



Belfry presents \$200,000, challenges others

by Jack D. Sanford, *Editor*

In a highly charged emotional moment Dec. 11 during a meeting of the Kentucky Baptist executive board, James Watt Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Belfry, presented a \$200,000 check for Ethiopian hunger relief.

The Belfry church had a \$125,000 surplus in the treasury, even though the church has less than 300 enrolled in Sunday school, and is a consistent heavy contributor to the Cooperative Program. There are many needs in the local area, yet the congregation, upon recommendation of the deacons, voted to send \$100,000 and was matched by a \$100,000 gift from a member of the

church who wishes to remain anonymous. Watt gave the \$200,000 check to FMB representative John Cheyne.

Cheyne was asked to come to Kentucky several months ago to speak to the board. He is a former missionary to east Africa and is now serving the FMB as a consultant in human needs. He was recently able to get permission from the Marxist government of Ethiopia to enter a remote section of the country to help about 35,000 starving people there. The FMB committed \$200,000 for the project. Now that bread cast upon the waters has been returned, dollar for dollar, and Southern Baptist missionaries are back in the

country.

In explaining how and why the Belfry church came to this point, Watt said they agreed local needs could wait since many people were dying of starvation. The church wanted to help relieve that "miserable situation" and they also wanted "to set an example" for others.

The Belfry church is a strong Southern Baptist congregation, giving 25 percent of all undesignated offerings through the Cooperative Program, and five percent to the local association.

This gift to starving Ethiopians has challenged the community and the church is now a receiving agent for gifts from nonBaptists and nonChristians.

Not only has the church made "a great gesture of compassionate service," it has also discovered a way to "explain Baptist ways" and especially the Cooperative Program to people unfamiliar with Southern Baptist life and work.

Watt said that since the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon offering support the continued work of our missionaries he could tell the people that 100 percent of their money would go directly to relieve starvation. Administrative costs would not dilute the offering, nor does he expect the \$100,000 from his church to affect the church's Lottie Moon offering, since they plan to give more than they did last year.

\$200,000 gift, staff changes top board meeting

by James H. Cox, *Associate Editor*

When pastor James Watt Jr. presented a Foreign Mission Board official a check for \$200,000 to aid in African hunger relief during last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention executive board meeting, there were some tear-stained faces looking on.

"Hardly a soul was not moved with compassion," remarked one observer.

"You could really feel the sincerity and concern in that room for the physical needs of humanity," said another.

The gift of unusual proportions resulted from a Sunday offering plate collection of \$125,000 Dec. 2 in the little mountain hamlet of Belfry in northern Pike County, only six miles from the West Virginia line. The 599-member congregation has had a reputation in recent years of doing things beyond what many would consider average for a church its size. Particularly has this been true in mission giving.

But when \$125,000 showed up in the offering plate in one day, the pastor called the deacons together to decide "what to do with it." Having read several articles in Western Recorder in recent weeks on the hunger crisis in Africa, they had no trouble in voting unanimously to send \$100,000 to that cause, Watt told the executive board.

Two nights later in prayer meeting

the church unanimously accepted the recommendation of the deacons.

An extra surprise was that, following this action, a member of the congregation who wishes to remain anonymous gave an additional \$100,000 for the same cause, matching that already given.

Responding to the gift in the executive board meeting, John Cheyne, of Richmond, Va., senior consultant for human needs ministries at the Foreign Mission Board, said he believed \$100,000 would probably feed 1000 people for a year.

Then he added that the money would eventually be "used up," but he asked, "Will you pray that some of those children who use it will grow up to know the Lord Jesus as their savior?"

Addressing the executive board before the check presentation, Cheyne declared that he was "so thankful I belong" to a convention that "believes in evangelism on the one hand with compassion for people on the other hand." He allowed that "not one penny" of the Lottie Moon Christmas offering goes toward promotion or publicity or "for any other use in the United States" because that cost is "already underwritten" by the Cooperative Program.

"Isn't it good to be a part of something like that?" he pondered.

Following his remarks and the presentation by Watt, the executive board rose to its feet, broke into thunderous applause, and led by its chairman James B. Lewis of Louisville, spontaneously began singing "Amazing Grace."

After a brief recess, it was reported that the \$200,000 had already been dispatched to Richmond so it could be on its way to Africa quickly.

Two major executive board staff personnel changes were announced by the board last week.

Douglas D. Hays, 51, director of the Accounting Services Department and an employe of the executive board since 1967, will assume the newly created



Principals involved in receiving a gift of \$200,000 from First Baptist Church, Belfry, for world hunger during last week's KBC executive board meeting include [l-r] executive board chairman James B. Lewis, Louisville; Belfry pastor James Watt Jr.; and John Cheyne, of the SBC Foreign Mission Board staff, Richmond, Va.

post of director of the Computer Services Department effective Jan. 1.

Catherine S. Roy, 27, of Louisville will join the staff Jan. 1 as director of the Accounting Services Department.

Hays, a Louisville native, holds the BSC degree from the University of Louisville. An active member of Hazelwood Baptist Church, he is an accomplished musician. He is single.

Miss Roy has been employed the last three years as supervisor of purchasing services and supervisor of accounting services at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. She holds a BA degree from Bellarmine College and has done graduate work at the University of Kentucky. She is active at Walnut Street Baptist Church and is also single.

Barry G. Allen, executive board Business Division director, observed that the personnel changes reflect a response to "growing needs" to provide "increased management support" in the areas of accounting and computer services.

In other actions last week, the executive board:

- Agreed to spend up to \$25,000 to match funds provided by Franklin Baptist Association for purchase of property and renovation of a 3800-square foot structure at 495 E. Main St., Frankfort, to be used as a Baptist student center at Kentucky State University.

- Authorized expenditure of \$35,000 to purchase and equip two vehicles to be used by the state Brotherhood in its disaster relief program, both in and out

of Kentucky.

- Named layman Chester Mayes to fill a vacancy on the executive board representing Grayson County Association.

- Designated the first Sunday in October each year beginning in 1986 as Planned Growth in Giving Sunday in the state, for promotion and education purposes. (Those present during the executive board meeting were given opportunity to sign cards pledging their prayer support for this movement.)

- Adopted a plan for the distribution of challenge funds above the convention's basic operating budget, and a plan for special distribution of monies derived from "interest and unused funds."

- Transferred the title of First Baptist Church, Jenkins, from the executive board to the church.

William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, reaffirmed five personal goals for the convention's work during his report to the board. (See editorial, page 2.)

At the close of the board session, presiding officer Jim Lewis allowed perhaps a dozen persons to share whatever was on their hearts. He concluded the sharing time asking, "It's a good time to be a Kentucky Baptist, isn't it?"

He then led the group in singing several verses of "Alleluia."

The board will reconvene May 5-6, 1985 at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, near Bagdad.

Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Dec. 18, 1984

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.



Hays



Miss Roy

sanford's perspectives

Objectives

In his report to the executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention last week, Bill Marshall shared his perception of what Kentucky Baptists expected and what he hoped to accomplish as leader of our convention. His perceptions came out of his early experience in our state and as he studied the profile the search committee developed when he was called to serve here.

There are five objectives Marshall put forth for the executive board's consideration and prayer. This is in reality our long range plan for mission in the future. Some of these objectives are well along toward achievement, while others are just beginning to develop. All of them have to do with mission and service and grow out of our common commitment to the gospel of Christ.

The first objective is "to increase the awareness of and involvement by Kentucky Baptists in the total world mission of God." Marshall noted our Kentucky-Ohio partnership as an example of how Kentucky Baptists can reach beyond our state. He declared no church in Kentucky is unable to do something in this partnership with Ohio, where mission opportunities abound. Even a backyard Bible club is possible from the smallest church among us.

Another way this objective is being met is through the Good News America revivals. Kentucky Baptists have committed \$285,000 to this simultaneous effort, more money than our state has ever earmarked for evangelism.

Still another way this first objective is being met is through the Kentucky-Kenya effort. This is what Marshall called "a primary step of world missions." The \$450,000 committed to this mission venture, together with the money set aside for the Good News revivals, totals nearly three quarters of a million dollars for the work of missions and evangelism.

The final example of how we are carrying out this first objective is in our plan for distribution of Cooperative Program funds. The goal is to increase by .625 percent each year the portion of Cooperative Program funds sent out of Kentucky for Southern Baptist causes so that total SBC gifts from Cooperative Program funds would be 40 percent by fiscal 1990-91.

The second objective Marshall presented was "to increase significantly the financial resources for Kentucky Baptists to support the total missions program." The commitment of Kentucky Baptists to Planned Growth in Giving is one way to achieve this objective. Marshall declared PGG is not just an attempt to increase gifts to outside causes, but is a tool for local church strength and growth.

The third objective Marshall listed was "to heighten, among Kentucky Baptist churches, an awareness of the need for an involvement in local ministries of human need." This is not "social gospel" versus the real gospel, for, as Marshall declared, "No gospel can neglect persons who need." The Kentucky Baptist Convention staff will begin a program to train people in local churches to meet human needs, such as hunger, shelter, medical services and other needs present in every section of our state.



Jack D. Sanford

The fourth objective Marshall recited was "to enlarge the emotional and economic base of support for Christian (Baptist) education in Kentucky." Every informed Baptist knows how small our support is for our schools. There are schools in Kentucky whose annual athletic budget is more than the total Cooperative Program allocation to all our schools. This objective will require the best thinking and planning of which we are capable if we are to enlarge the ministry of Christian education.

The final objective is "to increase, at a more rapid pace, the development of Baptist missions and churches in Kentucky." Marshall reminded us that Benton Williams and Bill Jagers, both relatively new staff members of the KBC, have the task of planting more churches and winning more people to Christ. These men are dedicated, skilled, experienced servants of Christ who are expected to present a strategy for implementing this objective by the convention meeting in 1985.

I sense in Bill Marshall a team man who is willing to work with others in bringing in the kingdom. He is ready to share himself and his ideas in an unselfish effort to extend the force of the gospel. He is a challenging leader for this new day in Kentucky Baptist life.

