

# WESTERN RECORDER

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KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL

## St. Louis blues

### *Kentuckians ready to vote for SBC president but unsure about candidate, divided on issues*

by James H. Cox and Gail Lynn Rothwell

At that great gathering down by the riverside next week in St. Louis, Mo., Southern Baptists from the Bluegrass State will apparently be unified through diversity.

A random check with messengers in several parts of the state suggested they would be prepared to vote for an SBC presidential candidate in the "gateway to the west." But they aren't yet clear on the options which are surfacing.

Several potential nominees have been mentioned in the press, including Bailey Smith, pastor, First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.; James L. Pleitz, pastor, Park Cities Church, Dallas, Tex.; Abner V. McCall, president, Baylor University, Waco, Tex.; Frank Polard, pastor, First Church, Jackson, Miss.; and Richard Jackson, pastor, North Phoenix (Ariz.) Church.

The political situation recently developed when Adrian Rogers of Memphis, Tenn., current SBC president, announced he would not be a candidate for the traditional second-year term normally accorded SBC presidents. This touched off a wave of speculation amid a swirl of biblical inerrancy charges which had not intensified since last year's stormy eruption during the Houston convention.

Of Kentucky messengers to this year's convention contacted last week by Western Recorder, only one—John Wood, pastor of First Church, Paducah—would endorse a candidate for president. Wood, a trustee of

the Radio and Television Commission, proposed Polard, host of the commission's "Baptist Hour" and "At Home with the Bible" programs, as a likely nominee.

Verlin C. Kruschwitz, pastor of Severns Valley Church, Elizabethtown, said he favored "a good strong man with the heart of Southern Baptists and the world," but would not identify any individual.

Neither would Louisville lawyer Henry B. Huff, a layman and messenger from that city's Crescent Hill Church. "There are a number of capable people who will be nominated," he predicted, speculating that no one person has the nomination sewn up, and Baptists will again be divided among candidates rather than united behind any one person.

Kentucky Baptist messengers to the convention appear about as divided on the issues as they lack support for a particular candidate.

There is a definite overriding concern among Kentucky Baptists that the convention not be sidetracked by biblical inerrancy from its current goal of Bold Mission Thrust.

W. R. Davenport, president of Campbellsville College, hoped for "unity" in the convention on issues.

Huff said the successor to Rogers would now be primary, but before Rogers' announcement he had anticipated a "calm, peaceful convention" with a focus on Bold Mission Thrust.

"Let's push bold missions and keep the group together," D. M. Aldridge, president of Clear Creek School, Pineville, encouraged.

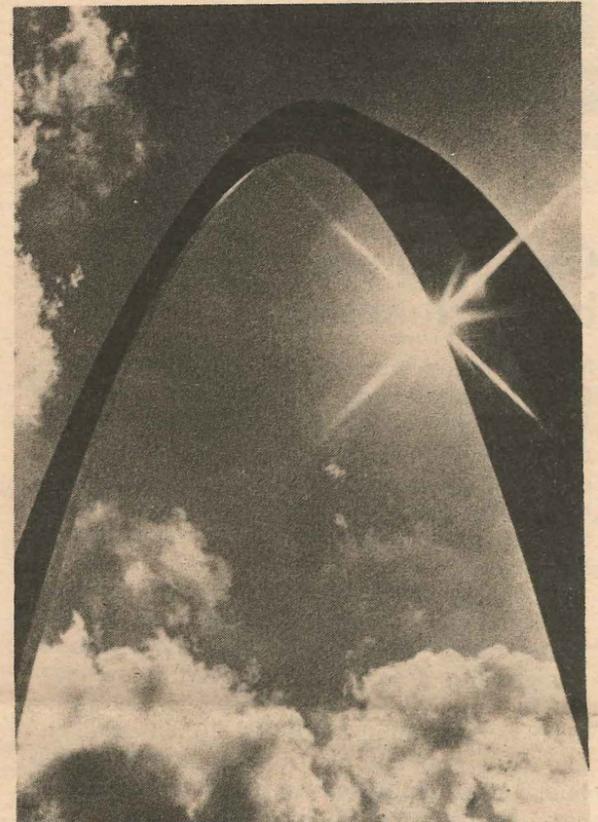
LaVerne Butler, pastor of Louisville's Ninth & O Church, agreed, singling out bold missions as Southern Baptists' overarching purpose in meeting next week.

But Virginia Pate, wife of Pike County missionary John Pate, saw "conservatism, world hunger and economics" as the principal issues Southern Baptists will deal with in St. Louis.

Owensboro Third Church pastor David Drumel suggested, "We are all concerned about who will be the next president. It is our responsibility to be there and cast a vote concerning it."

John Wood of Paducah probably summed it up for many when he expressed hope Southern Baptists will "maintain unity in light of this biblical literacy controversy."

With that, most Kentucky messengers could probably agree, no matter who receives their votes for convention president.



### *An overarching SBC issue*

St. Louis' gateway arch beckons Southern Baptists to the "gateway to the west" next week for their 123rd annual session, June 10-12. Complete programs of the convention and preliminary auxiliary meetings are included in a special pull-out section in Western Recorder's Apr. 9 issue.

### **Hurstbourne Lane site selected by book store in Louisville expansion**

Baptist Book Store officials announced in Louisville last week that a long term lease has been signed for a new 7000 square foot store to be opened by midsummer in eastern Jefferson County.

The new facility, at 1235 Hurstbourne Ln., near the I-64 interchange, will become the stores' primary regional outlet for Bibles, books, audiovisuals, sacred music and church supplies.

"This store will provide all the services Baptist Book Store customers have come to expect, including a sales floor, mail order center and Baptist Film Center," said Alvah B. Crawford of Nashville. Crawford is manager of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Central Stores Department. The board owns and operates the nationwide chain of stores.

The one-story facility featuring Williamsburg architecture is adjacent to Plainview Shopping Center and will offer plenty of free customer parking space, something not presently available at the downtown store location at 317 Guthrie St.

The downtown store will remain open through December, possibly longer, for local sales. Ruth Outzs, manager, will manage both properties, according to Crawford.

Baptist Book Stores also operates two other stores in Kentucky, one at Southern Seminary, Louisville, and one at 221 Williamsburg Square, Owensboro.



### *One nation, under God*

184,864 Kentuckians participated in vacation Bible school last summer. With public school ending, an estimated three million-plus Southern Baptists will be involved in over 35,000 vacation Bible schools across the country. Many of these are being held this week.

### **Somerset, Ridgecrest on chorale itinerary**

The Kentucky Baptist Chorale has been invited to sing during the Sunday morning worship service of church music leadership week at Ridgecrest June 15.

