

Luther Rice trustees favor Criswell merger

Luther Rice Seminary president Robert Witty has confirmed the board of his institution has taken action urging it and the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas explore possibilities for a merger.

The LRS action in Jacksonville, Fla., May 9 included requests the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies grant permission for Luther Rice to invite the president of the Criswell Center "to share a position of administrative leadership with the chief LRS administrative officer."

It also asked the Criswell Center, which Paige Patterson serves as president, and its sponsoring organization, First Baptist Church, Dallas, allow W. A. Criswell "to become honorary chancellor of LRS." Criswell is pastor of the church and chancellor of the Criswell Center.

Witty said the next move in exploring the merger will be made by the board of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies when it meets in July.

He emphasized the proposed merger in which, he said, the two schools would maintain their separate identities, is not proposed "on the basis of personalities, but on the basis of institutional relationships."

"Informal conversation" between the two schools, he said, reveals "compatibility of conservative Baptist doctrine and desire to serve a ministerial education need among Southern Baptists." Neither school has any official connection with the Southern Baptist Convention or any state Baptist convention.

"Luther Rice is not and never has been political," he declared of the private, nonaccredited institution which grants diplomas mainly by correspondence.

"Luther Rice is not and never has been divisive,"



St. Louis, site of the Southern Baptist Convention meeting June 10-12, on the Mississippi River bank.

he added. "Luther Rice has a publicly stated and written policy that no staff member of Luther Rice Seminary makes any critical statement concerning any Southern Baptist agency, institution or personality."

Witty's statement about Luther Rice's nonpolitical stance came in response to a question referring to a recent statement by Criswell that Patterson would withdraw from the leadership of a "biblical inerrancy" movement aimed at controlling Southern

Baptist presidential elections.

Criswell praised Patterson for his commitment to the effort and his zeal to keep SBC institutions "true to the Word of God in its credibility, infallibility and inerrancy," but said Patterson used methods "of a different world" which Baptists traditionally disdain.

Patterson said he envisions in about a year after any merger occurs he would head both institutions under one board of control.

Editorial comment

Aldridge feted, friends feel he auto be surprised

by C. R. Daley, Editor

D. M. Aldridge, president of Clear Creek Baptist School, has a practice of inviting some Baptist denominational worker to attend each meeting of the Clear Creek trustees. This makes for good public relations and more Baptist agencies and institutions could profit by following this practice.

May 2 was my second time to be with the Clear Creek trustees since serving as Western Recorder editor. Both were very pleasant experiences and especially the May 2 meeting.

At Clear Creek I found a truly rare experience for Baptist educational institutions. This school is not experiencing any serious financial crunch. There is no debt on buildings though a number of new buildings have been constructed in recent years. President Aldridge and the trustees believe in a pay-as-you-go policy and it is working.

Financial stability at Clear Creek is not due to any unusually large annual allocation from the Cooperative Program. Last year the school received approximately \$170,000 from the convention. Considering the number of ministers trained by Clear Creek to serve Kentucky Baptist churches, denominational money at Clear Creek goes about as far as any we spend.

The source of Clear Creek's financial success as well as success in every area of its operations is no secret. It is, as usual, in a person and in this case the person is D. M. Aldridge.

Aldridge is completely dedicated to the training of adult Baptist ministers. He came out of the seminary nearly 35 years ago with this commitment and it has grown stronger each year. He is remarkably successful in raising funds for adult ministerial training and this accounts for Clear Creek's solvency.

Clear Creek trustees and friends of Aldridge pulled

a surprise on him and his wife, Kay, May 2. The trustee meeting was interrupted by an announcement of a special convocation in the chapel. It turned out to be a service honoring the Aldridges for more than 25 years' ministry at Clear Creek.

The service moved to the chapel parking lot for its conclusion. There a shiny, new automobile was given to the Aldridges by trustees, staff, faculty, students and other friends. It was one of the few times D. M. Aldridge was speechless.

Clear Creek is truly a model Baptist Bible school doing a magnificent job training adult Baptist pastors and staff members. Its products prove its quality. They have balanced theological training and are completely loyal and cooperative. They are making some of the most effective pastors in Kentucky. President Aldridge, his staff and faculty and the trustees are to be commended.



Le Roy Peterson [l], dean, presents Aldridge with a plaque of appreciation in the picture at left. At right, Elmer Gambrell, Clear Creek trustee chairman, looks over the May 2 agenda as Aldridge looks on.

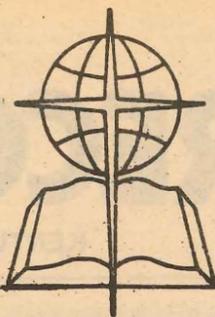


Assistant to the president Claude Fox presents automobile keys to Kay and Merrill Aldridge.

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
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C. R. Daley

Daley Observations

The power of the press

There is an unsung hero in the reaction that temporarily aborted the efforts of one group to take over the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention. Many prominent Southern Baptists got into the act because of their concern for the continued welfare of the convention but not one of them really turned the tide.

No seminary president was influential enough to stop the developing crisis. No veteran Southern Baptist statesman made a difference though men like Herschel Hobbs made a significant contribution. No state executive secretary was influential enough to ease the tension. Not even strong editorials of Southern Baptist editors were the decisive factor.

Who then is the unsung hero? He is, of all persons, only a lowly news reporter. He is Toby Druin, the associate editor of the Texas Baptist Standard. Considering the large circulation and the strong influence of this paper, Toby has a high place and he is capable of writing strong and effective editorials. Yet it was not an editorial but a news story that made the most difference in this case. The news story made for the powerful and effective editorializing of Baptist Standard editor Presnell Wood and others.

Toby has been on top of this movement to capture the convention presidency since its beginning over more than a year ago. He did the story before the convention last year that exposed the intense political activity that was a factor in the election of president Adrian Rogers.

