

Crescent Hill ex-pastor John Howell succumbs

John E. Howell, 46, former pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, died Sept. 4. Funeral services were held Sept. 7 at that church. Burial was at Cave Hill Cemetery.

As reported in Western Recorder last week, he had entered Baptist East Hospital Aug. 13 with a brain-stem tumor. He had been in critical condition throughout his illness.

A native of Lynchburg, Va. and a pastor's son, Howell was raised in Florida. He was educated at Stetson University, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Yale Divinity School and Duke University, from which he received the PhD degree in 1963.

His pastorates included First Baptist Church, DeLand, Fla., 1962-66; Northside Drive Baptist Church, Atlanta, Ga., 1966-69; First Baptist Church, Washington, D. C., 1969-73; and Crescent Hill, 1973-78.

He was employed by Humana Inc. as an employee relations specialist at the time of death.

Howell is survived by his wife, the former Bettye Jean Henderson of Tallahassee, Fla.; two daughters, Leslie and Emily Howell; three sons, John Carl, Philip and Daniel Howell; his mother, Mrs. Carl A. Howell, Leesburg, Fla.; two sisters, Mrs. Anne Kitchens, Jacksonville, Fla. and Mrs. Carol Lacy, Memphis, Tenn.

The family requests expressions of sympathy may include contributions to the scholarship fund at Crescent Hill Baptist Church.

The home address is 710 Daneshall Dr., Louisville.

Louisville Baptists, more plan citywide witness

At the suggestion of G. Allen West, executive director of Long Run Baptist Association, mainline denominations and pentecostals of several faiths will band together for a 1980 Louisville area evangelistic campaign.

Called United Christian Witness, the emphasis begins Easter Sunday Apr. 6 and ends Pentecost Sunday May 25.

Denominations already agreeing to participate include Southern and Central Association Baptists, Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Disciples of Christ, Episcopalians, United Methodists and Assemblies of God.

"We'll be saying to this community we are united in taking the good news of Christ to every person in the city who has not known him as saviour and Lord," West suggested.

Louisville's Roman Catholic Archbishop Thomas J. McDonough explained that "each group would have complete autonomy as to what it would do evangelistically, consistent with its own purpose and structure."

Kentucky Baptist Convention

Our next president: A pastor, mid-stater & ultraconservative?

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

When Kentucky Baptists gather Nov. 13-15 for their 142nd annual session at Louisville's Walnut Street Baptist Church, one of the principal items of business on their agenda—as always—will be the election of a president.

The convention's constitution was altered in the early sixties to read, "No president shall be eligible to succeed himself in office." In the 17 years since this clause was implemented, the convention has therefore elected 17 presidents.

Their characteristics

Who were they, and from whence did they come?

All 17 of them were men.

All, with a single exception, were ordained ministers. Henry B. Huff, elected in 1975, is a Louisville attorney and Baptist layman.

All of the 17 were married.

Six of the 17 preached the convention sermon prior to their election as president, including Harold Wainwright, J. T. Miller, John R. Claypool, John W. Kruschwitz, T. L. McSwain and Henry W. Schafer. This has not been a prerequisite to electing convention presidents in the last five years, however.

One, Franklin Owen, was named convention preacher after he had been convention president. He was also the only one of the 17 to be elected executive secretary-treasurer of the executive board.

All of the 17 are still living.

Sixteen are in the state. John R. Claypool moved to Texas and then to Mississippi following his presidency.

Three are now officially in retirement: E. Keevil Judy of Henderson; J. T. Miller of Whitesville; and the current president, T. Hicks Shelton of Paducah.

Seven of the 16 pastors continue to serve the church they pastored at the time of their election as convention president, including: J. Chester Badgett, Campbellsville; David A. Nelson, Owensboro First; Eldred M. Taylor, Somerset First; Henry W. Schafer, Owensboro Bellevue; John A. Wood, Paducah First; Ted Sisk Jr., Lexington Immanuel; and John Kruschwitz, Ft. Thomas Highland Hills.

One, John C. Huffman, has resigned his pastorate, at Mayfield First, to join the staff of U. S. Congressman Carroll Hubbard Jr.

Two are former staff members of the KBC executive board, Eldred M. Taylor and T. Hicks Shelton.

Geography plays a part

If Kentucky is divided into four regions—eastern, central, northern and western—one president was elected from the east, six from the central, one from the north and nine from the west.

The church and city which host the convention this year, Walnut Street, Louisville, have held it more times than any other in these 17 years. This will be the fifth time in these years that the convention has met with Walnut Street. Closely behind it is Lexington's Calvary Church, which has hosted the convention four times in 17 years. Florence Church and First Church, Owensboro, have both held the convention twice. And we have been to these churches once: Bowling Green First, Paducah First, Elizabethtown Severns Valley and Lexington Immanuel.

The theory that geography has a bearing on the election of the convention president is affirmed by the last six elections, when presidents were chosen from the region in which the convention met. They include Henry W. Schafer of Owensboro, elected in Owensboro; John A. Wood of Paducah, elected in Paducah; Henry B. Huff of Louisville, elected in nearby Elizabethtown; Ted Sisk Jr. of Lexington, elected in Lexington; John Kruschwitz of Ft. Thomas, elected in

Florence; and T. Hicks Shelton of Paducah, elected in Owensboro last November.

In fact, 11 of the last 17 presidents resided in the region in which they were elected. Franklin Owen, Eldred M. Taylor and John R. Claypool were presidents from the central region elected at previous Walnut Street meetings of the convention. Only T. L. McSwain, then of Richmond, did not live in this territory when he was elected at a Walnut Street session.

And in November?

What does all this add up to as we consider the possibilities for president of our convention to be elected this November? Several presuppositions seem plausible.

For instance, the next president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention will be a man. He will be an ordained minister, not yet retired. He will be married. In all likelihood, he will never have preached the convention sermon. The odds are against his having served on the state executive board staff. And, unless the convention does an about-face with recent tradition, he will be a Louisville resident or live in some adjacent area which may generally be classified as central Kentucky.

But Louisville finds itself in a peculiar situation this year. Currently, nine of its 134 churches are seeking pastors. Other pastorates are coming open later this year through retirements. A few of these churches have traditionally been counted upon to supply presidential timber for the convention. While qualified men are still available, the supply has been reduced this year.

