

A disastrous spring

Mud in Mississippi

Mississippi Baptists have been feeding 3000 people a day from their disaster relief van as flood waters held Jackson in isolation.

This self-contained unit set up in the parking lot of Colonial Heights Baptist Church in northeast Jackson, a block from the flood's edge on three sides and a mile from the dam on the Ross Barnett Reservoir astride the Pearl River.

The homes of Len Turner, Colonial Heights pastor, and David Grant, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, were under water but there was no reported damage or injuries to other Baptist property or life.

Over 8000 homes in Jackson were flooded, displacing about 15,000 residents. President Carter has declared 25 counties in Mississippi eligible for federal disaster assistance. Hinds and Jackson counties were hit hardest.

The Red Cross was helping supply food to the Baptist relief van. Volunteers in the van also sent meals to several evacuation centers through the center directors.

Tim Nicholas, associate editor of the Mississippi Baptist Record, said the spirit of Christian cooperation at the disaster site was high. As flood waters receded, the van was to move further downstream and several Jackson churches were going to assume the feeding role.

There was one report of snake bite as snakes left the woods for higher ground. One house reportedly was full of snakes.

Out of Carter's mouth come pastor's words

R. L. (Bob) Maddox, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Calhoun, Ga., has been named a speech-writer to President Jimmy Carter, effective May 15.

During the past year Maddox, pastor of the Georgia church for more than seven years, has written two speeches for the president and one for Mrs. Carter. Maddox said he first wrote for Carter the speech delivered by the President to a meeting last June in Atlanta sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Most recently Maddox wrote a draft for Carter's speech at the signing of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty Mar. 26 and for an address delivered by Mrs. Carter the same day via telephone hookup to the Christian Life Commission's family seminar in Orlando, Fla.

The Calhoun congregation, which includes the President's son Jack and his wife Judy, was pleased with his decision to join Carter's team of five speech-writers, Maddox said. He told the congregation he saw the opportunity as the "next step in our ministry."

Maddox said he had some indication several weeks before the offer came Apr. 13 that he would be asked to join the President's staff. He said he was ready to say yes because he had prayed about it. "I feel very comfortable in the Lord, he told Baptist Press, noting he hopes to continue to preach in the Washington area as opportunities arise.

The Georgia pastor has written lessons for three adult Sunday school quarterlies of the Baptist Sunday School Board and is the author of a commentary on Acts in the Layman's Bible Book Commentary series to be published this year by the board.

He said while he did not campaign extensively for the President in 1976, his wife did spend a week on the campaign trail with Judy Carter.

He and his wife, Linda Cook Maddox of Thomas-ton, Ga., are graduates of Baylor University. He received the BD degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., and the DST degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University, Atlanta.

Tornadoes in Texas

In the wake of one of Texas' most destructive tornadoes has come a flood of disaster relief and spiritual response from people of all ages.

It was a swirling, evil monster that ripped an eight-mile swath of death and destruction through Wichita Falls Apr. 10 after devastating a wide area of the nearby city of Vernon.

Some said it was actually three funnels coming together in a giant storm. It killed 55 people and did about \$250 million damage in the two cities before moving on to strike Lawton, Okla.

Response of Texas Baptists and others to the needs of survivors was immediate and heartwarming, said Fred McDowell, director of missions for the Wichita-Archer-Clay Association.

Five Baptist churches were among the emergency shelters quickly set up in Wichita Falls. Members of First Baptist spent the first night ministering to 150 homeless tornado victims, many of whom slept in the church's recreation building.

Texas Baptist churches and the homes of pastors and church members felt the full fury of the tornado which destroyed more than 2500 homes and damaged nearly 5000 other homes and apartments.

Six members of Texas Baptist churches were among those killed. Hardest hit was First Baptist, Vernon, with three members dead.

Trinity Church of Wichita Falls was one of 10 churches destroyed. Faith Baptist, also in Wichita Falls, lost its fellowship hall, the roof off its sanctuary and its youth and education buildings.

In Lawton, Okla., even after the storm had spent much of its fury in Texas, three were killed and more than 100 injured. Bivocational pastor Jim Graves of Richard Spur Baptist Church lost his home, but no Baptist churches in the town were damaged.

Texas Baptist churches damaged included the New Life mission of First Baptist, Vernon, and the Sunny-side and Hillcrest churches of Wichita Falls. Eleven church staff members' homes were destroyed and seven others were damaged.

The state convention is providing temporary support for staff members of the churches where large numbers of church members lost their homes.



Doris Yeiser

BSSB called on carpet for error in quarterly

Baptist Sunday School Board president Grady Cothen has reacted to the method used to criticize a misstatement in a February lesson in the "Sunday School Young Adults" quarterly.

Robert E. Lee, a Knoxville, Tenn., pastor and evangelist, said he mailed 4000 copies of a two-page "indictment" of Sunday School Board literature headlined "Lies in our Literature."

The issue arose around a statement in the Feb. 25 lesson that read:

"If a Methodist, a Presbyterian, a Lutheran, a Catholic, an Episcopalian, a Mormon, a Jehovah's Witness and a Baptist were to sit down together around a table to discuss their beliefs, they would discover many differences. But none could disagree with Paul's words in these verses (from Ephesians, chapter 4).

"No matter what our background or denominational preference, we all believe in one body (the church), one spirit (the Holy Spirit), one hope (the resurrection), one Lord (Jesus Christ), one faith (Christianity), one baptism (public profession) and one God (Yahweh)," the lesson said.

"We would argue about our modes of baptism, our church polity, our governmental structure and so on. But on these seven points few, if any, would disagree. In fact, they are the basis for worldwide Christian unity."

Cothen replied to the mailout and to a letter he received directly from Lee, interim pastor of Elm Street Baptist Church in Knoxville.

"There is no question but that we made an error in the 'Sunday School Young Adults' quarterly to which Lee referred," Cothen said. "It is a misstatement, acknowledged by both the author and the editor, to group all those denominations together and say they believe the same thing.

