

## Extremists wrong; polity the issue, former SBC president Sullivan says

by Jim Lowry

Southern Baptists, like the mighty Mississippi River and its tributaries, gain strength when they are joined by others who are moving the same direction, according to 1977 SBC president James L. Sullivan.

The secret of the 138-year-old Southern Baptist Convention has been the constant channeling of diverse, Baptist opinions toward the common goal of sharing the gospel with the world, said Sullivan.

Sullivan, who served 23 years as president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, contends many of the problems faced by the denomination today are caused by a serious misunderstanding of Baptist polity. He added there is an equally serious lack of self-understanding by the leaders in the current conflict.

"Both sides of the present controversy are wrong," he continued, "because one is operating at one end of the Baptist continuum and the other is operating at the other end. One is wrong in position and the other is wrong in attitude. They are carrying on a war that the people in the center don't understand. The people in the center, who are the majority, are disgusted with both sides."

"The leaders in the conflict do not understand themselves because they think they are at the center of the Southern Baptist religious continuum, when in reality they are not," Sullivan explained. "You cannot administer from a fringe position; it must be in the center of the constantly fluctuating constituency served."

"You destroy the backbone of the denomination when the group on the left and right sides try to greatly enlarge their followings," he said. "If the middle group divides into sides, it will split the convention."

Sullivan warned theological extremism is dangerous to the convention. He said the greatest challenges are from groups who try to do things legalistically and literally, because Southern Baptists are not that way.

"The truths of the Bible are literally true, but God used history, revelation, analysis, parables and every other available teaching tool to communicate truths which are absolutely profound," he said.

"For a democracy like the Southern Baptist Convention to exist, both sides are necessary," Sullivan said. "We will always have critics, but that is good because we need to hear both viewpoints. It is healthy for both sides to have full freedom of voice."

Sullivan said he believes, based on 57 years of involvement in the denomination, the problems today are not related to doctrine, but to polity. In effect, church members have little or no knowledge of how and why Baptists govern themselves.

"In the Southern Baptist Convention every individual, church, association and state convention is autonomous," Sullivan said. "If each member goes his own way without thought for the other, it creates tensions and misunderstandings."

In a new book published by Broadman Press, *Baptist Polity As I See It*, Sullivan writes, "Our polity takes away all threats and appearances of coercion

so that each church and person can participate without question marks or reservations."

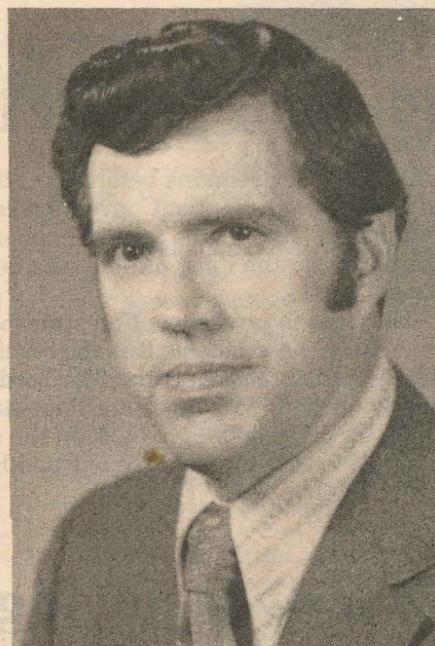
He further explained problems in theological position in the denomination arise when people take themselves too seriously, feelings become intense, humor is considered out of order and diversity is not allowed.

Sullivan arrived at his present understanding of the denomination through his experience as a local pastor for more than 20 years and his opportunities to serve as a state convention president and on the boards of numerous Baptist colleges, hospitals and agencies. He explained Baptist polity calls for mutual trust for the system and the people in it.

"Because our denomination is built on trust and voluntary cooperation, it is easy for offhand innuendos to reduce confidence," Sullivan said. "There are justifiable complaints, because there is no perfect denomination, but affirmation and cooperation are important."

"The current denominational conflict is one Baptist group promoting itself against another, rather than a broad base in which diverse groups cooperate side by side for the propagation of the gospel across the world," he explained.

In comparison, he said, "It's like the river trying to reverse itself back to the stream which makes it so powerful. Only with the diversity can we influence the world."



Tuck

## St. Matthews calls seminary prof Tuck to fill pastor vacancy

Louisville's St. Matthews Baptist Church, pastorless nine months, filled a void at the head of its staff May 29.

The church voted to extend a call to William P. Tuck, professor of Christian preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. A source at the church said Tuck has accepted and will begin July 15.

Tuck came to the seminary in 1978 from a nine year pastorate at First Baptist Church, Bristol, Va. A native Virginian, he previously pastored at Good Hope Baptist Church, Madison, and Harrisonburg Baptist Church in that state and at Calvary Baptist Church, Slidell, La.

He is a graduate of University of Richmond (Va.) with the BD and ThM from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., and the ThD from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He has done additional study at Emory University, Atlanta, Ga.

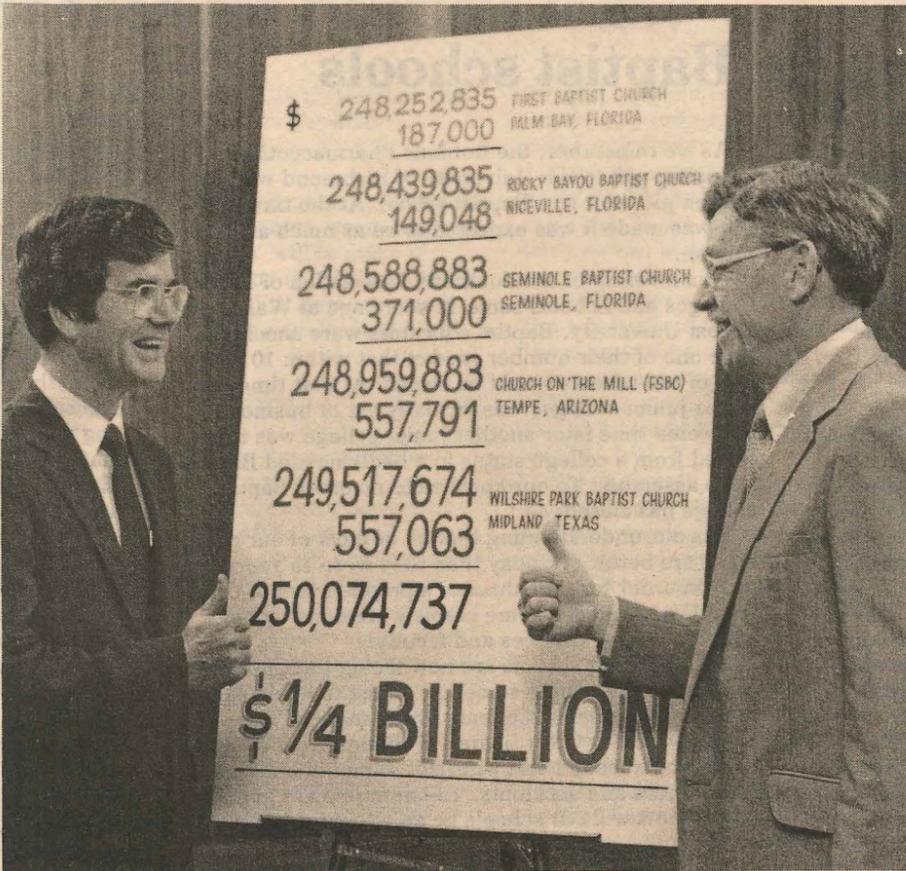
He served on denominational boards and committees in Virginia and Louisiana and has been active in YMCA, Boys Clubs and Boy Scout programs. He has been a guest speaker at pastors' conferences, convention assemblies and on college campuses.

Tuck has written several books and articles and has pastored Kentucky churches on an interim basis.

He and his wife Emily have two children, Catherine, a junior at Ballard High School, and Bill, a freshman at Central High.

St. Matthews, one of the largest and most respected churches in Kentucky, has been pastorless since last Aug. 29, when J. Altus Newell resigned after seven years to accept the pastorate of First Baptist Church, Opelika, Ala.

The church, which is meeting Sunday mornings on the campus of Southern Seminary while rebuilding facilities lost in a fire Jan. 10, 1982, also tapped the seminary for interim preaching. Walter B. Shurden, dean of the School of Theology, was interim preaching minister before leaving for sabbatical last semester. Jack H. McEwen, dean of the School of Religious Education, has filled the pulpit since.



### Over the top

A. R. Fagan, executive director of the Stewardship Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, and Fred Chapman, director of endowment and capital giving promotion for the agency, celebrate raising more than \$250 million with thumbs-up signals. The Stewardship Commission's Together We Build program has helped more than 800 churches in 13½ years [more than half with annual budgets of less than \$100,000] fulfill financial goals.

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C. R. Daley

# daley observations

## Plan for prayer in Pittsburgh

Only one week remains before the 126th session of the Southern Baptist Convention convenes in Pittsburgh. Nothing so far has happened to dim the hopes for the most harmonious meeting in several years.

That such a pre-convention atmosphere exists this year is no accident. It is the result of sincere efforts and earnest prayers. The Lord is not nearly through with Southern Baptists and 1983 could be the year we get back on the main track together rather than accuse one another of doctrinal detours.

While we are thankful for every Southern Baptist leader today who is exerting a healing effort, we know our hope is not in our own strength. If we survive the present controversy to remain a united force for world evangelization, it will be the Lord's doing.

