

THIS
WEEK

The editor addresses some mighty bad news, p. 2 . . . Here they are: Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's mid-year graduates from Kentucky, p. 4 . . . More letters—on a variety of subjects, p. 5 . . . Frank Owen explains the mission reserve fund, p. 6 . . . What's happening among Southern Baptists around the world, p. 7



WESTERN RECORDER

VOL. 156, NO. 2, JANUARY 13, 1982

KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL

Jan. 10 blaze razes St. Matthews auditorium



Photo by Richard Shock

by David Smith, Staff Writer

"Somebody said to me this morning, 'Your church has burned up.' My word was, 'the church facilities, part of them, have burned. St. Matthews Baptist Church is alive and well!'" said J. Altus Newell, pastor of Louisville's St. Matthews Baptist Church from the pulpit at Southern Seminary as the church building smoldered.

Although Newell made a clear distinction between the church facilities and the church, the people of God, he admitted, "I see a lot of commitment there. I see a place I really love. Part of me is going up."

Newell told the church he was not sure how extensive the damage was. The sanctuary and church offices were destroyed. However, the educational and recreational facilities were preserved due to fire doors and fire walls installed in a 1978 remodeling, according to Louisville firefighters.

The fire was discovered at 6:39 a.m. by neighbors who reported hearing an explosion, according to Maj. Larry Atwell, a spokesman for the Louisville fire department.

Although cause of the fire has not been determined, it appears to have started in the foyer of the sanctuary, located directly above the furnace.

The fire might have been smoldering for hours before it was discovered, Atwell said. "When the intensity of the fire reaches a certain peak, windows can be blown out with an explosion-like effect," he said.

Even though insurance representatives were to survey the grounds Jan. 11, Newell said Sunday he felt it would exhaust the church's \$3.1 million fire insurance just to replace the sanctuary.

The three alarm fire was discovered as night shift firefighters were preparing to go home and as the day shift arrived so both shifts were able to assist in the effort. St. Matthews volunteer firefighters also helped.

Trying to douse the flames on the fourth coldest day recorded in Louisville history, with wind chill temperature at -50 degrees, firefighters fought the flames "like it was their own home or church on fire," according to Newell. One of the firefighters was treated for frostbite.

More than 1000 people mustered at the chapel of Southern Seminary to worship. They heard Newell emphasize that even though the church had suffered a loss and a grief process would have to be worked through, "the church's fellowship is intact."

Newell said the church staff was "inspired by our people. The shock and grief of (the fire) can be replaced by our people. I think it brought all of us closer together."

The church plans to continue to meet at the seminary for at least the next 14-16 months according to Newell. Sunday school classes will meet in seminary classrooms. The church plans to consolidate with other churches in the area for its day care and kindergarten programs.

Newell said one of the things that impressed him most is the way the religious community has offered its help. Local churches, both other denominations and Southern Baptist, offered the use of their facilities. A Roman Catholic church prayed for the St. Matthews congregation at its morning mass and a Jewish man, after listening to the church's weekly radio broadcast, offered his assistance.

"We sure have a lot of people's dedication. People have felt a great loss. The grief experience is real but we've felt the Lord at work," Newell concluded.

WR directors take action on postal rate increases

Meeting in emergency session last week directors of Western Recorder dealt with rapidly escalating postal rates for second class non-profit mailers, announced by the U. S. Postal Service to take effect Jan. 10. The newly announced rates more than doubled Western Recorder's postage fees this week.

To meet the demands of the postal increase, the directors voted to ask the state convention for a substantial increase in its Cooperative Program allotment, to raise annual subscriptions by 75 cents, to consider eliminating two additional issues of the paper per year and to aggressively promote the back page for church news.

A MESSAGE TO OUR READERS

As Western Recorder directors we feel responsible to share with you our deepest concern over a serious crisis in the life of Western Recorder. As of Jan. 10, 1982 Western Recorder postage was more than doubled bringing the cost for mailing each copy of the paper to about 8 cents per week. We now pay our printer about 4 cents per copy for printing, paper stock and addressing which brings the actual cost for each copy of the paper to about 12 cents per week or \$6.00 a year.

The present annual subscription rates for churches is \$3.75 per subscriber. Since our cost for each subscriber is now \$6.00 instead of \$4.00 before Jan. 10, it is easy to see we will be out of business almost overnight without a substantial increase in income. We would already be out of business without a generous allotment from the state convention.

Specifically, we face a deficit of \$110,000 for 1982. In an emergency meeting of Western Recorder directors Jan. 7 we considered all the alternatives we could think of and found no easy solutions. We concluded, however, the best interests of Kentucky Baptist churches as well as the success of the Cooperative Program, the welfare of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, its institutions, agencies and other ministries depend upon an effective state paper.

To be effective Western Recorder must have wide circulation; therefore we are greatly concerned that a necessary raise in subscription rates not cause any of the churches to discontinue providing the paper for their resident families. We, therefore, sincerely appeal to pastors and other church leaders to understand the difficult situation, to join us in prayer for the best immediate and long range solution and to continue to support Western Recorder as an indispensable instrument in our kingdom efforts.

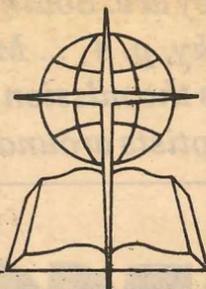
Beginning Feb. 1, 1982 we are asking churches to pay \$4.50 instead of \$3.75 a year for each subscription and individuals to pay \$6.00 instead of \$4.75 a year. This will not be enough to cover the deficit but we fear a larger increase would result in a disastrous decline in circulation. We are requesting an emergency appropriation from the state convention to cover the remaining deficit.