"We regret our error and will renew our diligence in guarding against such occurrences," he said. "To label the honest effort of dedicated people as a blasphemous lie or the encroachment of the devil or liberalism or modernism is a disservice to this institution, to the convention and to the Lord."

The board president charged that Lee's treatment of an error was improper. "The Christian's responsibility would have been to notify me personally that an error had been made and ask for correction," he said.

Doris Yeiser becomes Secretary of the Year

Doris Yeiser, secretary to three executive secretaries of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in the last 27 years, has been named 'Secretary of the Year' by Long Run Baptist Association. The recognition was announced at the organization's annual secretary appreciation day observance Apr. 19.

Miss Yeiser, who was at home recuperating from recent surgery, learned of her honor by way of a telephone call from the luncheon meeting at Louisville's Walnut Street Baptist Church. The public address system was patched to the telephone line to allow the 150 church and denominational secretaries and their bosses present to eavesdrop on a conversation between Miss Yeiser and Franklin Owen, KBC executive secretary-treasurer.

"We're so grateful and proud of you and happy these people have recognized you," said Owen.

Miss Yeiser responded that she was taken completely by surprise.

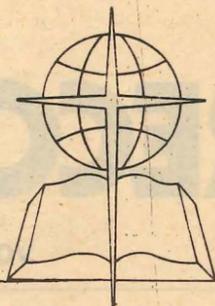
Owen later praised all church and denominational secretaries, suggesting "there has never been a good administrator without a good secretary."

A gift was to be presented to Miss Yeiser later. About 30 persons from the Baptist Building in Middletown participated in the secretary appreciation day observance.

A women's style show preceded the award to Miss Yeiser, using several of the church and denominational secretaries as models.

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

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C. R. Daley Jr., Editor
James H. Cox, Associate Editor
Paul Whitler Jr., Business Manager



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C. R. Daley

Daley Observations

Butler's objection is in order

Louisville's Ninth and O Baptist's pastor, LaVerne Butler, is right in protesting the 9:30 a.m. starting time for the Mini-Marathon in Louisville Sunday, Apr. 29. Earlier the race had been scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. but was changed to 9:30 a.m. by the Derby Festival Executive Committee. The reason given for the change was concern that the later starting time might subject the runners to excessive heat.

Butler suggested that those objecting to the 9:30 a.m. starting time contact the executive vice president of the festival, Mrs. Cabby Ratterman, and express their objections. Mrs. Ratterman received so many calls and became so concerned about the possible negative effects upon the funeral home business of her family that she resigned.

Though Butler was apparently the first to object publicly, many other church people and other respectable persons feel the same way about this flagrant disregard for regularly scheduled teaching and worship services on Sunday. A considerable number of participants in this race and in other derby activities are loyal church people. They should not have to make a choice between participation in the Mini-Marathon and in attending church services but if they all boycotted the race, it would be an effective witness.

Concerned people should always speak out on such questionable community activities but what effect it will have in this case is questionable. It's too much to expect planners of activities related to the annual Kentucky Derby to show regard for churches and worship.

Such regard is alien to the whole spirit of the annual derby festival in Louisville. The affair is basically pagan in its approach. An attitude of "anything goes" takes over in Louisville the first week each May. Law and order are replaced by "living it up." Prostitutes, pick pocket artists and other hoodlums in great numbers join the hordes of horse racing fans in this annual orgy for which Louisville has become world famous. Gambling and alcohol consumption during derby weekend set new records nearly every year.

This does not mean everyone and everything related to the horse industry are evil. The sight of beautiful thoroughbred horses grazing on rolling bluegrass landscapes is a part of the delightful and inspiring Kentucky experience. The horse shows for which Kentucky is famous are high type entertainment. But the gambling, drinking and other excesses related to the Kentucky Derby are abominable and sincere Christians should have nothing to do with them.

So, stay in there and fight, LaVerne. Many of us are with you. Our voices may not change this wanton disregard for worship and decency but they will be heard.

No O'Hair petition

Referring to the difficulty of effective communication, someone has said it takes six months for Baptists to say hello. However long it takes to say hello, it takes more than three years to scotch a false report. The report in question is that Madalyn Murray O'Hair has been granted a hearing by the Federal Communication Commission on a petition to ban religious broadcasting on radio and television.

There is no truth in this report now nor has there ever been any basis for it. We have used at least three Western Recorder articles in the last three years trying to kill this false rumor but periodically it is revived and spreads like wild-fire. More than 20 calls have come to our office in the last few days asking about this alleged petition (R.M.-2493).

Here are the basic facts from FCC commissioner Robert E. Lee. Mrs. O'Hair nor anyone else has ever filed a petition to control broadcasting on commercial stations. The only petition ever filed was R.M.-2493 by two California men named Milen and Lansman, which was an effort to control broadcasting on non-commercial educational channels. This petition was immediately denied by the FCC Aug. 1, 1975.

Commissioner Lee reports the FCC receives an average of 8500 letters or petitions a day opposing Mrs. O'Hair's non-existent petition. By now well-meaning people have spent over one and one-quarter million dollars on postage for these letters to say nothing of the costs to the FCC to process 8500 letters a day. All this is needless waste and lessens our effectiveness when a real enemy comes along.

Here is a suggestion. Since one of the channels for communicating this false report is church mailouts, why not put the above correct information in the church bulletin now and save it for use again if this report flares up again?

Let me reassure Western Recorder readers that we will carefully investigate all such reports in the future and will sound the alert when action is needed.

Guest Editorial

The gospel and Three Mile Island

by W. David Sapp,
Christian Life Commission

The awesome accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant has raised important problems for scientists. It has also raised important problems for Christians. The profoundly moral dimensions of the nuclear power controversy demand the special attention of the people of God. Christians have a responsibility to help the world find morally responsible answers to such complex problems.

The strict safety standards which have already been applied to the nuclear power industry did not prevent a highly dangerous accident at Three Mile Island. Thousands of persons, who had no voice in deciding whether to build the nuclear power plant and then rushing it into apparently premature service for the sake of a tax advantage, suffered personal anguish, inconvenience, loss of property value and possible grave danger to their health. At the very least, Christian compassion for innocent human beings requires

that stricter safety standards be adopted and enforced.

