

WESTERN RECORDER

VOL. 155, NO. 7, FEBRUARY 18, 1981

KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL

1980 report

SBC gains significant: SS, CT, music, B'hood, baptisms up

Final statistics confirm across-the-board gains projected in December for Southern Baptists in 1980.

All nine projected key statistical areas had increases over the previous year as predicted by the Research Services Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board. This is the first time since 1961 all key program areas have increased.

Programs in which actual gains were higher than predicted are Sunday school, Church Training, church music, Brotherhood and mission expenditures.

Smaller increases were registered in baptisms and church membership. Increases in Woman's Missionary Union enrolment and total receipts were slightly smaller than predicted.

Baptisms in the Southern Baptist Convention recorded an actual gain of 61,004, or 16.5 percent, to a total of 429,742. This confirms the biggest percentage gain since 1945 and the largest numerical increase ever, representing the second highest baptism total in SBC history.

Membership in Southern Baptist churches gained

227,735, or 1.7 percent, making the total membership more than 13.6 million. Of that total, 3.8 million are listed as nonresident members. The projected membership total was under the actual total by 291.

The final report shows Sunday school enrolment up last year by 115,445, or 1.6 percent, which is more than 20,000 higher than the December projection. Ongoing enrolment for Sunday school, the largest SBC program, now stands at 7,433,405.

Brotherhood enrolment had the largest percentage gain of any program over last year, with an increase of 5.6 percent, or 26,351, the largest since 1971. Total enrolment for Brotherhood is now 495,666.

Enrolment for Church Training in the final report showed an increase of 43,593, or 2.5 percent, bringing the total to more than 1.79 million.

Church music enrolment gained 1500 more than the projection, making the total more than 1.5 million. The actual gain for 1980 is 61,623, or 4.2 percent.

Enrolment in Woman's Missionary Union for 1980 was up by more than 13,000, or 1.2 percent, to a total of 1.1 million.

Mission expenditures, a category that includes anything outside local church operation given to mission causes, were up 12.7 percent, or more than \$45 million, to a total of \$401,499,506. The December figures projected a 12.4 percent gain, equal to last year's rise in the Consumer Price Index. Approximately 50 percent of mission expenditures was channeled through the Cooperative Program.

Total receipts for convention churches went up by 11.8 percent in 1980, bring the total to \$2,483,645,551. The actual gain of more than \$261 million is slightly under the projected increase.

The number of churches in the Southern Baptist Convention increased 226, or 0.6 percent, bringing the number of churches in the convention to 35,831.

Estimated value of property and facilities owned by SBC churches went up by 12.1 percent to \$10.8 billion in 1980.

December projections from the Research Services Department were based on statistics received from 25,936 churches. For the final report, 35,420 annual letters were processed to collect information relating to the SBC for the 1980 church year.

Disobey law in Hopkins

Copies of the 10 commandments are being posted in public school classrooms in Hopkins County despite a ruling from the U. S. Supreme Court and an opinion from the Kentucky attorney general.

Last fall the high court struck down a Kentucky law that required the decalogue to be posted in all classrooms in the state if private money was given for that purpose. Kentucky Atty. Gen. Steve Beshear later said that meant the 10 commandments already posted should be removed from public school classrooms.

But Patrick O'Neil, superintendent of the Hopkins County school district, has now ordered the commandments be posted. He acted in response to a vote by the county school board.

Asst. Atty. Gen. Robert L. Chenoweth said the state would not try to force compliance with the Supreme Court ruling. But he said the school district was now open to civil lawsuits on the matter.

Communications confab features Allen Apr. 3-4

Jimmy Allen, president of the Radio-TV Commission, Ft. Worth, Tex., will be featured speaker at a banquet during the state communications conference Apr. 3-4 at Southern Seminary, Louisville.

The event is jointly sponsored by the commission, Kentucky Baptist Convention and state WMU.

Twelve workshops will be offered for church staff and volunteer leaders in the areas of writing, electronic media, printed materials, teaching, publicity, displays and photography. A faculty of professionals from all over the nation has been enlisted. Conferees will have opportunity to sign up for as many as six of the 12 workshops.

According to Jesse Stricker, director of the KBC Stewardship-Promotion Department, a \$10 advance registration fee covers workshop materials and the banquet. He suggests clipping the coupon at right and mailing it with checks now.

For program details, see Western Recorder's Jan. 14 issue.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER SURVIVAL WORKKIT

A systematic plan for effectively communicating with the church family while coping in inflationary times...

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49 state churches choose Recorder as news vehicle

Five recent additions to Western Recorder's growing list of churches using its back page to distribute their news to church families brings the total number using the service to 49.

The five recent additions include a combined total of 1878 new families. Churches elect whether to run their news every week, every other week, monthly, or only as the need arises. The charge for the service is \$7.00 each week it is printed. If a church page appears only twice monthly, for example, the charge is \$14.00 per month.

The five latest churches to sign up for the service include Lebanon Church, Gary Stringer, pastor, with 191 subscriptions; New Brandenburg Church, Brandenburg, Phillip Fisher, pastor, 47 subscriptions; Crescent Hill Church, Louisville, Roy Honeycutt, interim pastor, 1125 subscriptions; Beechwood Church, Louisville, Joseph R. Estes, pastor, 373 subscriptions; and Pleasant Grove Church, Anchorage, Bill Craig, pastor, 142 subscriptions.