A new influence

Add to this a totally new factor which has recently surfaced and the election could become a different ball game altogether. Kentucky Baptists were just as surprised as many other Southern Baptists by the overt politicking which took place before and during the SBC annual session last June in Houston. The result was a sweeping victory for those desiring an emphasis upon biblical inerrancy, the so-called ultraconservatives.

Rumors around the state now lead some to believe a similar campaign to capture the presidency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention may be in the making. Building upon the momentum in the election of Adrian Rogers as SBC president, some have guessed that the ultraconservatives see this year as their best opportunity in history to dominate the convention's highest office.

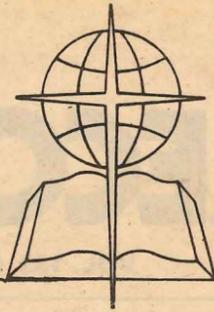
Perhaps working in behalf of such an election could be the Heart of America Bible Conference scheduled Nov. 5-7 on the campus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Sponsored jointly by Dallas pastor W. A. Criswell and Texas evangelist James Robison, the meeting could weigh mightily on the messengers. They will assemble in Louisville just five days after the Bible conference crowd disbands. This may be the shot in the arm the ultraconservatives are looking for.

Some observers of the Houston experience believe there were two reasons why the more traditional nominees for the SBC presidency lost: (1) there were too many of them; and (2) there was no unified strategy to get together and defeat the opposition. Instead, they stood by and watched a carefully orchestrated campaign totally swamp the other five nominees, garnering 51.36 percent of the total vote on the first ballot.

Will this be a warning to any group seriously desiring to elect a man to any office in the future? As the November election draws closer, Kentuckians will watch closely to see if the historical presuppositions hold true, and if new coalitions are formed.

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

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



Published by Western Recorder Inc., Box 43401, Middletown, KY 40243 weekly, except for one week in July and December. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

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

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



C. R. Daley

Daley Observations

Harold Lindsell: a destructive critic

The pages of Western Recorder are generally open to sincere critics. This includes those who disagree with the policies and activities of Baptist agencies and institutions. But this policy of free expression and criticism applies to constructive critics, not to destructive critics.

Of course someone has to decide between constructive and destructive criticism and this is the editor's responsibility. This is not easy and the decisions are not always judged fair by everyone.

This editor admits some bias. I am not blind to all their faults but I am convinced of the value and the integrity of our Southern Baptist and Kentucky Baptist agencies and institutions and I am not about to turn irresponsible critics loose on them.

Here is an illustration. Sometime after the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in June at which Southern Baptist seminaries were buffeted around, Harold Lindsell submitted a two page typewritten letter for publication in Western Recorder. The letter was a severe indictment of Southern Seminary president Duke McCall and at least three Southern Baptist seminary professors. It was turned down for publication.

I, for one, am becoming weary of these carping critics. Lindsell is a Southern Baptist in name but his chief activities among Southern Baptists have been as head of the heresy hunting organization known as Baptist Faith and Message Fellowship and as author of two books accusing seminary professors of heretical beliefs. Lindsell's special target now is Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Lindsell also delights in denominational splits. He rejoices over the split in recent years in the Missouri Synod of Lutherans and was recently quoted as saying Southern Baptists would be better off if 500,000 left the denomination.

Southern Seminary has been training Baptist ministers since 1859 and will still be performing its ministry after Lindsell is gone. The seminary has always exalted the Bible and needs no help at this point from Lindsell. It has produced Bible loving, Bible preaching and Bible practicing ministers for thousands of congregations and it has prepared missionaries to take the true gospel to the ends of the earth. Not many fair-minded, thinking Baptists will be misled by such a critic. The seminary in 120 years has built up too much confidence and credibility for Lindsell to undermine.

But Mr. Lindsell has his supporters and they are bringing him to Louisville for an appearance. It will not be billed as such but it can only be interpreted as aiding his attack upon the

president and faculty members of Southern Seminary.

What's more some who support Lindsell profess love for the seminary. They were trained tuition-free at Southern and owe most of what they know to their Southern Seminary teachers. By what kind of stretch of the imagination can they encourage Lindsell and be regarded as friends of Southern?

By sponsoring Lindsell's appearance in Louisville they obviously agree with him in his charges but this appears to be a cowardly approach. They have been in the classes of these teachers, Lindsell has not. They have heard these teachers over and over, Lindsell has only read some things they have written. If they believe these teachers are heretical let them make their own charges and document them. Let them use the established channels of the administration and trustees to present their case. What kind of Christian behavior professes love for an institution and at the same time aids and encourages its most vicious attacker?

There is a ring of familiarity to all this. It is no secret that those who engineered the election of a Southern Baptist Convention president who criticizes Southern Baptist seminaries would like to see the same kind of election in state conventions. For many years Kentucky has been free from such questionable denominational politics and hopefully will remain so. But if such a movement begins, it ought to be recognized for what it is.

Baptists are free to have any kind of meetings they choose and bring to them anyone they please but the motives ought to be clearly understood. Mr. Lindsell may use some Baptist ministers in Kentucky to spread his venom but he will not use Western Recorder as long as I am editor.

Guest Editorial

Salary raises urgent for pastor and staff

by John E. Roberts, Editor,
The Baptist Courier, South Carolina

Double digit inflation is no respecter of persons—or churches. Most church budget committees have begun work on finances for 1980. And they are faced with living costs over 13 percent higher than a year ago.

This means the pastor and church staff need a raise. It must be a substantial raise to give them the buying power they had 12 months ago. This would be something new for most churches. The pastor seldom gets as much as a 10 percent raise. But even 13 percent this year would not keep pace with the economy because of a larger tax bite and other hidden costs.

Americans have grown accustomed to rising prices. For the past 29 years with only three exceptions the cost of living has gone up. Salary increases for the pastor and church staff have become routine. Such raises vary widely, three to eight percent and occasionally more. By comparison 13 percent is shocking. But anything less means a reduction in buying power and amounts to a salary cut.