Clarence Benedict
John Christian
Gary Coltharp
Glenn Durham
Curtis Erwin
Garnett Hulette

William Jagers
O. G. Lawless
Sidney Maddox
T. A. Prickett
Gilbert Sapp
William Sullivan

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

WESTERN RECORDER
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C. R. Daley Jr., Editor
James H. Cox, Associate Editor



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Directors: Glenn Durham, Harlan, chairman; Sidney Maddox, Paducah, vice chairman; John Christian, Hopkinsville, secretary; Clarence Benedict, Newport; H. Gary Coltharp, Madisonville; Curtis Erwin, Glasgow; Garnett Hulette, Frankfort; William D. Jagers, Cynthiana; O. G. Lawless, Bowling Green; T. A. Prickett, Owensboro; Gilbert Sapp, Russell Springs; William J. Sullivan, Louisville.



C. R. Daley

Daley Observations

Shocking New Year's news for Baptist papers

On New Year's eve a long distance telephone call brought me inside from wood chopping in the yard. The first words of the voice on the other end were "Are you sitting down so that you can take a shock?" The caller was Tennessee Baptist editor Al Shackleford who had just learned of the huge postage increase scheduled Jan. 10 for non-profit second class mailers.

What a way to begin a new year! By the narrowest of margins Western Recorder survived 1981 financially. In fact, \$4500 had to be transferred from a small savings fund to the regular bank account to meet the year-end payroll and miscellaneous bills before the Christmas holidays.

It's hard not to be bitter about this huge postage increase and its timing. We were threatened with it last summer in the cuts in federal spending but somehow survived. We had reason to believe then we would continue with the already scheduled modest annual raises instead of the sudden jolt of doubling mailing costs. Thus our budget and subscription rates were set accordingly. Now we face a deficit of \$115,000 to \$120,000 in 1982.

Baptist churches and the state Baptist convention, two sources we would ordinarily look to for help, also have their 1982 budgets set. It would be hard to think of a worse time to be faced with finding this kind of additional income.

I find myself reacting in two ways which are admittedly inconsistent. The first is based upon a strong conviction that religion and churches should not look to the state for any financial assistance. They should pay their way fully and so government mail subsidies are out of place.

On the other hand, advantageous mailing rates for non-profit organizations are not strictly subsidies but are rewards for services rendered. The long time practice of low mailing rates for non-profit organizations is based upon a valid rationale. This is that Americans are greatly enriched by a constant flow of educational materials of all kinds and thus can be more responsible participants in the democratic process. The contributions of educational, charitable and religious organizations to the American way of life through periodicals and other materials is inestimable but this is seriously threatened from now on by such high postage rates.

Ironically, second class mailing rates for profit making organizations are not affected by the recent rate changes. This seems to be more and more a pattern of our day. Those who have, have more and more and those who have not, have less and less.

This conclusion seems to be supported by the latest innovation of the United States Postal Service. This is Electronic Computer Originated Mail (ECOM) which will serve only big businesses. It will send messages over telephone

lines from business mailers to special post office computers in 25 distribution centers. The computers will convert the electronic impulses into printed, addressed letters for delivery as first class mail. This innovation was instituted in spite of objections from the Reagan administration, the Department of Commerce and the Justice Department.

Charges for this special service to special customers will not be sufficient at least at first to pay its way and so other mailers will be subsidizing this service. That's some switch. Churches and other charitable organizations which have been accused of freeloading apparently now will be helping to subsidize ECOM, a service for big businesses.

Another bitter dose is the deteriorating quality of service provided by United States mails. Mailers pay more and more for less and less. Once it was considered the United States Postal Service existed to serve mailers. Now it seems mailers exist for the United States Postal Service. From what was once regarded as one of the most efficient of all operations, postal service now ranks among the most inefficient.

An example is the very story of this latest postage increase which was used on page one of this publication last week. It was mailed from Nashville on Dec. 31 with \$2.10 extra postage for special delivery in Louisville 185 miles away. It arrived on Jan. 4 after delivery of regular mail and after a costly long distance call to Nashville to get the story in order to meet a deadline.

How will Western Recorder meet this crisis? Frankly, I don't know but the committed Western Recorder directors elected by the convention will wrestle with the problem in an emergency meeting and pass on their recommendations to Kentucky Baptists.

One thing is certain. Western Recorder or some other communication medium for Kentucky Baptists will have to be maintained if we expect to survive and especially if we continue to flourish. We'll simply have to bite the bullet we have been dodging and find a way to pay our way.

The first reaction of Western Recorder directors' chairman, Glenn Durham, to this news was, "for every problem, there is a solution and the solution begins with prayer." We beseech every Western Recorder reader to join us in prayerful search for a solution.

Southeastern is marked by excellence and warmth

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N. C. had the first December commencement exercises in its 30-year history Dec. 19. It was of special significance to our family since our youngest son, Phillip, received his MDiv degree and I was privileged to deliver the commencement address. The hospitality we were accorded was overwhelming.

Phillip's opportunity to have a quality theological education was due to the contributions of many. Southern Baptists provided the seminary and enough yearly operational funds through the Cooperative Program gifts for him not to have to pay tuition. Fees, books, rent, food, utilities, transportation, etc., called for considerable income which was earned by his mate, Lydia, a nurse who uses her skills as a ministry. Along with the wives of many other graduating students, she was awarded a well earned PHT degree (putting hubby through). Seminary

experience for a couple is generally harder on the wife than on the husband.

Many faculty members contributed to his education not only with excellent instruction but with personal interest in his spiritual and personal growth. Staff members befriended him and took interest in his wife and son. All in all it was a rich and rewarding experience. Multiply his by 10,000 other Baptist seminary students in our six seminaries and it becomes apparent what Southern Baptists are doing in theological education.