Prior to this members of the chorale will gather in Somerset to rehearse and present a full concert Friday evening, June 13, at 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church. The concert is open to the public and will feature a medley of praise anthems, a medley of mission hymn arrangements, a medley of songs about heaven and a worship service written by Ken Medema titled "The Gathering."

The chorale was organized in 1965 as a musical and spiritual contribution of members of the Kentucky Baptist Music Association. Members come from among more than 110 full time ministers of music in Kentucky Baptist churches.

Eugene Sutherland of Louisville has directed the group since 1971. Sutherland also arranges much of the music the chorale sings. Albin Whitworth of Wilmore is pianist for the group.

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

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C. R. Daley

## Daley Observations

### Churches must look before leaping

The tight money market and high interest rates have not only severely curtailed new house construction but also has caused church construction to come almost to a complete halt. Even churches with the best credit rating have had trouble finding a lender and have been reluctant to pay the high interest on the few available loans.

Not being able to build is something new for Baptist churches. We have been about the "buildingest" people to be found. We have plunged into debt feeling we could fill up and pay for any building we constructed. Each year during recent times more than 10,000 or about one-third of all Southern Baptist churches have built new or renovated old buildings at a total cost of more than \$300,000,000.

A temporary halt to breakneck building by Southern Baptist churches could be good as well as bad. It could afford an opportunity to reflect upon the wisdom of our ways. It will allow our churches to examine new factors that must be considered in future church construction. There are several of these.

One is the scarcity and high costs of energy. The utility bills of many churches are becoming problems and could affect mission giving and even staff salaries.

The days of abundant and cheap energy are gone forever. Building huge churches with high ceilings to be heated and cooled is not only questionable economically but is morally wrong. Multipurpose buildings with maximum insulation will be the trend from now on. Heating and cooling large sanctuaries which are mostly empty except for one hour per week never has really made sense.

Another factor to be considered in new church construction is the exorbitant cost to build anything. Money contributed to churches is holy and must not be wasted. To rush into a building project because the costs will be higher later on is poor rationale and feeds inflation. If a church is convinced it should build it must also be convinced it is getting the most for its money.

A final factor for churches in deciding whether to build is the interest rate. The rate is now declining but it's far too high. Interest on borrowed money is a part of American business but it is an awfully costly way to have something.

Southern Baptists have thousands upon thousands of beautiful and spacious buildings nearly all of which are built with borrowed money. The amount of interest to be paid in addition to the principal is staggering. The Home Mission Board reports 16,500 Southern Baptist churches now owe \$1,200,000,000. Taking a conservative interest rate of eight percent, this means these

churches which are less than one-half of all Southern Baptist churches will pay \$96,000,000 in interest this year. This is more than the total Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program goal for next year.

Looking carefully before leaping is not only good counsel for those contemplating marriage but also for churches considering building.

### Last call for convention messengers

The difficulties in the Southern Baptist Convention registration process in Houston last year which resulted in an investigation should not discourage any qualified messenger from registering in St. Louis next week. Messenger registration should be proper and orderly but not difficult.

By far the most important part of the convention is messenger participation. The focus in convention sessions may be upon reports, officers, speakers and controversial issues but none of these is as important as the messengers. Without the messengers the convention could not function. They link local churches to the convention and the convention must reflect the thinking in local churches or the whole process would come to a grinding halt.

It is, therefore, not only a right but also a responsibility of all local churches to select messengers to the convention. Every church which possibly can ought to send messengers to the convention.

To be elected a messenger is an honor and a responsibility. A messenger should be present in all business sessions and should express his or her convictions in voting and speaking if oppor-

tunity is afforded.

Apparently Kentucky churches need to follow guidelines more carefully in qualifying messengers for registration. Kentucky and North Carolina tied for third place in number of registration problems in Houston, according to registration secretary Lee Porter. None of these problems, so far as is known, reflects upon the integrity of churches or messengers and they should not discourage anyone who qualifies from registering in St. Louis.

The ideal is to have the official messenger card properly filled out. These cards have been available from state and associational offices but, if they have not already been secured, it's probably too late. But there are other ways to be properly qualified. The one necessity is that the church officially select a messenger or messengers. This could be done even on the Sunday before the convention meets.

In the absence of an official registration card, a letter from the pastor, moderator or clerk certifying the appointment can be presented to the credentials committee with no problem. In the absence of the messenger card, or a letter certifying the appointment, a duly appointed messenger can fill out a form declaring he was officially appointed and be enrolled as a messenger. The important thing is to register if qualified.

Secretary Lee Porter has arranged to have more help to facilitate registration. He also has made arrangements to have the registration desk open Sunday afternoon and early every morning Monday through Thursday in the hall where the convention meets. A good practice for messengers is to check out the meeting place soon after arriving and checking into the hotel. This is the ideal time to register as a messenger.

## Baptist Forum

### You ain't nothin' but a hound(ed) heretic

I read with disgust and horror your May 14 editorial titled "Rogers and Criswell defuse bomb." You say the so-called Patterson-Pressler movement is a threat to Southern Baptist unity and tranquility. Well, if we didn't have heretics like you in the convention in the first place we would have unity and tranquility.

The blame for discord and dissent rests solely on your shoulders and on those like you. Under the banner of unity, heretics like you seek to spread your heresy and yet stay in the convention. But the same Christ who commanded unity among all believers also commands belief in his word (Gal. 1:6-10, Mark 1:15) and his word is holy and inspired (2 Tim. 3:16).

God spoke the words recorded in the Bible and in him is no sin (2 Pet. 1:21, 1 Pet. 2:22). I thank God for those whom you called "zealots," who stand up for God and his word in the face of evildoers.

Michael Alexander, Benton

### Let there be no disputings

In reading Western Recorder there are a few things which I do not understand. This matter of biblical inerrancy seems to be something that never should cause dissension among born again Christians.

If the Bible is not the word of God, if Christ was not

born of a virgin, if he was not crucified, if he did not arise from the tomb, if he did not ascend to heaven and if he is not coming again, will some great theologian tell me what Christianity has to offer?

In the Baptist ranks there seems to be at least three different ideas of salvation. The seminarians take a lot of time explaining what the Greek and Hebrew words mean, never getting to the plain simple terms of salvation. Consequently, the people become bored to distraction.

Another group comes from other schools knowing all about every thing yet having a meager education and training. These people take the pulpit and immediately start waving their hands, tossing the Bible and yelling at the people in the congregation. These extend the invitation on and on and on and complain if someone does not come for a confession or a dedication. Somewhere someone did not inform them that the Holy Spirit must convict before anyone can be saved.