His recent story on the continued activities of Paige Patterson and Paul Pressler to assure election of a convention president of their stripe alerted Baptists all over the convention and produced strong negative reaction.

The power of the pen was once again demonstrated by Toby Druin. The amazing thing is that the power was in reported facts and not in editorial opinion. It is to be granted that it was not just a routinely done job of reporting. It was expertly done by a veteran Baptist reporter and interpreter who knows how to ask the right people the right questions and how to write clearly and forcefully.

Once again was seen the indispensibility of Baptist papers. Without these channels of communication, such thinking and efforts as revealed in Toby's story could go unnoticed and unchecked.

This may be the place to say that such news reporting ought to cover the whole Baptist spectrum and not just persons and movements outside the denominational establishment. The Baptist Press does not exist to defend the establishment but to report the facts whether they reflect positively or negatively upon the establishment.

The oft quoted Baptist maxim, "Tell the truth and trust the people," explains our unity and strength. When Baptists know the facts they can be trusted to make the right decisions. Thank the Lord for news writers like Toby Druin and for the Texas editor and the Texas publication which afford him the opportunity for his calling.

Guest Editorial

Ministers and politics

by William H. Elder
Director of Christian Citizenship Development
Christian Life Commission, SBC

Should ministers get involved in politics? Pope John Paul II says "No!" In this connection he has just directed Congressman Robert Drinan of Massachusetts to give up his seat in the U. S. House of Representatives precisely because he is a Roman Catholic priest. Drinan, who has served in Congress for nearly a decade, has considered his role there as that of a moral architect. But now, reluctantly, he will step aside.

From another wing of the Christian community comes a totally different opinion on the matter of ministers in politics. "New Religious Right" organizations like Christian Voice and Moral Majority are committed to electing political conservatives are devoting time, energy and money to encourage ministers to get involved in politics. Jerry Falwell, the formative figure behind Moral Majority, recently advised a group of ministers, "You can register people to vote. You can explain the issues to them. And you can endorse candidates, right there in church on Sunday morning." Christian Voice has endorsed Ronald Reagan and hopes that at least 10 percent of the 37,000 pastors who receive their mailings will endorse the Pope.

The Pope says "Clergy, stay out!" The "New Religious Right" says "Pastors, jump in!" Let's evaluate both views in terms of what it means to be both an American citizen and a Christian minister.

Requiring a minister to stay out of politics forces him to accept an incomplete citizenship and therefore infringes upon his rights as an American and his responsibilities as a Christian. But more importantly, such exclusion severely limits a minister's ability to lead his people by personal example to become members involved Christian citizens. The Bible makes it clear that being a Christian citizen is a vital and essential part of Christian discipleship. Christian citizenship is applying the insights of the gospel to our world through appropriate involvement in the political process. To keep ministers out of politics would be not only to deny them their full rights as Americans but also to compromise their Christian calling.

On the other hand, while Jerry Falwell's approach gives recognition to the minister's "citizen" hat, it fails to do justice to his "minister" hat. When a minister steps into his pulpit and offers political endorsements which are easily regarded by his people as directives with divine sanction, he really becomes a political boss. And "political boss" and "pastor" are mutually exclusive roles. A political boss is primarily concerned with cultivating and maintaining his own political power. His effectiveness is measured in terms of his ability to evoke quick and unquestioning obedience on the part of his followers. A minister, on the other hand, is primarily concerned with enabling

those he serves to receive God's fulfilling power. His effectiveness is measured not by how quickly and unquestioningly his people follow his orders but by how mature, free and informed they are to chart their own morally responsible course in the context of God's will. For more than 200 years America has carefully built its politics around a two party system. We have never tried a so-called Christian political party; and we have been absolutely convinced that where they have been tried in Europe, such parties have miserably failed. As Europe a pastor endorses any particular candidate of either political party, Republican or Democrat, he will surely cause dissension and fragmentation in the congregation and will arouse the wrath of those members who conscientiously support the other candidate or party. So, the major problem with this kind of "jump in" approach is the same as with the "stay out" approach. It undermines authentic Christian ministry.

Back to the original question. Should ministers get involved in politics? Since both the Bible and the principles of American democracy are to be taken seriously, the answer is "Yes." As he carries out his citizenship agenda, however, the minister must always do so in the context of his primary commitment as minister. All political possibilities ought to be evaluated in light of their compatibility with the principles of authentic ministry.

In that way it will be possible to discern when the gospel is being heeded and applied and when it is being cheapened, counterfeited and transformed into just another campaign device to win votes and wield political power. By helping church members become better informed on the nuts and bolts of citizenship, by helping them encounter the complexities of the crucial moral issues of the day and by helping them gain the necessary skills for evaluating those issues in light of the gospel ministers can involve themselves appropriately and indispensably in the political process, Pope John Paul II and Jerry Falwell notwithstanding.

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Observe Associational Emphasis Week, May 19-25, 1980, and accept the bold missions challenge.

Baptist News in Brief

BWA accommodations

The Baptist World Alliance announced that hotel space is still available in downtown Toronto for delegates attending the Baptist World Congress July 8-13.

Betty L. Smith, congress coordinator, said requests, together with congress registration forms, must be sent immediately to the Washington office of the alliance, 1628 Sixteenth St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20009.

All persons attending the congress

are required to register. Housing space is available only to registered delegates.

An attendance of about 10,000 persons from 85 nations is expected.

Kentucky CT up again

Church Training enrolment in Kentucky is up again for the second consecutive year.

The 1977-78 enrolment figures were 59,183 while the 1978-79 enrolment fig-

ures are 61,055. This 3.2% increase is the largest increase of an established southern state.

WMU names Wildes

Beth Sayers Wildes, editorial assistant for Contempo magazine three years, is the new public information director for Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Wildes will coordinate news coverage and reporting for the national office of WMU. She will edit special publications for the auxiliary and assist in general public relations work. She succeeds Debbie Wattier, who resigned.