Some churches are adding a new feature in the 1980 budget because of economic uncertainty. They have a contingency item for salary review each six months. If costs are up sharply they can make salary changes at that point. The Foreign Mission Board is forced to review and adjust its support for missionaries in some countries each month because prices fluctuate much more sharply than here. The adjustment works both ways as prices rise and fall.

Pastors and church staff are not alone in needing more income to maintain their present standard of living. People in business and those working for a salary need more money. Those on fixed retirement

income are especially penalized by inflation. In past years wage and price freezes have helped to check inflation. In their absence the only choices are more income or a lower standard of living. It is relatively easy to identify the problem. Finding a workable solution is more difficult, but it should be one of the nation's highest priority items.

Our special concern for the ministers stems from their inability to speak for themselves. Church custom demands that they be politely silent on salary matters. Even the minister's most cautious mention of his needs can be interpreted as greed by a critic. It is worth noting that most pastors, ministers of education, music and other church staff could earn more in almost any other vocational pursuit. Although Baptists demand no "vow of poverty" for ministers, we seldom pay them adequately.

Some ministers may be overpaid. In that category are any who are lazy, those who do not properly prepare for the ministry and who do not stay prepared through disciplined meditation and study. But the vast majority who give unstintingly of themselves rarely receive adequate pay. They are entitled to love and appreciation and to salary increases in keeping with the cost of living. The sincere Christian church member can do no less.

Baptist Forum

What is wrong with the world?

Everyday someone asks what is wrong with the world? I think we as a nation and a world have forgotten God. I think we are paying for it with all our troubles. More troubles are on the way unless we repent and get right with God.

I was converted when I was 14 years old and I have been in Sunday school and church work for 62 years; I am 76 years old. The Christian life is the greatest life one can live but it grieves me to see so much sin in the world. People are living as though they were going to live always.

I would like to say a few words about President Carter and our nation. The President is a Southern Baptist as I am and I believe he is a born again Christian. But he is having his troubles and I am sure he has made some mistakes since he is human just like we are.

I think he has very little cooperation from Congress, union leaders, oil companies, big corporations and politicians. In fact, politics is in everything now, even in some churches.

I am praying for our country and for the lost people before it is too late as I think Christ is coming soon.

E. M. Cullen, Sturgis

BMT — to God be the glory!

In behalf of so many who have received so much I want to say thanks to the pastors and laity that have involved themselves in Bold Mission Thrust this summer. Our church, association and state have been blessed by your unselfish giving. BMT is a reality here but also in the lives of people who have now returned home after days of service for Jesus in new work areas. Also blessed were those who could not come but prayed, gave and sent that others (especially youth) might experience missions. God's blessings will be coming for years as many who served as missionaries for a week or two in 1979 surrender their lives to full time Christian service because they "have seen the need" and "responded to God's call." BMT will not die as long as one involved in it—here, there, everywhere—lives a deeper Christian life. To God be the glory.

Mike Crain, Williamsburg, O.

Mountains to the Mississippi

Missions

Kentucky missionaries honored
Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Hardy and Mr. and Mrs. William L. Walker, veteran missionaries to Japan, were recently honored by the Foreign Mission Board at Amagi Baptist Retreat.

George H. Hayes, secretary for East Asia, presented pins to the couples commemorating their service in Japan. The Walkers have served 30 years; Mr. and Mrs. Hardy have served 20 and 25 years respectively.

The Walkers were appointed for mission service in 1949. After a year at Yale University they went to Japan in 1950 to complete language study in Tokyo. They were assigned to Oita Prefecture in western Japan. Except for the years 1962-72 when they worked in an evangelistic program with churches in Fukuoka, they have lived in Oita.

Walker is a native of Danville, Ky. Mrs. Walker was born in Laichow, Shantung, China of missionary parents and except for the years of college and seminary education spent her life on the mission field.

Mrs. Hardy went to Japan as Mavis Shiver in 1953. After language study in Tokyo she did evangelistic work and promotion with the women's department of the Japan Baptist Convention. On her first furlough she was

George H. Hayes [l] congratulates Mr. and Mrs. William Walker on having completed 30 years as missionaries to Japan. The Japan mission does not gather for fellowship at Christmas. During the annual mission meeting they celebrated "Christmas in July."



Green Valley Association held summer camp at Camp Schaffer near Owensboro. Of the 82 campers and staff, there were nine professions of faith and 54 rededications. Front row [l-r]: Keith Jones, director; Deena Mason and Dennis Silkwood, honor campers; and Bryan Parris, camp pastor.

married to Robert Hardy. They returned to Japan in 1959. Hardy is a native of Logan County, Ky. and was pastor of Whippoorwill Baptist Church, Schochoh, from 1957-58.

Hardy was appointed to Japan in 1958. The Hardys were assigned to Niigata on the western coast as pioneer evangelists. In 1967 Hardy was invited to work with the Baptist Hospital in Kyoto as chaplain. He has continued for 12 years, working with the Japanese chaplain in counseling and evangelism.

Ordinations

Starke ordained in Richmond
Russell Starke, minister of youth at Arcade Baptist Church, Long Run Association, was ordained to the ministry Aug. 15 by his home church, Hatcher Memorial Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

Starke is a 1977 graduate of the University of Richmond and a second year MDiv student at Southern Seminary.

Revivals

Four decisions at Cash Creek
Cash Creek Baptist Church, Green Valley Association, reports four conversions during a recent revival. Bill Patterson, former pastor at Cash Creek, preached. Keith Jones is pastor.

Revival way up north
Jack Sherman of Corinth Baptist Church, London, Rick Brewer of Robinson Creek Baptist Church, London, and Albert Webb of Island Creek Baptist Church, Manchester, recently spent



First Baptist Church, Clay, has dedicated a two-story addition to their building. The facility includes space for departments and classrooms, preschool through youth; an elevator; rest rooms and a kitchenette for each department. The existing educational space and offices were remodeled. Elbert Lee James is pastor.

two weeks in revival in Alaska.

The men conducted a youth revival and Bible camp. There were 21 saved, four called to preach, three called to missions, four called to music and many rededications.

The trip was sponsored by Tana Baptist Association of Alaskan Baptists.

26 decisions at Southside
Southside Baptist Church, Louisville, recently held revival services. There were nine professions of faith, one transfer by letter and 16 rededications. Steve Thompson is pastor at Southside.