The objectives laid out in Marshall's report are worthy. If they are to become realities, every Baptist in Kentucky will have to give something of himself in ministry. I give my full support to these bold ideas and will do all I can to see them accomplished. It seems new ground is open to us and the call for laborers is being heard once again. Let us join hands in a determined effort to forget our differences and spend ourselves in these great missionary tasks our leader has laid out for us.

Thank you

In this last issue of 1984 I want to exercise an editor's prerogative and say a very personal word to all of you who have supported Western Recorder so well through the years. In the past six months, the time I have been on the job, you have been more than gracious to me. I have made some mistakes and you have been more than forgiving. For this I say thank you and God bless you.

As we gear up for 1985, all the staff at Western Recorder will have as a first priority the increase in circulation. It seems a shame that more of our Kentucky Baptist people do not have the paper in their hands each week. The articles about our common life, the features on interesting people and the good news of what is happening in our churches is worthwhile. We will make every effort to increase circulation in 1985 and we ask your help in this important task.

One more thing you can do for us is send us the good news from your church and from your area. We are dependent on you for complete coverage of what is happening in Kentucky.

We send you a prayer for a joyous Christmas and the best possible new year in service to the Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord forever.

western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

JACK D. SANFORD, Editor
JAMES H. COX, Associate Editor
C. R. DALEY, Editor Emeritus

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

Western Recorder is 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.

Subscriptions: Single, \$6.30; foreign, \$7.00; church budget, \$4.50. Payable in advance, except church accounts, which require tax exemption number.

Advertising: Rates available upon request. Institutional columns on an inside page are paid space.

Directors: Glenn Durham, Harlan, chairman; Robert DeFoor, Harrodsburg, vice chairman; John Christian, Hopkinsville, secretary; Clarence Benedict, Highland Heights; H. Gary Coltharp, Madisonville; Gregory L. Hancock, Covington; Willis W. Henson, Paducah; Thomas O. Miller, Nicholasville; T. A. Prickett, Owensboro; James Royalty, Vine Grove; George Smith, Leitchfield; William J. Sullivan, Louisville.

baptist forum

Reader opposes Reagan's tax plan

I read with great interest the article in your Dec. 4 issue on the Treasury Department's proposed tax plan. A great deal of the article was criticism from various Baptist leaders about how much this tax plan will hurt charitable giving to our churches.

I agree that such a tax plan will hurt charitable organization's efforts in meeting social needs. However, we need not forget that Mr. Reagan has been cutting away at the government's social programs for the last four years. Mr. Reagan is now finally looking toward slowing the growth of the federal deficit and it looks as if social programs will once again be axed.

Isn't it ironic that Mr. Reagan wants the private sector to take over the work of helping the needy and now is undercutting the major support of charitable organizations. It wasn't enough that he cut government programs but now he would make a second cut in the private sector's work in helping the needy. When will this onslaught of the poor ever end?

Larry W. Owens, Louisville

'Word' refers to Christ not the Bible

Sooner or later it had to happen, and it did. A letter to Western Recorder turned the trinity into a quartet: "the father, son, spirit and the word." This is bibliolatry.

"In the beginning was the Word" refers not to the Bible but to Christ. Our holy book is merely a record of God's revelation to man to a point in time. It did not precede, nor does it supersede, God. Some of us seem to believe that, at minimum, the King James Version was handed to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

Like many of us, this writer selects verses, ignoring others, to support his viewpoint. To use scripture to subordinate women, however, may be acceptable Old Testament theology but certainly not of the spirit of Christ.

An excellent article on this subject is "Women in the New Testament Church," (Biblical Illustrator, winter 1983). I would hope that the letter writer quoting "Old maids make good schoolteachers" would look it up.

Marshall Hacker, Covington

God, Christians and the poor

During the past few years a new form of the gospel has overtaken the land. This brand of theology preaches that God blesses through prosperity. Those who have money and possessions claim God gave it to them. Those who desire to have money and possessions flock to the promise that if they come to "this" church or if they believe "this" way, God will provide them with what they desire. Such beliefs are rooted more in

the Protestant work ethic than the Bible.

Have we become so consumed by our consumerism that we have forgotten to freely and willingly share with those who have nothing? The fact that someone may not have much—be it due to failure after many efforts or their own laziness—should not daunt the Christian. We are called our share—our possessions, our money, our time, our very lives.

Most of us settle for a mere verbal witness. We often act as if we believed God was punishing the poor with their poverty. We forget that unequal social systems are a result of man's actions, not God's. Yet we lay our shortcomings at God's feet, refusing to take responsibility for our brothers and sisters. We as Southern Baptists have talked long and hard of our witness of God's love for anyone who opens their heart. We strive diligently to share with every person by the year 2000. Now is the time for us to lend our lives to those things we preach. We must demonstrate God's love as we proclaim it!

Scripture calls us to love the poor because God loves them. It is time our actions added weight to our words. This Christmas would be a good time to begin.

Mike Elliott, Louisville

Ministry to visually impaired needed

The Home Mission Board has identified 14 areas of ministry which are being emphasized by Bold Mission Thrust. One area of particular concern to me is ministry to the visually impaired. I think more local churches should be involved in this ministry. Many churches hesitate to undertake this ministry because they don't know what to do.

Here are some suggestions for possible consideration. First identify the visually impaired persons in your community. Remember many visually impaired people are elderly and not all are totally blind. Invite them to worship services and other activities. Provide transportation so they can get to these services and other activities. Provide recorded Sunday school materials and Braille hymnals which can be obtained from the Sunday School Board or the Baptist Book Store. Inform them of the availability of Western Recorder on tape which will provide information on Baptist life in Kentucky. Also take a personal interest in each person. Remember he is a person first and blind second. Encourage visually impaired people to become involved in every aspect of the church's life. Keep in mind that the visually impaired can minister as well as be ministered to.

As a totally blind Southern Seminary student, I am very aware of the strides being made by our denomination to the visually impaired. However, I feel much more can be done on the local level.

H. Keith Wigglesworth, Louisville

*The light shines
in the darkness,
and the darkness
has never put it out.*

—John 1:5 TEV



Planned Growth in Giving

**21 State Seminars
Feb.-May, 1985**

WHAT YOUR CHURCH CAN DO

- Elect a Planned Growth in Giving Task Force Chairman
- Encourage the pastor and chairman to attend one of the 21 two-day seminars early next year.
- Participate in the four-week Church Event in the fall of 1985.
- Pray that God will awaken Southern Baptists to the opportunity and challenge of the closing 15-years of this century.

WHAT YOUR CHURCH WILL RECEIVE

- Expert training for pastor and church Planned Growth in Giving Chairman for leading your church in the Church Event in 1985.
- Sample materials for the Planned Growth in Giving Church Event 1985.
- As a result of your participation, your church will benefit with increased giving and deeper commitment of your people.

NOTE: Room and meals for the seminars will be provided by the Kentucky Baptist Convention at no cost to your church.

PLANNED GROWTH IN GIVING

"More than a slogan — bigger than a program"

Call or write Kentucky Stewardship Department,
P.O. Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243-0433 502/245-4101

PLAN TO GROW IN GIVING!

"Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor. 9:7, NASB).



**MY PLAN
FOR GIVING**
1985 - 11%
1986 - 11½%
1987 - 12%
1988 - 12½%
1989 - 13%
**SUPPORTING
BOLD MISSION
THRUST**



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

homes for children

Christmas in the cottages

Christmas is in the air! Christmas is coming! On every hand there are signs of Christmas. It is certainly true in all of the cottages of Baptist Homes for Children. The Dixon and Elizabethtown temporary shelters, the Louisville home for unwed mothers, the six cottages each as Spring Meadows and Glen Dale have all followed their own unique plans for decorating for Christmas. Lights are shining, decorations sparkle, Christmas trees are trimmed and special plans have been made.

The great preacher, Phillips Brooks, said it right in his poem, "Christmas Everywhere."

Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!
Christmas in lands of the fir-tree and pine,
Christmas in lands of the palm-tree and vine,
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn
and white,
Christmas where cornfields stand sunny and
bright,
Christmas where children are hopeful and
gay,
Christmas where old men are patient and
gray,
Christmas where peace, like a dove in his
flight,
Broods o'er brave men in the thick of the
fight;
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas tonight!
For the Christ child who comes is the
Master of all:
No palace too great, no cottage too small.

No palace too great, no cottage too small! And no child is unimportant. Christmas is a very special time for all the children who live at Baptist Homes. Lists of wants and needs have been made. Churches, Sunday school classes, groups and individuals have volunteered to provide a nice Christmas for each child in our care. No child is left out or slighted. The gifts have been purchased and wrapped. All is ready for a happy time.

Other happy times are planned on the campuses. There is a special Christmas dinner or reception. The youth dress up and come with excitement. A Christmas play setting forth the meaning of Christmas is given by the youth. Sometimes the play has been written by one of the youth. Then there is always time to sing beautiful Christmas carols.

This is a special time for us because many of our youth have never had a Christmas like ours. You see, Christmas at Baptist Homes always interprets the true meaning of Christmas. Thanks for making this special time possible for us. May each reader have a blessed Christmas too.

RETIRING RICHEY

After 21 years in Hopkins County, he's ready to hand over the torch

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

A director of associational missions "can't serve the churches if he will be identified with either conservatives or moderates," Hughlan Richey mused thoughtfully.

Reviewing 14 years as missionary in Little Bethel Association, Richey, who has just announced his retirement effective Feb. 28, called it "a pleasant, enjoyable ministry."

Richey, who turned 65 this past August, has lived within the geographical boundaries of Little Bethel Association for 21 years of his ministry, now spanning four decades. He pastored First Baptist Church, Earlington, seven years (1951-58) in that association before retiring as director of missions Jan. 1, 1971.

Only once in his four decades of ministry did Kentucky-born Richey serve outside his native state. From 1958-66 he pastored Keck Avenue Baptist Church, Evansville, Ind., at the time when an association separate from one serving Henderson, Ky. was being formed at Evansville.

Richey left the Indiana pastorate to return to one in Kentucky he had previously served, at Adairville (Ky.) Church. He pastored Adairville from 1948-51 and again from 1966-70.

The Midland native from Muhlenberg County graduated from Central City High School and went on to Murray (Ky.) State University to earn the BS degree in 1944. Three years later he earned the BD degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, a degree which was upgraded to an MDiv in 1969 as the result of additional work.

