



WMU celebrates dedication of new national headquarters

Approximately 600 guests and national staff poured into the Woman's Missionary Union national headquarters building Jan. 16 for official dedication ceremonies. Relocation procedures were set in motion four years ago.

"This building is a result of obedience," said Nona Bickerstaff, home missionary in New York. "There is no greater blessing than the peace that comes from constant obedience."

Citing new methods of publishing, teaching, training and communicating, Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, SBC, said, "WMU has built a building which can facilitate the use of every modern technological discovery for making our service to the Lord more efficient and effective." Acknowledging the building as a "monument to those women of the past, inspired by a vision of a lost world," she reminded the audience "People bring glory to God, not monuments."

WMU president Dorothy Sample presided over the dedication. Presidents of the Home and Foreign Mission Board, William G. Tanner and R. Keith Parks, led prayers of obedience and

praise. The prayer of dedication was led by Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer, Executive Committee, SBC.

James Smith, Brotherhood Commission president, read scripture, and Lloyd Elder, Sunday School Board president, led in responsive reading.

Expressions of thankfulness were as varied as Woman's Missionary Union itself. Mrs. Edwin Howard, a member of the relocation committee, chose to say "We thank Thee, Lord," while 1984 Acteens panelist Holly Hutson exclaimed, "Wow, God, you have fashioned a beauty!"

The entire audience joined in a litany of dedication, led by Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory, former president of WMU.

Although 600 people were present, "all WMU members everywhere dedicate this building," Weatherford said. "Let us also dedicate our lives so that dry places of the earth will bound forth in our glory to God," she said. (BP)

New study center established at Southern Seminary

Roy Honeycutt, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, announced the establishment of the Wayne and Lealice Dehoney Center for the Study of the Local Church during retirement ceremonies for Dehoney Feb. 3 at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville.

In making the announcement Honeycutt said, "Walnut Street has become a kind of model for a church that has stayed in the city," and the establishment of the only center for study of the local church in any Southern Baptist seminary is a tribute to the success of Dehoney.

Walnut Street church contributed \$18,000 toward the center and another \$10,000 to start the work. The center will hold conferences, conduct research on making local churches successful and send faculty to consult with churches. Dehoney himself was named a senior professor at the seminary, only the third person who had not previously been a faculty member to receive that honor.

Bold Mission update

North central states reaffirm goal to double churches by 1990

More than 430 participants from seven north central states reaffirmed their commitment to double the number of churches in the region by 1990.

Pastors and laypersons from the seven north central states—Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin—met at Far Hills Baptist Church in Dayton to hear an update on Southern Baptists' work in the region and to train for church-starting in the country's mid-section.

R. V. Haygood, executive director of the Indiana Baptist Convention, told participants that Southern Baptists had only 625 churches in north central and northeastern states in 1946. By 1973, the number in the north central region alone had increased to 1758, he added. It was during that year that a steering committee established North Central States Thrust, an effort to reach people in the north central states with the gospel. The committee adopted a goal to double the number of churches in the region by 1990, he noted.

Since then Southern Baptists have only begun about 19 percent of the churches needed to meet the goal. But Haygood said other goals from the 1973 meeting have been met.

One goal of the thrust "was to turn the eyes of Southern Baptists on the area and get linkages established between old-line state conventions and new work areas," Haygood said. "We have not doubled the number of churches by any means, but we have focused the minds of Southern Baptists on this area and we have focused the minds of Southern Baptists on a Bold Mission Thrust for our world," he explained.

Since the goals were adopted, explained Haygood, more than 50 pastors have come from Southern states to work in the region. Also, the north central states have received about \$500,000 through linkages with old-line Baptist state conventions in addition to the scores of volunteers who have flooded the area, working in church construction and other local church ministries.

Haygood noted that currently 2085 Southern Baptist churches minister to 60 million people—one-fourth of nation's population—who reside in the north central states. "We feel that one-fourth (of Southern Baptist churches) should be here, too," said Haygood.

Baptists will attempt to have 3516 churches in the seven-state area by 1990, added Haygood.

Clay Price, director of the Home Mission Board's program research department, reported that only six percent of the Southern Baptist Convention's churches are located in the north central states while one out of eight SBC churches started in the United States since 1972 has been in the region.

Though church starts have been high in the region, "as soon as we organize churches, we start to lose churches," lamented Price. He noted that the Southern Baptist Convention lost two percent of its church starts per year, adding that 25 percent of the churches begun nationwide in 1972 have been lost.

In the north central states, the percentage of loss was even higher, said Price, with 39 percent of the churches

organized in the region since 1972 now out of existence.

Price noted that of the SBC churches which reported they organized between 1972 and 1978, 50 percent did so with 50 members or less. He added that figures show one-third of the churches begun with 50 members or less are in trouble or dead within five years.

Price suggested Southern Baptists more closely monitor new churches, offering verbal encouragement and support to church leaders. But he also suggested that Baptists look at organizing churches when they reach 50 or more in membership. "The smaller the church when organized, the greater the potential of losing it," he warned.

Conference participants also heard Lloyd Elder, president of the Baptist Sunday School Board, pledge that he will request trustees of the board to increase support for the north central states, with the agency contributing as much as \$100,000 more to each state convention in the region by 1990.

Oscar Romo, director of the Home Mission Board's language missions division, called on Baptists in the north central states to reach ethnics with the gospel. Romo noted that 122 million Americans claim they belong to at least one language/ethnic-culture group other than white.

Romo noted that north central states are home to 122 different ethnic groups. While reaching ethnics is important, Romo cautioned Baptists in their approach to language missions.

Joe Ford, associate vice president of evangelism for the Home Mission Board, told participants "the church is God's way of evangelizing the world. Evangelism will be done by the church or it will not be done at all."