Southeastern has grown into an outstanding theological institution since its beginning in 1951. It's a story of sacrifice, dedication and determination. That it was not easy, I can attest to, as a trustee in its early years. The seminary took over the campus of Wake Forest College after the college moved to Winston-Salem. Converting the college facilities which were mainly old and run down was a major undertaking but by now is a beautiful sight to behold.

The faculty is the heart of any educational institution and especially a Baptist seminary. Southeastern Seminary was blessed in the beginning with the willingness of outstanding teachers from other seminaries, mainly Southern, to comprise the faculty and administration. Over the intervening years outstanding teachers have been added with the result the Southeastern faculty now ranks with any in America.

Southeastern has been led by three presidents: Sydnor L. Stealey, Olin T. Binkley and Randall Lolley. There were never three more different personalities with differing gifts. Each seemed to provide exactly what was needed at the precise time. Considering their particular contributions it is easy to believe in the special providence of God upon Southeastern.

Administration-faculty relations largely determine the atmosphere and spirit of a school and at Southeastern it's a magnificent thing to see. President Lolley is first among equals being respected as a president, honored as a colleague and loved like a brother.

Southeastern Seminary is ideally located to serve Southern Baptists, especially from the seaboard states. Easily accessible by interstate highways, it is situated in one of the greatest research and educational centers of America. Duke University, the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State, Meredith and other educational institutions are only a few minutes away.

Wake Forest, however, is a beautiful little town with lovely homes nestled in graceful pines and majestic magnolias. It would be hard to find more appropriate surroundings for the training of young men and women for Southern Baptist ministry.

A regretful but necessary decision

For a few of our treasured readers who have received Western Recorder without charge because of the special ministries they perform or because they sent us their publications, this will be the last issue because of our critical financial situation. This does not apply to Kentuckians serving as missionaries or Kentucky Baptist pastors. Their subscriptions are paid for by the state convention and Kentucky Baptists' Woman's Missionary Union.

It goes without saying we would be happy to have as paid subscribers those who are now on our complimentary and exchange lists.

Oneida Journal

Good citizens

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



Yes, they worked for hours on New Year's Eve. They worked all day last Labor Day when most had a holiday from their normal occupations. Many Saturdays they have worked and two or three nights each week they assemble for training or work.

These are men of the Oneida community who are volunteers and members of the Oneida Volunteer Fire Co. Nearly all are former students of our school.

Orville Burns, the fire chief, graduated in 1958 and is our Oneida postmaster. The assistant chief is a local garage owner and a 1957 grad. He is Ronald Burns, but no kin to the chief. A local elementary teacher, Jennings Roberts, a '65 graduate, is the very active chairman of the board of directors. His great-grandfather "Brer Rabbit" Hacker ran a boarding house for our schoolboys in the earliest days of the school.

The eastern half of Clay County, including our community of Oneida and our school, has never had any firefighting capacity. In recent years the nearest fire department was 17 miles away with a 1000 gallon truck. If anyone's home or any type of building caught on fire, nothing could be done. You simply watched it burn. In the more than 80 years of our school's history, five of our buildings have been lost to fire. The wonder is that there was not a greater loss because over half those years we had open grates burning coal. Today we heat with natural gas.

In January 1980 I called a group of our community men together and proposed the forming of a volunteer fire company. This was immediately agreed to, officers were elected, the group took the necessary steps for incorporation, appealed to the public for support and began training in the evenings to be firefighters. In my memory I have never seen more enthusiasm, more faithfulness and more accomplishment in such a short period of time.

Just two years later, the Oneida Volunteer Fire Co. is housed in its own new 40 feet by 60 feet concrete block firehouse one block from the school campus on land donated by the school and also by a 1941 alumnus. The building includes three large bays for a new firetruck and two old trucks to be used as water trucks, a large kitchen, men's and women's restrooms and a large storage area. The building includes a 26-foot-tall hose tower and a grease-pit in the floor.

A '53 graduate, Joe L. Burns, who is the state highway district engineer, has been the driving force in the construction of the new fire house. He has coordinated the planning, done the purchasing and supervised the construction work. He and the other men have worked for the public good in the spirit of Christ who "came not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

A \$39,000 new Ford 750-gallon firetruck has been paid for, as has \$25,000 worth of materials for the firehouse, \$8000 worth of "turn-out" gear, six air tanks, a portable water pump, smoke fan and more, altogether about \$72,000.

Donations have been solicited, two horse shows, a box supper, a bean-and-potato supper have all brought in substantial sums. The fiscal court has been very supportive and a large coal severance tax grant was obtained toward purchase of the truck.

The men have gone through extensive training and have responded to various fires. In the process, our community has grown much closer together.

Other men who have put in hundreds of hours of effort are: Ray Wilson, Clay Davidson, Reuben Hacker, Homer Allen, Coy Burns, Ern Hatton, Dwight Davidson, Lewis Burns and Roosevelt Spurlock.

Clear Creek Comments

One way you can give

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



Although it is not the only way a person can make a contribution to Clear Creek Baptist School, a will is one of the excellent ways a gift can be made. Some time ago, I read an article on wills of the presidents of the United States which was excerpted from a book, "Wills of the U. S. Presidents."

George Washington used both sides of 15 sheets of specially prepared paper bearing his personal watermark to write his will.

Calvin Coolidge did it in one sentence. "I leave everything to my wife even though I realize my son is around" is about what it said.

Ulysses Grant at the time of his death was broke, and maybe he thought it was no use making one. He spent the last months of his life after he was stricken with throat cancer working on his memoirs in order to provide for his wife.

A number of presidents wrote their own wills, especially in the early days, but later they were written by lawyers and the occasional inspirational or patriotic sentiments in them had disappeared.

