

WESTERN RECORDER

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AT ELIZABETHTOWN

Personalities set for KBC Nov. 10-12

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

The 144th session of the Kentucky Baptist Convention will convene Nov. 10-12 at Elizabethtown's Severns Valley Baptist Church. Program details were released this week by the convention's committee on order of business.

This will be the sixth time the convention has met in Elizabethtown, the last time in 1975.

Bill Whittaker, state convention president and pastor of First Baptist Church, Murray, will preside over the sessions beginning at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10. The final benediction is scheduled for 11:45 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 12.

Between those hours an estimated 2000-plus messengers and visitors will hear a variety of prominent statewide and national denominational speakers. They will participate in business deliberations of their convention's work and will hear reports from across the state about advancement in the previous year.

Special music will be provided by the church choir of First Baptist Church, Murray; the Campbellsville (Ky.) College choir; and several Kentucky soloists.

A highlight of the convention agenda will be the presentation of "How Firm a Foundation," a historical pageant by Bill Evans, depicting the history of Severns Valley Baptists—including the association and the local church. The 70-minute drama is scheduled for Wednesday evening, Nov. 11, and includes members of the host church in the cast. In June of this year Severns Valley became the first Kentucky Baptist congregation to reach 200 years.

In major business action during the convention messengers will elect a successor to Whittaker as convention president and will name two vice presidents to serve in 1981-82. The KBC constitution forbids a state president from serving more than one one-year term.

The convention is also expected to adopt a \$15.9 million budget for the year starting Sept. 1, 1982.

The Elizabethtown sessions will be preceded Monday, Nov. 9 by the annual meetings of the Kentucky Baptist Pastor's Conference, Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association and the Kentucky Baptist Music Association. Each of these auxiliary groups will also meet in Elizabethtown.

A star-studded array of denominational dignitaries and prominent Kentucky Baptist leaders will address the sessions of the convention again this year. Seven men have been named to speaking assignments.

In addition to Whittaker's presidential address, other messages will be brought by William M. Pinson Jr., president, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Cal.; R. G. Puckett, executive director, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Silver Spring, Md.; John Christian, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville (convention sermon); Gerhard Claas, general secretary, Baptist World Alliance, Washington, D. C.; Franklin Owen, executive secretary-treasurer, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Middletown; and Jimmy R. Allen, president, Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Ft. Worth, Tex.

A closer look at each of these suggests strong qualifications for their offices and for inviting each one for his particular program assignment.

• **WHITTAKER**, 38, is one of the youngest persons ever elected Kentucky Baptist Convention president. A Bowling Green native, he is married to the former Rebecca Kay Howard of that city and they have three children.

Following graduation from Warren County High School, Whittaker earned the BA degree from Western Kentucky University and the MDiv and DMin degrees from Southern Seminary. He has served three pastorates in the state—Jackson Grove Baptist Church, Bowling Green, 1964-69; First Baptist Church, Sturgis, 1969-76; and the Murray church since 1976.

Whittaker has held numerous associational and statewide offices and responsibilities, including service on the KBC executive board and the Baptist board of child care. He has been president of the Kentucky Baptist Pastor's Conference, president of the Southern Seminary Kentucky alumni, second vice president of the state convention and since 1971 director of Clear Creek Baptist School's annual Christmas project for current students.

• **PINSON**, 47, has been president of the Golden Gate Seminary since 1977. He is a graduate of North Texas State University, Denton, and holds BD, MDiv and ThD degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Pinson is a native of Ft. Worth and is married to the former Bobbie Ruth Judd. They have two daughters.

From 1957-63 he was associate secretary of the Christian Life Commission, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas. He was professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Seminary 1963-75, and pastor of First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Tex., two years before going to Golden Gate.

• **PUCKETT**, 48, was born in Green County, Ky., and married the former Robbie Lynn Lake of Mackville, Ky. They have two daughters.

Puckett has been executive director of Americans United two years and for 13 years before that was editor of The Maryland Baptist, Lutherville. From 1958-61 he edited the Ohio Baptist Messenger, Columbus, later serving as associate editor of Western Recorder, 1963-66.

His pastorates include the First Baptist churches of Lancaster, Oh., 1957-58, and Dunedin, Fla., 1961-63.

Puckett is a former president of the Southern Baptist Press Association, was president of the board of trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1976-78, is a past chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's committee on order of business and immediate past president of the Southern Seminary Alumni Association. He received a distinguished alumnus award from Campbellsville College earlier this year.

• **CHRISTIAN**, 59, Hopkinsville pastor, is a native of Trenton, Ky. and is married to the former Kathleen Johnson of Pembroke, Ky.

A graduate of Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, Tenn., and Peabody College, Nashville, Christian also holds the ThM degree from Southern Seminary.

His previous pastorates include LaFayette (Ky.) Baptist Church; Sinking Fork Baptist Church, Hopkinsville; Oak Grove Baptist Church, Springfield, Tenn.; and First Baptist Church, Goodlettsville, Tenn.

He has served the Second Church congregation at Hopkinsville since 1971.

His denominational service includes terms on the executive boards of the Tennessee and Kentucky Baptist conventions, as vice president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastor's Conference and as a trustee of Campbellsville College. Christian is also currently a director of Western Recorder.

• **CLAAS**, 53, was elected only one year ago as general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance. He had served five years previously as the organization's associate secretary for Europe.

A native of Wetter, Germany, he received a diploma from Hamburg Theological Seminary of the Union of Evangelical Free Churches (Baptist Union) in 1953. During 1951-52 he attended the international Baptist Theological Seminary, Ruschlikon, Switzerland. He was awarded an honorary DD degree by Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Ark., in 1974.

Married to the former Irmgard Saffran, he is the father of three children.

Claas was pastor of Duesseldorf Baptist Church, 1954-59, and Johann Gerhard Oncken Church, Hamburg, 1964-67. He was general secretary of the Baptist Union of West Germany (the Union of Evangelical Free Churches), 1967-76.

• **OWEN**, 68, executive secretary-treasurer of the state convention since 1972, was born in Marble Hill, Mo. He is married to the former Sue Burch of Cape Girardeau, Mo., and they have three sons.

Owen is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State College, Cape Girardeau, and holds the BD degree from Southern Seminary. Georgetown College awarded the honorary DD degree to him in 1956.

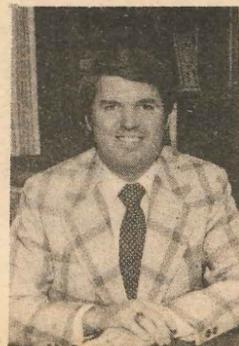
He held six pastorates in Missouri before moving to Kentucky where he was pastor at LaCenter, 1939-40, and Highland Park Second in Louisville, 1940-42. He later served on the staff of Southside Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., on two occasions, before and after a stint as a U. S. Army chaplain. From 1947-54 he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Gainesville, Ga., and from 1954-72 he served Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky.

Owen was chairman of the SBC committee on order of business in 1959 when the convention met in Louisville. He has been a trustee and former president of the board of Southern Seminary as well as president of the seminary's alumni association. From 1968-72 he was a member of the Baptist Sunday School Board elected trustees.

• **ALLEN**, 54, became president of the Radio and Television Commission in January 1980.

A native Texan, he is a graduate of Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Tex., and holds BD and ThD degrees from Southwestern Seminary. He is married to the former Wanda Massey of Brownwood and they have three sons.

