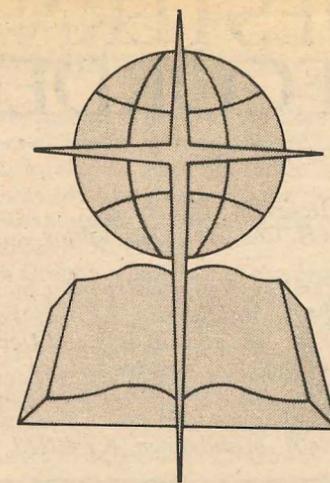


WESTERN RECORDER

KENTUCKY BAPTIST NEWS JOURNAL

VOL. 156, NO. 49, DECEMBER 22, 1982



No room in the inn

Messengers to the Pittsburgh convention in June may be faced with unusual shortage of hotel space

All rooms assigned to the Southern Baptist Convention for the 1983 annual meeting in Pittsburgh have been filled, convention manager Tim Hedquist says.

Hedquist said the Pittsburgh Convention and Visitors' Bureau is "looking for other hotels and dormitory facilities for messengers," but added that persons who do not already have room reservations should await subsequent announcements of room availability.

Approximately 6500 rooms were allocated to the SBC. Of them, 40 percent were included in the block reservations. The drawing for priority assignment of the blocks was made in July, leaving 3800 rooms available for individual messengers.

"On the first day for individual requests—Oct. 1—we received 3000 requests. On the second day—Oct. 2—we received more than we could fill," Hedquist said. "The convention bureau is now looking for other facilities to

house messengers."

He added that the majority of the first day requests asked for rooms in the five downtown hotels. "Many did not get their first choices and about 800 did not get any of their first five choices. We assigned them to the next closest hotels."

Hedquist said one of the reasons individual rooms are so scarce is that "block reservations have cut drastically into the allocation of rooms. A recommendation will be made at the 1983 meeting to eliminate all block reservations, except for the convention and for the Woman's Missionary Union. All other reservations "made through the city housing bureau will be made on an individual basis."

The convention manager commented that "many persons who made requests for blocks of rooms also made individual requests . . . and plan to take the best of the two. Perhaps some rooms will be released Mar. 1, when block

room reservations must be made or released."

Hedquist added four other factors have contributed to the scarcity of rooms in Pittsburgh. First, he said, the closest hotel to the convention center has been turned into an apartment complex since Pittsburgh was selected in 1978; second is that a hotel two blocks from the convention center has been torn down.

The third factor, he said, is that many hotels in Pittsburgh are remodeling, causing a loss of about 250 rooms in the downtown area.

"A fourth factor is that a hotel we were told was scheduled to be built when we selected the site is still scheduled to be built," he added.

Hedquist added the room request statistics do not indicate a record number of messengers and said he expects only about 14,000 to 15,000 messengers for the 1983 SBC, down from previous years.

Ring out the old, ring in the new

As is our tradition, Western Recorder will not publish an issue next week. Two weeks of Sunday school lessons are included this week as a result. The next issue will be dated Jan. 5, 1983 launching Western Recorder's 157th year of service to Kentucky Baptists. Happy new year from your state Baptist newspaper.

Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Are you moving?

Please give us three weeks' advance notice. Clip this portion with your old address label, supply new address above, and send to Western Recorder, Box 43401, Middletown, KY 40243.

To tell the truth

Draper names twelve who will count the votes in Pittsburgh

The tellers committee for the 1983 Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh has been announced by SBC president James T. Draper Jr. and registration secretary Lee Porter of Nashville.

Draper, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex., previously had announced that James H. Landes, retiring executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, would be chairman of the tellers, who are charged with tabulation of all votes taken during the convention.

Bylaw 10, Section 4 of the SBC constitution requires that the "president, in consultation with the registration secretary, shall appoint the tellers."

Named to the committee are three state executive directors, George E. Bagley of Alabama, Ellis Bush of Pennsylvania-South Jersey and Roy Owen of Northern Plains.

Also to serve on the tellers body are Frank R. Campbell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Statesville, N. C., and president of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; James F. Yates, pastor of First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, Miss., and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; R. Kirby Godsey, president of Mercer University, Macon, Ga.;

Duke K. McCall, chancellor of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; Dorothy E. Sample, presi-

dent of Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the SBC, of Flint, Mich.; James L. Sullivan, retired president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and former president of the SBC; Mrs. Clayton Teague, president of the District of Columbia Baptist Convention WMU; and John J. Hurt, editor emeritus of the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of Texas Baptists, Dallas.

Draper called the tellers committee an "extremely important committee. Even in the midst of questions about the casting of ballots, no one has ever doubted the integrity of the tabulation of the ballots. It is important that we maintain the highest degree of integrity."

He said he had consulted with Porter about the persons to serve on the tellers committee, and informed the two vice presidents—John Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church of Shreveport, La., first vice president, and Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church of Oklahoma City—about the appointments.

Draper told Baptist Press he probably will not be able to announce the other key committees—resolutions, credentials and committee on committees—by Jan. 1 as he earlier had promised. He said, however, that he plans to meet with Garrison and Sullivan soon and hopes to be able to make the appointments early in January.

Editorial

Contributions should be made now!

by C. R. Daley, Editor

Front page editorials for Western Recorder are rare but every reader needs the following information. Gov. John Y. Brown has called a special session of the Kentucky General Assembly to consider his legislative proposal to charge Kentuckians a flat percentage tax on their income.

Though the specifics of the legislative proposal have not been revealed, its general provisions are known. One of these is that contributions to churches and all charitable organizations will not be deductible from income for state tax purposes. This is bound to discourage charitable giving.

Deducting charitable contributions from taxable income has long been recognized as an encouragement for generous gifts to churches and especially to schools, hospitals, children's homes, YMCA and similar organizations. Many people with considerable resources prefer to give their money to charity instead of turning it over in the form of taxes to the government.

Of course the fate of Gov. Brown's proposal is not known now but rumors have it the skids are greased for easy and rapid passage.

In light of this readers should take two steps. The first is to make certain any church or charitable contributions planned to be made anytime soon had better be made before the end of the year 1982. Contributions may not be deductible in 1983 for state income tax purposes.

The other step is to contact your state representatives and senators. Have them tell you the possible effects of this proposal if enacted. Also express your sentiments to them in clear language.

The next issue of the Western Recorder (Jan. 5, 1983) will have a further analysis of this proposal.

WESTERN RECORDER

(ISSN 0043-4132)

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

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

Directors: Glenn Durham, Harlan,
chairman; O. G. Lawless, Bowling
Green, vice chairman; John Christian,
Hopkinsville, secretary; Clarence Bene-
dict, Highland Heights; H. Gary Col-
tharp, Madisonville; Robert DeFoor,
Harrodsburg; Garnett Hulette, Frank-
fort; Thomas O. Miller, Nicholasville;
T. A. Prickett, Owensboro; Gilbert
Sapp, Campbellsville; William J. Sulli-
van, Louisville.

Advertising rates available upon re-
quest. The institutional columns on an
inside page are paid space.
Subscriptions: Single, \$6.30; foreign,
\$7.00; church budget, \$4.50. Payable in
advance, except church accounts, which
require tax exemption number.

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



C. R. Daley

DALEY OBSERVATIONS

The year there was no Christmas

Imagine a year without the tradi-
tional Christmas celebration—no
jingle bells, no Christmas trees and
no Santa Claus.

December came and went with no
appearance of Christmas cards and
presents. Stores were not crowded
with frantic customers, there were
no traffic jams and parking lots at
shopping centers had empty spaces
even on days of special sales.

Children and grandchildren gave
no thought to special visits with
parents and grandparents. No little
excited boys and girls were photo-
graphed with Santa Claus and no
letters from children with requests
for presents were addressed to the
North Pole.

School children were given no
holidays in December. Christmas
programs and drawing names for
exchanging presents were only
memories of bygone days.

No Christmas trees with twink-
ling lights nor Christmas scenes
decorated homes and lawns. No
stockings were hung the night
before Christmas and no milk and
cookies were left on the hearth for a
tired Santa.

In churches no Christmas carols
were sung, no communion services
were planned, no nativity stories
from Matthew and Luke were read,
no choirs performed Christmas
music and no sermons on the incar-
nation were preached.

Was there ever such a Christ-
mas? Yes! Would you believe it, in
1982? Not for America but for the
majority of the nations and peoples
of the world there will be no Christ-
mas in 1982.

There is no place in atheistic
Communist nations for Christmas
observance except secretly by
Christians. The great masses of
China and India know nothing of
Christ and Christmas. Moslems
who rival Christians in numbers
and zeal have only contempt for the
birthday of Christ. Christmas is
strictly a tradition of the western
world except for its commercial im-
pact upon other nations.

Should we attempt to make
Christmas a celebration for all the
people of the world? Yes, but not
all the non-Christian aspects of it. If
the traditional Christmas celebra-
tion of America were all non-Chris-
tians knew of Christ and Christian-
ity, it would be a false Christian
witness indeed.