10 professions at East Pittsburg
East Pittsburg Baptist Church, Laurel River Association, recently held revival services. There were 10 professions of faith, three by baptism and two by letter.

Hazel Patch revived at 99
Hazel Patch Baptist Church, Laurel River Association, celebrated its 99th birthday with an all day singing and dinner on the grounds.

Their revival resulted in seven additions by baptism, six by letter and one called to the ministry. There were 23 other decisions during the week.

VBS becomes revival at North Frankfort
Ted C. Wigglesworth, pastor of North Frankfort Baptist Church, Franklin County Association, reports this year's vacation Bible school turned into a revival. The pastor reports 14 professions of faith with three rededications. The North Frankfort congregation was organized in 1976.

Deaths

Guard Green succumbs
Guard Green, 87, retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Donelson, Tenn. and a leader in the Tennessee Baptist Convention, died Aug. 4.

Green, a native of Grayson County, received his education at Bethel College, University of Louisville, West Kentucky State Teacher's College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Green was ordained to the ministry in 1918 by Baptist Tabernacle Church in Louisville.

Green served churches in Kentucky and Tennessee including Bethlehem Baptist Church, Homer; Muddy River Baptist Church and New Union Baptist Church, Logan County; Plum Creek Baptist Church, Waterford; Little Mount Baptist Church; and Lyndon Baptist Church.

Green was at one time a member of

the executive committee, board of directors, Kentucky Children's Home Society, and a member of the executive board of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

Survivors include his wife, Ellenere Benika Green; a son, William D. Green; three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Earl Lewis Marsalis dies
Earl Lewis Marsalis, 31, pastor of First Baptist Church, Eastwood, died Sunday, Aug. 19, at Methodist Evangelical Hospital, Louisville.

Marsalis, a native of Washington, D. C., was a graduate student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Survivors include his wife, Catherine Tate, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Marsalis of Edgewood, Md.

Congregations

Cave Springs celebrates 100th
Cave Springs Baptist Church, Freedom Association, celebrated its 100th anniversary as a church with an all day service Sept. 2.

James Meade is pastor at Cave Springs.

West Broadway celebrates 70th
Sunday, Sept. 16, West Broadway Baptist Church, Louisville, will celebrate its 70th anniversary. Bill Amos will be guest speaker. Everyone is invited to bring a lunch and join the fellowship at the noon meal. An anniversary program will follow lunch.

Bethany enters Together We Build
Bethany Baptist Church, Long Run Association, has entered the Together We Build program in conjunction with planned renovation of its sanctuary and educational buildings.

Patrick McGinnis is chairman of the committee on renovation and suggested the use of the Together We Build program.

Kip Owen, assistant director of the SBC Stewardship Commission for capital funding promotion, will be consultant.

Rosebower burns note
Rosebower Baptist Church, West Union Association, celebrated being debt free by burning the note on its educational building. The church is considering a new auditorium and calling a full time minister of music and youth.

Calvary celebrates 20th year
Calvary Baptist Church, Danville, has scheduled services Sept. 16 to celebrate 20 years of service. The celebration will



Mackey



Farley



Sanders



Head

be a time of praise, thanksgiving and fellowship. Charter members are invited to the occasion. The celebration will be climaxed with a reception following the evening service where charter members will be honored. Ernest L. Martin is pastor.

Pastor loses library, furniture

John Hornsby, a pastor in Mt. Zion Association, has lost his library and all his furniture in a fire. Anyone wishing to contribute books or other supplies may send them to Hornsby in care of his sister, Mrs. Rachel Jones, Rt. 3, Williamsburg, Ky.

Personnel

Ivory Hill calls Dunaway

Ivory Hill Baptist Church, Boone's Creek Association, has called Harold Dunaway as pastor. Dunaway is a former pastor of Mt. Olive Baptist Church and most recently served Blue Spring Baptist Church, Princeton.

Little Union calls Oldham

Little Union Baptist Church, Fairfield, called Calvin Wayne Oldham as pastor July 22.

Oldham is a graduate of Campbellsville College and former pastor of South Campbellsville Baptist Church.

James resigns at Vanceburg

Steve James has resigned as pastor of Vanceburg Baptist Church, Greenup Association. He has accepted work in Lynn Association.

Robbins accepts church in Spain

Rick Robbins has accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Rota, Spain for a one-year internship.

Robbins has been interim pastor of Maceo Baptist Church, Daviess-McLean Association.

Robbins has completed work on the MDiv degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Lupton resigns FBC, Hopkinsville

Ken Lupton, minister of education and outreach for First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, has resigned to become assistant pastor and minister of education of Woodlawn Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C. Lupton has served the Hopkinsville congregation for 15 months.

Thurman begins at Old Salem

Jerry Thurman has accepted the pastorate of Old Salem Baptist Church, Ohio River Association. Thurman comes to Old Salem from Creswell Baptist Church, Fredonia.

Thurman received BS and MA degrees from Murray State University and is a 1976 graduate of Clear Creek Baptist School.

Thurman is married to Joyce Mitchell of Princeton. They have two children, Leslie, 11 and David, 10.

LaBelle accepts Alabama pastorate

Donald J. LaBelle, pastor of London First Baptist Church has resigned to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Chickasaw, Ala., a part of the greater Mobile area.

LaBelle, a native of Dothan, Ala., attended Elon College and graduated from Southwestern Seminary. He is completing a DMin degree at Lexington Theological Seminary.

He is married to Patty Jenkins. The couple has a son, Kelley, and a daughter, Amy.

Holder VP at Baptist Hospital East

Michael Holder has been appointed assistant vice president of operations for Baptist Hospital East, Louisville.

Holder is a native of Evansville, Ind. and received his master of hospital administration from the University of Alabama. He recently completed his residence in administration at Baptist Hospital, Little Rock, Ark.

Glover called to Camp Ground

Bob Glover has been called as pastor of Camp Ground Baptist Church, Laurel River Association. Glover began serving the church Aug. 5.

Jones accepts position at Union

James C. Jones, pastor of Audubon Baptist Church, Long Run Association, has accepted a teaching position in the department of religion at Union University, Jackson, Tenn.