The Three Mile Island situation also reminds us that power companies last year pushed through Congress special interest legislation making them not legally liable for the full extent of any damages which may result from a nuclear accident. If or when a catastrophic nuclear accident should occur, inflicting \$100 billion in damages, Congress has dictated that the power company is only liable for a maximum of a paltry \$560 million or about half of one percent of such damages. This is not compatible with the Christian view that we are all responsible for our actions. Nor does it even make sense, for if I do \$1000 worth of damage to my neighbor's car, I am liable for \$1000. Congress should never have passed this wind-fall for the utilities and now should repeal it.

In addition, 30 years into the nuclear age we still have no permanent plan for disposing of the radioactive waste materials being produced by nuclear plants. If this waste material is not stored in a manner which will remain safe for thousands of years, we will have imposed on generations of our unsuspecting children a dangerous evil which they will have no choice but to endure. This problem alone is sufficient cause for an immediate moratorium on the construction of nuclear power plants. Whatever our opinions about nuclear power, it is certain that a Christlike concern for the well being of humanity, the born and the unborn, demands that emergency priority be given to solving the nuclear waste disposal problem.

The church cannot be silent in times like these. God has given us a clear moral principle for dealing with the problems of nuclear power: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 19:19).

Baptist Forum

How much is one man worth?

Executive Committee
Southern Baptist Convention
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Dear Sirs:

In a time and world in which the Christian is being caused to seriously reevaluate his or her lifestyle and stewardship, we the Salem Association of Baptists in Kentucky, wish to register our dissatisfaction with the stewardship of Cooperative Program funds in the salary and benefits appropriated to the new executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention, executive board and other agency heads. It is our feeling that the executive secretary's reported yearly salary of over \$45,000 plus benefits is neither an appropriate witness to a needy world nor a worthy example to our Southern Baptist laity and clergy. During this period when Southern Baptists are being challenged to "bold giving," we feel that it is essential for the Southern Baptist Convention to demonstrate a better use of its funding and for the convention leadership to demonstrate more "bold living" by voluntarily simplifying their lifestyles.

We commend the executive committee on their choice of Dr. Harold Bennett, on their spirit of generosity and on their willingness to disclose this salary and benefits. We put our support behind those in our convention who are calling for disclosure of agency salaries. We pledge our continued support and prayers on Dr. Bennett's and your committee's behalf.

Sincerely,
The Salem Association
Executive Committee

And for the eighties, BYPU by yet another name

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

J. E. Lambdin, the father of BYPU, BTU and Training Union, had a dream for every Southern Baptist church. He envisioned a training program for each one. Lambdin officially retired at age 72 Dec. 31, 1959. For three weeks, he didn't miss a day returning to his former office at 127 Ninth Ave., N., in Nashville, headquarters building of the Baptist Sunday School Board, where he had served since the 30's.

One Sunday morning in January 1960, in his regular place at Sunday school at Nashville's First Baptist Church, Jerry Lambdin collapsed. The man who had been Southern Baptists' "Mr. Training Union" was gone before he ever reached a hospital.

Some say he died of a broken heart. Retirement from the object around which his whole life revolved was more than he could take.

If J. E. Lambdin saw how his dream for a training program for every church was carried out today, he might turn over in his grave. Slippage has occurred on every front. Enrolment has declined in almost every church in what is now more commonly known as Church Training.

Worse than declining enrolment, however, is the fact hundreds—perhaps thousands—of churches, including many across Kentucky, large and small, have discontinued any type of training at all.

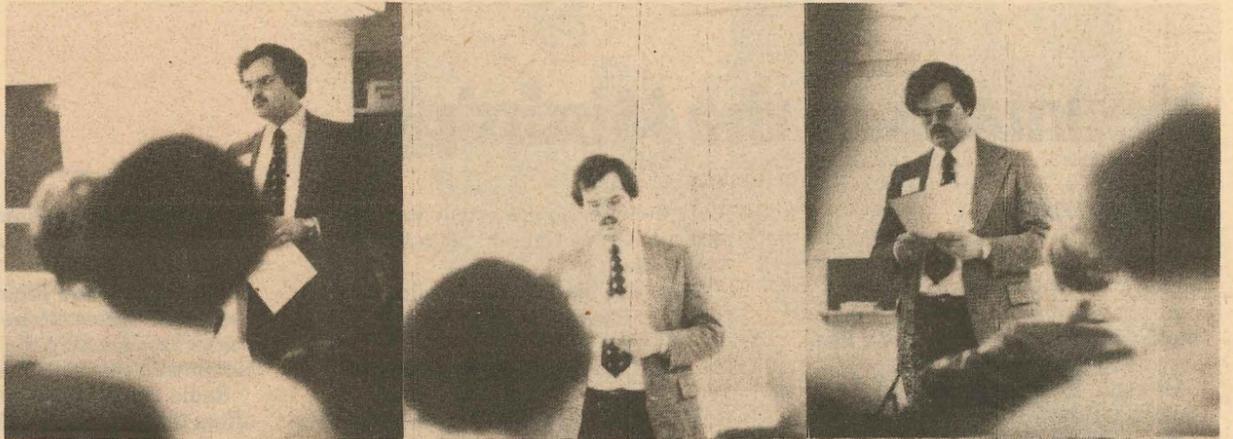
Church Training leaders are, of course, alarmed. In their quest to revive our traditional Baptist love affair with Sunday night, they've come up with an approach to rejuvenate what used to be—equipping centers.

Can BYPU, BTU, Training Union and Church Training be more viable by yet another name? Time will tell, but this newest innovation provides options no one ever dreamed possible in ol' Jerry's day, such as:

- Six areas of study provided for adults, from which they may select. This cafeteria style includes evangelism and missions, family life, church and community, Christian growth, Christian doctrine, leadership.