Ford said the climate is right for church starting in today's high-tech society. He challenged participants to establish churches with an emphasis on evangelism.

"Southern Baptists must start more churches because that's the only way we're going to reach the world," he concluded. (BP)

Kentucky collegians receive 1985

Rice-Judson awards

Two Kentuckians have been selected as winners of the 1985 Rice-Judson Scholar Award at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Donna Helton, Arlington, and Marvin Boggs, Hitchens, were among the 20 recipients for this year's awards.

Miss Helton is the daughter of William and Mary Ann Helton, Arlington. She is a special education major at Murray (Ky.) State University.

Boggs, a history major at Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Boggs, Hitchens. Both Boggs and Miss Helton will begin studies at the seminary in the fall.

The Rice-Judson Scholar Awards, given annually to incoming seminarians, honor Baptist missionaries Luther Rice and Adoniram Judson. The awards recognize outstanding scholarship, leadership and commitment to ministry.

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sanford's perspectives

A role model for Baptists

Many wonderful things are happening among Baptists today which can be lost in the squabbles we have allowed to dominate us. For instance our six seminaries report the highest enrolment in history, indicating that young people are still responding to God's call to ministry. Our missionary task force, both at home and abroad, is growing day by day and every commissioning service will put men and women on the world's mission fields. The response by Southern Baptists to the crying need for food in Africa is an indication of the kind of compassion and love of which we are capable when we have our minds set on first things.

Wondrous and exhilarating as these good signs are, there is a dark and somber side to our Baptist life that causes no joy. For years there has been a growing distrust among us. We are suspicious of one another, questioning the motives of our fellow pilgrims, calling each other ugly names. Our recent history has seen an unprecedented drive for power and control over one another and over the agencies of the convention. It is this dark side of our life that has created some serious crises among us which we must address before time runs out.

One of the crises is declining baptisms. We who claim to love the Book seem to have lost our zeal for winning lost people to Christ. Could we be expending more energy in fighting one another than in fighting the devil? Are we defending the Book and not living it?

Another tragic crisis in Southern Baptist life is the constantly rising number of pastors who are dismissed by their churches. In every instance where a pastor is fired it represents one more breakdown in trust and communication between brothers and sisters. These individual tragedies reflect the general attitude in our denomination where there is a breakdown in communication and a lack of love among us. Even the best of us cannot do very much in an atmosphere of distrust and suspicion.

We have sensitive pastors and people in all our churches who hear the call of a sick, hungry world and respond in love and compassion. Yet these same people seem to lose their sense of love and sensitivity whenever they gather as denominational messengers, or speak of denominational leaders. The dark side shows and it must stop or all is lost.

But how does one stop the rolling tide of suspicion, distrust and arrogance sweeping over our convention? I think we squelch the dark side only as we deliberately try to duplicate the actions and attitudes of Jesus in our work in the churches and among our peers in the convention. Three simple illustrations of how Jesus lived his

life offer a role model that will remove the dark side if we have the courage and determination to follow them.

Be generous toward people of other points of view. The disciples came to Jesus with angry questions about certain ones who were casting out demons in Jesus' name though they were not part of the group. Jesus rebuked the disciples and said, "... do not forbid him; for he that is not against you is for you."

The disciples were like too many of us today. They were jealous of their own way of seeing and doing the work of God, and could see no good in persons who had a different way. They were saying, "Our way is right, all others are wrong." This kind of arrogance and pride misses completely the way of Christ, and was rejected by Jesus who was more tolerant than any of his disciples.

Be compassionate and forgiving toward sinners. The story of the woman taken in adultery, though debated by scholars regarding its place in scripture, preserves an incident which lays bare the heart of Christian relationships. The Pharisees were filled with self righteousness, ready to pounce on one who had broken the law. Yet Jesus gave the woman forgiveness and restoration and in so doing condemned the cold-hearted, censorious judgment of those who see themselves as superior to others. The story says all are guilty and none is capable of judgement on another. When we cast stones, we cancel our right to proclaim the gospel of Christ, for he threw no stones. Yet seldom does a day go by but that someone is throwing a rock at someone else in our convention.

Be servants to all. With the shadow of the cross casting its darkness over him, Jesus came to the final day surrounded by disciples still full of self. In a magnificent gesture he performed the ultimate act of a true servant. He took a towel, girded himself and washed the feet of his disciples. It is easy to strike back and be angry toward those who have done you wrong, but that is not the Christ way. He became a servant to teach a hard lesson we have difficulty learning.

Across our convention there are different points of view. There is not a one of us who is free of sin. All of us need true-servant models. So, in these troubled days, when the dark side of our nature threatens to blot out the good, can we model our life after Jesus who was tolerant of different points of view; was compassionate to sinners; was servant to all? Unless we learn to act like Christ, who can tell what darkness the future holds for Southern Baptists? Unless we stop the madness and blood-letting more than declining baptisms will characterize us. We will be a has been people in a day of unprecedented opportunity.



Jack D. Sanford

western recorder

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JAMES H. COX, Associate Editor
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Earnestly contend for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.—Jude 3

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christian education



Gray



Mrs. Surgnier

Kentuckians graduate from Baptist Bible Institute

Two Kentuckians were among the graduating class of 30 during the Dec. 21 commencement at Baptist Bible Institute, Graceville, Fla.

Charles "Chuck" Gray, Princeton, earned his bachelor of ministry degree in religious education. Judith A. Surgnier, Louisville, received her bachelor of ministry degree in religious education.

Joel C. Gregory, assistant professor of preaching, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, addressed the graduating class. The service was held in the campus' Robert G. Lee Chapel.

Georgetown art professor celebrates 25 years

Professor James McCormick, chairman of Georgetown College's art department, celebrated his silver anniversary as a professional artist and college art teacher with a "retrospective art exhibit" opening Jan. 25 in the school's gallery.