Richey pastored rural churches in Muhlenberg County during his seminary career, becoming pastor of two half time churches at graduation—Bethlehem Church, Bremen, Ky. and

Oak Grove Church, Depoy, Ky.

He married Central City native Martha Nell Francis, who retired this year after 22 years of public school teaching.

Their two grown daughters have followed in their mother's footsteps. Rebekah Pagan and her husband operate a day care school in Queens, N. Y. Kathy Nix, meanwhile, teaches first grade in Madisonville, and has two children of her own.

Richey, who hopes to serve interim pastorates and do mission work in the future, observed that he is retiring, "but not quitting the ministry." He feels there are some things "I want to get on and do," but plans to take an active role in the Lord's work right on.

While he and his wife plan to continue residing in Madisonville in retirement, they are open to opportunities elsewhere.

"This area of western Kentucky is strongly Baptist," Richey declared. "Churches are cooperative. That's our background. Some of the strongest associations are here."

He seems particularly proud that "all of our (Little Bethel) churches gave to the Cooperative Program last year."

Thinking back on where the association was when Richey went there in 1971 and where it is today, he allows, "We had less than 9000 members of the churches in the association then. Today, we've topped 15,200 and are still growing."

The 45-church association has a budget this year of \$60,000, almost four times what it was in 1971. At that time the association was not self supporting, but Richey saw it arrive at that point by 1973.

In that year, Little Bethel Association also moved from a small rented office space to its own modern facility on the northwest edge of Madisonville. He

says the new facility "has made all the difference in the world" in the work and in resources available, calling it "a real blessing" to the association and the churches.

Other accomplishments during the Richey era include a successful student summer missionary program, offering Seminary Extension courses, mission teams from the association to distant places and the addition of an outpost for the children's home ministry adjacent to the Little Bethel offices.

Richey takes pride in the young people who've been summer workers with him. In several cases, they have "gone out to do the Lord's work" after graduation. He has used college students from the association for 10 weeks, paying them for their services, and says it has been "a great blessing to the association and a great help to me."

One or two Seminary Extension courses have been offered regularly through the association in recent years, drawing interest from pastors and lay people.

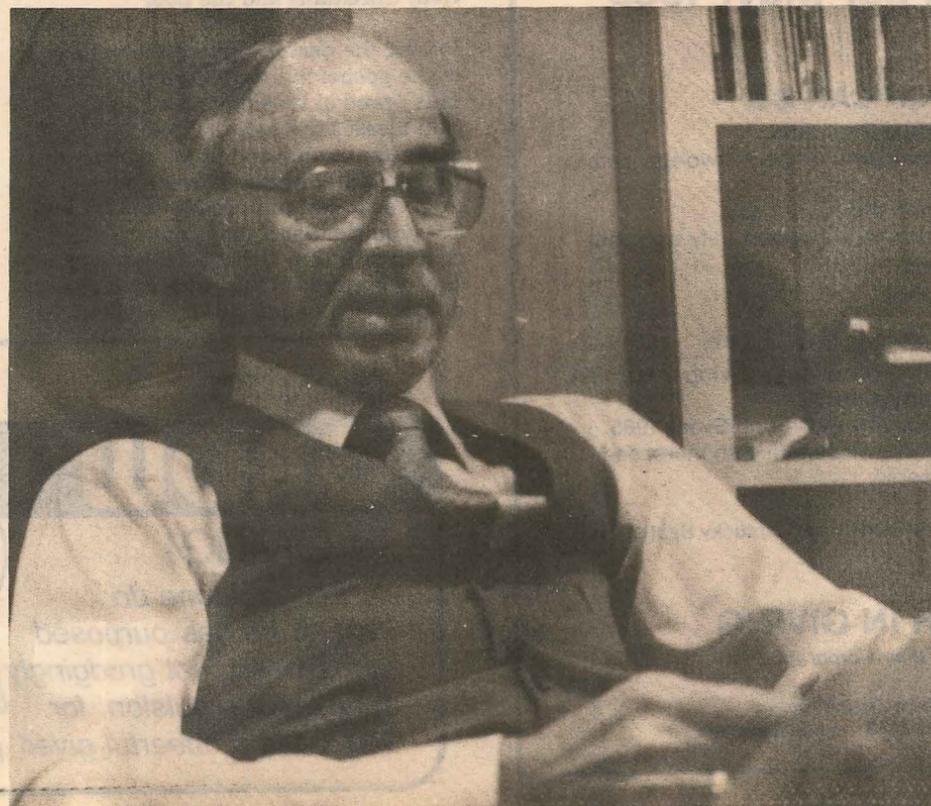
Mission teams have gone from Little Bethel to Ohio and to east Kentucky to assist in various projects. The association has now established a fund to help any who would like to go to Kenya.

In 1978 facilities were added on to the Little Bethel office building for a Baptist Homes for Children office, as well as a guest room for overnight visitors to the association. Richey cited the "good relationship" the association has maintained with the children's home workers. He noted that the idea of a temporary shelter program at Dixon, Ky. as part of the children's home ministry "was born here in our offices."

Little Bethel continues to have two trustees at Mid-Continent Baptist College, Mayfield. And it was one of the 11 associations which owned and operated Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly, Aurora, until the deed for the property was relinquished to the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 1983. "We're mighty glad of that," he observes, believing the best days of the assembly under statewide support "are yet to be."

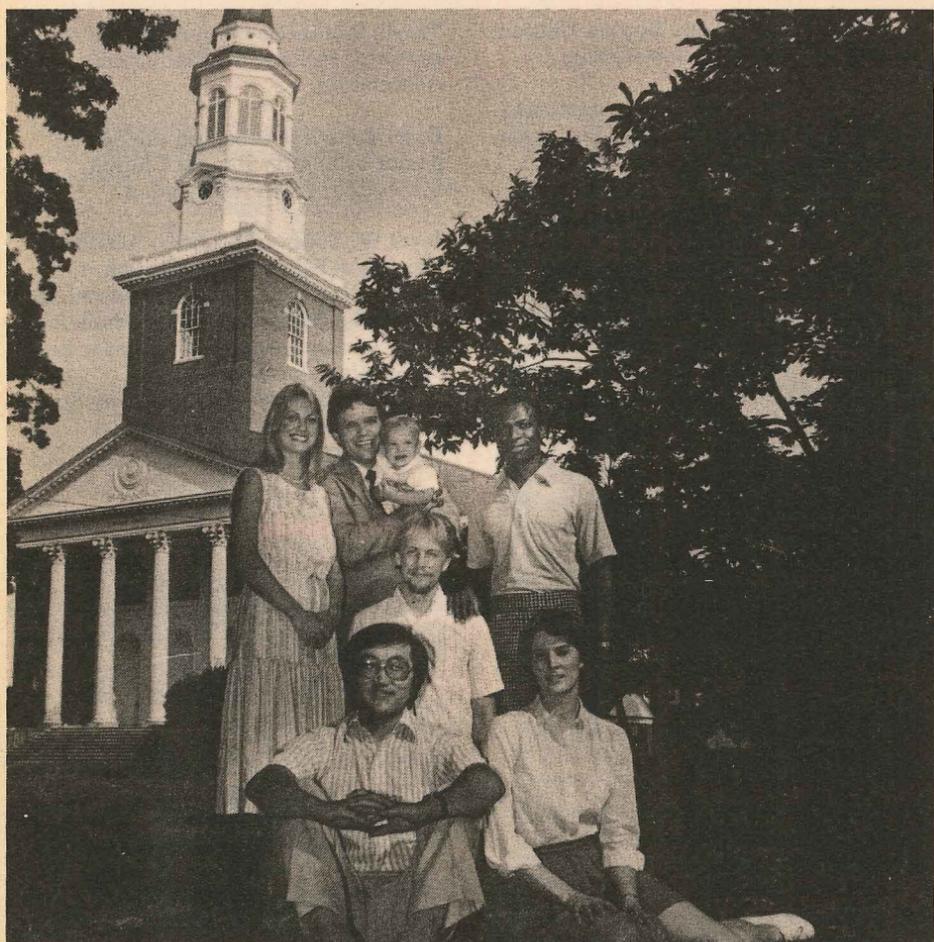
In addition to his interest in continuing to preach after retirement, Richey will also pursue his hobbies of photography, golfing, travel and reading. One of the gifts he will leave Little Bethel, incidentally, is a 14-year history of significant developments in the life of the association on color slides.

Perhaps they'll have to replace Richey with two people—a director of missions, and a curator/historian. Surely there's a lot worth keeping there that Little Bethel Baptists simply won't allow to get away.

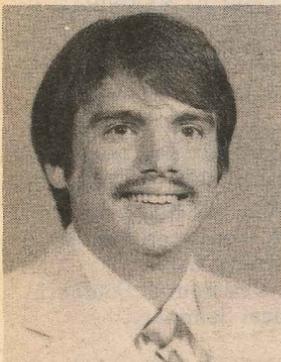


Hughlan Richey, left, is retiring Feb. 28 after 14 years as missionary in Little Bethel Association. He's also pastored in that association another seven years.

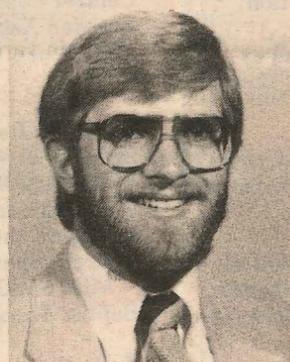
christian education



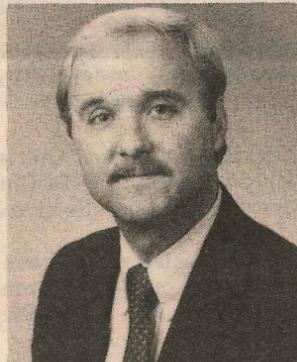
Whether men or women, married or single, international or national, students at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary have a common goal—to prepare for Christian ministry. Located in Wake Forest, N. C., Southeastern is now in its 34th year and has an enrolment of 1246.



Waugh



Sirles



Mitchell

Three Kentuckians get SWBTS degrees

Three Kentucky students were among the 332 December graduates at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Receiving MDiv degrees were William F. Mitchell, Greenville, and Jerry Eugene Waugh, Allen. Wesley Allen Sirles, Louisville, received an MA in religious education.