- Several learning approaches suggested, including study alone, two persons studying together, seminars led by one individual, small groups with a leader and the total group participating or a mixed variety of these approaches.

- Short-term training is possible, in 6, 8 or 12-week



Mike King leads one of 12 recent equipping center interpretation clinics held across Kentucky.

programs. People can cover a particular subject intensively, then move to something else.

- Grouping is by need and interest, not by age, sex or any other traditional method currently used.

- Surprisingly, we're now told church does not have to be just the Sunday night place. People may also be trained in homes, restaurants, at clubs, businesses, resorts, campgrounds and other places. Convenience is the order of the day.

- Neither is 6:00 or 6:30 or whatever time has been the traditional training hour on Sunday night sacred. Training may be accomplished any of the seven days of the week, morning, noon or night—even in concentrated form over a weekend.

- The materials for equipping centers are reusable, putting extended life into them. The Sunday School Board guarantees replacement materials to be available for five years from date of issue, something never before possible.

- "Module" is a new term being introduced with equipping centers. It refers to a specific learning center or study theme pursued by trainees.

Gasp! Gasp! If you've read this far, you know some new things are just beyond the horizon for churchists' traditional training-goers. But what if your church maintains an active, successful Church Training pro-

gram now and doesn't want to drop its conventional approaches?

Vernon Cole, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Church Training Department, cautions, "Don't ever tell a group of people they can't, for instance, continue using Baptist Adults any more. They might just quit altogether!"

Instead, the department recommends that church leaders experiment by offering equipping centers as an alternative to the conventional approach. Let people sign up for it and try it out. "Equipping centers are not the new Church Training program but an additional resource to be used in carrying out the training tasks of the church among adults," says Cole.

The first undated modules in the equipping center concept appear on the church literature order form now in churches and will be available July 1. The state Church Training Department is available to advise and assist any convention-affiliated church in Kentucky in setting up an equipping center module. Free helps are available from the state office.

Mike King, department associate, sums up the effort with the purpose of Church Training: "The fully equipped saint is one who walks in harmony with his Lord. We're trying to lead people in that direction."

With that, Jerry Lambdin could heartily agree.

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Growing,
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ASSOCIATIONAL EMPHASIS WEEK
MAY 21-27, 1979

Mountains to the Mississippi

Personnel

James Bearden to Victory Memorial
James D. Bearden Jr. was called as minister of music by Victory Memorial Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association. He began Apr. 4.

He came from Cloverleaf Baptist Church, Louisville.

He holds a BM degree from Furman University and is presently a student at Southern Seminary.

A native of Greensboro, N. C., Bearden plans to be married Aug. 17 to Pamela Diane Berger of Savannah, Ga. She is in the social work program in the School of Religious Education at Southern Seminary.

W. Louis Walters is the pastor at Victory Memorial.



Bearden



Lowe

Rock Bridge calls Charles Lowe
Charles Lowe, Glasgow, has accepted the call as pastor of Rock Bridge Baptist Church, Monroe Association.

Lowe has been pastor of churches in Monroe, Barren and Allen counties.

Taylor resigns at Shively Heights
Tommy Taylor has resigned as pastor of Shively Heights Baptist Church to become pastor of London Bridge Baptist Church, Virginia Beach, Va.

Bill, Ava Archer to Fairdale
Bill and Ava Archer are new ministers of music and youth at First Baptist Church, Fairdale.

They are both graduates of the University of Maryland.

He is a native of Richmond, Va., and she is from Beltsville, Md.

Harry Porter is pastor at FBC, Fairdale.

Couple called to Goshen Church
Goshen Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association, called Samuel F. and Linda Williams as pastors.

Natives of South Carolina and Texas respectively, both hold MDiv degrees and are graduate students at Southern Seminary.

Providence calls Shane Nickell
Providence Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association, called Shane Nickell as pastor.

A Kentuckian, he is in the first year of the MDiv program at Southern Seminary.

Shoney Oliver to Delmont Church
Shoney Oliver is the new pastor of Delmont Baptist Church, Little River Association.

He came from Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Caldwell-Lyon Association.

Wayne Glass to Macedonia
Wayne Glass was called as pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church, Caldwell-Lyon Association.

A student at Mid-Continent Baptist

Bible College, he previously was pastor of Shady Grove Church, Ohio River Association.

Glass and his wife Carolyn have three children: Greg, Lisa and Leslie.

Harrods Creek calls interim associate
Bruce Treece has joined the staff of Harrods Creek Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association, as interim associate minister.

From North Carolina, he is an MDiv student at Southern Seminary.

Brian Parris goes to Ohio

Brian Parris recently resigned as pastor of Advance Baptist Church, Green Valley Association, to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Enon, O.

He had been associational youth director in Green Valley.

Revivals

Corinth Church reports 38 decisions
Corinth Baptist Church, London, reported 38 decisions in revival services Apr. 2-8.

Pastor Ben A. Baird said there were six conversions, two additions by letter and 30 rededications.

24 conversions at Ormsby Heights
Ormsby Heights Baptist Church, Louisville, reported 24 conversions and 27 additions in revival services.

The services were led by an Australian team called the Gems of Joy Gospel Messengers.

Dallas Vincent is pastor at Ormsby Heights.

Fifty decisions at Bethlehem Church
Bethlehem Baptist Church, Greensburg, Russell Creek Association, reported 50 decisions in revival services.

Twelve persons joined the church. Gary Ervin is the pastor.

Twenty-one decisions at Nortonville
Twenty-one decisions were reported in revival services at Nortonville Baptist Church where Chester Culver is pastor.

Missions

Five journeymen from Kentucky
A record 127 young adults have been approved to work overseas as missionary journeymen.

Journeymen are college graduates, 26 and under, who will work for two years alongside career missionaries.

Candidates from 24 states and Canada will go to 47 different countries and territories around the world.

Five will be going from Kentucky. They are: John Martin, Crittenden, and Shelby White, Richmond to Hong Kong/Macao; Gregory Mobley, Campbellsville, to Nigeria; Ida Slusher, Pineville, to Gaza; and Joe Young, Bowling Green, to Liberia.