The third group claim to be independent and they leave the impression the plan of salvation belongs to them alone. They are very positive concerning the New Testament church and its being in existence since Christ. They are cliquish and to me unreasonable toward other churches. Some that I have met are not even friendly toward other ministers.

I regret I did not get seminary training, but I know God has used me in many small churches while at the same time I had a vocation in education as teacher and administrator.

In no manner do I wish to offend anyone, but how in this world can we reach the world for Christ by 2000 A.D. if we continue to dispute among ourselves?

Douglas F. Miller, Ravenna

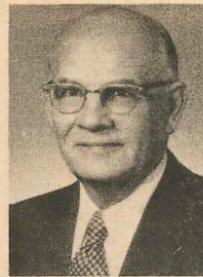
# Baptist News in Brief



Cooper



Miss Rothwell



Sullivan

## Kelm switches schools

George L. Kelm of New Orleans, La. has been named professor of biblical backgrounds and archaeology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, effective Aug. 1.

Kelm has been professor of biblical introduction and archaeology at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary since 1968.

Kelm will be responsible for expanding the archaeological museum, a part of the seminary's library center. He will also direct work at Timnah, an excavation site in Israel.

## Baptists behind bars?

Despite provisions of the Helsinki accords calling for religious liberty violations of religious rights are on the increase in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe according to testimony before the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, commonly known as the Helsinki Commission.

The commission, composed of 12 members of Congress and three executive branch representatives, is holding hearings to prepare a report on how well the 35 signers of the Helsinki Final Act have complied with its provisions.

"The increase of Baptist prisoners has been dramatic in the past six months," said a commission representative, who indicated that the approximately 60 Baptist prisoners now in the Soviet Union is double the number of a year ago.

## They'll soon hear the facts

Blind persons in South Carolina soon will be able to hear the Baptist Courier, the state Baptist convention's news-magazine.

The convention missions department plans to make the news magazine available free to the blind on 90-minute cassette tapes starting with the first issue in July.

One other Southern Baptist newspaper now offers this service to the blind. North Carolina's Biblical Recorder is taped and mailed to approximately 100 persons each week.

## Florida editor on mend

Edgar R. Cooper, editor-manager of the Florida Baptist Witness, is progressing satisfactorily after undergoing open heart surgery May 23 at University Hospital, Birmingham, Ala.

Doctors used veins from Cooper's left leg in performing four arterial bypasses on the 61-year-old editor who has headed the Witness since 1971.

## Annuity plan innovation

The Louisiana Baptist Convention's executive board has taken innovative steps to secure sufficient retirement benefits for church staff members in the state.

Beginning in January 1981 Louisiana will be the first Baptist state convention to contribute to the retirement program of all vocational church staff members. In addition the convention will supplement the income of currently retired ministers to provide them a minimum annual income.

The state convention will contribute \$200 per year to the retirement of all staff members in Louisiana Baptist churches who wish to participate, whether the staffer is already in the convention's annuity program. That \$200, if begun at age 25, will provide \$4400 annual benefits for a minister who retires at age 65.

The retirement policy changes, estimated to cost \$120,000 per year for three years, follow an extensive survey conducted by the state convention. The survey showed, among other things, the average retired Baptist minister in Louisiana receives \$80 a month benefits and the average Baptist retiree widow receives \$40 a month.

## 'Economy killing people'

A sobering consultation in Nashville reunited ethics and economics with the help of one of America's foremost ethicists and a retired bank president.

Dewey Presley, former president of First National Bank, Dallas, told 30 carefully selected participants "the way things are" in energy, inflation and the economic crisis. Philip Wogaman, dean and professor of social ethics at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D. C., related the facts to an appropriate Christian response, a relationship he said had long been divorced.

Pessimistic economist Clifton Grubbs made an electronic appearance, via a taped interview on Bill Moyers Journal, an issue-interview television show. Grubbs' contention that there is no way to stop inflation in the United States without a deep, severe depression was countered by Presley who said federal deficit spending and monetary practices were the culprits and, if corrected, could stop inflation.

But he predicted there would be no reduction in inflation and he forecast average increases in the Consumer Price Index of six to 10 percent through 1990. Presley, a member of Park Cities Baptist Church in Dallas, said with an average annual inflation rate of eight percent, a church budget would have to be \$2159 in 1990 for every \$1000 in 1980 to stay even.

Nashville businessman John Gifford, a trustee of the Baptist Sunday School Board and the Southern Baptist Foundation, put some pragmatic meat on the theoretical bones. Gifford, who has had to fire people because of the economic slowdown, said: "As we talk about the mission of the church the people who are financing it are having one terrible time making ends meet. You can talk about all the theory you want. I'm talking about survival."

"These are uniquely difficult times," he told the group, which was almost exclusively denominational employees. "If I'm the only here who represents the outside world, let me tell you, it's tough. We've got to understand what's going on out there. If we don't understand it, our churches and our people are in trouble, real trouble."

## BSSB picks WR staffer

Western Recorder staff writer Gail Lynn Rothwell, 25, has been named to the Baptist Sunday School Board's Office of Communications as a staff reporter. She begins work in Nashville June 23.

Miss Rothwell, who graduates with

the MRE degree from Southern Seminary June 6, joined Western Recorder's student journalism intern program in 1978.

A native of Tilden, Ill., she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rothwell of Tilden. She holds the BS degree from Southern Illinois University where her major was journalism with specialization in advertising and marketing.

"Gail Rothwell has made significant strides in the last two years," according to James H. Cox, Western Recorder associate editor. "She has prepared a solid foundation for a career in religious communications."

Previous graduates of Western Recorder's internship program have become editor of another state Baptist paper, editors of publications of two SBC agencies, director of public relations for a Baptist college, directors of public relations for two state Baptist child care agencies and some have extended their writing ministries through pastorates and free-lancing opportunities.

## Sullivan hospitalized

James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board and former Southern Baptist Convention president, entered Baptist Hospital in Nashville May 27 for observation.

He entered the hospital suffering chest pains. It was discovered he had an enlarged heart surrounded by fluid. Doctors drained the fluid and were able to reduce Sullivan's heartbeat from 160 per minute to 80. Doctors say Sullivan is to have no outside appointments or travel for two months. The fluid was caused by allergies.

## Oklahoma ex-exec passes

Thomas Bert Lackey, former executive secretary of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, died May 24 in Oklahoma City. Lackey, 74, had been in declining health since 1977 when he suffered a heart attack.

Lackey died at Baptist Medical Center, a facility he was instrumental in building. During his 20 years as admin-

istrative head of the state convention Lackey also led in building two retirement centers and a child care facility.