Thirty doctorates, which is the larg-

est number of doctoral degrees ever awarded at a SWBTS commencement, were presented Dec. 14 at Travis Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Worth. In that number were six PhD degrees, eight EdD and 16 DMin degrees.

Pope A. Duncan, president of Stetson University, DeLand, Fla., was the commencement speaker.

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE

Presents

"OUR GIFT TO YOU"

A SPECIAL MUSICAL TELECAST
IN HONOR AND PRAISE
OF JESUS CHRIST

WBIR-TV-10, Knoxville
December 25, 11:30 a.m.
WLEX-TV-18, Lexington
December 22, 5:00 p.m.

A PUBLIC SERVICE PRODUCTION OF
WBIR-TV-10, Knoxville
A multi-media station

Informed Baptist Students organized in Texas

Paul McCoury feels most high school and college-age Southern Baptists are ignorant about Southern Baptist history and heritage, about current denominational issues and about future goals of the convention. McCoury, a senior religion and journalism major at Baylor University and executive director of Informed Baptist Students, hopes the recently formed "independent grassroots information movement" will change things.

The group plans to distribute information to Southern Baptist youth providing factual information about Southern Baptists. Even if nothing else is communicated, IBS is devoted to informing students about Southern Baptists' long term beliefs in the priesthood

of the believer, the autonomy of the local church and the separation of church and state, he said.

Formed just a few months ago, IBS now has a newsletter mailing list of more than 1500. Its 15-member board of directors represents such colleges as Hardin-Simmons University, Oklahoma Baptist University, East Texas Baptist University, Houston Baptist University and state colleges in Colorado, Texas and California. By February, IBS expects to have chapters established on every Southern Baptist school in Texas. Plans are to branch out across the country from there.

McCoury emphasizes the organization is not affiliated or aligned with any "political faction" within the SBC.



*"But I have promises to keep
and miles to go before I sleep."
— Robert Frost*

The winter of your life comes soon enough. And there is much planning to do before your retirement years.

Talk to one of our development staff today—or write for free materials—so you'll be prepared for tomorrow. He'll tell you about the many options available to you that can mean tax savings now, income now...and security later...for yourself, your loved ones and for your charitable interests. Enjoy today, knowing you have taken care of tomorrow.

KENTUCKY BAPTIST HOMES FOR CHILDREN
10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, Ky.

THOMAS A. MOORE
Director
Development/Communications

mountains to the mississippi



Scottsville Baptist Church, Allen Association, held a dedication service Nov. 11 for its new sanctuary. The new addition will seat 530. Ron Bradley is pastor of Scottsville.

revivals

Beaver Dam Baptist Church, Ohio County Association, held a fall revival Nov. 4-7 with guest evangelist Wendell Romans.

Centertown Baptist Church, Ohio County Association, held fall revival services Nov. 25-28. D. M. Huff, director of missions, Green Valley Association, was guest evangelist.

White Plains Baptist Church, Scottsville, Allen Association, had revival services Nov. 4-8. Results included one profession of faith and nine rededications. Larry Gilmore was the evangelist. Larry Bouland is pastor of White Plains.

Ellisburg Baptist Church, Hustonville, Casey Association, held revival services Nov. 25-30. Over 50 decisions were made, including five professions of faith.

Dan Flannery and Mike Osborne, both of Danville, were the guest evangelist and music leader.

Jimmy Springfield is pastor of Ellisburg.

Calvary Baptist Church, Paducah, West Union Association, held a youth revival Nov. 28-Dec. 1 with Wayne Carter as guest evangelist. Results included nine additions to the church and a number of rededications.

Charles Powell is pastor of Calvary.

congregations

Cane Run Baptist Church, Lexington, Elkhorn Association, will present a live nativity portrayal Dec. 21, 22 and 24 at 7:30 p.m.

Vine Grove Baptist Church, Severns Valley Association, has experienced results from a church growth campaign throughout the past year. At the end of November 1983 Sunday school enrolment was 394 with an average attendance of 218. Enrolment now stands at 472 with an average attendance of 242. High attendance day in 1984 saw 492 in Sunday school.

Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Manchester, Laurel River Association, had an attendance goal of 70 Nov. 4. Attendance in Sunday school was 80 and 100 attended morning worship service.

The goal was in honor of Verner Barnett's birthday.

Zion Baptist Church, Henderson, Green

Valley Association, completed a Together We Build program Nov. 11 with a total commitment of \$205,000. The money, to be paid over a three-year period by those who pledged, will be used to build 2800 square feet of educational space and to do some remodeling.

Dan Garland is pastor of Zion.

Dover Baptist Church, Shepherdsville, Shelby County Association, observed Catherine T. Wise Memorial Day in October. Miss Wise, who was a member of the church for over 60 years, died in October 1983 leaving her \$30,000 estate to the church.

D. E. Jones is pastor of Dover.

Ellers Memorial Baptist Church, Harrodsburg, Mercer Association, held High Attendance Sunday Oct. 28 to begin a growth campaign as part of the Reach 5 in '85 emphasis. On Oct. 1 Sunday school enrolment was 169. High Attendance Sunday's goal of 150 was surpassed with an attendance of 172.

Prior to High Attendance Sunday the church had Contact Week, with a goal of making 1000 contacts through visits, phone calls and letters. This goal was also surpassed with a total of 1291 contacts.

The church has set an enrolment goal of 125 for the 1984-85 year. Since the first week of October the church has enrolled 34.

Bill Vaught is pastor of Ellers Memorial.

personnel

Alfred E. Griffin (see photo) has accepted the call to become the fourth pastor in the 25-year history of Southern Heights Baptist Church, Lexington, Elkhorn Association.

Griffin is a native of Mt. Vernon and a graduate of Georgetown Baptist College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has pastored churches in Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia.

Walter Pennington has been called as



Griffin



Stack

pastor of Memory Lane Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association.

Jerry Mantooth resigned the pastorate of Parkwood Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association.

Archie Brock will begin his ministry Jan. 1 at Mexico Baptist Church, Marion, Ohio River Association.

George Stack (see photo), director of missions, Owen County and Ten Mile associations, was named Director of the Year by the Kentucky Baptist Directors of Missions Fellowship during their annual meeting Nov. 12.

Stack began his ministry with the association in March 1958 and has served in the same location longer than any other member of the fellowship.

Danny Creech has accepted the call as pastor of Coral Hill Baptist Church, Glasgow, Liberty Association.

Delton Beall will begin a new ministry as pastor of Glasgow Baptist Church, Liberty Association.

Rod Ellis was called as youth and song leader of Providence Baptist Church, Boone's Creek Association.

Jim Robinson has accepted the pastorate of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, Boaz, Graves County Association.

Jimmy Mayes, pastor of Whipperwill Baptist Church, Adairville, Bethel Association, tendered his resignation.

Terry Peck has accepted the call as interim pastor, Auburn Baptist Church, Bethel Association.

C. R. Kirby resigned after eight years as pastor of Lily Baptist Church, Laurel River Association effective Jan. 1.

Clyde Shackelford has been called as interim pastor of Long Branch Baptist Church, London, Laurel River Association.

D. L. Barnett has accepted the pastorate of First Baptist Church, New Haven, Nelson Association. He is former pastor of Wickland Baptist Church, Bardstown, Nelson Association.

D. Houston Hall IV has been called as minister of education and youth, First Baptist Church, Hodgenville, Severns Valley Association. He previously held a similar position in Punta Gorda, Fla.

Charles Roberts has also been called by the church as minister of music. A student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, he has worked at churches in South Carolina and Tennessee.

Isaac B. McDonald is pastor of the church.

Chester P. Culver, pastor of Whitesville Baptist Church, Daviess-McLean Association for three years, resigned to accept the pastorate of Poplar Spring Baptist Church, Murray, Blood River Association, beginning Dec. 16.



Treas



Jones

Travis Smith has been reelected as pastor of Holland Baptist Church, Allen Association.

B. R. Tade has accepted the call as pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Scottsville, Allen Association.

Jerel W. Treas (see photo), pastor of Crestview Hills Baptist Church, Covington, Northern Kentucky Association, received a DMin degree in October from Southern Baptist Center for Biblical Studies, Jacksonville, Fla.

Treas is a graduate of Murray State University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

ordinations

Marlin Moody, Garnet Owens and **Dennis Smith** were ordained as deacons Dec. 9 by Bays Fork Baptist Church, Alvaton, Allen Association.

Marvin Nichols is pastor of Bays Fork.

James Cole was ordained as a deacon of Liberty Baptist Church, Auburn, Logan County Association Nov. 4.

J. Sheldon Hale is pastor.

Larry Cooksey was ordained to the deaconate Nov. 18 by Grace Union Baptist Church, Edmonton, Liberty Association.

Larry Noe is pastor of Grace Union.

Lewis Cook was ordained as a deacon of Central Baptist Church, Maysville, Bracken Association.

G. Truett Cocanougher is pastor of Central.

Elisabeth Ruth Smith, minister of education and youth, Watkins Memorial United Methodist Church, Louisville, was ordained to the ministry Nov. 25 by her home church, Fernwood Baptist Church, Spartanburg, S. C.

Miss Smith is a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Kelly Vanover was ordained as a deacon of First Baptist Church, Lewisport, Blackford Association, Nov. 18.

missions

George A. Jones (see photo), retiring director of missions, Northern Kentucky Association, has been appointed as a mission volunteer with the Foreign Mission Board.

Jones and his wife Evelyn will leave Dec. 28 for Berlin, West Germany where he will be interim pastor of Berlin Baptist Church while the pastor is on furlough. The appointment will last three months.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Eldon Sturgeon, Baptist representatives to Mexico, have arrived in the states for furlough (address: 308 N. Pollock St., Selma, NC 27576). Born in Milton, Ky., he also lived in North Carolina while growing up. She is the former Jo Ann Ferguson of Sonora, Ky. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1957.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Clark Thomas, missionaries to Thailand, have arrived in the states for furlough (address: c/o Dorothy Thomas, Box 738, Louisville, KY 40280). They are natives of Kentucky. He was born in Hopkinsville and grew up in Cadiz. The former Ruth Douglas, she was born in Calloway County and grew up in Lone Oak. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1963.