May God grant Americans a joy-
ful Christmas in 1982. But let it be

a Christmas with Christ at the
center and not commercialism so
that if Christmas becomes a univer-
sal celebration, Christ instead of an
American tradition will be recog-
nized and worshiped.

Murray Baptists say goodbye to the Whittakers

It was a heartwarming experience
to join Murray First Baptist mem-
bers on Dec. 12 in expressing love
and gratitude to Bill and Rebecca
Whittaker for seven years of devo-
ted service to the church and com-
munity. Bill and Rebecca have been
appointed Southern Baptist mis-
sionaries to the Philippines and will
begin their orientation in January.
Bill will begin his Philippine minis-
try by serving as pastor of the In-
ternational Church in Manila.

A properly planned commission-
ing service by First Church follow-
ing the official appointments drew a
large congregation. A very impres-
sive commitment service was joined
in by the Whittakers and the con-
gregation. Bittersweet tears were in
abundance.

An afternoon reception brought
hundreds to say farewell to the
greatly beloved couple and their
charming children. Most farewells
took the form of affectionate em-
braces and sincere pledges of
prayer.

Such scenes are not uncommon
these days as hundreds of sincere
young Baptists announce their deci-
sion to leave America to preach the
gospel in faraway places. There's
something distinctive, however,
about each one of these and there
was something very special about
this one.

Most often young people have
decided on the direction of their
ministries by the time they com-
plete their seminary training and, if
it is in foreign missions, they are on
their way upon graduation or soon
thereafter. It has been different
with Bill Whittaker. For years he
has been struggling with a call to
foreign missions but it was not
known by many. Therefore his re-
cent announcement was a surprise.

Bill's notable and rapid success
as a pastor and a denominational
leader led his friends and admirers
to anticipate a career of prestigious
service as a state and Southern
Baptist Convention leader. To be
elected president of a state conven-
tion as Bill was before age 40 is an
unusual honor. It probably has hap-

pened but I don't recall a past
president of a state Baptist conven-
tion offering himself as a life career
foreign missionary.

Bill and Rebecca's examples will
be influential with others struggling
with the call. It is to our shame that
only five percent of those graduat-
ing from our seminaries are foreign
mission volunteers while 95 percent
choose to stay in the homeland.
That doesn't say much for Bold
Mission Thrust.

Reflecting upon this moving ex-
perience while driving home from
Murray several thoughts came to
my mind. One was that God moves
in unexpected ways to put workers
into his harvest. Few would have
predicted that the Lord would have
lifted a young, highly successful
pastor from one of Kentucky's lead-
ing Baptist churches to send to the
Philippines.

God not only calls his servants in
unexpected ways but his true ser-
vants respond in unexpected ways.
Humanly speaking, Bill and Becky
have every reason to remain in
Murray to enjoy popularity, success
and the American standard of living
as well as to rear and train their
children in all the advantages of
this land.

Success, however, in the sight of
true servants of God is not judged
by American standards but by the
degree of obedience to God's will.

God can be counted upon to con-
tinue calling bright young people to
take his good news to the ends of
the earth. As long as couples like
Bill and Becky and the four other
Kentucky Baptist related couples
appointed foreign missionaries this
month respond to God's call, there
is hope.

Bill Marshall possesses rare qualifications

The Lord continues to smile upon
Kentucky Baptists when it comes to
the choice of an executive secre-
tary. The outpouring of gratitude
for the leadership of retiring Frank-
lin Owen had not ended before
there began an enthusiastic and
joyful anticipation of the coming of
Bill Marshall as Owen's successor.

No man could be found with more
promising qualifications for this
ministry nor have more things
going for him than Bill Marshall.
Bill is a Kentuckian possessing the
insights and convictions character-
istic of Kentucky Baptists. He grew
up with an understanding of the

uniqueness of Kentucky Baptists
which is needed by an executive
secretary and which requires
several years' experience for non-
Kentuckians to acquire.

Marshall has first hand knowl-
edge and appreciation for Kentucky
Baptist institutional life. It was as a
student at Georgetown College that
Bill Marshall really discovered him-
self and the meaning of genuine
religion. In his early days at
Georgetown on the football field he
acquired the nickname "Bull
Moose" for his roughness and
toughness. The nickname stuck but
the image changed from a "lovable
roughneck" to a radiant believer
characterized by humility, gentle
strength, a loving spirit, a whole-
some zeal and an all out commit-
ment to God's plan for his life. This
pilgrimage which started in college
carried him rapidly to unusually
effective ministry in the pastorate,
on the mission field and as an ad-
ministrator with the Southern
Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Marshall is a very effective com-
municator. His dedication and
warmness shine through his words
so his listeners are challenged and
inspired as much or more by what
he is as by what he says. He is one
of the most effective voices among
Southern Baptists today for reach-
ing the world with the good news.

The characteristics cited above
point to another extremely impor-
tant trait which Marshall possesses.
He is downright likable. Popularity
and prophetic ministry don't always
go together but this new leader for
Kentucky Baptists comes as near
possessing both as any man I know.
It might not be a sign of maturity
but Baptists generally respond posi-
tively only to leaders they like. Bill
Marshall will be loved wherever he
goes.

The one untried side of Bill Mar-
shall is the administrative details
and the occasional hard nosed deci-
sions his new office requires. Hope-
fully he will let experienced Ken-
tucky Baptist Building personnel
relieve him of many of the daily
details of his office and his admin-
istrative experience with the
Foreign Mission Board will have
prepared him for difficult decisions.

As for Kentucky Baptists, added
to our prayers of thanksgiving
should be daily petitions for the
Lord's leadership of Bill Marshall.
With such human gifts and divine
resources the most productive days
of Kentucky Baptists should be still
ahead.

BAPTIST NEWS IN BRIEF

Baptists lose ground in congressional elections

More Roman Catholics were elected to the 98th Congress in the 1982 elections than ever before, according to a new study of congressional religious affiliations released by Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Continuing a 20-year trend, Catholics strengthened their hold on first place by adding six members in November voting. The new Congress will have 142 Catholics.

Methodists regained second place, which they had lost to Episcopalians in 1980. There will be 73 United Methodists in the new Congress compared to 70 in the outgoing body. Prior to the early 1960's Methodists had long been the largest group in Congress.

Episcopalians dropped from second to third place, losing 10 members. They now hold 61, their lowest representation in 20 years. Presbyterians remained in fourth place with 54 members, a loss of one. Baptists remained in fifth place, but with a reduction of eight seats. The 46-member Baptist representation is the smallest in over two decades.

The Jewish membership reached an all-time high of 38, five more than were elected in 1980, though Jews remained in sixth place.

The Lutheran representation went up from 22 to 25 members, as did non-denominational Protestants, who went up from 19 to 24 members. Other religious groups which gained members included Mormons (up from 11 to 13) and the Eastern Orthodox and the independent Church of Christ communities, which both increased their representation from five to seven.

The United Church of Christ membership declined from 16 to 14, the Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) from six to four and the Christian Scientists from four to two. Unitarian Universalists remained at 10 members. Only five members held no religious affiliation.

School prayer rider added to appropriations measure

The U. S. House of Representatives agreed to an apparently symbolic amendment barring the Justice Department from blocking "programs of voluntary prayer and meditation in public schools."

But the restriction—which has been placed on previous funding measures for the Justice and Education departments—apparently will have little or no practical impact since the Justice Department is not involved in suits or other actions to prevent prayer in schools.

Even amendment sponsor, Rep. Robert S. Walker (R-Penn.), said he has "no particular fear" that the Justice Department would begin such activities but pushed the amendment to

"assure" local school districts that the federal government won't interfere with school prayer programs.

The amendment passed on a voice vote with minimal opposition from the manager of the funding bill for the Department of Justice.

Immediately afterward the House agreed on a 243-153 vote to bar the use of Justice Department funds for court actions seeking required busing of students.

Kentucky receives Church Training award

The Kentucky Baptist Convention was recognized for having the largest Church Training increase in average attendance for 1980-81.

Church Training enrolment was 66,771 and the average weekly attendance was 37,888 or 56.7 percent.

BSSB searching moves smoothly

Two members of the Baptist Sunday School Board presidential search committee reported their work is progressing harmoniously without pressures from any special interest group.

"Our work is progressing well but no decision has been made yet," Raymond Langlois told board employees in their weekly chapel service Dec. 10. He said 70 persons had been nominated for the position and every one is being considered.

Langlois, pastor of Judson Baptist Church, and John Daley, pastor of Brook Hollow Baptist Church, both in Nashville, asked to speak to employees to share information about the search process.

Daley, chairman of the trustee executive committee and an ex officio

member of the search committee, said the group is "working in a marvelous harmony and trust with one another as we seek a new Sunday School Board president, perhaps the most strategic position in the denomination. We feel God has chosen us for this task because of this harmony and trust."

"We have not had any pressure from any outside group and no advice," Langlois reiterated. He said he was grateful the committee had been allowed to do its job in a spirit of confidentiality.

Langlois said he expects the committee to make a recommendation to Sunday School Board trustees at the semiannual meeting in February.