Mt. Pisgah homecoming May 6
Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Lynn Association, will celebrate homecoming May 6.

Special singing is planned in the afternoon.

90th anniversary for Bellfield
Bellfield Baptist Church, Green Valley Association, celebrated its 90th anniversary Mar. 4.

A noon meal at the church was fol-

lowed by singing and preaching. A church history is being updated.

Radio stations add Bible study

Two local broadcasting stations in Kentucky began broadcasting the SBC's "At Home with the Bible" Mar. 4.

Radio WRUS (620) in Russellville offers the program at 12:30 p.m. each Sunday. Radio WSRG (1070) in Elkton airs the program at 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

Medical mission team to Haiti

A medical mission team from First Baptist Church, Albany, spent a recent week in Haiti. The team included medical doctor Larry Mason, pharmacist Tommy Bertram, pastor Ernest Harris and layman David Williams.

They set up three clinics, one in the city and two in villages, ministering medically to more than 200. They took an adequate supply of drugs for treating patients.

Team members also visited several churches, schools and a children's home.

They reported the joy of experiencing mission work firsthand and experiencing a different culture made the trip a good investment in Christian growth.

They were impressed by the approach of the SBC Foreign Mission Board and the Southern Baptist witness.

The foursome agreed that such mission groups should carefully and prayerfully plan their trips.

Swiss Colony hosting Mississippians
Twenty-five youth from First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., will help with vacation Bible schools and backyard Bible clubs in Laurel County July 8-13.

They will be the guests of Swiss Colony Baptist Church, London. Swiss Colony pastor James E. Casey Jr. said they plan to enrol more than 400 youngsters.

Routh to speak at Southside
Porter Routh will speak in the 10:45 a.m. worship service at Southside Baptist Church, Louisville, Apr. 29.

Steve Thompson is pastor at Southside.

Deaths

R. Dale Wolfe dies at 50

R. Dale Wolfe, 50, pastor of Minors Lane Baptist Church, Louisville, died Apr. 6 at Highlands Baptist Hospital, Louisville.

He had taken ill while participating in the simultaneous revival effort in Ohio.

A pastor for 27 years he had also served Walnut Ridge Baptist Church, Jeffersonville, Ind.; Calvary Baptist Church, Greenwood, Ind.; and Southwood Baptist Church, Beech Grove, Ind.

Survivors include his wife, the former Lois Bozarth; five sons, Marvin, Marion, Melvin, Marshall and Martin; two daughters, Mrs. Linda Coffey and Miss Mary Wolfe; and three grandchildren.

Funeral services were Apr. 10 in Wayne City, Ill. He was a Wayne County native.

Arnold Pierce dies in Greensburg
Arnold Pierce, 75, a trustee at Trammell Creek Baptist Church, died Mar. 5 in Greensburg.

He was a retired merchant, farmer and postmaster at Newt.

Survivors include his wife Mapel; two sons, Harold of Frankfort and Buford of Greensburg; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

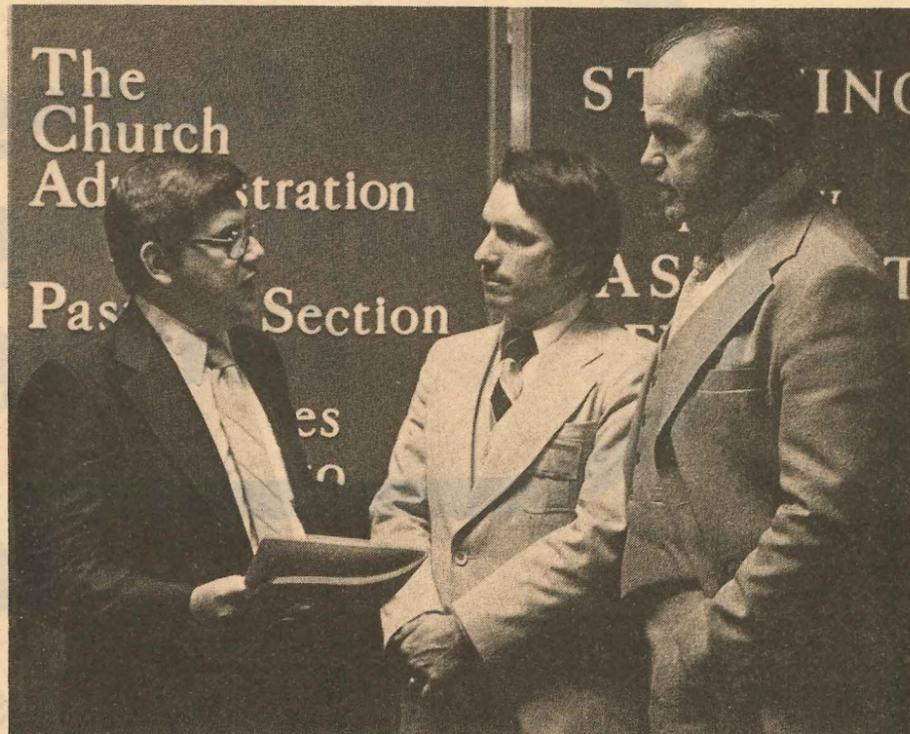
Mrs. Ruby Kuhn dies

Mrs. George (Ruby) Kuhn, longtime member of First Baptist Church, Prospect, died recently.

She was a Sunday school teacher 35 years, WMU president 30, a choir member and a member of various committees.

Mrs. Iva Lancaster dies Apr. 4
Mrs. Iva Lancaster, a member of Central Baptist Church, Maysville, died Apr. 4 at the University of Kentucky Hospital in Lexington.

She was the mother of Oleta Casey, whose husband James is pastor of Swiss Colony Baptist Church, London.



George Tucker [c] and Ray Cooper [r], both of Richmond, attended a recent seminar on starting a new pastorate effectively at the Baptist Sunday School Board. Bruce Grubbs [l], pastoral ministries consultant in the board's Church Administration Department, led the seminar.