These Kentuckians heading for overseas service

Four Kentuckians, including a couple from Hopkinsville and another from Lexington, were appointed for overseas service by the Foreign Mission Board last week in Richmond, Va.

The appointment service Dec. 11 was held at Northminister Baptist Church, Richmond. A total of 43 persons were commissioned that evening.

The four Kentuckians are featured here.

Rev. and Mrs. G. Richard Mitchell will work in the Philippines where he will be a youth and student worker and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he is minister of Christian recreation and education at First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.

Born and reared in Chattanooga, Tenn., Mitchell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Richard Mitchell of that city. He considers Brainerd Baptist and First Baptist churches there his home churches.

He received the BA degree from Belmont College, Nashville, and the MDiv from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He has been summer youth director at Brainerd Hills Baptist Church and First Baptist Church, Chattanooga; pastor of Colesburg (Ky.) Baptist Church; associate pastor of Broadview Baptist Church, Temple Hills, Md.; assistant pastor of Southside Baptist Church, Louisville; and minister of Christian recreation at Hilldale Baptist Church, Clarksville, Tenn.

Born in Dodge City, Kan., Mrs.



Mitchells

Mitchell, the former Barbara Kliewer, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. Archie Kliewer of Nashville. She considers Nashville her hometown and First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, her home church. She also has lived in Hillsboro, Kan.; Urbana, Ill.; and Louisville.

She received the BA degree in music education from Belmont College. She has worked as a secretary at Southern Seminary and is now self employed as a private tutor for children with learning disabilities. She also operates a small custom needlework design business.

The Mitchells have one child, Emily Gail, born in 1975. The family will go to Rockville, Va. in February for an eight-



Taylor

week orientation before leaving for the field.

Rev. and Mrs. Johnny W. Taylor will work in equatorial Brazil, where he will be a religious education consultant and she will be a church and home worker. Currently he is minister of education at Gardenside Baptist Church, Lexington.

Born and reared in Alexander City, Ala., Taylor is the son of Mrs. Gladys Taylor of that city and the late John H. Taylor. He considers Comer Memorial Baptist Church there his home church.

He received the AA degree from Clarke College, Newton, Miss.; BA in education from Mississippi College, Clinton; and MRE from Southern Bap-

tist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He has been pastor of Beech Grove Baptist Church, Pattison, Miss.; minister to youth at Clarksdale (Miss.) Baptist Church and Shively Heights Baptist Church, Louisville; and minister of education and youth at First Baptist Church, Whitesburg. He also has been a Home Mission Board summer missionary in West Virginia.

Born in Lafayette, La., Mrs. Taylor, the former Laurie Kirkland, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ivy D. Kirkland of Dallas, Tex. While growing up she also lived in Houma, Lafayette, New Iberia, and Morgan City, La. and Jackson, Miss. She considers Jackson her home town and Van Winkle Baptist Church there her home church.

She received the AA degree from Clarke College; BS in education from Mississippi College; and MRE from Southern Seminary. She also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

She has worked as a director of a child care center and merchandise clerk in Louisville; a teacher in Clarksdale; and a journalism intern for Western Recorder. She also has been minister of childhood education at First Baptist Church, Whitesburg. Currently she is a correspondent for Western Recorder, a freelance writer and a conference leader.

The Taylors have two children: Ashley Michele, born in 1979; and Jonathan Kirkland, 1981. The family will go to Rockville, Va. in April for an eight-week orientation before leaving for the field.

viewpoint

A new year's yearning

by J. Terry Young
Professor of Theology
New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary

The new year looks pretty bleak for Southern Baptists unless God himself sees fit to thrust his hand into our convention life and turn us back to him. Our divisions now seem to be headed towards crisis proportions.

I have become convinced that only the mysterious stirring of God's spirit amongst us can turn us back from almost certain disaster for our convention. I do not mean that it will do no good for various ones among us to try to bring understanding and harmony. This we must have. But I am convinced that our problems are now so deep that only God can solve them.

Some say our crisis is theological or biblical. Others charge that it is political. Our crisis may have all these elements, but there is something more basic than all of these. And that further dimension makes the crisis so much more dangerous to our future and more difficult to solve.

Ours is a crisis of the spirit, a crisis of confidence in one another, a crisis of lack of basic respect for one another. We are much more apt to suspicion one another than to love one another. We seem to have fallen victim to the sin of division where the Corinthian church was divided into four spiritually arrogant factions, each of which thought it

was right and the others wrong (see 1 Cor. 1:11-13, 4:1-4).

In this crisis of basic attitude and spirit it is difficult, if not impossible, to achieve understanding or even toleration on theological or political questions. We are much more prone to shout at each other from a distance than to sit down as brothers and sisters to talk quietly but earnestly and to pray together.

Our future effectiveness does not depend on who is elected president, what resolution is passed or which "side" controls some board. These things do not really matter if we dissipate our energies with in-house fighting while neglecting what God has called us to do—or if we split our convention, with one "side" or the other walking out to start a new group.

It is ironic that at the same time we are gearing up for massive evangelistic thrusts to the whole nation we are compromising our witness with squabbles the public can't begin to understand. Our divisions are making the national news, leaving us in a most unfavorable light. The world already sees enough sick religion with Christians and Muslims at each other's throats in Lebanon, Protestants and Catholics locked in interminable strife in Northern Ireland, Sikhs and Hindus engaged in fratricide in India and Islamic militants threatening to spread Khomeini-style terror across the Middle East.

My prayer for the new year is that God will heal the deep rifts in our

Southern Baptist Convention and cause us to work together in our common calling to win a world to Christ and minister in his name to suffering, hurting mankind.

As pressure groups plot their strategy for victory in Dallas, where our convention meets next June, perhaps we need to hear the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel. "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 4:6). There are no substitutes for the work of God's spirit.

The Holy Spirit works in ways that we do not understand. He is not subject to our call. His work cannot be programmed or manipulated. We can only call upon him in earnestness, in yearning faith, and wait for him to do his mysterious work. Jesus indicated in John 3:8 that there is a certain mystery about the Spirit. In his sovereignty he does what he will; stirs who he chooses; we can neither explain nor control his God-given work. We can only wait humbly, patiently, longingly, prayerfully. "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10).

The solution to the SBC problem can be found in 2 Chron. 7:14. When Israel was at a high point in her life under the great King Solomon, at the dedication of the long awaited temple, God gave to Solomon and the people a formula for renewal if desolation should ever come.

God knows that no people will always stay on the mountaintop. Southern

Baptists have been on a mountaintop. We have enjoyed remarkable success ever since World War II. And we have stood on the threshold of even greater success with the challenge of Bold Mission Thrust, the launching of ACTS, a stirring of renewed evangelistic and missionary concern and astounding enrolments of young men and women in our six seminaries preparing for the ministry to which God has called them.

But now, with opportunity knocking at the door with a Macedonian call, we seem to be giving top priority to internal struggles and bickering.

Southern Baptists aren't about to turn liberal, but we are about to forsake our rich heritage and default on our greatest opportunity. It just isn't true that seminary professors or denominational leaders don't believe that the Bible is the inspired, dependable word of God. But it is true that we are heading for disaster if we don't get our eyes back on the Lord instead of each other.

We must start talking to the Lord instead of talking about each other. We'd better heed 2 Chron. 7:14 while we still have time. God may grow weary of our petty bickering and raise up some other group in our place.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

baptist news in brief

Shelbyville First shares almost \$13,000 'tithes'

First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, has been the recipient of two bequests that totaled \$129,400 from the settling of two estates.

The Forrest Ethington gift amounted to \$5000 and the Mary Thomas Cooper gift of \$124,000.

The church had in its bylaws that their gifts could be used in the local setting but in October a change was presented to the church and approved in November that the church could give 10 percent or a tithe of such a gift could be used for a specified purpose at the time the gift is made.

Therefore the church is presenting a check to the Kentucky Baptist Convention to be used in its world mission program through the Cooperative Program.

The church now shares 20 percent of all undesignated offerings through the Cooperative Program and was 22nd in the state this past year in total dollar giving through this means.

Bobby Vassar is pastor.

November surge helps Cooperative Program

November contributions of \$9,693,000 through the Cooperative Program have brightened the budget picture for the worldwide mission and education pro-

grams of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The November 1984 figures were 20.87 percent (\$1,673,565) above 1983 receipts for the same month. Two months into the 1984-85 fiscal year, the national Cooperative Program has received almost \$18.3 million, 9.84 percent ahead of the first two months last fiscal year.

The figures provided good news to balance a somber October report when voluntary contributions from the 37 state conventions affiliated with the SBC were \$8.6 million. In order to meet the 1984-85 basic operating budget of \$118 million, the national Cooperative Program must average more than \$9.83 million each month.

November 1984 receipts were a monthly record and marked the first time November contributions had passed the \$9 million mark. The first time the month had broken the \$8 million mark was 1983 (\$8,019,435). The figure is more than double the collections of six years ago (\$4,696,217 in November 1978).

One-half of all income goes to the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., and 19.7 percent goes to the Home Mission Board in Atlanta. The six Southern Baptist seminaries share 20.6 percent.

The remaining 9.7 percent is split among the Executive Committee, the Annuity Board, the Southern Baptist Foundation, Commission on American Theological Seminary, the Brotherhood Commission, the Christian Life Com-

mission, the Education Commission, the Historical Commission, the Radio-Television Commission, the Stewardship Commission and the Public Affairs Committee.

No more Recorders

With this issue, Western Recorder completes its 158th volume. No editions will be printed the weeks of Dec. 25 nor Jan. 1 as a result of publishing the 50th issue this week, and because there are 53 Tuesdays (weekly publication date) in 1985. Thus, your first copy in the new year will be dated Jan. 8, 1985. Happy new year!

Five million testaments ordered for distribution

The Southern Baptist dream of mass scripture distribution is taking a giant step toward reality with the production of five million New Testaments. Holman Bible Publishers, a division of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, placed the order for printing with Kingsport Press, Kingsport, Tenn., for two million King James, two million New American Standard and one million Spanish New Testaments. It is the largest single order ever undertaken by Kingsport Press, the world's largest printer of Bibles.