The earlier wills are short and sweet, but the whole process of will drafting for people of wealth has changed. There are new complications in law, new practices. A new well written will now provides answers for all questions that could conceivably come up, though most will not.

Why do people not make a will? It's a failure that is not uncommon and may stem from an unwillingness of people to accept their own mortality. Some people are superstitious and think it may somehow accelerate the event.

Since I have been the president of Clear Creek Baptist School, the school has been the beneficiary of a number of wills. They provided for us income which perhaps could not have been provided by any other means. The interests of the person making the will continue to live, even though he is no longer alive.

If you would like to include our school in your will, please write to me and I'll send you a couple of brochures which will explain the procedure. Write to D. M. Aldridge, Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, KY 40977.



Ministering to the children of the 80's



Unto the least

Eldred M. Taylor,
Executive Director

Many of us have been studying the prophecy of Jeremiah as our January Bible Study. With so many parallels between his day and ours, it is entirely appropriate that we let this biblical message speak to our hearts.

Jeremiah was called and commissioned to deliver the word of the Lord to a degenerate, rebellious people. Although it was the message of God, it was not what the people wanted to hear. They had gone in their own self-chosen ways too long. Unwilling to repent, the judgment of God fell on his chosen people.

It is uncomfortable to note the similarities between the decay of Judah and the decay of our own society. However, one would hope that such discomfort would cause Christians to recommit ourselves to the task of serving Christ in this 11th hour.

The disintegration of moral standards, the breaking up of homes, the mounting tensions in relationships, the short tempers and the epidemic of violence are prevalent and evident all around us. In such environment many people are hurt. Those hurt most are innocent and helpless children.

Isn't it wonderful that as we Christians attempt to call a sinful society to God, one of our special ministries to our sick society is to children. In a confused, mixed-up society, dependent, helpless children hurt the most. Your Kentucky Baptist Child Care Program is a tangible effort to reach out to these neglected, deprived, often abused, hurting children and give loving care in the name of Christ.

The needs are growing! We Baptists will not be able to care for every neglected hurting child in Kentucky. But I am glad you care enough to support this work, making it possible to help many who can't help themselves. Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the LEAST of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matt. 25:40). Let's do our best to minister to hurting children in the name of Jesus.

The columns on this page are paid space.

Meet Cumberland College Student...



Kimberly Ann Cloyd

Kimberly Ann Cloyd, 22 year-old Cumberland College senior from Corbin, Ky., came to Cumberland because she "...knew that I could learn better here."

Kim, a chemistry and biology major, has applied herself and has accomplished much. During almost every spare moment between classes, she can be found with her books open, her brow creased in concentration and thought. She believes that learning is vastly important because she plans to enter the highly specialized and technical profession of pharmacy.

Even Kim's extra-curricular activities are centered around her academic pursuits. She is a member of the Cumberland College Medical Careers Club, the Americal Chemical Society, and the Biology Club. In her "spare time", Kim helps with record keeping and Bible study at her home Baptist church in Corbin.

"I have confidence in my Christianity. I am myself. My parents have taught me very basic Christian values and have taught me to just be myself and to treat others with love and consideration. That helps me to be comfortable with myself."

Kim is also comfortable at Cumberland. "I really enjoy Cumberland College because it's small enough to enable me to know many people and to have more friends. I would feel lost at a larger, more impersonal school, but here I feel like I can talk to anyone."

Kim has found that she can also talk to her teachers, a fact that she believes is vital to her learning. "The teachers are always willing to help on a one-to-one basis. If you ask for help, you will receive it, even individual tutoring if necessary. I like that."

After talking with Kim, you are left with a comfortable, confident feeling that this well balanced young lady will accomplish exactly what she wants to accomplish. We at Cumberland College are proud that she has the opportunity to work to achieve her goals.

We want to help others.

President Taylor,
Please send me more information about how I can help other students like Kim.

Name: _____

Address: _____

(Clip and mail to Dr. James Taylor, President, Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Kentucky, 40769)

Southern Seminary graduates 28 Kentuckians; four others receive diplomas from Boyce School

Twenty-eight students from Kentucky were among 205 awarded degrees from Southern Seminary during the seminary's 148th commencement Dec. 18.

The 28 Kentuckians were members of the final graduating class under the presidency of Duke K. McCall who is retiring after three decades as head of Southern Seminary. McCall, serving a five-year term as president of the Baptist World Alliance, will assume responsibilities as the seminary's first chancellor. He has been president of Southern since 1951.

Kentucky graduates include:

Master of Divinity—Gary Coleman Bennett, Louisville; Paul P. Buck, Louisville; Wilbert H. Goatley Jr., Louisville.

Master of Divinity/Theology—Gregory W. Bruckert, Louisville; Angela Church, Louisville; Gabriel Ray Collett, Slaughters; David John Culp, Louisville; Douglas Wayne Hager, Lexington; Charles Wayne Myers, Shelbyville; James R. Stanhope, Louisville.

Master of Divinity/Social Work—Carol Sue Reese, Paducah.

Master of Religious Education—Daniel E. Myers, Louisville; Ronald David Nelson, Louisville; Arvil L. Pennington, Berea; David Marcus Wallace, Louisville.

Master of Religious Education/Social Work—Karen Kathleen Park, Paducah.

Master of Divinity/Religious Education—Edwin Carl Pavy, Louisville.

Master of Church Music—Claude B. Bivins, Ekron; Philip LaMar Burkett, Big Laurel; Kyle David Duvall, Louisville; Ronald Mark Dycus, Louisville; Ruth Ann Mills, New Castle; Carole Anne Noel, Louisville; Michael Allen Rose, Louisville; Benjamin Ward Stofer, Louisville.