A 16-page guide which tells everything a church needs to know about the back page service is available on request from Western Recorder. Ask for "Church Newsletter Survival Workkit."

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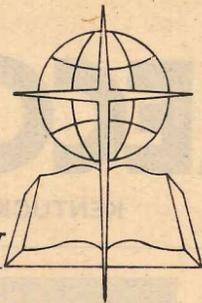
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which was once for all delivered
to the saints. —Jude 3*

WESTERN RECORDER
(ISSN 0043-4132)

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Published by Western Recorder Inc., Box 43401,
Middletown, KY 40243 weekly, except for one week
in July and December. Second class postage paid
at Louisville, KY. POSTMASTER: Send address
changes to Western Recorder, Box 43401, Middle-
town, KY 40243.

Subscriptions: Single, \$4.73; foreign, \$4.75; church
budget, \$3.50. Payable in advance, except church
accounts, which require tax exemption number.

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J. Sullivan, Louisville.

Daley Observations

CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW

Regarding an Establishment of religion

What a difference 200 years make! In the 1780's Virginia Baptists were in the forefront of the struggle to win complete separation of church and state and thus keep government out of religious affairs. In the 1980's some Baptists in Kentucky are supporting a state law authorizing a state agency to direct the posting of the 10 commandments in public school rooms. This support goes so far as to suggest that school officials defy the United States Supreme Court which has ruled placing the 10 commandments in public schools is unconstitutional.

Early Baptists in Virginia paid a high price for their insistence that the church never look to the state for any help in propagating religion and that the state be specifically prohibited from fostering any religion. It is ironic that some Baptists today are doing their best to undo what our forefathers struggled to do.

A Baptist preacher named John Leland was one of the leaders in this struggle. Leland counted Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry and James Madison among his personal friends and it was through Madison the soul liberty views of Leland and other Virginia Baptists were eventually included in the United States Constitution.

Most members of all faiths in Virginia in the 1780's favored the newly proposed United States Constitution. How could anyone object to a constitution framed by such freedom lovers as George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and James Madison?

But John Leland had some doubts about the newly proposed Constitution. He vigorously asked, "Where are the guarantees of complete religious liberty? Where is the protection of the individual to believe or not to believe, to worship or not to worship . . . ?"

Leland led Virginia Baptists in 1788 to adopt this statement: "We the Virginia Baptist General Committee unanimously hold that the new federal Constitution, proposed to the States for ratification, does not make sufficient provision for secure enjoyment of religious liberty; and therefore it should be amended to make such provision."

His fellow Baptists urged Leland to run against James Madison as delegate from Orange County to the Virginia state convention called to consider ratification of the new federal Constitution. Leland did not want to run against his friend, Madison, but Madison, a champion of religious freedom in his own rights, got the message.

On his way home from Philadelphia where he had helped frame the new constitution which did not have the religious liberty guarantees Leland and his fellow Baptists wanted, Madison stopped by Leland's farm and the two excused themselves from others and talked at length under the nearby great oak trees.

No record of their conversation was made but soon afterwards Madison climbed atop a hog-head of tobacco at Gum Spring in Orange, announced his candidacy for Congress and promised to introduce the freedom amendments suggested by Leland and his fellow Baptists.

And so it was that early in the first session of the Congress Madison arose and presented a set

of amendments which is now known as the "Bill of Rights."

The first sentence in this immortal document reads, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

The First Amendment so dear to early Baptists in America is the basis for the unpopular Supreme Court decisions prohibiting school-sponsored Bible reading and prayer in public schools and the posting of the 10 commandments in public school classrooms.

The Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in which nine national Baptist groups participate

Or prohibiting the Free Exercise thereof

The first amendment which guarantees religious liberty through separation of church and state has two sides—non-establishment and free exercise. In making certain of non-establishment, some court decisions and public officials apparently have gone too far and actually prohibit free exercise of religion.

There is no doubt some officials in public elementary and high schools as well as in tax supported colleges have overreacted to the Supreme Court Bible reading and prayer decisions. In an effort not to have to decide what is and is not in keeping with the court decisions and in some instances wanting to make the court decisions appear more stringent than they are, these officials actually prohibit free exercise of religion which the constitution guarantees.

Some court decisions also appear to go too far.

An article in the Jan. 2, 1981 issue of Christianity Today gives several examples of what appears to be denial of free exercise of religion. Among these are:

Religious students at Western Washington University are limited to two meetings of a religious nature per quarter and, unlike nonreligious student groups, must pay rent to use university facilities. Any funds raised by such groups, irrespective of their sources, are subject to strict administrative control.

The Department of Building and Safety for a major West Coast city has issued a "cease and desist order" forbidding two home Bible study groups to meet because houses in which they meet are not zoned for "church purposes." Both groups volunteered to eliminate singing and to disperse the cars that brought them to the residences. A department supervisor, however, states it will be the department's policy to issue cease and desist orders against any religious meeting in a private home not zoned as a church even if "just one nonresident" is present.

Christian students at the University of Missouri in Kansas City are prohibited by the administration from meeting together on campus in their free time or distributing literature of a religious nature to other students.

We do not know all the circumstances surrounding them but there seems no doubt that in the above instances free exercise of religion is being denied and they ought not go unchallenged. Court suits should be filed when free

have consistently endorsed the Supreme Court decisions but some Baptists reject their denominational leadership to join loud opponents of the Supreme Court decisions. These zealots ignore Baptist history and heritage claiming the court decisions constitute denial of free exercise of religion.

The moment a state legislature authorizes Bible reading, prayer or the posting of the 10 commandments in public schools it is involved in promoting religion and true Baptists have always opposed this.

So those Baptists today who insist on posting the 10 commandments on public school room walls are more kin to 17th century Congregationalists in New England and 18th century Anglicans in Virginia than early Baptists in America.

exercise is being denied with confidence that judges will be as fair in ruling for free exercise as ruling against the establishment. The charge heard from some that court judges including Supreme Court justices are promoting atheistic secularism in America is false and irresponsible. Many federal court judges are Christians but their decisions are based upon constitutional law and not sentimentalism.

But while fighting for free exercise of our religion, let us remember the rights of those who have chosen to be free from religion. We feel strongly they are wrong but our understanding that true worship must always be voluntary would never let us impose our religion upon them.

Public school pupils can carry a copy of the 10 commandments into the school room in every pocket if they choose and be admired for living by this religious document but the state cannot sponsor Christianity or any other religion by placing religious documents on public school classroom walls.

To try to circumvent such a prohibition by pointing out their secular value and calling the 10 commandments the moral code of the United States is ridiculous. If the 10 commandments weren't religious in nature and purpose, their sponsors wouldn't be pushing for their use.

Kentucky attorney general Steven Beshear is being criticized by some for his opinion that in light of the Supreme Court ruling the 10 commandment posters should be taken off the walls of public school classrooms. This criticism is the height of unfairness and absurdity.

What can a responsible law official advocate but compliance with the clear decision of the highest court in the land? To recommend otherwise would be irresponsibility. To advocate defiance of a United States Supreme Court decision is pious nonsense or an expression of conscience whose owner must be willing to go to jail for his defiance.

Defiance of the United States Supreme Court or any other civil authority is in order if one's conscience is violated. But those advocating defiance by not removing the copies of the 10 commandments from school rooms should pay the penalty for their own defiance before urging others to defy the highest law of the land.

Baptist News in Brief

FMB will pay no ransom

The Foreign Mission Board said Feb. 10 it would not pay ransom or yield to demands of anyone who would take one of its people hostage.

The statement was made in wake of the recent kidnapping of an American staff member related to Wycliffe Bible translation work in Colombia.

While reaffirming its full backing to missionaries serving in crisis areas, the board made it clear this backing could not include yielding to ransom or other demands.

The Southern Baptist board, the largest Protestant missionary-sending organization in the world, has 3057 missionaries in 94 countries. A number of these are nations in political upheaval.

The board reaffirmed its position of allowing missionaries serving in dangerous areas to make their own decisions on leaving.

Miss McIndoo to WMU

Ethel McIndoo of Nashville has been named nationwide consultant for Mission Friends and Girls in Action for Woman's Missionary Union.

Mission Friends is the Southern Baptist missions organization for preschoolers and Girls in Action is for girls in grades 1 through 6.

Miss McIndoo, a consultant in children's work at the Baptist Sunday School Board, will help develop programs, write and coordinate field services for leaders and members of the organizations.

Government vs. religion?

A common interest in stemming government intervention into religious affairs linked Southern Baptist leaders with representatives of most of the U. S. religious community as a three-day conference on government intrusion opened at Bethesda, Md., a Washington, D. C. suburb.

Several examples of government intrusion were cited, including efforts by the Equal Employment Opportunity

Commission (EEOC) to force Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., to furnish employment data on faculty and staff.

James E. Wood Jr., Simon Bunn professor of church-state studies and director of the J. M. Dawson Studies in Church and State at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., told participants the seminary refused to comply because it considered the jurisdiction "presumed" by the EEOC "unconstitutional" in that it violates First Amendment religious freedom guarantees.

In January 1980 U. S. District Judge Eldon Mahon ruled in favor of the seminary that EEOC did not have the right to seek employe records. However, Wood, former executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, indicated the case has been appealed by EEOC and will be heard next month in the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

Leaders of the SBC delegation include J. Howard Cobble, chairman of the SBC Executive Committee and pastor of First Baptist Church, Avondale Estates, Ga., and Reggie McDonough, associate executive secretary and director of program planning of the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville.

Sponsoring groups other than the SBC are the Lutheran Council in the USA, National Association of Evangelicals, Synagogue Council of America, United States Catholic Conference, and National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

Witness blitz at '82 SBC?

If a determined group has its way, messengers to the 1982 Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans will be able to do something more than talk about Bold Mission Thrust.

Plans are underway for a massive witnessing effort to the city of New Orleans on Wednesday afternoon of the convention.

Ron Herrod, chairman of evangelism for the Baptist Association of New Orleans, said a committee has been formed to spearhead the effort and some SBC leadership had already given support.

Herrod said he hoped to "saturate the city of New Orleans in a single afternoon with the gospel materials to help people understand Baptists and take something of a mini-survey."

"We want to go to every home primarily in the inner city and give a verbal witness or leave a written witness—plus tell the story of Baptist work in New Orleans," he said.

Herrod hopes to enlist 500 local laypersons for the project, with another 500 from across Louisiana and 1000 more from the convention.

Herrod said he would present a resolution at the 1981 convention in Los Angeles to gain official support. He said SBC president Bailey Smith has written him pledging enthusiastic support.

Maddox' job scratched

Among the many changes being made at the White House by President Ronald Reagan is the elimination of a presidential assistant for religious liaison.

Relations with the nation's religious communities will be reassigned to an office with a larger agenda. The assignment has yet to be made to a specific member of the President's staff.

Speculation about the post had previously centered on likely candidates for the religious liaison position, a post held during the final 20 months of the Carter administration by Southern Baptist minister Bob Maddox.

Although numerous past presidents assigned staff to deal with the religious communities, Carter is believed to have

been the only chief executive to elevate the task to the level enjoyed by Maddox.

One possible explanation for the decision to abolish the position may be Reagan's desire to avoid a direct confrontation with the leaders of the religious right, the fundamentalist coalition which claimed major credit for the new President's election.

Chastain out at BSSB

Wayne H. Chastain has resigned as director of the Management Services Division of the Baptist Sunday School Board effective Feb. 9, 1981.

James W. Clark, executive vice president of the board, indicated Chastain's outside business activities interfered.

Chastain began work for the board in 1958 as director of Camp Ridgecrest (N. C.) for Boys, where he stayed until 1964, when he moved to Nashville as a consultant in management services. He became assistant to the director of the Management Services Division in 1966 and was named director in 1968.

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Missions

McNeelys visit Kentucky on furlough
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald A. McNeely, missionaries to Spain, have arrived in the States for furlough. Their address is c/o Mr. John M. Hall, 602 Willow Brook Rd., Louisville 40243.

McNeely was born in Louisville and grew up in Okolona. His wife, also a native of Kentucky, was born in Pikeville and grew up in Stanford.

The couple was appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1957.

Daughertys are associates in Japan
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Daugherty, missionary associates to Japan, may be addressed at 23-2 Inarimae, Yatabe-cho, Tsukuba-gun, Ibaraki-ken 300-21, Japan.

Mrs. Daugherty, the former Myrtle Dabney, is from Monticello. Her husband is a native of Tennessee.

The missionary couple received their appointment in 1973.

Kentucky native is home on furlough
Mr. and Mrs. Dewey E. Mercer, missionaries to Japan, are in the States on furlough. Their current address is c/o Dr. Maurice Briggs, Box 1015, Hawthorne Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27103. Mercer is a native of Central City.

His wife, the former Ramona Hall, is from Tennessee. The couple became missionaries in 1955.

Gaffords begin service in Japan
Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Gafford have gone to Japan to begin their first term of service as missionary associates. Their new address is Apt. 1C Uehara Garden, 2-19-7 Hehara, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151, Japan.

Gafford was born in Tennessee and grew up in Owensboro. His wife, the former Chere Northcutt, is a native of Oklahoma.

The Gaffords were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1980.

Kentucky couple returns to field
Mr. and Mrs. Dale E. Beighle, natives of Kentucky, have completed their furlough and returned to mission work in Bophuthatswana.

Their mailing address is Box 124, Taung, 8584. The Beighles have been in mission service since 1975. He is from Pendleton County and his wife, the former Ann Puckett, is a native of Pike County.

Lois Calhoun completes furlough
Lois Calhoun, mission associate, has completed her furlough and returned to Jordan. Her address is Baptist Hos-



Mrs. William Ellis [r] was recognized for her six years of service as recording secretary of WMU, auxiliary to SBC. A former president of Kentucky WMU, Mrs. Ellis was elected to the national office in 1975 along with Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory [l] who was elected president.

pital, Ajloun, Jordan.

A native of Kentucky, she was born in Lexington and grew up in Hazard. Miss Calhoun has been employed by the Foreign Mission Board since 1970.

Smiths return to Indonesia
Mr. and Mrs. J. Wendell Smith, missionaries to Indonesia, have completed their furlough and returned to the field. Their address is Kotakpos 5, Tanjungkarang, Lampung, Indonesia.

Both natives of Hardin County, Mrs. Smith is the former Betty Woodring. The Smiths were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967.

Ordinations

Three ordained by Davis Memorial
Davis Memorial Baptist Church, Louisville, ordained three deacons Feb. 1. The new deacons are Steve Brown, Marge Myers and Billie Nightingale.

The ordination service was led by pastor Jim Bridges and deacon chairman Mike King.

Green Acres ordains Garrison
Thom Garrison was ordained to the gospel ministry Feb. 1 by Green Acres

Baptist Church, Louisville.

Dan Powell, pastor of Green Acres, delivered the charge.

Maddix receives deacon ordination
Green Acres Baptist Church, Louisville, ordained Hurlley W. Maddix Jr. to the office of deacon Jan. 25.

Pastor Dan Powell gave the charge.

Congregations

Five unite with Providence church
Baptist Men's Day was observed at First Baptist Church, Providence, Jan. 25, beginning with a men's breakfast.

Five people united with the church during the worship service. Four came on promise of letters and one came for baptism. First Church has gained nine new members in the past two months.

Thurman Eaton is pastor.

Cedar Creek observes anniversary
First Cedar Creek Baptist Church, Nelson Association, is observing its 200th anniversary throughout this year. The church was constituted July 4, 1781.

A different theme will be celebrated each month with February set aside to observe missions and March scheduled for stewardship.

The church is seeking addresses for former pastors S. L. Freeman and James Fink. They are also trying to locate missing church minutes from the years 1802-1848.

Davis Memorial licenses Simpson
Davis Memorial Baptist Church, Louisville, has licensed Larry Simpson to the ministry.

A native of Harlan, Simpson is a graduate of Cumberland College and is currently a student at Southern Seminary.

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28-01



McGibney



Traylor



Hisel

Jim Bridges is pastor of Davis Memorial.

Bethlehem breaks offering record
Bethlehem Baptist Church, Pulaski Association, set a church record for giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering this past year.

The congregation, pastored by Jimmy York, collected \$1300 for the annual offering.

CBH proposes 70-bed addition
Central Baptist Hospital, Lexington, has made application for a 70-bed addition. The \$2,890,634 project has been submitted to the Bureau of Health Services and the East Kentucky Health Systems Agency for consideration.

Reasons cited for the request include an annual admissions increase, medical staff increase and auxiliary support services which are already in place.

The 70-bed addition would bring the total number of beds at the hospital to 367.

Two baptized in joint service
Narrows Baptist Church and Concord Mission Baptist Church held a joint baptismal service Feb. 1.

Don Todd Taylor and Laura Woods were baptized during the service.

Satellite to be constituted
Immanuel Baptist Church has been chosen for the name of a satellite mission of Ninth and O Baptist Church, Louisville.

Plans are being made to constitute the new church and to begin work on permanent facilities for the new congregation.

Ten acres of land, located in Oldham County, were dedicated for the project Jan. 18. Laverne Butler, pastor of Ninth and O; David Morris, pastor of the satellite congregation; and director of missions A. W. Walker led in the service.

Highland honors James Sawyer
James B. Sawyer, associate pastor emeritus of Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, was honored Feb. 1 for his 10 years of service at Highland.

The program, planned by pastor Donald Burke, included Franklin Owen, executive secretary of the Kentucky

Baptist Convention; G. Allen West, executive secretary of Long Run Association; Forrest Heeren, dean of the school of church music at Southern Seminary; and Joe Dick Estes, pastor of Beechwood Baptist Church, Louisville.

A reception was held following the special service.

'Keenagers' buy bus for FBC, London
The "Keenagers" of First Baptist Church, London, have been saving money for several years to purchase a bus for their church.

Their goal has become reality as the church voted Feb. 4 to buy a 1968, 44-passenger bus.

Thelma Stone is honored for service
Thelma Stone was honored by First Baptist Church, Central City, Feb. 1 for 22 years of service as church secretary.

She was presented a plaque, a watch and a scrapbook by the congregation. A reception was also held in her honor following the evening service.

Melbourne Heights calls Brandon
John Franklin Brandon has been called as pastor of Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, Louisville. He began his ministry there Jan. 26.

Brandon, former pastor of Beechmont Baptist Church, is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and Southwestern Seminary.

He is married to the former Laura Kathryn Dickson of Nashville.

Lyon joins Buck Grove staff
Rod Lyon has joined the staff of Buck Grove Baptist Church, Ekron, as minister of youth and music.

James G. Merritt is pastor.

Wilson's are called by Lebanon
Stephen and Kerry Wilson have been called as youth and recreation directors of Lebanon Baptist Church, Central Association.

Gary W. Stringer is pastor.

Simpson assumes Pine Flat pastorate
Gary Simpson has been called to pastor Pine Flat Baptist Church, Upper Cumberland Association.

He was ordained Jan. 18 by Calvary Baptist Church.

Traylor becomes Worthington pastor
Jerry Traylor, pastor of Olive Hill Baptist Church, Greenup Association, has resigned to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Worthington.

Hisel is new Campton pastor
James M. Hisel became the new pastor of Campton Baptist Church, Red River Association, Feb. 1.

A graduate of Clear Creek Baptist School, Hisel has pastored churches in Bell, Robertson and Pike counties.

McGibney accepts Crawford Ave. call
Bill McGibney, former minister of music and youth at Mountain View Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala., has accepted the same position at Crawford Avenue Baptist Church, also in Huntsville.

McGibney is the son of William F. McGibney, associate pastor of First Baptist Church, Owenton.

Wallace begins ministry at Oak Ridge
Randy H. Wallace, a native of Gallatin County, has accepted the call as minister of music, youth and education of Oak Ridge Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association.

A graduate of Northern Kentucky

University, Randy is married to the former Gail Wiles.

Wallace has recorded one gospel album and plans to record another one in the near future.

Mayes resigns Blackjack pastorate
Jimmy Mayes, former pastor of Blackjack Baptist Church, Simpson Association, resigned Feb. 1.

William G. Crawford, director of missions, filled the pulpit Feb. 8.

Bridges resigns music position
Bill Bridges, minister of music at First Baptist Church, Middletown, has resigned his position. The resignation took effect Feb. 15.

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Sunday School Lessons



MARCH 1, 1981

H. C. Chiles

RELATIONSHIPS IN THE KINGDOM

International Series

The relationships of Christians with one another are determined by their intimacy of fellowship with God, Christ and the Holy Spirit. If Christians' relationships with the deity are healthy then their relationships with fellow Christians will also be correct.

Upon completion of his effective teaching ministry in Galilee Christ crossed the Jordan River into Judea. Great crowds followed him and closely observed his healing ministry.

Striving to trick Christ into making statements they might use against him the Pharisees asked, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?" Their query represented two Jewish views. One group followed the teaching of Hillel, which endorsed divorce upon almost any pretext. Others following Shammai's teaching, which contended that divorce was only permissible in adultery cases. The Pharisees were trying to get Christ to side with one group of the other. Knowing the important thing is what God says, Jesus appealed to the scriptures (Gen. 2:18-24).

The true foundation of a happy home is found in the God-ordained married relationship of one man and one woman. A true marriage is one in which God has a vital part. "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Marriage is subject to God's law rather than to man's law or whims.

Shocked by Christ's high ideal, the disciples concluded that his standard was too high. They suggested that, since Christ had declared fornication was the only cause for dissolving a marriage, it would be better not to marry at all. Christ reminded them God never intended for all to live in celibacy. He acknowledged there are three classes who can observe the celibate life: those who are born "eunuchs" and are incapable of a marriage relationship, those who have been made eunuchs by wicked men, and those who voluntarily forego marriage in order to serve the Lord.

When the disciples rebuked those who brought the children to Christ, our Lord censured them for their attitude. He let it be known he loved children and delighted to bless and encourage them in every way possible.

HEEDING GOD'S WORD NOW

Life and Work Series

Luke 16:19-31—Contrasted in life One was rich, the other was poor. One was elegantly dressed, the other was poorly clad. One ate sumptuously every day, the other fed on scraps. One was socially prominent, the other was a beggar.

The rich man was covetous and selfish, leaving God out of his thoughts and life. He acquired all the possessions possible and kept them rather than sharing them with the needy. Lazarus, the poor man, suffered greatly but was not bitter.

Contrasted in death These two men reached the end of life's journey and died. Just as there were differences in the circumstances, characters and lives of these men there was a difference in their deaths.

There is not any reference to the funeral of Lazarus. It is possible that his body was dumped into a ditch or on the garbage heap. Most likely the rich man had an impressive funeral with many in attendance.

Contrasted in eternity When Lazarus died he was carried immediately to paradise where he found himself with Abraham. The rich man saw and recognized Abraham, whom he had never seen. He saw Lazarus "afar off" in paradise, but he didn't go there. His prayer for mercy and help was too late. It was after death. Not wanting his brothers to come where he was the rich man requested Abraham to send Lazarus to urge them to be saved. Abraham's answer meant they had the Old Testament and could read it. If they would not believe it, they would not believe a man who had risen from the dead.

Man's only hope of salvation is in responding to God's grace during this life. Salvation takes place this side of the grave only.



Ministering to the children of the 80's

In God's own time

by Tom Moore,
Director of Development

Mr. and Mrs. Arch B. Davis have gone on to their reward. I never had the privilege of meeting the Davises, but I came to know them through their will. I can tell you their greatest concern was for others. The Kentucky Baptist Child Care Program was only one among many which benefited from the lives and the bequest of this dedicated couple. As the scripture says, "All things work together for good for those who love the Lord."

Never in recent times has the need been greater. Our board of directors, acting on faith, committed themselves and Kentucky Baptists to build new cottages in order to continue their ministry to dependent and neglected children. They did not know that decisions made by Mr. and Mrs. Davis years before would culminate in a gift of \$228,973 in the very year new cottages are being constructed and their gift could be used toward paying for that construction. God truly works in mysterious ways.

For years and years to come, people visiting the Glen Dale campus will see the Davis Cottage and few will know the story. But in God's book of remembrance the whole story will be recorded.

Should you feel impressed of God to join in caring for dependent and neglected children, either through a gift or placing the Child Care Program in your will and if you desire help in doing so, you may call Tom Moore, Director of Development. Your call will be free when you use our toll-free number—1-800-292-9440. All help is without cost to you.

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BAPTIST CONVENTION & HAWAII \$999 from Louisville, June 1-12, 1981. Free Brochure. Holiday International Inc., P. O. Box 34202, Louisville, KY 40232. Mr. Collins. 1-502-456-1095. 28-01

REFERENCES—Ministers and Churches—Help with your personnel placement needs. Write: PREFERENCE, 9669 Pecos St., Denver, Colorado 80221. 3-4-01

NEW SONGS - 10 - \$2.00 "Let God Be Magnified; Glory To God; Let's Go To Bethlehem;" write: Mrs. Dorcas Smith, Rt. 3 Box 636, Mayking, KY 41837. 28-01

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Clear Creek Comments

D.M. Aldridge, President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, Ky. 40977



A unique institution

The reason for Clear Creek School's growth lies in the unique purpose of our institution. Our students are adults who, because of age, family responsibility or academic background, could not be served in a college or seminary. We maintain a special interest in Baptist ministers who recognize the need for ministerial preparation centered in the study of the English Bible.

Our school offers two courses of study. One is a basic three-year course leading to a certificate with majors in theology, church music or religious education. The other is a four-year program open to students with a high school diploma or the equivalent. Qualifying students may earn a baccalaureate degree in theology, church music or religious education.

Rapidly changing social and economic conditions are affecting our churches and will do so even more in the future. The Home Mission Board indicates there are 9400 bivocational pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention and by 1985 half our ministers will be bivocational. Clear Creek School has a key role in helping these brethren by virtue of our unique purpose.

Currently 25,000 of the 35,000 churches in the SBC have less than 400 members. In fact, 61 percent of all SBC churches have less than 300 members. Seminary trained men serve primarily in churches with more than 400 members. This means that 25,000 plus churches are the ones where Clear Creek School has a special interest and for where our students are trained to serve. This need for Bible institute trained men will increase dramatically in the future. I trust the Kentucky Baptist Convention will continue to be in the forefront of interest, concern and financial contributions to help with this growing need in our convention.

My message to you each week in Western Recorder is one method we have chosen to tell how much we appreciate your interest in theological training for God-called Christians. We live in a very unsettling time and people the world over need the message of Christ.

You can have a part in our ministry, and if you are interested I'd like to talk with you. Write to me, D. M. Aldridge, Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, KY 40977. I'll be happy to send you more information.

KBC Activities

Here and now

FEBRUARY

- 20-21 Missions Conference. Louisville, Southern Seminary. For youth and young adults interested in missions. Contact Seminary for details
- 23-24 Area Evangelism Fellowships. 7 p.m. Conference for pastors, church leadership and laymen
23—Pineville, First Baptist Church
24—Hazard, First Baptist Church

Looking ahead

FEBRUARY

- 27 Area Evangelism Fellowship. Florence, Florence Baptist Church. 7 p.m. Conferences for pastors, church leadership and laymen

MARCH

- 1-8 Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Material sent from WMU State Office
- 6-7 State Library Retreat. Barren River Lake State Resort Park, Lucas, KY 42156. 6 p.m. Friday to noon Saturday. Make reservations with the park. For information contact Church Library, KBC
- 7 State Handbell Festival, Lexington, Immanuel Baptist Church. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Register with Music Dept., KBC
- 8-15 Youth Week in churches. Ideas and suggestions in Youth Week Pack '81. Additional help in the March Church Training Magazine.
- 13 Adult/Youth Music Festival, Lexington, Porter Memorial Baptist Church
- 14 Children's Music Festival, Lexington, Porter Memorial

The Child Care, Clear Creek and Oneida columns are paid space.

Oneida Journal

Barkley Moore, President
Oneida Baptist Institute, Oneida, Ky. 40972



He walked with God

The chimes of Oneida Baptist Church are playing as they have several times daily since 1948. The stirring hymns bounce off the mountains and echo in the four valleys surrounding our campus.

It is a beautiful time of day to walk up Allen Trail behind our chapel. On the hilltop several hundred former students, staff and benefactors of our school, are buried along with Melvin Davidson.

Davidson, former student and teacher, loved his Lord. He loved his family, and he loved Oneida. Because he loved, he gave. Because he had a nature of love and faith, and lived his Christianity every day, he had much to share.

Because he loved each of us and he shared with us, we loved him. Our chapel, where Oneida students and staff worship today, is named for him.

Melvin Davidson was a humble man of simple faith. He was a quiet man with a warm smile that gave comfort and confidence.

He always had time for anyone who wanted to talk to him and share a problem. Davidson was a great listener, a great problem-sharer. He never broke a confidence. You talked; he listened. Then he would make an observation filled with faith, optimism and wisdom.

He was acquainted with suffering. He lost a dear teenage daughter. His right arm had to be amputated nearly 20 years before his death because of cancer. But, talking with him was always a good experience.

Hundreds of people over the years wrote Davidson from every corner of the U. S. and foreign lands. Letters came from German prisoner-of-war camps in World War II and from the foxholes of Korea. They wrote sharing their joys and sorrows. All knew he was interested. He always answered.

Davidson was here. He lived on the campus for many years. I remember him in the classroom where he spent 40 years teaching. It was the spirit of his classes, a reflection of the man himself, which distinguished them from others.

I see his tall, ramrod straight form, Bible in his left hand, walking to his class or to church. He always went early to church for he loved to play the chimes. For 40 years he served as Sunday school superintendent, five years as pastor and 25 years as church clerk.

I remember him in our chapel services. I can still hear him praying. How he could talk with God! One never felt closer to the Lord than when Davidson had his attention. I remember his many Christmas devotionals, and his last chapel before his death 18 years ago.

Buildings don't make a school. People make schools. When one is blessed to have a great soul like Melvin Davidson, one has a great school.

Henry Adams said: "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." Certainly Melvin Davidson had such an influence for he walked with God.