To acquaint Southern Baptists with the New Testaments, a free copy is being mailed to every pastor in the Southern Baptist Convention, according to Johnnie Godwin, director of Holman. The Good News America New Testament will be available for the Oct. 20-26, 1985, scripture distribution and prospect discovery in preparation for national simultaneous revivals planned for the spring of 1986.

Officials of Kingsport Press reported the printing will take more than 25,000 pounds of ink and enough paper to fill 62 tractor-trailers. There will be 19,000 miles of paper used.

Printing the New Testaments will require the press to run for 82 days, 24 hours per day. An average of 2600 of the Good News America New Testaments are printed every hour the press runs, approximately 44 per minute. Printing started around the first of November and is expected to conclude in mid January.

John Havlik dies after quintuple bypass surgery

John F. Havlik, retired director of evangelism education and writing for the Home Mission Board, died Dec. 10 of a heart attack following quintuple bypass surgery a week earlier.

Havlik, 67, had worked with the nationwide Baptist mission board for 17 years before his retirement in March 1982. Previously he was director of evangelism for Baptist state conventions in Louisiana (1961-64) and Kansas (1956-61) and was adjunct professor of evangelism at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

The native of Milwaukee, Wis., was a graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Tex., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and Central Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Kan. Survivors include his wife, Anna Mae Havlik of Atlanta; a daughter,

Mrs. Brenda Roach of Atlanta and two sisters and a brother in Oklahoma.

Services were scheduled at Patterson Cascade Hill Funeral Home, Atlanta, Dec. 13. The family requested contributions be made to the Home Mission Board hunger relief fund in lieu of flowers.

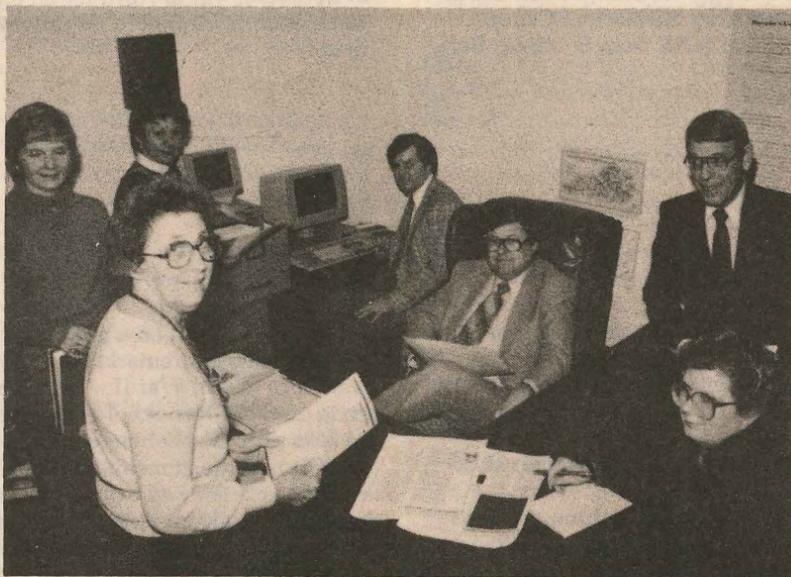
Hunger needs specialist named to CLC, Nashville

Robert Parham has been elected director of hunger concerns for the Christian Life Commission effective Jan. 1.

Parham, 31, is a December graduate of Baylor University, where he was awarded the PhD degree with an emphasis in Christian ethics. He also has earned the MDiv degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, and the BS in foreign service degree from Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.

Parham, who was raised in Nigeria by Southern Baptist agricultural missionary parents, will direct an expanded program of hunger awareness and action for the social concerns agency, according to CLC executive director Foy Valentine.

While a student at Baylor, Parham has been pastor of Cego (Tex.) Baptist Church. At Southern Seminary he was student government president and received the outstanding senior award.



Clockwise, from lower left: Jean Bryant, Ann Tatum, Sandra Coke, Ray Hayes, James H. Cox, Jack D. Sanford, Aynn Dillard.

*Season's greetings
and every good wish
from the staff of your
Western Recorder*

JACK D. SANFORD, Editor

JAMES H. COX, Associate Editor

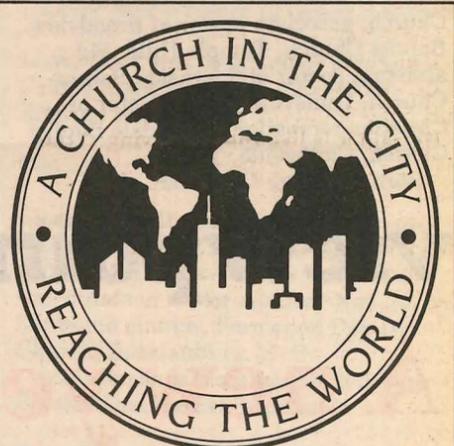
RAYMOND L. HAYES, Advertising-Circulation Manager

AYNN C. DILLARD, Secretary to the Editor

ANN TATUM, Secretary to the Associate Editor

JEAN BRYANT, Subscription Clerk

SANDRA COKE, Subscription Clerk



A CHURCH IN THE CITY, REACHING THE WORLD

This is the title for the history book about First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas. This beautifully bound volume will include all aspects of the Church's history from its beginning in 1841 to the present.

Pre-sale of the book is \$20.00 (after December 31st the price will be \$27.00). Make your check payable to First Baptist Church. A gift certificate is available upon request for those books you wish to give as gifts. To order, please complete the form below and mail to:

Please reserve _____ copies of A CHURCH IN THE CITY, REACHING THE WORLD. The book will be mailed in the summer of 1985.



THE BOOK
First Baptist Church
7401 Katy Freeway
Houston, Texas 77024

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Missionaries to Kenya react to SBC squabbles with anger, discouragement, hurt and frustration

by Karen Benson

Frustration is built into foreign missions.

There are not enough volunteers to match personnel needs. Budgets shift frequently under the stress of inflation and currency changes. The distance from home is measured both in miles and in time.

Southern Baptist missionaries Al and Peggy Cummins felt those frustrations on the mission field in Nakuru, Kenya, and they were hurt.

When they returned to the United States on furlough earlier this year and found out about the fussing and bickering in the Southern Baptist Convention and threatened cutbacks in Cooperative Program giving, they became angry.

On the mission field the Cumminses didn't understand what was happening within the convention back home. "We really didn't have any inside information," Cummins said. "But I hadn't been home a week until I began to hear the charges of churches withholding Cooperative Program money. You know, that's the lifeway of doing things."

Cummins said he finds it unusual that any real attempts to stop the flow of Cooperative Program dollars haven't hurt anyone but the mission enterprise.

He said it is like the old saying: "the ones we love the most we hurt the most."

Said Cummins, "I know there's not a one of those folks out there that would deliberately do this to hurt missions. But somehow they've got it in their heads that they're going to hurt a seminary, or a college. But you know, those places have got millions of dollars. The only ones I've seen so far that have been cut up have been those that are out there trying to do the work of the Lord on the field."

The very thing that pulls Southern Baptists together is mission causes around the world, Mrs. Cummins said. "That cements our relationships and yet it's the very thing that's suffering by all this bickering. That's very hard

to take. You've got your own problems in adjusting your life and trying to solve your own convention problems abroad, and then you've got this underlying insecurity from home. It makes it hard."

The uncertainty and uneasiness within the SBC is leading to discouragement among missionaries throughout the world, Cummins said. "It kind of gives you second thoughts about getting ready to go back overseas, 10,000 miles away from home knowing that there are those who would love to see us go under, simply because of the way they're withholding their money."

The cutbacks may eventually have an impact on other SBC agencies and institutions, Cummins said, "but I'll tell you who's going to go first—it's going to be us."

What makes the situation even worse is missionaries from other denominations have long envied the Southern Baptists for the way the denomination supports its missionaries—and that image is in danger of crumbling, Mrs. Cummins said.

"We have the very best support out there of any other denomination in the world. We don't have to spend our time begging for money, because it's there. Everyone is envious." But now, "for us to throw that away is unbelievable to me, nearly ungodly," Cummins said. "I know of so many other missionaries who would love to come under our system."

The only way for Southern Baptists to reverse this current trend, Cummins said, is for individual Baptists to become involved in mission causes and to care personally about a physically and spiritually hungry world.

"I'm astounded at Christianity at times, especially during this very difficult time in the world," Cummins said. "We've got 40,000 people dying a day, and yet the most important thing we've got going over here is fussing. You know, God Almighty is going to hold us accountable for this like we've never seen before. I'm surprised God hasn't settled this already."

"When you have an issue this tremendous, of life and death to so many people, and when there is so much shouting and tumult going on over here so that you can't hear the cries, then Satan has won."

The Cumminses, missionaries-in-residence at Baylor University, plan to return to Kenya in early January. Cummins will assume new missionary duties as a human needs coordinator, supervising Foreign Mission Board projects

in Kenya relating to food distribution, clean water supplies, preventive health care and retraining and "retooling" Kenyans to minister the gospel.

But their overriding personal interest is in helping to alleviate world hunger—and making others aware of the seriousness of the world hunger problem.

"But sometimes we get so caught up in the millions and billions of dollars that we sort of forget that the little 50-cent pieces and dollar bills add up," Mrs. Cummins said. "Just 50 cents a day—the price of a Coke—would feed a person for a week."

"If just those few that are concerned about world hunger would say, 'Alright, I'll do without Cokes and give \$10 a month' and just make those little kinds of sacrifices, then when the drought comes and we need \$75,000, all of those 50-cent pieces are going to be there."

But such concern has to become a lifestyle in order to be effective in the long term, Cummins said. "It has to begin with more than just somebody giving money. It has to begin with an understanding that we are accountable and responsible for what God has given us—little or great. God may give us a lot, or he may give us a little. The question is, how will we use it? Where it all starts is with understanding and recognizing there is a problem."

Missionaries find pay rides a roller coaster

Missionaries not only live "on" the local economies in which they serve, they also live "in" that local economy.

They ride the financial roller coaster of inflation and changing currency exchange rates along with the nationals. However, one stabilizing factor is that Southern Baptist missionaries are paid a base salary computed on U. S. dollars.

Al and Peggy Cummins (see story above) provide a good example.