For this reason we must continue to pray in these few days before the convention and during the convention. Howard Cobble, prayer coordinator for Kentucky Baptists, reports that Kentucky Baptists will have special responsibility in Pittsburgh for two periods of planned prayer for

the convention. The first period is from four to five p.m., Tuesday, June 14 at the William Penn Hotel. Ike McDonald, Hodgenville First Baptist pastor, will lead in this prayer session.

The second period for which Kentucky Baptists are responsible is from seven to eight p.m., Wednesday, June 15 at the Convention Center. Hobert Reynolds, Inez First Baptist pastor, will be the leader.

These two hours could be the most important time spent by convention messengers from Kentucky in Pittsburgh next week.

## Moody is paying the price for being controversial

It is not surprising that Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board administrators decided against letting professor Dale Moody teach next year in the Hong Kong Baptist Theological Seminary. (Western Recorder, May 25, p. 8.) That's the price Moody pays for being controversial.

Moody is the same man now he was a year or more ago when Hong Kong seminary personnel invited him to make application to teach one year. He believes and teaches now what he did then and has changed in no other way except to become controversial by refusing to resign which resulted in his termination by the seminary trustees.

This is not to criticize Foreign Mission Board president Keith Parks and his advisors for rejecting Moody's application. Any other Southern Baptist agency chief executive would have likely made the same decision. Neither is Parks being

hypocritical when he says he loves Moody and thinks he is a great teacher. He is perfectly realistic when he says it would not be wise to send Moody to teach overseas in light of the current controversy.

It is in the nature of Southern Baptist denominational work and its means of support that one who becomes controversial is untouchable. The very life of the Southern Baptist foreign missionary enterprise depends upon general approval of Foreign Mission Board policies by Baptists in the pews. Baptists can choose what they support and any decline in the Cooperative Program funds going to the Foreign Mission Board and especially a decline in the annual Lottie Moon mission offering would be disastrous.

Dale Moody is now regarded by many in Baptist pews as a heretic and Foreign Mission Board officials know permitting him to teach in

the Hong Kong seminary would draw criticism and probably result in some decline in financial support. That's what Parks and his staff members really mean when they say it would be "disruptive" to send Moody to Hong Kong.

This philosophy is summed up in the saying, "Don't rock the boat." It's illustrated in the old story of the Irishman on his death bed who was visited by his priest and counseled to renounce the devil and prepare to meet God. Replied the dying patient, "I want to be prepared to meet God but in the shape I am now I can't afford to offend anyone."

In my opinion this approach sometimes leads to sacrifice of principle for expediency. Right or wrong it's our way and it not only prevents a controversial teacher from giving a year's teaching services but through the years it also has led some life career missionaries to resign.

## Wanted: \$72 million for Baptist schools

guest editorial

by Rabun L. Brantley, Former Director  
Education Commission, Southern Baptist Convention

We were all pleased, and maybe a little envious, back in 1979 when the Emily and Ernest Woodruff Fund gave Emory University \$105 million. The fund was created by Robert W. Woodruff, then retired chairman of the Coca-Cola Co. At the time this was the largest gift ever made to an American university, according to the Council for Financial Aid to Education.

Now that gift has been surpassed by C. B. Pennington, an 83-year-old Louisiana oil executive. His gift a few weeks ago is for at least \$125 million, maybe more, according to authorities. The gift goes to Louisiana State University; the first \$25 million will be used to get under way the Pennington Biomedical Research Center.

Why then does the title above just "want" \$72 million? There are 72 Baptist schools, colleges and seminaries, and rather than pile the entire amount on one college, each of our schools could have one million. This would be the largest gift some of our schools have ever received, and one million for some schools would amount to perhaps \$20 million given to other of our colleges. The idea of sharing the amount around would serve as a shot in the arm for some of our schools and, indeed, could mean their survival.

As we remember, the Robbins Pharmaceutical Company gift to the University of Richmond was the largest gift ever to a Baptist school. At the time the gift was made it was expected to be as much as \$75 million.

At a meeting of the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools some 15 years ago at Wake Forest University, Baptist educators were shocked to hear one of their number predict that within 10 years half of our schools would be closed. At that time one of our junior colleges was virtually out of business, and some time later another junior college was transferred from a college status to a badly needed Baptist state assembly. To our knowledge no other Baptist college has closed.

It is our understanding that all or most of our colleges are better off today than they were 15 years ago. In order for the educator's prophecy not to come true there has been some heroic work done by our administrators, trustees and faculty.

However, our schools are now facing their greatest challenge. They must somehow adjust to a decreasing number of available students over America. The average mother today bears 1.8 children, not enough to replace husband and wife, not to mention losses from illness and accidents. The numbers are going down. How will our schools be able to adjust and overcome?

The high cost of going to college so far has been handled rather well, with the help of federal and state loans and scholarships. There is no further relief in sight for funds and every year college costs increase.

Where will the \$72 million come from, and even more? There are individual Baptists who could give the \$72 million, not to mention 50 or 100 giving \$1 million or more each. What will be required to stimulate these people to share what the Lord has entrusted to them? Some of these people have limited years to use and enjoy their money, and direct its continuing use. We like that reminder used frequently these days—"There are no U-Hauls attached to hearses." If only people with money could realize they can't take it with them.

If all readers of this article will pass the word along, and use some persuasion on their wealthy friends, Southern Baptists could very well take care of the increasing costs of operating Christian colleges. The Christian education of our youth can keep us supplied with dedicated workers as we go into the world to deliver the good news that Jesus saves. Time is crucial!

Don't ever let anyone persuade you that a Baptist college is "just another college." Our schools are not perfect, but there is difference. Those of us who have taught at both kinds of colleges know the added values first hand.

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C. R. DALEY, Editor, JAMES H. COX, Associate Editor

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

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# viewpoint

## The nomination of Albert Lee Smith Jr. is questionable

by Bob Terry, Editor  
Missouri Baptist Word and Way

The name Albert Lee Smith Jr. is not known by many Missouri Baptists. The few who recognize the name probably first heard it in 1980 when Smith was elected to Congress representing Alabama's sixth district.

That election made national headlines as an example of the power and influence of Moral Majority, a new political phenomenon that year. Moral Majority worked diligently to help Smith, a former member of the John Birch Society, defeat incumbent representative John Buchanan. Both men are Southern Baptists.

Last year in New Orleans Smith briefly returned to Baptist headlines. SBC Pastors' Conference president Fred Wolfe nominated him for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Smith made the run-off before losing to John Sullivan of Louisiana.

Now Smith is back in the news as a nominee for membership on the SBC Public Affairs Committee, which, in turn, would make him a member of the

Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

His background as a former congressman would seem ideal for the assignment. What makes the nomination questionable are the positions Smith advocated during his one term in office.

On June 17, 1981, Smith introduced legislation "to strengthen the American family and to promote the virtues of family life through education, tax assistance and related measures." The idea sounds worthy but the specific measures proposed in HR 3955 fly in the face of what Southern Baptists have historically advocated.

In Title II of the bill, Smith advocated parochial aid for private (including religious) elementary and secondary schools, along with colleges and universities. Smith's proposal would have made it possible for a person to have a tax deduction for the cost of tuition, fees, books, supplies and equipment required for courses of instruction, as well as "a reasonable allowance for meals and lodging" for those sending children to private and parochial schools.

Title III called for returning sectarian

teaching of religion to the public schools. Section 440B declared "notwithstanding any other provision of law, it shall be unlawful for any federal, state or local educational agency or institution receiving any federal funds to prohibit parents or representatives of the community from participating in decisions relating to the establishment or continuation of courses relating to the study of religion."

Here the language is technical. The courts have ruled that academic study about religion is legitimate and legal. What has been prohibited is the indoctrination or sectarian approach of teaching religion. Studying "about" religion is legal in any school system in the land. The study "of" religion is prohibited.

Smith's proposal would have returned the public classroom to the days when representatives of the most prevalent religious body in any area, went into the public schools to indoctrinate the children in the beliefs of that particular religion.

There are other areas of concern in the 61-page bill, but these are the most glaring. Smith has clearly placed himself in opposition to consistent positions

taken by Southern Baptists and fought for through the Public Affairs Committee and the Baptist Joint Committee.

Baptists have led the fight against parochial aid. Smith supports it. Baptists have fought for religious freedom. Smith would return us to the days when children were forced by law to study the doctrines of a particular church.

In previous years, Southern Baptists have said they do not want individuals sitting in decision-making positions as members of the Baptist Sunday School Board who do not use SBC literature in their churches. The messengers have demonstrated that they do not want individuals who are hostile to Southern Baptist seminaries as members of seminary boards of trustees.

The same principle appears equally valid for the Public Affairs Committee. If Smith is not in sympathy with the Southern Baptist position opposing parochial aid, if his views are contrary to the historic position of Southern Baptists concerning religious freedom, then, perhaps Smith should remove himself from consideration as a nominee for membership on the Public Affairs Committee and the Baptist Joint Committee.

# viewpoint

## The leadership needed for Baptists today

by Cecil A. Ray  
General Secretary-Treasurer  
Baptist State Convention  
of North Carolina

Today there is an urgent need for leadership which can help Baptists to: (1) Respond to great opportunities in missions; (2) Find peace and unity in the denomination; and (3) Decide whether the purpose of Baptist organization is that of a people-on-mission or a people-on-issues.