During his 25 years, McCormick has shown his works in national, international and regional competitions and has participated in 20 one-person shows.

His works have been seen in the Prix de Paris, Paris, France; The Duncan Gallery, New York, N. Y.; The Print Cabinet, Florence, Italy; the Cincinnati Art Museum; J. B. Speed Museum, Louisville; The University of Kentucky; The Hunter Gallery, Chattanooga, Tenn.; The Art Center Association, Louisville; Ohio University and others.

McCormick has been chairman of the Georgetown College art department since 1966 and was fine arts division chairman for 10 years before recently resigning.

His studies have taken him to Scuola Vicenza, Vicenza, Italy in 1965 and in 1972-73 he spent a sabbatical year in

Florence, Italy. He has traveled in France, England, Holland, Italy, Mexico and Canada as a goodwill agent of the arts.

The exhibit will continue through Feb. 15.

Southern Seminary opens door to prospective students

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Spring Student Preview Conference will be held on the campus Mar. 14-15, 1985.

The biannual event is designed to introduce prospective students to various aspects of academic and student life at the seminary.

Registration for the conference is \$10 (\$15 for married couples) and includes two nights housing and meals. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-626-5525, ext. 4617, toll free.

Carl D. Perkins scholarship set up at Georgetown

Georgetown College's president W. Morgan Patterson has authorized the designation of an annual Carl D. Perkins Scholarship at the school honoring the memory of the late United States Representative who served in that office 36 years. The first scholarship will be awarded in the 1985-86 academic year.

One scholarship of up to \$1000, de-

pending on financial need, will be awarded to an incoming student each year. The scholarship can be renewed for up to three additional years as long as the student maintains a 3.0 (B) grade point average.

Only Kentucky residents will be considered with preference given to students from eastern Kentucky. All incoming students who apply for financial aid will automatically be considered for the scholarship. Preference will be given to students who plan to become elementary or secondary teachers.

Campbellsville students in Ky. All-Collegiate Band

Two Campbellsville College students have been named to the Kentucky All-Collegiate Band. Kelley Ray, a junior from Dawson Springs, Ky., and Carolyn Slape, a sophomore from Fairborn, Oh., were among the 88 students chosen for the band from eight colleges and universities in Kentucky.

The band will perform at the Kentucky Music Educators State In-Service Conference Feb. 6-8 in Louisville.

Ray is a music major with an emphasis in instrumental. He is minoring in church music. Miss Slape is majoring in music education with an emphasis in instrumental.

Both Ray and Miss Slape are members of Lowell Avenue Baptist Church in Campbellsville.



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

Incurable optimists

Someone once said to me, "You are an incurable optimist!" To this charge I gladly plead guilty. Though I suffer the "ups and downs" of life and become discouraged at times, my faith in God leads me to believe in a glorious future for all of his people. By faith I know that all things work together for good to them that love God (Rom. 8:38).

I have heard (and read) some interesting definitions of an optimist:

- One who can see the bright side of your troubles—*Mac Benoff*
- A man who gets treed by a lion but enjoys the scenery—*Walter Winchell*
- A fellow who believes that a housefly is looking for a way out—*George Nathan*

- 'Twixt optimist and pessimist
The difference is droll;
The optimist sees the doughnut,
The pessimist sees the hole.
McLamburgh Wilson

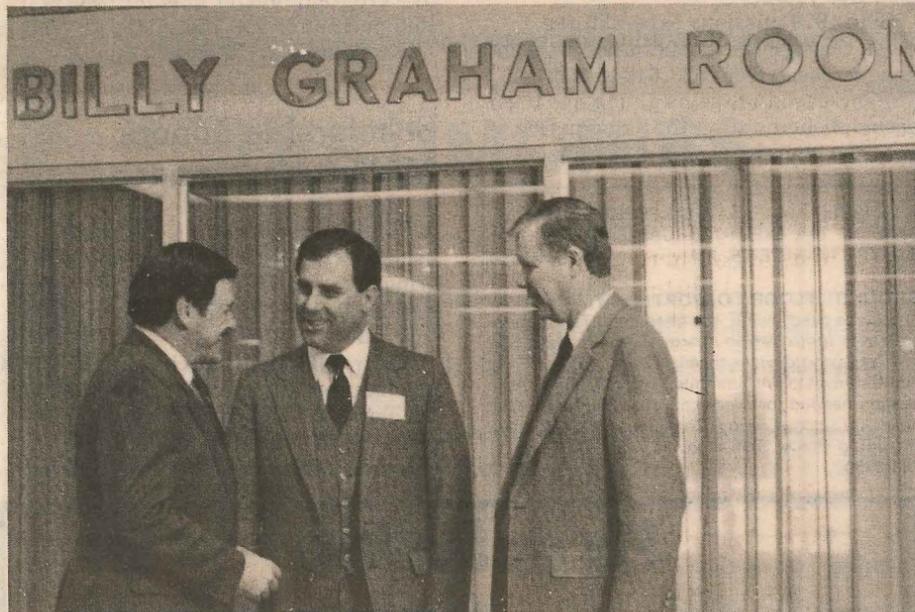
I am convinced that God is in the business of turning pessimists into optimists. Our Lord's ministry to Paul in trying circumstances is an encouragement to me: "Then spoke the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city" (Acts 18: 9-10).

We teach optimism at Clear Creek Baptist School. We believe God wants us to be hopeful, cheerful and happy in the Lord. A Christian has the power, love and presence of God surrounding him and this should make him optimistic.

A philosopher named Whitehead once said, "The religious vision, and its history of persistent expansion, is our one ground for optimism. Apart from it, human life is a flash of occasional enjoyments lighting up a mass of pain and misery, a bagatelle of transient experience."