He was executive secretary of the Christian Life Commission, Baptist General Convention of Texas, 1960-68. Other service includes the pastorates of First Baptist Church, Van Alstyne, Tex.; First Baptist Church, Wills Point, Tex.; Cockrell Hill Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex.; and First Baptist Church, San Antonio, Tex., 1968-80. He was president of the Southern Baptist Convention, 1977-79, having earlier served his state convention as president.



Whittaker



Pinson



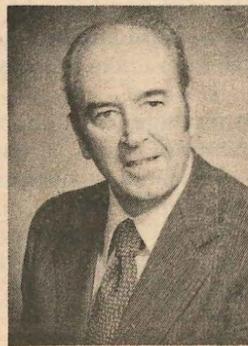
Puckett



Christian



Claas



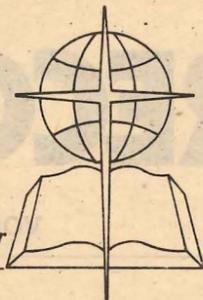
Owen



Allen

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

Ministry belongs to churches, not to the state

The letter in the Aug. 12 Baptist Forum from Phyllis Morgan of Owensboro made a deep impression on me. This multiple sclerosis victim for 21 years who is completely paralyzed except for her head, eyes and mouth finds meaning in life in spite of her severe handicaps. I am afraid such hardship would make life unbearable for me and certainly her example should make any of us who are able-bodied ashamed to complain.

The deep impression on me, however, comes not so much from her courage as from the source of her inspiration. While she appreciates loyal and loving family members, she testifies that it is a senior companion and talking books that make her feel she is living again.

Think of it! Two things make life meaningful for this paralyzed woman and neither of these has a Christian or a church connection. Her senior companion is one provided through a government funded agency and the talking books are also a tax supported service.

Phyllis asks why churches don't do such things for shut-ins. This is a searching question. Why don't they?

There's no good reason except we don't care enough. We cannot say we don't have the resources which is an oft given excuse. What's involved in such ministries is not a great outlay of money but personal services. A contribution to the benevolent fund can never substitute for the gift of self.

The truth is that what matters most to the sick and needy is not a material gift but the gift of self. People long to be loved and to be touched by someone who cares. As Phyllis says these people though incapacitated physically still think, see, hear, get mad and happy just as all other people do.

What a great idea for senior adults in every church! Those still able to drive, read, write, telephone and shop should be assigned one-on-one to those who cannot do these things without help. Such use of time and energy would be far more fulfilling than many things now used in order to stay busy or amused. There ought not be a shut-in in the church membership who does not have a devoted personal companion in addition to family members to help make life meaningful.

Churches, not government agencies, should be extensions of the ministry of Jesus. According to the New Testament account Jesus gave more attention to meeting human needs than devising and promoting special days and attendance campaigns. These have a place but are not to be in the place of ministering to personal needs.

Pastor and church can own a house together

Inflation generally and the cost of housing in particular have slowed up or reversed a trend of recent years in housing for pastors. The popular trend was for churches to provide a housing allowance instead of a pastorium for pastors so they could own their own homes.

This is still considered a break for the pastor if he can manage it but more and more pastors cannot find funds for the large down payment, now required to purchase a house. In some instances churches lend pastors a down payment, even interest free, especially if the church has a corpus from selling a former pastorium. Even with this kind of help fewer pastors are now able to own their own homes.

John Wallace, pastor of Parkway Baptist Church, Lexington, shares with me a new idea from a publication called, "Church and Clergy Finance," published semi-monthly by Ministers Life Resources Inc. The idea is a joint ownership of a pastorium by the pastor and the church. It works this way.

Let us assume a pastor's salary is \$20,000 and the house he would like to purchase costs \$100,000. The pastor has a savings of \$10,000 and would qualify for a \$40,000 loan but these are far short of needs to purchase the \$100,000 house.

In the meantime the church has sold a former

pastorium and has \$50,000 in the bank. The pastor wants the house and the church wants its \$50,000 to retain its purchasing power. The church puts up the \$50,000, the pastor contributes \$10,000 and borrows \$40,000 and the deed declares the church and pastor as tenants-in-common.

At the same time the pastor signs an agreement that when he resigns he will sell the house to the church at a price equal to 50% of its then market value. The agreement also allows the pastor to purchase the church's interest at any time. The church's interest is always 50% of the house's value.

The pastor also agrees to maintain and insure the house as well as pay the taxes. The church pays the pastor a housing allowance which helps him meet his payments on the \$40,000 loan.

It sounds complicated but is not and any lawyer could prepare the legal documents. The good part is that the pastor can purchase a home and build some equity where otherwise he could not.

Incidentally, "Church and Clergy Finance" would be a valuable publication for pastors and churches. It costs \$12 a year and can be ordered from Ministers Life Resources Inc., 3100 W. Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55416.

Baptist Forum

Appreciates thoughtful editorial

I have admired you since you came from the pastorate to be editor of Western Recorder (when I was a student at the seminary). I think you are the most perceptive editorial writer among Southern Baptists. Your editorials will constitute primary source material for future historians (as in the '57 crisis, etc.).

I appreciate your thoughtful editorial on women deacons (Aug. 15, 1981). Let me affirm much of what you said and take your argument one step farther.

You are right in asserting that each church must determine the mind of Christ on this question, based on New Testament study. I also agree that the church should proceed slowly in order to preserve unity. The Greek word for "wives"/"women" in 1 Tim. 3 is ambiguous, and I believe it can be taken both ways. We do not have to choose between the interpretations. The qualifications fit deacons' wives and women deacons.

My congregation (First Baptist Church, Greensboro, N. C.) changed a 120-year precedent three years ago in electing and ordaining women deacons. We studied the matter for a year and had an 85 percent positive vote on a Sunday morning by secret ballot. We now have eight women out of 60 serving deacons.

The experience has been beautiful. As pastor I was not a crusader but feel very positive about this experience. No "women's libbers" have been elected deacons.

Heber Peacock argued that there was no ordination in the New Testament church (Review and Expositor, 1958, vol. 55, no. 3). I do not agree.

My strongest argument for the principle of women is based on the New Testament principle of polity:

1. The church is a spiritual democracy, beneath the lordship of Christ. A 10-year-old who is a baptized member has one vote the same as the deacon chairman.

2. Deacons are spiritual leaders in the church.

3. Therefore, we should not disqualify from spiritual leadership more than half our members simply because they are female.

I do not consider the ordination of women as ministers and deacons an issue to be fought over in a divisive way. However, I believe that the practice is in keeping with New Testament principles. The Spirit is still leading the churches to discern the Father's will and the mind of Christ.

Thanks for letting me respond to your thoughtful editorials.

Alton H. McEachern, Greensboro, N. C.

Mountains to the Mississippi



Head

Dunn

Personnel

Morris leaves Auburndale post
Danny L. Morris has resigned the pastorate of Auburndale Baptist Church, Louisville, to become pastor of Centerville Baptist Church, Chesapeake, Va.

Prior to his five years at Auburndale, Morris was pastor of Magnolia Round Top and Ellisburg Baptist churches, all in Kentucky.

He has also worked for the Long Run Association and been a KBC executive board member, president of South Louisville Community Ministry and field education supervisor of Boyce Bible School.

A Campbellsville native, Morris has degrees from Campbellsville College and Southern Seminary.