He was a native of Opal, Ark., and executive secretary in Oklahoma 1951-71. He had been assistant executive secretary the previous five years and was an Oklahoma pastor.

He is survived by his wife, Hollie; two sons, James Vernon of Nashville and Gayle Eugene of Cheyenne, Wyo.; a daughter, Mrs. Carol Oliver, Tulsa; nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

## Baptists don't slow down

Despite galloping increases in gasoline and public transportation costs Southern Baptists may be on the roads in record numbers this summer to participate in church-related events, an informal survey revealed.

Officials at Southern Baptists' national conference centers at Glorieta, N. M. and Ridgecrest, N. C. and state Baptist assemblies in Alabama, Oklahoma, Missouri and Virginia predict their total number of guests for the summer will increase over 1979.

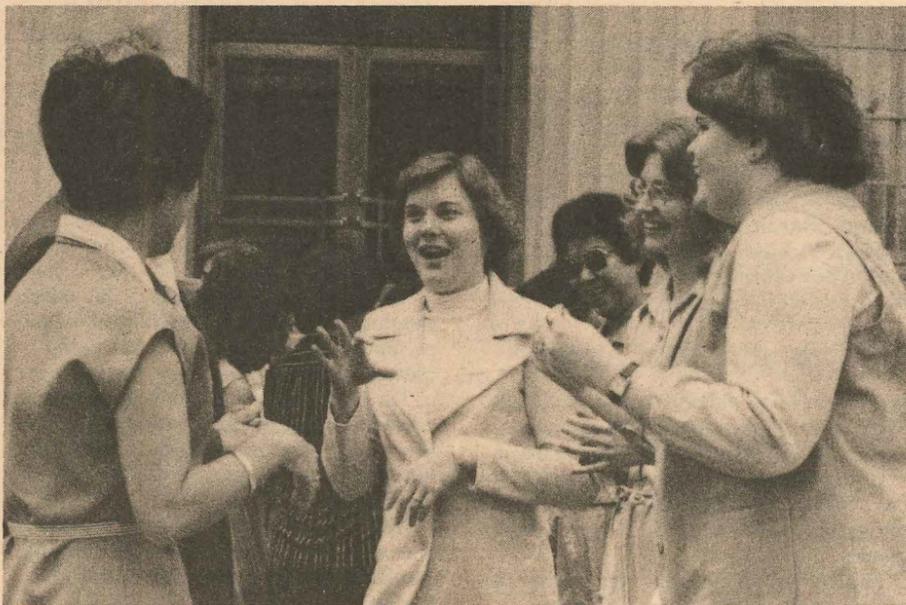
The number of church youth groups participating in mission tours registered through the Home Mission Board is expected to be at or near the total of 493 groups completing tours in 1979.

One concession to inflation may be increased travel of church groups by buses and vans.

Betty Smith, coordinator for the Baptist World Congress to convene in July in Toronto, reported the majority of registrants from the United States will be traveling with the more than 120 bus tour groups which have registered through the Baptist World Alliance.

Second, more church and denominational leaders attending the Southern Baptist Convention this year apparently will be traveling alone, perhaps flying rather than driving, and not bringing spouses or children.

Tim Hedquist, the SBC Executive Committee official who directs planning for the annual convention, said the average number of persons registered per room in St. Louis is 1.7, down from the two-per-room figure which has been constant for the last three years.



Mrs. Sue Enoch [r], Fourth Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville, consults with national WMU leadership about development of missions education literature for the deaf. At the first ethnic WMU conference held in Birmingham she conferred with [l to r] Doris Diaz, director of the Language WMU Department which is responsible for the work with the deaf; Mrs. Alice David, Talladega, Ala.; and Mrs. Rebecca Curry, Centerville, Ga.

# Christian Education

## Two give SBTS \$50,000

Southern Seminary will someday receive more than \$50,000 as the result of two Louisville sisters who have provided for each other and for the seminary in their wills.

Anna Irene Haueter and Evelyn Elizabeth Maydwell have named Southern Seminary Foundation as executor of their estates. Each sister has established in her will a trust which will pay a regular income to the surviving sister, with Southern Seminary as the primary beneficiary when the trust is no longer needed.

"This is a beautiful way for loved ones to care for each other while sharing in the ministry of Southern Seminary for all the years to come," noted Hankins F. Parker, director of estate planning at the seminary. He and the sisters' attorney assisted in developing the agreements establishing the trust which will be administered by Southern Seminary Foundation.

## Campbellsville taps three

Two honorary DD degrees and one honorary LLD degree were given at the 1980 graduation exercises at Campbellsville College May 18.

J. Chester Badgett, a native of Casey County, was awarded the DD degree.

Badgett was pastor of several churches in Kentucky and has been pastor of Campbellsville Baptist Church for 30 years.

Rubin Virgil Haygood, a native of Cornersville, Ark., also received the DD degree. Haygood held various positions in the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and in the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Ouachita Baptist University, Arkansas Baptist Assembly and Pulaski County Baptist Association. He is executive director-elect of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana.

John R. Dellenback, a native of Chicago, Ill., was awarded the LLD degree. He was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1966. He was director of the United States Peace Corps from 1975-77 and is president of the Christian College Consortium and the Christian College Coalition.

## Luther Rice degrees Cobb

Noble A. Cobb, a former pastor and native of Kentucky, was awarded the MDiv degree at Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla. May 9, 1980.

Cobb is now pastor of First Baptist Church, Basalt, Colo. He is married to Carolyn Morgan of Sturgis, Ky. The Cobbs have three daughters: Debra Ann, Eva Carol and Felicia Dawn.

## G'town adds 226 alums

Degrees were awarded to 226 students May 10 as Georgetown College observed its 151st spring commencement.

Commencement weekend began Friday, May 9 with a variety of reunions, receptions and recognitions of special guests.

Four honorary degrees were presented by the college. Homer Coggins, president of Baptist Hospitals Inc.; Jack Lowndes, executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist Convention of New York; and William H. McBeath, executive director of the American Public Health Association, were recipients. An honorary degree was presented posthumously

ly to Paul D. McCandless, former senior vice president of South Central Bell Telephone Company in Kentucky. McCandless died Feb. 15.

The May 9 baccalaureate sermon was delivered by James Highland, pastor of First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

## 119 leave Campbellsville

Campbellsville College conferred degrees upon 119 graduates May 18 at Campbellsville Baptist Church.

College president Randy Davenport conferred two distinguished alumnus awards. Recipients are Billy B. Smith, Campbellsville, a 1953 graduate, and Richard Ham, Hendersonville, Tenn., a 1955 graduate.