Doctor of Ministry—P. Clay Carter, Louisville; Floyd T. Jenkins Jr., Berea; Herschel D. Morgan, Benton; Isaac B. McDonald, Hodgenville.

McCall presented the E. Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award to Grady C. Cothen, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board as part of the commencement service.

McCall said Cothen deserved Southern Seminary's highest award because of his "effective leadership as pastor, Christian educator and president of the Baptist Sunday School Board."

Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, was commencement speaker. He challenged the graduates to find new meaningful and fruitful lives through the leadership of Christ.

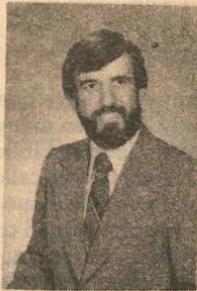
Four persons from Kentucky were awarded diplomas from Boyce Bible School during fall commencement exercises Dec. 18.

Lewis A. Drummond, Billy Graham professor of evangelism at Southern Seminary, delivered the commencement address. He told the graduates of the thrill of transforming lives by declaring God's truth.

Richard Domerese of Olaton, Arthur Hatfield of Maceo and Philip B. Tichenor of Owensboro received Diplomas in Christian Ministry. Dan M. Brummett of Rockholds received a Diploma in Educational Ministry.

Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Seminary, was founded in 1974 to provide ministerial training for persons without a college degree.

Master of Divinity



Bennett



Buck



Goatley



Bruckert



Church



Collett



Culp



Hager



Myers



Stanhope

Master of Divinity/Social Work



Reese

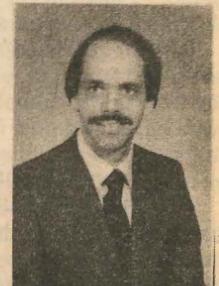
Master of Religious Education



Nelson



Pennington



Wallace

Master of Religious Education/Social Work



Park

Master of Divinity/Religious Education



Pavy

Master of Church Music



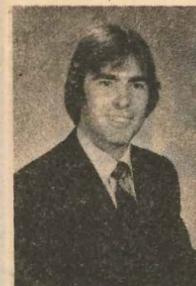
Bivins



Burkett



Duvall



Dycus



Mills



Noel



Rose

Doctor of Ministry



Stofer



Carter



Jenkins



McDonald

Boyce Diploma in Christian Ministry



Domerese



Tichenor

Boyce Diploma in Educational Ministry



Brummett

Photos provided by Southern Seminary

Baptist Forum

Have faith in God

I am replying to Mr. Harold Greenfield's letter to the editor in the 12-23-81 issue of Western Recorder. Mr. Greenfield seemed skeptical of the increase in the percentage of Kentucky's giving to the Cooperative Program.

I take issue with his stand on this plan of a 60/40 division of the funds collected by Kentucky Southern Baptists. We need not cut any part of our state program. We need to exercise more faith in God who owns the world and all that's in it and increase our giving to the total work of Baptists around the world.

If we trust in God, he will increase the giving of our lay people in all the churches so our state programs will not be cut. "O, ye of little faith" (Matt. 12:28).

Evelyn Lindsey, Drakesboro

Try it, you may like it

As a result of being on the committee at our church seeking to fill a staff position, I read with great interest your thoughts on listing church vacancies in Western Recorder. Knowing the time and effort our committee has put forth to recently call a new minister of youth and activities and is giving a minister of music, I heartily concur there must be a better way for everyone than the informal methods now used.

The simple method of allowing

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- Auditorium Addition—Immanuel Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky.

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churches to list their positions would seem to me to allow the prospective church, the candidate and the Lord to all have their say in seeking God's will. If anything, it should shorten the search process and aid in placing the right person in the proper location. This would allow that church and the selected person to begin serving the Lord and doing his will within a quicker time period.

I certainly hope you and the others who assist in the decision on pursuing this idea give it serious thought and, if nothing else, that you choose to try it for a year's period of time.

Louis A. Kerrick, Harrodsburg

Opposes Middlesboro church's policy

I hope Western Recorder will enable me to communicate to the churches of the Kentucky Baptist Convention an apology for my reticence to bring before our convention an issue that Bell Baptist Association dealt with wisely and with courage.

I assumed someone wiser and more able than me would introduce a resolution deploring the recent action of the First Baptist Church, Middlesboro, in

her recent action to receive any mode of baptism.

Our convention had the responsibility to declare itself on this vital issue. Even the Courier-Journal suggested we would probably deal with it. I waited for others to act and I am ashamed of myself and embarrassed; but I do not intend to fail Kentucky Baptists like this again whether I'm a good spokesman or not.

David A. Keyes, Paducah

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KBC Activities

Planning ahead

JANUARY

- 18 and 19 Area Evangelism Conferences for pastors, church leadership and laymen. 7 p.m.
18—Louisville, Cedar Creek Baptist Church
19—Lexington, South Elkhorn Baptist Church

Looking Ahead

JANUARY

- 22-23 Deacons, Pastors and Wives State Conference. Cedarmore
24 Baptist Men's Day
24 and 27 Prayer Emphasis for Bold Mission Thrust 82-85 and April Simultaneous Revivals
25, 26 Bible Drill Conferences. 7 p.m.
25—Fulton, Crutchfield Baptist Church
26—Madisonville, Little Bethel Association Building.
25, 26 Area Evangelism Conferences for pastors, church leadership and laymen.
25—Owensboro, Bellevue Baptist Church
26—Bowling Green, Calvary Baptist Church
29-30 Deacons, Pastors and Wives State Conference. Kentucky Dam Village, Gilbertsville

FEBRUARY

- 1 Area Evangelism Conference. Mayfield, High Point Baptist Church
1-3 "Preaching" Seminar. Lexington, Rosemont Baptist Church

Frank Owen



A word about the Mission Reserve Fund

Thirty-nine years ago (1942) the Executive Board created a Mission Reserve Fund, principally as a receptacle for year's end unspent department budget money. Little was ever accumulated for many years because of frequent limited receipts (below budget) plus the tendency to authorize whatever was available for debt payments, unforeseen needs, etc.