Bramlett calls Marksberry
Bramlett Baptist Church, White's Run Association, has called Paul E. Marksberry as pastor. Marksberry is a native of Williamstown.

Parsons accepts New Castle call
New Castle Baptist Church, Henry County Association, has called Mikeal Parsons as pastor.

A native of North Carolina, Parsons is a second year student at Southern Seminary.

McCormick resigns Jordan post
B. B. McCormick has resigned the pastorate of Jordan Baptist Church, White's Run Association, and moved to Elizabethtown.

English loses Coggins as pastor
Mitchell Coggins has resigned the pastorate of English Baptist Church, White's Run Association.

Campbellsburg youth director resigns
Anne Pless resigned as director of youth at Campbellsburg Baptist Church, Henry County Association, effective July 19, to return to Southern Seminary.

Goodwin fills Central opening
Central Baptist Church, Corbin, has called Ron Goodwin as minister of music and associate pastor.

He comes to Central from a similar position at Bellview Baptist Church, Paducah.

Don R. Mathis is pastor of the Corbin church.

Massie called to Beechwood
Bob Massie has been called as minister of music to Beechwood Baptist Church, Louisville.

He is coming to the church from Gospel Light Publications where he was a national seminar leader. He is also a freelance writer of adult Bible study material.

Head resigns at East Cumberland Ave.
K. Maynard Head resigned as pastor of East Cumberland Avenue Baptist Church, Middlesboro. He had been at the church since 1977.

Head is author of Mountain Moments, a weekly newspaper column, and other materials. He works in development for Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville.

Dunn called to Cincinnati
Robert M. Dunn of Florence has accepted the pastorate of First Baptist

Church of Dent, Cincinnati, Oh., effective Aug. 1.

A native of Paducah, Dunn is resigning his position as joint manager of the Baptist Retirement Village, Erlanger, and Bullittsburg Baptist Assembly, Burlington, two institutions of Northern Kentucky Association.

Dunn was pastor of Olivet Baptist Church, Paducah, and Greenview Baptist Church, Florence. He currently is a member of the KBC agencies committee and the state executive board.

Dunn graduated from Murray State University, and earned the MDiv degree from Golden Gate Seminary and the DMin from Southern Seminary.

Dunn and his wife, Ann, will continue to reside in Florence.

New Salem calls Lambert
New Salem Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association, has called Paul Lambert as pastor.

Mays to be Bethany pastor
George Mays has been called to the pastorate of Bethany Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association.

A native of Ohio, Mays is a student at Campbellsville College.

Bolen takes Petrey Memorial call
Edmon Bolen has accepted the call to be pastor of Petrey Memorial Baptist Church, Three Forks Association.

Native to the eastern Kentucky region, Bolen began his work at Petrey Memorial July 19.

Carney is Frenchburg pastor
Monty Carney is pastor of Frenchburg Baptist Church, Red River Association.

I. Houston Lanier had been the church's interim pastor until Carney began his duties June 18.

Winters settles at Kirksville
Kirksville Baptist Church, Tates Creek Association, has called Mike Winters as pastor.

A Georgia native, Winters is a recent graduate of Clear Creek Baptist School.

Fambrough leads Cherry Corner
David Fambrough has been called to the pastorate of Cherry Corner Baptist Church, Blood River Association.

Calvert City calls Nichols
Larry Nichols has been called to the pastorate of Calvert City Baptist Church, Blood River Association.

West Fork pastor resigns
Wayne Carter, pastor of West Fork Baptist Church, Blood River Association, has been called to the pastorate of New Zion Baptist Church of the same association.

Young elected NACBA director
Robert A. Young, associate pastor and business administrator at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, was installed as a director of the National Association of Church Business Administrators at its 25th annual conference in Dallas, Tex., July 12-16.

The organization is an ecumenical association of professional church business administrators in local churches, military chapels, higher judicatories or church-operated schools, hospitals or homes. More than 20 denominations and 40 states are represented in its membership.

Young is a native of Chattanooga, Tenn. He earned a BA at Carson-Newman College and BD, MRE and DMin degrees from Southern Seminary.

Mastin called to Barnetts Creek
Barnetts Creek Baptist Church, Ohio County Association, has called Steve Mastin as pastor.

Willetts serves students at Calvary
David Willetts is minister to students at Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington. He was called to Calvary from First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla.

J. Dan Cooper is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church.

Ingle to lead DeHaven music
DeHaven Baptist Church, Sulphur Fork Association, has called Gary Ingle as minister of music.

An Alabama native, Ingle is a church music student at Southern Seminary.

McGrady Creek pastor resigns
Bob Hughes, pastor of McGrady Creek Baptist Church, Ohio County Association, has resigned.

Ray resigns Liberty pastorate
Reese Ray recently resigned the pastorate of Liberty Baptist Church, Russell County Association.

Three Forks missionary resigns
J. S. Bell resigned as director of missions of Three Forks Association at the association's executive board meeting July 27.

Bell said he feels a missionary located at Hazard would be more effective.

He will remain available to do supply preaching and teach Bible courses.

He was association director two years.

Congregations

Groups aid mission growth
Hyden Baptist Church, Three Forks Association, will supervise a revival of the work at Short Creek Mission.

Assisting will be the associational Woman's Missionary Union at Smithsboro Baptist Church which contributed \$50 toward expenses of a pastor from Clear Creek Baptist School for the mission.

Three Forks Association executive board voted at its July meeting to give the mission \$35 a week for six months.

Hindman auctions church site
Hindman Baptist Church, Three Forks Association, sold the lots of its old church site at auction July 25.

The sale will enable the church to continue construction of an education annex of its new building.

Smithsboro completes lot, rooms
Smithsboro Baptist Church, Three Forks Association, has blacktopped its parking lot and completed four Sunday school rooms.

The church is planning to departmentalize its Sunday school program.

Macedonia adds to church
Church members' gifts have allowed Macedonia Baptist Church, Jonesville, to install gas furnaces and air condi-

tioning, electrical wiring and a Baldwin organ in the church without borrowing money.

Also in recent months a senior adult group was begun. The group, led by president Edna Haines, meets monthly for supper, fellowship and inspiration.

The youth group has begun a puppet ministry with puppets created by several women in the church.

David K. Hinson, a student at Southern Seminary, is pastor.

Debt ended at Leatherwood
Leatherwood Baptist Church, Three Forks Association, retired its building debt in June.

Bob Blevins preached at the note burning celebration.

Bethlehem has homecoming
Bethlehem Baptist Church, Cunningham, had its homecoming Aug. 30.

Glenn Terry preached the morning's sermon and the Sounds of Faith Gospel Quartet performed that afternoon.

Ray Provow is pastor.

Missions

Turners return to Zambia
Lonnie and Fran Turner have completed furlough and returned to the mission field in Zambia. She is the former Fran Howard; both are natives of Harlan.

They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1976.

Bowlings volunteer for FMB
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bowling of La-Grange will be volunteers for the Foreign Mission Board as bookkeeper/librarian in Gwelo, Zimbabwe. Their six-month term will begin Oct. 1.

Mrs. Pendley resigns FMB post
Frances Pendley, missionary associate to Yemen since 1973, resigned from missionary service July 31.

The former "Pinkie" Read, Mrs. Pendley was born in Butler County and lived in Louisville and Lexington.