Mrs. Wildes is a graduate of the Uni-

versity of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, and is pursuing a degree in mass communications from the University of Alabama, Birmingham. She is a native of Demopolis, Ala., and a former summer missionary in North Dakota.

HMB approves 54

Directors of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board approved 54 persons for mission service during their May meeting.

They named three missionaries, 11 missionary associates, eight mission pastor interns, 26 persons who will receive church pastoral assistance, and six persons who will receive language pastoral assistance.

Baptist Forum

Freedom from creedalism

My greatest concern continues to be the creedalism which the Southern Baptist Journal espouses. You consider Southern Baptists to be creedal in fact, even if we are not by law. Your analysis unfortunately may be right.

But throughout their history, Baptists have steadfastly refused to surrender their individual autonomy as priests before God. When the convention in session "adopts" a position on abortion, alcohol or doctrine, that endorsement (or censure) is severely limited in its scope. It speaks only for that group of people present on that day and never is it to represent in any way what Southern Baptists as individuals believe.

The fact we take action on the same resolution for two or three consecutive years is proof the opinions of the convention in session are subject to discussion and modification.

It is unrealistic and unbaptistic to expect the multitude of employees of our convention's many agencies to agree in every instance with the decisions that are made on the floor of the annual convention.

Convention employees, with one exception, are not required to sign any statement of doctrine or ethics. The exception is our seminary professors. I believe they should be released from this unique demand. This would allow them the intellectual freedom and integrity which they deserve. The boards of trustees and the administrators of our institutions must be trusted to handle personnel matters as they are led by God's Spirit.

Let us beware of the sin of spiritual or doctrinal pride. Because of the warnings of our Lord Jesus, I fear sin far more than I fear my frequent lapses into bad theology.

Marion D. Aldridge, Batesburg, S. C.

A Baptist inquisition?

Your editorial of Apr. 30 was most appropriate. Baptists have "historically" rejected hierarchical rule or creedal tests. However:

1. Will we now have a Baptist pope elected by a college of cardinals (Patterson, Pressler, et.al.) who determine his acceptability for the whole Convention?
2. Will we now have an Office of the Inquisition to judge the doctrinal "dependability" of Southern Baptist leaders, teachers, pastors and church members?
3. Will "those who hold views contrary to those beliefs" and who do not "voluntarily go elsewhere" be excommunicated or hounded out by threat of public pillory?

Patterson is correct. What he is advocating is not "politics," it is religious persecution.

May God strengthen you in keeping these vital issues before the people in this state.

A. D. Adamson, Radcliff

Closet doors begin to open

Hooray! The closet doors have been pried open a little bit thanks to T. B. Maston's timely and revealing article last May 7 dealing with income inequities in churches. My heart aches in empathy for the silent cry and pain of smaller church pastors (300 members or less) who must feel a sense of agony knowing his colleague across town in a larger church, with perhaps similar qualifications, is receiving substantially more than he in compensation. I also sympathize with those colleagues of mine who share in the

role of being secondary or even tertiary staff members in larger churches and who must at times hide themselves for wondering if their pastor really is worth two, three or sometimes, heaven forbid, four times the amount in compensation they receive.

Must one's ordination or the "setting apart" to the task of the ministry also mean a church must "set above" or "set below" a minister financially in relation to its average church member's salary? How the business world handles its own affairs is one thing but must the church perpetuate inequities even when the author of Galatians states, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Jesus Christ." (Gal. 3:28)

Name withheld

Daytime revivals

This letter is prompted by a recent revival experience with the Versailles Baptist Church. Pastor Henry Johns and the church leadership planned and carried out very effectively a series of noon services which included a meal for those who attended.

We confined the service to 50 minutes, 12:05 to 12:55. This made it possible for many people in town to come to the services on their lunch hour. During the five days we had more than 25 different churches represented and more than 50 business offices and professional persons from Versailles and Woodford County.

The theme of the services touched on crises in the world and at the personal and family level. The people seemed interested and the response was encouraging. Any church which is located in a downtown community would do well to follow this guideline and offer a tremendous opportunity for fellowship, worship and serious consideration of world issues.

I am sure pastor Johns and the church staff at Versailles would be happy to share details in how the event was planned, promoted and carried out.

R. G. Puckett, Silver Spring, Md.

Meet me at the AFA

Please help the Baptist Student Union at the Air Force Academy get the word to the young men and women coming to the Academy in June 1980. We would like to meet their plane, provide transportation and housing overnight and help them report to the Academy at the proper time.

The Home Mission Board and Colorado Baptists have been providing this ministry for 12 years. We know about some of the young people coming to the AFA, but we would like to minister to the many others who are coming we do not know about.

If pastors, parents, friends and the young people themselves will drop us a note with name and address, we will correspond with them to secure flight arrival times and provide further information to them.

We have a good program going through our Baptist Student Union at the Air Force Academy, and it is widely recognized; however, we need help in telling others about this ministry. Send us names and addresses of young people coming to the AFA in June 1980. Thank you.

A similar ministry is provided at West Point and Annapolis. Help can be obtained by writing to Alton Harpe, 11 Washington St., Cornwall on Hudson, NY 12620, or Richard Bumpass, Box 1509, Annapolis, MD 21404.

Don Gurney, Director, Baptist Student Union, 1230 N. Cascade, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Biblical conservation

It seems as though everyone these days, including myself, is concerned with energy conservation. Today I read in the Apr. 30 issue of Western Recorder about Paige Patterson's quest for biblical inerrancy. To achieve this goal he hopes to control the SBC by organizing lay persons to vote for his approved presidential candidates for the next 10 years which would control the selection of trustees. I am amazed at the amount of energy and time he and his associates must have. As a full time seminary student with two jobs and involvement in church and family activities, I wish I had the energy of these people.