### 1. OPPORTUNITIES IN MISSIONS

Baptists today need leadership which will help them to see again their great mission opportunities. No generation of Baptists has dreamed more magnificently about kingdom causes. This dream, called Bold Mission Thrust, embodies the noblest of Christian ideals. It calls for us to dare to reach for the ultimate goal, namely, "telling every person in the world of Jesus Christ." It is a dream so magnificent that it prompts Baptists to attempt such bold steps as:

- 50,000 Southern Baptist Convention churches in the United States by the year 2000
- 5000 career missionaries serving in 125 countries
- 1,000,000 annual baptisms
- Implementing "Planned Growth in Giving," a call for \$20 billion each year

in members' gifts to their churches and \$2.5 billion for the Cooperative Program

Even our chronic skeptics have found little fault with this great dream, except to question Baptists' will to make it happen. Our question is, "Will Baptists make it happen?" Will Baptists match the bold dream with equally bold commitments?"

### 2. PEACE AND UNITY

Peace and unity are the second great need of the hour for Baptists. It has now been seven years since Southern Baptists met in Norfolk, Va., and adopted Bold Mission Thrust. It was just one convention later that Baptists moved into controversy over biblical inerrancy. Some of us were surprised that so magnificent a dream could so quickly be slowed by controversy. It is not now my intent to question the sincerity of persons involved in pressing the doctrinal issue. The fact is, however, the controversy has become an obstacle to Bold Mission. As a result Baptists will be forced to choose between doctrinal controversy and Bold Mission. If Baptists desire to continue and grow as a great missionary force, we must find a solution to this deep division among us.

There are a few among us suggesting the Bold Mission dream is already dead. I sense that a much larger number of Baptists believe the achievements of Bold Mission have been limited but insist that it is still very much alive. Many are deeply concerned about

the goals of Bold Mission and anxious for ways to end the controversy and move on with our mission task.

If words were enough, Bold Mission goals would have already been achieved. In the past seven years, we have had an abundance of words. Many have been the words about Bold Mission. Even more numerous have been the words about biblical devotion—these have been corrective words, educational words, critical words, person-degrading words and cutting words. Our word strife has brought us to division.

We know well how to make words like "Liberal" or "Fundamentalist" into war words. The question now is this: Can we learn words of peace and unity? If we cannot have leaders voicing words of peace, our future is bleak. Without peace we will falter in a "no win" civil war. There will be only losers, no winners. Perhaps the greatest loser will be the magnificent dream. If this happens, historians will have to describe this Baptist generation as that people which almost rose to greatness in Christian service but failed. I hope you will join me in the prayer that we will not be the people who "almost could."

### 3. THE PURPOSE

The third need of Baptists today is a clearer understanding of Convention purpose! Past growth in churches, ministries and missions for Southern Baptists is clearly the result of past commitments. The strength we have is

what our Baptist forefathers' commitments made possible. Baptists' future, however, will be decided by our commitments.

Our forebears in spiritual wisdom chose to make Christian missions their grand objective and they united around this purpose. They elected leaders who shared this commitment. In turn, they gave us the fruits of rich commitments.

Our mission now is confused with issues. We face the difficulty of deciding whether ours is primarily a task of being Christians on mission, or primarily being Christians dealing with issues. We struggle with a vast array of issues that are doctrinal, political and social in nature.

In the past we have been a people-on-mission who could at the same time show Christian concern on issues. It is not yet clear whether we will continue this way or change to a people-on-issues trying to show a secondary concern for missions. It is not a question of handling both but it is a matter of priority.

I appeal to Baptist leaders to keep our Convention as a people-on-mission. I have already reviewed the big headlines of the bold dream for today's mission. Issues have succeeded in turning much of our attention away and now our attention needs to be turned anew to these goals. We need to encourage our churches to capture anew an exciting sense of their purpose, to strengthen the Baptist ministry that is hurting from much unrest among Baptists and from the loss of esteem and respect for the ministry.

# baptist forum

## Candidacy "news to him"

I was first made aware that I am a possible candidate for second vice president of the SBC by a Baptist Press article which said I was expected to receive the support of a "faction" within our convention.

Prior to this article of May 13 I had been contacted about this matter by only one person who, as far as I know, is not associated with any "faction" in our convention.

I find it strange that Baptist Press would mention my name in the May 13 article while nothing was said to me about this matter two days earlier at a meeting of the resolutions committee in Nashville.

I am going to the SBC in Pittsburgh with one major concern—doing my best as chairman of the resolutions committee. At this point I have not agreed to allow my name to be placed in nomination for any office. I shall give it further prayerful consideration and, if nominated, will not be the candidate of any "faction" in our convention. My first commitment, of course, is to the work of Southern Baptists in Ohio.

Tal D. Bonham, Columbus, Oh.

## A move to the right

At the 1979 Southern Baptist Convention in Houston, Tex., Paul Pressler and company planted a large sign in the SBC highway—RIGHT TURN ONLY! What has been our direction since that day? There are many opinions but a few solid facts will help us in reading the map. These are readily available in the SBC annuals. Consider the membership of the committee on committees and their child, the committee on boards. We are in Kentucky—three years before Pressler and three years after Pressler.

1977—Committee on committees: Bill Simmons, Mrs. Duke McCall; committee on boards: John Wood, Henry Huff.

1978—Committee on committees: Ted Sisk, Mrs. John Wood; committee on boards: Ronald W. Stone, Paul Parks.

1979—Committee on committees: G. Allen West, John DeBoard; committee on boards: Verlin Kruschwitz, John Gover.

SLOW: Dangerous intersection. Rogers and Smith at the wheel.

1980—Committee on committees: Harold Cathey, John Hicks; committee on boards: Lawrence Tapp, Alan Sears.

1981—Committee on committees: Wyman Copass, David McClure; committee on boards: Don Mathis, Frank Brooks.

1982—Committee on committees: Laverne Butler, John Hicks; committee on boards: Bill Hancock, Jack Amis.

Each person noting these various committee members will have to judge which group is more representative of Kentucky Baptists: BP (before Pressler), 1977-79; or AP (after Pressler), 1980-82.

It is rather unusual for John Hicks, a known conservative lawyer, to be chosen by both Rogers and Smith for the same committee, putting him in this strategic position two out of three years.

Laverne Butler, Louisville Ninth and O pastor, was appointed by president Bailey Smith to the committee on committees in 1982. In the same year he was nominated by the committee on boards and elected to serve as a trustee of the Radio-TV Commission. He will be eligible to serve eight years.

Alan Sears, another known conservative attorney from Louisville, was nomi-

nated by Cathey and Hicks in 1980 and was elected to serve on the committee on boards. Sears is being nominated by the 1983 committee on boards as the new Kentucky member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, the most influential policymaking group in the convention. He will be eligible to serve eight years.

Don Mathis, Corbin's Central Baptist pastor, was a member of the committee on boards in 1981 and is being nominated by the committee on boards this year to serve as a member of the Sunday School Board. He will be eligible to serve eight years.

A diligent search of the SBC records in the 1970s does not reveal this kind of swapping off or cronyism. This does not mean it hasn't been done before. I just haven't found it. This way of operating does not prove a conspiracy is involved nor that these selected are not qualified to serve. It simply indicates one way the system can work.

C. Carman Sharp, Louisville

## A conference on prayer

Baptists throughout America will be called to turn to God in a season of prayer. Ten Baptist bodies in the United States are sponsoring a Baptist prayer conference on the theme, "Turn to Me and Live," Apr. 30-May 3, 1984 in Columbus, Oh.

Southern Baptists, through the Woman's Missionary Union and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, are among the groups engaged in preparing for that occasion and ask for the assistance of each concerned Baptist.

Requested at this stage in planning are sermons, poems, hymns, prayers and personal experiences of prayer. Each should touch on one of the following related themes: Lord of All, Lord of the Nations, Lord of the People, Lord of the Church and Lord of Creation.

Individuals are urged to send their contributions to Box 580, Fremont, CA 94537. Do this as soon as possible, preferably no later than June 30, 1983. And make your own presence at that conference in Columbus a matter of daily prayer.

James M. Dunn, Washington, D. C.

## Going to the academies?

Help! Please help the Baptist Student Union at the Air Force Academy get the word to the young men and women coming to the academy July 6, 1983. We would like to meet their plane, provide transportation and overnight housing, and held them report to the AFA at the proper time.

The Home Mission Board and Colorado Baptists have been providing this ministry 15 years. We already know about some of the young people coming to the AFA, but would like to minister to the many others who are coming that we do not know about.

If parents, pastors, friends and/or young people themselves will drop us a note with name and address, we will correspond with them to secure flight arrival times and provide further information to them.

For West Point: Alton Harpe, 11 Washington St., Cornwall on Hudson, NY 12520. For Annapolis: Dick Bumpass, Box 1509, Annapolis, MD 21404. For Coast Guard: Ron Redden, 46 Hawthorne Dr., N. #1, New London, CT 06320.

Don Gurney, Director, BSU  
1230 N. Cascade  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

## A club promoting peace

Cumberland College's "Peacemakers" group was formed as a response to the growing threat of nuclear war, the vast waste of human resources on the arms race and the call of Jesus to be peacemakers.

Peacemakers revolved around a small group of students determined to apply the gospel to all areas of life—political, social, economic, spiritual. They began applying themselves to the most crucial issues of the day; namely, the possibility of the destruction of all of creation by a nuclear holocaust and, secondly, the massive expense of military extravaganzas in the face of a world where one-fourth of its members live without the basic necessities of existence.

Peacemakers firmly believe that when others know the truth about nuclear war and the arms race, they will be compelled to act out of compassion for humanity and the gospel. Therefore, Peacemakers' main thrust has been the education of Cumberland College students and the local community through the written and spoken word.