In Yemen she was a nurse at Jibla Baptist Hospital.

Miss Scaggs ends furlough
Kentucky native Billie V. Scaggs has completed furlough and returned to the mission field in Liberia.

Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1969, Miss Scaggs was born in Ashland and lived in Greenup County.

Murray FBC sends 19 to Brazil
First Baptist Church, Murray, in cooperation with Christian Missions Unlimited, sent 19 people to Manaus, Brazil July 30.

Ranging from 14 to 57 years old, members of the team worked with Southern Baptist missionaries Lonnie and Janelle Doyle to construct a dormitory at the nearby Baptist conference center. The center is being developed by Brazilian Baptists to train lay people and pastors from churches and mission stations throughout the Amazon Valley.

Murray FBC gave \$5000 for construction materials and furnished church vans and gasoline to transport the team to Miami, Fla. Team members were responsible for their own travel and housing expenses.

They returned to Kentucky Aug. 15.

Christian Education

C. T. Francisco dies

Clyde T. Francisco, senior professor of Old Testament at Southern Seminary, died Friday, Aug. 21, apparently of a heart attack. Francisco, 65, was preaching a sermon at a revival in McRae, Ga.

A professor at Southern since 1944, Francisco published several theological works, including translations of the Old Testament. He was a seminary professor and pastor in Kentucky, his native state of Virginia, West Virginia, England, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Francisco was a graduate of the University of Richmond and Southern Seminary. He did advanced studies at Stanford University and Harvard Divinity School and at Oxford and Cambridge

universities, England.

Survivors include his wife, the former Nancy Lee Anderson; a son, Don R. Francisco of Atlanta; a daughter, Carol Lee Perkins; two sisters, Verna Sohn of West Palm Beach, Fla. and Claudia Francisco of San Diego; and two grandsons.

The funeral was Tuesday, Aug. 25 at 2 p.m. at the seminary chapel with burial at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville.

The family requests that expressions of sympathy take the form of contributions to the seminary's Clyde T. Francisco Awards Fund.

Reader gives books

by Gale Pierce

An avid reader who once was a professor and business manager at Campbellsville College now donates an average of \$250 worth of books to the college library each year.

When Marshall Black reads a new book, instead of adding it to a personal library, he gives it to the college library.

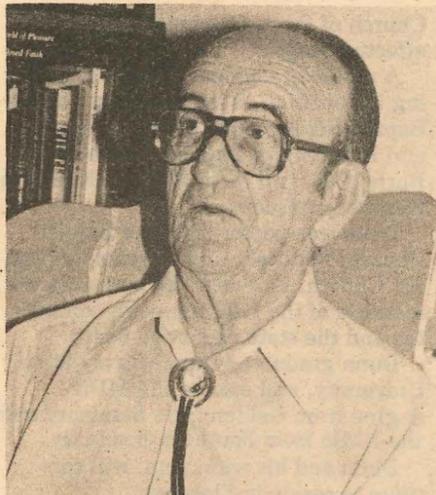
According to library director Brantley Parsley, "half of the books we're getting are gifts." Parsley recently presented Black a certificate of recognition for his friendship to the library.

"I like to read," Black said, "and I feel that a lot of the books I read would be helpful to young people. The books are books that the library would not be likely to buy with their limited funds."

Black's donations reflect his interest in history. Primarily, the books deal with such topics as architecture, aviation, seafaring and world history. Some of his contributions are books concerning church work and theology.

Books are important to Black who spends three to 10 hours a day reading. "Since we don't all have the opportunity to travel," he said, "reading is the best way to understand your community, state, nation and the world in which we live."

The Bible is Black's favorite book. He also likes historical romances such as "Forever Amber" and "When Knight-



Black

hood Was in Flower." Other favorites are "Tale of Two Cities" and "The Leatherstocking Tales."

Black reads a variety of magazines such as U. S. News and World Report, Reader's Digest and Soviet Life.

"The Western Recorder has been coming to my home since I can remember," Black said, "even during the depression." Black's favorite newspaper is the Courier-Journal.

Black also contributed to the college by working 12 years (1958-1970) as business manager. Parsley said, "During his term of administration, more buildings were built on the college campus than during the administration of all the other business managers put together."

"My years at Campbellsville College were as rewarding as any in my life," Black said.

Black spent more than 40 years in the ministry as minister of education at Harrodsburg Baptist Church and as pastor of churches in Boyle, Mercer and Taylor counties.

A graduate of Mercer County High School, Black received a BA degree at Union University, Jackson, Tenn. He earned his master's degree from the University of Kentucky.

Black and his wife, Cleo Gabehart Black, have two sons, Jimmy of Lewisville, Tex., and Terry, a Louisville attorney.

Leepers give largest sum

The R. J. Leeper family of Jefferson County, Tenn. has made a gift of real estate valued at more than \$350,000 to Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., as part of the institution's Vision '80 campaign.

Cordell Maddox, college president, said the Leepers' gift is the largest ever made to the college by an individual.

Leeper was in the hardware business in Jefferson City for 30 years. His wife Mary is a Carson-Newman graduate and they have two daughters currently attending the Southern Baptist school.

ROTC chooses Crisp

James Crisp, associate professor of history and political science at Cumberland College, was chosen by Army ROTC to attend a 37-day military history workshop at the West Point (N. Y.) Military Academy this summer.

Nominated by the Cumberland College military science department, Crisp was one of 18 people chosen from 77 nominees. The workshop qualifies him to design and instruct a course in military history at the college.

Crisp has been a member of the college faculty for 17 years. The retired Army chaplain is a graduate of Wake Forest University and has BD and ThM degrees from Southern Seminary and a master's degree from Duke University.

Alumni honor Aldridge

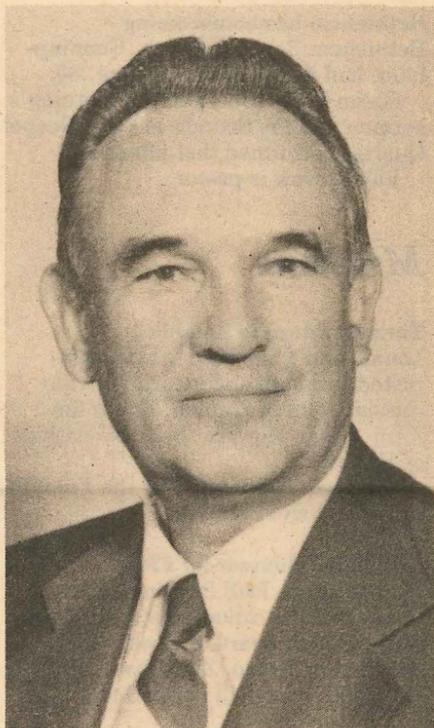
D. M. Aldridge was honored recently at the annual alumni homecoming of Clear Creek Baptist School. Aldridge is retiring after 35 years at the school, 28 of which he was president.

Aldridge and his wife were given a memory book of letters written by alumni and a \$1025 check for the D. M. Aldridge Endowment Fund.

Speakers and singers for the two-day homecoming were former students or their family members.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wyatt were named directors of the alumni association.

Sam Adkins, pastor of High Street Baptist Church, Somerset, and Noble Cobb of Monticello were elected association president and vice president, respectively.