Yes, we are incurable optimists at Clear Creek. Pray for us as we train God's servants, that they will go forth believing the power of the gospel can change the world!

I shall wear laughter on my lips
Though in my heart is pain—
God's sun is always brightest
after rain. I shall walk eager
still for what life holds, although
it seems the hard road will not end—
One never knows the beauty round
the bend!—*Anna Blake Mezquida*



H. Garrison Coltharp [c], pastor of First Baptist Church, Madisonville, visits the Billy Graham Room at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, during the recent alumni advisory committee meeting at the seminary. The Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Southern Seminary now houses the largest collection of evangelism research materials in the nation. Talking with the state alumni president are Wesley M. Pattillo [l], vice president for development, Southern Seminary, and national alumni secretary, and Alton McEachern, national alumni president and pastor of First Baptist Church, Greensboro, N. C. Coltharp is Southern Seminary's state alumni president in Kentucky this year.

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baptist news in brief



Eldred M. Taylor
Executive Director
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homes for children

Correcting your course

It was the last Sunday morning in 1984. Two sisters, appearing to be about ages four and eight, sat in church waiting for the worship service to begin. The older sister was heard to say, "Tuesday is going to be the new year!" The four-year-old said, "What is the new year like?" The more informed eight-year-old answered, "It will just be a new year. When you wake up Tuesday, the old year will be gone and it will be a brand new year." Then, with great excitement in her voice, the four-year-old asked, "Will it be a bright and shiny new year?"

Yes, each new year is bright and shiny for all of us. It comes as a relief because it is a time when we pull the shade down on the year past. In a way we try to turn our backs on all the smudges and mistakes of the old year and turn with a new start to face the new year. It is like a new clean sheet of paper with no smudges. Taking stock of the year past, we make new resolves and begin the new year determined not to repeat the same mistakes.

Now the first month of our new year is gone. One-twelfth of 1985 is history and cannot be relived. Why not take stock now? Let's evaluate our first month. No doubt each of us has already made a smudge on the sheet of our new year. You may have failed to do something that you could have done or perhaps did something the wrong way. Don't despair or give up saying, "What's the use, I can't live up to my resolves."

Why not evaluate the first month and if need be make a correction in your direction. One does not have to wait until the end of the old year and the beginning of the next year to make new resolves and set a new course. It can be done now.

Many youth who come to live in our Baptist Homes for Children have had some bad years. Home conditions have been unfortunate. There has been an alcoholic parent and in some instances both. Or the parents divorced and remarried, and the youth has been hit in the crossfire. Such conditions put smudges on the pages of their lives. When a youth comes to us, they are given a clean sheet of paper like a new year. New opportunities are provided, new resolves are made and their direction is set toward Christ.

May we all check our first month and plan to serve our Lord and others faithfully each month in 1985.

Paducah First Baptist spotlighted on ACTS

Paducah's First Baptist Church will be the featured church on ACTS' "Great Churches of America" during February. "Great Churches of America" is a series spotlighting leading churches and their congregations.

The church's Sunday morning worship service will be aired nationwide on ACTS at 8 p.m. Tuesdays, at 12:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. (CST) Wednesdays during the month of February.

First Baptist, Paducah, has been a "televized" church for the past 15 years and is seen weekly over WPSD-TV, an NBC affiliate. WPSD-TV carries the morning worship service into a five state area—Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Missouri and Arkansas.

In addition, a chapel Sunday school class taught by associate pastor Robert Kersey and the evening worship service of the church has been on the local cable system for several years.

J. Robert White is the pastor of Paducah's First Baptist Church.

Corbin church makes strides in missions giving

Central Baptist Church, Corbin, Mt. Zion Association, has made significant strides in its mission giving over the past five years.

Sine 1979 missions expenditures given through the Cooperative Program has increased from \$23,649 to \$83,142. The increased missions giving has been accomplished during the same period of time the church entered a \$1 million

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Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union president Doris Mullendore [r] presented to Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of WMU, SBC, a set of 36 1878 WMU pewter plates for the new national headquarters building. The plates will be displayed in the Kentucky Conference Room and will be used on special occasions. The gift was presented during the recent WMU executive board meeting in Birmingham.

building program.

Central has recently voted to participate in the Planned Growth In Giving program and will increase its Cooperative Program budget by one-half percent each year. The church's Cooperative Program budget goal for 1985 is 15.5 percent or \$96,720.

Don Mathis is pastor of Central.

Scholarship honors Midwestern trustee

A Florida Baptist church has established a \$12,000 scholarship fund honoring an original trustee of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.

Central Baptist Church, Miami, Fla., has financed the Conrad R. Willard Scholarship Fund, recognizing the retirement of Conrad R. Willard, the church's pastor from 1962 through last

December.

Earnings from the fund will finance an annual \$1000 scholarship for a ministerial student at Midwestern. Contributors to the scholarship plan to increase the fund to \$25,000 later, according to seminary president Milton Ferguson.

The first recipient of the scholarship is Brett Yohn, a third year divinity student from Oklahoma. A graduate of the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Yohn is Baptist campus minister at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Willard was a charter member of Midwestern's board of trustees, serving from 1957 to 1962. He was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo., when the first classes at Midwestern were held in 1958-59.