Jones, a native of Williamson, W. Va., received a BA degree in 1955 from Carson-Newman College, a MDiv degree in 1959 from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a PhD degree in 1966 from Southern.

Jones has pastored churches in Indiana and Kentucky. He has been

pastor at Audubon since 1966.

Teaching experience includes instructor in Old Testament Hebrew and field education supervisor at Southern Seminary. Since 1975, Jones has been professor of theology at Boyce Bible School.

Jones is a member of the board of trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a past member of the executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Jones is married to Janice Williams. They have two children: John David and Julie Lynn.

Staff change at Jackson Memorial

Dale Lewis has resigned as pastor of Jackson Memorial Baptist Church, Laurel River Association, because of failing health. The church has called Virgil Vandeventer to be pastor.

Lawrence interim at Dry Ridge

Raymond E. Lawrence, Corbin, began Aug. 26 as interim pastor of Dry Ridge Baptist Church, Crittenden Association.

Lawrence is on the faculty of Cumberland College and a former pastor of Crittenden Baptist Church.

Boertje resigns St. Matthews

Wendell Boertje, minister of music at St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, has resigned to accept a similar position at Lakeside Baptist Church, Lakeland, Fla. Boertje, who came in 1971, completed his ministry at St. Matthews Sept. 9.

Thomason accepts W. Va. church

Tommy Thomason has resigned as pastor of Dalton Baptist Church, Dalton to accept the pastorate of Kevil (W. Va.) Baptist Church.

Thomason is a graduate of the University of Kentucky Community College with an AA degree.

Thomason is married to Peggy Wells of Earlington. They have three children: Scott, 11; Amy, 8; and Kim, 4.

Hornsby accepts Pleasant View

John Hornsby has accepted the pastorate of Pleasant View Baptist Church, South Union Association. He comes to Pleasant View from Northwood Chapel, Toledo, O.

Hornsby was pastor at Pleasant View from 1963-68.

Hornsby is married to Elizabeth Jones of Williamsburg. They have three children: John Benton, 34; Linda Lou, 33; and Roger Cleveland, 30.

Mackey resigns FBC, Whitesburg
Bill Mackey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Whitesburg since Oct., 1969, has resigned to become director of evangelism for the South Carolina Baptist Convention. His resignation is effective Sept. 30.

Day called to Lovelaceville

Lovelaceville Baptist Church, West Union Association, has called Wayne Day as minister of music and special ministries.

Day is a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn. and did post graduate work at Murray State University, earning a masters degree in human services.

Larry Jackson is pastor of Lovelaceville Baptist.

Buck Grove calls Merritt

Buck Grove Baptist Church, Ekron, has called James Merritt as pastor. He

comes to Buck Grove from the pastorate of Macedonia Baptist Church, Vanzant.

Merritt, a native of Gainesville, Ga. is a graduate of Stetson University, having received a BBA degree in 1974. He is a graduate of Southern Seminary, earning a MDiv degree. He is a graduate student at Southern working on a PhD degree.

The 27-year-old pastor was ordained in March 1976 by First Baptist Church, Smyrna, Ga.

Merritt is married to Teresa York, a legal secretary. They have one child, a son born in August.

Merritt joins two other new ministers at Buck Grove: Phil Edwards, a native of Midland, Tex. and a student at Southern Seminary, is minister of youth, and Tom Disney, a native of Louisville, is minister of music.

Oak Ridge calls Farley

Frank Farley, pastor of Sparta Baptist Church, White's Run Association, has accepted the call to Oak Ridge Baptist Church.

He is a graduate of Southern Seminary receiving the MRE and MDiv degrees. He and his wife, Judy, have two children, Frank D. Farley III and Angela Christine.

Sanders resigns Evergreen

W. Yancey Sanders, pastor of Evergreen Baptist Church, Frankfort, has resigned to accept the call to be pastor of Center Baptist Church, LaFayette, Ala. Sanders was pastor of Evergreen 18 years.

Head accepts East Cumberland

K. Maynard Head, former director of public relations at Clear Creek Baptist School, has accepted the call to be pastor of East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church, Bell Association.

Head is concurrently serving as director of development at Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn.

Head was converted, baptized, licensed and ordained at East Cumberland Avenue where three generations of his family are members.

The author of Mountain Moments, a weekly newspaper column published in 17 states, Head is a frequent contributor to numerous Baptist publications.

Head is married to Joyce Earls Head, a native of Middlesboro. They have two children: David, 17 and Mike, 14.



On mission in Mexico

Susan Winchester, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. M. A. Winchester, Stearns, was among five Samford University students who served this summer for 10 weeks as summer missionaries in Mexico. The students, representing the Spanish department at Samford, worked in connection with the Texas Baptist Rio Grande River ministry.

Susan and her partner, Mollie Crumpler, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Joseph Crumpler, Cincinnati, O., was at First Baptist Church, Acuna, Mex. They worked with youth, music and vacation Bible school in Acuna and in mission outreach in a nearby village.



First Baptist Church, Loyall, recently observed an Eagle Scout awards ceremony during a morning worship service. The church sponsors Boy Scout Troop 516. Earning the awards were Darryl Robinson [l] and George Baker. Pastor Keith Rogers, at the pulpit, presided over the ceremony. Also pictured are Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Baker, parents of the scouts; Eugene Harber [l-c] acting scout master and Leonard Beard [r-c] Camp Blanton program director.

Baptist News in Brief

Cothen: Proclaim Bible

Grady Cothen, speaking at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center, said he has avoided the recent Southern Baptist debate involving the inerrancy of the scriptures because of his belief that the role of the Christian should be proclaiming the Bible.

"I am loathe to participate in any level of the biblical debate which has been recently introduced among Southern Baptists because I have felt the Christian's responsibility is not to debate about the Bible but to proclaim it," said Cothen, president of the denomination's Sunday School Board.

Speaking to over 3100 college students on the "Authority of the Bible," Cothen said the real argument has to do with the inspiration of the scripture which is not a new issue and until a few months ago not a live issue in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Lexington to host youth

The state youth evangelism clinic will be held Sept. 28-29 at Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington.

The clinic will include five sessions of witness training and three sessions of fun, fellowship and worship.

There will be no charge for registration.

For information contact Jay Brown, director of evangelism, Kentucky Baptist Convention.