During the 1970's we got out of debt and began trying to operate on a pay-as-we-go basis, even for large capital expenditures. A decade of fully met budgets, plus conservative fiscal policies, and cooperative staff people have combined to allow significant deposits to this Reserve Fund.

In 1970 a list of investments for such funds was approved. The present administration, following wise rules laid down in 1942 and 1970, has reaped this fruit in a prosperous era.

The biggest factor of all has been by chance (or was it God's providence?) that the investments we were required to make under the rules proved precisely the wisest places to have funds during the particular years (interest up to 20%). The now accumulated Reserve Fund consists principally of compounded double digit interest money.

The only action taken on the Mission Reserve Fund by the present administration was to put a ceiling on it at 75% of six months operation costs. This level was reached last year for the first time. We recommended that all (and more) of the unspent department budgets (including all of the contributed money) be put back into the Missions pipeline just as if it had been another Cooperative Program Offering.

We further recommended \$100,000. to Church Building Loan Fund, \$100,000. to the Baptist Student Building Fund and \$100,000. to the Cedarmore Chapel, Kitchen, Dining Room Fund. Also \$50,000. was recommended to increase the salary scales of secretarial-clerical-fiscal-manual Convention employees.

A portion of the interest earnings money (\$257,000.) was allocated to complete the purchase of a fleet of automobiles (21—four were purchased last year.) We have been moving toward this mode of furnishing necessary travel for state-wide mission employees who have previously furnished their own automobiles and been reimbursed on a cents per mile basis. This non-repeating initial cash transaction plan made possible great Savings both through low-bid fleet pricing and by avoiding all financing charges.

Now that the Reserve Fund has matured, good financial experience should produce such extra money for the Missions pipeline year after year.

I'll discuss next week the automobile question and perhaps another week the way this now matured fund has already (as of August 31, 1981) revised our South-wide percentage to 36.432% and our Kentucky Education percentage to 38.763% and other gains.

Sunday School Lessons



JANUARY 17, 1982

H. C. Chiles

JESUS AS LIGHT

International Series

God revealed himself through Jesus Christ, the son of God, the messiah of the Jews and the savior of sinners, who came into the world to accomplish the saving purpose of the father.

John 1:4-10 In the preceding verses of this chapter we are taught that Jesus Christ is co-eternal, co-existent and co-equal with God the father. There was never a time when he did not exist. The statement, "The word was with God," reveals his separate and distinct personality, even though an inseparable union existed between the father and the son. "The word was God" is a very clear declaration of the deity of Christ. Any lower estimate of him is insufficient. Of all things that exist in the material universe there is nothing that came into existence apart from Christ (vs. 3).

From verses four to 10 we learn that Jesus Christ, the source of all life and the one upon whom every living being is dependent for sustenance, is also the light. In the incarnation Christ was the light blazing in the darkness; unfortunately many would not receive the illumination which he brought. To realize it was a dark world into which Jesus Christ was born, one needs only to be reminded of the cruelties and brutalities to which so many were subjected at the hands of those who did not know and love God.

Through the centuries which have intervened and gone into the tomb of time Christ has kept on shining in the midst of the darkness, ignorance and hostility of the sinful world, but happily the darkness has never been able to overcome or extinguish the light. He has kept on shining even though multitudes have refused to receive and utilize the light provided by him.

John 12:44-50 When John reflected on the public ministry of Christ and recalled how he had performed his miracles within the plain view of many people, John was amazed that so many absolutely refused to accept the fact that Jesus was truly the messiah and went on rejecting him as their personal savior. In consequence of their refusal to believe on Christ, God gave them up and thereafter they did not have any desire to believe. Of those who observed his miracles were some who believed and were saved. However, some of them, for fear of the loss of popularity, prestige, possessions or position, declined to make a public announcement of their faith in Christ.

In his messages to the crowds Christ said: "I am the bread of life," "I am the light of the world," etc., implying that he was divine. In Christ men were brought face to face with God. Christ was the son of God declaring the Father's message accurately and faithfully.

Christ made provision for the salvation of the lost, but he saves only those who trust him as their savior. One's destiny is determined by his personal response to Christ—believing on him or refusing to do so. Believing on Christ while one has the opportunity assures the believer of salvation. When one comes into possession of salvation or eternal life, his first duty is to make a public profession of his faith in Christ. Then, from that time until the end of his earthly life, he should strive to please and honor the Lord out of gratitude for what the Lord has done for him.

RELATING TO HUMAN LEADERS

Life and Work Series

Those who are rightly related to God through Jesus Christ, their savior and lord, should be related correctly to all Christians.

1 Corinthians 3:1-11 In writing to the members of the church in Corinth, Paul bemoaned the fact that they had not made any progress toward spiritual maturity. They were in a state of spiritual infancy. Like many in our churches today, they were milk-drinking infants, unable to take the meat of the word, so they were weak. When Paul focused his camera on these carnal Christians he caught them quarreling over the leaders in their church, with each group contending that their favorite preacher was superior to all the others. Such divisions are never prompted by the Holy Spirit, but are always caused by carnal people who are influenced by Satan. Factions reveal their carnality, fail to grow spiritually and dishonor the Lord.

Paul sought to correct the carnality of the Corinthians by showing them God uses men as instruments and the real credit for all of their accomplishments in the Lord's work actually belongs to God. The effectiveness of the ministers of Christ is not due to their personal abilities, but to the blessing of God upon their labors. Apart from his blessing their best efforts will be fruitless.