I have no doubt Mr. Patterson and associates feel they are making best use of their energies, but I believe our inerrant Bible may have something to say about energy conservation. Paul writes to Timothy in 2 Tim. 2:14-17, "Remind them of this, and charge them before the Lord to avoid disputing about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. Avoid such godless chatter for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will eat its way like gangrene," and 2 Tim. 2:23-25, "Have nothing to do with stupid, senseless controversies, you know that they breed quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kindly to everyone, an apt teacher, forbearing, correcting his opponents with gentleness . . ."

Only one mind, Christ's has possessed all truth and it is conceited for us to think we do. It is a waste of our energies to search out Christians who do not believe precisely what we do. Let us do our best with the partial truth our fallible minds can comprehend, sharing in love what truths we have. Is this not better than asking our brethren to "voluntarily go elsewhere"?

R. Speilman, Louisville

A declining problem

Two problems which are of much concern to Baptists today are attendance decline in Sunday school, Church Training, WMU and Brotherhood. Another is the loss of some of our members to cults which are led by people who are not responsible Bible scholars.

There are reasons for these problems. Too many of our people take the attitude that one church is as good as another, doctrines are not important and one opinion is as good as another. Also, there is a widespread idea the Bible is too hard to understand and too little Bible reading is being done.

Many of our people want to sit in a Sunday school class and be "spoon fed" without doing any actual Bible study. The class teacher has to "preach a sermonette."

There are ways which may be used to meet these problems. One is a program of indoctrination, much of which must come from the pulpit. Another is a tract ministry. This writer is a retired Baptist minister who has always been a strong believer in a tract ministry. I have noticed when a tract rack is placed in a church, the doctrinal tracts are taken more than tracts on any other subject.

Still another source of help is a concerted drive to encourage Bible reading by the laity. As a very young minister, the writer became pastor of a church which was at a low ebb spiritually. We launched a drive to encourage Bible reading with very positive results.

Walter M. Averett, Lexington



T. B. Maston

'Conscience' of SBC writing again



by Toby Druin

Spring came to the campus of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary recently. And with it came T. B. Maston.

Everyone knew spring would make it. For a long time last fall and winter it looked as if Maston would never get back to the "hill" where he has spent the last 58 years.

Maston suffered a heart attack last October and for weeks it was feared he would not pull through. But gradually he began to improve. He left the hospital and finally his doctor told him it was all right for him to walk the two blocks from his home to his office at the seminary. He is "weak as a kitten," he says, and takes it slowly; but he is back—and he is writing again.

Now 82, Maston retired as professor of Christian ethics at the seminary in 1963. His teachings over the years and his writings—almost 20 books and countless articles—unquestionably have helped shape Southern Baptist thinking and many who view him as the "conscience" of the denomination credit him with much of its progress in ethical issues.

He said when he realized he was going to pull through, he began asking the Lord what he had for him to do.

"I felt whatever time I had, whether a few days, weeks, months or whatever, it belonged to him," said Maston, who believes a Christian should not fear death.

His work is now largely limited to writing and though he said he doesn't want to sound presumptuous, he had the conviction the Lord wanted him to write on at least two subjects that have burdened him for many years—*income inequities among churches and denominational staff members and the trend of adopting secular compensation standards and the menace of materialism with neglect of the poor.*

He also wants to write a personal tribute to his wife of over 58 years, Mrs. Essie Mae McDonald Maston, whom he affectionately calls "Mommie."

He freely admits his time is limited. If he has time he wants to complete a book on the Bible and the family and is contemplating one on the title of "Both, And."

"One of the chapel messages I can remember was when Uncle Jeff Ray spoke and his title was "False Alternatives." I don't remember a thing he said, but I have never gotten away from his title. It is not a case of either, or; but both, and."

One of those "both, and's" would be evangelism and ethics, he said.

"The truth of the matter is I think a proper conception of evangelism includes ethics—an emphasis on social concerns," he said.

He acknowledged what he calls an "ultraconservative binge" at present to the neglect of ethics. "But I think it is temporary," he said.

Ultraconservatives today, he said, differ from others in the past in better organization and education. "And they are more vocal," he added.

"The thing that bothers me about the ultraconservatives is they label a person a liberal when he is liberal on some political or social issue but conservative theologically. There are an awful lot of folks that think if you are conservative theologically you have to be everywhere else."

Turning to the subject of race relations, Maston said, "We have made tremendous progress in race relations, but we have a long, long way to go. Many blacks don't want to come to our churches, and I don't blame them. We have made some progress, but still in the main they are second class citizens in our churches."

Maston said the racial question now has new angles, especially attitudes toward Hispanics in the southwest.

Southern Baptists' biggest problem today, he said, is neglect of the poor and it is rooted in materialism.

"I feel this very deeply," he said. "It is affecting everything we do—our evangelistic results included. We talk about reasons we have a decline; we better look at this. We are drifting away from the poor people, the common people."

"Some of our buildings repel a lot of the people instead of attracting them. We go in debt so much for some of these buildings and then who are the folks we give our most time to enlisting? The folks who can help pay off the debt, the well-to-do, not the underprivileged, not the poor."

He feels deeply about pastors, church staff members and denominational employees being paid salaries in accordance with business standards.

Salary differences among ministers are difficult to justify from a biblical standpoint, he said, and added he once advocated a maximum salary for Southern Baptist employees.

The trend is away from the servant concept, he said. "We simply are getting a little too competitive with the world. How a man in some of these high paying jobs, pastors included, can preach sacrifice and the cross, I don't know."

One verse of scripture that has gripped his life more than any other in recent years, he said, is 1 John 2:6—"He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk, even as he walked."

"Jesus walked among the common people," he said. "Take that verse to heart and it will challenge you to the end of life's journey."