Clyde Francisco

Where Jesus Walked
William H. Stephens

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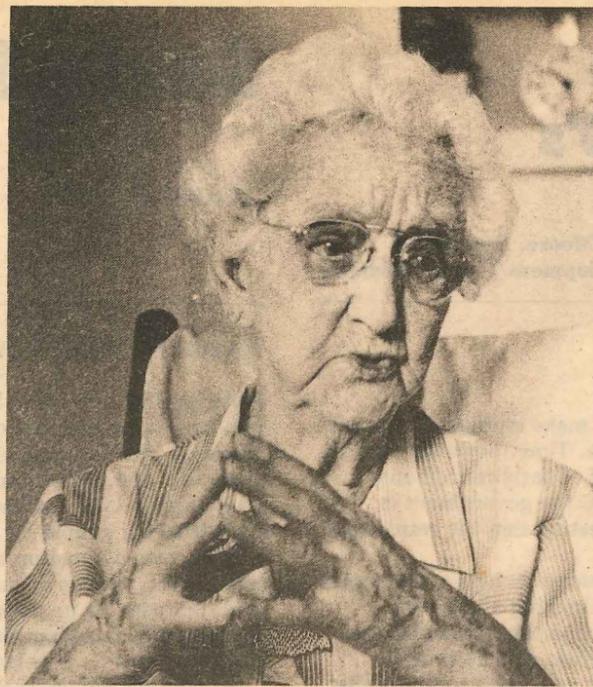
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Reflections

Interest in others makes near-century worth living

by Susan K. Taylor, Staff Writer

At 99 years of age Oma Harper could easily be mistaken for someone a quarter century her junior.

She has a slow but steady gait, thick white hair and skin enviable by anyone over 60. Least telling of her upcoming centennial birthday is her speech: sharp and clear, words direct and carefully chosen and conversation virtually always of other people.

The last, she said, is how she has lived so long. "I didn't have much to do with—just good will and my hands—but you do what you can for other people. That's done more for me than anything."

Born Jan. 12, 1882, Mrs. Harper has lived by that philosophy.

After being widowed almost 60 years ago she directed a welfare home in Bowling Green for several years. The home fed 50 needy school children their weekday lunches and sheltered, fed and cared for poor families at a time when there was no hospital in the town.

For several years Mrs. Harper directed a dormitory for the Bowling Green business university, keeping "strict" watch on the 25 boys and 50 girls who lived there. The girls couldn't get into a car after dark, Mrs. Harper recalled.

During the depression she worked in a Baptist hospital kitchen preparing menus and serving trays.

Decades later Mrs. Harper continues to serve others.

For the past 12 years she has lived in Parr's Rest nursing home in the Highlands area of Louisville. The old building displays the elegance of marble and hardwood, arched doorways and well-kept grounds.

Residents, all women, exchange their property for life care. Thirty days after entrance into the home a woman can regain her property if she chooses to leave.

In the last year Mrs. Harper and two or three other residents have made 500 cloth napkins and 50 tablecloths for the Parr's Rest dining room. The linens, flowers and antique furniture suggest a fine restaurant rather than an institutional cafeteria.

Mrs. Harper sews, keeps her room clean and reads the paper and watches television news to "keep up with

things." She attends the Thursday afternoon church services given at the home.

"Some people don't see why you want to do anything," Mrs. Harper said, shaking her head. "I can see the reason why we all ought to do something," she continued, repeating her philosophy that doing for others is the secret to living well.

She enjoys her life at Parr's Rest and, primarily because of an allergy to the outside air, she seldom leaves her home.

Her hearing, eyesight, stomach and heart are all fine, she reported. Her only medication is a "little nerve pill," the small air conditioner in her window and a daily afternoon rest. "I try not to tire myself," she said.

Reared by her uncle on a Simpson County farm, Mrs. Harper made her profession of faith in a one-room frame church in a community called Greenwood, outside Bowling Green. Mordacai Ham was the Baptist preacher of the church which was used by Baptists and Methodists on alternate Sundays. Mrs. Harper did not join a church, however, until her baptism in Austin, Tex.

At "three weeks from 17," she took an evening train from Franklin to Gallatin, Tenn. and was married at midnight to 34-year-old John Harper.

The couple had a son, now deceased, and two daughters. Mrs. Harper also has three grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and four children of a fifth generation.

Women of the early 20th century had very different ambitions than those of today, Mrs. Harper said. "My only thought was to be able to take care of my children and raise them to be what they wanted to be."

She has seen many changes in lifestyle, and while she enjoys a McDonald's hamburger she doesn't like contemporary dress. "This thing of people going without clothes on distresses me more than anything," she said.

Families are more difficult to raise, she evaluated. "They don't have rules in the home like we did. I couldn't walk the block to church alone.

"Women are trying to do lots of things, so many things," she said.

Many work outside the home. "I don't like that but some have to," as

she herself had to do.

Women preachers are "kind of out of place."

But she seemed happy with some changes for women. "A woman's got just as much intelligence as a man with the same training," she said firmly.

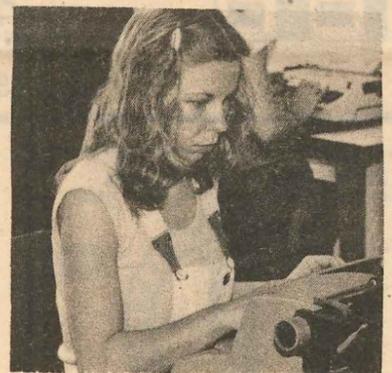
It is difficult to lead Mrs. Harper to talk about herself and she maintains that consuming self-interest is destructive.

"I've always had an interest in other people," she said. "That's what makes it worth living."

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A

Workshop?



Well, it's like a scholarship, except it isn't free. It has to be earned by hard work, washing dishes, scrubbing floors, carrying out the garbage, doing clerical work, or any other job necessary. To obtain a workshop the student must have a true financial need and maintain a satisfactory academic standing. These workshop students work about the same number of hours most students "goof-off" on other campuses.

Being a full-time student and working 20 hours a week is tough, but no job is too menial, too small, to unimportant for a youngster who truly wants an education; and, no deserving, qualified student has yet been refused a workshop when funds are available. Because of a rising enrollment and inflation, we may be forced to turn a youngster away.

President Taylor,

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Tom Moore, Director of Development/Communications

AUGUST 30, 1981



H. C. Chiles

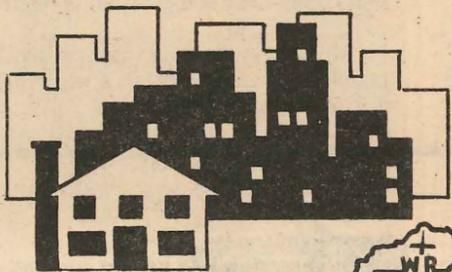
While there is yet time

It is evident that people are living longer, and if those who make studies about such things are correct, people will live even longer in the future. Time, however, has no meaning without purpose. Though we have long had a goal of early retirement, some retiring in their early 50s and many by their early 60s, the government is beginning to help us change our minds about this by suggesting that the retirement age be raised.

Sometimes having more time to do things makes us as human beings prone to put things off longer. One of the things that we often put off is making a will—or planning how we will sustain those things that have been important to us after we are gone. For example, you may give to the child care program on a systematic basis, and the thought may never have occurred to you that you could continue that giving after you are gone. Living longer gives more time to prepare for helping to sustain the ministry of Christ after you have departed.