Supreme Court asked to uphold tax deductions ban

Americans United for Separation of Church and State has filed a friend of the court brief with the U. S. Supreme Court asking the high court to strike down a Minnesota law granting tax deductions for tuition paid to church schools.

In the brief Americans United general counsel Lee Boothby said, "tax deductions funnel state financial support to religious schools and bring to them students for religious indoctrination. This Court's approval of such aid would undermine the character and independence of religious schools, open the public treasury to further demands of pervasively sectarian institutions, spawn a whole new generation of parochial litigation, and permit additional struggles between civil and religious authorities and institutions over tax funding and conflicts between religion and public policy and controls."

The case will be heard sometime in 1983 and a decision is anticipated before the court recesses in July 1983.

Rate-Cutters visit state Baptist offices

Two representatives of Utility Rate-Cutters of Kentucky Inc. stopped by the Kentucky Baptist Building recently on their way to Lexington and Frankfort to organize support for lowering the cost of utilities in Kentucky.

Ron Greene, chairman of the organization, and Jeff Antle, treasurer, were walking the whole distance to dramatize their concern and to talk to as many citizens and businesses as possible.

Utility Rate-Cutters is a statewide consumer-based organization fighting to protect residential and business interests in gas, electric, telephone and water service. Leaders of the organization say one of their goals is the convening of a special session of the General Assembly to address the problem. A rally to which the public was invited was scheduled in Frankfort Dec. 18.

The organization is non-profit and non-partisan and its mailing address is Box 132, Louisville 40201.

State evangelists select Alabamian

Otis Williams, director of evangelism for the Alabama Baptist Convention, Montgomery, Ala., was elected president of the Southern Baptist Fellowship of Evangelism Directors.

Williams, former vice president of the group, succeeds Calvin Cantrell, associate director of evangelism for the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

During the organization's meeting members honored four who are retiring this year: O. M. Cates, Georgia evangelism director; Carlos Paredes, associate in the Texas evangelism division; A. C. Queen of Nevada and Leonard Sanderson of Louisiana.

Cumberland College



Dr. Jim Taylor, President

TOGETHER

We Can Take on
The World



L-R: Dave Owens, Cameraman; Ken McGavin, Director; Angie Foster, Grip; Mark Murphy, Sound Technician; Rod Kirby, Cameraman; Dr. Jim Taylor; and Sam McGill, Production Manager, WBIR-TV.



Jim Hart, Station Manager
Pete Fennelly, Program Director

WBIR-TV AND CUMBERLAND COLLEGE

A unique friendship that works together to meet the needs and publicly serve the people of Southeastern Kentucky and Northeastern Tennessee.



The Cumberland College Chorale and Chamber Choir will be featured, along with other schools, in a one-hour Christmas Musical special, produced and aired as a public service by WBIR-TV, to be telecast by Channel 10, Knoxville, on December 24 at 7:00 p.m. Additionally, thanks especially to WBIR Program Director Pete Fennelly, WBIR-TV will produce a one half hour program featuring only Cumberland College. This program will be telecast on Christmas Day, December 25, on Channel 18, Lexington, at 2:00 p.m. and WKYH-TV, Channel 57, Hazard, at 3:00 p.m.

BAPTIST NEWS IN BRIEF

Jack Lowndes resigns as N. Y. Baptist leader

Jack Lowndes, executive secretary of the Baptist Convention of New York since 1975, has resigned effective Mar. 1.

Lowndes plans to return to the pastorate or some other type of church-related work.

Wallace Williams, pastor of Madison Baptist Church in Madison, N. J., and chairman of the executive board of BCNY, said the board granted Lowndes a leave of absence in January and February "for rest and to reevaluate his ministry."

"Differences in management" caused the amicable parting, both men agreed.

Prior to an eight-year pastorate in Arlington, Va., he spent 17 years as pastor of Baptist churches in Tennessee, Kentucky and Georgia.

Female rights pushed by task force panel

A seven-member task force on women in Southern Baptist life, named by the Christian Life Commission, has made recommendations to the moral concerns agency to enhance the status and responsibilities of women in the 13.8 million member denomination.

Proposals include an informative service on women who are employed or who are seeking employment in church-related vocations, production of educational resource materials on issues related to women and an enlarged program to provide information on women's issues to state Baptist papers and denominational publications.

Members of the task force which met for two days were T. B. Maston, professor emeritus of Christian ethics at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.; Sarah Frances Anders, chairman of the sociology department, Louisiana College, Pineville; James Flamming, pastor of First Baptist Church, Abilene, Tex.; and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.

Other members included Darold Morgan, executive director of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board, Dallas, Tex.; Patsy Ayres, active layman from Sewanee, Tenn.; and David Matthews, pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenville, S. C., also chairman of the Christian Life Commission.

Members of the task force encouraged the ethics agency to sensitize Southern Baptists to the discrepancies in employment positions and wages between women and men and also to point out that many local churches fail to include their female employes in Annuity Board retirement plans.

"Some of the most sinned against people are women employes of churches. Many if not most retire without a cent of retirement benefits," said Morgan, who heads the SBC annuity agency. "Churches should include every full time employe in their pension plan. It is the only fair and right thing to do."

Another thought on secretaries

I have read with great interest the articles you have published on whether a secretary should or should not be a member of the church in which she serves.

The article, "Let Secretaries Be Church Members," prompted me to write this because I found the article to be extremely judgmental and biased to say the least.

I am a church secretary. I chose not to be a member of the church in which I work. I did so for a very important reason: The desire for my spiritual life and my work life to be a separate entity. I cannot speak for all church secretaries as Clara A. McCart seemed to be able to do. The pastor I work with had nothing to do with my decision. He is a great man of God and I'm sure that if I felt the need to be a member of his congregation, he would not refuse me.

I would like to think I am a very successful church secretary. In my two year tenure in this position I have not had one complaint, so that seems to speak for itself. I have a good relationship with the church members as well as the other staff members. A church secretary's job is basically of a clerical nature. Notice I said basically; not necessarily limited to.

In the same article which I am referring to it was stated "the few who prefer not to belong to the church do so because they do not want to become involved in the life of the church, either for family reasons or because they do not have that degree of dedication which a true minister must have." I resent that statement and find it to be totally judgmental. Only God is qualified to make such a statement. He has not!

In closing, let me say without reservations that I love the Lord Jesus Christ with all my heart. He was the one who

BAPTIST FORUM

led me to this job. He is the one who has helped me to make it a success. What else matters? Why all the concern?

Jessie M. Dean, Lexington

An expression from Nigeria

As this is being written we are preparing to "send off" Dr. Leslie Langley, a pediatrician from Elizabethtown who has spent a month with us as a volunteer. He embodies the various things we appreciate so much from you—your prayers, your financial support through the Cooperative Program and the annual foreign missions offering and your personal involvement as members of Christ's body in its worldwide ministry. Thank you so much.

Here in Ogbomosho Alice and I are involved in two Baptist institutional ministries. She teaches in the Women's Training Center of the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, which is affiliated with Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. I am chief of staff in the Baptist Medical Center. I believe this is the oldest medical mission work Southern Baptists are involved in. Now, under proprietorship of

the Nigerian Baptist Convention, it is a busy general hospital. It also has a newly opened School of Nursing, a program for medical students from the University of Ibadan and a training program for interns and residents in family practice.

We would request you to pray that this segment of the body might be found effective and faithful in compassionate care for the sick, in providing training for nurses and doctors and in spiritual ministry to patients, students and staff alike. Thank you and God bless you.

William C. Gaventa
Ibadan, Nigeria

In defense of non-restrictions

I was delighted and excited to read in your paper of the wave of revival and of thousands being saved in the public schools of Zimbabwe, Africa, with the leadership of our Southern Baptist missionaries.

On an evangelistic crusade in Zimbabwe a few years ago I had dinner in the home of an Englishman who served as principal of a large public school. He had invited me to preach at a school assembly, and to his classes. I expressed a concern about the separation of church and state and inquired about how much liberty I had to preach the whole gospel. My host replied, "We in Rhodesia want to have a great nation like America. We recognize that it was the Bible and Christian influence that made America great and free. So tell it like it is!"

It's good to see the Holy Spirit is not restricted in Africa from bringing the blessings of Christ to the children in public schools. I am afraid we modern day Baptists would never allow anything like this to happen in America today.

C. Hoge Hockensmith, Lexington

Our Christmas wish is that peace, joy and contentment abide in your heart this blessed season



Western Recorder staff

L-r: C. R. Daley, editor; George Strickland, compositor; Jean Bryant, subscription clerk; Juanita Spicer, editorial secretary; Dorothy Hayes, bookkeeper; Ann Tatum,

receptionist; James H. Cox, associate editor, and Ray Hayes, circulation-advertising representative.

**Missionaries named Dec. 7
at First Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Va.**

Kentuckians appointed by FMB

Bill and Rebecca Whittaker

Mr. and Mrs. Bill D. Whittaker will work in the Philippines, where he will be a general evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he is pastor of First Baptist Church, Murray.

Born and reared in Bowling Green, Whittaker considers Calvary Baptist Church there his home church.