Lois Ann Renfro, Columbia, Ky., was the 1980 valedictorian and Terri Ann Stoklasa, Marshfield, Wisc., was salutatorian.

## Six feted by Georgetown

Two of the 31 graduates of Georgetown College who have served as presidents of colleges and universities were among six chosen to receive alumni achievement awards at Georgetown at an annual alumni association banquet.

Selected were James Boswell, president of Cumberland College, Williamsburg; Billy O. Wireman, president of Queen's College, Charlotte, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Albright, Southern Baptist missionaries; Allan M. Parrent, professor of church and society, Virginia Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Va.; and Louise Flynn Underhill, an author living in Cheyenne, Wyo.

## SBTS instructor to GG

Harold Craig Singleton has been elected to the faculty of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary as assistant professor of church music.

Singleton, instructor in the School of Church Music at Southern Seminary, Louisville, since 1976, is a native of Decatur, Ala.

A graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., where he earned a BA degree, and Southern Seminary, where he was awarded the MCM degree, Singleton is currently completing requirements for his DMA degree from Southern.

## Searcys outstanding at CC

Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, recently held commencement exercises at the Binghamtown Baptist Church, Middlesboro.

Wayne Ward, professor of Christian theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, was commencement speaker.

Timothy Lewis Searcy, Winchester, received the president's award given to the senior who has exemplified high leadership qualities during his student days at Clear Creek.

Mrs. Timothy Searcy, Winchester, was recipient of the dean's scholarship award, given to the woman with the highest grade average.

Each graduating student received a degree and/or diploma in theology, religious education or music.

Other native Kentuckian graduates are: Harold Harris, Somerset; Paul Readnour, Hustonville; Billy Rutherford, Pineville.

# For they shall be called the children of God

by Gail Rothwell, Staff Writer

They came from Japan, India, South Korea, Nigeria, America and other countries. United together they came seeking the Lord's blessing as world peacemakers. Seeking the promise of God to Israel, "I will give you peace in the land. You shall lie down and no one will do you harm." They came seeking freedom and rest in the midst of vulnerability.

The international group gathered May 30 at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, to pray for world peace. The peace service was sponsored by the Crescent Hill World Peacemakers group. Robert Parham, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Timothy George, professor of church history; and Glen Stassen, professor of ethics at the seminary were instrumental in planning the peace service.

The Crescent Hill group has been meeting since February. They meet bi-monthly to share, reflect, pray and seek proper direction in their peacemaking efforts.

The group has written letters to other churches and governmental leaders, attended peacemaking conferences and invited others to share in the educative process.

The 1980 peace service was held in remembrance of those who had died in wars. Its main purpose was a call to end all war. In addition to the Crescent Hill service a similar program was held the same day at Deer Park Baptist Church, Louisville.

The international service joined together nations that were once at war with each other. Yoichi Kobayashi, a Southern Seminary student and Japanese pastor, urged Christians not to remember the dates of Hiroshima and Pearl Harbor as a point to remember hate, but as a beginning to strive for peace.

Gabriel A. Ajadi, a seminary student

from Nigeria, West Africa, reflected the feelings of the group when he stated, "There is no peace in any other place except from God." His prayer was we might look to God for a peace that would flow into our communities and countries. He prayed the leaders of the world's countries would find a peace within themselves would help them lead our countries to peace.

Timothy George reminded the audience that force is no attribute of God. He explained, "We who bear the name of Christ have often been least Christ-like in our abuse of power, force, weapons, etc. . . ." He asked that God make us vessels through which peace can happen.

The congregation prayed for hostages, families of hostages, racial violence, world oppressors and a love for all mankind.

Together the congregation prayed, "From the curse of war and the sin of man that causes war; O Lord, deliver us . . . Give peace in our time, O Lord. Hurry the day when people shall live together in your love; For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever."

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## Personnel

**Stauffer leads Eminence program**  
Eminence Baptist Church held a WMU mission night program on Saudi Arabia May 14. Garth Stauffer, an American born and raised in Saudi Arabia, presented the program.

Stauffer showed slides and artifacts to those present. In addition, he told the audience it is against the law to erect church buildings in Saudi Arabia. He explained teaching the Christian religion to Moslems is a crime for which one can be prosecuted.

**Pigeon Fork adds Randy Fields**  
Randy Fields, 21, a senior at Georgetown College, has been called as director of music and youth at Pigeon Fork Baptist Church, Shelby County Association. Fields is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin D. Fields of Middletown. Charles Boggan is pastor at Pigeon Fork.

**Hillsboro calls Walter Sanderson**  
Hillsboro Baptist Church, Versailles, has called Walter Houston Sanderson as their pastor. He began Apr. 1.

Sanderson is married to Ann Cecile Moore. They have three children: Michael Houston, Anne Michele and Heather Lucille.

He is a graduate of Pineville High School, Pineville, Georgetown College and was a U. S. naval officer in Newport, R. I. He also studied at University of Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky University.

Sanderson was ordained Apr. 20 at Hillsboro Baptist Church. Those participating in the service were: Jenny Ralston, Dan McCoun, Raymond Sanderson, Forrest Tilghman, Doris McCoun, William Sanderson, Dan C. Moore, Bill Drury and Hillsboro adult choir. A reception followed the service.

**Casey to Russell Creek**  
James E. Casey Jr. will become director of missions for Russell Creek Baptist Association, Greensburg, July 1.

Casey has held pastorates in Kentucky and Indiana and is presently pastor at Swiss Colony Baptist Church, London.

He is married to Oleta Lancaster, a native of Maysville. They have four children. They will reside at 105 Arlington Circle, Greensburg.

**Dockery back to Mt. Gilead**  
Mount Gilead Baptist Church, Allensville, welcomes E. C. Dockery as pastor. He returns to Mount Gilead after having been director of missions, Gasper River Association.

**Eskridge leaves Adaburg**  
Leon Eskridge has resigned as pastor of Adaburg Baptist Church, Ohio County Association. His resignation was effective May 25.

**Jones resigns Mt. Zion**  
Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Ohio County Association, announces the resignation of Dennis V. Jones as pastor. He resigned Apr. 27.

**West to Rosemont staff**  
Steven Gayle West has been called as minister of youth and recreation by the Rosemont Baptist Church, Lexington. West is a native of Louisville and has graduated from Western Kentucky University and Southern Baptist Theologi-

cal Seminary.

He has served a recreation internship at Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, and was in the summer of 1979 assistant activities director at First Baptist Church, Clarksville, Tenn. His Rosemont ministry began June 1.

**Ruth McConnell appointed by FMB**  
Ruth McConnell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph McConnell, Hopkinsville, was named in May by the Foreign Mission Board to return to Yemen where she worked as a missionary journeyman.