For instance 10 percent of your estate given to the child care program to be added to our permanent endowment would be one means of sustaining your giving after you have gone on to be with the Lord. It is important that we think of having a longer time on this earth in terms of our opportunity to do for others, rather than to live just to be living. Christ said that "inasmuch as you do it unto the least of these, you do it unto me." How meaningful to know that as long as time exists you will be continuing to serve Christ through your gifts which have been placed in permanent endowment, helping children who otherwise would have no hope.

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Proverbs 12:13-19 The hypocritical and untrue words of a wicked man reveal to all who hear them that one cannot believe what he says or depend upon what he promises. It is not long until one of his lies is followed by another, and soon most of those who know him brand him as a liar. The truthful words of an honest man have a wholesome effect on those who hear them, and he is respected and honored by right-thinking people for his reliability.

In his own estimation a foolish man is always right and, therefore, is not interested in the opinion or judgment of another. Desirous of avoiding mistakes, a wise man distrusts his unaided judgment and seeks the counsel of others. Lacking any intention of controlling his feelings, a foolish man spontaneously displays his vexation when he is perturbed or insulted.

He who speaks the truth reveals he is governed by the principle of righteousness and that he is convinced that truth is necessary for the well-being of society. The utterance of truth reveals the genuineness and wisdom of the speaker, averts mischief being done to others, brings joy to others and enables the truth-teller to please the Lord. Truthfulness is a trait of righteousness and contributes much to one's spiritual health.

Verse 17 clearly distinguishes between the declaration of the truth and the bearing of false witness. He who speaks the truth seeks to bring help to others, rather than harm. He who lies seeks to deceive.

The tongue is a little member but, like a sword, it can be used by a foolish person to pierce, cut and wound. It can destroy reputations and sever the bonds of friendship and love. Let us keep our hearts right with God and train our tongues to speak words that soothe and heal, even when they reprove and admonish.

Proverbs 15:1-4 When properly controlled the human tongue can do much good, but when it is not controlled it can do untold harm. The tongue can be a great power for good or for evil. Since its natural bent is toward evil it must be curbed daily. A Christian's spiritual health can be noted by his talk. One's words certainly reveal the love or the hate which is in his heart.

There is no hiding from God. He knows your thoughts, motives, purposes, words and deeds. Knowing this, do that which you know God wants you to do.

Proverbs 18:20-21 Thoughtful, kind and edifying words of a godly and wise person soothe and heal, whereas thoughtless, rash, harsh and cruel words of an ungodly or unwise person wound others severely. Thoughtless babbling, malicious gossip and hypocritical flattery frequently disrupt the fellowship of a church and of other worthwhile organizations. For this reason we should exercise great care in our speech.

Proverbs 26:22-23 Usually a controversy will cease unless a gossip or trouble-maker keeps it going through his arousal of suspicion and distrust. Gossips know those who are eager to hear their gossip and will pass it on to others who will gulp it down. Let us exercise great care in what we say, when we say it and how we say it, for, after all, each is accountable to God for these things.

GOD IS FAITHFUL

International Series

Deuteronomy 32:1-9 Knowing that the work of Moses was almost finished God called and commissioned his servant to write a song of farewell, the influence of which would live long after his decease.

Believing that what he was about to record under divine inspiration would be of sufficient importance to command the attention and the interest of thoughtful people everywhere, Moses invited those in the heavens and on the earth to listen carefully to the words he was about to write. As soon as he finished his final song and blessed Israel, Moses answered God's call to ascend Mt. Nebo, and there he died.

Describing the words of his song falling upon the ears of his listeners as the gentle rains and dew falling upon the earth, Moses was hopeful that the people would have open minds and hearts to receive what he was about to say to them. Fully committed to the doing of God's will to the last days of his life, Moses was delighted to convey to the people as many of the great truths about God and his expressed will as he could, firmly believing that any truth they might hear about him was worthy of their careful consideration.

Moses began by announcing his purpose was to proclaim God's name and to praise him for his greatness. Through his giving priority to the praise of God, Moses sought to center the minds of the Israelites on the greatness and the goodness of God. Because God had dealt so wonderfully with them in so many ways, they were obligated to express their gratitude to him for his mercies through their praises of his matchless name. We Christians owe our loving and gracious God more praises than we have ever given him.

In his ascription of praise unto God for his greatness Moses spoke of him as "the Rock," meaning that he is stable and unchangeable. God is strong and secure enough to take care of his own, regardless of the trials which may beset them. Throughout history the evidences of God's faithfulness to his children have been numerous and as varied as their needs. His faithfulness to them constitutes a clarion call for faithfulness to him on the part of his children.

Time and again the Israelites had rebelled against God and walked in the pathway of disobedience to him, but God neither deserted nor destroyed them. When they lived in accordance with the will of God they were blessed greatly, but when they indulged in and practiced impurity, ingratitude and idolatry they deprived themselves of many blessings and brought punishment upon themselves. Strict and faithful obedience to God's teachings is a mark of wisdom in the life of any child of God. Let us live in such a manner as to demonstrate faithfulness to our Lord and righteousness in our dealings and relationships with others.

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Clear Creek Comments

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



Interesting, little known facts

Beginning about 1934 the Kentucky Baptist Convention developed our campus as the Kentucky Baptist Encampment and until 1952 hundreds of Baptists from all parts of the state attended every summer to hear leaders of Sunday school, Training Union and Woman's Missionary Union, missionaries and most of the nation's greatest speakers, including J. M. Carroll, V. I. Masters, O. Carver, T. W. Ayers, L. C. Bratcher, S. D. Gordon, Chester Swor, Roy Angell, R. G. Lee, George Leavell, W. F. Powell, Dr. and Mrs. J. O. Williams, R. Bradley Jones, to name only a few.

Some directors of the boys' and girls' camps were L. O. Griffith, L. W. Martin and Wendell Belew, all later with the SBC Home Mission Board, and Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Bell, Hindman, Ky.

Assisted by R. F. Mahon and E. F. Haight, professors at New Orleans Seminary (then Baptist Bible Institute), L. R. Kelly conducted a two weeks' class for mountain preachers in 1926, studying, eating and sleeping under a tent. From this beginning grew the Clear Creek Mountain Preachers Bible School, changed to Clear Creek Baptist School in 1958.

Prospective students were told to bring their own linens and toilet articles. One replied: "Dear Bro. Kelly: I ain't got no toilet set, so I caint come to school. You can give my place to some other man."

For several years the sessions were two or four weeks long; later they were extended to four months, then eight and finally, nine. In 1946 the school was chartered by the Kentucky legislature.

Haight, a professor here many summers, and Mary Thompson, Madisonville, Ky., often played miniature golf (installed in 1930 by J. M. Brooks, Pineville). One evening Miss Thompson leaned on a golf stick and exclaimed, "Oh, Dr. Haight, the moon!" Thus began a romance which culminated in marriage in 1932.

Little Alice Rains from the Louisville Baptist Orphanage was drowned in "the old swimming hole." John L. Hill, later with the Sunday School Board, took an offering to begin erecting the Alice Rains Auditorium that stood near the present Alumni Hall student apartments. It seated 1500 people, the largest auditorium in south-eastern Kentucky.