50,000 by 2000 — What does it mean?

by William H. Slagle

Does 50,000 churches by the year 2000 sound like the impossible dream? This is the proclaimed goal of Southern Baptists. How does it relate to what is being done and what is involved in adding 14,000 churches to the existing 36,000?

Years of church planting experience have produced a more or less accurate formula for determining the fallout rate between new missions started and net gain in churches. This translates into 56,000 new mission starts for a net gain of 14,000. That's a large order in 20 years, even for Southern Baptists. In fact, it is three times what we are doing currently.

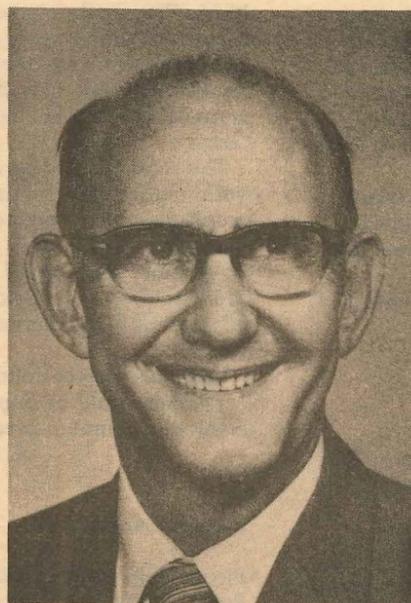
Are we fooling ourselves? Is this goal headed for the graveyard of unrealized dreams? Not if we face up to what is involved in commitment and logistics. Churches by the thousand must "come alive" to the opportunity exploding in almost every sector of our country. Mission pastors' salaries must supplant marginally needed buildings and doubtful staff positions. New waves of volunteers must stand up and be counted. The word "sacrifice" must be reexamined and reinstated in the Christian vocabulary.

This brings me to the heart of what I want to say. Bivocational pastors and laymen must begin at least 25,000 of the projected 56,000 new mission starts. This means a necessary death to the idea every church needs a "full time" pastor. It also means a "back to the roots" movement for Baptists where secular employment for a minister is not a nasty thought. Our educational institutions must fully accept not

istry but also institute a program of training for these 25,000 potential volunteers.

A new awareness has swept our denomination in regard to the bivocational ministry during the past five years. We have learned that nearly 10,000 are pastoring and producing. On our baptismal measuring stick they look very impressive. The bivocational pastor baptizes as many as his full time counterpart in similar size churches. He also starts as many missions. This new awareness has brought a new appreciation of bivocational pastors. As Allen Wells, a bivocational pastor in Danville, Va., puts it, "The bivocational pastor, in my own denomination, not only is acceptable, but sought after."

If strategists are correct in their prediction that half the pastorates in our nation will be bivocational in foreseeable years it is imperative that we read the handwriting on the wall and gear up for the change. Support systems, new materials, training, encouragement and full acceptance of the bivocational role will be called for.



William H. Slagle

William H. Slagle is associate director, Church Extension Division, HMB, in charge of bivocational work.

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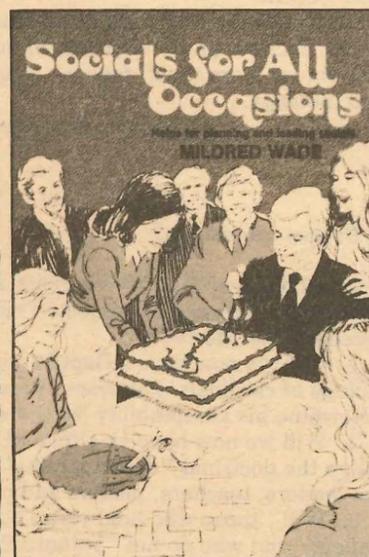
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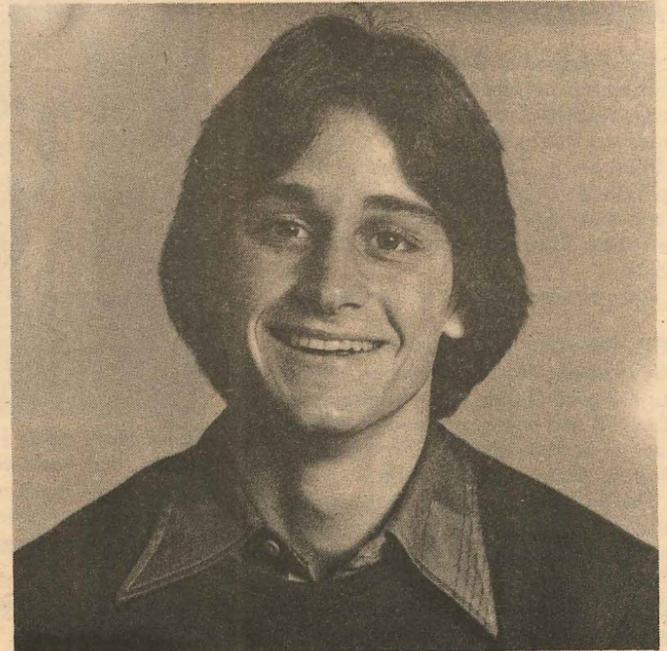
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Meet Joe Hammiel

Joe is heading toward Christian service of a different kind, mass communications "I am convinced that the more people you can reach with the Word the more response you will get. I personally would like to become a writer for one of the Christian publications, such as Campus Life."

Joe already has a sponsor, but the need for caring people to come to the aid of young leaders just like him is tremendous. For \$120 per year you can sponsor a leader like Joe. But these gifts must not take away from your tithes and offerings to your own local Baptist Church



Please fill out this form and sponsor a leader

1. What kind of leader would you like to sponsor?

- Young man
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4. Verification of Cumberland's program. Due to student labor and volunteer work we are able to stretch the dollar to the limit. Would you like to receive an annual report from Cumberland College.?