He is a graduate of Drury College, Springfield, Mo., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and Central Baptist Seminary, Kansas City, Kan. (BP)

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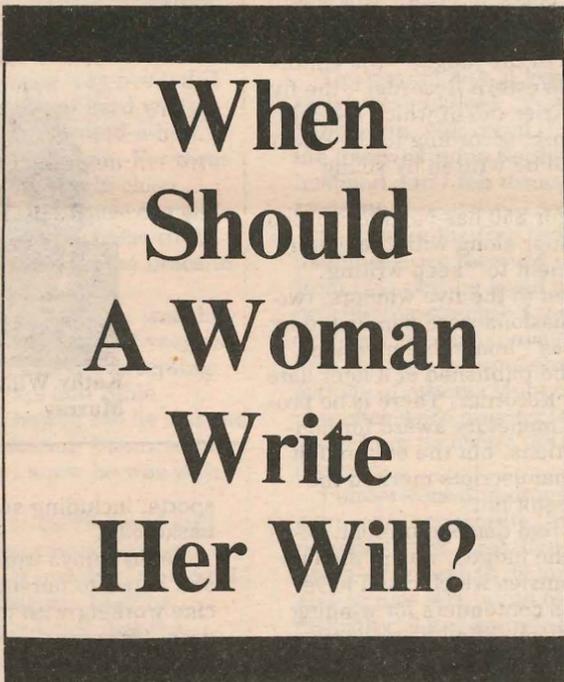
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Cumberland College Development Program's Continuing Education Series.

They wrote the winning essays in paper's initial youth writing event

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

The word is out: the five young ladies pictured on this spread, and their articles also published here, are the winners of Western Recorder's first annual Youth Writing Competition.

Announced early last fall in the pages of this publication, this event called for brief written testimonies revealing "the real person of the author."

The articles were all to be moving personal experiences in which faith in Jesus Christ "had an important part."

Printed contest rules called for an entrant to be between the ages of 15 and 22 and to be a member of a Southern Baptist church in Kentucky. Each one had to submit original work by the contest deadline of Dec. 15, 1984 of no more than 500 words according to specific manuscript guidelines.

In case you're wondering, yes, there were submissions by young men which met the above criteria. But in the opinion of the judges—the editorial staff of Western Recorder—the five winning entries (all of which receive equal ranking, according to the rules) happened to be written by young ladies.

A check for \$50 has been forwarded to each winner along with the editors' encouragement to "keep writing."

In addition to the five winners, two other submissions were nominated by the judges as "honorable mentions." These will be published at a later date in Western Recorder. There is no provision for a monetary award for honorable mentions, but the editors felt these two manuscripts merited the special recognition.

The only real disappointment, according to the judges, was in the fact that some entries which could have been serious contenders for winning slots were disqualified because they exceeded the announced 500-word limit. Thus, the contest may have become an exercise in true discipline for some, to shorten their copy, as much as it may have been in stating a thought well. Fortunately, most entrants observed the rules, and the five in first place are heartily commended to you.

In alphabetical order, the five winners are:

Robin Garvey, New Liberty; Carla Hale, Harrodsburg; Angela Knox, Nicholasville; Mary Scroggin, Ft. Thomas; and Kathy Williams, Murray.

• **Robin Garvey, 18**, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Garvey of New Liberty. She is a member of Pleasant Home Baptist Church, Glencoe, Ten Mile Association. Her pastor is Rodney Anderson.

A freshman at Georgetown (Ky.) College, she is a member of Baptist Student Union, the Drill Team and a Big Sis in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization.

Her interests include reading, computer programming, working with children in vacation Bible school and



Robin Garvey
New Liberty



Carla Hale
Harrodsburg



Angela Knox
Nicholasville



Mary Scroggin
Ft. Thomas



Kathy Williams
Murray

sewing, cooking, horseback riding, sports and hiking. Her occupational goal is to be either a physical therapist or a nursing practitioner.

• **Mary Scroggin, 17**, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Scroggin of Ft. Thomas. She is a member of First Baptist Church, Ft. Thomas, Northern Kentucky Association. Her pastor is Gilmer D. Fauber Jr.

A senior at Highlands High School, she has been on the tennis team there since seventh grade and plays tennis year-round. This past summer she began instructing her own private tennis lessons.

She attends Bible studies in Ft. Thomas and teaches four- and five-year-olds in Sunday school. This year she received the "Who's Who in American High School Students" award. She plans to attend college, hoping to major in a field "involved in working with people."

Other high school activities include being a member of the American Field Service, Ski Club and French Club. She also performed in the school production of "South Pacific."

• **Kathy Williams, 21**, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Floyd of Calhoun. She is married to Glenn Williams. She is a member of First Baptist Church, Murray, Blood River Association. Her pastor is Greg Earwood.

A senior at Murray State University, she is studying business administration and communication. "Participation in the Baptist Student Union has enriched my college experience," she says. She was BSU president last year, a summer missionary the past two summers and a member of mission teams during her college career.

Her husband, Glenn, is a nursing student at Murray. Following graduation, they hope to be "channels of God's love to meet some of the many needs in this world."

She adds a postscript to the testimony in her winning article: "My home town is Calhoun. My church there, Calhoun Baptist, played a major role in supporting and caring for me throughout my sickness last fall. Tom Stokes is pastor there. I'm quite thankful for the generous love expressed by these families (including the Murray congregation) of God."

In connection with the unusual illness described in her article, Kathy's physicians discovered last Nov. 21 that she had suffered a stroke. She adds, "I'm quite thankful that I've regained my strength and that I'm now walking and seeing normally again."

Honorable mentions in Western Recorder's first Youth Writing Competition were given to Kari K. Stewart and Laura B. Pulliam.

Kari Stewart, 16, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Stewart of Covington.

Laura Pulliam, 15, is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Pulliam of Franklin.

Robin Garvey

What tomorrow will bring

A tragic accident that involved one of my friends strengthened my faith in Jesus Christ, my Lord and savior. My friend was critically injured in a traffic accident eight years ago. It was Jan. 26, 1976.

I was only a 10-year-old and was standing in the driveway waiting for the school bus. It was a gloomy day with about two inches of snow lying on the ground. The bus driver, Laurel McComas, was always on time, but on that particular day he arrived at my house about 40 minutes late.