KBC Activities

Here and now

SEPTEMBER

- 6-12 Brotherhood Leadership Week
- 6-13 State Mission Week of Prayer and Eliza Broadus offering. Program and promotional materials available from WMU, KBC
- 7 Labor Day
- 11-12 WMU Leadership Conference. Jonathan Creek. Same program each day. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Contact Jonathan Creek for reservations
- 13 Single Adult Day. Suggestions for observing from Family Life Section, KBC
- 14,15,17 New Directors' Conferences. For newly elected church directors of Brotherhood, Church Training, church music and Sunday school. 7 to 9 p.m.
- 14—Somerset, Calvary Baptist Church; Henderson, Immanuel Temple; Paintsville, First Baptist Church
- 15—Lexington, Rosemont Baptist Church; Williamsburg, Main Street Baptist Church; Benton, Briensburg Baptist Church
- 17—Russellville, Post Oak Baptist Church; Elizabethtown, Central Avenue Baptist Church; Northern Kentucky Association, church to be announced

Planning ahead

- 24-26 Kentucky Baptist Music Leadership Retreat. Cedarmore. 6 p.m. on 24th to 1 p.m. on 26th. For volunteer, part time and full time music directors and for music faculty of KBC colleges
- 26 WMU Leadership Conference. Clear Creek Baptist School. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 27-10/4 Sunday School Preparation Week. Materials in Sunday school publications

OCTOBER

- 2-3 Brotherhood Convention. Danville, First Baptist Church
- 3 GA Missions Fair. Corbin, First Baptist Church
- 5-6 Haworth Conference. Louisville, Chapel, School of Nursing, Highland Baptist Hospital
- 9-11 State Student Convention. Bowling Green
- 10 GA Missions Fair. Florence, Florence Baptist Church
- 11 World Hunger Day

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

Oneida Journal

An old-fashioned picnic

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



Four days after school began our school photographer came and made each student's picture for our yearbook. Our girls and boys looked so nice. That morning it was announced at chapel that because everyone looked so good in their "best" the next day would be "Rag Day" and everyone was to wear their worst. How's that for logic? There was a ripple of excitement among the students at the thought of wearing their worst and some consternation among the staff who did not understand what was going on.

Friday we were a sight to behold. Fortunately only two bewildered guests showed up to see us in our sartorial splendor. I caused a sensation in my "bibbed" overalls and loud striped shirt. However, the school day proceeded normally and we had our daily worship service in the chapel. During announcement time afterwards I noted that everyone appeared to be dressed for a picnic, so we would just dismiss for the remainder of the day and have an all-school picnic. This had not been done for years. The students sat in stunned silence and then burst into enthusiastic applause. For once a secret had been kept from our students.

All students and staff went to the large athletic field alongside Goose Creek just under the main campus hill. We have acres of playing area there including a baseball-softball field, two soccer fields, a track and a campground with water, electrical outlets and a "dump" station and much ground to spare.

Our cooks led by dietitian and campus hostess Judy Ratliff had a delicious picnic lunch prepared. We feasted on ham, pimiento loaf, bologna, cheese, baked beans, corn on the cob fresh from our gardens as well as fresh tomatoes and onions, fresh fruit salad, watermelon, cantaloupe, cup cakes, cookies, ice cream and lemonade.

Athletic director Larry Gritton and many of the faculty had done much planning for an afternoon of competition with every student participating in at least one event. Homerooms were pitted against one another. There followed several hours of tug-of-war with the losers being dragged through a muddy pit dug especially for the occasion. Swim coach Rick Coffey constantly hosed the pit through the afternoon, and those who came through it looked a royal sight. There were some titanic struggles, particularly between a freshman homeroom and one of the senior homerooms. We have a remarkable freshman class this year, brawny and brainy. They test higher than a class has for years.

There were many relay contests of egg toss, potato-between-the-legs race, three legged race, orange-under-the-chin race and human wheelbarrow relays. Also there was a series of softball games between homerooms as well as softball toss.

The grand finale was the pie-eating contest with faculty members representing the varying homerooms. Our cooks had baked a number of huge butterscotch pies, not exactly a favorite of many. I was drafted to participate. Down on our knees before the table, hands behind, face in the pie. Not very dignified but, of course, the kids loved every minute of it. The pie eaters nearly choked to death! Yearbook advisor Sandra Paul, former college professor now our business teacher for three years, was there with her camera to record every bite and grimace for posterity. Guess who won the pie eating contest?

When the points were added for all the differing contests, the senior homeroom of John Sanderson, former missionary to the Caribbean, now in his 10th year with us, had won the day. As a reward they were taken to a restaurant a week later for a meal away from the school.

Frank Owen



Last call

We hope this will reach our readers before August 31, which marks the end of our Convention fiscal year. Funds reaching our office by September 1 will be recorded in the current year and distributed according to the Challenge Budget.

We surpassed the Operational Budget Goal on July 6 by almost \$200,000.00. This was the earliest we have ever met the regular budget. I wrote of that in these lines at that time, commending our people for this giving record. Our hope was for a grand close-out in Challenge Budget giving.

To my surprise, our receipts have let up a bit since that announcement. Is it possible that I erred in reporting that we had reached the budget? Did anyone get the impression that our needs were all met? (Never, until we reach the whole world.) Maybe it is pure coincidence. In any case, we pray for many year's end gifts from the churches by August 31. Incidentally, our denomination's continued emphasis on doubling Cooperative Program giving by 1982 has brought out some statistical observations.

The trend of mission giving all over Kentucky is upward. We are gaining faster among town and country-side churches than in metropolitan areas. The tendency in city areas, while increasing in dollars, has been toward a slightly decreasing percentage to the Cooperative Program. Church offerings in the cities too are growing rapidly, but larger proportions are required for local operations.

Only one of six metropolitan associations shows a slight five year percentage gain. (All gained in dollars.) The other five are slipping slightly downward in percentage. The upward percentage trend in town and rural associations is greater than in any city association.

No doubt, there is reasonable explanation for many of these circumstances and many exceptions among noble churches. We appreciate the dollar gains of all and we appreciate all who try. We urge all to keep trying to fulfill Kentucky's part in the Bold Mission goals of our denomination.

Baptist News in Brief

Texas leader to retire

James H. Landes, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas since Jan. 1, 1974, has announced his intention to retire at the end of 1982.

Landes, who will be 70 in August 1982, tried to retire as director of the Southern Baptist Convention's largest state convention both in 1976 and 1978 but continued at the request of his executive board.

Membership in the state convention has grown from 2 million to 2.2 million during Landes' tenure. The state's Co-operative Program budget has grown in eight years from \$16.7 million to a 1982 proposed budget of \$45.4 million and Texas Baptists have started more than 1000 churches and missions in that time.

Landes told the administrative committee, "I have no intention to quit helping our churches and ministers. I plan to give the rest of my life helping friends who may not have had the benefit of the many experiences that I have been privileged to have."

Puerto Rico helpers asked

Baptist men with construction skills are needed to build a church building for Ceibo Baptist Church in Ceibo, Puerto Rico, said Bill Wilson, Home Mission Board special mission ministries consultant.

Individuals or groups are needed to volunteer for one or two weeks in September or October, Wilson said.

"The structure is a concrete block building with an asphalt shingle roof," said Ed Richardson, church extension director for Puerto Rico. "Some plumbing and some electrical work will be required. Most any construction man could do this wiring and plumbing," he added.

"This is a great opportunity to see missions first-hand," he said.

"Through becoming familiar with the local people and seeing the work here the group should have a better feel for missions."