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5. We want to send you a Certificate of Appreciation and wallet sized card as a token of our appreciation for your commitment. Do you want the certificate and sponsorship card?

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Bold Mission Thrust for Kentucky Baptist Education

Mountains to the Mississippi

Ordinations

Estes ordained at Bethlehem
Bethlehem Baptist Church, Greensburg, Russell Creek Association, ordained Bobby Estes to the gospel ministry Apr. 13. Estes is pastor of Sparkville Baptist Church, Columbia. He is married to the former Vickie Jefferies. They have one daughter, Erica.

Gary Ervin is pastor at Bethlehem.

FBC, Fountain Run ordains five
Ray Burnett, Jimmie Marshall Celsor, Hugh Powell Gibbs, Larry Williams and Maxie Wood were ordained as deacons Apr. 27 at Fountain Run First Baptist Church, Monroe Association.

The pastor at Fountain Run, Henry Smith, was moderator at the ordination service. Others participating were: Wallace Shockley, clerk; Carline Spears, interrogation, and C. G. Morrison, who delivered the sermon. The prayer was led by James G. Williams and J. O. Pardue presented the Bible.

St. Matthews ordains Dobbins'

Jim and Wanda Dobbins were ordained Apr. 7 at St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

Mr. and Mrs. Dobbins, members of St. Matthews, have been appointed Southern Baptist missionaries to Chile.

He is a native of Durant, Okla. and is currently working on his EdD degree at Southern Seminary.

Dobbins has worked as minister of youth and education, chaplain, campus minister and instructor at Boyce Bible School.

Mrs. Dobbins is a native Kentuckian. She holds degrees from Western Kentucky University, University of Louisville and Southern Seminary.

She was employed by the Kentucky Baptist Convention for nine years as Baptist Young Women's director, then



Doris Mullendore [second from left], a member of First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, was reelected first vice president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board at its April meeting. Others elected were [1 to r] John G. Alley, Louisiana, second vice president; Myra Gullede of Louisiana, recording secretary; and John W. Patterson, Virginia, president.

as a youth consultant for the Church Services Division.

Congregations

Little Clifty observes anniversary
Little Clifty Baptist Church, Leitchfield, will be observing its 92nd anniversary May 25. The all day services will begin at 10:00 a.m.

All former pastors, members and friends are invited to share in the celebration.

Kentuckians commissioned

Four missionaries to Kentucky were among 63 persons commissioned for service by the Home Mission Board.

Commissioned were James F. and Patricia Ann Martin Holladay Jr., Department of Christian Social Ministries; and Wilbert H. and Ruby Davis Goatley Jr., Department of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists.

The Holladays are working in Louisville where he is pastor/director of the Baptist Center. He received appointment in February after working at the center since 1976. Earlier he was campus minister for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Since coming to Louisville he has been president of the Federation of Church Social Agencies, on the board of directors for Phoenix Hill Neighborhood Association and secretary for Kentuckiana Interfaith Community. A native of Mississippi, Holladay is a graduate of Samford University and holds a MDiv degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he is working on a DMin degree in social ministries.

Mrs. Holladay, a native of Kentucky, is a graduate of Georgetown College and is attending the University of Kentucky.

The Goatleys are also working in Louisville where he is director of missions and Baptist Fellowship Center for Central District Association. A native of Louisville, Goatley had been in this capacity for a year prior to appointment in February 1980. He was an associate pastor in Kentucky churches from 1974-78. A graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, he is attending Southern Seminary.

Mrs. Goatley, also a native of Kentucky, is a graduate of Kentucky State University and teaches in Henry County High School in New Castle. She has been a church pianist and is now corresponding secretary for the Baptist Women's State Missionary Convention in Kentucky.

The commissioning was at Piedmont First Baptist Church. The missionaries were challenged to "build highways, so those exiled from God can come back to him."

All the missionaries were already on the field, but were gathered together to attend a semiannual orientation for home missionaries held at Shocco Springs Baptist Assembly in northeastern Alabama.

Personnel

Maceo calls Deane

Maceo Baptist Church has called Guy Deane Jr. as its pastor effective May 25. Deane comes to Maceo from Emmanuel Baptist Church, Marion. He has been be Emmanuel since 1976.

Deane is a graduate of Georgetown College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Luther Rice Inter-

national Seminary.

He is married to Eulah Mae 'Judy' Wells, formerly of Livia, Ky.

Fulkerson resigns appointment

Bill Fulkerson has resigned his home mission appointment as director of the Jefferson Street Baptist Center, Louisville. Effective May 5 he became director of social services for the Metropolitan Atlanta Salvation Army.

Fulkerson has pastored churches in Illinois and Kentucky.

For the past year his wife Carol has been the director of the day care program at Baptist Center, Louisville.

FBC Fairdale calls Milby

Kenneth Milby has accepted the pastorate of Fairdale First Baptist Church.

A native of Louisville, Milby has pastored Hill Grove Baptist Church, Guston.

Elliot new Beechland minister

Gene Elliott has accepted the call as minister of education and youth at Beechland Baptist Church, Pleasure Ridge Park.

Elliott, who will graduate from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in June, comes to Beechland from Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, Louisville.

Bratcher to pastor Pleasant Memorial

Donald Bratcher has been called as pastor of Pleasant Memorial Baptist Mission, Daviess-McLean Association, Owensboro.

Pleasant Memorial is a mission of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Owensboro.

Before coming to Pleasant Memorial Bratcher pastored Buttonsberry Baptist Church, Island, for 11 years.

Sutton added to Boone's Creek staff

Lloyd Sutton is the new minister of music and youth at Boone's Creek Baptist Church, Lexington.

Sutton, who assumed his new duties Mar. 30, came to Boone's Creek from Central Baptist Church, Richmond, Ind.

He is a graduate of Campbellsville College and a native of Frankfort.