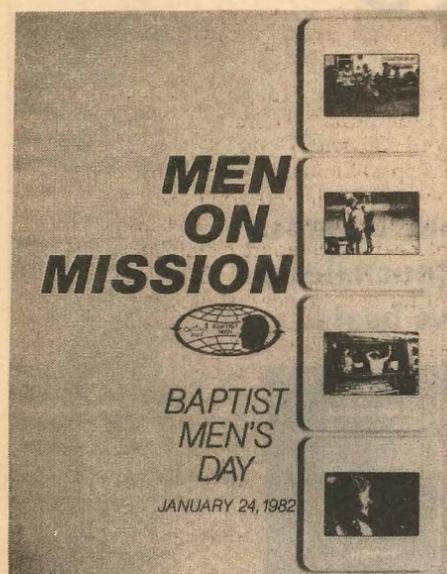
Christians are highly honored in being God's fellow workers. God furnishes the soil, the seed, the showers and the sunshine, but he expects us to do the cultivating. Success is certain when we work with God for his glory and for the welfare of others.

Paul not only likened Christians to God's cultivated fields, but also to God's building. The foundation of the building has already been laid through the love of God and by the work of Christ. Other foundation than that which has been laid, which is Christ, is neither permitted by God nor needed by man. As such, Christ is fully adequate. In building the superstructure let us use only that which will be harmonious with the foundation. In building our characters and lives on this foundation, let us use imperishable materials because eventually there will be a testing of what we have built. If we strive to do our best work in building with imperishable and enduring materials, we shall enjoy inward satisfaction, win the approval of our Lord and receive appropriate rewards.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 Paul, Apollos and Peter were ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God through whom some of the Corinthians were led or persuaded to repent of their sins and to believe on Christ, whereupon they were saved. God never intended the church in Corinth to become divided over these preachers.

Inasmuch as God owns us by right of creation, preservation and redemption, we are stewards of what we possess—self and substance. As the Lord's stewards, he desires and deserves our very best in faithful service. Having been entrusted with the message of salvation in Christ, we are required to be faithful in dispensing the gospel according to the directions which the Lord has given to us. Whether our resources be slender or ample, whether our opportunities be rare or numerous, faithfulness in stewardship is required of us.

Baptist News in Brief



"Men on Mission" is theme of Baptist Men's Day Jan. 24. Thousands of Southern Baptist churches will honor Baptist Men during special worship services, fellowships, witness and mission action projects. More than 200,000 men participate in missions involvement through the Baptist Men's organization.

Ridgecrest seeks staffers

Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center is accepting applications for employment on the 1982 summer staff, according to George Boswell, personnel services coordinator.

Applicants must be between 18 and 65 years of age and be available to work from May 31 through Labor Day weekend.

Available positions include food services, day camp, housekeeping, registration, business offices and auditorium and conference room operations.

The conference center provides an extensive program of activities for the staff, including Bible study, recreation, music and mission opportunities.

Information may be obtained by writing Summer Employment, Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, Box 128, Ridgecrest, NC 28770.

The year-round conference center is owned and operated by the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Del City to build new plant

First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., has voted to buy 47 acres one mile east of its current location on which to build a new church plant.

The church, led by Southern Baptist Convention president Bailey Smith, will pay \$1.8 million for the property primarily from funds already accumulated. The property, at the corner of Southeast 29th and Sooner Road, currently contains a Seventh Day Adventist camp, a movie theater, a mobile home park and a trucking company.

Smith, who has been at First Southern since December 1973, raised the question in his church newsletter about his commitment to stay at the church and see it through this project.

"Yes, I have become a very well known preacher," he wrote. "Offers galore have come my way. Let me skip over all of that and tell you that as we go into this project I am here for life. I've got so many glorious ideas. More

than fame, money recognition and honor, I want to be your pastor and see God do a great, great work reaching souls for Jesus."

He wrote that after he asked God to give him direction from the Word about what to do, "The first passage I read, I mean the very first words I saw, said, 'Go, sell whatsoever thou hast.' The next passage, 'Sell everything.' And the third, 'Sell all of thy garments.' That was all in five minutes. I was literally overwhelmed by the fact that God was telling us to sell, sell, sell and move."

He also wrote that he will cancel most of his engagements for 1982 to give full energy to the expansion project.

Construction of a 5000-seat, \$7 million auditorium is expected to start in 1982. Current education space may continue to be used for up to five years.

Ghana staff FMB concern

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board leaders are trying to contact missionaries in Accra, Ghana, in the wake of a military coup in that capital city early Dec. 31.

The American Embassy in Accra reported the estimated 1500 Americans in the country were believed safe and were being urged to stay in their homes. Heavy gunfire was reported at the airport and in the area of Burma Barracks, the central military camp at Accra, news reports said.

Thirty-one of the 51 Southern Baptist missionaries stationed in Ghana were in the west African country when the coup was staged before dawn. Two couples and two single missionaries are stationed in Accra.

Baptists add to Poland aid

Responding to continued need for food and relief in Poland, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board released an additional \$130,000 in hunger and relief funds Dec. 28 to assist Baptists and others in Poland.

Earlier the board had released \$135,000 for channeling through West German Baptists for hunger and relief needs in Poland.

John R. Cheyne, the board's relief ministries consultant, said relief agencies have experienced some problems with getting trucks across the border but are pushing ahead with efforts to assist hungry Poles.

He said four trucks of volunteer agencies were detained at one border crossing but that eight trucks of supplies from Baptists have made it across, carrying 3000 packages each.

Though Southern Baptist-financed truckloads are being sent to Baptist leaders in Poland, Cheyne said the food is being distributed without regard to religious preference.