Miss McConnell, a nurse at Highlands Baptist Hospital, Louisville, will be a special project nurse in Yemen. She is a member of St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

A Kentucky native, Miss McConnell was born in Louisville, but also lived in Murray, Munfordville and Glendale. She received the BS degree from Berea College and achieved registered nurse standing by examination.

Previously Miss McConnell was a summer missionary in Nebraska for the Home Mission Board, a teacher at a child care center in Berea and a nurse in Somerset.

**Davis receives DMin**  
J. Burt Davis, pastor of First Baptist Church, La Center, received the DMin degree from Vanderbilt University May 11.

Herman A. Norton, the Drucilla Moore Buffington professor of church history and dean of the Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt, was guest speaker for the morning worship service and conferred the degree at the conclusion of the service.

Davis also holds a BA degree from Birmingham Southern College and BD and MDiv degrees from Southern Seminary, Louisville.

A native of Alabama, Davis has served as pastor of churches in Alabama, Georgia and Kentucky. Since 1975 he has been pastor of First Baptist Church, La Center.

He is married to Margaret Ann Sapp of Middletown. They have one daughter, Lisa Ann, age 13.

**Atkins new at Victory Memorial**  
Victory Memorial Baptist Church, Louisville, welcomes George E. Atkins as new director of children's work and bus outreach.

Atkins and his wife Julie are currently students at Jefferson Community College. He will be attending Southern Seminary this fall.

Atkins is a native of Seale, Ala., and Mrs. Atkins is from Hanahan, S. C.

**FBC Mayfield calls Futral**  
Guy C. Futral Jr. will assume the pastorate of Mayfield First Baptist Church July 6. He will be coming to Mayfield from First Baptist Church, Covington, La.

Futral holds the MDiv degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and the DMin degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife Nancy have four daughters: Rebecca, 22, Cynthia, 21, Valerie, 20, and Elizabeth, 16.

**Harris to Rockbridge**  
Harold Harris has been called as pastor of Rockbridge Baptist Church, Willisburg.

A native of Somerset, he is married to the former Alma Harris. They have



Fields



Miss McConnell



Futral



Dean

two children: James, 17, and Timothy, 15.

Harris is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville.

**Hawn moves to Georgia**  
Michael Hawn, minister of music at Crescent Hill Baptist Church, Louisville, and instructor at Southern Seminary, begins his ministry at First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga., in July.

He has contributed to Kentucky Baptists particularly in the children's music area, such as directing the children's music camp choir at Cedarmore.

Peter Rhea Jones is pastor of the Decatur church.

**Lorie Yaste to be summer minister**  
Miss Lorie Yaste, a student at Berea College, will be summer youth minister at Eastern Heights Baptist Church, Columbus, Ga. She will begin working June 8.

Miss Yaste is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Yaste, Lexington.

**John Adams to Tennessee**  
John H. Adams, pastor, Kelly Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, has resigned his position effective May 25. He has accepted the pastorate of New Home Baptist Church near Martin, Tenn.

Kelly has been at Hopkinsville for three-and-a-half years.

## Deaths

**Blackford treasurer dies**  
Funeral services for R. I. Glover, 89, were held in Hawesville Baptist Church on Apr. 12.

Glover was deacon emeritus in the church.

He was serving his 53rd year as treasurer of Blackford Association when he died. Glover had been a school teacher, county school superintendent and vice president of the chamber of commerce.

**Binder succumbs**  
Delbert O. Binder, member of Swiss Colony Baptist Church, London, died May 12. He had been pastor of churches in Laurel, Rockcastle and Pulaski counties. He was 76.

## Congregations

**Dean to perform at Ridgecrest**  
A Kentuckian has been chosen out of 325 who auditioned to perform in young artists concerts this summer at music leadership conferences at Ridgecrest and Glorieta Baptist Conference Centers.

Johnie Dean, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and minister of music at Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville, will be one of the young artist performers at Ridgecrest. The concert will be June 16.

All winners were selected by personnel of the Sunday School Board's Church Music Department.

**Round Top gets new look**  
Round Top Baptist Church, Severns Valley Association, has done extensive remodeling to its building. A new entry and foyer has been built and the entire structure has been bricked.

**A chiming Magnolia**  
Magnolia Baptist Church, Severns Valley Association, has been donated a set of chimes.

**Thanks KBC**  
An expression of appreciation was directed to the staff members of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in the executive board meet May 6.

Herbert Jukes, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hazard, and former Baptist Building staff member, in giving the report of the church services committee of the executive board, moved that "the committee express sincere appreciation to the Kentucky Baptist Convention staff at Middletown and across the state for their untiring and fruitful labors for Kentucky Baptists."

Other members of the executive board joined the church services committee in this expression of appreciation.

**Thacker celebrates anniversary**  
Midlane Park Baptist Church, Louisville, celebrated the 12th anniversary of their pastor, T. A. Thacker, on Apr. 27. Instead of the regular evening service a dinner was given in honor of the Thackers.

During his ministry with Midlane Park over 500 people have been received into membership. A new sanctuary is nearing completion.

A new office suite was entered the last of May which included offices for the secretary, financial secretary and pastor. Also included was a work room, a church library and a multipurpose conference room equipped with a kitchenette. Later this year a Sunday school department for young adults will be completed. An efficiency apartment will be equipped and provided without charge for a seminary couple.

**Three receive DMin degrees**  
J. S. Bell, Hindman; Earl Clark, London; and Billy N. Sires, Lexington, were among eight seminary students who received DMin degrees from Lexington Theological Seminary May 23.

A graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., Bell was presented Union's distinguished service award by the alumni association while attending Lexington Seminary.

He has been a professor and director of missions at Clear Creek Baptist School. Upon graduation he became director of missions of Three Forks Baptist Association.

Clark will continue in his present position as professor at Clear Creek. He teaches Old Testament and Greek.

Sires is minister of education at Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington. He is a graduate of Murray State University, Murray, and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

**Hillvue Heights to dedicate addition**  
Hillvue Heights Baptist Church, Bowling Green, will occupy its new educational wing soon.

The church will hold an evening celebration service June 6 with Wyman Copass, guest speaker.

Dedication services will be June 8 at 2 p.m.

Gary Watkins is pastor at Hillvue Heights.

## Revivals

**Clemons leads Harlan revival**  
Wade Clemons, Morristown, led a revival Mar. 9-16 at Harlan Baptist Church. Harry Scott of Morristown was the music director.

Roy Carlton, pastor, reported 53 conversions and many other decisions.

