Church Training as we join with other programs in short term training," he said.

Edgemon cited the real strength of discipleship training as ongoing, week by week programs, and he has helped to make changes in the curriculum to achieve this purpose.

He said there were four things he wanted for the ongoing curriculum when he came which have been accomplished. They were for the curriculum to be Bible-based, person-centered, practical and sequential.

As Edgemon looks to the coming year he has set some priorities for himself and the department, the major ones being the growth of existing Church Training programs and starting new ones.

"Church Training is leveling off in its enrolment decline," Edgemon said, "showing only a .1 percent loss this year. "Hopefully we will go over to the positive side next year with our enrolment program known as 'Build Up.' I believe we are on the upswing."



Former Kentuckian H. Franklin Paschall, pastor of Nashville's First Church, presents Roy T. Edgemon with the first Baptist doctrine diploma.