Baptists to honor Carters

Former President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalyn, will receive distinguished service awards from the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The awards, given for the Carters' outstanding contribution in Christian social ethics, including their private and

public support for strong families, will be given during the CLC annual seminar in Atlanta Mar. 22-24.

The Carters, strong Southern Baptists, will be present to receive the awards and will make a response during the meeting.

The national seminar will help kick off a three-year denominational Bold Mission Thrust emphasis on strengthening families.

L. D. Johnson succumbs

L. D. Johnson, 65, one of Southern Baptists' best known speakers and writers on moral, social and theological issues, died Dec. 20 after a long battle with cancer.

Johnson, chaplain of Furman University and former pastor of churches in South Carolina and Virginia, was author of five books and a frequent speaker on moral and social issues.

Johnson had been chaplain of Furman and professor of religion since 1967. He was pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenville, S. C., 1962-67. Prior to that he was pastor of First Baptist Church, Danville, Va., 19 years, and was chairman of the religion department of the University of Richmond from 1959-62.

TV show test marketed

The Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission is issuing an "Invitation to Life" in five cities during January test marketing of a preaching program by that name.

Broadcasts of the pilot for the proposed American Christian Television System are both an evangelistic effort for Baptists in the five areas and a test of the show's effectiveness for the commission. This small-scale test marketing is in preparation for full-scale, weekly airing of "Invitation to Life" when the ACTS network becomes operational next year.

For the pilot, revival services were videotaped at Central Baptist Church, Magnolia, Ark., and North Phoenix Baptist Church, Phoenix, Ariz. Services were combined with short feature segments about church members and edited into the four half-hour broadcasts.

None of the test telecasts will be in the Kentucky area.

WEF dies, but work lives

It was billed as a celebration, but many of the speakers shed tears. Some called it a funeral, others a wedding. But whatever the description, the last official gathering of the World Evangelism Foundation in December in Dallas marked a significant moment for Southern Baptists as mission leaders outlined convention plans to adopt the concept that WEF pioneered—partnership evangelism.

The foundation was begun by W. H. "Dub" Jackson Jr., a Southern Baptist missionary to Japan for 17 years who resigned in 1969 to develop a way to send teams of pastors and laymen on one-to-one witnessing ventures in partnership with foreign Baptist churches.

The result was World Evangelism Foundation. During more than 12 years it has coordinated trips by about 6000 U. S. Baptists to 35 countries.

The Foreign Mission Board is beginning its own partnership evangelism program and WEF decided last year to phase out its operation. The banquet in Dallas was the last event for the foundation.

Jackson joins the board Mar. 1 as regional coordinator for partnership evangelism assigned to Ruschlikon, Switzerland for a year. Later he will spend a year each in South America, Asia and Africa to help establish the board's new program.

Evangelism calendar set

The Evangelism Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is providing area evangelism conferences Jan. 18-Feb. 18.

Conference leaders include C. Keith Mee, James Rose and Glynn T. Hill from the Baptist Sunday School Board; Harry Hunter from the Home Mission Board; Jack Palmer from Kentucky's Sunday School Department; and Harry Porter, minister of evangelism at Farmdale Baptist Church.

Group conferences will be: Simultaneous Revival Preparation, Equipping Sunday School Workers for Witnessing, Continuing Witness Training Orientation and Using the Church Library in Evangelism.

Area conferences will be held in Louisville at Cedar Creek Baptist Church, Jan. 18; Lexington at South Elkhorn, Jan. 19; Owensboro at Bellevue, Jan. 25; Bowling Green at Calvary, Jan. 26; Mayfield at High Point, Feb. 1; Hopkinsville at Hillcrest, Feb. 2; Somerset at Pleasant Hill, Feb. 8; Allen (Ky.) Baptist Church, Feb. 9; Maysville at Central, Feb. 11; First Baptist, Pineville, Feb. 15; First Baptist, Hazard, Feb. 16; Florence (Ky.) Baptist Church, Feb. 18.

First quarter CP gifts up

A modest December increase in undesignated gifts through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program raised receipts for the first quarter of the fiscal year to \$20,628,934, an increase of 12.9 percent over the same period last year.

December's undesignated gifts of \$6,766,658 were just 4.3 percent ahead of December 1980.

Total designated and undesignated receipts for the first quarter are \$24,319,900, an 11.8 percent increase over the same quarter last year.

'Creationism' lauded

A federal judge's decision declaring Arkansas' creation science law unconstitutional pleases a Southern Baptist minister who took part in challenging the law.

Nathan Porter, one of 23 plaintiffs in the lawsuit against Act 590, said Judge William Overton's decision—announced Jan. 5—addressed the major issue in the case.

"Evolution is not the issue," Porter said. "It is whether religion will be taught in the public school. It has been the issue from the beginning and that is why I became involved. The basic question is the separation of church and state."

Porter, from Arkadelphia, said he joined the other plaintiffs, who included 11 other clergymen and the American Civil Liberties Union, as an individual, a parent and a Southern Baptist committed to religious liberty. "In no way do I speak for Southern Baptists; however, I do believe I have represented the historic Baptist position."

In a 38-page ruling released Jan. 5 Judge Overton said Arkansas Bill 590 which forced schools teaching the theory of evolution also to teach the story of creation was an unconstitutional violation of religious freedom.

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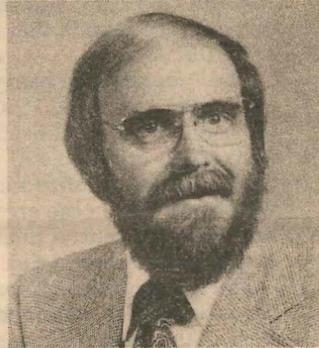
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