He and his wife, the former Myra Juett, have two sons, Brian and Steven Andrew.

The pastor at Boone's Creek is Steven B. Smith.

Revivals

39 decisions at Dry Ridge

Dry Ridge Baptist Church, Crittenden Association, was in revival Mar. 30-Apr. 6. R. E. Lawrence, Corbin, was evangelist. Bill Johnson, Louisville, directed the music.

The revival resulted in 19 professions of faith, five additions by letter and 11 rededications. Four additional decisions were made later.

Phillip Majors is pastor at Dry Ridge.

Cole leads Elsmere revival

Elsmere Baptist Church, Erlanger, Northern Kentucky Association, has completed a week of revival with Stan Cole as evangelist.

Cole is the pastor of Outreach Baptist Church, Anderson, S.C.

Marion W. King, pastor at Elsmere, reported 17 professions of faith, one transfer of letter and 35 rededications.



New Salem Baptist Church, Monticello, recently planted a tree in honor of Homer Williams. Williams has pastored New Salem 33 years. At the planting were [1 to r] Lafayette Shelton, Jack Roberts, Williams, Isaac Hucaby, David McCutcher and Joe Weaver.

Ministering to the children of the 80's



Wm. E. Amos, Director
Ky. Baptist Board of Child Care

A Mother's Day surprise

Sunday, May 11 was a rather special day for me. Not only was it Mother's Day but I was able to be home with my family to celebrate the good gifts the mother in our family gives to each of us from day to day. The service at church was especially meaningful in so many ways. The music was superb as usual and the preaching was just what the good Lord knew I needed to hear.

However, as is often the case, surprises happen that are totally unplanned and so beautifully underline what God is saying to each of us. The church service that day dealt with the general theme of affirming the role of women and the many opportunities they have in our world today. The surprise came when one very special friend came down and asked for the privilege of saying a few words. She expressed to the congregation that she had really felt the affirmation of the sermon and of God in her chosen place in this world. Not only was I deeply moved for her sake but for what it had to say to all of us . . . especially those of us in the business of molding the lives of children and youth. I could not help but think of the many opportunities all around us at Glen Dale and Spring Meadows. It seems that the call is rather clear for those of us who work with you on behalf of our denomination. Those entrusted to us are not things, but gifts from God. By sharing his love, we open the possibility for them to understand his purpose for their lives. We cannot know the unfolding future of the youth who live with us. Our task is to present the Christian life not only as an alternative to sin but as a chance for joy and fulfillment—so that someday they, too, might stand before some congregation some Sunday morning, thanking God for his gifts to them and the opportunity to share those gifts as a part of their unique witness.

All of this brings me back around to my feelings at church. Here before a congregation stood a woman who was able to rejoice that she felt God's affirmation of who she was and what she was doing with her life . . . a happy surprise on Mother's Day.

KBC Activities

Here and now

MAY

29-30 "Growing an Evangelistic Church" Seminar. First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville. Jay Brown, director, Evangelism Department, KBC, will conduct the conference assisted by Kentucky pastors Bruce Hodge and Richard Harris, and Gerome Browne, Rosemont Baptist Church, Lexington. First day sessions begin at 1:30 and 6:30 P.M.; second day sessions begin at 9 A.M. and 1:30 P.M.

Looking ahead

MAY

29-30 "Growing an Evangelistic Church" Seminar. First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville. See article in Western Recorder May 14.

JUNE

- 1 Religious Liberty Sunday
- 2-4 WMU Executive Board Meeting. Cedarmore.
- 5-6 Summer Missionaries' Orientation, Baptist Building, Middletown.
- 8-12 Southern Baptist Convention with auxiliary meetings. St. Louis, Mo. Detailed program Apr. 17 issue of Western Recorder.
- 15 Father's Day

Planning ahead

Available Youth and Children Weeks at Cedarmore. (All weeks begin Monday afternoon and close Friday noon. Reservations made with Cedarmore unless otherwise noted.)

GA/Acteen Camp at Cedar Crest — 7 separate weeks beginning June 16-20
 Mother/Daughter Overnight at Cedar Crest. July 11-12, 18-19.
 RA Camp at Rabro — 9 separate weeks, beginning June 9-13.
 Father/Son in grades 1, 2, 3 — overnight. July 11-12, 18-19. All reservations for all RA camps made with Brotherhood.
 Music Weeks: Children—July 14-18; July 28-Aug. 1. Youth/Adult—July 21-25.

Sunday School Lessons

JUNE 1, 1980

H. C. Chiles



INTERNATIONAL SERIES

The reign of Hezekiah

Revival—2 Chronicles 29:3-6, 10 Touched deeply and grieved by the sinful actions of his wicked father, upon ascending the throne at the age of 25 Hezekiah dedicated himself to the task of arresting the frightful degeneration of his nation and leading his people into the right relationship with God.

Outraged that the temple had fallen into such a shocking and deplorable condition, Hezekiah opened the doors and repaired them by replacing the gold and other metals which his father had stripped from them. He renovated the temple, removing all the idolatrous paraphernalia. Hezekiah then called in the priests and the Levites for the purpose of instructing them what to do. Hezekiah's instructions to these religious leaders were specific, and it required 16 days for them to complete their assignment. Pointing out that the failure of the people to worship God and their wicked conduct had invited the divine wrath upon them, Hezekiah exhorted the religious leaders to remember their first responsibility was to God.

Hezekiah declared his intention to "make a covenant with the Lord God of Israel." He wanted to renew the covenant which God and his people had made previously. Hezekiah knew that God's children who yielded their wills to his will and spent their time and strength in his service would enjoy the assurance of the divine presence and blessings, so he challenged the spiritual leaders to fulfill their mission.