Christian Education

Wall resigns, accepts S. C. position

Larry Wall, head basketball coach at Cumberland College, has resigned to accept a similar position at the University of South Carolina.

Wall's team finished 22-15 the past season.

"A man of Wall's caliber will be hard to replace but we are actively engaged in seeking another coach with outstanding credentials," Cumberland president J. M. Boswell said.

Wall commented, "I have nothing but positive things to say about my stay at Cumberland. I did not seek the job at Aiken but the opportunity was too good to turn down."

Mrs. Coppock recognized for 20 years of service



Drewry Meece presents letters to Mrs. Bonnie Coppock.

Mrs. Bonnie Coppock, associate professor of education and psychology at Campbellsville College, was recently honored with a dinner recognizing her 20 years of service to the college.

Mrs. Coppock, who will retire at the end of the semester, was presented an engraved silver plaque and a collection of letters from former students.

GC sesquicentennial out

"The Sesquicentennial History of Georgetown College," a commemorative brochure highlighting the first 150 years of the oldest Baptist college west of the Alleghenies, has been printed by Georgetown College Press.

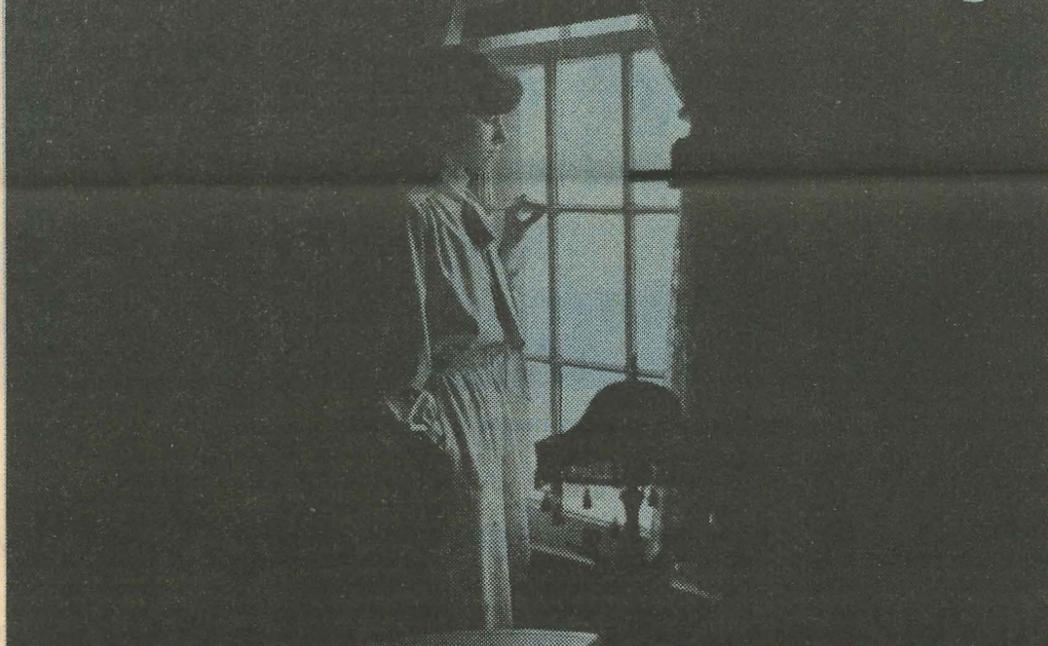
Written by Carl R. Fields, distinguished professor emeritus of history at Georgetown, it is being sent to alumni, Kentucky Baptist pastors and other friends of the college.

Though most of the research was done at Georgetown, the University of Kentucky and Southern Seminary, Fields spent part of last summer in New England researching some of the school's founders.



Newly elected officers of the Cumberland College Baptist Student Union for 1979-80 are [l-r] Harry Brown, junior religion major from Amarillo, Tex., vice president; Becky Hjerpe, sophomore special education major from Geneva, O., secretary; and Kathy Martin, junior religion major from Greensboro, N. C., president.

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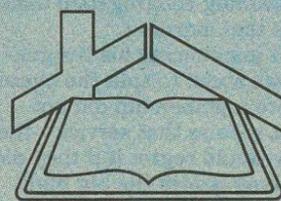
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Mommy Ransdell and her pastor, Dean Pack.

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

any longer, a voice bellowed through a loudspeaker announcing a very special night in the life of the church.

A tuxedoed Estill Lee Carter, young and dashing, a former radio announcer and local businessman, stepped into a spotlight and in mellow tones reminiscent of Ralph Edwards announced, "Tonight, this is your life, Mommy Ransdell."

He then proceeded up the aisle into the audience to take Mrs. Lucy Ransdell, age 79, on his arm and lead her to the platform. For the next 90 minutes accolades poured forth through the P. A. system as unseen guests, friends, relatives and former pastors spoke words of love for a woman who has made significant contributions to that church for 52 years. After each unseen guest had spoken, Carter introduced him and he entered the sanctuary, exchanging hugs and kisses with the lady affectionately called 'Mommy' by the membership.

Guests included Mommy's sister and her husband, who had been visiting from out of town and "left" to return home a few hours earlier; her two daughters; several friends; and former pastors George Redding and Mrs. Redding (who were flown in from another engagement at Akron, O. for the event), the Ira McMillans of Mason, O. and the entire William D. Jagers family. Jagers, now of Cynthiana, served the Prestonsburg church nearly 16 years, until 1977, and received a standing ovation upon entering the auditorium.

A Methodist friend of Mommy's, who was brought from backstage before the former pastors were introduced, announced: "I've never met so many Baptist preachers in my life as I have here tonight."

"I think somebody just let a few cats out of the bag," master of ceremonies Carter commented wryly.

The guests were interspersed with music as the youth choir sang one of Mommy's favorites, "Beulah Land," and Gus Kalos, minister of music, offered "He'll Understand and Say Well Done."

Why Lucy Ransdell rather than somebody else?