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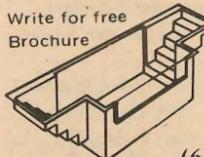
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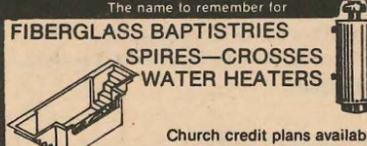


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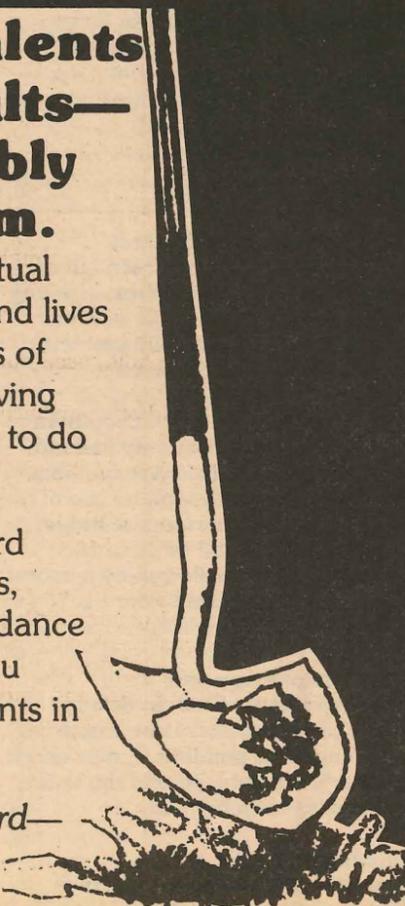
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## Ministering to the children of the 80's

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Ky. Baptist Board of Child Care



### "Love is a rose . . . ."

Recently it was my privilege to attend the annual scholarship banquets for Glen Dale and Spring Meadows Children's Homes. This event is sponsored by the ladies of our Women's Advisory Board with the monies raised by the bicentennial quilt made several years ago.

Part of the entertainment at the Glen Dale banquet caught my ear as I looked across the dining hall filled with children, young people and staff. The first line to one song spoke volumes to me. It said, "Love is a rose that grows on the vine. Pick it and you lose it." As the song went on I pondered the meaning of those particular words.

Love is the bottom line of what we are all about in our ministry. Sharing love through our own daily commitment is the focal point of our task. We are trying to create a situation where young people can somehow feel the warmth of this love and respond to its healing power. But like roses in the garden, each must grow in its own way, take its own particular time. Each rose unfolds its petals and sprouts new growth in its own peculiar way. How much easier it would be to pluck these from the bush and make them into images or patterns that we want or need, rather than giving the gift of God's love and letting each grow in its own way. In fact, the song is right. Love, when given as a tool of manipulation and conformity is like a cut rose—artificially beautiful for a brief while, and then the emptiness of death. Yet, love given in context of both the fragrance, beauty and thorns that make up the bushes of life is a beautiful thing to behold.

As I listened to the music, looked into the faces . . . . yes, I admit I wanted some things to happen for those youth. I wanted them to be successful and happy—as I define it. I wanted to pluck them—arrange them artificially into what I would call beautiful—so we all could be proud and feel good. But how far from the New Testament concept of witness that is! Our task is to show clearly God's love, Christ's forgiveness and redemption. It is God's task to enable the beauty of the blooms to shine through the thorns, each in its own time and way. The words of that song were right and really helped me that night. Love—God's love—is like a rose. It grows on the vine. To pick it or to manipulate it is to lose it.

## KBC Activities

### Here and now

#### JUNE

- 8-12 Southern Baptist Convention with auxiliary meetings.
- 9-13 RA Camp at Rabro. Grades 4-12.

### Looking ahead

#### JUNE

- 9-13 RA Camp at Rabro. Grades 4-12.
- 15 Father's Day
- 16-20 At Cedarmore: Youth Week (Filled); GA/Acteen Camp (Filled); RA Camp at Rabro. Grades 4-12.
- 23 Interfaith Witness Conference, Richmond, First Baptist Church.
- 24 Interfaith Witness Conference, Bowling Green, Eastwood Baptist Church.
- 26 Interfaith Witness Conference, Hardinsburg, Hardinsburg Baptist Church.
- 27 Interfaith Witness Conference, Henderson, Immanuel Baptist Tabernacle.
- 23-27 At Cedarmore: Youth Week (Filled); GA/Acteen Camp (Filled); RA Camp at Rabro. Grades 4-12.
- 29 Christian Citizenship Sunday.
- 30-7/4 GA/Acteen Camp at Jonathan Creek. Reservations made with Jonathan Creek.
- 30-7/4 At Cedarmore: Youth Week (Filled); GA/Acteen Camp (Filled); RA Camp at Rabro. Grades 4-12.

### 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 — 4 weeks beginning July 14.
- Mother/Daughter Overnight at Cedar Crest. July 18-19.
- RA Camp at Rabro — 6 separate weeks, beginning July 14.
- Father/Son in grades 1, 2, 3-overnight. July 11-12, 18-19. Reservations for all RA camps made with Brotherhood.
- Music Weeks: Children—July 14-18; July 28-Aug. 1. Youth/Adult—July 21-25.

GA/Acteen Camp. Jonathan Creek 2 weeks, beginning July 7. Reservations made made with Jonathan Creek.

## Sunday School Lessons

JUNE 15, 1980

H. C. Chiles



### LIFE AND WORK SERIES

### Death: end or new beginning?

**Job 14:10-17** God permitted Job to suffer tremendous losses—family, possessions, health, position and friends. With death staring him in the face, this God fearing and sorely tried patriarch asked, "If a man die, shall he live again?" Man simply cannot be satisfied to think that death ends all. After implanting in man the longing for immortality and life beyond the grave, God has given his people the blessed assurance that their resurrection from the dead is an absolute certainty.

**John 11:25-27** Four days after the death of Lazarus Christ arrived at the home of his bereaved sisters, Martha and Mary, in Bethany. Unfortunately Martha did not see in Christ the same sovereignty over death which he held over disease. She and Mary believed in the resurrection at the last day, but they did not know that Christ had the power to raise the dead. He proceeded to give one of his astounding revelations by saying, "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." These matchless words have brought untold comfort and assurance to countless sorrowing hearts. Christ, the sorrowing sisters and some friends proceeded to the tomb where Lazarus was buried. He lifted his voice in thanksgiving to God for answered prayer, called Lazarus to come forth from the tomb and restored him to life.

**1 Corinthians 15:53-57** No matter how healthy and well cared for our bodies may be, unless Christ returns and translates us before we die, one day they will decay and return to the dust of the ground. We wait in confidence and hope for the time when our Lord will raise our bodies of the saved and change the bodies of the living Christians and bring us all together. We rejoice in the glorious future which is awaiting us. Victory over death and the grave cannot be had apart from God's power. It is the gift of God through our Lord Jesus.