For more information, contact Bill Wilson at (404) 873-4041, or write him at 1350 Spring St., NW, Atlanta, GA 30367.

Singers invited to fair

An opportunity for Southern Baptists to be involved in a witness to an expected 11 million visitors to the 1982 World's Fair has been announced.

Gwen Blythe, program coordinator for Baptist Ministries for the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn. May 1-Oct. 31, 1982, said churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention are invited to send their choirs or ensembles.

Directors of groups wishing to participate should write Gwen Blythe, 1811 Melrose Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916 by Nov. 1. Baptist Ministries phone number is (615) 522-4349.

Baptist Ministries for the 1982

World's Fair is the coordinating body representing 35,000 Baptist congregations in the U. S. with 13.5 million members. The group is composed of Knox County Association of Baptists, Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Wyoming wants to affiliate

Eighty-three messengers to the annual meeting of the Wyoming Southern Baptist Area Fellowship unanimously have adopted a proposal to seek state convention status by Jan. 1, 1984.

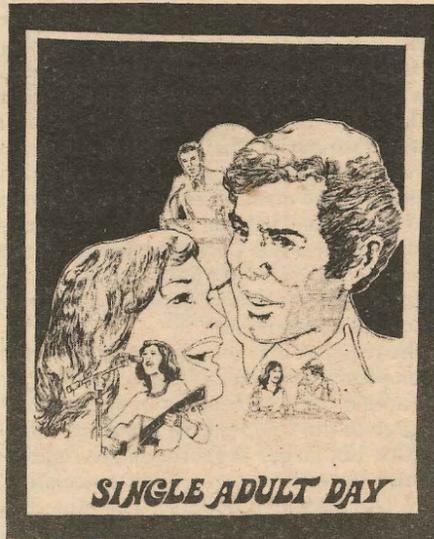
Since 1967 Wyoming has been part of the Northern Plains Baptist Convention which also includes Montana and North and South Dakota. Wyoming Baptists have experienced "phenomenal growth in the past few years in the heart of the nation's energy corridor," said Roy Owen, convention executive director. "It's been moving toward this for a long time."

The denomination currently requires new state conventions to have a minimum of 70 constituted churches and 10,000 members, 60 constituted churches and 11,250 members, or 50 constituted churches and 12,500 members.

Wyoming Baptists, who contribute 48 percent of the Northern Plains Convention budget, increased total giving from \$1.1 million in 1976 to \$2.4 million in 1980.

Herbert Whitten, interim operating committee chairman and pastor of Mountain View Baptist Church, Casper, Wyo., said, "We've had 12 new churches constituted in that time and we're projecting 60 churches and 13,722 members by 1984."

Messengers at the Casper Mountain meeting also named Casper as the new convention headquarters site and accepted the offer of Mountain View Baptist Church's mobile chapel for temporary office until property can be purchased.



Many Southern Baptist churches will observe their very first Single Adult Day Sunday, Sept. 13, recognizing the growing number of single adults in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Determination, courage are Adkinses' hallmarks

by Jim Lowry

Bruce Adkins is proving he's one of those special people with the fortitude to push onward when obstacles appear overwhelming and hope comes only from faith.

Adkins, son of Betty Adkins, an employe of the Tulsa Baptist Book Store, received critical injuries in June 1978 when his motorcycle was hit by a car. His brain stem was severely injured and he received major chest injuries.

For almost six months Adkins lay in a coma—first in the hospital, then at home as his mother and friends attended him day and night, praying for recovery. He had five life-threatening operations while hospitalized, and doctors said each time he might not make it.

Adkins, 26, now exercises daily with the dedication and diligence of an athlete in training. Most days he works six or seven hours with his mother or friends. Progress has been monumental but the path ahead is sure to be arduous.

In the accident his nervous system was damaged extensively. When he came out of the coma he had no speech or muscle control. He was fed through tubes and severe spasms wracked his body.

Coordination is difficult as Adkins tries to learn to walk again. He must consciously tell his body to lean slightly forward, lift one foot and move it ahead, all while picking up the trailing foot in a single, smooth motion.

It is a totally exhausting hour's work to walk the length of the living room four times with the aid of a walker. At Northeastern Oklahoma A & M Junior College Adkins was on the gymnastics team. Now he trains to be self-supporting and is dedicated to the long, painful hours which are the price of progress.

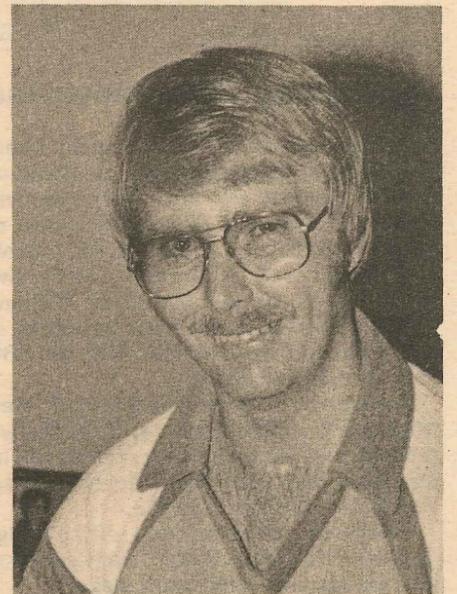
The price for Betty Adkins has been round-the-clock care, hard work and stress. Her ability to endure, she says, is because of a faith that wouldn't allow her to give up.

Evidence of her son's progress, however slow or fast, has been a primary ingredient in Mrs. Adkins' dedication. She also has a whole new understanding of the meaning of friendship and selfless giving from people around her.

She received a job offer from now retired manager Lola Allen to start work for the Baptist Book Store just a few days after her husband was murdered in 1968. Mrs. Allen trained her at night to operate the office machines.

After retirement in 1979 Mrs. Allen started working with Adkins daily. She cooks for the family occasionally and gives them canned food, in addition to taking Adkins to therapy sessions and on other errands.

Mrs. Allen is one of about 40 persons



who has donated time to help. Though some helped for a short time, there has developed a seemingly indefatigable core of Christian friends who believe the Adkinses are special.

Two girls in this group were walking down the street one day, saw the wheelchair ramp into the house and stopped to ask if there was anything they might do to help a handicapped person who lived there.

These girls are members of a singles group in a Tulsa Methodist church. That singles group now takes Adkins out nearly every week to a movie or bowling, and they work with him and visit often in the home.

Kemp and Cynthia Fox are two others who have worked with Adkins, almost from the time he regained consciousness. Because of the frozen muscle condition it took two men to uncross his legs when Fox started working with him. Fox helps Adkins walk three times a week.

The contributions of Lola Allen, the Methodist singles group, the Foxes and other church members and friends have made Adkins' recovery period a valuable lesson of concern and love.

For Mrs. Adkins there were times when she wasn't sure she could go on caring for her son all night and working all day. Each time she felt she was nearing the bottom emotionally another friend would step in to encourage her and not let her quit.

Mentally alert since he came out of the coma, Adkins has been an inspiration to his helpers. He has witnessed of his faith to friends and nurses, and feels God has a reason for his being alive today.

Most persons in Adkins' condition go to nursing homes, doctors advised Mrs. Adkins. But the mountain of caring, love, faith and work of friends enabled him to stay home and progress.

A lot of people are not willing to give up on Bruce Adkins. And as one might suspect, he is no quitter.

Committed

to give...
as God has given