He received the BA degree from Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, and the MDiv and DMin degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He has worked as a staff assistant to the dean of students at Western Kentucky University. He has also served as a Foreign Mission Board summer missionary in the Philippines and Southern Baptist Home Mission Board summer missionary in Louisiana, and as pastor of Jackson Grove Baptist Church, Bowling Green, and First Baptist Church, Sturgis.

Born in Owensboro, Mrs. Whittaker,



the former Rebecca Howard, considers Bowling Green her hometown and Eastwood Baptist Church there her home church.

She received the BS degree from Western Kentucky University and the MA degree from Murray (Ky.) State University. She has worked as a teacher in Sturgis, Louisville and Franklin. She has also served as a Home Mission Board summer missionary in Oklahoma.

David and Marsha Smith

Mr. and Mrs. David A. Smith will serve in Israel, where he will be a publications worker and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he is an intern staff writer for Kentucky Baptists' newsjournal, Western Recorder. She teaches in Louisville. They are members of St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

Born and reared in Birmingham, Ala., Smith is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Smith of that city. He considers St. Matthews Baptist Church his home church.

He received the BA degree from the University of Alabama and the MDiv-RE degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also attended Jefferson State Junior College, Birmingham.

He has served in the U. S. Navy and worked as news director and associate director of college relations at Southern Seminary.

Born in Louisville, Mrs. Smith, the former Marsha McNeely, is the daughter of Gerald and June McNeely, South-



ern Baptist missionaries in Spain. While growing up she lived in Barcelona and Madrid, Spain and Georgetown and Louisville.

She received the BS degree from Georgetown (Ky.) College and the MRE degree from Southern Seminary. She has worked as a language lab operator at Georgetown College, sales/stock clerk at Baptist Book Store, Louisville, and on the faculty of the DePaul School, Louisville.

Augustus and Eleanor Verdery

As missionary associates Mr. and Mrs. E. Augustus Verdery will work in Switzerland, where he will be a seminary professor and she will be a secretary. For the last 30 years he has been director of the Department of Pastoral Services at Georgia Baptist Medical Center, Atlanta. They are members of First Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.

Born and reared in Harlem, Ga., Verdery considers First Baptist Church, Decatur, his home church. He received the AA degree from Mars Hill (N. C.) College; the BA degree from Mercer University, Macon, Ga.; and the BD, MTh and PhD degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He has worked as assistant professor and director of religious activities at Mercer University. He also served as a Sunday School Department of the Georgia Baptist Convention and assistant pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta.

Since 1971 he has served as southeastern regional director for the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. He has also served as an adjunct professor at Columbia Theological Sem-



nary, Decatur, and as a visiting professor at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Atlanta, and Southern Seminary.

Born in Lexington, Mrs. Verdery, the former Eleanor Reynolds, grew up in Carlisle. She considers Carlisle her hometown and First Baptist Church, Decatur, her home church.

She received the BA degree from Agnes Scott College, Decatur. She also attended Carver School of Missions (now merged with Southern Seminary).

James and Donna Shemwell

Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shemwell will work in Togo, where he will be a religious education consultant and she will be church and home worker. Currently he is a Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteer serving as associate minister at Community Baptist Church, El Paso, Tex.

Born in Greenville, Shemwell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ennis Shemwell of El Paso, Tex. While growing up he lived in Gary, Ind., and considers that city his hometown and New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, Hobart, Ind., his home church. He has also lived in Central City and Waterloo, Ia.

He received the BS degree from Cumberland College, Williamsburg, and the MRE degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

He served in the U. S. Naval Reserve in Glenview, Ill. He has worked as a painter at Southwestern Seminary. He has also served as pastor of Gatliff (Ky.) Baptist Church and Valparaiso (Ind.) Baptist Church; associate pastor and bus minister at First Baptist Church, Williamsburg; interim Baptist Student Union director at Cumberland College; and catalytic pastor and house church planter in the El Paso Baptist



Association.

Born in Dayton, Mrs. Shemwell, the former Donna Maggard, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Maggard of Cold Spring. She grew up in Cold Spring and considers that city her hometown and Licking Valley Baptist Church there her home church.

She received the BS degree from Cumberland College. She has worked as a teacher in Kennedale and Clint, Tex., and as a secretary in Williamsburg, Northbrook, Ill., and Merrillville, Ind. She has also served as a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board summer missionary in Indiana.

Francis and Snow Serda

As missionary associates Mr. and Mrs. Francis W. Serda will serve in Kenya, where he will be a printer and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he is pastor of Point Clear (Ala.) Baptist Mission and graphic arts teacher for Mobile (Ala.) County Public Schools. They are members of First Baptist Church, Fairhope, Ala.

Born in Mobile, Serda considers that city his hometown and Point Clear Baptist Mission his home church.

He received the BA degree from Mobile (Ala.) College. He served in the U. S. Air Force, and was stationed in the United States, Okinawa and the Philippines. He has also served as pastor of San Souci Baptist Church and New Life Baptist Church, both in Coden, Ala. and New Hope Baptist Church, Leakesville, Miss.



Born in Edmonson County, Mrs. Serda, the former Snow White, grew up in Louisville and considers that city her hometown and Point Clear Baptist Mission her home church.

Carol A. Fairley

Carol A. Fairley was named special project medical worker to Ghana by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board during its December meeting in Richmond, Va.

Miss Fairley, a charge nurse at North Sunflower County Hospital in Ruleville, Miss., will work as a nurse in Ghana. She is a member of Bethany Baptist Church, Louisville.

Born in Louisville, Miss Fairley considers Louisville her hometown and Drew Baptist Church her home church.

She received the BS in nursing degree from William Carey College, Hattiesburg, Miss. She has also attended Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. She achieved registered nurse standing by examination in Wyoming.

She has worked as a nurse technician at Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans, La.; nurse at Washakie Memorial Hospital, Worland, Wyo.; nurse at Highlands Baptist Memorial Hospital, Louisville; and camp nurse in Cape Cod, Mass.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

PERSONNEL

Gray resigns as Calvary interim
Paul Gray has recently resigned as interim pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Bracken Association.

Simpson accepts Dry Ridge pastorate
John Simpson, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Maysville, has accepted the pastorate of Dry Ridge (Ky.) Baptist Church.

Jim Highland begins new ministry
Jim Highland, pastor of First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, announced Sunday morning Nov. 7 he will be terminating his work there to begin a new ministry Jan. 1.

He has accepted the position of church program director with Cargill Associates, Ft. Worth, Tex. In his new ministry he will give leadership and direction to capital stewardship campaigns in churches, working with four or five churches at a time. These will be evangelical churches throughout the southeastern or southcentral United States.

Highland, a Lexington native, is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Seminary. He has held pastorates in Danville, Harrodsburg, Liberty, and Williamsburg, and Knoxville, Tenn.

Laws resigns Wallins pastorate
Leland Laws has resigned as pastor of Wallins Baptist Church, Upper Cumberland Association.

Marion calls Lin Thurman to its staff
Marion Baptist Church, Ohio River Association, has called Lin Thurman as minister of youth and music. He goes to Marion from Arnold, Mo.

Ray E. Cummins is pastor of the church.

First Covington calls James Chase
James Chase has accepted the minister of music post at First Baptist Church, Covington.

Chase has graduated from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, Southern Seminary and Luther Rice.

Karshner to head Florence education
Florence (Ky.) Baptist Church has called Randy Karshner as minister of education.

Karshner is a graduate of Campbellsville College and Southern Seminary. He goes to Florence from Stithon Baptist Church, Radcliff.

Sheffield is Madison Avenue interim
Robert H. Sheffield is interim pastor of Madison Avenue Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association.

Phil Roberts serving as interim pastor
Phil Roberts, associate professor of evangelism at Southern Seminary, is serving as interim pastor of Third Baptist Church, Owensboro.

Pierce to lead First Owensboro youth
Joe Bob Pierce assumed the minister of youth position at First Baptist Church, Owensboro, Nov. 1.



Highland



Cecil



Pierce



Blanchard

Pierce, who recently received a MDiv-RE from Southern Seminary, has been on the staff of First Baptist Church, Herrin, Ill.

David Nelson is pastor of the church.

Bashford Manor calls Blanchard
William (Bill) Blanchard, 31, is pastor of Bashford Manor Baptist Church, Louisville, effective Jan. 2, 1983. He attended Taylor University and the University of Illinois receiving a BA degree. He worked for one year as the representative of a carpet manufacturer.

He enrolled at Southern Seminary where he received a MDiv in 1979. He is presently a PhD candidate. Blanchard was pastor of Jordan Baptist Church, Sanders, from 1977 to 1979 and Cardinal Hill Baptist Church from 1979 through December 1982. He is active in Long Run Association.

Blanchard was born in India, the son of Baptist missionaries. He is married to the former Lara Lee Robertson and they have one son, Will, 18 months.

Hobson resigns from First Russellville
Henry H. Hobson, pastor for six and one-half years of First Baptist Church, Russellville, resigned Oct. 1 to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Chalkville, Ala. The Hobsons were honored with a church-wide reception Sunday evening Oct. 17.