### INTERNATIONAL SERIES

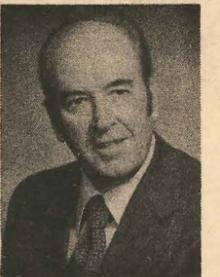
### Jeremiah's temple sermon

**Jeremiah 26:1-6** In the early part of the reign of Jehoikim God commanded Jeremiah to stand in the courts of the temple and proclaim the message which he gave to him without any modification. God wanted the sinful people to be given an opportunity to repent of their evil ways and improper religious practices. After they were brought face to face with the alternative of repentance or judgment, should Jeremiah's listeners refuse to heed God's message and continue in their willful course, utter desolation would follow.

As a true prophet of God, Jeremiah denounced sin in the lives of the people and warned them that punishment for their wrongdoing was inevitable.

**Jeremiah 26:11-15** Upon Jeremiah's completion of the delivery of the message, the priests and prophets clamored for his execution. Both political and religious leaders strongly resented Jeremiah's predictions concerning the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem. Nevertheless, the prophet merited commendation for his faithfulness in proclaiming God's message to those for whom it was intended. They wanted to try and to convict Jeremiah for treason, but God had encouraged him with the assurance of the divine presence and supernatural deliverance from his enemies. God never fails to support and strengthen his dedicated, obedient servants whom he calls and commissions to proclaim his message for whom it is intended. In their pathway of obedience they enjoy God's presence, protection, power and provision.

## Frank Owen



### Permissible deception

Father was pastor at Elvins, Mo. through my eighth to 11th birthdays. We had an annual Sunday school picnic at Pleasant Valley School, a mile and a half from town. The creek flowed in front of the large open area in front of the little white school house that backed up to the hill in the edge of the woods. That creek setting was also the familiar baptizing hole, used during those years by churches that held immersion view.

It was at an annual Sunday school picnic that the usual choose-up of sides occurred and the baseball game started after the basket dinner had had a little time to settle. When I was small father was still quite an athlete and a right fair country pitcher. He still had right smart speed and could put a pretty good kink on a curve ball.

Father was pitching when an elder brother of the congregation walked up and looked on for a little while before asking "what are they doing?"

Another bystander replied, "They are playing baseball."

"What is the object of the game?" he asked.

The man thus interrogated tried to say in a few words that the pastor throws the ball and the batter tries to hit the ball and run to the base over there before any of the players can retrieve the ball and throw it to the man standing on first base.

"Oh, I see," said the brother, "but tell me then, if the batter must hit the ball, why does the pastor throw it so hard? Why does he not toss it gently?"

"Oh!" said the explanatory spectator. "The further object of the game is for the pitcher to prevent the batter from hitting the ball. He even makes it curve so the batter will swing in the wrong place while the ball in flight goes elsewhere than the batter anticipates."

The elder gentleman straightened himself up in full indignation and surprise and said, "Do you mean to tell me that my pastor is trying to deceive the batter?"

# Performing a Christian service

by Byron Crawford

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In all of folklore I doubt that there is a more often used practice than the age-old art of water witching.

It goes by different names—dowsing and divining most prominently—but in all cases the object is to find an underground stream by using a forked twig or pieces of wire, sometimes called a divining rod.

In traveling around Kentucky I have, in years past, met up with a number of water witches. I have observed them at work and have questioned them at length about the process of witching a well.

In many communities, well diggers still retain the services of a local water witch to locate underground streams before drilling for water.

In Hopkinsville, one of the most popular water witches is John Christian, pastor of the Second Baptist Church.

"The interesting thing is you can't keep it from working," says Christian. "It'll break limbs . . . It'll tear off bark."

Christian learned water witching from an elderly gentleman named Mr. Todd at the Otter Pond Baptist Church, the first church where he served as pastor. That was nearly 40 years ago near Princeton in Caldwell County. The old man showed him how to find water with a peach tree switch.

Brother Christian, as he's called by the approximately 1400 who hear his sermons each Sunday, has served as pastor at three more churches since then, but he has never put down his divining rod.

"I've had a person now and then question me as to whether I should be doing this," he told me, but there has never been a serious dispute.

"My ministry has been one primarily to rural people. It's astounding the doors this thing has opened. During any dry season I'll average about two (water witching sessions) per week, but I've never let it conflict with my church work."

"I've always had one charge for my work," says the friendly preacher. "If I don't hit water, it doesn't cost any-

thing. If I do, I ask that they give me a drink if I ever come back by and I'm thirsty."

One man gave the church a contribution after Christian found water on his property; another gave him a ham (and preachers will never turn down ham). Aside from that, he has stuck faithfully to his practice of not taking pay for finding water.

His success rate, he figures, may be as high as 98 percent.

"The only time I ever kept count, we hit 13 out of 14 in front of a local well digger," he said.

With two twigs of willow or peach, each split on the big end and interlocked with each other, Brother Christian has found hundreds of underground streams.

Sprouts, he tells me, are best for witching, and he prefers willow over any other kind of tree.

"I don't understand this at all," says Christian. "I don't try. I just accept it . . . like electricity."

"The nearer the ground the water, 50 feet or less, I can get real close. The better the stream, the greater the pull."

Christian witches wells in a very systematic way. He first proceeds directly north across the area where a well is desired. He may cross three or four streams.

He will mark the spot where he crossed the strongest one. Then he will witch the area moving east to west, and he'll again mark the strongest stream, finally pinpointing the spot where the two strongest streams cross.

A divining rod, he says, is not foolproof. It will signal not only an underground stream, but a break in the rock, or a mud cave. It will not tell you whether the water contains sulfur.

But it will measure depth.

After the stream has been located, a water witch can hold one of the twigs a few inches above the ground and the twig will begin to bob up and down involuntarily, I am told. Count the number of times the twig goes up and down, and that's how many feet below



John Christian, pastor of the Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville, demonstrated the use of willow twigs to find underground streams. "I can't explain it, but it works," he said.

the surface the water is.

That's not all.

Once the twig has stopped its vertical movement, it will, on its own, begin to wiggle horizontally the same number of times it moved vertically, says Christian. And it will repeat that sequence until it is lifted from the spot. I have watched it done, not only by Christian, but by other water witches as well.

In these days, of course, seeing is not necessarily believing. For we have become a society of doubters, and with good reason.

But if you can't take the word of a Baptist preacher named John Christian, who lives and works in Christian County, and who carries a Bible in his hand and a divining rod in his back pocket . . . I ask you, who can you believe?