A close call in Nashville

First Baptist Church, Nashville, narrowly avoided destruction when police disarmed a 300-400 pound bomb 20 minutes before it would have exploded in the neighborhood of the church.

"The bomb would have caused tremendous damage," said assistant police chief Paul Uselton. "It certainly would have leveled all the buildings in that immediate area, including the Trailways Bus Depot . . . and the First Baptist Church across the street at Seventh and Broadway."

The bomb, made up of dynamite and plastic explosives and a timing device, was found in a car parked beneath the Classic Cat II, a night club at Sixth and Broadway.

Missionaries spared as David visits Dominica

Southern Baptist missionary personnel huddled in a basement, in a closet and under mattresses as hurricane David swept the island of Dominica and destroyed their homes.

Four mission personnel and one child remain on Dominica, while five mission personnel and three children have evacuated.

As the storm approached some missionaries gathered in the basement apartment of journeyman Colleen Thompson, who lived underneath the home of missionary Fred Walker. The apartment was the only missionary residence to escape damage.

Walker left his home to take the car to the garage at the Donald B. Snell home. Walker and the Snells were trapped in the Snell home when the storm hit. First they hid under the bed in the upstairs apartment. When the roof blew off the rain poured in at such a rate they feared they would drown.

Then they went to a closet, which also gave way under the force of the wind. They found shelter in the apartment below.

Mark Allen took his pregnant wife Jan to their car, the only safe place he

could think of. They were joined by an elderly couple also seeking shelter. The car and its occupants escaped without a scratch but their home was destroyed.

No missionaries and none of the other 300 Americans living on the island were injured, according to reports.

Four mission fairs slated

Four mission fairs are scheduled across the state for Girls in Action, grades one through six.

Host churches are: Franklin FBC, Sept. 29; Bardstown Baptist Church, Oct. 6; Prestonsburg FBC, Oct. 13; and Gardenside Baptist Church, Lexington, Oct. 20.

Highlights of each fair include missionary and MK speakers from Japan, Germany, Kentucky, Philippines, Cape Cod and Zambia. A program on opportunities for GAs at Cedar Crest will be presented. The midway will be lined with booths, sideshows and games.

GA leaders can send \$1.00 per person to Gwen Phillips, WMU Office, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243. The fee covers lunch and activities.

SBC leaders on TV

Adrian Rogers, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, will appear on NBC Sept. 23.

The program, "The Thrust Toward 2000," will be produced by NBC in cooperation with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission. Rogers and Bennett will be presented in an hour long conversation moderated by NBC's Russell Barber. It will begin at 5 p.m., EST, although air time may vary in different areas.

Barber is expected to ask about the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust and the inerrancy discussion taking place among many Baptists today.

Hunger trust fund set

An elderly North Carolina couple who asked to remain anonymous has set up a \$40,000 trust with proceeds to be used for world hunger alleviation through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The couple has set up two trust funds for Southern Baptist causes since 1974.

Working through the Baptist Foundation of North Carolina, they established a \$40,000 fund for use in the Cooperative Program in 1974 and a \$20,000 fund for foreign missions in 1976.

Papers for the world hunger trust fund were signed on World Hunger Day, Aug. 1, but the date was a coincidence, according to the Baptist Foundation of North Carolina.

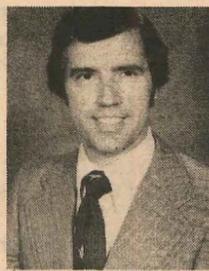
CP: ups and downs

In September Southern Baptists will need to record the third highest month in the history of the national Cooperative Program unified budget to achieve the denomination's 1978-79 national operating and capital needs budgets.

September must yield \$5,679,595 to reach the \$64 million operating and capital needs budget of the world mission program of SBC agencies.

August receipts totaled \$58,320,405. That represents an 11.29 percent increase over the same point last year but lacks \$5,679,595 of reaching the 1978-79 budget.

The Cooperative Program operating budget of SBC agencies is \$62 million for 1978-79, with another \$2 million ticketed for capital needs.



William Tuck

BROTHERHOOD CONVENTION

First Baptist Church
Bowling Green
October 5-6, 1979

William Tuck is associate professor of Christian preaching at Southern Seminary. Tuck is the author of *Facing Grief and Death*, *The Struggle for Meaning and Knowing God*. He is a graduate of Southeastern and New Orleans seminaries. The Virginia native will bring the closing message at the Brotherhood convention, Oct. 6 at 2:30 p.m.

PLAN NOW!!! for
Church Construction
CHRISTIAN BUILDERS INC.
P.O. Box 571, Brentwood, TN 37027
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT
FINANCIAL CONSULTATION
SPECIALIZED ARCHITECTURAL
PLANNING Phone (615) 373-3084



Write for
FREE
Brochure

P.O. BOX 2250 DANVILLE, VA. 24541
PHONE [804] 797-3277
BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES

BLUE GRASS

BUS SALES & SERVICE, INC.

401 West Southern Avenue
Covington, Kentucky 41015

Louisville Phone # 584-5997
Covington phone # 606/431-6555
Distributor for Blue Bird Body Co.

A Christian company ready to meet your church's transportation needs.

New & Used units available.

Write for free color brochure
Fiberglass Specialties
214 657-6524 Box 931 Henderson, Texas 75652

1979

HAWORTH CONFERENCE

October 1-2

"Pastoral Care and the Pre-Adult"

Hurstbourne Baptist Church
8800 Shelbyville Rd.
Louisville, Ky.

**Main Speakers: Dr. Wallace Denton
Dr. Swan Haworth**

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION ON CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- SEPARATION
- DIVORCE
- ABUSE: PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL

Sponsored by:

Kentucky Baptist Board of
Child Care

Department Cooperative Ministries:
Christian Life

(For Information, Call Toll Free:
1-800-292-9440)

REGISTRATION FEE:

- \$10 — Individual
- \$15 — Couple
- \$ 5 — Student

OFFICE 897-6541 RES. 239-7668
 FOR A NEW OLDS OR A PREFERRED
 USED CAR

C. W. Woodson, Jr.
TRI-CITY OLDSMOBILE
 BRECKINRIDGE & DUTCHMANS LANES, LOU

SERVING ALL RELIGIONS
 Prices to satisfy every preference and need
 AIR CONDITIONED PARKING AREAS

 149 Breckinridge Lane Phone 896-0349
PEARSON FUNERAL SERVICE
 Louisville, Kentucky
 Member: Ky. Funeral Directors-Burial Assn.
 Member: National Selected Morticians
 by invitation

RIDGECREST WINTER WEEKENDS

February 22-24 & March 14-16

For junior and senior high youth featuring inspirational group experiences, fun-packed fellowship, recreation, and music.