The bus was normally filled with laughter, but something was wrong that morning. As I climbed up the steps of the bus, my eyes first met the bus driver's tear-filled eyes. The bus was silent, and as I moved toward my seat, I noticed many other children crying and still others just staring out the windows.

As I sat down in my seat, I finally had enough nerve to ask what had happened. The girl sitting next to me said, "A car hit her and just kept dragging her farther down the road." I had to ask her again who had been hit. The next word she uttered was "Michele." I couldn't believe it. Michele had always reminded me of an angel since she had beautiful, long, blond hair and blue eyes. Why Michele?

It has been eight years since the accident and Michele has started back to school, but is confined to a wheelchair and still has trouble talking, but a friend indeed she surely has been.

The first effect her accident had on me was fear of death. After Michele's accident I became afraid of dying. Many times I found myself asking the question, "Is death painful?"

More importantly, the next way the tragedy affected me was that I learned to appreciate each day and not to take family and friends for granted. For example, when my little brother and I would fight, before night my grandmother would always tell us, "Before the sun sets, you should no longer fret, but forgive and forget."

After Michele's accident, I realized the true meaning of that saying. We never know what tomorrow holds for us, so we should never hold bitter feelings against anyone, whether they be family or friends. Even though I'm faced with trials and tribulations on this earth, it is through my faith in Jesus that I know God is always with me.

Also, it seems that Michele's accident has caused me to appreciate life, family and friends much more than I had before. For example, my home was always filled with love, but ever since the accident I have expressed my love to my family more openly and frequently. Before my father leaves for work or as I leave for college, we always say "I love you." Furthermore, every night before we go to sleep the last three words heard are "I love you," since only God knows what tomorrow will bring.

Carla Hale

I can do all things

I stood, ear to the phone, mouth open, and asked, "Are you serious?"

Dr. Bob DeFoor, my pastor at Harrodsburg Baptist Church, repeated himself, "Yes, I'm serious. I want you to give your testimony during the Sunday morning service."

I stuttered a little before I agreed to the task. My first instinct after accepting was panic, but I was comforted by 1 John 5:14, "We have courage in God's presence, because we are sure that he hears us if we ask for anything that is according to his will," and Phil. 4:13, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

I prayed for guidance in organizing and writing my testimony and for the courage to stand before family and friends and expose suppressed personal feelings. I knew God would answer my prayer; I knew it was his will for me to share how he had become my best friend.

After I completed writing my testimony, a nervous excitement filled me while I practiced to an imaginary congregation. The excitement came from realizing the service I could perform for God. It also meant a major step in my relationship with God, hopefully one of many more to come.

Even though I had prepared on Sunday morning, I felt anxiety. God provided a cure—friends. Dr. DeFoor and Steve West greeted me with smiles and words of reassurance. Jennifer DeFoor, a special friend God sent to witness to me, handed me a note before the service. The note said, "God has given you a great opportunity—just concentrate on him. I'll be praying for you." This gave me a comforting feeling: if God is for me, who can be against me? I knew God had provided these people to meet my needs.

While I waited for the last stanza of the hymn which I was to follow, my hands started trembling; I told God that I totally trusted him with the situation. The hymn ended, and in a quaking voice I began explaining how I became a Christian, and what I have learned since that decision. When I had finished, I realized the words I had spoken had come out perfect.

Jennifer whispered, "You were awesome."

I simply commented, "It wasn't me."

It is hard to describe the feelings I had at that moment. They were comparable to the exhilaration I had gotten playing high school basketball when we scored on a perfectly executed play, except this was a hundred times greater. I honestly wanted to give the person next to me a "high five."

That day I had faith in the Lord to take away my fears and let me serve him. I saw my faith increased by knowing God provided my needs through friends, the Bible, and his Holy Spirit. I found when I served God, I was getting more than I was giving. My faith had helped me succeed in serving God, and God made my faith stronger so I could continue to serve him.

Angela Knox

When it rains, it pours

The day began with an ink fight. Some friends and I were on the bus and when one of them tried to write on me, I grabbed the pen. Well, it broke. I could tell that the day was going to be a real winner.

As soon as I got to school I went to the bathroom to try to scrub some of the ink off my arms when I suddenly remembered an important psychology test scheduled for first hour. Concentrating on the few psychology terms I could remember, I didn't notice my watch was missing as I left the bathroom. It wasn't until I was deeply involved in my test that I looked down and saw it was gone. The sudden shock of fearing that someone had stolen my watch erased everything I could remember from the "cramming" I had done, and I was sick with the thought that there were five hours left in this perturbing day.

The major psychology test wasn't the only thing on my mind, though. I had a very important U. S. history test threatening me sixth hour. For the past two nights I had stayed up trying to study and had purposely eaten enough caffeine-laden chocolate to keep any human awake for six months. Psychologically speaking, I had reached a plateau. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't learn anything. All of my facts were twisting around each other; and the harder I tried, the worse it got. I was miserable.

In everything I did I saw my world falling apart. For lunch I had fish, still frozen, and a cookie with raisins (ugh!) instead of chocolate chips. These seemingly "minor" matters—normally something I could just laugh off and go on—only added to the intensifying stress I felt. Nevertheless, after I had bluffed my way through the history exam, feeling sure I had flunked, I sighed with relief.

Relief? Yes, I wasn't about to allow myself to be depressed, for I knew the Lord had succeeded! Throughout the day he had worked to turn my gaze back to him, from where it should have left. Through all of these obstacles he enabled me to laugh at myself. And it was with this gentle sense of humor that he had shown me my weaknesses. For the past couple of weeks I hadn't defied God, but I had let some other things steal my attention from him.

God is a jealous God, and he deserves each and every part of us. When I read Numbers 16 and see what happened to Korah, Dathan, and Abiram's gang, I begin to realize the seriousness of complaining. God desires for us to enjoy life, and when we complain we greatly offend him. My special day gave me an opportunity to relax in the love of God, knowing that he cares for me. I didn't have to worry about my circumstances because I knew for a fact that in my weakness, he is made strong!