The answer seems to lie in those 52 years she has given of herself tirelessly and unselfishly to that church and its members. When a new pastor was called, he and his family were always welcome guests in the Ransdell home. They provided meals and sometimes a place to stay until the new preacher found a suitable home. She went out of her way to minister to the needy, homeless, sick and handicapped. She taught young children in Sunday school for many years, and remains active in WMU today. She saw to it that her family never missed a service unless sickness prevailed.

Even after her husband, known as Doc in the community because he was county health officer, died in 1953, Mrs. Ransdell never let up. She was determined to relate her family to the church, and to minister wherever and whenever she could, according to observers.

Dean Pack, her pastor for the last year, said, "Mommy is so dear to everybody. I'd dare say there's not a soul in this church whose life hasn't been touched by her."

And, typical of the lady who was honored, when Pack presented her with the whole Bible on cassette tapes at the close of the service, she responded: "There's so much love radiating in this church. I don't deserve all this love and praise. Do everything you can for the Master. He's the one who should have the credit."

A reception for Mommy Ransdell and special guests in attendance followed.

If you think they can't keep secrets in the mountains, just ask the folks around Prestonsburg. They kept the whole church literally in the dark.

At Prestonsburg, they practically doubled Sunday nite attendance over a secret nobody guessed

When better than 186% of the morning service attendance at a Southern Baptist church arrives for the evening service, something is not quite kosher. Either the preacher is about to resign and word has leaked about it, crucial issues are about to be debated or some other very unusual event is taking place.

That's what happened Sunday night, Apr. 8 at Prestonsburg's First (formerly Irene Cole Memorial) Baptist Church when the evening congregation almost doubled the size of the one that morning.

Pastor Dean Pack wasn't announcing his resignation, and no controversy was about to split the church. In fact, practically the entire membership did not know why they didn't want to miss that service—they had just been advised they would regret it if they did.

Tongues were wagging long before the big night and almost everybody had a 'guestimate' about what was going on behind closed doors. A 'secret committee' was known to be meeting, but no hints about what they were planning had leaked. Some of the

women were reportedly a bit miffed that they could not get the inside track, while others merely speculated aloud.

Nor was there a clue about what was going to happen as the congregation arrived that evening. There were some unusual signs, however. The sanctuary lights were out, except for a few dim passageway spots to allow folks to find a pew. Recorded instrumental music poured through the public address system as voices buzzed in a final attempt to guess the secret.

The pulpit itself had been removed and in its place floral arrangements and a lawn chair stood. And finally, doors leading to other parts of the building were locked from the outside. A young man prevented anyone wishing to go from the sanctuary into the educational building to do so.

It must be the dream of every preacher—a captive audience. But just at the peak of curiosity, when the congregation appeared unable to stand the suspense

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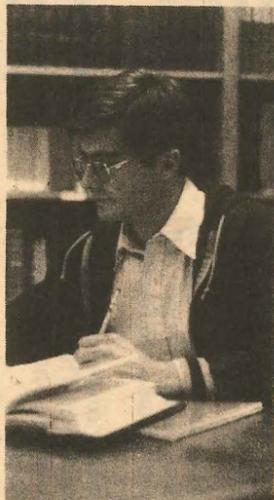
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Gifts that build the church

1 Corinthians 14:1-5 Spiritual gifts have been imparted for the edification of the members of the church. There were members in the church at Corinth who prized very highly and exalted the gift of tongues, because it attracted attention and brought great glory to its possessor. Their speaking with tongues was a spontaneous, ecstatic, emotional utterance in a tongue which was not identified with any language ordinarily spoken by man and had to be interpreted before it was of any value whatever to any hearer.

The Holy Spirit, through Paul, reminded them how much better it would have been had they been active in building up and strengthening their fellow-believers in the Lord. He insisted on the superiority of other things, such as prophecy, or preaching, because it gives a strong incentive to righteous living and effective service.

1 Corinthians 14:26-33 To prevent the tongues-speaking members from contributing to confusion and bedlam rules of order were laid down in these verses. Not more than three tongues-speakers were permitted in any service, and then only if an interpreter were present. They were restricted to speaking one at a time, with each being followed by an interpreter. Unless an interpreter was present, one who had an urge to speak in an unintelligible tongue was commanded to remain silent.

If two or more prophets or preachers were present and had the desire to speak with intelligible words, they, too, were required to do so in turns and never in unison. Their explanations of the scriptures were subject to the examination and judgment of the other members of the church. Church services are to be conducted in a spirit of reverence, and all things done in them are to be done decently and in order so that both the believers and the unbelievers may be helped by them as God wants them to be. It is far better to speak a few words for Christ that are intelligible and edifying and strengthening than to jabber in sounds or utterances that cannot be understood.

LIFE AND WORK SERIES

Daring to speak the truth

1 Kings 22:4-8 Even though he had entered an alliance with Ahab, Jehoshaphat was not willing to venture into combat without discovering the will of the Lord. He knew that success would be impossible without divine aid.

Instead of inquiring of the Lord, as Jehoshaphat requested, Ahab assembled 400 false prophets. These prophets told him what he wanted to hear and predicted success for his undertaking. Dissatisfied with their declaration, Jehoshaphat insisted on hearing a messenger of Jehovah before entering upon another Syrian campaign. Ahab could not afford to jeopardize his project by refusing to consult a prophet of God. He hated Micaiah because of his previous utterances concerning an impending doom upon the king.

1 Kings 22:12-14 Ahab sent for Micaiah, the inconspicuous and noble man of God. The messenger informed Micaiah that the other "prophets" had predicted success for the undertaking and advised him to speak favorably of the project. Being a faithful servant of God Micaiah courageously told the king's messenger that his message would be exactly what God directed him to say. He was not afraid to declare God's message of truth to anybody on any occasion, no matter what it might cost him to do so.

1 Kings 22:17 Micaiah boldly declared that such an expedition would end in the inevitable defeat and death of Ahab. He stressed the folly of entering upon this proposed campaign.