Total Cost \$34 per person

Directed By: Nilon Elliott, BSSB

For reservations, send \$10 per person deposit to Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 8, Ridgecrest, NC 28770. One sponsor must accompany every five youth.

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

Christian businessman seeking employment. Age 42, tried and tested. Experienced in management, promotion, advertising, media, financing, sales, travel, large & small ticket items. Salary/Commission. 502-239-8664.

Handbells, Handbell Accessories. We Sell - We Repair. Handbells, Box 6124, St. Matthews, Ky. 40207.

Grandview Baptist Church, Anchorage, AL is seeking a combination minister of youth and music to serve the church full time. Contact 1300 Columbine St., Anchorage, AL 99504, 907-276-6027.

WESTERN RECORDER CHURCH PAGE SERVICE

- Your church's news exclusively on the back page of Western Recorder every week
- A complete news package for every resident family—church, associational, statewide and worldwide Baptist news
- You control the contents because you provide typewritten or typeset copy exactly as it is to appear
- Your cost—\$6.00 weekly (you may omit any weeks you wish and avoid the \$6.00 charge)

Join the growing number of churches reducing clerical time and printing expense while avoiding costly postal rate increases. Let us have the opportunity to share this exciting new service at no obligation to your church. Sixty day free trial plan available.

WESTERN RECORDER

Box 43401 • Middletown, KY 40243
 (502) 245-4101

LIFE AND WORK SERIES

A constant witness

Acts 28:14-16, 23-24, 30-31 Paul frequently longed to go to Rome, the strategic center to reach all parts of the empire with the gospel. When the Lord opened the way for him to go, he went as a prisoner. As he approached the city groups of believers went out to meet and welcome him, one grouping going 40 miles, another 30. This friendly gesture was commendable and appreciated by Paul. Because he was received so warmly, "he thanked God and took courage."

Due to divine providence and the generosity of the Roman officials, Paul was not incarcerated in the common prison but was permitted to dwell in a private house chained to a soldier. Different guardsmen shared the responsibility of guarding Paul, to them he presented the gospel of Christ.

Paul called the leading Jews to his house and explained the circumstances of his imprisonment. He preached Christ and pleaded with them to accept the saviour. Some of the Jews believed and became Christians, but the majority continued in unbelief.

Detained for at least two years, Paul was allowed to speak with freedom and had a glorious ministry. His gracious character, noble life and powerful preaching won the admiration of the guards and many were saved. Some entered the palace; others were sent throughout the empire. The Lord gave Paul the opportunity of witnessing through others where none had spoken favorably about Christ.

Philippians 1:12-14 Being chained to a soldier day and night must have been a trying experience to one of Paul's sensitive disposition. He took it in stride and rejoiced in his imprisonment. He did not allow what happened to embitter him. Instead the disappointment and unpleasantness he experienced made him better. In chains he acquired a quality of life he could not have obtained any other way.

INTERNATIONAL SERIES

Teaching the faith

To Paul our Lord committed the task of preaching the gospel and teaching the truths of the Christian faith. The apostle performed it superbly.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5 Paul, Silas and Timothy proclaimed the gospel in Thessalonica and those saved became the members of the church organized there. This church became a lighthouse for the gospel in the midst of darkness. Concerned about these young Christians, Paul sent Timothy back to confirm them in the Christian faith and instruct them of their duty. When Timothy returned, his report encouraged Paul.

Paul referred to the position of the church as being "in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ." He wished for them grace and peace from God the Father and the Son.

Thinking about these believers, Paul thanked God they were healthy Christians. Gratitude, honor and praise were due because of the marvelous things God had done in, for and through them.

Paul and his associates thanked God for three things which characterized the Thessalonian Christians: an active faith, a fervent love and a sustaining hope. **Titus 1:1-4** Inasmuch as Titus was receiving an important assignment to work in Crete, Paul wanted him to understand his own status. He called himself "a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ." As "a servant of God" Paul was acknowledging that God owned him and that he was controlled by God's will; the same would be true of Titus, "his son in the faith."

Titus 2:11-13 Salvation is the result of God's grace. Only the grace of God can bring salvation. Grace appeared for the benefit of people in all the ages.

Those to whom grace has brought salvation should be engaged in three things:

1. Learning from Christ. We learn from Christ through Bible study, prayer, meditation, teachers and experiences.
2. Living for Christ. The purpose of our learning from Christ is that we may live for him soberly, righteously and godly in the here and now.
3. Looking for Christ. "Looking for that blessed hope" of Christ's second coming in glory.

Great finish

Frank Owen

We wound up the fiscal year Aug. 31 with an unexpected measure of success in Cooperative Program giving. We have said that in a tightening economy this year we couldn't hope for another million dollar offering like the record-breaking August of a year ago.

We broke last year's record of \$1,008,411 with \$1,129,149 this August and for the year our receipts reached \$8,577,206.21 as compared with \$7,838,304.48 a year ago for a net increase of 9.42%.

The Cooperative Program giving thus surpassed our budget goal of \$8 million and produced \$577,206.21 (72%) of our \$800,000 Challenge Budget. Total receipts then again broke all records and achieved 97.47% of our grand total budget and challenge budget goals.

I believe our people have again expressed their confidence in the Baptist program of world missions and in our Kentucky Baptist programs and agencies and their leaders. I believe we are getting more and more into a genuine Bold Mission Thrust. Such stewardship gives us new heart and new hope that the staggering long-term goal of Bold Mission Thrust will yet be met by Southern Baptists and Kentucky Baptists will have our valid and worthy part therein.

Our schools especially will be grateful to have a major share in the distribution of the over-and-above funds and we will make a further healthy payment on the new Baptist Building so that when we dedicate it new on Nov. 15 we shall have paid about half its cost in cash. Again, we thank God and take heart.