Peacemakers have written several articles published in the school newspaper; they have sponsored a "peace day" with Darrel Adams who spoke to several groups and performed an evening concert; they have conducted several convocation services for their fellow students, and they have sponsored speakers including Paul Walker, an MIT scientist and defense analyst, and Gene Cotton, a contemporary music star.

Furthermore, Peacemakers have written dozens of letters and collected scores of signatures sent to their elected representatives in Washington supporting such legislation as the nuclear freeze, increased funding for human needs and vigorous efforts towards arms control and disarmament.

While all of Peacemakers are not religiously oriented, most seek to recover the tradition of the early church and the life of Jesus through a nonviolent lifestyle. Peacemakers believe that war, violence and ultimate allegiance to the state cannot be reconciled to the teachings and life of Jesus. They recognize that although one may murder a liar or a hater or a communist, one may never murder the lie or the hate nor establish democracy through violence.

Moreover, Peacemakers realize that violence manifests itself in many fashions including the stockpiling of nuclear weapons, the global trading of weapons of death and the disparity between the haves and the have nots. They believe it is wrong for Christians to say and do nothing while such injustices exist in the world. Peacemakers will continue to present the issues and work towards justice, peace and disarmament. Although they know they will probably never change the entire world, they elect to be responsible for themselves and their community.

Chris Keegan Williamsburg

## Another Moody supporter

When a person late in his career becomes embroiled in controversy, the only image many have of that person is drawn from the controversy. That would be a tragedy in the case of Dale Moody of Southern Seminary. There are other images we need to have of this gifted teacher and preacher.

Dale Moody was my major professor in my graduate work at Southern Seminary. For two years I served as his graduate assistant. Allow me to share some memories that may show some

of the facets of this Baptist scholar.

I remember Moody for his fiery style of teaching that kept students awake through late afternoon classes in systematic theology—no mean feat. I remember him as a biblical scholar par excellence with a passion for studying, teaching and living by the word of scripture. I remember him as an inveterate reader with a personal library of well marked and well digested books.

Moody is a grand storyteller. From his stories about revival breaking out in his student pastorate in Mexia (Tex.) to his stories about living with Emil Brunner in Zurich and studying with Karl Barth, he punctuated his teaching and preaching with fascinating anecdotes.

But I also remember Moody for his willingness to come to my rural church in Shelby County, Ky., to preach and teach the Bible. I remember his eagerness to come speak to my deacons when he knew his only pay would be some country cooking. And I remember him as a friend who listened to me as I shared my struggles to be husband, father, pastor, graduate student and graduate assistant.

Controversy has dogged the heels of Dale Moody in part because he has been bold in his proclamation of what he understands the Bible to say. But controversy is not the only thing he ought to be remembered for. To see only the controversy is to ignore the broader dimensions of a 20th century giant among Baptist teachers and preachers.

Bill Blackburn, Dallas, Tex.

## She told it like it is!

As a black brother, I want to affirm the article by Susan Shaw in the May 14 Western Recorder. "There's God In Those Hills" is accurate and I say "Amen" to what she said. Over a period of 10 years I have preached numerous revivals in that area. My latest was with pastor Mike Kahari, First Baptist Church, Sydney.

I have found the folks of that area to be most wonderful and loving. They are warm and responsive to the preaching of the gospel when they feel the preacher and his message are genuine. I leave blessed each time I share with one of the churches there.

The article was well written and describes well my friend, Mike Kahari. He has served First Baptist three years. Brother Kahari loves people, is sincere, lives what he preaches and has the respect of church and unchurched alike. Regular Baptists, Primitive Baptists and Kentucky Baptists of the area believe in him.

Brother Mike, as he is called, has a loving and caring wife, Jewell, and a delightful family. He encourages friendliness among the members to be shared with each other and with non members alike. He takes the time and insists that all worshipers fellowship with each other before departing. As a gospel preacher, he goes in and out of the hollows presenting Christ.

The church has grown under his leadership. The facility has been enlarged, a steady growth in membership and an increase in church support. The pastor and the church are excited about missions and believe the church can and should support the pastor.

My wife, Cora, and I are always well received. This I can say about each church in the mountain area where I have had the privilege to minister. I can affirm all the church of the area and ask God's blessings upon them. To each of them I say: "Fine, Fine, Fine"!

Thurmond Coleman, Jeffersontown

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**At Spring Meadows, June 25, 1983 (Saturday):**  
Located on Highway 60 (Shelbyville Road) in Louisville, Kentucky, near Middletown, Kentucky. Campus is next to Kentucky Baptist Convention Building.

**At Glen Dale, July 9, 1983 (Saturday):**  
Take I-65 South from Elizabethtown and exit West at Exit Number 86. Continue through Glendale and turn left. Go to Gilead Baptist Church. Turn left at the church. The Glen Dale Children's Home will be about a mile on your right.

**Who should attend?**  
This is a special day for all Kentucky Baptists. Child care representatives, pastors, deacons, W.M.U. officers, Brotherhood officers, Sunday School superintendents, and friends should plan to attend.

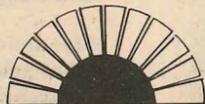
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**Our meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude with lunch.**  
There will be a period of sharing information, as well as time for questions and answers. A guided tour of the campus will be a part of the day's activities.

You choose the day and campus that suit your schedule and travel time best.

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**James L. Sullivan** has observed and served Baptists for more than fifty years. A former president of The Sunday School Board, he is a widely known speaker and writer. He resides in Nashville, Tennessee.



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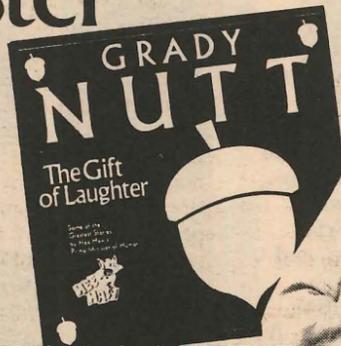
For the past year my father and I worked on several projects together. On the day he died I took Dad to the airport. Right before we left the house he handed me a sheet of paper which contained the words on the back of this album.

Please allow me to add my thanks to Dad's. You can never know what it meant to him to know that you enjoyed him. The love you gave him made him the happiest man I've ever known.

My Dad had a gift for laughter. His desire was to share it. With this record, go my best wishes that you will again discover, enjoy and learn from that gift which he so fully gave — **The Gift of Laughter**.

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# mountains to the mississippi

## personnel

Bob Norman has resigned a 12 year pastorate at First Baptist Church, Belfry, to become pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church near Kingston, Tenn.

The Belfry Church honored Norman, his wife Elaine and children Bobby, Sarah and Rebekah with a dinner May 14. His last Sunday at Belfry was May 22.

During his stay at Belfry Norman led devotions at Belfry High School and was chaplain for school athletics. At a banquet Apr. 29 the school's principal announced the creation of the Bob Norman Christian Leadership Award to be given annually to an athlete showing outstanding quality in Christian life.

The Belfry church has given more than 57 percent of its total income to Cooperative Program and other Southern Baptist Convention causes during Norman's pastorate. He also directed 37 church and mission vacation Bible schools.

He is a former pastor at Woodbury Baptist Mission and Sandy Creek Baptist Church, both near Morgantown, and Sugar Grove Baptist Church, near Owensboro.

Larry D. Holland has begun as pastor of First Baptist Church, Russellville.

Holland, 29, comes from a staff position at First Baptist Church, Dallas, Tex. He holds the BA degree from Dallas Baptist College and the MDiv from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He and his wife, Deborah, are parents of a year-old son, Daniel Dale Holland.

Jeff Brown, Middlesboro, has been selected by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission as a page at the 1983 Southern Baptist Convention in Pittsburgh, Penn. June 12-16.

Each year 10 Pioneer Royal Ambassadors are chosen to serve the needs of the convention. The pages are nominated by their state Brotherhood department with final selection made by the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis, Tenn.

Kentucky has had representatives at the convention two years running. Last year Cliff McNeely of Lone Oak Baptist Church, Paducah, was a page at New Orleans, La.

Brown, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Brown, is a member of East Cumberland Baptist Church.

Douglas A. Boyles began as minister of music at Fairview Baptist Church, Simpson Association, May 8.

He is a 1983 graduate of Western Kentucky University. He has held similar positions at Smiths Grove Baptist Church, Warren Association, and Bethany Baptist Church, Alvaton, also in Warren Association.

Boyles and wife Margann live in Bowling Green.

Howell Easterling has accepted a call as minister of education and outreach at Fern Creek Baptist Church, Louisville. A student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Easterling will direct educational programs and develop outreach efforts into the church's community. He and his wife Connie are natives of Alabama.

Ruth J. Ham retired May 1 as clerk and secretary of the Ohio County Association.

D. L. [Name] recently resigned as pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Taylor



Norman



Holland

County Association, bringing to a close 54 years in Kentucky Baptist churches.

Druen came to Campbellsville in 1929, pastoring Pleasant Hill Baptist Church until 1965. He pastored Meadowview Baptist Church from 1967 to 1974 and Liberty from 1974 to 1982. He also performed pastoral duties for Good Hope Baptist Church, Elkhorn Baptist Church, all Taylor County Association, and Beech Grove Baptist Church.

Larry J. Baker resigned effective May 22 as associate pastor at First Baptist Church, Clinton, West Kentucky Association.

Baker, who has been with the church since October 1980, is moving to Kansas City, Mo. to attend Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Barry Stricker, son of Jesse Stricker, director of the Stewardship-Promotion Department, KBC, has been elected manager of the Baptist Book Store at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

## congregations

Campbellsville Baptist Church, James E. Jones pastor, celebrated its 192nd anniversary May 29. J. Chester Badgett, the only living former pastor, brought the morning message.