Rejoicing—2 Chronicles 30:23-27 Without delay Hezekiah urged the people of Israel and Judah to make the necessary preparations for their participation in the proper observance of the precious but neglected Feast of the Passover. Upon the removal of the altars to the man-made gods, the sincere acknowledgment of sin, the request for forgiveness and cleansing, and the making of offerings to God, there was widespread rejoicing on the part of the religious leaders and the people.

LIFE AND WORK LESSON

Life as a call to service

Acts 9:36-40 Touched by God's love and transformed by his grace, Dorcas loved her Lord supremely, and sought to minister to others who were in need. She devoted her talents and energies to meeting the needs of widows and orphans without any desire for the plaudits of others. Suddenly and unexpectedly death removed her from the sphere of service, throwing the recipients of her benefactions into deep mourning. In response to a request that he come to Joppa, Peter came to the room in which the body of Dorcas was lying, witnessed the tears of the mourners, asked them to leave the room, knelt and prayed, and turning to the corpse said: "Tabitha, arise." Instantly she opened her eyes and sat up, whereupon those who were wearing the garments which Dorcas had made for them rejoiced greatly that she had been raised from the dead. News of the resurrection of Dorcas made a great impression on the people. Many believed on Christ and were added to the church.

Ephesians 4:7-8, 11 Christ's gifts are not just for our personal enjoyment or for the glory of man, but they are to equip their recipients to introduce the unsaved to Christ, to edify the believers, and to glorify the Lord whom we serve.

Matthew 25:31-40 When Christ comes again for "The Judgment of the Nations," he will sit upon his great and glorious throne in ineffable splendor in the role of a mighty and majestic judge. With unerring accuracy the great and righteous judge will separate those who have done good to the brethren and those who have done evil to them, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats at the close of the day.

Frank Owen



Spontaneity

It looks possibly like the great old democracy called the Southern Baptist Convention might have a rather free and open election of officers this year. It has been rather assumed that there would be no active campaign this year but a tacit second confirmation of the expected two-year tenure of president Rogers. Unless there is overall orchestration that has not been apparent, the coming election of officers now bids to be somewhat more spontaneous than usual. That is a healthy sign.

I have tried to serve as presiding officer or executive to a number of Baptist bodies of varying sizes. I observe that a measure of potential spontaneity must be preserved in any democracy that expects to stay healthy. We are not forgetting that Democratic bodies need the advance thought and reasonable planning of wise, forward-looking leaders prior to voting time. Yet, it also is well that nothing be thought out and wrought out so thoroughly in advance as to preclude the possibility of wholesome, spontaneous action by the body. Such event can inspire democracy to a new awakening. Sometimes the Lord, himself, can move into such an event with greater evidence than when the minds and maneuvers of men work it all out in advance to the point of cut and driedness.

It is dangerous for a democracy to come thoughtlessly to an hour of decision. It is better that it come with advance thought and prayer. But it is also a threat to democracy when the machinations of men get it so planned and manipulated that the occasion of the body's action is no more than knee-jerk automation.

Over a period of years our great convention shows itself capable of organization and, yes, sometimes manipulation, but it also frequently shows itself exceedingly free and open—capable of spontaneous action. Such may be the circumstance this year. In either case, we pray, that the atmosphere will be captured of the Lord and the expression of the body come forth with his will.

Life

too valuable to waste . . . spend it well

by Linda Lawson

"Becoming 65 was a little bit traumatic for three months before and about one week after my birthday," said Osta Underwood. "Then I waked up one morning and realized I didn't feel any different and life was just as much fun as it had ever been. That settled that issue."

Osta Underwood believes Christians ought to be "out in the marketplace and on the firing line."

She retired at the end of 1979 at age 65 from her position as legal counsel to Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co. Her service in the marketplace continues.

As a Southern Baptist senior adult, Miss Underwood will be one of thousands recognized on the second annual Senior Adult Day observed May 4 in many churches.

In addition to building her long established part time law practice in estate and business planning, Miss Underwood is vice chairman of the Tennessee Baptist executive board and is a member of the Employee Benefits Board for metropolitan government of Nashville.

She is also a member of the finance committee of the Nashville Baptist Association, vice chairman of the pastor search committee and teacher of a single adult Sunday school class at Belmont Heights Baptist Church.

Miss Underwood is a member of the Private Industry Council for Tennessee, is past national president of Business and Professional Women's Clubs and is a member of the board of directors of Belmont Plaza Associates, Inc., which owns and operates a high rise apartment building for older adults.

She joined a group of concerned Tennessee Baptists to invest time and money to purchase the apartment building when, due to legal complications, the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation lacked the funds to open the facility.

"It is my strong feeling it is the duty of the church in corporate body or through its members to meet human needs, regardless of what they are," Miss Underwood said.

"I can't participate in meeting every need, but I feel an obligation to pick the ones I'm drawn to or those which others aren't about."

Osta Underwood is a small woman who looks people directly in the eye and speaks with courtroom firmness. She articulates her beliefs with conviction.

A long time advocate of equal rights for women, Miss Underwood remem-

bers the date and time in 1972 that the United States Senate passed the equal rights amendment. She was present in the Senate chamber, sitting by the late Marvella Bayh, wife of Sen. Birch Bayh.

"I believe in equal legal rights, equal economic opportunities for all women and the absolute choice as to whether to remain single or to marry," she declared. Other decisions such as whether to pursue a vocation and whether to have children are individual family decisions, she added.

For Osta Underwood reaching age 65 was "a little bit traumatic three months before and one week after my birthday," she recalls. Then "I waked up one morning and I didn't feel any different than before and life was just as much fun as it had ever been. That settled that issue."

In 1963, throat surgery and five days of living with the possibility of cancer affirmed Miss Underwood's belief that life is a gift from God.

"I don't want to sound pious here," she said. "But life and time is too valuable to waste. You can't save it. The only thing to do with it is to spend it well."



Osta Underwood [center] teaches a single adult Sunday school class at Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville.