

WESTERN RECORDER

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KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL



Photo by David F. Haywood

He is not here, but is risen

Los Angeles convention section inside

For the fourth consecutive year, Western Recorder is publishing for its readers a four-page pull-out-and-keep section on the upcoming Southern Baptist Convention meetings. This is included in the center of this week's issue, on pages 5-8.

This year, the convention will meet for its 124th annual session at Los Angeles Convention Center, Los Angeles, Cal.

The Los Angeles section includes agendas not only for the convention proper but for four prime related meetings as well—the Southern Baptist Pastor's Conference, Southern Baptist Religious

Education Association, Southern Baptist Church Music Conference and the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting. These four groups convene in Los Angeles just prior to the convention proper June 9-11.

Related stories also appear in the section.

Western Recorder will endeavor to keep its readers abreast of all the issues and business surrounding the convention as the event approaches. Our traditional follow-up issue, including all the major actions of the week, will be published June 16.

\$3 million suit against Brotherhood Commission filed by employe; sexual harrassment is charged

A 43-year-old woman secretary for the Brotherhood Commission filed a \$3 million lawsuit in federal court in Memphis, Tenn. against the agency and three of its executives, charging sexual harrassment and defamation of reputation.

Mrs. Barbara (Robert) Minor, a nine-year employe of the agency, named as defendants James H. Smith, executive director; Norman Godfrey, associate executive director; and David Haney, director of the Baptist Men's Division.

As an employe of the Baptist Men's Division Mrs. Minor contended Haney declined to promote her to division level secretary last summer after she refused to respond to what she described as a request for sexual favors in behalf of a friend.

The suit contends Haney, Godfrey and Smith made public statements questioning Mrs. Minor's mental stability and morality, causing her grave embarrassment and humiliation.

Speaking for the agency, Smith denied the charges, explaining that he, his staff and trustees had tried for six months to corroborate the sexual harrassment claim but found no basis for it.

Baptist papers doomed by Reagan postal rates?

A Reagan administration budget proposal which would double postage costs for non-profit mailers—including denominational publications and Baptist state newspapers—has cleared its first hurdle in the Senate but faces an uncertain future in the House where key committee members are opposed.

The Reagan administration has proposed governmental subsidies for the non-profit mailers be eliminated, forcing the organizations to pay full price to mail their publications.

A Baptist Press sampling of editors of Baptist state newspapers and denominational publications revealed the proposal would be costly to Baptist and all other non-profit publications.

"If the phased rates for non-profits are eliminated Oct. 1 the Baptist Standard's weekly mailing cost will jump from \$11,000 to \$25,000," said Presnell H. Wood, editor of the Texas newspaper with a circulation approaching 400,000.

Putting the proposal's possible impact in perspective Wood said the postage bill for the Texas weekly was \$59,000 in 1975. If the proposal takes effect, the paper's annual postage bill will jump to \$1.3 million.

Editor Lynn P. Clayton of the Louisiana Baptist Convention's Baptist Message said the administration proposal would more than double the postage bill for his paper.

Clayton said the paper's postage costs have risen from \$3500 to \$130,000 in the past 10 years and added: "If Reagan's proposals are accepted, in 11 years we will have gone from \$3500 to \$260,000.

James Lee Young, editor of Colorado's Rocky Mountain Baptist, said the proposal would send his postage expense from \$15,000 annually to \$30,000.

"A \$30,000 postage bill for such a small paper staggers my mind," Young said.

The sharp increase in postage costs would leave non-profit publications facing such choices as subscription rate hikes and cutbacks in the number of issues, the editors indicated.

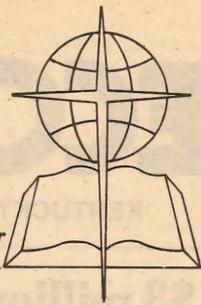
The Commission, published by the SBC Foreign Mission Board, had already moved from 12 issues to nine this year and raised subscription prices from \$3.50 to \$5 annually, leaving editor Leland F. Webb uncertain how his publication would deal with a large postage increase.

"At this point I'm already wondering how we can stay within our budget and still deliver the product we need to deliver," Webb said.

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

Moral instruction can be had in public schools

Much of the reaction has been an exercise in futility but one encouraging revelation has resulted from the current furor over the Supreme Court decision on posting of the 10 commandments in Kentucky public school class rooms. The resistance to the Supreme Court decision ruling against the posting of the decalogue clearly reveals a widespread concern on the part of parents for moral instruction in public schools. This refutes the charge that most parents no longer care about moral and spiritual values for their children. It also strongly indicates a sensible and legal way to continue or to restore moral atmosphere and instruction in public schools will have widespread support.

From their beginning public schools have been allies of homes and churches in moral training of children and there's no reason this cannot be so today. What stands in the way first is well meaning emotional reaction to court decisions removing structured worship and scripture displays from public schools. If the interest and energy now being devoted to condemning decisions of courts and decisions of school boards based on these court decisions were directed toward finding legal and effective means for providing moral instruction in schools, there is little doubt but that it could be accomplished.

Another hindrance to finding proper ways to insure moral instruction in public schools is persistent commitment to former ways of doing this which are now ruled out. The value of Bible reading, prayer and scripture display in public schools has been greatly exaggerated by critics of the court rulings against these practices. Religious exercises in public schools were at best superficial and sacrilegious. Of course in some instances, depending upon teachers and pupils, these were meaningful experiences but reading a Bible passage and repeating the model prayer over a public address system (as it was often done) made about as much impression as calling the roll or making an announcement.

To blame the removal of prayer and Bible reading in public schools for the rise of juvenile crime, promiscuity and the general spirit of permissiveness is to ignore other factors and to find a scapegoat. It makes about as much sense as saying since Brother So and So became a pastor in our community violent crime has increased, drug use has become widespread, teenage pregnancy has increased and the divorce rate has multiplied.

Still another hindrance to the renewed moral atmosphere in public schools is the failure to search for creative means to this end. There are ways to encourage moral atmosphere and in-

struction in public schools. In the first place prayer and Bible readings are permissible on an individual basis for teachers and pupils. Why not emphasize what can be done legally instead of rebelling against what cannot be done legally? Parents who are disposed to do so should encourage their children to exercise this freedom and school officials who try to thwart this should be taken to court.

The Bible can be used as a textbook in public schools. It can be taught as history or as literature. In the hands of the proper teachers such instruction would be far more beneficial than superficial, structured Bible reading and prayer.

Many public schools have made use of released time for moral and ethical instruction of pupils. In some instances pupils are released on a voluntary basis and go to their churches for such instruction. This has to be planned and conducted carefully due to church-state ramifications but it can be done.

These and other ways which have never been thought of are open to parents who are really concerned and who are willing to work diligently and quietly behind the scenes for constructive ways to assure moral training in public schools. School board members, administrators, teachers and parents should create a task force for planning such moral instruction.

This is a far different approach from that now being taken by some who in pressing for display of the 10 commandments ignore basic church-state separation principles. They get television and newspaper coverage for demonstrations which include caustic criticism and harsh words directed against school officials because they have complied with court decisions and state Department of Education recommendations. What else can responsible board members do?

The only persons more irresponsible than such demonstrators are ministers who pose as great opponents of violence and strong advocates of law and order and at the same time arouse and encourage those who boycott class rooms, disobey school attendance laws, defy a Supreme Court ruling, ignore an opinion of the Kentucky attorney general, disregard state Department of Education recommendations and threaten to vote out local school board members. Fortunately, not many ministers make such spectacles of themselves. Most ministers, whether they agree or disagree with the court decision on the 10 commandments, urge restraint, calmness and respect for public officials. This is responsible leadership.

Reasons for restraint in Los Angeles

With the 1981 sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention only two months away an uneasy feeling of calmness and hope for a harmonious meeting prevails. It is an uneasy feeling because the calmness and hope could be replaced overnight with tension and anxiety.

Convention president Bailey Smith is the human element most responsible for the present optimism about the Los Angeles convention. He has given every indication up to now that he wants to be a healing and binding influence. If his appointments on the Committee on Committees and the Resolutions Committee are at all representative of the rich varieties that make up the Southern Baptist Convention, he will have

done a great service to Southern Baptists and to God.

In addition to the human element personified in Bailey Smith there is a divine element at work for unity and harmony in Los Angeles. Probably more prayers have been offered for this convention than any convention in our history. Millions of Southern Baptists have become concerned that the current controversy will not divide us and hamper our missionary and evangelistic thrust in America and around the world. They are earnestly praying for this.

President Smith and vice president Jack Taylor have called us to this dependence upon prayer. It is heartening to know specific plans have been made for continuous prayer sessions in Los Angeles while the convention is in session. Surely, while some are missing the sessions in order to pray for peace and harmony, others will not use their privilege to speak on issues to be disruptive and divisive.

Another good reason is being advanced to exercise restraint in Los Angeles. This is the image which the convention will create in this area which, in some respects, is still pioneer territory for Southern Baptists.

One of the main reasons for meeting in California is to give our fellow Southern Baptists there a boost and to dispel some of the stereotyped notions others have of a group which insists on being called "Southern Baptists" but claim the whole nation for its field. If we are to repeat the performance in Houston and St. Louis in Los Angeles, it would be better not to meet there.

Keep hoping! Keep praying!

Baptist Forum

Come worship in California

I hope you will give this letter space for two reasons. First, Euclid Street Baptist Church, Anaheim, is located a half mile west of Disneyland and only 45 minutes south of the Los Angeles Convention Center. We are in a position to be helpful to all who travel our way and we want to help where and when we can. The church and I have served this community 19 years. We are proud of our church, our city, our California Angels, our Los Angeles Rams, our beaches, our weather and our mission field. Sunday, June 7 we will have a special convention program at 10:30 a.m. The Oklahoma Singing Churchmen will provide the music and James Landes, executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, will preach.

Secondly, I have a deep concern about the atmosphere of the convention. We Southern Baptists tend to enjoy a heated debate, and I understand an issue or two in the upcoming convention could kindle discord. These controversial issues will attract a lot of attention from the secular press. The devil is eager for Christian people to fight among themselves because he uses this as one of his most effective tools to dissuade the nonchristian community from believing. Let us keep in mind we are meeting in one of the world's great mission fields. The image that we project during the convention will influence our work for many years. Let's remember while the West may know about Southern Baptists it does not understand us. What we say, how we say it and how we present ourselves on and off the convention floor will have a lasting effect on this "Bold and Beautiful Mission Field."

Southern California and Euclid Street Baptist Church look forward to your visit.

Bryan L. Crow, Anaheim, Cal.

Baptist News in Brief

Criswell buys more Dallas

The administrative committee of the Baptist General Convention of Texas has authorized sale of the Baptist Building to the W. A. Criswell Foundation Inc. for \$1.7 million cash.

The terms include placing \$100,000 in escrow with the remainder due at the time of occupancy. Anticipated moving date of the state convention offices is late summer or early fall.

W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, said the building will house the 600 students from the elementary school of the church and give it room to expand.

With the acquisition of the Baptist Building, First Church and the Foundation own seven square blocks of prime downtown Dallas property valued at more than \$25 million.

Luther Rice head named

Gene M. Williams, an evangelist in Hurst, Tex., has been named president-elect of Luther Rice Seminary, Jacksonville, Fla.

Williams will become president of the 19-year-old institution in May 1982, succeeding Robert Witty, 74, who will become chancellor.

Williams, a native of Corsicana, Tex., was reared in Houston. He received the AB degree from Baylor University and the MDiv and ThD degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

After 13 years as pastor of churches in Texas, Louisiana and Alabama, he entered full time evangelism in 1957. Williams was professor of evangelism in homiletics and chairman of the Division of Theological Education at Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary in Lynchburg, Va., 1973-76.

Religious beliefs upheld

A member of the Jehovah's Witnesses sect who quit his job for religious reasons must be given unemployment compensation benefits, the Supreme Court has ruled.

The high court held 8-1 that Eddie C. Thomas, a practicing member of the controversial sect who left his job at an Indiana foundry rather than produce

turrets for military tanks, was denied his free exercise of religion when state authorities refused to provide him with unemployment benefits.

Thomas quit his job at the Blaw-Know Foundry and Machinery Company when he was transferred from a section producing sheet steel for a variety of industrial uses to another department making turrets for tanks. A turret is the uppermost, rotating section of a combat tank and contains guns.

Thomas checked to see if non-military work in another department was available. Discovering that the entire plant was producing materials directly related to armaments he asked for but was denied a layoff. He then quit and applied for unemployment benefits under provisions of Indiana law.

At an administrative hearing, however, the referee assigned to the case denied the request, although agreeing with Thomas that his leaving was in fact based on religious convictions. A state court of appeals reversed that holding, however, ruling that application of the law placed an undue burden on Thomas' religious beliefs.

On further appeal, the Indiana Supreme Court struck down that ruling in a 3-2 decision which held that Thomas had quit voluntarily for personal reasons and did not qualify for the benefits.

In reversing the Indiana Supreme Court, the nation's high court declared "religious beliefs need not be acceptable, logical, consistent, or comprehensible to others in order to merit First Amendment protection."

Virginians to ok abortions?

Virginia Baptist Hospital has announced a policy on abortions in the wake of controversy over hospital practices.

A news release by the hospital announcing the policy came after a Lynchburg newspaper quoted three nurses from the hospital saying convenience

abortions are routinely performed there. One nurse said five or six abortions are performed each week.

George Dawson, executive director of the hospital, declined to release information on the number of abortions performed.

The association (state convention) cut off Cooperative Program funds to the hospital Dec. 1, 1980 after messengers to the annual meeting ordered the action.

Dawson said he believes the new policy will meet the approval of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, and said it was adopted in January by the board of trustees.

The policy includes this statement: "Abortions are not performed at Virginia Baptist Hospital on the basis of patient convenience. Abortions are performed only when, in the opinion of the attending physician, they are medically indicated for physical or emotional reasons. When an attending physician determines that an abortion may be medically indicated, he consults with another physician who is acceptable to the patient, who is qualified to review the medical necessity and who agrees as to the medical necessity, before the abortion is performed. The consultation is documented in the hospital records."

Informed sources would not venture a guess on whether the policy will be acceptable to the BGAV. Messengers de-

clined to allow the general board (executive committee) of the association to decide on whether the hospital is in compliance and ruled the matter must be discussed at the 1981 annual meeting.

The association contributes about \$109,000 toward the hospital's annual budget of nearly \$20 million and names the board of trustees at the facility.

KBC building wins award

The Kentucky Baptist Building at Middletown is the winning subject of an awards program sponsored by the Kentuckiana Masonry Institute signifying its building design.

Twenty architectural firms entered projects in the competition. The jury committee consisted of three practicing architects from the Cincinnati area.

The Kentucky Baptist Building, designed by Ryan, Cooke & Zuern Associates Inc., received first place. The second place award went to the Kentucky State Police Post at London. Three other lesser awards were also given.



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Ninth and O center counsels the confused

Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . , who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God [2 Cor. 1:3, 4].

How did God's people get the idea that the answers to the problems of life could be found through psychology and psychiatry and social work? For too long the church has sent her people to the world for answers to the questions of life.

Several years ago LaVerne Butler, pastor of Ninth and O Baptist Church, Louisville, recognized this and determined this must change. He envisioned the church providing ministers with theological training and counseling skills to meet the needs of human hurt and heartache. The people of Ninth and O, following his guidance, established a counseling center as part of their ministry in 1973. It was the first church counseling center in Kentucky, perhaps the first in the Southern Baptist Convention. He recognized that the church had forsaken her duty to help people in emotional and mental need.

Butler saw at the root of most emotional and mental problems a spiritual problem. He knew that the answers to the problems of life could be found only in God's Word. The church had sent her people to the psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers of the world but Butler envisioned the church reclaiming her own and reaching out to the world with the good news of Christ.

Under his leadership the center has expanded. From modest beginnings of one staff member working out of a small office in the church building it has grown to a team of five staff members operating out of the former parsonage. The center staff includes a pastorologist, two counselors, a learning disabilities specialist and a secretary. Practicum, field work and CPE students from local colleges and seminaries also serve at the center, providing training for other ministers.

Counseling services at the center are directed toward helping individuals identify their problems; assess and evaluate spiritual, mental, emotional and social resources; and discover the ways these resources can be utilized in achieving health and wholeness. Areas of service include counseling for personal problems, premarital counseling, marital and family counseling, child guidance, remediation for specific evaluation and seminars and workshops for the church and community. The center's staff endeavors to be creative in their efforts to minister to the diverse needs of individuals. In all areas, Ninth and O Baptist Counseling Center approaches human heart and heartache from the biblical perspective with the purpose of helping individuals find the abundant life Jesus promised.

The center staff works under the directorship of Gloria Armstrong. She is certified by the State Board of Psychology in Psychodiagnostics and Behavior Modification and has worked as a therapist for 10 years. She will receive the MDiv degree from Southern Seminary in June. Counselors include William Arnold and Ron Beutel. Leslie Kentucky is a learning disabilities specialist. Jane Willis is secretary. Mike Brenneis is serving a counseling practicum.

The center is open from 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday; 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday. Appointments may be made by calling (502) 636-5576 or (502) 637-4460.

Blue Monday

Retirees, widows say it happens everyday

by Glenn W. Mollette,
State Correspondent

Gretna Miller is the widow of deceased pastor Truett Miller. A popular preacher in Kentucky Baptist life, Miller pastored churches throughout the state in Clay, Sturgis, Morganfield, Providence, Danville, Fulton and Middlesboro, where he served 13 years. Miller died of cancer at Georgetown Hospital Apr. 1, 1980. In his lifetime he practiced law, attended Harvard University and served as an Army chaplain, beside preaching. During the Korean conflict he served for four years in the Air Force.

However it is the intention of this article to deal with Mrs. Miller, the one left behind.

In a recent interview with Mrs. Miller she shared with me what this past year had been like since her husband's death.

Before his death they had worked with churches as pastor and wife. Since his death, much activity and being the focus of attention has practically come to a halt for Mrs. Miller.

"For a while after Truett's death, I felt like I had been placed on a shelf," said Mrs. Miller. "I've experienced a lot of loneliness but my family and friends have helped. I don't know what I have done without them."

These feelings experienced by Mrs. Miller are typical for those who experience the crisis of bereavement. But for Mrs. Miller things are different. She used to be "Mrs. Preacher," a title I've heard before. Now she is just a regular church member in Scott, County. That is what she wants.

It was hard for her to be just a face in the crowd while married to a pastor. Often people placed demands on her that they never dreamed of placing on themselves. "One lady made me feel like I couldn't do anything," she stated. "She said that a pastor's wife should not have close friends. At the time I took what she said to heart and it really hindered me from being close to people for years." But, Mrs. Miller added, "Pastors' wives need close friends as much as anyone does."

Mrs. Miller was like a lot of pastors' wives. She felt she had to be at church every time the door was opened. This does seem to be a pressure some churches wrongly place on pastors' wives.

The pastor's wife has her hands full in keeping the pastor going, making sure he remembers dates and gets places on time. Above all else, she has her own personal life to live. In reflecting on the past Mrs. Miller believes the pastor's wife certainly has her place in the church but should not be pressured into all activities.

During the course of our conversation Mrs. Miller shared with me her finan-

cial situation. She related that during a good number of years they lived in church parsonages and never had the opportunity to own their own home. Upon moving to Middlesboro they were given a housing allowance by the church which enabled them to purchase their own house. "We would never have owned anything if it hadn't been for owning our own home," she claimed.

Mrs. Miller is one of the fortunate ones. Many pastors and wives serve churches all their lives while living in parsonages. When retirement comes, they have no place to live but a senior citizen complex or some kind of government sponsored housing. It doesn't seem like much of a reward for the shepherd and his wife who have stood beside the dying, married the young people, wept with the hurting, led those in the community to Christ and watched over the work of the church.

I can almost hear someone saying, "But they will get their reward in heaven." I have no doubts about that, but shouldn't we provide for them in such a way as to show our Christian appreciation for their toil and labor?

Mrs. Miller shared with me that when her husband died she received from the Annuity Board a grand total of \$1000. That's not enough to buy a casket to bury the dead.

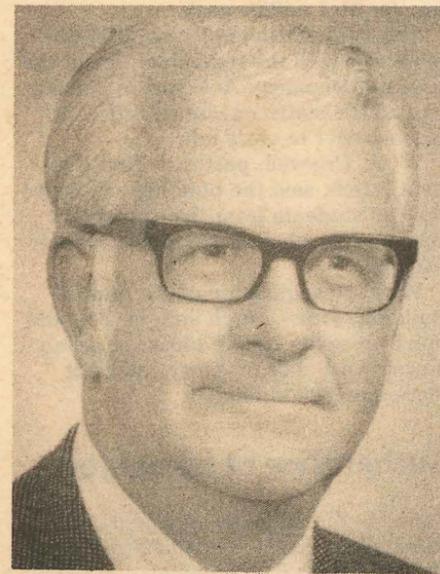
She did receive some life insurance money taken out by her husband many years ago. But, she receives an annuitant check once a month from the Annuity Board. It amounts to \$90.24 a month.

But what are churches thinking about when they pay such little amounts per month to the Annuity Board for their pastor's retirement? In return they expect him to give his heart and soul to their community.

For several reasons Mrs. Miller says she is able to sustain a normal life style. Her husband spent time in the Air Force and she now receives those retirement benefits. The church at Middlesboro helped them to get started in Social Security and that has been a help. Because they once received a housing allowance to buy their own home, she was able to sell the house after her husband's death. This has been a help. Counting the support she gets from the annuity it all evens out.

But, what about the pastors' widows who stood by their husbands for 40 years in the ministry and now have been turned out to a grassless pasture? It may be that their church did not provide any social security aid, and very little annuity. If they spent their entire lives in a parsonage the wife may well spend the rest of her life in a one room apartment somewhere.

It just doesn't seem like the way to end years of service to a congregation of Christians.



Ison

Will you be good to your pastor in retirement?

by Glenn W. Mollette,
State Correspondent

Every church can provide a good retirement for its pastor and his wife. The problem is that many do not.

Byrd Ison, director of the Kentucky Baptist Annuity Department in Middletown, shared with me that the Annuity Board encourages churches to pay 10 percent of the pastor's total compensation.

What does 10 percent provide? Let's say your church pays your pastor the sum of \$20,000 per year. If at approximately age 30 the pastor began this program and the church paid in 10 percent or \$2000 to the Annuity Board, the pastor would receive approximately \$50,000 beginning at age 65.

Unfortunately, the majority of pastors do not earn \$20,000 a year. However, if the church would pay 10 percent of the pastor's compensation no matter what it is, it would provide a lot of help after his days of labor.

Some churches pay the basic amount of \$33.34 per month. If the church starts a pastor out on this at age 28 and continues to age 65 he will retire with approximate sum of \$12,000 per year.

But what about the pastor's widow? Upon her husband's death she would draw half of what he received. If he was drawing \$12,000 a year based on the \$33.34 a month paid by his church, she would draw \$6000 per year.

The Annuity Board offers various programs for retirement, health and life insurance. Any church which wants its pastor to have adequate retirement can provide it through the Annuity Board.

Some churches have the false assumption if they give a little to the Annuity Board the "pastor will get a whole lot when he retires." Ison said, "The pastor will get out of the Annuity Board whatever the church puts into it in his name."

If you are interested in the welfare of your pastor and wife upon their retirement, and what you as a church can do to help them prepare for it, call Byrd Ison of our state convention. He can be reached at (502) 245-4101.

LOS ANGELES ZEPHYR

California, Here We Come!

by James H. Cox

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"Make the tent you live in larger; lengthen its ropes and strengthen the pegs!" (Isa. 54:2, TEV).

When Southern Baptists cross the Mojave Desert and the San Bernardino Mountains June 9-11 for their 124th annual meeting in Los Angeles, they may be surprised at how California Baptists have lengthened their cords and strengthened their stakes.

It was 1962 when Southern Baptists last met in the Golden State, the year when California was recognized as America's most populous state. That tremendous population shift, now including 10 percent of the nation, has brought about many dramatic changes.

Statistics—Diverse and Impressive

The 1980 figures were incomplete when this article was written but the 1970 census showed twenty million residents in the state. Ninety-one percent were urban. Two out of every five persons were church members. A third of those were Protestants, including Baptists of all types; Catholics claimed 54 percent of the churchgoers; 10 percent were Jewish in origin; and nearly 3 percent were of Mormon persuasion.

California obviously is a melting pot for foreign nationalities. Sixteen percent of those living in the state are of foreign origin, with Mexicans dominating. In fact, more Mexicans live in Los Angeles than in any other city in the world with the exception of Mexico City. The abundance of Mexican-Americans is followed by a significant percentage of Italians, Canadians, English, Germans, Russians, Swedes, Irish, and Scotch. The black population was 1.4 million in 1970, or roughly 7 percent of the total.

Baptist Beginnings

California is a Spanish name, but no one knows its meaning.

When California was accepted into the union in 1850, it became our 31st state. The gold rush of 1848 and 1849 had brought thousands streaming from the East in search of a new, easier way of life.

Southern Baptists had already organized into a Convention in 1845. Even then it was apparent to some that the fledgling denomination was destined to extend its boundaries beyond the regional confines of its birth. Therefore, it is not altogether surprising that Baptist missionary J. Lewis Shuck, on his way to fulfill an appointment to China, was sidetracked in San Francisco. He witnessed to the Chinese

living there in 1848-49.

As a result, First Baptist Church, San Francisco, was organized July 6, 1849, the first Baptist congregation constituted in the state.

Southern Baptists' Board of Domestic Missions, forerunner of the Home Mission Board, reported at the 1849 meeting of the Convention that several persons had applied for appointment to California as missionaries. A committee on new work recommended to the Convention in 1851 that the denomination immediately begin work in California and New Mexico.

The year after statehood, the three Baptist churches in California organized into the San Francisco Baptist Association (1851). Following a request from the association for assistance, the Domestic Mission Board recommended that missionaries be sent to the state in 1852.

It was Lewis Shuck who first accepted the appointment of the Domestic Mission Board to serve in California, after fifteen years' experience in China. It had taken five years of planning and praying for Southern Baptists to place a witness in what would eventually become the nation's most populous state.

Statewide Organization

It was nearly nine decades later, however, before the denomination manifested enough strength in California to formally organize into a state convention. And it happened in a rather unusual way.

The San Joaquin Valley Missionary Baptist Association was organized by four churches in 1939. By April 1940 the association enlarged its boundaries to encompass the whole state. R. W. Lackey, an Oklahoma pastor who had been called to the pastorate of First Southern Baptist Church, Bakersfield, was elected half-time missionary of the association. Upon approval of the Bakersfield church, he became the church's half-time minister.

At the second annual meeting of the association, September 12-13, 1940, it was obvious the messengers desired more than associational status. Meeting in Shafter, the group temporarily adjourned its session in the auditorium and retired to a Sunday School classroom. In a brief meeting, the Southern Baptist General Convention of California was formally constituted. Sam Wilcox of Shafter was elected president, and R. W. Lackey was named corresponding secretary-treasurer.

Elmer L. Gray, in a California Baptist history, *Heirs of Promise*, published in 1978, observes: "The organization of a convention resulted from the desire of

the people in the California churches and not from plans of leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention.

This was true, for the new state convention experienced difficulty in being recognized by the Southern Baptist Convention. The Californians petitioned for official recognition at the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1941. A committee was appointed to investigate the matter and report to the Convention in San Antonio, Texas. The committee stalled, however, and asked for an additional year. But the Californians were in no mood to wait. After extensive debate a motion to recognize the state was overwhelmingly approved.

Writing in 1969, Arthur B. Rutledge, then executive secretary-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, recalled: "California's request for recognition as a cooperating Southern Baptist state body evoked extended and heated discussion. When the petition was presented in 1941, the Convention appointed a committee to study the question Approval was given though the report was opposed by strong Southern Baptist voices and a prominent Northern Baptist pastor from California. This action determined the Convention's posture in relation to similar petitions in the future. Some Baptists in northern states charged Southern Baptists with 'invitation,' and some Southern Baptists felt their denomination was embarking on a course of 'religious imperialism'."

"Invasion," "Religious imperialism," or not, Southern Baptists—with the acquisition of California as a fully recognized state convention—had extended their territory from coast to coast, and could never be clearly defined as a regional denomination from that day forward.

Each time the Southern Baptist Convention has met in the state (1951, 1962) organized Baptist work in California has received a lift. Revivals before and after these Conventions have helped greatly. These are planned again in many localities this year, and many will use out-of-state personalities as speakers and musicians. Hundreds, even thousands, of messengers may do personal witnessing while in the state, and the state convention hopes to reap the harvest from the seeds conventioners will sow.

It's a shot in the arm California Baptists will capitalize on in a big way at as Southern Baptists give (and live) their testimony while tourists in the Golden State. Put another way, the home folks expect to greatly lengthen their cords and strengthen their stakes when Southern Baptists enhance their visibility this June.

Lone Corbinite represents Bluegrass State on SBC and preliminary agendas

The only Kentuckian scheduled by name to appear on the Southern Baptist Convention program or any of the principal pre-convention auxiliary meetings in Los Angeles is John T. Dunaway of Corbin.

The number of Kentuckians invited to appear on these programs has dwindled in recent years. Only two or three from the Bluegrass State have been scheduled to come before the convention in the last

few years. Dunaway, who will pronounce the benediction at the close of one of the SBC sessions, holds the distinction of being the lone Kentuckian invited this year.

No Kentuckian's name appears on the programs of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association, the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference or the Woman's Missionary Union Annual Meeting.

By contrast, there are 61 different individuals from California listed by name to appear on the three pre-convention and convention programs, several of them appearing more than once.

Texas ranks second in number of individuals named to appear on the four agendas, with 30. Other states with multiple representatives include

Tennessee, 20; Oklahoma, 10; Louisiana, 9; Florida and North Carolina, 8 each; Alabama, 6; Virginia, 5; Arkansas, 4; Arizona, 3; and the District of Columbia, Georgia, Illinois, New York and Missouri, 2 each.

In addition to Kentucky, states with only one representative scheduled to appear on the platform before one of the four meetings include Alaska, Wyoming, Mississippi, Oregon, Maryland, Nebraska, Indiana, Kansas, South Dakota, South Carolina, Colorado, Washington, Utah and Nevada.

Twenty-three musical groups are listed to perform at some point during the week. Eighteen of these are from California, two are from Tennessee, two from Oklahoma and one from Arizona.

the musicians

First Baptist Church

Sunday afternoon, June 7

- 1:00 Past Presidents' Luncheon, Sheraton-Town House Hotel
- 2:30 Handbells workshop by L. Campbell Bunting, director of handbells, Schulmerich Inc.; free to all conferees; pre-registration necessary
- 3:00 Registration desk and music exhibits open, First Baptist Church

Sunday evening, June 7

- Thad Roberts Jr., president, minister of music, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., presiding
Harry Cowan, minister of music, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, La., coordinator
- 6:45 Organ Prelude—Al Washburn, conference organist, music faculty, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Cal.
 - 7:00 Call To Order—Thad Roberts Jr.
Introduction of James Craven, minister of music and administrator, First Baptist Church, Los Angeles, Cal.
 - 7:05 Welcome and Invocation—John McGuckin, director, Church Music Department, Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Fresno
 - 7:10 Worship—Leaders: Max Lyall, music faculty, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary; C. David Matthews, pastor, First Baptist Church, Greenville, S. C.
 - 7:40 Romanian Baptist Church Choir and Orchestra of Greater Los Angeles, Petro Popovici, pastor; Dumitru Ghitea, director
 - 8:00 Premiere of "Processional Fantasia," commissioned for the 25th annual conference of SBCMC, 1981, by Lanny Allen of San Antonio, Tex. and performed by the Women's Handbell Choir of Sharpstown Baptist Church, Houston, Tex., Merrill Luman, director

- 8:10 Offering
- 8:15 Soloist—Henrietta Davis, soprano, San Francisco, Cal.
- 8:35 California Singing Churchmen, John McGuckin, director
- 9:10 Benediction—Wes Forbis, secretary, Church Music Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville
- 9:15 Reception in the Fellowship Hall

Monday morning, June 8

- Ron Bostic, chairman, Music and Fine Arts Department, Wingate (N. C.) College, presiding
Posey Starkey, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga., coordinator
- 8:45 Organ Prelude—Al Washburn
 - 8:50 Worship—Max Lyall and C. David Matthews
 - 9:15 New Music Reading Session—Led by Fred Bock, Fred Bock Music Inc., Tarzana, Cal.
 - 10:00 Exhibit Break
 - 10:30 Annual Business Session
Presentation of Honorary Life Membership Awards
 - 10:50 Address—The Danger of Obsolescence, Mark Short, Church Program Services Division, Louisiana Baptist Convention, Alexandria
 - 11:10 The Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma—conducted by James D. Woodward, dean of fine arts, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee
 - 11:30 Divisional Meetings
Local Church Division—Gerald W. Brown, minister of music, Richardson (Tex.) Heights Baptist Church, presiding
Denominational Division—Carl Sheppard, secretary of church music, Illinois Baptist Association, Springfield, Ill., presiding
Educational Division—Louis Ball, music faculty, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., presiding
 - 12:15 Lunch Break

Monday afternoon, June 8

- Carl Sheppard, Springfield, Ill., presiding
C. David Keith, music faculty, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., coordinator

- 1:30 Music Prelude—Brass Ensemble, California Baptist College, Riverside, Cal., Larry Johansen, director
- 1:45 Choral Concert—Seminary Choir, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Craig Singleton, director; premiere of a commissioned anthem composed by Max Lyall for the SBCMC, 1981
- 2:10 Business Session
Presentation of W. Hines Sims Award
- 2:30 President's Address—Thad Roberts Jr.
- 2:45 Exhibit Break
- 3:15 Jester Hairston sings Jester Hairston, choral concert with Euclid Street Baptist Church Adult Choir, Anaheim, Cal., with Hairston, a leading authority of the Negro Spiritual, conducting
- 4:00 Four Special Interest Sessions
 - Updating the Sound System in the Local Church; Howard Parker, Sound Investments
 - How to Begin and Maintain a Music Ministry; D. Neil Darnell, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex.
 - Developing the Instrumental Program in the Local Church; Larry Johansen
 - Repertoire for the Sunday Soloist; Craig Singleton
- 5:00 Dinner Break—First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, Cal.

Monday evening, June 8

[First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, Cal.]

- Thad Roberts Jr., presiding
Gerald W. Brown, Richardson, Tex., coordinator
- 7:15 Organ Prelude—Al Washburn
 - 7:20 Congregational Singing with "Hymns Triumphant" from "A Symphonic Choral Suite based on Traditional Hymns," arr. Lee Holdridge, with Adult Choir, First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, O. D. Hall, director and minister of music
 - 7:35 Worship—C. David Matthews
 - 7:50 Offering
 - 7:55 Reflections on the creation of "Celebrate Life," Buryl Red of New York City, composer; Ragan Courtney, Houston, Tex., author of book and lyrics

the educators

Renaissance Room, Biltmore Hotel

Sunday evening, June 7

Session Theme: "Equipping YOURSELF For the Exciting Eighties"; J. Roger Skelton, Mill Valley, Cal., president, presiding

- 7:00 Worship—Michel and David Russell, San Diego, Cal.; Becky Noia, Fresno, Cal.; Lavonn D. Brown, Norman, Okla.
- 7:15 Welcome—E. Glen Paden, Fresno, Cal.
- 7:25 Theme Interpretation—Grady C. Cothen, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville
- 8:00 Music and Preview of Business Session
- 8:10 "Understanding Yourself"—F. Daniel Boling Jr., Mill Valley, Cal.
- 8:30 "Understanding Your Call"—Ernest E. Mosley, executive secretary-treasurer, Illinois Baptist State Association, Springfield
- 8:50 Question and Answer Time
- 9:15 Benediction—Bill May, Phoenix, Ariz.
- 9:20 Fellowship

Theme: "Equipping For the Exciting Eighties: Yourself, Your Family and Your Church"

Monday morning, June 8

Session Theme: "Equipping Your FAMILY For the Exciting Eighties"; Neta Stewart, Ft. Worth, Tex., vice president, presiding

- 9:00 Worship—Michel and David Russell; Becky Noia; Lavonn D. Brown
- 9:15 "Understanding the Families of the Eighties"—Joseph W. Hinkle, secretary, Family Ministry Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville
- 9:40 "Equipping the Minister's Family"—E. Glen Paden, Fresno, Cal.
- 10:05 "Christian Parenting in the Eighties"—Douglas L. Anderson, Nashville
- 10:30 Music
- 10:40 Recognition of New Members—F. Marvin Myers, Nashville, and Jerry D. Brumbelow, San Diego, Cal.
- 10:50 New Religious Education Resources—Crawford Howell, Nashville
- 11:00 Business Session—J. Roger Skelton, Mill Valley
Committee Reports—Election of New Officers—Recognition
- 12:10 Presentations by Woman's Missionary Union
- 12:15 Benediction—Philip T. Card, Denver, Colo.

Monday noon, June 8

Charles F. Polston, Nashville, vice president, presiding

- 12:30 Luncheon
- 1:10 Distinguished Leader Award Presentation—Gerald D. Dunlap, New Orleans, La.
- 1:20 The Inimitable Humor and Music of . . . —Max D. Lyall, Mill Valley, Cal.
- 1:40 Dramatic Presentation by the Covenant Players—Arthur Alberts, Douglas Beckman, Patricia Morris and Sharilyn Steketee, Reseda, Cal.
- 2:00 Closing Prayer—Jo Bevington, La Mirada, Cal.

Monday evening, June 8

Theme: "Equipping Your CHURCH For the Exciting Eighties"—Charles F. Gwaltney, Baton Rouge, La., president elect, presiding

- 7:00 Worship—Michel and David Russell; Becky Noia; Lavonn D. Brown
- 7:15 "Equipping Church Staff Teams"—Reginald M. McDonough, Nashville
- 7:40 "Religious Education Trends in the Eighties"—Edward B. Lindaman, Spokane, Wash.
- 8:15 Music
- 8:20 "Equipping Your Church to Reach People"—William E. Hull, Shreveport, La.
- 9:00 Benediction—Paul Everett, Riverside, Cal.

the women

Los Angeles Convention Center, Petree Room

Theme: "Watch"

Music Director: Jon Enloe, Salt Lake City, Utah
Pianist: Ron Cockrill, Franklin, Va.

Sunday afternoon, June 7, 5:00

Special Music: Children's Choir, Mandarin Baptist Church, Los Angeles, Cal.
Bible Study: Francis M. DuBose, professor of missions, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Cal.
Prayertime: Cherry Y. K. Chang, Asian worker, Language Missions Department, Southern Baptist General Convention of California, serving in Los Angeles
Los Angeles in Multimedia: Introduced by Stanley O. White, director of missions, Los Angeles Southern Baptist Association
Special Music: Youth Chorus, First Filipino Baptist Church, Los Angeles, Cal.
Introduction of Acteens National Advisory Panel:
Pamela Link, Jefferson City, Mo.
Michele Cherry, Washington, N. C.
Janet Sheryl Harris, Cary, N. C.
Rebecca Hughes, Green River, Wyo.
Marsha Herrod, Eupora, Miss.
Allison Leigh Griffin, Pensacola, Fla.
Missions Dialog: "It Is Happening Now in Women's Work," Judy Rice, executive director, Alaska Woman's Missionary Union, Anchorage, Ak.; Barbara Epperson, missionary, Ibadan, Nigeria
Solo: Holly Jeanne Mercadante, San Bernardino, Cal.
Message: "A New Day," Charles Bryan, vice president, office of overseas operation, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.
Benediction: Beverly Goss, executive director, Arizona Woman's Missionary Union, Phoenix

Monday morning, June 8, 9:45

Special Music: Choir, New Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, Los Angeles, Cal.
Bible Study: Francis M. DuBose
Prayertime: Augustine Salazar, director, Migrant Ministries, Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Fresno
Business: Election of Officers
Missions Feature: "Watch, It's Happening in California," Nineteenth Avenue Baptist Church, William H. Smith, pastor; Japanese Mission of Nineteenth Avenue Baptist Church, Nobuo Kuriyama, pastor; Mandarin Baptist Church, Henry Mu, pastor; Vietnamese Mission of Nineteenth Avenue Baptist Church, Nga Nguyen, pastor—San Francisco, Cal.
Solo: "Missionary Medley," Flota D. Jordan, Norwalk, Cal.
Message: "You Can See It Now in Indonesia," Catherine Walker, former missionary to Indonesia, serving now at the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.
Benediction: Dixie Hunke, executive director, California Woman's Missionary Union, Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Fresno

Monday afternoon, June 8, 2:00

Special Music: Choir, Berendo Street Baptist Church, Don M. Kim, pastor, Los Angeles, Cal.
Prayer: Sara Wisdom, executive director, Northwest Woman's Missionary Union, Northwest Baptist Convention, Portland, Ore.
Report of WMU Executive Director: Carolyn Weatherford, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, Birmingham, Ala.
Solo: Marva Simmons, Compton, Cal.
Symposium: "Watch, It's Happening in California," Lonnie Chavez, director, Language Missions Department, Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Fresno; Khalil (Charlie) Hanna, Arabic worker, Santa Anna, Cal.; Theo Patnaik, Internationals, Clovis, Cal.
Benediction: Betty Lynn Cadle, executive director, Maryland Woman's Missionary Union, Baltimore

Monday evening, June 8, 7:00

Prayer: Joy Fenner, executive director, Texas Woman's Missionary Union, Dallas
Message: "You Can See It Now in Peru," Steve and Shirley Ditmore, missionaries, Lima, Peru
Testimony: "Watch, It's Happening in California," Petru Popovici, pastor, Bellflower Romanian Baptist Church, Bellflower, Cal.
Message: "You Can See It Now in Tanzania," David and Betty Ann Whitson, missionaries, Bukoba, Tanzania
Gavel Presentation
Benediction

the pastors

Los Angeles Convention Center

Sunday evening, June 7

Theme: "We Would See Jesus in Our Homes"

Jim Henry, Pastors' Conference president, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla., presiding

6:00 "Let's Just Praise the Lord"—Joe Ann Shelton and Loeen Bushman, Ft. Worth, Tex.
6:15 Invocation—Kenneth Wayne Fields, First Baptist Church, Grand Bay, Ala.
Welcome to California—Robert Hughes, executive secretary-treasurer, Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Fresno
6:20 Congregational Singing—Ragan M. Vandegriff III, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.
6:25 Special Music—Joe Ann Shelton
6:30 Message—Bill Bennett, First Baptist Church, Ft. Smith, Ark.
6:55 Testimony—James Mahoney, First Baptist Church, Alvin, Tex.
7:05 Congregational Hymn and Offering
7:15 Message—Calvin Miller, Westside Baptist Church, Omaha, Neb.
7:40 Congregational Singing
7:45 Prayer Plan for the Convention—Jack Taylor, Ft. Worth, Tex.
7:50 "I Promise to Love"—The Re'Generation, Nashville
8:30 Congregational Hymn
8:35 Message—Adrian Rogers, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
Benediction—Tom Billings, First Baptist Church, Siloam Springs, Ark.

Monday morning, June 8

Theme: "We Would See Jesus in Our Ministry"

Jim Henry, presiding

8:45 "Let's Just Praise the Lord"—with Ron and Pat Owens, Ft. Worth, Tex.
9:00 Invocation—Mark Pendleton, Richmond, Cal.
Congregational Hymn—Ragan M. Vandegriff III, Orlando, Fla.
9:05 Testimony—Ras Robinson, Ft. Worth, Tex.
9:20 Message—Junior Hill, evangelist, Hartselle, Ala.
9:45 Congregational Singing
9:50 Solo—Bill Cox, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville
9:55 Message—Jess Moody, First Baptist Church, Van Nuys, Cal.
10:20 Congregational Hymn and Offering
Special Music—Ron and Pat Owens
10:35 Message—Sam Cathey, Hot Springs, Ark.
11:00 Solo—Kitty Henry, student, Samford University, Birmingham, Ala.

Special Music—Adult Choir, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.
11:15 Message—Richard Jackson, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.
Benediction—Don Kim, Los Angeles, Cal.

Monday afternoon, June 8

Theme: "We Would See Jesus in Our Church"

Stanley Coffey, First Baptist Church, Albuquerque, N. M., vice president, presiding

1:15 "Let's Just Praise the Lord"—with Jack Price, music evangelist, Garland, Tex.
1:30 Invocation
Congregational Hymn—Ragan M. Vandegriff III
1:35 Solo—Jennifer Till, Dallas, Tex.
1:40 Testimonies—Our Seminary Presidents
2:10 Message—Fred Wolfe, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.
2:35 Congregational Singing
2:40 Testimony: "The Revival That Wouldn't Stop!"—Elvis Marcum, Graceland Baptist Church, New Albany, Ind.
2:55 Message—Vance Havner, Greensboro, N. C.
3:20 Congregational Hymn and Offering
Solo—Pat Vandegriff, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.
3:30 Election of Officers
3:45 Solo—Beverly Terrell, Dallas, Tex.
3:50 Message—W. A. Criswell, First Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex.
Benediction—Don Bouldin, Carmel Baptist Church, Charlotte, N. C.

Monday evening, June 8

Theme: "We Would See Jesus in Our World"

Jim Henry, presiding

6:30 "Let's Just Praise the Lord"—Adult Choir, North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz.
6:45 Invocation
Congregational Hymn—Ragan M. Vandegriff III
6:50 Solo—Earnest Alexander, Wichita, Kan.
6:55 Message—Harold O'Chester, Allandale Baptist Church, Austin, Tex.
7:20 Congregational Singing
7:25 Testimony—Don Miller, Ft. Worth, Tex.
7:35 Mission Emphasis—Foreign Mission Board
7:55 Congregational Hymn and Offering
Special Music—Adult Choir, North Phoenix Baptist Church
8:10 Message—John Bisagno, First Baptist Church, Houston, Tex.
8:35 Congregational Hymn
Solo—John Shillington, Shawnee, Okla.
8:40 Message—Arthur Blessitt, West Hollywood, Cal.
9:05 Introduction of New Pastors' Conference Officers
Welcome to Southern Baptist Convention—Bailey Smith, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
Benediction

Here's help for finding your way arriving in LA

Most messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention will be strangers in Los Angeles. Nothing makes a stranger feel stranger than not knowing how to get around.

Here is a synopsis on local transportation, by auto and airplane.

Arrival by airplane

Upon arrival at Los Angeles International Airport a variety of local transportation will be available for getting to hotels. All bus and taxi stands are located on islands in front of each baggage pick-up terminal.

Bus Services—Tickets and information for Airport Service is available at booths in front of baggage claim areas, or bus driver if booth is not staffed. To downtown Los Angeles, Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Westwood the current charge is \$3.10.

RTD [City Bus]—Offers seven direct lines, connecting service to all of Greater Los Angeles areas. Board minibus (#206) at RTD signs for transportation to nearby transfer depot where connections with direct line buses may be made. Minibus operates at 10-20 minute intervals daily from 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. (Bus #607 express to downtown Los Angeles costs 95 cents.)

Taxi Service—Only taxicabs bearing Los Angeles City franchise seal are authorized to solicit fares. Cabs should only be taken from authorized cab stands. Typical fares: Downtown Los Angeles, \$18; Beverly Hills, \$16; Hollywood, \$18. Fares vary with exact destinations and traffic conditions. Riders may share cost.

Car Rental Services—Each terminal has booths allocated for major car rental companies. Other car rental agencies have direct phone lines to their offices. All car rental services provide minibus or van pickup service at baggage claim areas.

Arrival by automobile

Four major interstate highways enter Southern California; each offers sights of the picturesque mountains and deserts.

I-10 enters the state from Yuma, Ariz. and goes directly to San Diego. From there, messengers would travel north on I-5 into Los Angeles.

I-10 enters the state from Arizona, near Blythe, Cal., and continues across the Mojave Desert. It comes through Palm Springs, San Bernardino and finally ends in Los Angeles.

I-15 enters from Las Vegas, Nev. and continues southwest toward Barstow, into San Bernardino. There you will get on I-10 West.

I-40 enters from northern Arizona, across the Colorado River into Needles, Cal. I-40 continues to Barstow where you'll need to get on I-15 South to San Bernardino and get on I-10 West.

Entering Downtown Los Angeles—I-15 and I-10 have downtown exits where most hotels are located. However, because of the numerous freeways and interchanges in the downtown area, messengers are cautioned to be alert for exits. Rush hour traffic coming into the city is heavy between 7 to 9 a.m. Afternoon traffic out of the city is heavy between 3 to 7 p.m.

LOS ANGELES ZEPHYR

Southern Baptist Convention

Los Angeles Convention Center
June 9-11, 1981
Los Angeles, California

Theme: "Our Bold Response
... Now!"

Tuesday morning, June 9

- 9:00 Music for Inspiration—First Southern Baptist Church Choirs, Del City, Okla., Aubie McSwain, director
- 9:30 Call to Order
Congregational Singing—Aubie McSwain, Del City, Okla., director
Scripture—Sandy Smith, Del City, Okla.
Prayer—Billy Weber, Dallas, Tex.
- 9:45 Registration and Constitution of Convention
Committee on Order of Business—A. Douglas Watterson, Knoxville, Tenn.
- 9:55 Welcome—W. A. Burkey, President of Southern Baptist General Convention of California, Fairfield, Cal.
- 10:00 Response—Alton Butler, Pensacola, Fla.
- 10:10 Introduction of Fraternal Messengers
- 10:20 Convention Photograph
- 10:25 Announcement of Committee on Committees, Committee on Resolutions, Committee on Tellers—Bailey E. Smith, SBC president, Del City, Okla.
- 10:30 Executive Committee Report (Part I)—Harold C. Bennett, Nashville
- 11:10 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 11:25 Congregational Singing—Aubie McSwain, Del City, Okla.
- 11:30 Music—First Southern Baptist Church Choirs, Del City, Okla., Aubie McSwain, director
- 11:35 President's Address—Bailey E. Smith, Del City, Okla.
- 12:00 Benediction—Mrs. A. D. Forman III, Monroe, La.
Adjourn

Tuesday afternoon, June 9

- 1:30 Music for Inspiration—Evangelistic Singers
- 2:30 Congregational Singing—John McGuckin, Fresno, Cal., director
Scripture—Bill Bruster, Knoxville, Tenn.
Prayer—John H. McClanahan, Pine Bluff, Ark.
Messenger Information Survey
- 2:45 Election of Officers
- 3:05 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 3:20 Executive Committee Report (Part II)—Harold C. Bennett, Nashville
- 4:00 Radio and Television Commission Report—Jimmy R. Allen, Ft. Worth, Tex.
- 4:15 Woman's Missionary Union Report—Carolyn Weatherford, Birmingham, Ala.
- 4:25 Congregational Singing—Harry L. Cowan, New Orleans, La., director
- 4:30 Business and Election of Officers
- 5:00 Benediction—Lambert Mims, Mobile, Ala.
Adjourn

Tuesday evening, June 9

- 7:00 Music for Inspiration—Singing Churchmen of California, John McGuckin, Fresno, Cal., director
- 7:25 Congregational Singing—William J. Reynolds, Ft. Worth, Tex., director
Scripture—Leanne Lewis, Midwest City, Okla.
Prayer—Herbert H. Reynolds, Waco, Tex.
- 7:40 Business and Election of Officers
- 7:50 Bold Mission Thrust Report—Harold C. Bennett, Nashville
- 8:00 Annuity Board Report—Darold H. Morgan, Dallas, Tex.
- 8:10 Sunday School Board Report—Grady C. Cothen, Nashville
- 8:30 Congregational Singing—William J. Reynolds, Ft. Worth, Tex., director
- 8:40 Foreign Mission Board Report—R. Keith Parks, Richmond, Va.
- 9:30 Benediction—John T. Dunaway, Corbin, Ky.
Adjourn

Wednesday morning, June 10

- 9:00 Music for Inspiration—Mariachi Group, Templo Bautista, Fresno, Cal.
—Combined Korean Choirs, Los Angeles, Cal.
- 9:30 Congregational Singing—Bill Sky-Eagle, Dallas, Tex., director
Scripture—Dewey Presley, Dallas, Tex.
Prayer—Claude Kirkpatrick, Baton Rouge, La.
Committee on Committees Report
- 9:50 Committee on Boards Report
- 9:55 Miscellaneous Business
- 10:15 Brotherhood Commission Report—James H. Smith, Memphis, Tenn.
- 10:25 Baptist World Alliance Report—Gerhard Claas, Washington, D. C.
- 10:35 Education Commission Report—Arthur L. Walker Jr., Nashville
- 10:45 Southern Baptist Commission on the American Baptist Seminary Report, Arthur L. Walker Jr., Nashville
- 10:50 Congregational Singing—Bill Sky-Eagle, Dallas, Tex., director
- 10:55 Music—Derryl Homberg, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.
- 11:30 Business—
Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
Miscellaneous Business
- 12:30 Benediction—Mrs. Glen (Mary) McClain, Midwest City, Okla.

Wednesday afternoon, June 10

NO SESSION

Wednesday evening, June 10

- 7:00 Music for Inspiration—Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Choir and Max Lyall, pianist
- 7:25 Congregational Singing—William J. Reynolds, Ft. Worth, Tex., director
Scripture—Mrs. Augustin (Grace) Salazar, Fresno, Cal.
Prayer—Mrs. R. F. (Barbara) Nesmith, Rhinebeck, N. Y.
- 7:40 Presentation of Past SBC Presidents
- 8:00 SBC Seminaries Report—Randall Lolley, Wake Forest, N. C.
- 8:40 Congregational Singing—William J. Reynolds, Ft. Worth, Tex., director
- 8:45 Music—Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary Choirs
- 8:50 Home Mission Board Report—William G. Tanner, Atlanta, Ga.
- 9:40 Benediction—Thomas W. Watson, Perrine, Fla.
Adjourn

Thursday morning, June 11

- 9:00 Music for Inspiration—Combined Chinese Choirs, Los Angeles, Cal.
- 9:30 Congregational Singing—Mrs. Jean Ferrell, San Diego, Cal.
Scripture—Mrs. Eugene (Reba) Hall, Shawnee, Okla.
Prayer—Lonnie E. Quillen Jr., Roanoke, Va.
- 9:45 Southern Baptist Foundation Report—Hollis E. Johnson III, Nashville
- 9:55 Historical Commission Report—Lynn E. May Jr., Nashville
- 10:05 Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs Report—James M. Dunn, Washington, D. C.
- 10:15 Join the Bold Mission Thrust—Jess Moody, Van Nuys, Cal.
- 10:30 Christian Life Commission Report—Foy D. Valentine, Nashville
- 10:40 Stewardship Commission Report—A. R. Fagan, Nashville
- 10:50 Congregational Singing—Sheldon Russell, San Jose, Cal.
- 10:55 Business—
Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
Miscellaneous Business
- 12:30 Benediction—Stanley D. Unruh, Las Vegas, Nev.
Adjourn

Thursday afternoon, June 11

- 2:00 Music for Inspiration—California Baptist College Choir, Curtis Cheek, Riverside, Cal., director
- 2:30 Congregational Singing—David W. Music, Riverside, Cal., director
Scripture—Mrs. Gilmer (Bernice) Cross, Lexington, N. C.
Prayer—G. Nelson Duke, Jefferson City, Mo.
- 2:45 Music—Henrietta Davis, San Francisco, Cal.
- 2:50 Speaker—Ronald Reagan, President of the United States (invited but not confirmed)
- 3:20 Congregational Singing—David W. Music, Riverside, Cal., director
- 3:25 Business—
Committee on Baptist State Newspapers
Denominational Calendar Committee
Miscellaneous Business
- 4:30 Benediction—Allen Bailey, Charlotte, N. C.
Adjourn

Thursday evening, June 11

- 7:00 Music for Inspiration—Youth Choir, St. Stephen's Baptist Church, La Puente, Cal.
- 7:25 Congregational Singing—William J. Reynolds, Ft. Worth, Tex.
Scripture—Earl Davis, Memphis, Tenn.
Prayer—Bill Elliff, Norman, Okla.
- 7:45 Music—The Gaithers
- 8:00 Sermon—Perry Sanders, Lafayette, La.
- 8:30 Music—The Gaithers
- 9:15 Benediction—Don Harms, Rapid City, S. D.
Adjourn

Christian Education

SWBTS trustees break ground for library

Groundbreaking for a new library center, election of new faculty and the adoption of a record \$11.9 million operating budget were highlights of the spring meeting of the Southwestern Seminary board of trustees Mar. 23-25 in Ft. Worth, Tex.

Construction will begin immediately on the new library center with completion expected during the summer of 1982. The \$6.6 million facility will house the largest theological library in the United States, according to seminary president Russell H. Dilday Jr.

Six new faculty members were elected by the trustees, including two each in theology, religious education and church music.

J. Darrel Baergen, 46, was named professor of communication arts and acting director of the Center for Christian Communication Studies. He is now



Assisting in groundbreaking ceremonies for the new library center at Southwestern Seminary are [l to r] Keith Willis, director of libraries; Russell Dilday Jr., seminary president; Kenneth Chafin, chairman of trustee board; and Preston Geren, architect.

professor of communication and theater at Southwest Texas State University.

William H. Bellinger Jr. was elected instructor in Old Testament. Bellinger, 31, is assistant professor of Old Testament at Bethel Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

William J. Reynolds was elected associate professor of church music. He is former secretary of the Church Music Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, and has been guest professor at Southwestern during the 1980-81 academic year.

Robert Carl Smith, 37, was named instructor in piano. He has been a guest professor for two years and previously was on the music faculty at Dallas Baptist College.

William M. Tillman Jr., 35, was elected assistant professor in Christian ethics. He is director of research and editorial services for the SBC Christian Life Commission.

William Rick Young will be instructor in foundations of education. Yount, 32, is minister of education for Columbia Baptist Church in Falls Church, Va.

The \$11.9 million total operating budget is a 22 percent increase over the 1980-81 operating budget of \$9.2 million. New programs and increased maintenance costs are reflected in the budget, according to Dilday, as well as an average of 12 percent salary increase for all faculty and career staff members.



The Georgetown College A Cappella Choir, under the direction of W. Wayne Johnson, will present its annual spring concert on campus Thursday, Apr. 23 at 8 p.m. in the John L. Hill Chapel.

The choir presented concerts at Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green, and the First Baptist churches of Henderson, Owensboro and Richmond Apr. 10-12.

The program of the 40-voice choir includes masterpieces of church literature, American spirituals and contemporary sacred selections.

The choir has performed at the nationwide Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, Southern Baptist Convention, Kentucky Baptist Convention and Kentucky Baptist Music Association.

The spring concert is open to the public with no admission charge.

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John F. Havlik is director of Evangelism Education and Writing at The Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Georgia, and author of several Broadman books including **Where in the World Is Jesus Christ?**

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Caring and giving

by Robert B. Carlin,
Director, Glen Dale Children's Home

In traditional approaches to help solve the problems of children, adults monopolize the giving of help. In our residential child care program we are asking young people more and more to assume the task of giving help among themselves. The notion of helping, of course, is not original. Civilized man has long been aware of the benefits that accrue when people are involved in mutual giving. Isaiah expressed this idea nearly 3000 years ago, "They helped every one his neighbor."

Throughout all our "helping" we have not looked closely enough at the effect of "helping" on the receiving individual. Does being the recipient of help really make a person feel positive about himself? Being helpful usually has an enhancing effect on one's self-concept; however, needing help and being dependent on others can worsen the erosion of what already may be a weak self-concept.

I recently witnessed the fine spirit of local churches as we shared about our child care program and saw them experience first hand the joy of caring and giving through gifts, donations and direct service to Glen Dale.

We are working hard to make this kind of caring fashionable with our youth on campus as they venture out to sing for churches, provide help for each other and experience the rewards of giving to others.

The climate of change produced from this caring is phenomenal. This is the essence of making caring fashionable through giving of one's time and effort to be helpful towards one's fellowman. While this places greater demands on young people, it provides greater rewards through giving rather than always receiving. Your continued care and concern for our ministry to children in the '80's therefore transcends time and space into the lives of all the children served throughout the Kentucky Baptist Child Care Program.

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Smith cries over missions

Southern Baptist Convention president Bailey Smith wept as he told a story about his recent visit to Kenya.

Using John 3:16 as his text for a Foreign Mission Board luncheon speech in Tampa, Fla., Smith was illustrating his last point, the escape God offers the people of the world.

When a woman carrying a sick baby knocked on the window missionary Webster Carroll knew what she wanted. He shook his head, saying "no."

When the woman persisted, Carroll opened the window and told her they had no more medicine they could give her. They knew the child, critically ill with malaria, would be dead by night, "all because they did not have a pill from America costing three cents."

Smith told of knowing how that mother as she walked away, tears coursing down her face knew there would be a burial in the morning.

At this point Smith, his eyes filling with tears, could not go on.

After composing himself he came back to his theme verse, "For God so loved the world . . . (long pause) . . . that he gave . . . and so must we."

Whole Lottie givin' up

Receipts from the 1980 Lottie Moon Christmas offering reached a record \$41,467,719 with more than six weeks remaining before books are closed on Southern Baptists' annual offering for foreign missions.

The figure represents 92.2 percent of the \$45 million goal.

Late totals were reported as the Foreign Mission Board concluded its April meeting.

TRAVEL

12 Day Egypt-Jordan-Israel May 7; 4 Island HAWAII May 25; 18 Day Egypt/Greece with cruise June 10; 3 Island HAWAII June 10; 15 Day EUROPE July 24; 12 Day ALASKA August 7; 13 Day AUSTRALIA Nov. 9; 13 Day HOLY LAND with Seven Churches of Asia October 19.
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Sunday School Lessons

APRIL 26, 1981

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International Series

Matthew 28:11-13 At a personal risk to themselves for doing so, some of the soldiers who had guarded the tomb related the events that had transpired to the chief priests, primarily Sadducees and avowed disbelievers in the resurrection. A called meeting of the sanhedrin decided to offer the soldiers generous bribes for the guard's testimony that Christ's body had been stolen from the tomb. There were those who would believe their false report. If they were to get into trouble with the false report the religious leaders promised to intercede with their superiors on behalf of the soldiers. The willingness of the soldiers to commit that deed did not nullify the truth that Christ had arisen from the dead.

Matthew 28:16-20 In obedience to the command of their Lord the 11 apostles made their way to Galilee where they met the master. As they worshipped him, he accepted their worship. To the assembled group Christ gave the Great Commission. **Christ's power was announced—Matthew 28:18** Quietly, but without hesitation, Christ announced that, "All authority is given unto me in heaven and on earth." This is a claim of unlimited authority. In the light of this claim, Christians need not be troubled by what they may encounter for nothing can be done to them by men or demons without the permission of their Lord.

Christ's program was advanced—Matthew 28:19 As Christians go into the world, Christ has commanded them to make disciples, baptizing them and teaching them his glorious truths. Christ expects us to evangelize the unsaved and to edify the saved. Christ's program of proclaiming the gospel is universal in its scope, individual in its appeal, practical in its purpose, and personal in its obligation. To the best of our ability we should strive to obey Christ's command to take the gospel to all. This task is the greatest which our Lord has committed to us. No greater work can occupy the thought, time, strength or substance of the Christian.

Christ's presence was assured—Matthew 28:20 Christ said, "And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." If we long and hope to enjoy the blessed presence of our Lord, we must advance his mission. The enjoyment of Christ's presence is conditioned upon our obedience to his commands. If we are obedient to him, we may expect to enjoy Christ's glorious presence all our days. His presence with us guarantees constant companionship, fullness of joy, sufficiency in trial and comfort in sorrow, all of which we need very much throughout our sojourn on earth.

As stewards of Christ's glorious gospel we occupy a position of trust, honor, influence and responsibility. Let us be faithful to this great trust and share Christ with all whom we can. The gospel of Christ has not been given to us for selfish consumption or distribution, but in order that we may share it freely with all who have never received it. As we obediently carry the message of Christ's redeeming love to the people of every nation, we shall most assuredly enjoy his blessed presence with us and his wonderful blessings upon us.

GOD'S BOLD PLAN

Life and Work Series

The plea—Genesis 12:1 In the call of Abram we see the sovereign grace of God in action. His call was "from" and "unto." Abram's call was "from" the idolatry of his land, from fellowship with his kin and from occupation with the pursuits of his people. It was "unto" fellowship with God, purity of worship and the purposes which had been formulated in heaven.

The pledge—Genesis 12:2-3 With that gracious call came God's sevenfold pledge to make of Abram a great nation, to bless him, to make his name great, to make him a worldwide blessing, to bless those who blessed Abram, to curse any who might curse him and through him to bless all the families on the earth.

John 3:16 God expressed his love in the matchless gift of his Son. God's love was the source from which ample provision was made for our greatest need, the salvation of our souls. Salvation originated in God's love and was delivered by Christ. It becomes ours through personal faith in the saviour.

Matthew 28:18-20 In compliance with the command of Christ, the 11 apostles made their way to Galilee and met and worshipped him. His power was announced, verse 18. Quietly Christ announced that all authority had been given to him. No greater claim was ever made than this. His program was advanced, verse 19. Christ's program of evangelizing the unsaved and edifying the saved is universal in its scope, individual in its appeal and personal in its obligation. His presence was assured, verse 20. Our enjoyment of Christ's presence is conditioned upon our advancement of his program. We are required to take the gospel of Christ to the whole world. His presence guarantees constant companionship, fullness of joy, sufficiency in trial and comfort in sorrow.

2 Corinthians 5:18-20 Having reconciled us unto himself through the death of Christ and having recreated us in Christ through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, God expects us to be ministers of reconciliation and to be devoted, faithful and effective ambassadors of Christ, proclaiming the message which he has given us wherever we go.

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Clear Creek Comments

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



In memory of "Aunt Frank"

by Beth Wyatt

This week the flowers are peeping out of hiding and there is an air of spring. It takes me back to this week in 1975 when a dear friend went to be with the Lord. Now a smile comes as I recall the precious memories.

Some time ago an article was written about the chimes on campus in memory of "Aunt Frank." I had a different relationship with this sweet Christian that I want to share.

I recall meeting her in the late 60's in Chattanooga at a women's Bible study. I first knew her as the sister of a good friend who was living at a Bible school in Kentucky. She was sweet and gracious and her visits were a blessing.

In 1971 when the Lord called my husband into his service it was in the Lord's planning that she make her visit to Chattanooga that spring and we questioned her about this Bible school in Kentucky. God worked it out, and we arrived on the campus in August 1972.

Now in 1981 I marvel at how the Lord used this dear woman in so many ways. I can still see her wracked with pain but singing in the choir in her church, delivering a small parcel to a needy family on campus and sitting for hours to listen to the problems of young wives and mothers. One would not believe the many ways she left her mark on the grounds of Clear Creek School.

The campus coming to life in the spring is the result of God's handiwork. He also works through the prayers and support of many friends, and you can be used by God to help our student families just as "Aunt Frank" allowed him to use her.

Maybe you sit in the pew where one of our students is serving as pastor and can be a special support to him. Our students are supported in many ways: housing, scholarship support, workshops and aid through prayer and financial assistance by many of you who give of yourselves to aid ministerial students.

"It Is No Secret What God Can Do." This was one of "Aunt Frank's" favorites, and it clearly tells us that God can use us to aid the work of his kingdom when we yield ourselves to him. I see the work she did in encouraging God-called men and women during their stay at the Kentucky Bible school. "Thank you Lord for 'Aunt Frank' and all the dear people who are helping spread your gospel to the ends of the earth."

Come to see us this spring!

(This week's Comments was written by Mrs. Robert (Beth) Wyatt, secretary to the president at Clear Creek Baptist School.)

KBC Activities

Here and now

APRIL

- 17-18 Campus BYW Retreat. Cedarmore. Evening meal 17th through afternoon 18th. Reservations made with Cedarmore
- 19 Easter
- 20-21 "Pastoral Evangelism" Seminar. Lexington, Grace Baptist Church. 10 a.m. on 20th till 4:30 p.m. on 21st. Make reservations with Evangelism Department, KBC
- 20-23 Baptist Doctrine Study. Books available through Baptist Book Store

Looking ahead

APRIL

- 23-25 Annual WMU Meeting. Ashland, Unity Baptist Church. 7 p.m. 23rd through noon 25th. Supper, Baptist Young Women, 24th. Reservations made with WMU, KBC
- 24 Adult/Youth Music Festival. Louisville, Parkland Baptist Church
- 24 All Ages Music Festivals. Hopkinsville, First Baptist Church and Mayfield, First Baptist Church
- 24-25 All State Youth Choir Festival East. Cedarmore. 7 p.m. 24th through 4 p.m. 25th. Register with Church Music Department, KBC
- 25 Children's Bible Drills. Register 11 a.m. local time; drills begin 12:30. Hopkinsville, Second Baptist Church, and Lexington, Immanuel Baptist Church
- 26 Life Commitment Sunday. Materials in Baptist Program

MAY

- 2 State Royal Ambassador Track Meet. Cedarmore
- 3 Senior Adult Day. Suggestions in Mature Living or from Church Services Division, KBC
- 3-10 Christian Home Week. Suggestions available from Family Ministry Services, KBC. New books available from Baptist Book Store
- 8-9 State Youth Choir Festival West. Jonathan Creek. 7 p.m. 8th through 4 p.m. 9th. Register with Church Music Department, KBC

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

Oneida Journal

In this together

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



A few hours ago I had to expel a young man from our school. We had such hopes for him. We tried so hard to break through his "don't care" attitude. We gave him so many chances.

He has such potential, but we had to let him go. It is so depressing and hard to suffer such defeat, to see a young life sliding toward nothingness.

We care.

It is hard to see one go anytime. But most especially when one must be asked to go. Will he ever finish his education? Will he ever find purpose in his life? Will he ever know our Lord?

We are often on the mountaintop. Yes, in the valley too, as we are this evening. But, looking through some letters memories flood and faith is renewed.

Some years ago we accepted a young man in our school from a distant state. He was shy, unhappy and withdrawn. He was a "loner."

But then he began to open up, to grow and to mature. We watched him and caught the intent look on his face many times as he listened to the pastor's sermons. We saw him start bringing his Bible to services and search the scriptures as the sermon was preached.

Several years after he came to our school we heard his profession of faith. We saw him baptized. We saw a young man filled with joy, truly in love with his Lord. His outlook and life changed. We had witnessed part of a miracle.

They come, we work with them, and then they go.

This young man who was saved is now far from us making his way in life. We know not when, if ever, we will see him again this side of Jordan. But we remain "one in the spirit" and from time to time a letter comes.

Once he wrote "I pray for the continued welfare of my school, my little Baptist school in Appalachia, Ky. which introduced me to Christ." Again he wrote, "The most wonderful thing about Oneida was learning about the Lord, and afterward I learned about growing."

In one letter he apologized for being so late in writing and notes, "I understand how much you all care about me there."

We did care! We do care! How thankful I am to know he DOES understand that. If only the boy expelled today could understand!

Some years ago a young man and a woman came to Oneida. They came at different times for different reasons and from different circumstances. Their paths crossed at Oneida as they found God's will for their lives while finding each other. Like many before them and since, they fell in love and were married after leaving. They worked their way through college and are presently in Southern Seminary.

The husband writes, "I feel that the general role of Oneida was to create in my life a sense of belonging to a community. This sense of belonging had previously been hard to come by in my hometown, not because of cold shoulders and the absence of love, but because of the isolation I felt under the social pressure of acute poverty."

"At Oneida where the 'in this together' disposition tends to shine through, I was placed not only in a position where I was more or less equal, but in one from which my life could effectively be used as a true ministry to others. I certainly doubt that I should be here today but for Oneida."

Yes, we do fail with some. But, praise be to God, not all.

Frank Owen



'Cast thy bread'

"CAST THY BREAD UPON THE WATERS . . ." [Eccl. 11:1]

Last week two people from across the years proved again to me that the Gospel ministry bears fruit whether or not there are visible results at a given time.

I returned after 27 years to a former pastorate in Gainesville, Georgia and spoke for the sesquicentennial. A visitor shook my hand from a nearby rural church at which I had spoken about ten years ago. He told me how his life at that time was in complete disarray as a result of his then addiction as a compulsive gambler. His family, too, had suffered and he had all but lost hope of putting life together again. He said he had re-dedicated his life at that previous service and begged God to help him quit gambling. (A spiritual addiction, possibly harder to break than alcoholism.)

He declared he has won the battle and wanted me to know of it and to join him in thanking God that his life and his household have been set in order.

This man had made the decision in his own heart. I had not preached on gambling. No invitation of such nature was given. I don't suppose anybody else knew he had made the decision. I only learned of it perchance, years later.

Back in Kentucky only two days I had an office visit from Jim Lilly, whom I had baptized as a child, also in Gainesville, Georgia. He was engaged in a World Missions Conference in our Kentucky Gasper River Association.

I had not seen Jim in thirty-three years. He had gone to the Air Force Academy, served twenty-two years as an Air Force Pilot, retired as a full Colonel, then entered the ministry with his wife and both are now home missionaries in the Montgomery, Alabama area.

My heart burst with joy as Jim Lilly thanked me for the preaching efforts I made so long ago to which he declared he was probably paying more attention, hearing more, and assimilating more than we, or even he, realized at the time.

"So shall my word be that goeth forth . . . ; it shall not return unto me void, . . . it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isa. 55:11)

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