Kenya missionaries received four adjustments in compensation in the 12-month period between February 1983 and January 1984. One was a sizeable cost of living increase; three were cost of living decreases, William R. O'Brien, executive vice president of the Foreign Mission Board explained.

"All adjustments were cost of living changes, with no reduction in base pay. In an effort to equalize buying power of more than 3400 missionaries in 105 countries, the Foreign Mission Board provides all the same base pay but factors in a cost of living adjustment to offset inflation and currency fluctuations," O'Brien said. "This has been a long established policy."

The cost of living adjustments rise or fall based on a formula which includes the strength of the U. S. dollar against the local currency and inflation rates. The strength of the U. S. dollar against the Kenya shilling affected the decreases in Kenya.

In 1984 missionaries in 19 countries received upward cost of living adjustments, missionaries in 18 countries received downward cost of living adjustments and missionaries in 67 countries had no cost of living change. After a downward adjustment from December 1983 to January 1984, Kenya missionaries' cost of living factor remained the same throughout the rest of 1984.



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

The love of Christmas

A few years ago I heard a speaker at a Christmas gathering summarize the difference between our heavenly father and the innkeeper of Bethlehem, "God so loved that he gave; the innkeeper didn't love, so he didn't give!" This statement calls to mind Myles Connelly's moving portrayal of the innkeeper:

I saw the poorness of the pair,
And put them out.
And I did well.
Two merchants took the great
room overhead.
It is my principle:
I buy and sell
And give my pity to the dead.

I am not sure that we should judge the innkeeper, but we should feel sorry for him. It is sad and tragic that he never experienced the love of Christmas. Perhaps God's greatest gift at Christmas is a renewed ability to receive and share his love. "We love him because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). It reminds me of the Christmas card which says, "He touched us . . . and touching us, taught us to love one another."

Many people today are like the innkeeper. They are bitter, cynical or lonely at Christmas. Their feelings are expressed by a poem that appeared in the New York Herald Tribune many years ago:

David, Aged Four

Christmas is a bitter day
For mothers who are poor,
The wistful eyes of children
Are daggers to endure.
Though shops are crammed
with playthings
Enough for everyone,
If a mother's purse is empty
There might as well be none.
My purse is full of money
But I cannot buy a toy;
Only a wreath of holly
For the grave of my little boy.

— Author Unknown

Those of us at Clear Creek ask that the Lord may fill your heart with his love and make you sensitive to those who hurt and are lonely. They are missing the love of Christmas.

Christmas Prayer

Still driven by a thousand cares
The pilgrims come and go;
The hurried caravans press on;
The inns are crowded so!
Let not our hearts be busy inns,
That have no room for thee,
But cradles for the living Christ
And his nativity.

Ralph Spaulding Cushman

BAPTIST **film** AND ENFO Company
Centers THUNDERBUFF, INC.
PRESENT
A Cooperating Ministry
PORTAVIDEO
VIDEO CASSETTE PLAYER RENTALS
1235 Hurstbourne Lane, 423-1181

Baptistries Signs
Steeple Lights
DIAL TOLL FREE
1-800-446-7400
BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES, INC.
Box 2250, Danville, VA 24541
In VA (804) 797-3277

For the economy
conscious church . . .

<input type="checkbox"/> STEEPLS	<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

CELEBRATE
60th BIRTHDAY
CP
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM DAY —
APRIL 21, 1985
IN YOUR CHURCH



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

I want to reprint part of a letter I shared with you only last week. Remember? Don came to us some years ago and we had to expel him not once but twice. He had serious problems including drugs. I wish to make some further observations concerning his letter which read in part: "How many times I have tried to thank you and the staff at OBI for instilling the morals and disciplines of Christianity into a heart that didn't consciously accept them. I don't know how to express all the gratitude and thanks that I feel. . . . Thanks for putting up with me as long as you did. The debt could never be repaid. After all, what kind of price could any man put on salvation and self-esteem?"

"Here are a few dollars to help out. I know it is not much but a whole lot of 'not much' add up. And I realize that if it wasn't for some 'not much' I wouldn't have had a chance. Thanks again for everything!"

First of all, I noted last week that Don enclosed \$103. As I then said, such is a tremendous gift for us, "most folk give much, much less."

I should have written, the majority give nothing. Not to Oneida or anyone.

Those who do give, generally donate much less than \$100. But we are as grateful and write as lengthy a "thank you" letter for \$10 as we do for \$1000. It is a fact that often the \$10 may be more of a sacrificial gift than the \$1000. The Lord looks on the heart, as he did with the widow and her mite, and not on the amount.

On the other hand, it is a fact that \$1000 will pay 100 times more bills than

will \$10. Still the \$10 given by enough people will add up to the \$1000.

Oneida is, fundamentally, a monument to the faithfulness of average people of very average means sharing from their little. It has been so since 1899.

In the past fiscal year, it took over \$2 million to take care of our girls and boys. About 11 percent came through the Cooperative Program, our largest single donor. We must depend on individuals, designated gifts, WMU, Brotherhood or Sunday school class gifts, and the gifts of civic groups and gifts of people from other denominations to make up the other 89 percent of the necessary support. Also, of course, the parents of our children do all they can. But many are not able to pay anything and none pay over half the actual cost.

But back to Don and his letter. Most Christian boarding or day schools in our nation would never have accepted Don to begin with. Certainly they would not have taken him back that second time. Nor would they have struggled the many months we did. Or have given him so many chances.

How do I know this? Because the concept most Christian schools have of their role is very different from Oneida's concept. Most Christian schools will not accept a child with a known "discipline" problem or some bad habit. Gathering their cloaks of righteousness about themselves, shades of the Pharisees, they say, "we are a Christian school and we don't accept such." Some who are aware of Oneida and our approach refer them on to us. But often in a somewhat condescending way, the attitude being: "This one does not meet our high standard." As a result these other schools have missed getting to know and serve and help on life's way some remarkable human beings.

While we are not a school for "problem" children, we do have many boys and girls who have problems. Why? Because we are a Christian school whose head is the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus asked his disciples then, as he does now, "Who needs a physician?" His answer: "He who is sick." Every human being has a sickness called "sin." Christian education should be for everybody, not just the selected "good." If Christian people do not show love when there are difficulties and have faith that in Christ lives can be changed, then who should or will?

Do you believe this? Can we count on your help now and in the coming year?



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR DEC. 23, 1984

Life and Work Series

The shepherds

Luke 2:8-14 When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, lowly shepherds in the Judean hill country were watching over their flocks by night. While these humble shepherds were guarding their sheep and protecting them from robbers and wild beasts, they were visited by an angel of the Lord. As the glory of the Lord shone round about this heavenly messengers, the shepherds were frightened. Seeking to calm them, the angel said: "Fear not, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior which is Christ the Lord." He gave them a sign by which they might recognize him—"Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Instantly the angelic host sang the praises of God for his wondrous gift of the prince come to bring peace to the hearts and minds of the people of this sin-cursed world. After the angel's departure the shepherds went to see the newborn savior. When they returned the shepherds were "glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen."

After gazing into the face of the savior the shepherds set themselves to the great and challenging task of proclaiming to others the good news about

the savior whom they had seen. In this respect they set for us a splendid example. Since all need to hear the good news contained in the gospel of Christ, every Christian must tell others what Christ has done for him and for all others whom he has saved.

If people are to be saved, they must hear about Christ, the only one who can save them. Since Christ has forgiven our sins and given us eternal life, there has been within us an impulse as deep as life itself prompting us to witness for him faithfully and make him known to others.

International Series

The word of life

John 1:1-3 One name of Christ is "the word" (Rev. 19:13). John's gospel opens with "in the beginning was the word," meaning Christ is co-eternal, co-existent and co-equal with God the father. There was never a time he did not exist. "The word was with God" reveals his separate and distinct personality, even though an inseparable union existed between the father and son. "The word was God" is clear declaration of the deity of Christ. Of all things that exist in the material world nothing came into existence apart from Christ. Of Christ it was said: "All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made."

John 1:4-10 In the incarnation Christ was the light blazing in the darkness, even though multitudes refused to receive the illumination brought. Through the centuries Christ has kept on shining in the midst of the darkness, ignorance and hostility of the world, but happily the darkness has never been able to overcome or extinguish the light.

John 1:11-18 Christ "came unto his own and his own received him not." However, the individuals who received Christ were given the right, the privilege and the ability to become the children of God. With God as our father, Christ as our savior, the Holy Spirit as our guide and comforter, and the saved as our brethren, we have the inestimable privilege of direct access into the father's presence, of feasting on the bounties from his table, of enjoying the protective shelter from the storms that rage about us, of having fellowship with the children of God, and of the comfort and strength of his glorious companionship.



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

on mission together

A day to remember

Tuesday morning, Dec. 10, is a day I shall long remember. It was the final session of the executive board's December meeting in Middletown.

At about 9:35, following a presentation by John Cheyne, our Foreign Mission Board's relief ministries consultant, just returned from Ethiopia, Jim Watt Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Belfry, joined us on the platform to present a \$200,000 check for hunger relief in Ethiopia.

As Jim reflected upon the process of his small church's decision to give \$100,000, later doubled by an anonymous donor, those of us on the platform could see that many among the 200 persons present were deeply moved, a few uncontrollably. Something was happening to many of us at that moment which prompted a respected veteran Kentucky Baptist leader to say to me later: "I've heard and read about such

events, but this is the first time I have been in one."

Indeed, something did happen that morning for many who were present there; something deeper than the emotion which swept spontaneously across the group.

That "something deeper" may have been the awakening in our hearts that the spirit and nature of God is "giving" not "getting"; that inwardly we grieve with ourselves for the sacrifice-lessness of our lives. We speak of "prices to pay" for others but we buy for ourselves. That "something deeper" may have been that many of us feel "unholy" when visited by a holy God—most especially when he visits us unannounced and "unprogrammed" as he surely did that morning.

By mid afternoon I was back at my desk, reviewing accumulated mail. Among the letters was one from the family of a recently deceased Baptist lady who had asked that \$2000 of her

estate be given through the Cooperative Program. The check was enclosed.

When I called to touch base about that with our business officer, Barry Allen, he added that he had just received a check from a lady for "world hunger" and she had asked him to return to her three acknowledgements of the gift in her husband's and two children's names—for her to give to them as gifts this Christmas.