After the service followed the viewing of photographs of 15 of the church's 21 former pastors and dinner on the grounds.

Afternoon activities included the unveiling of a historical marker on the grounds in front of the church.

Pilgrim's Rest Baptist Church, Irvine Association, celebrated the resurrection from a 30 year "death" and the 70th anniversary of the church's organization Apr. 17.

The church reopened last October for the first service since the congregation closed its doors due to a dwindling membership in the mid 1950s. Robert Holcomb, now 86, and his wife were the only two members still in the community when in late 1982 he worked with Elmer Wiley, director of missions for Irvine and Booneville associations, and others to reopen the church.

The church is now pastored by Bob Moore and has noted eight additions. A "lost member" campaign is underway to regain contact with persons formerly active in the church.

Deer Park Baptist Church, Louisville, was host to a community Pentecost celebration May 22 sponsored by Highlands Community Ministries.

Representatives of Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church, St. James Roman Catholic Church, Calvary Lutheran Church, St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church, Douglass Boulevard Christian Church and St. Paul United Methodist Church participated.

The congregations signed a covenant pledging to pray for each other, con-

tinue to worship together and to support each other's missions.

East Cadiz Baptist Church, Little Bethel Association, celebrated its ninth anniversary June 5. Jimmy Gibbs, the first minister ordained by the church, preached the morning sermon. There was a basket dinner at noon and an afternoon service of music, reading of the church history and testimonies.

During its nine years, the church has grown to more than 500 members. H. Ralph Gill is pastor at East Cadiz.

Columbia Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association, recently completed induction ceremonies for 32 Royal Ambassadors—both Crusaders and Pioneers.

The RAs and leaders recently assisted in a Brotherhood sponsored revival at Plum Point Baptist Church and are planning other mission projects.

First Baptist Church, Madisonville, has earned the Distinguished Music Ministry award from the Church Music Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board.

The award is the highest of three awards a church can earn in developing a standard music ministry. The Madisonville congregation is the first in Kentucky to earn the award.

H. Garrison Coltharp is pastor at Madisonville First. James W. McMurtree is minister of music.

Great Crossings Baptist Church, Georgetown, celebrated its 198th anniversary June 5 with a homecoming celebration.

C. R. Daley, editor of Western Recorder, was guest speaker for the morning worship service. Afternoon festivities included messages from former pastors and special music.

Henry Walters is pastor of Great Crossings Baptist Church. The church was established in 1785 by Rev. Elijah Craig.

## missions

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas A. Williams, missionaries to Zambia, are the parents of James Byron, born May 6. They may be addressed at P.O. Box 50886, Lusaka, Zambia. She is the former

Debra Bogie, Hutsonville, Ky. He is a native of Richmond, Va. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1981.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Augustus Verdery, missionary associates to Switzerland, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: Gheistrasse 31, 8803 Ruschlikon, Switzerland). She is the former Eleanor Reynolds, a native of Lexington who grew up in Carlisle. He is from Georgia. They were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1982.

Mr. and Mrs. Frances W. Serda, missionary associates to Kenya, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: P. O. Box 30370, Nairobi, Kenya). He is a native of Mobile, Ala. The former Snow White, she was born in Edmonson County, Ky., and grew up in Louisville. They were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1982.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Clement, missionaries to Venezuela, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 915 Dixiana Dr., Owensboro, KY 42301). He is a native of Mortons Gap, Ky. The former Barbara Hargrave, she was born in Hawaii and lived in several states. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1965, resigned in 1972 and reappointed in 1974.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Harold Matthews, missionaries to the Philippines, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 224 Helm St., Elizabethtown, KY 42701). They are natives of Kentucky. He is from Ohio County. The former Clara Lee, she was born in Georgetown and grew up near Sadieville. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1957.

## deaths

Jesse Dotson, 95, died Apr. 28. He would have been 96 May 2.

Dotson was a retired farmer and a long time member of Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Bethel Association. He was baptized into the church's membership in 1917 and was ordained a deacon in 1934.



Three Royal Ambassadors at Lone Oak First Baptist Church, West Union Association, have earned recognition for the Ambassador Service National Award, the highest honor given to teenage boys in Southern Baptist missions organizations. Chris Henson [l], Cliff McNeely [c] and Scott Wright [r], pictured with Don Presley [far r.], Pioneer counselor, received the award for completing 750 hours of service in their local church. The award is given as part of the Royal Ambassador Advancement plan. An Ambassador Service Award is given for each 150 hours of service completed at the local church. The national award is given to a boy who receives five service awards. Willis Henson is pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church.

# Kentuckians leave Southern, Boyce

## 35 Kentuckians given degrees by Southern at May 20 ceremony

Thirty-five students from Kentucky were awarded degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary during the school's 151st commencement May 20 in Louisville.

The Kentucky Baptists were among a total of 294 persons to receive degrees from the schools of theology, church music and religious education.

Kentucky graduates were:

**Master of Divinity/Religious Education**—Philip Bryant Duncan, Catlettsburg.

**Master of Religious Education**—Allen Royce Bishop, Louisville; Kenneth Lee Chaudoin Jr., Louisville; Edward James Clay, Louisville; Deborah Anne Murrell, Louisville; Wanda Sue Slinker, Glendale; Karen Lee Stanhope, Winchester; Rodney Clark Vincent, Bremen; Russell Vance Smith, Lexington.

**Master of Church Music**—Edward Neal Howell, Louisville; James Lawrence Jones, Hopkinsville; James Cory Mills, Earlington.

**Master of Divinity**—Richard Allen Adams, Whitesburg; Gerald Patrick Adamson, Louisville; Donald E. Blevins Jr., Louisville; Mark Alan Fischer, Elizabethtown; Patti Ann Faesy, Lexington; Alfred Landon Hadley, Columbia; Joseph Michael Lavey, Louisville; Ralph Tandy McConnell, Glasgow; Lindy Lee Robertson Jr., Owensboro; Steven Morris Spencer, Hawesville; Terry Lee Whiteside, Louisville; Ronald Kenneth Kinzel, Hardinsburg.

**Diploma in Theology**—Jeanette Keith Cundiff, Corbin; James Stuart Cundiff, Louisville; Edmond Wood Halsell, Louisville.

**Master of Divinity/Social Work**—Charles Henry Cheek Jr., Louisville.

**Master of Religious Education/Social Work**—Mary Elizabeth Dunn, Franklin; Jane Allen Friedly, Georgetown; Barbara Jane Parker, Louisville.

**Doctor of Ministry**—John Elbert Owen, Lexington; Floyd D. Price, Covington; Stephen E. Thompson, Fredonia.

**Doctor of Philosophy**—William Paul Steeger, Rineyville.

## Boyce awards diplomas to four from Kentucky

Four students from Kentucky were awarded diplomas from Boyce Bible School during spring commencement May 20 in Louisville.

Wayne Dehoney, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville and a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, delivered the commencement address.

Kentucky graduates were:

**Diploma in Christian Ministry**—Dawayne Capps, Oakland; Don Ray Hutchinson, Frazer; Samuel Ferris Raizor, Louisville.

**Diploma in Educational Ministry**—Roger Dale Polston, Brandenburg.

Boyce Bible School, a division of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary was founded in 1974 to provide ministerial training for persons without a college degree. David Q. Byrd is director of Boyce.



Duncan



Bishop



Chaudoin



Clay



Miss Murrell



Miss Slinker



Mrs. Stanhope



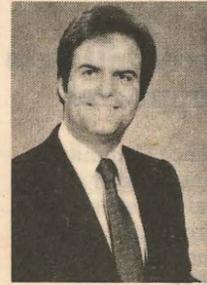
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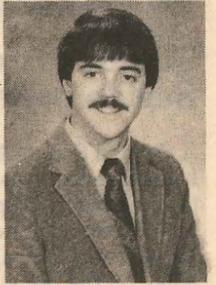
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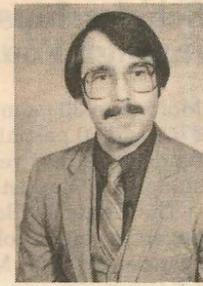
Adams



Adamson



Blevins



Fischer



Miss Faesy



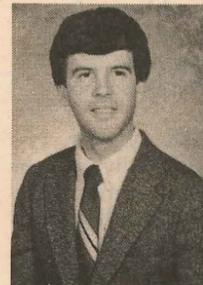
Hadley



Lavey



McConnell



Robertson



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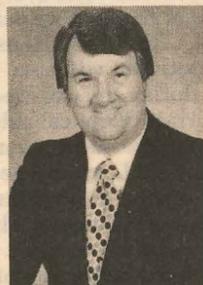
Whiteside



Kinzel



Mrs. Cundiff



Cundiff



Halsell



Cheek



Miss Dunn



Miss Friedly



Mrs. Parker



Owen



Price



Steeger



Capps

Photo not available:  
Thompson  
Hutchinson  
Raizor  
Polston

# baptist news in brief

## Mission training center cornerstone laid May 24

Board and staff members of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board laid a cornerstone May 24 at the site of the missionary training center they hope will boost the skills of new missionaries going overseas.

Nearly 500 people traveled to the Rockville, Va., construction site, near the board's Richmond offices, for the cornerstone ceremony. The stone, to be opened in the year 2000, contains historical materials documenting the development of the Baker James and Eloise Cauthen Missionary Learning Center and Southern Baptists' worldwide mission program.

## Tuition tax credit bill gets Senate panel approval

A divided Senate Finance Committee has approved President Reagan's tuition tax credit proposal but senators on both sides of the controversial measure agree it will face a much stiffer challenge on the Senate floor.