Herbert C. Gabbart, chancellor of Belmont College, is interim pastor at Russellville.

Type recalls Lindsey as pastor
Typo Baptist Church, Three Forks Association, has recalled Carl Lindsey to its pastorate.

CONGREGATIONS

St. Matthews subscribes \$1.2 million
Members of St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, subscribed \$1.2 million either through cash gifts or three-year commitments during their 13 week

Together We Build program. The church received \$736,000 in total offerings for all causes last year. The program was directed by Leon B. Patterson, a Together We Build consultant with the Southern Baptist Stewardship Commission, Nashville. Bert Sparrow, a layman, was program director.

Mt. Pleasant dedicates organ Dec. 5
A new Rodgers organ was dedicated at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Lewisburg, Dec. 5. Mrs. Helen T. Midkiff, associate professor of organ at Belmont College, Nashville, was the featured organist for the dedicatory recital.

Home Laster Jr. is pastor and Morton Mayhugh is minister of music.

Third Owensboro hosts 42nd 'Messiah'
Third Baptist Church, Owensboro, was host for the Owensboro Choral Society's 42nd annual presentation of "The Messiah." Twelve hundred people attended and a record offering of \$1300 was received for the benefit of needy children in the Owensboro area.

Charles Douglas is minister of music at Third.

ORDINATIONS

Randall Payne ordained to ministry
Randall M. Payne was ordained to the ministry Nov. 28 by Elk Creek Baptist Church, Taylorsville. Raymond Bailey was moderator of the ordination council and preached the ordination sermon. Participating in the service were Malcolm Marler, associate pastor of St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, David Moore and Don Chatfield.

Columbia ordains Speer to ministry
Columbia (Ky.) Baptist Church ordained Robby Speer to the ministry Nov. 14. Speer currently is minister of recreation for Columbia and has been with the church since May 1981. He is a graduate of Campbellsville College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Do a friend a favor

Do you know a friend who is physically unable to read standard print who would like to be in touch with Kentucky and Southern Baptist news? If you do, please help this friend fill out the form below and mail it so he may receive a free cassette tape-recorded edition of Western Recorder every week.

Applications for the service will not be accepted by telephone, and the only requirements from those using it are that (a) an applicant's minister must approve and sign the application, and (b) users of the service must return the tapes promptly to receive future tapes. (Mailing boxes provided.) There is no postal charge to print handicapped participants.

Help a friend who would enjoy receiving Western Recorder weekly, but who can't do so due to impaired vision or other print handicaps. Fill out the form for a friend, ask his minister to sign it, and mail it now.

Applicant's name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Applicant's church _____

Church address _____

I certify the above named applicant is deserving and eligible to receive Western Recorder's cassette tape service without postal charge.

Minister's signature _____

Mail to: Western Recorder, Box 43401, Middletown, KY 40243



WESTERN RECORDER
All you wanted in a state paper



Don Blaylock [l], director of student work for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, met recently with Charles Johnson, secretary of National Student Ministries [NSM], during annual planning meetings at the Baptist Sunday School Board. Johnson, formerly director of student work in Missouri, assumed leadership of NSM in September.

Speer is married to Jan Barnett, a graduate of Campbellsville College.

First Dawson Springs ordains three
First Baptist Church, Dawson Springs, ordained Jim Cason, Wayne Lisanby and Aaron Pendley as deacons Sept. 19. Lawson Williamson is pastor.

ASSOCIATIONS

Salem Association links up with Ohio
Ten people from Salem Association went to Pekin, Oh., last summer to hold a layled revival. Russ Adkinson, a member of the group, reports the trip yielded eight decisions.

REVIVALS

Two make decisions at Providence
The Oct. 17-24 revival at Providence Baptist Church, Russell County Association, yielded two decisions. Carl Goff is pastor of Providence.

Bingham leads Fairview revival
Fairview Baptist Church, Russell County Association, reports 10 decisions stemming from its Nov. 7-14 revival. W. B. Bingham, pastor of Binghamtown (Ky.) Baptist Church, was the evangelist. John Wilson is pastor of the church.

White Oak reports seven decisions
White Oak Baptist Church, Russell County Association, reports seven decisions were made at its Nov. 15-22 revival. Randy Smith is pastor of the church.

Leon Simpson leads Parkwood revival
Leon Simpson, president of Clear Creek Baptist School, led revival services at Parkwood Baptist Church, Louisville, Nov. 14-17.

Kissee leads Mt. Zion revival
Phillip Kissee of Oneida, Tenn., was the evangelist at the Nov. 1-5 revival of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Lake Cumberland Missionary Baptist Association.

Glenn Edwards is pastor of the church.

Pastor leads revival at Central Church
Central Baptist Church, Corbin, recently held revival services which resulted in more than 130 decisions according to Central's pastor, Don R. Mathis. Mathis led the revival.

MISSIONS

Coldiron appointed to HMB post
James O. Coldiron, a native of Lincoln County, and director of the office of evangelism for the Baptist State Convention of Maryland since 1974, was appointed regional planning coordinator for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during the December session of the HMB executive committee in Atlanta.

Coldiron will coordinate the agency's mission strategy planning for Region II, which includes 10 states. Before assuming his present position, Coldiron had served as an HMB missionary appointed as director of missions for Oakland and Macomb associations in Michigan from 1972 to 1974, and as director of missions in Toledo, Oh. from 1965 to 1972.

Coldiron is a graduate of Georgetown (Ky.) College, and earned BD and MDiv degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a former pastor of Dry Run Baptist Church, Georgetown, and First Baptist Church, Cold Spring.

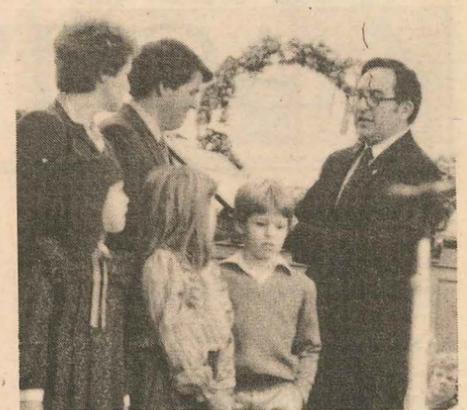
Coldiron and his wife, Bonnie, are the parents of three children.



Bill and Rebecca Whittaker kneel during service of commissioning by First Baptist Church, Murray, Dec. 12.



Curtis Warf, Kentucky Baptist Convention president, delivered the commissioning service sermon.



Mancel Vinson, chairman of deacons, presents plaque expressing appreciation of congregation to Whittaker family. A cash gift of over \$6000 was presented the Whittakers by church treasurer James Rogers.

1983 Area Evangelism Conferences

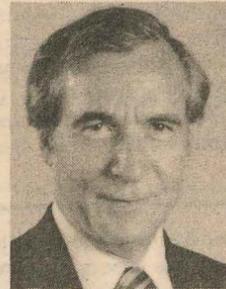
CONFERENCE LEADERS



HARRY HUNTER



CHARLOTTE HUNTER



JEROME BROWNE



HAROLD BARNES



MIKE WATTS



JAY BROWN

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
January 10	Bethlehem	Louisville
January 11	Broadway	Lexington
January 17	Buena Vista	Owensboro
January 18	Living Hope	Bowling Green
January 24	Lone Oak	Paducah
January 25	Henderson Memorial	Hopkinsville
January 31	First Baptist	Somerset
February 1	First Baptist	Hazard
February 7	Central	Maysville
February 8	Florence	Florence
February 14	First Baptist	Pineville
February 15	First Baptist	Allen

CONFERENCE SUBJECTS

- PRAYER SEMINAR OVERVIEW
led by Harry Hunter
- WOMEN SHARING CHRIST
led by Charlotte Hunter
- LAYMEN SHARING CHRIST
led by Jay Brown
- RESOURCES FOR CHURCH EVANGELISM
led by Jerome Browne, Harold Barnes and Mike Watts

•
TIME: ALL CONFERENCES WILL BE SCHEDULED 7:00-9:25 P.M. NIGHTLY
(Local Time)

JAY BROWN, DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISM, KBC

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

H. C. Chiles

Jan. 2, 1983

Life and Work Series THE TEMPTATION

Matthew 4:1-11 Immediately after his baptism Christ was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to contend with Satan. In that horrible solitude Christ was subjected to the wearing assaults of Satan for days.

The Tempter Satan was the tempter who sought to get Christ to sin but all of his efforts in that direction were unavailing.

The Temptations Satan tempted Christ to distrust God's care and to use the divine power to work a miracle by turning stones into bread in order to satisfy his hunger. Instead of arguing

with Satan, which would have been useless, Christ just refused to yield to temptation and quoted Deut. 8:3.

After Christ repulsed Satan in the realm of the appetite, the tempter tried to entice him to sin in the realm of adventure by getting him to jump from one of the wings of the temple, with the expectation that God the Father would protect him. In reply to Satan's appeal to do something spectacular and sensational Christ quoted Deut. 6:16.