Frank Owen



Oil and water

Many readers will recall the days when Bert Combs and A. B. "Happy" Chandler were strong political opponents. I have a warm appreciation for both men and know some noble things about them.

It was my high privilege at Calvary Church in Lexington to preach to Judge Combs with some frequency, both during his campaigns and when he was governor.

During those same years a very pleasant stranger moved to our town and became a member of the church for a year or so before moving on to another state. His name was Chandler. He wasn't there long enough to become more than an obscure member with no particular distinction.

After an absence of about a year or more, Mr. Chandler paid us a return visit. There he sat one Sunday morning right next to the center aisle, directly across from the then Governor Combs.

Somehow Mr. Chandler's name would not come to me. My mind struggled with the question; "Why can't I remember this former parishioner's name?"

I did not mention the presence of our Governor during my words of welcome to visitors and guests. Our ushers thought I had failed to see him and handed me a note next time we stood to sing. Even so, I still said nothing about our honored guest.

After the service Mr. Chandler walked out my door right in front of the Governor. Somehow, I called him by name with ease as we enjoyed a friendly handshake and greeting before he walked on.

Turning next to Bert Combs I said, "Governor, forgive me for not acknowledging your presence but right across the aisle from you sat a former parishioner on his first return visit, whose name I could not then call. I felt it would be out of place in the House of God where everyone is equal, to personally greet the Governor while failing to remember the name of a former little-known but loyal parishioner, seated right across the aisle from you."

Smiling wryly in his quiet way, Bert said, "Well, you can't be expected to say Chandler and Combs in the same breath. They don't go together."

Youth mission trips change and strengthen lives

Taking a group of youth on a mission trip will change their lives because they will learn how to depend on the Lord for support, said Home Mission Board staffer Esther Burroughs.

"On a mission trip the kids are tired, exhausted, drained and don't have the supports they have at home," said Mrs. Burroughs, assistant director of the HMB special mission ministries department. "For the first time in their lives they have to depend on the Lord and their faith really becomes theirs."

She noted that participation in a mission trip may also strengthen the self-worth of a youth because he is asked to do new things and learns that he can actually succeed.

A native of Canada, Mrs. Burroughs grew up in the northwest where her father was instrumental in starting Southern Baptist work.

"I've always known there were needs in other parts of the world but it wasn't until a friend challenged me to send a team to New York from Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., where I was campus minister, that I actually became involved," she said.

Mrs. Burroughs, who now helps youth groups find mission projects, worked with over 600 different groups last year.

Training is the biggest factor in determining the success of a trip, Mrs. Burroughs said. "The better prepared the group, the better the experience."

As a training resource she recommends the "Mission Trip Training Pak" developed by the Sunday School Board's Church Training Department and the HMB.

"Since preparation is the key to a successful trip, a pre-project visit by leaders is essential because the more you know about the situation the better," she said.

Also, the mission trip should be a church project, not just a youth project, because the more your church is involved the better the group's chances are of going again, explained Mrs. Burroughs.

"I think it is good for the church to help support the trip both with money and prayers. It tells the kids that the church is behind the project," she said.

"Some groups do have a bad experience and all I can ask is that they give missions another chance and let the Home Mission Board help. Most groups, though, do have good experiences and the church benefits because the kids come back stronger church members because they have experienced missions first hand," Mrs. Burroughs said.



Cothen says:

SBC survival depends on reaching lost people

The issue of survival for the Southern Baptist Convention is not who controls the denomination but whether churches are concerned about reaching lost people, Sunday School Board president Grady Cothen said.

Speaking to participants in a Sunday School growth seminar, Cothen said "I came to the Sunday School Board convention that if the Southern Baptist Convention survived it meant that its churches needed to be busy about the Great Commission as Christ gave it to the church.

"That's where it's at. It may not be good grammar, but it's good religion," he emphasized.

Urging the pastors, ministers of education and Sunday school directors to plan their program with a priority toward growth, Cothen said, "God set the agenda 2000 years ago when he told us, 'Be my witnesses.' He has not changed his mind about what he wants the churches to do."

Cothen noted the Sunday School Department's emphasis on increasing the denomination's Sunday school enrolment to 8.5 million by 1985 is one of the ways the board is "attempting to help the churches come to grips with the Great Commission for their time in their location."

He said Southern Baptists should be committed to growth, "not for numbers to brag about but because there are millions of lost people in this world."

From his experiences as a pastor in Oklahoma and Alabama Cothen said he believes the best way to reach lost people is to get them in Bible study, teach them, witness to them, and pray for them and let them know they are cared about and loved.

"It's not the only way to do evangelism, it's just the best way I know," he said.

Cothen said he is optimistic about the future for Southern Baptists.

"Every piece of Bold Mission Thrust centers in reaching people and letting God help us become who he wants us to become." Also, he noted, "There are a whole lot of people in the Southern Baptist Convention who are not going to let the Southern Baptist Convention die and who are going to witness to anyone who will stand still."

He said he believes recent denominational controversies may net some positive results. "It may help us think about who we are and come back to our historic positions. Scripture must become central in preaching, teaching, personal relationships, home life and all the rest of it."