Mary Scroggin

I am with you always

When the Lord said, "Lo, I am with you always," I know he most certainly meant it. But until the age of 15, those six words never stuck with me. Even though I was a Christian and knew of God's great power, God still wanted me to know I could count on him. I guess I learned the way, because at the age of 15 a drastic change occurred in my life which only God could conquer.

It was 1982 and I was a sophomore at Highlands High School. And like all kids, I was mainly interested in popularity and fashion.

On a beautiful, spring day the school nurse checked all the students for scoliosis, a curvature of the spine. After I had gotten checked, the nurse called me aside. From that minute on, my life has changed immensely. She said to me, "Mary, you need to see an orthopedist. You probably have scoliosis."

Like all problems, my thoughts were centered into questioning God. How could he do this to me? Why me? I went to God because I had a problem. It is a shame that I did not learn sooner that God does not have to be used as just a "crisis God." I should have known that even on gorgeous, happy days I can turn to my heavenly father.

I soon went to an orthopedist who told me a Boston brace was needed. I was to wear this piece of hard white plastic for at least a year-and-a-half.

Now, the hard part began. For three months I was afraid to be in close crowds. My fear was because someone might feel my hard shell. I also tried every possible way to hide the brace in my clothes.

The unusual thing, though, was that no one ever made fun of me. Everyone accepted me, but I was not accepting myself. From prayers and Bible studies, the Lord showed me he was the only thing that mattered. I learned to trust him because I knew he was with me at all times.

I am now going to be 18, and I still wear my brace. But now my prayers are different. Instead of questioning God, I praise him for letting my back be healed. Now, I truly know that the verse "Lo, I am with you always" is one of the most precious verses in the Bible.

Kathy Williams

Consider it joy

The fall semester had just begun and already I had too many things to do in too little time. Not only was I a busy college student but I was also adjusting to my new role of wife. Glenn and I had just married in August. My life was well planned for the next few months: two full semesters at Murray State University with graduation in May.

It was quite a surprise when I suddenly got sick on Sept. 9 and stayed that way for several days. I had always enjoyed excellent health—seldom sickness of any sort and never hospitalization. I fell asleep each night thinking I'd wake up well and be able to carry on with life. It didn't happen. The days turned into weeks, and I found myself in a hospital for a 16-day stay.

The illness had begun with vomiting, which continued for two weeks. I also contracted dizziness, double vision and numbness in my face. On Sept. 19 the search began for the cause of my continued sickness. There was talk of cancer, tumor, stroke, multiple sclerosis. Fears about these possibilities or even death could not be avoided. How could this happen to such a young person who'd been married only a month and whose future was still awaiting her?

The community at large couldn't believe this "terrible" thing could be happening. Nor could they understand the overwhelming peace my parents, husband and I felt throughout the experience.

Soon after hearing these possible diagnoses, we received the assurance from God that he loved us and would provide his strength for us to face *anything*. He then enveloped us in his love through the concern, prayers and actions of others. More than a dozen churches were praying for me—how could I not be aware of God's love and peace?!

I underwent numerous tests. The results were repeatedly "normal," yet I remained sick. I felt like a helpless baby—too weak to do anything and unable to eat, talk, write or walk without difficulty. After my release from the hospital I spent four more weeks of recovery at my parents' home. During this time of recovery, I learned a lot about patience and truly resting in the Lord. I discovered in a deeper way that his promise to work for good (Rom. 8:28) is really true.

Throughout what seemed to be a "bad" situation, God blessed me greatly and strengthened my faith. I know now that I can "consider it all joy when I encounter various trials; knowing that the testing of my faith produces endurance" (James 1:2-3).



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

Sugar 'n salt

I looked up from my desk to find the crowd in my office gathered around my door at quitting time. They had stopped by on their way home to offer some words of encouragement. They knew I was carrying some extra heavy baggage that day.

My only son Jimmy had gone to take the test for his driver's license that afternoon and had successfully passed it. The commonwealth said he was competent to operate a motor vehicle. While there was some cause for rejoicing, I had allowed my fears for his safety to dominate my reaction.

Is it possible there are other dads who have had the same thoughts?

Fathers have an inborn "duty," it seems to me, to be the protectors of their families. It's a part of our nature to want to shield those we love from unknown forces that could injure, hurt or destroy our little nests. Whether real or imagined, I expect every father experiences fear for his offspring, and for his mate, many times in life. It's an instinct that comes naturally, and for some of us, it's not one easily put to rest.

I did not fully understand the cause for my own father's alarm as I wandered away from him in a crowded situation when I was a small lad. Something similar had to happen to me with my own children many years later before I could appreciate the anxiety he must have felt and the reason for the subsequent scolding I received when he found me.

Nobody ever said it was going to be easy being a father. Lest you think I'm biased, my observation suggests that being a good mother is frequently far more demanding. Of the two parents, surely a mother more often pays the heavier price in time and personal sacrifice.

But I speak for fatherhood for that's my limited experience. If we love our children, we cannot escape the fact that we are destined in the human experience to do some worrying about them. It's as simple as that. And yet, all of us may take some solace in these words of Isaiah:

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness (41:10).

I'm glad my son is growing into manhood. I pray that the Lord will direct his paths, give him wisdom and strength and protect him with safe-keeping all the days of his life.

And I'm also thankful for friends who observed my distress and who did what they could to point me toward a brighter day when the chips seemed temporarily down.

Time, expectations pressure ministers

Time demands, financial difficulties and high expectations are primary stress producers among Southern Baptist ministers, according to a recent survey.