Satan then tempted Christ in the realm of ambition, by boldly seeking to get him to render to him, the tempter, that worship which belonged to God alone. In abhorrence at Satan's sug-

gestion he sacrifice principle for property and power our Lord quoted Deut. 6:13.

The Triumph Each time Satan assailed Christ in the hope he would get him to yield to his wicked will he made a miserable failure. After doing his utmost to bring Christ to comply with his wishes, Satan found himself unable to stand before the incisive power of God's Word, so he fled and left Christ alone for a season.

In his remarkable triumph over Satan, Christ used the threefold method of all victory over temptation; namely, absolute dependence on God, accompanied by absolute faith in God and reinforced by strict obedience to God.

KBC ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER

- 25 Christmas
- 26 Student Day at Christmas

JANUARY

- 3-7 January Bible Study Week
- 9 Witness Commitment Day
- 10 Area Evangelism Conference. Louisville, Bethlehem Baptist Church
- 10 Area Religious Education Shoptalk. Paducah, First Baptist Church
- 10 Area Youth SS/CT Leadership Workshops. Paducah, Princeton and

Hopkinsville

11 Area Youth SS/CT Leadership Workshops. Owensboro and Madisonville

11 Area Evangelism Conference. Lexington, Broadway Baptist Church

17 Area Evangelism Conference. Owensboro, Buena Vista Baptist Church

18 Area Evangelism Conference. Bowling Green, Living Hope Baptist Church

21-22 State

Deacons-Spouses/Pastors-Wives Retreat. Cedarmore

23 Baptist Men's Day

24 Area Evangelism Conference. Paducah, Lone Oak Baptist Church

25 Area Evangelism Conference. Hopkinsville, Henderson Memorial Baptist Church

28-29 State Deacons-Spouses/Pastors-Wives Retreats. Cedarmore and Kentucky Dam Village

31 Area Evangelism Conference. Somerset, First Baptist Church

31-2/4 Masterlife/Disciple Workshops. Lexington, Rosemont Baptist Church

FRANK OWEN

Executive Secretary-Treasurer, KBC
Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243



THE CHRISTMAS SCENE

Consider that Christmas scene, the cattle stall and manger, that has remained precious through so many centuries.

First, it is a family scene. Mary and Joseph are there with the Babe. The family is the most precious unit in human society. God must have intended it so. It is the way life's picture arranges itself. To accomplish good relationships in this human arrangement must be intended of God to be one of the primary objectives of life. How goes the family circle at your house? Keep it. Keep it with thy might.

The manger scene is a simple one. There is nothing mechanical in the picture; no electronics, no radar, no jet planes, rocket ships, or atomic submarines. What a complex society we live in! What an artificial environment — surrounded by transistor and tube gadgets, recorders, computers, wireless receivers, telephones with lighted buttons on the dials, etc. How little contact

the average urban life has with the simple things that eat and breathe like sheep and oxen. Maybe that manger scene is telling us not to get too far removed from the simple things.

There is a child at the center of the picture. If the world is to find any hope from what comes out of our homes, it is apt to be in our children. We are already pretty "sot" in our ways, and capable of little more than repeating the everydayness of everyday. Too much of life is planned for the parents' sake; too little of it for the children. Keep the children at the center.

The manger scene is a religious scene. This is the orientation of life; not material, but religious. Man's calling is to know God and do His will. This is the quest. Happiness is not the goal of life, but holiness, in which lies contentment (happiness). The wheel of life needs a religious hub.

Thus speaks the enduring voice of history's manger scene. It affords lessons for our Christmas meditation.

There's a world of people to witness to by A.D. 2000

And there's a way... through the **COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**

Life and Work Series THE AFFIRMATION

Matthew 3:1-6 After receiving excellent instructions and training from his godly parents, Zacharias the priest and Elizabeth, and studying the scriptures for himself John the Baptist went into the wilderness, where he lived an ascetic life and underwent a discipline which fitted him for the task which God

wanted him to perform. Needing a man to be obedient to his will and to deliver for him a flaming message of judgment and to prepare the way for the coming Christ, God called John the Baptist.

In the wilderness, far from politically decadent Rome and spiritually dead Jerusalem, God prepared John the Baptist for the ministry to which he called him.

Matthew 3:11-17 At the peak of the wilderness revival John was baptizing in the Jordan River those who had repented of their sins. Quietly and deliberately Jesus Christ came from his home in Nazareth to be baptized by John. When our Savior approached John and requested baptism at his hands, the Baptist expressed his reluctance to baptize him, boldly declaring Christ was so superior to him he would not even be worthy to perform the menial act of loosing the latchet of his shoes.

Christ insisted on being baptized by John in order to show in figure, at the beginning of his public ministry, what would, in fact, occur at the close of that ministry. As Christ sank beneath the baptismal waters he prefigured the death which he was to die upon the cross and as he arose from beneath the water he symbolized his resurrection. As Christ was coming out of the baptismal waters the Spirit came upon him

and endued him with sufficient strength for the accomplishment of his mission on earth. God the Father spoke his approval of what had just taken place, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

International Series JESUS OVERCOMES TEMPTATION

Luke 4:1-15 As soon as Christ Jesus heard God's designation of him as his beloved son and his approval of his baptism by John the Baptist, he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. The duration of his temptation was 40 days. While in the wilderness contending with Satan Christ did not eat.

Taking advantage of the situation at the end of his fast of 40 days and nights, Satan tempted Christ to distrust God's care and to use his power to work a miracle by turning a stone into bread and satisfy his hunger. Had Christ done so he would have separated himself from his brethren, for they were not able to work miracles to satisfy their hunger. Christ refused to do what Satan suggested. Instead of arguing with Satan Christ quoted Deut. 8:3.

Having failed in his temptation of Christ in the realm of the appetite, Satan turned to the realm of ambition and boldly sought to get Christ to

render to him that worship and homage which belong to God alone. Satan tempted Christ to sacrifice principle and offered him property and power for so doing. In abhorrence at Satan's subtle suggestion our Lord quoted Deut. 6:13.

Satan then tried to get Christ to put God's power to protect him to the test by jumping from one of the wings of the temple in view of the crowds below. From Christ's refusal we learn that it is right to trust God, but that it is wrong to make presumptuous experiments in order to discover how far God can be trusted. In reply to Satan's appeal to do something spectacular and sensational Christ quoted Deut. 6:16.

Whether it was in the realm of the appetite, ambition or adventure, each time Satan sharply assailed the Lord Jesus in the hope that he would bring him into subjection to his own wicked will he made a miserable failure. Satan was unable to stand before the incisive power of God's Word; so he fled and left Christ alone for a season. In his triumph over Satan our Lord used the threefold method of all victory over him, namely, absolute dependence upon God accompanied by absolute faith in God and reinforced by obedience to God.

Filled with the Spirit, the triumphant Christ returned to Galilee.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

Dec. 26, 1982



H. C. Chiles

**International Series
TEACHING ABOUT FORGIVENESS**

Luke 7:36-50 Let us direct our attention to the trio portrayed in this beautiful and meaningful story, and seek to derive therefrom some helpful lessons. **Proud Pharisee** We are not told the motive which prompted Simon the Pharisee to invite Christ to dine with him. Obviously, it was not because of admiration for or sympathy with the Lord. Perhaps Simon was anxious to listen to his words and observe his actions with a view to discovering some flaw in his teachings or in his behavior and then prefer some charge against him.

Regardless of Simon's motive, Christ accepted his invitation and joined the other guests at the appointed time. When Christ entered the house the servants of Simon ignored him and the proud and self-righteous Pharisee withheld the customary kiss of salutation and welcome and merely proffered his hand and pointed to the seat which Christ was to occupy at the table. His discourteous attitude was a studied and intentional insult, but Christ refused to be affronted by Simon's incivility. **Prostrate Penitent** An unnamed woman, who had been a notorious sinner, but had experienced forgiveness, entered Simon's house to express her gratitude to Christ for forgiving her

sins, saving her soul and transforming her life. Standing behind his extended feet, intending to anoint them with scented ointment she had brought with her, she was so overcome with emotion that she could not proceed with her task. Giving vent to her feelings of thankfulness and joy, her warm and copious tears fell on Christ's feet and moistened them. Lacking a towel, she wiped away the tears from his feet with her long hair, smothered them with her repeated kisses, opened her flask of precious ointment and emptied its fragrant contents upon his feet. Real love for Christ will always manifest itself in deeds.

Penetrating Prophet Greatly

perplexed because Christ tolerated the attention of a woman of bad repute, Simon concluded that, if Christ were a real prophet, he would have withdrawn his feet from her or thrust her back with them, or, if he knew her character, his tolerance of her conduct proved he was not a good man.

Reading Simon's upspoken thoughts, which proved that he was a prophet and more than one, Christ courteously said: "Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee."

True forgiveness and salvation result in much love and faithful service for Christ. Where the latter are lacking, you may know that the former have not been received.

HOMES FOR CHILDREN

Eldred M. Taylor, Executive Director
10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, KY 40243



GOD HAS GIVEN

A recent sign placed in a heavy traffic area simply said:

"The Reason for Thanksgiving:
God has given"

What a wonderful way to remind us of the reason to be thankful!