Southern Baptist causes including foreign missions also will have received a record amount from Kentucky both in the percentage we have shared (35% for the first time) and in the total beyond our borders, \$3,002,022.17. Kentucky Baptists have thus expressed confidence in Southern Convention programs, agencies and administrations.

The goal of the first five-year phase of Bold Mission Thrust is to double Cooperative Program receipts between 1977 and 1982. Looking back at previous statistics I note that we received \$4,059,862.04 in 1971 and \$4,315,375.62 in 1972. Thus we have more than doubled in seven years. We can do it in five.



equipping centers

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINING ADULTS

Something new in additional resources for use in discipleship development.

An Equipping Center is a series of modules (units of study) grouped around a subject area. Modules are multimedia resource packages (boxes) containing all necessary leader materials and one copy of member materials. Additional member materials may be ordered.

There are six Equipping Centers: Evangelism and Missions, Christian Doctrine, Christian Growth, Church and Community, Family Life, and Leadership.

Sixteen modules are available:

(Available Now)

Born Again: The Doctrine of Salvation
 The Christian Confronting the Cults
 How to Study Your Bible
 The Bible Speaks to Current Issues
 How to Witness
 Your Home and Christian Discipline
 Making Good Marriages Better
 Deacons Training to Minister

(Available after November 1)

God's Bold Plan for Missions
 Understanding Baptist Beliefs
 Your Family: Learning, Loving, Living
 Training Sunday School Workers in Outreach
 How to Motivate People
 The Baptist Way: How We Are Different
 How to Pray for Others
 The Bible Speaks to Personal Crises

Equipping Center modules are available from Materials Services Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37234.

Baptist Forum

On setting a Christian example

I should like to respond to your Aug. 22 editorial concerning divorced deacons. My purpose is not to harangue these people or to hurt them in any way. Some of the finest Christians I have ever known have been divorced and remarried ordained individuals, both ministers and deacons. However, to think that a divorce does not interfere with ordained ministry is to invite serious error.

This brings into immediate focus one of Paul's requirements for ordained office: that the man be the husband of one wife. That Paul should mention this stipulation at all makes clear that the early church had converts who previously, or currently, had more than one wife. The question centers on why this apostle, a man of great compassion but with a past which made him admit unfitness for apostleship, should impose an apparent unjust prohibition, at least on a minority of divorced Christians.

With his ministry to the pagan Roman world, divorce was commonplace in Paul's time. He must have been familiar with the haste and immaturity of youth; divorce before conversion; divorce of a Christian from an unbeliever; divorce as a Christian but with remarriage and rededication of one's life; breakup of a common-law relationship without a technical, legal divorce; perhaps an occasional Edward VIII dilemma in which the man is the third husband of his wife. Additionally, Paul must have known dozens of honorable men who at conversion found no instant solution for reconciling their polygamy to their new faith.

Paul must have loved all of these new Christians. He surely worshiped and shared the Lord's supper with them, esteeming their fellowship highly. And yet, when he required the ordained man be the husband of one wife, Paul realized full well he was excluding numerous persons who were dear to his heart.

That which appears unfair is hard to accept in a biblical context. In light of Solomon's later depravity, why was David not permitted to build the Temple? Life is like that in other areas as well. A youngster blinded or maimed in an accident may never become a quarterback or jet pilot, although he might achieve other worthy goals. Certain wounds to the body, despite expert repair and rehabilitation, nevertheless leave permanent scars and impairment.

I believe Paul was looking to the greater good of setting the highest example, or role model, for the early church to follow, lifting up permanent marriage and family stability as the ultimate building block of the kingdom of God on earth. The youth within our churches as well as everybody without, cannot know of possible mitigating details of a divorced person's broken marriage, but all of them can easily conclude that if the pastor and three or four deacons are divorced, then there's nothing especially bad about divorce. Thus accepted, this permissive attitude

continues to block any progress for the cellar level which prevailed so long ago when the Pharisees asked Jesus about the propriety of putting away one's wife.

The high incidence of domestic turmoil and divorce among our people is a blight upon the Baptist witness. Only a disciplined, committed lifestyle patterned to God's teaching will inspire nonchristian neighbors to desire the joy and fulfillment that belong to those in Christ's keeping. The unbroken home is a sort of layman's evangelism which can eventually extol the gospel more effectively than evangelistic crusades in local arenas.

Smith H. Gibson, Covington

Divorced deacons and high salaries

I would like to respond to editorials in the two most recent editions of Western Recorder. The following is not the result of action by the church of which I am pastor but I am as certain as I can be without taking a vote that it reflects her feelings in these matters.

First of all, your editorial "Should Divorced Persons Serve as Deacons" reflects a trend that is most certainly "death in the pot." That trend is toward accommodating our interpretation of the word of God to whatever may be the demand of the age. Some of my earliest recollections of life in a Baptist church are of discussions concerning the participation of persons who were either divorced or whose homes had been broken by the departure of a wife. And, my earliest recollections of these matters also recall that those people considered themselves unqualified to serve as deacons. The trend toward reversal of this interpretation came only with the increase of persons divorced in the membership of our churches. People who are divorcees may be Christian and, most certainly, serve in prominent positions in our churches but it is still certain that they are not qualified as deacons.

The second editorial and comments in the forum were concerning large salaries paid to persons holding prominent positions in Southern Baptist life. Such people as those who have recently retired and those who have replaced them are worth all that it ever cost to support them. It is, however, evident that many of them are now being paid far more than is enjoyed by the people who pay their salary, namely, SBC pastors. I hasten to say that my salary is now beyond my wildest dreams of 25 years ago but it is still about one-third of that suggested as the salary of the person under consideration when retirement and insurance has been deducted. This church has increased her total mission gifts from just over \$3000 in 1976 to just over \$18,000 in 1979 if we meet our budget and that seems likely at this point. I agree that the fact of higher than average salaries paid to any SBC personnel is certainly a hindrance to the promotion of more mission gifts in 1980 but I believe we will do it anyway.

John H. Adams, Hopkinsville



WESTERN RECORDER

KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL

SEPTEMBER 5, 1979