"It will take only 11 votes to get this out of committee," Sen. David L. Boren, D-Okla., reminded panel chairman Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., just before the final vote. "But it will take 60 votes to get it out of the Senate," Boren quickly added, promising a filibuster if the bill is brought up on the Senate floor.

On an 11-7 vote the committee approved essentially the same bill it passed late in the last Congress which was never considered by the full Senate. When fully phased in over three years, S. 528 would provide parents tax credits of up to \$300 for each child in private elementary and secondary schools. The maximum family income to qualify for the full credit would be \$40,000, with partial credits available until a family's income reached \$50,000.

Instead of attaching the tax credit bill to must-pass legislation such as the debt ceiling bill being handled by the committee, the panel passed S. 528 as an individual bill. That was considered by opponents as a "victory of sorts," according to an aide to Boren who said the Oklahoma senator "got what he feels is a very firm commitment from Dole to send the bill to the floor as a free-standing bill."

## SBC missionaries enter 99th country June 1

With the transfer of missionaries to Angola, Swaziland and Netherlands Antilles June 1, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board edges within one of having missionaries in 100 countries.

The board approved the transfer of Curtis and Betty Dixon from Portugal to Angola and the transfer of Roy and Patsy Davidson from Botswana to Swaziland during its May meeting. They had approved earlier the transfer of Leo and Margaret Waldrop to Netherlands Antilles.

The Dixons will return to a country they left eight years ago when civil war broke out just before Angola gained independence from Portugal. Transferring to Portugal, the Dixons maintained ties with Angolan Baptists, made several trips into the country and shipped Portuguese-language Bibles and literature to the African nation.

In March 1982 they gained permission to visit the Marxist-led country for

five weeks to teach at theological institutes, a task they hope to resume as soon as they return. The Dixons plan to travel throughout the country, training pastors and church leaders who find it difficult to travel to the capital, Luanda, for training.

## Home life editor cited by BSSB

Reuben Herring, a 30-year employe of the Baptist Sunday School Board, has been honored by that institution as a "career professional employe."

Herring, editor of Home Life magazine since 1980, was approved by the board's administrative staff to receive the award for outstanding performance and contributions to the board's work.

He is the ninth person to be honored with that designation since the award's beginning in 1971.

A native Georgian, Herring went to the board in 1953 as associate editor of Home Life. Later he was editor of family life materials, supervisor of the children's unit in Church Training, editor of adult Church Training materials and editor of The Deacon magazine.

## Scholarships available through Foundation

More than 300 annual scholarships of \$750 and 50 partial scholarships from a fund set up four years ago have aided students of Baptist schools.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation began paying scholarships from the Francis and Ruth Moore Scholarship four years ago, according to Grady L. Randolph, executive secretary-treasurer of the foundation, with grants to date totaling \$233,000. An estimated 120-130 more students will receive scholarships for the 1983-84 school year.

The fund was established by Mr. Moore's will at his death. Individuals or organizations interested in more information about establishing a scholarship may contact Randolph at Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243, phone (502) 245-4101.

## Court denies appeal of Payne's decision

The Tennessee Court of Appeals has unanimously affirmed an August 1982 ruling by Chancery Court that the property of Bethel Baptist Church, Estill Springs, should revert to the Tennessee Baptist Convention's executive board.

The three-judge Court of Appeals, Middle Tennessee Section, issued its unanimous opinion May 10, based on a hearing held Apr. 4 in Nashville.

In August 1982 the Chancery Court ruled Bethel Baptist Church (formerly Paynes Baptist Church) had violated a "breach of trust" of being a cooperating Baptist church under the reversionary clause in the property deed. The trial was held July 29-30, 1981.

## Canadian Baptists seek a place in the SBC

Canada, "one of the greatest mission fields" in the world today, desperately needs the evangelistic emphasis and programs of the Southern Baptist Convention, according to Allen Schmidt, coordinator of Southern Baptist work in Canada.

That conviction is the prime motivator for an announced effort to change the SBC constitution to allow Canadian

churches to be full voting members of the convention and, "eventually form a Canadian Baptist Convention, fully cooperating with the Southern Baptist Convention, according to several men who advocate the change.

"Our churches are stepchildren in the SBC family," Schmidt said. "For almost 30 years we have used Southern Baptist literature and financially supported the Cooperative Program and the special SBC mission offerings. We are convinced God wants to do some exciting things in Canada and we can be the catalyst."

Cecil Sims, executive secretary-treasurer of the Northwest Baptist Convention (which includes 60 Canadian churches), said he has no problems with the matters undergoing study, "because Southern Baptists have a way of doing what's right if given enough time."

SBC president James T. Draper Jr. has reportedly agreed not to automatically refer the proposal to the Executive Committee for study but will let the messengers decide.

## Prayer amendment given more debate time

President Reagan's proposed amendment to the Constitution to return to states and localities power to require prayer in public schools was given a fighting chance for survival May 26 when a Senate subcommittee agreed for a second time to delay action on its own version of a prayer amendment.

Appearing at a public hearing, Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, said he was reluctantly yielding to White House pressure to postpone for two weeks his panel's vote on a constitutional amendment. At the same time he warned it will be the final delay.

Visibly irritated at members of the president's staff for lobbying the panel for more time, Hatch, a Reagan loyalist, defended his own conservative credentials but declared: "The White House has got to get its act in order." He said White House operatives should understand the political principle "if you can't get everything, we'd better get the best we can."

The White House and its representatives "will have every opportunity" during the two-week interval to convince skeptical subcommittee members the president's version should prevail, he said, adding he would be "happy" to support it rather than push his own version further. The Hatch amendment would allow silent prayer or reflection at the beginning of the school day and give voluntary student religious groups "equal access" to school facilities for their meetings.

## Foreign board warns against adding Canada

A proposed motion to add Canada to the Southern Baptist Convention has serious international ramifications, the denomination's Foreign Mission Board warned May 24.

The board asked that the motion, expected to be introduced at the SBC's Pittsburgh convention in June, be referred to the Executive Committee, the Home Mission Board and the Foreign Mission Board for joint study with a report to be made to the 1984 convention.

Board president R. Keith Parks said the motion would make the SBC a bi-national convention and could say to the world that Southern Baptists are taking

a colonialistic approach.

His comment was expanded by Don Kammerdiener, the board's director for Middle America and the Caribbean, who said there are observers throughout the world who feel Southern Baptists are "an empire on the march and that we would like to extend our tentacles all over the world. I believe passage of this kind of a motion would give encouragement to those voices that say, 'See, we knew it all along—Southern Baptists want to take over the rest of the world.' I think this would be very unfortunate for us."

## Baptists give aid to relieve drought

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board has sent \$55,000 to Southern Africa for victims of what some call the region's worst drought in a century. Others call it the worst in history.

The board sent \$50,000 to South Africa to be used with \$40,000 raised by South African Baptists for food distribution in the Natal province and in the independent homeland of Ciskei.

Another \$5000 went to Bophuthatswana, another independent homeland within South Africa. Southern Baptist missionary nurse Carolyn Roberson will use the money for food distribution, malnutrition clinics and a program of gardening and chicken production at her clinic in Morokweng.

Cattle—a mainstay of the economy in much of the region—fall prey to the drought as grazing lands dry up. Tourists find themselves bathing in the muddy dregs from the bottom of the well and rural residents find the well nearest their home dry.

Now the drought threatens energy supplies in South Africa, the region's most industrialized nation. Its coal-fired electric generating plants and plants for producing oil from coal both require large amounts of water. Reservoir levels have fallen so low that some power plants have cut their production by as much as 60 percent.

## Women invited to attend Dayspring meeting

Dayspring, Kentucky women, wants you.

Martha Sirls, Louisville, Kentucky representative for the National Council of Advisors for Women in Evangelism, is trying to get the word out in Kentucky churches. "We would advise women in our area to take busloads and go," she said.

Mrs. Sirls is one of the planners of the national woman's conference, sponsored jointly by the Home Mission Board, the Foreign Mission Board and the Woman's Missionary Union auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.

The conference is aimed at teaching women to share their faith through lifestyle evangelism, Mrs. Sirls said. The first such conference of its kind, Dayspring, is scheduled Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at Ridgecrest.

Highlighting the meeting will be a number of conferences. Among program personalities scheduled are Ragan Courtney, Cynthia Clawson, Jeanette Cliff George, Marge Caldwell, Joe Ann Shelton and Evelyn Christensen.

Brochures and other information are available from Mrs. Sirls, 2219 Alice Kay Drive, Louisville, KY 40214, phone 363-0684. She is also available for seminars on lifestyle evangelism for women in local church groups.



**H. C. Chiles**  
Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, KY 40977

# sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JUNE 12, 1983

## Life and Work Series A MAN RESISTING GOD

Frequently God assigns tasks to individuals which are not easy for them or pleasing to them. In today's lesson we study the response which Jonah made when God assigned to him the task of being a foreign missionary to an enemy nation.

**Jonah 1:1-3** God called Jonah to go to the great city of Nineveh, which was a symbol of military might, wealth and vice, as well as the capital of the Assyrian empire. God commanded Jonah to cry out against the terrible wickedness which prevailed there, and to proclaim the destruction of the city unless the inhabitants thereof repented of their sins. God's instructions were clear, specific and unmistakable, but rebellious Jonah refused to undertake the assignment of preaching to the Gentiles.