God has truly given. He has given his own son Jesus Christ through the miracle of virgin birth. Thus we are able really to see what God is like. Then he gave his precious son to die on the cross for our sins. Having died for us, he arose from the grave alive forevermore. Now he offers to give eternal life to everyone who repents of sin and believes in Jesus.

God not only has given but he keeps on giving. The very life each of us has this day is a gift from him. Then there is the glory of sunlight, the peace and rest of the night, the beauty of the earth, the majesty of the sky, the wonder of the ocean and the lovely songs of the birds.

As we celebrate Christmas, we are especially aware of God's marvelous

gift to us. Therefore we are especially generous at this time of year. As we prepare gifts for loved ones, we also are remembering those who have special needs. So we give to help clothe and feed the hungry. We give to the Lottie Moon offering for world missions. We give to Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children to make possible our care of dependent children.

However, we must remember that God does not just give at Christmas, nor has he just given in the past. His giving is in the present tense. He gives every day. Therefore, we, his children, are to give thanks every day, not just at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Those who need the gospel and material help need it every day of the year. So we are thankful every day and we bring our gifts of thanksgiving regularly that others may know God has given and is giving.

I thank God Kentucky Baptists express their thanksgiving through their generous gifts to provide for children in need.

mas nearly two thousands years ago, I am reminded of Christmas week, 1899.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, a number of sturdy mountain men had been working side by side to build the first building of what was to become the Oneida Baptist Institute. These men had earlier been involved in a blood feud, intent on killing one another. As our founder later wrote: "It seemed strange, almost unthinkable, to see these men who represented different side of the feuds, working there together unarmed. Some of them had ugly scars on their bodies. All of them had painful wounds in their hearts. But I held out to them the hope of peace and they were actually working there in perfect harmony and without the least fear of each other.

"We often worked till midnight and then slept on the shavings under the work benches. We were building a school house, not because someone had hired us to build it, but because we loved our mountain children and wanted to free them from the terrible feud curse (through Christian education).

"The motive of service makes all the difference in the world in the days' work. If we work because we love, every day will be too short and the most painful task will be a pleasure. The hiring sees the danger approaching

CLEAR CREEK COMMENTS

Leon Simpson, President
Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, KY 40977



THE RIGHT SHALL PREVAIL

I have been singing the songs of Christmas during this blessed season. And I have discovered a very interesting fact: One of my favorite Christmas poems is missing from the Baptist Hymnal. So herewith I will share with you two meaningful verses of this beautiful hymn (sing along, if you like):

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:

"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail,
The right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men!"

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

For many people the Christmas season is not a time for gladness but sadness. Their lives or circumstances may have driven them to despair.

But Christmas reminds me that 'God is not dead!' God did not forget his world or his people. He sent them a Savior. And God will not forget you either. His care and love surround us when we do not feel his presence as much as when we do.

I am glad I am a part of a great ministry at Clear Creek that is on the right side. Everything we do in helping to train men for Christ is an investment in eternity. God has his hand on our work here, and it shall prevail! And you are a vital part of our work here. Everything you do for Clear Creek and for our Lord is seen by God and will be rewarded by him. Merry Christmas from all of us at Clear Creek.

GIFT OF A CABIN LOFT

Christ and Christmas are God's gift to man. Most of all it is a time to love and to share with one another as we honor the one who shared his all with us.

We wish we had more Christian friends who would do more than send their good wishes. Then the burden would not be so heavy nor would we be under such daily strain as to whether we can meet the bills or not. We are coming to the close of this calendar year with the largest number of children from poverty level homes we have ever had in our dorms and the largest number of unpaid bills we have ever had.

We like the way those give who do give.

They give as though it is a joy and a privilege.

With such friends surely we cannot fail.

We cannot if God wants us to succeed.

He may make us work till our bodies and minds are weary.

He may make us give till it hurts.

But how happy we shall be when, added to the pure joy of services, greatest of earthly pleasures, we shall hear his "well done," sweetest of heavenly greetings!

As we think back to that first Christ-

and flees. The Good Shepherd thrusts himself between the flock and the danger and lays down his life for the sheep. This is just as true today as it was on the shores of Galilee two thousand years ago.

"And so the work progressed. We planned to open school Jan. 1, 1900.

"It was now Christmas; the snow was deep and the ice frozen thick on the river. We lacked 400 feet of lumber and four days' work of having our building ready.

"But our mill was broken, we had no lumber and case seemed hopeless.

"I went to the unfinished school house early in the morning. The workmen were standing idly around in gloomy silence. They looked at me hopelessly, their souls in their eyes. I, too, was silent.

"Soon an ox team, drawing a loaded wagon, was seen crossing the river on the ice. It approached, turned off of the road and onto the campus, drove up to the building and begun unloading planks — dry, smoke-stained, yellow poplar planks.

"I said, 'Where did you get it, Frank?' He replied, 'It is the loft out of my house.' He had taken the loft out of his little cabin home and hauled it to the schoolhouse in zero weather. What a gift!

"The workmen seized plans before

the wagon was unloaded and hastened to the work benches. For two days and nights the planes sang, the hammers rang and the work was completed. The house was ready."

Without loving and generous friends, this Christian work of faith at Oneida would fail. We need more such friends.

Will you be such a friend this Christmas season and in 1983?

ONEIDA JOURNAL



Barkley Moore,
President,
Oneida Baptist
Institute,
Oneida, KY 40972

Franklin Owen— glue molding the state convention: dinner speaker

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Current and retired employes of the Baptist Building in Middletown honored the retiring executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Franklin Owen, Dec. 10 at a dinner in downtown Louisville.

Master of ceremonies A. B. Colvin, one of Owen's assistants, explained that the committee which began planning the event six months ago tried to pick a date "as close to Dr. Owen's retirement as possible."

He joked, "Well, we're having this dinner only six months and 21 days before he leaves," citing the fact Owen's retirement was recently re-scheduled by the executive board from the original date of Dec. 31, 1982 to June 30, 1983.

Colvin introduced Dotson M. Nelson Jr. as principal speaker for the evening, calling him Owen's "best friend."

Nelson, of Birmingham, Ala., a retired minister, recounted his years of association with Owen, extending from seminary days through the present. He related quips about Owen's seminary pranks and studies, his pastorates, his hobbies and his family life.

Summing it up, he said, "Frank Owen has had a personal and family type feeling toward those of you here. I've heard him pray for you. He felt your hurts as his hurts."

"I never had a brother," Nelson continued. "But if I did, I would want it to be like Frank Owen."

"The length of his shadow has been the glue that has molded this convention together. He's as honest as the day is long and he doesn't know how to lie."

Owen was called upon to respond. He declared, "I'm gonna hate to leave all of you. I'm looking forward to quitting. I don't know how to not work. But I'm gonna try it."

He praised Sue, his wife, who was at his side, saying, "She's a whole lot of what I am." He added, "I appreciate my fine sons."

"I ain't mad at nobody," Owen said in conclusion. "God bless you all."

As a parting gesture, the staff presented their mentor with a grandfather clock from funds contributed by the employes.

In addition to Colvin, other program personnel included Miss Doris Yeiser, administrative assistant, and James Whaley, another assistant to Owen.

There were 157 persons in attendance at the dinner honoring Owen.

The crowd included not only executive board staff members in Middletown but also those at Cedarmore and all of the campus ministers throughout the state along with personnel of the Woman's Missionary Union and Western Recorder and retirees of the executive board.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

BUY your next NEW Chevy, Pontiac or Buick from Jay Sumner. Taylorsville Road and Pattie Lane. Across from J-town Center. 502-491-4694. tfc

ALUMINUM SIDING, quality work. Call Colville Aluminum Exterior Decorators (502) 425-3102 tf

**Cooperative Program
is the best way.**

VIEWPOINT

Moody hasn't fallen from grace

by Jerry Vardaman,
Starkville, Miss.

This letter relates to the various reports of conflict in our convention concerning Dr. Moody's views on apostasy. I want to say five things briefly:

1) I could care less what Dale Moody thinks about apostasy. We are the closest of friends. We have discussed his views on apostasy many times in the past, since I was associated with him as a faculty member at Southern Seminary for many years. I hold to the view that the true elect of God will not fall away, but like him do not believe that that view leaves any room for carelessness, presumption, nor pride. Dale has touched on a real sensitive nerve and exposed a weakness in the theology of many who are at ease in Zion. Those who are making a case out of his theory, and demanding that he be disconnected with our seminary at Louisville are demanding uniformity and not stressing Christian unity, as they should. What are we coming to? When I became a Christian I never heard of the security of the believers, the virgin birth, nor many other doctrines which I believe in, but which are not necessary for me to believe in in order to be saved. By the same token, many in our seminaries can differ with me on all of these beliefs and I can still enjoy fellowship with them. The central question is still, "What think ye of Christ, whose Son is he?" I would remind Dale's critics that one can believe in the infallibility of the scripture and still go to hell. One can believe in the virgin birth and go to hell. The Bible teaches us to believe in Jesus to be saved (not security of believers). Some of Dale's critics are starting with the wrong questions and will inevitably attain the wrong answers and responses.