Even later I chatted with Benton Williams, Missions and Church Services Division director, about the call he had gotten earlier in the day. A young, qualified Kentucky couple had been wrestling with a call to foreign missions—they had settled the matter the night before and were calling to share their exciting news with him.

It was, indeed, a most unusual day. Almost everywhere I turned, I found God's footprints on the floor. What a day to embark upon the humble journey into the Christmas season!

Ethiopian children winning struggle for survival

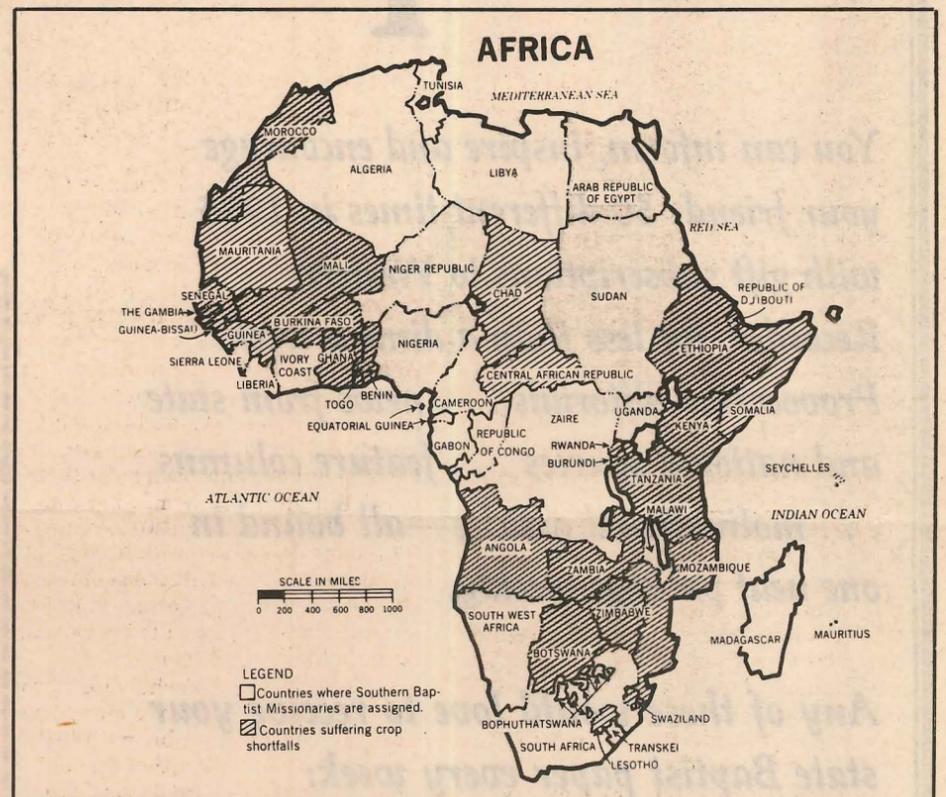


Southern Baptist aid moves north

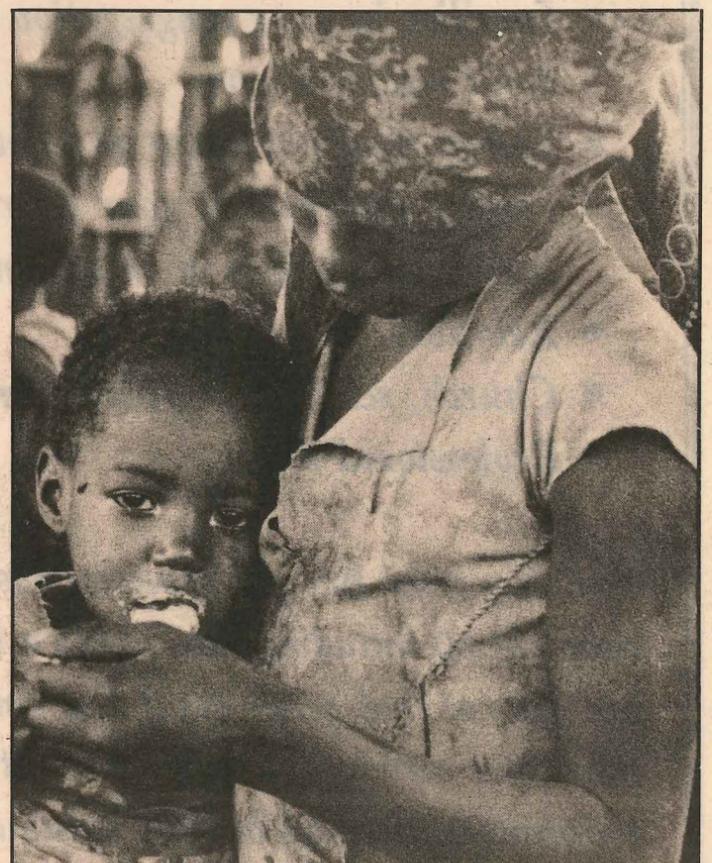
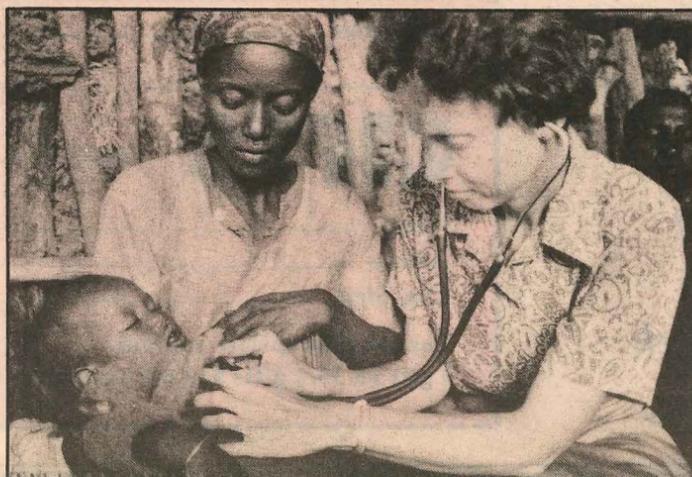
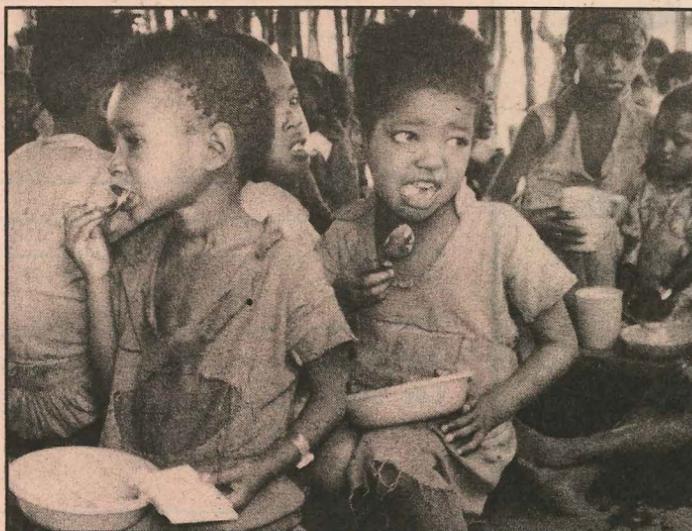
A tiny baby (l), recovering from severe malnutrition, lies in his mother's arms at a relief center near Woleta, Ethiopia, where feeding and medical care salvaged his life. Several such centers, run by the Sudan Interior Mission (SIM), began five months ago in southern Ethiopia before people started dying in large numbers as they have in the north. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board contributed \$50,000 in hunger relief funds through the Baptist Mission of Ethiopia to assist the SIM Project.

The Baptist Mission of Ethiopia has

received another \$150,000 in hunger funds after receiving permission to re-enter the Menz-Gishe area in central Ethiopia where they worked for 10 years before political unrest forced them out in 1977. Southern Baptist missionaries will bulldoze a road through 10,000-foot mountains to reach the isolated area and will then set up short term relief and long term development projects. Southern Baptist missionaries are also providing relief in Mali and Mozambique, as well as in other African countries hit less severely by food shortages and famine.



These Ethiopian children (r) have nothing on their minds but the bowls of hot "fafa" which fill their stomachs in daily feedings at one of the missionary relief centers near Woleta, Ethiopia. "Fafa" is a vitamin-enriched mixture of grains, soybeans and milk. Malnutrition and hunger-related deaths have dropped to almost zero in the area, due to the efforts of the relief centers, in contrast to the devastated north where children die at the rate of 20 to 50 a day. An Ethiopian girl (far right), grateful that her brother's cheeks are plump with returning health, feeds him at one of the relief centers in the southern Ethiopian area. Southern Baptist nurse practitioner Sharon Smith of Darlington, S. C. (bottom) checks the progress of a child recovering from severe malnutrition. Miss Smith heads a team of five nurses working with a doctor and other relief personnel at a SIM missionary relief center, which Southern Baptist hunger funds have helped finance.



GIFTS

The gift that keeps on giving

You can inform, inspire and encourage your friends 50 different times in 1985 with gift subscriptions to Western Recorder, for less than a dime a week. Provocative editorials . . . news from state and national sources . . . feature columns . . . motivational articles—all bound in one neat package weekly.

Any of these would love to receive your state Baptist paper every week:

- Families in your congregation who don't receive it now
- College students away at school
- Former members of your church now living out-of-state or in distant places
- Relatives
- Church, school and public libraries
- Professional offices

You may order five gift subscriptions for only \$31.50 including tax. That's a total of 250 gifts at that price! We'll also send a handsome card announcing your gift to recipients a few days before Christmas. Your first gift will be dated the first week of January, unless you specify otherwise.

Clip the coupon and send it with your check today.



WESTERN RECORDER

To: Western Recorder, Box 43401, Middletown, KY 40243.

Please send 1985 gift subscriptions in my name to the following persons:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State _____ Zip _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State _____ Zip _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State _____ Zip _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State _____ Zip _____

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State _____ Zip _____

GIFTS

THIS IS A GIFT FROM:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State _____ Zip _____

Enclose appropriate amount:
 1 gift \$6.30; 2 gifts \$12.60; 3 gifts \$18.90; 4 gifts \$25.20; 5 gifts \$31.50.