**Jonah 1:4-5** Stubborn and rebellious Jonah understood the command of God, but promptly decided he would not do what he knew he should do. Determined he would avoid obeying the will of God and withdraw from his service, Jonah went down to Joppa, found a ship in the harbor of this seaport town, paid the fare and went down into the vessel, fully determined that he was not going to give the Ninevites an opportunity to repent.

How foolish he was in thinking he could resist God's will with impunity and get by with it! God did not waste any time with Jonah in his disobedience, but sent a great wind to stir up the sea and put in jeopardy the ship in which he was sailing. He did not have any intention of allowing Jonah to thwart the divine purpose by his sinful disobedience. When it appeared the

ship was about to be broken apart by the terrible storm, the mariners were filled with fear lest they might be drowned in the storm. Aroused to a sense of their perilous situation, the experienced seamen were so frightened they began to throw their cargo into the stormy waters in order to save the ship from sinking. And, during this process, Jonah was fast asleep.

**Jonah 1:8-10** In their great peril and perplexity, the crew began to suspect that someone who was on board had incurred the divine displeasure. Naturally they sought a satisfactory explanation as to whom the culprit was who had caused this grave danger. Eagerly they interrogated Jonah at length, but they did not acquire any helpful information. Jonah was very careful not to incriminate himself, so he withheld the information from them which they sought. However, from his remarks they drew the conclusion that Jonah was fleeing from the presence of God. Those sailors were more concerned about God's action than Jonah appeared to be.

**Jonah 1:14-15** As the storm's intensity increased and the waters became more and more tempestuous, the pagan sailors told God they did not believe they should be held accountable for his personal and disobedient actions. Willing to perish at sea rather than to preach for God, Jonah suggested to the crew that they throw him overboard, but the crew was reluctant to do so. His willingness for them to do that indicated Jonah was not willing for all of the sailors to lose their lives on account of what he had done. The noble motive which prompted those sailors to attempt to save the life of Jonah was certainly impressive. However, there is not any real evidence that these men abandoned their gods for the God of Jonah.

## International Series JETHRO: WISE ADVISER

Upon hearing about the wonderful achievements of Moses, under the direction and enablement of God, his father-in-law Jethro decided to visit and congratulate him. Taking with him Zipporah and her two sons, Jethro went to visit him, fully expecting to leave them with their husband and father when he returned home.

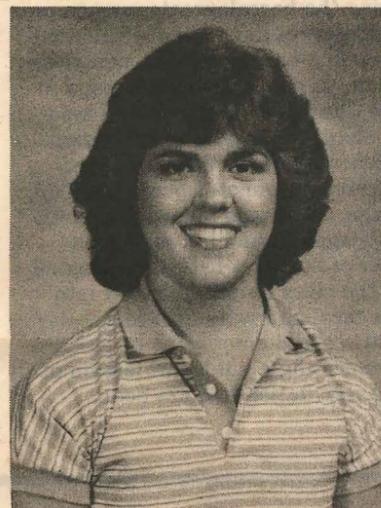
**Exodus 18:13-16** Moses' family had come to visit him, but he had little time to spend with them. On the day following their arrival Moses was at his post of duty as judge, exercising great caution to see that justice was administered to all without any favoritism.

As Jethro observed the procedure, he was delighted to see how the people trusted Moses, but he was convinced that the cases were too numerous for one to hear and to render a fair deci-

sion. He was concerned that in view of the numerous cases involved in litigation wisdom dictated that Moses should have additional judges to assist him. He expressed that opinion to his son-in-law.

**Exodus 18:17-18** His observation of Moses delving carefully and thoroughly into the problems of a comparative few, while so many were waiting impatiently to be heard, soon convinced Jethro that Moses should change his imprudent procedure before his health was impaired or he brought himself much adverse criticism from those who were seeking his services. Jethro's criticism of Moses: "The thing that thou doest is not good," was spoken to convince Moses that unless he changed his method his health would break and the people would become dissatisfied and rebel against his administration of affairs.

## Meet Cumberland College Student...



**Ruth Susan Sparks**

What would influence a 20 year old university sophomore to transfer to Cumberland College? Ruth Susan Sparks from Lebanon, Ohio found lots of reasons to continue her education at Cumberland College. "I was offered the opportunity to be a part of a singing ministry on a regular basis. Since I felt the need to use my voice for the Lord more fully, as well as the need to learn more of the Bible and grow spiritually, I decided to transfer to Cumberland College."

Ruth, a music education major, is studying to serve God and others as a choral teacher in public schools. Because of her love of music, the desire to have direct contact with students and the need for communication, this profession was a natural choice for her.

She has found a place at Cumberland College to develop her abilities for her future and the close student-faculty relationship has helped her. "The student-faculty relationship is what sets Cumberland apart from other schools. It has helped me a great deal knowing that I could confide in my teachers. I feel they really care about me as a person."

Ruth firmly believes in the family unit. While attending a university in Ohio, Ruth lived at home so the decision to come to Cumberland College was also a decision to move away from her family. But she didn't move from a family as much as she moved to a family. "Through those first 'homesick weeks', I learned to lean on Christian friends. I learned how important they are. This 'big family' has helped me through the roughest times. Friends have been so sweet to me and given me love and support when I needed it the most."

Music is one of man's treasures and we are proud that Ruth has chosen it as a career. Her tremendous talent will be a joy to any child's learning experience and we are glad to have been a major factor in her learning-growing experience. Ruth has brought joy to our lives and will continue to do so in the lives of others. We are happy to have given her the opportunity to develop her talents and to share these with others.

There are others like Ruth and we want to share our Cumberland College family with them.

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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



## on mission together

**William W. (Bill) Marshall**  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer, KBC  
Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243

### TENSIONS GRADUALLY EASING

It was just a few years ago that serving as a member of the committee on boards was a simple, often unnoticed assignment.

Recent developments within the SBC have focused attention and concern upon the members selected and their nominees.

Now that this year's list of nominees has been released, it appears most Southern Baptists are sensing some relief from an escalating tension. Certainly most want relief!

Kentucky Baptists owe a word of appreciation to Bill Hancock (Louisville) and Jack Amis (Hopkinsville) who have served as Kentucky's members on the committee on boards.

They did their work conscientiously (and there were hours of it!) and were sensitive to the realities of our Kentucky Baptist make-up. Obviously not everyone would have selected the same nominees had they been in their place. But is that really unique to such a

process?

Bill Hancock was thoughtful enough to give me an early call to share with me the process they employed. While he sought no names from me personally, he asked my opinion of names they had thus far planned to recommend. I had the distinct impression that had there been a serious question raised about a nominee, he would have listened, explored it further and made adjustments, as warranted.

Hancock and Amis have helped make it easier for most Kentuckians to travel to Pittsburgh in a more amicable mood this year. When next year David Nelson (Owensboro) and Mrs. Phyllis Ann Green (Mayfield) take on this difficult and much observed assignment, we will likely be even farther along toward a "stilling of the waters."

I like going to Pittsburgh with that sense of optimism and I hope I return to Kentucky even further encouraged.



# oneida journal

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

## SEVEN DAYS TO LIVE

Brian Tramontin is dead.

I last saw him less than two weeks ago. He was in a car driven by his classmate, Jeff, son of Dr. and Mrs. Don Cheser of Frankfort. Both boys had been boyhood friends in Frankfort. Both were vigorous handsome 17-year-olds. Both had graduated from Oneida that afternoon. Their car loaded with their clothes, they were on their way home. It had been the happiest day of Brian's life. He waved and was gone.

Brian had only seven more days to live.

The following Sunday he jumped into the rain-swollen South Fork of Elkhorn Creek near Frankfort, trying to save his 15-year-old brother who had been swept under by the swift current and had screamed for help. A neighbor man also dove in. The younger boy was saved, but Brian drowned.

During the baccalaureate sermon on commencement day, Brian startled the congregation by rising in his pew. Don Coleman, pastor of South Jefferson Baptist Church of Louisville and moderator elect of Long Run Association, was preaching on commitment. Don and I were schoolmates here nearly 30 years ago. I was following intently the message. Suddenly I realized a member of the class had stood. Seated facing the class I looked directly into Brian's face, and will never forget the earnestness and emotion as he stood there indicating a public profession of faith. An invitation had not been



**Brian Tramontin**

planned, but with Brian's move one was extended. Others of the graduating class moved forward to rededicate their lives. The presence of the Holy Spirit was much felt.

Brian had a difficult childhood. It was difficult because of the absence of a father from the time he was age 10. With Brian, an older and younger brother and a small sister, his mother had her hands full after the father left.

All of Brian's family are Catholic. He learned of Oneida from a former mayor

of Frankfort who is also Catholic, and his wife, who is active in First Baptist Church. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sower have donated monthly for several years and their gifts have averaged \$100 monthly this past year.

The Sowers brought Brian and his mother to our campus. Though it was our Homecoming Day, I personally spent several hours with them, and Brian moved into the dorm that very day. The following month his mother wrote: "I am thrilled with the way Brian has settled in at Oneida. He called this week and sounded so good. He loves Oneida and I am glad he has found a place where he feels comfortable."

Brian became very active in our drama program. He had a leading role in a production at Christmastime and was the stage manager for two major productions. He helped build all the sets for the varying productions and often worked until 2 a.m.

About a month ago, Brian came to ask me if he might come back this coming year to do volunteer service as a tutor in our "special help" program. I am always thrilled when our students catch the vision of service to others.

On Mar. 28 Brian wrote the Sowers: "I would like to thank both of you for everything you have done for me. You have changed my life in a great way. I am doing good in school and have grown up in a way you would never believe. I have made a lot of new friends and I have a girlfriend named Gina. Oneida has really changed my life for the better."