2) Dale is one of the most conservative teachers at Southern Seminary. His critics are attacking the wrong person if they are trying to uproot liberalism in our seminaries. No one there is used

more mightily for the Lord's service than Dale Moody—in speaking out boldly for the truth, in sharing his testimony and for the glory of Christ.

3) It could well be that some of Dale's critics are disturbed by his shaking of the foundations of their own lives. We have too much carelessness in living in our Baptist churches by people who pervert the grace of God and make it of none effect. As I study the Old Testament I note that the true prophets always called the people away from sloppy patterns of living. As I read the New Testament I note that in the presence of Jesus the disciples found themselves saying "Lord is it I who will betray thee?" Every now and then we need to have heart searching, and heart cleansing, to increase our dedication to Jesus. Thank God for the emphases which Dale has been making. May his tribe increase.

4) I would warn against the view that we can ever make the abstract of principles a creed. James and Paul could have fellowship together (cf. Acts 20-21). When one reads their writings it appears that their views on faith and works were not in total uniformity.

Thanks be to God that such was the case! The New Testament leaves room for difference of opinion. Paul (who was wrong), and Barnabas, certainly had a sharp difference of opinion about John Mark, but the Spirit of Christ helped to bridge their differences (Acts 16), so they agreed to disagree and worked in separate areas of the world for the glory of Christ. I for one am disturbed by those who demand such uniformity today that the Bible (which they claim is their guide) did not demand of the first century Christians. We need to regain the biblical emphasis on freedom of opinion where it teaches freedom of opinion. Truth is not always in what the masses hold to—it is with the creative minority, or solitary prophet, like Jeremiah, full many the time. It could be with Dale Moody today. Let us not be deaf to new ideas. The scripture always confronts us and changes us.

5) Dale Moody is a modern prophet. He has not let his light be under a bushel. He has stated his views openly. For those who seek a hearing for themselves let me suggest that they also answer his positions by a similar method which he has used—let them write a book also. Let us not make too simple that which will forever remain complex and a paradox. Most of all, let those who are fashioning a cross on which to hang Dale Moody remember the scriptural admonitions to love one another; to allow grace to be with all of those who love our Lord Jesus without corruptibility; etc. If Dale had denied the Lordship of Jesus, or the Sonship of of, or resurrection of Jesus, or some other doctrine of the keryma, or held that Jesus was not truly a man and had not come in the flesh, I would be for firing him also. Dale loves the Lord Jesus and deserves our confidence and trust.



AUTO - LIFE
HOME - CHURCH

Preferred Risk INSURANCE COMPANIES



**ARE YOU GETTING ALL THE
PROTECTION YOU ARE PAYING FOR?**

**Good Drivers
who don't
drink**

**JOIN
HANDS**



<p>Ashland Bardwell Bowling Green</p> <p>Campbellsville Elizabethtown Hazard Hopkinsville Latonia Lexington Louisville</p> <p>Madisonville Murray Neon Owensboro</p> <p>Paducah Pleasure Ridge Shively</p> <p>Stanton St. Matthews</p> <p>Valley Station West Point Winchester</p>	<p>Mike Pennington Lowell King Ins. Agency Chuck Durrant Howard Associates Mike Simpson Jessie Insurance Agency Norma Self Napier Insurance Agency Raymond Nelson Nancy Davis Mike Bishop Dale Aldridge Harwell-Terry Ins. Ag. Rick Hickman David A. Jagggers Norman Klang Thomas W. Pittman Ins. Ag. Joan Pritchett Williams Ins. Service Kenneth Childress Ins. Ag. Bob Nanney Ins. Agency Welch Insurance Agency Franks Agency Henry Moody Ins. Agency Varble Insurance Agency Thomas Insurance Agency Debbie Cannon Donald Grammer Jimmy L. Williamson Ray Rogers Insurance Agency Gary L. Henning Jim Stepp Claude Reynolds Culver Insurance Agency Scarlet Lumpkins Ins. Ag.</p>	<p>2023 Lydia St. Box 247 1005 E. 15th St. 1120 Fairview Ave. 1005 E. 15th St. P. O. Box 369 433 West Dixie Highway P. O. Box 477 807 Country Club Lane 3615 Lincoln Ave. 1018 New Circle Rd., Suite 205 125 Chenoweth Lane, Suite 207 4206 Stable Place Suite 112 Dixie Manor Bldg. 4634 Taylor Blvd. Suite 112 Dixie Manor Bldg. 7305 Nottoway Circle 4333 Cavell Ave. 6808 Fenwick Dr. 686 Oak St. 107 N. 4th St. Box 275 218 West 8th St. Suite 106 1802 Breckenridge St. 1402 Frederica St. 164 Augusta-Lone Oak 9305 Dixie Highway 4447 Dixie Highway 4447 Dixie Highway Holman Dr., Rt. #3, Box 323 400 Sherburn Lane, Suite 107 400 Sherburn Lane, Suite 107 10960 Dixie Highway 601 Elm St. 106 Mallard Lane</p>
		<p>324-7750 628-3110 842-5709 842-5136 842-5709 465-5502 765-4287 436-3645 885-1800 261-1976 255-8436 897-3755 426-8535 933-3900 366-1380 933-3900 368-7558 366-0739 239-7215 821-4873 753-4937 633-0634 685-5161 683-1556 685-3456 554-1808 937-4500 447-7787 447-7787 663-4935 893-2566 893-2566 933-2255 922-4042 744-6102</p>

*For the economy
conscious church . . .*

<input type="checkbox"/> STEEPLES	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNS
<input type="checkbox"/> CUPOLAS	<input type="checkbox"/> BAPTISTRIES
<input type="checkbox"/> COLUMNS	<input type="checkbox"/> LOUVERS
<input type="checkbox"/> CORNICES	<input type="checkbox"/> SHUTTERS
<input type="checkbox"/> CROSSES	<input type="checkbox"/> RAILINGS

**Aluminum fabrication —
our specialty**

WRITE OR CALL
502-932-7091

ALUMINUM FABRICATORS
P.O. BOX 267 • GREENSBURG, KY. 42743

SERVING ALL RELIGIONS
Prices to satisfy every preference and need

AIR
CONDITIONED



PARKING
AREAS

149
Breckinridge
Lane

Phone
896-0349

PEARSON FUNERAL SERVICE
Louisville, Kentucky
Member: Ky. Funeral Directors Burial Assn.
Member: National Selected Morticians
by invitation

\$10/9¢

No, this isn't an ad for a rental car company.

For \$10, plus 9¢ per resident family, you can put your church in the news on the back page of Western Recorder any (or every) week you choose.

If your church sends its newsletter to 50 resident families every week, we can produce it for you for \$14.50 weekly. For 100 families, \$19.00. For 250 families, \$32.50. For 500 families, \$55.00.

And these prices include the Recorder's other news and feature pages, too, in addition to your own church newsletter page mailed exclusively to your members.

Surely there's no greater news and information bargain to subscribers of any periodical anywhere.

Request the free booklet *Church Newsletter Survival Work-kit* for details.

\$10/9¢. What a combination! Have we got your number?

I'm interested in details on the church page edition! Please send me information by return mail, without cost or further obligation.

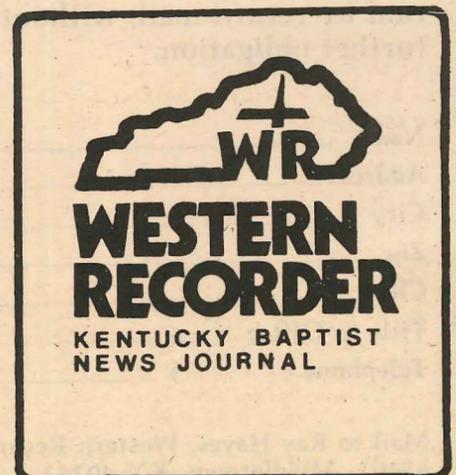
Name _____ Telephone () _____

Address _____

Church _____ Zip _____

Your title or office _____

Mail to: Ray Hayes, Western Recorder, Box 43401, Middletown, KY 40243. Or, for quicker delivery, call us at (502) 245-4101, Ext. 270.



If you
attend church
in Lexington
or E'town,
we'll make you
an offer
too good to
refuse.

I'm interested in details on the church page edition! Please send me information by return mail, without cost or further obligation.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

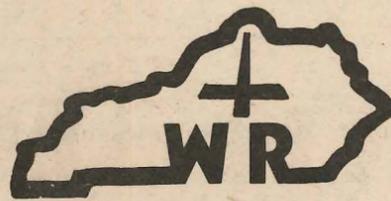
Church _____

Title or Office _____

Telephone () _____

Mail to Ray Hayes, Western Recorder, Box 43401, Middletown, KY 40243 . . . or for quicker response, call us at

(502) 245-4101 ext. 273



WESTERN RECORDER

All you wanted in a state paper