1 Kings 22:26-27, 34 Ahab's response to Micaiah's message and his attitude toward the prophet revealed a universal trait of fallen human nature. Ahab's anger was so great that he ordered Micaiah taken back to the city, imprisoned, and fed with the bread and water of affliction until the victory was won and the king returned triumphantly. Ahab was slain just as God's servant had predicted. God's prophet had suffered for standing true and firm, but his preaching was vindicated in the death of arrogant Ahab.

Conscience

Frank Owen

"At that time Herod the tetrarch heard of the fame of Jesus, and said unto his servants, 'This is John the Baptist; he is risen from the dead . . .'" (Matt. 14:2). Thus exclaimed Herod who had taken the life of John the Baptist. It was the voice of the yet burning conscience of the king in the silky seclusion of his palace where reports were brought to him concerning the mighty works of Jesus of Nazareth.

Conscience is no respecter of persons. It knows no rank. It can eat the heart out of the poorest of men and of kings and rulers as well. The scriptures advise all men to "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life (Prov. 4:23).

Conscience can be very enduring. Many years ago in another state, as a young minister, I was conducting revival services for a pastor then older than I am now. I believe it was Tuesday of the revival that he reported there had arisen an emergency in the life of his brother in another state whom he needed to go see immediately. He asked that I continue the revival in his necessary two-day absence.

He returned and said, "I had as well tell you the story. My brother is having dreadful nervous and mental disturbance and we fear he is becoming suicidal. I had to go to him."

He continued, "When Brother was a young man, he left his wife and little daughter and went off with another woman, whom he married. The marriage has actually appeared to work out well through all the years," he said, "despite its bad beginning and they have appeared to be entirely happy."

"However," said he, "in very recent years, my brother has fallen into deep depression. He has become obsessed with the compelling feeling that he must go find that deserted wife and daughter and beg their forgiveness for abandoning them so many years ago."

Through all those years his conscience had apparently slept, or at least was kept subdued. Now, at eventide of life, those dark memories haunted him like pictures on the walls of his inner spirit. He couldn't stand it. His better self wanted to be forgiven—to make amends.



Baptist News in Brief

Keep your eye on NBC

"The 10 Commandments," a new segment of NBC's "Greatest Heroes of the Bible" miniseries will be colorcast Tuesday, May 8 (8-9 p.m. EDT).

John Marley, who portrayed Moses in a segment of the miniseries telecast last November, will be cast in the same role. Richard Mulligan portrays Aaron.

Uganda, here we come

Southern Baptist missionary couples have been assured by the new Ugandan government they may resume work in Uganda as soon as the area between the capital of Kampala and the Kenya border is under control of the new government.

They expect to return about May 1.

Vocalists headline Acteens meet

Three Christian vocalists headline the third National Acteens Conference July 24-28 in Kansas City, Mo. Singer and composer Andrew Culverwill, recording artist Paul Smith and entertainer Kay DeKalb will perform.

Also appearing will be "Didomi," 11 Southern Baptist young people who lead in creative worship experiences.

Other program personalities are Marge Caldwell, Chris Elkins, Juliette Mather, Martha Franks, Bill O'Brien and Elizabeth Newby. Home and foreign missionaries will be present.

A professional youth ministry conference is planned along with the Acteens conference. This is being offered to pastors, youth ministers and other professionals who come as sponsors.

There is no pre-registration for the Acteens conference, but housing request forms must be received by July 1. Housing information will be in June Accent. A \$15.00 registration fee is payable upon arrival.

5327 saved in revivals

More than 1,400 churches and missions in seven north central states reported 5327 professions of faith in Christ during a week of simultaneous revivals in April. An estimated 10,500 persons rededicated their lives in Christian commitment.

The simultaneous revivals were held in churches and missions in the state conventions of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio and the two Baptist fellowships in Iowa and Minnesota-Wisconsin.

More than 400 pastors in the southeast and southwest came to the north central states to preach revivals in the 1400 churches. They included 115 pastors from Kentucky in Ohio, 110 from Arkansas in Indiana, 84 from Tennessee in Illinois, 40 from Texas in Minnesota-Wisconsin and 30 from Missouri in Iowa. In Michigan, 36 vocational evangelists led revivals.

Centurymen to be on air

A new Baptist radio program, "Sounds of the Centurymen," will feature contemporary Christian music, interviews with guest artists and Centurymen.

The Centurymen is a group of Southern Baptist ministers of music from across the nation. It is directed by Buryl Red, music consultant for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, which produces the show. It will be distributed June 1.

Ann McAdams, a professional actress from Dallas, will host the half-hour program.

Guests on the first four shows will be Buryl Red, Cynthia Clawson, Mike Douglas and Myrtle Hall.

Pastors' wives to be feted

The Ministers' Wives conference, auxiliary to the SBC Pastors' Conference, will hold a luncheon meeting Tuesday, June 12 at 12:45 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel, Astrodome, 2100 S. Braeswood, Houston. Bus transportation will be available from the Summit to the Marriott, and then back to the Summit.

Featured program personalities will be Jeannette Clift George, star of "The Hiding Place" and The After Dinner Players, a Christian drama group.

Prepaid reservations for the luncheon may be made by sending \$8.00 per person to Mrs. Julia McMillan, Union Baptist Association, 3910 Travis St., Houston, TX 77002.

Decisions in Easter services

God used three Easter services in Kentucky to bring five persons to personal faith in Christ.

At Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, Easter Sunday night the church choir formed a living cross and sang about the crucified Saviour. At the invitation a young man and a young woman accepted Christ and the woman's mother came to unite with the church by letter.

At Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville, two high school age girls became Christians and three persons joined the church by letter. The decisions followed an Easter Sunday evening music service led by Phil Landgrave of the Southern Seminary music faculty, portraying the crucifixion.

A fifth person confessed Christ at a dramatic Easter musical presentation at Shively Heights Baptist Church, Louisville.

Midwestern trustees elect two

Midwestern Baptist Seminary trustees elected two faculty members at their spring meeting.

The board named Thomas G. Smothers as associate professor of Old Testament literature and Hebrew and Maynard L. Campbell Jr. as assistant professor of preaching.