In a letter since Brian's death, the Sowers write: "We shall always be grateful to you for accepting him when he truly needed a haven. You provided 'a new beginning' and we are happy for

the religious experience that came into his life that made him realize the importance of living for Christ. He was so happy on graduation day and I am so happy I was there to share it all with his family."

Though dead, Brian's spiritual experience here speaks to hundreds, yes thousands. Having given his life in an attempt to save his brother, we are reminded of John 15:13: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

## Because you care...

The Home Mission Board is able to respond to human needs by equipping Baptists for Christian service in their own communities. Almost 300 missionaries engage in redemptive ministries to the hurts of people through Baptist centers, youth and family services, literacy work and a variety of weekday ministries.



## bluegrass billboard

### JUNE

12-16 Southern Baptist Convention Meetings, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
19 Father's Day  
20-24 Early Childhood Education Conference, Louisville, Southern Seminary.  
Reservations through Church Administration, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

### CONFERENCE AND CAMP DATES

June  
11-17 Church Training, Youth, Ridgecrest; Sunday school, Glorieta  
18-24 Music Conference, Ridgecrest; Sunday school, Glorieta  
25-7/1 Foreign Missions, Ridgecrest; Sunday school, Glorieta

### CEDARMORE

13-17 Grades 4-12 for Acteens, GAs and RAs; and Youth Week #1  
20-24 Grades 4-12 for Acteens, GAs and RAs; and Youth Week #2  
25-7/1 Grades 4-12 for Acteens, GAs and RAs; and Youth Week #3

### JONATHAN CREEK

27-7/1 GA/Acteen Camp

### JULY

3 Christian Citizenship Sunday  
10 Christian Literature Day  
29 Kentucky Baptist Historical Society and Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission, Williamsburg, First Baptist Church

### CONFERENCE AND CAMP DATES

2-8 Church Training Leadership/Youth at Ridgecrest; WMU Leadership at Glorieta  
9-15 Sunday School at Ridgecrest; Home Missions at Glorieta  
16-22 Sunday School at Ridgecrest; Church Music at Glorieta  
23-29 Sunday School at Ridgecrest; Bible/Preaching/Church Media Library at Glorieta

### CEDARMORE

4-8 Grades 4-12 for Acteens, GAs and RAs; and Youth Week #4  
8-9 Overnight for Mother/Daughter; Overnight for Father/Son, Grades 1-3  
11-15 Grades 4-12 for Acteens, GAs and RAs; Children's Music Camp  
15-16 Overnight for Mother/Daughter, Overnight for Father/Son, Grades 1-3



## homes for children

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

### LOVE

Each spring there are many positive things to claim our attention. The fresh green fields, beautiful flowers and singing birds create an atmosphere of new life in the world. This season of the year also focuses our attention on graduation and recognition of young people and their achievements.

Spring Meadows and Glen Dale Children's Homes each hold a recognition banquet in May. On these occasions not only are the graduating seniors congratulated, but others are recognized for their accomplishments and a program is presented by the youth. I always look forward to this happy occasion. A conflicting schedule forced me to miss the Glen Dale banquet, but I was privileged to attend the one at Spring Meadows.

Following a delicious meal, the campus choir prepared to sing for us. Houseparent Larry Shofner and his wife along with houseparent Pam Dawson work with the choir. Larry explained: "The song we are going to sing is about love." He went on to say that love is like a seed planted deep in the soil. You don't see it, but it is there. After a

while it comes up, matures, is harvested and reaches a lot of people for good. Then he said, "Love is here. Not only in the heart, but in these buildings and grounds. It touches everything. You may not see it now, but you feel it and later it will bring forth a harvest, blessing many lives." As those sweet young voices blended together in the song about love, it was evident that "love was there in that place."

Director Jesse Hatfield recognized each resident youth, calling them forward to receive a certificate on which was listed their special activities and accomplishments. I was filled with pride as I listened to what those youth had done. Many of them had moved their grades up to include "A's." Then there was involvement in athletics at school and church, Bible study, various helping groups, choirs, retreats, even teaching a Sunday school class. Several had made a rededication of life to the Lord.

Miss Abby Fife, counselor at Eastern High School, now retired, was present to rejoice with "her children," and commented on the positive, upbeat and wonderful attitude found on campus. She said, "Love is here. I feel it when I come on campus."

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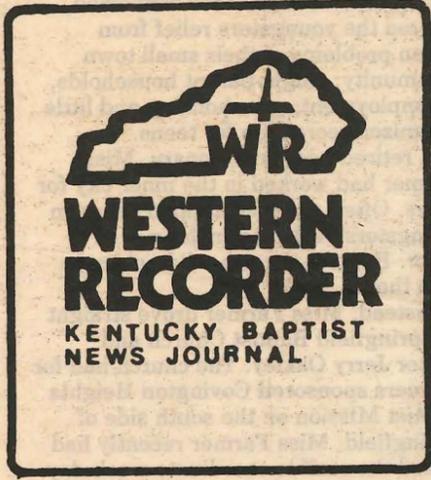
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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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.





Retired home missionary Gladys Farmer proved that a boxing program provided Springfield youth relief from inner-city boredom in an environment of love.

# Put 'em up!

## Former missionary finds ministry opportunity in boxing ring

by Michael Tutterow

Gladys Farmer hit upon the idea of boxing-team-as-ministry while watching two teens tangle in a yard.

With one tattered boxing glove apiece, the pair were swatting more air than each other, beating away late afternoon boredom in Springfield, Tenn., a small county-seat town 30 miles northwest of Nashville.

Howling laughter, mixed with shouts of anguish when punches connected, offered the youngsters relief from urban problems of their small town community: single-parent households, unemployment, poor housing and little organized recreation for teens.

A retired home missionary, Miss Farmer had worked in the inner city for years. Often she had stepped between youngsters bent on punching each other. But this time she did not try to stop them.

Instead, Miss Farmer drove straight to Springfield Baptist Church and pastor Jerry Oakley. The church had for 11 years sponsored Covington Heights Baptist Mission on the south side of Springfield; Miss Farmer recently had joined the staff to coordinate week-day ministries. She quickly replayed the scene for Oakley and posed the possi-

bility of a boxing team.

A little more than five feet tall, with only a wisp of a frame, the 68-year-old Miss Farmer seemed an unlikely candidate to muster up a boxing troop. But after months of combing the south side with little success, she was ready for a new approach. Oakley agreed "a boxing program might have an appeal."

He contacted Randy Thomas, a high school football and wrestling coach, himself a former fighter, who agreed to coach the team.

The first season they won a midstate championship, and Springfield team members continue to chalk up wins.

"A lot of kids are looking for ways to express themselves," said Thomas, "and they'll pick the wrong ways if they don't have an outlet."

The Springfield church found the outlet in an empty warehouse two doors from the Covington Heights mission, and a Baptist businessman rented the church the cinder-block building for use as a gym, charging half his usual fee.

Thomas and volunteers from the church and the mission transformed the bare concrete floors, dingy walls and dismal lighting into a gymnasium com-

plete with canvas-covered, regulation boxing ring, a trio of punching bags and pear-shaped "speed bags." Jump ropes drape a corner of the ring. Gloves of various weights and sizes lie along the ring's edge.

Only a handful of the boys who participate in the boxing program are "fighters," said Thomas. The rest are welcome to work out as long as they do not "curse, bother somebody working out, or laugh at anyone."

Though the program is church-sponsored, Thomas doesn't push religion. "I don't go into theology with them," he said. Instead, he concentrates on bolstering self-confidence and self-worth.

To help foster spiritual development, program participants are required to attend a church at least two Sundays a month. But, said Oakley, "we don't try to change the boys' denominations."

Thomas believes several young boxers are "definite pro prospects." In over two years of fighting, Troy Hand was undefeated. Last year he won the mid-state featherweight open division.

Yet, the awareness that someone cares "has had more effect on the boys than anything else," insisted Oakley.

"Residents found we're concerned," explained Richard Lankford, pastor of the Covington Heights mission, "and the church is caring, not just sitting inside four walls."

Just three years earlier, Springfield Baptist Church was ready to toss in the towel on south Springfield. Though a small town, it was plagued with "city" problems: divorce, job scarcity, low incomes. Establishing relationships was difficult. Covington mission seesawed for years, gaining members, then losing them. At the Home Mission Board's suggestion, the church contacted Miss Farmer.

A "retired" 34-year veteran of Christian social ministries, Miss Farmer ached for action. "I felt I had not led enough people to the Lord," she said. "Here I saw opportunity."

Miss Farmer joined forces with newly-appointed mission pastor Lankford, a Springfield native. Together they set out to "take the gospel to the streets," contacting residents and developing weekend programs to meet community needs.

Springfield members donated materials to begin a women's sewing class. Afternoon Bible classes now draw young children twice a week. "Teen Time," a Saturday evening Bible study with group activities and refreshments, attracts junior and senior high school youth.

The mission also sponsors a telephone assurance ministry, provides food and clothing for needy families and enlists volunteers for group and individual tutoring.

As a result, Sunday morning attendance has tripled, and baptisms have increased.

Parents of youths involved in the boxing program have thanked Oakley, saying the program was the first time anyone had provided something for their sons.

"It's a wholesome alternative to the street," concluded Oakley.

"There was something here they wanted, or they wouldn't have come out," maintained Thomas. "We don't have to pull them off the streets. They come to us."

Thomas believes, "If we can get them to respect themselves and start thinking positively about themselves, then the religious aspect of it will follow. Once you're concerned about yourself, you're also concerned about the hereafter."