Seven of the top 10 stress factors identified by ministers responding to the survey conducted by the research services department at the Baptist Sunday School Board, were related to time — particularly the lack of it. The other three factors among the top 10 related to expectations for productivity and leadership.

The financial difficulties were second overall as a source of stress, with the primary complaint being an inadequate retirement plan. Other areas mentioned were inadequate salary, house expenses, excessive car expenses, medical expenses and paying off indebtedness.

In the top 80 items which cause stress for ministers, the first four related to time. Number one, too many demands for my time, ranked 3.53 on a scale of five. Close behind were lack of study time, administration responsibility

and a lack of time to visit prospects.

Several of the next items in the ranking of ministerial stressors related to expenses, including house expenses (number 16), excessive car expense (17th), medical expenses (20th), and paying off past indebtedness (21st).

Criticism or conflict with church members ranked relatively low. Expectations were high, but direct criticism or conflict did not appear to be an area where ministers feel pressure.

Pressures of sermon preparation, for instance, was 39th (1.92) out of the 80 stressors, with number 40 (1.19) being conflicts with church members because of personality differences.

Even lower in the rankings was fear of being asked to resign (68th), criticism of sermons (73rd) and pressure from some church members to leave the church (74th).

Items which reportedly cause the least amount of stress for ministers were psychological illness of a family member (78th), divorce in the family

(79th) and dependence on stimulants and/or sedatives, which ranked last.

Approximately the same amount of stress was reported by the various classifications of ministers, but the causes of the stress were not the same. For pastors, the two items with the highest percentage of stress were too many demands on my time (21.5 percent) and inadequate retirement plan (18.8 percent).

For ministers of education, the top two were too many demands on my time (21.7 percent) and administrative responsibilities (10.6 percent). The two highest for ministers of music and ministers of youth were too many interruptions and too many demands for my time.

For the survey, a random sample of 350 each was selected from the mailing lists of pastors, ministers of education, ministers of music and ministers of youth. Of the 1400 persons invited to participate in the survey, 700 (50 percent) responded by returning completed questionnaires.

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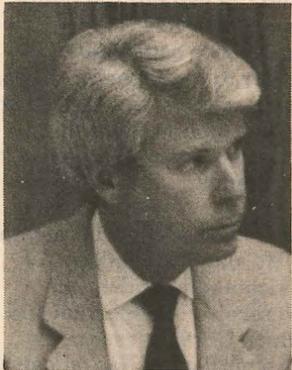


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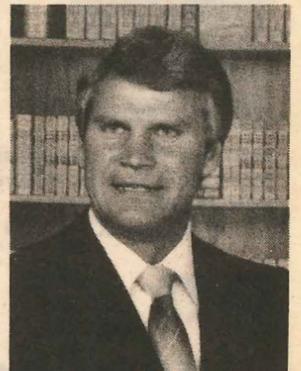
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TESTIMONIES



I believe that the Planned Growth In Giving movement is indeed a dream given to us by God. If we are serious about reaching our world with the gospel, if Bold Mission Thrust is to become a reality, we must pray, dream and plan.

P.G.G. is based upon the idea that we can greatly increase our giving by taking "bite size" steps in each of the next fifteen years. This can be done by challenging our members, even as we pastors set the example, to increase our giving by some percentage every year, 1985-2000.

—Don R. Mathis, Pastor
Central Baptist Church, Corbin, Ky.



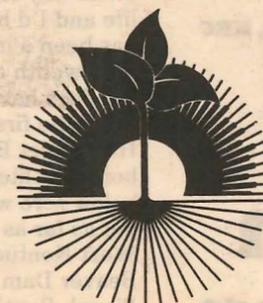
Bold Mission Thrust will not become a reality without a significant and dramatic increase in our giving and giving level. P.G.G. is a way to achieve this goal. A rise in the level of giving will mean much more in resources for the local churches and through the Convention out to the mission fields at home and abroad. Without such an increase Bold Mission will not be a reality.

—T. L. McSwain, Ky. Task Force Chairman
Pastor, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.

We have adopted the challenge of Bold Mission Thrust, now we need to pay for it by action. It must start with individuals increasing their offerings, then the churches, which will enable the State and SBC to send more missionaries. God will bless our efforts.

Glenn Durham, Layman, Harlan, Ky.

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Barkley Moore
President
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oneida journal

A special mission

Why is Oneida successful when so many schools have failed? The following excerpts of letters from relatives of our students should give some clues.

A father writes concerning his son who decided to return home at the end of last semester: "Joel has been a different boy since coming home from Oneida. Gone are all the anger and rebellion. He has obeyed our rules well. He has participated in family activities and just seems to enjoy being with us. He has even asked me to do things with him!

"He misses his friends at Oneida, but still keeps in touch. Joel really liked his teachers there, especially his English, science and art teachers. It has been several years since he expressed a like for a teacher or an interest in a class.

"My wife and I hoped Joel would return to Oneida. But we left it up to him to decide. The environment at his public school will offer many temptations to Joe and we are fearful. We don't know how he will respond academically either.

"I want to thank (the staff) for kindness expressed to Joel and the times you have given yourself to us. When he had to be expelled, we expressed our gratitude for having given him a second chance and for believing that Joel was worth continuing to work with.

"We will remember all of you in our prayers. Oneida has a special mission and a special place in our hearts.

"The enclosed check is a contribution

to the school." Enclosed was \$83.

A mother writes: "I want to thank all of you for the wonderful work you are doing with our daughter. She is still not where she ought to be, but she's sure well on her way in the right direction!! More and more she is letting the Lord Jesus into her life. It is almost like a miracle considering what she was like when we brought her to Oneida in 1983. Thanks for everything!"

The mother of a young man who graduated nearly four years ago writes: "This has been a rough year (on the farm) but we continue to be blessed. Our fondest memories are of OBI, the people and the church. We continue to uphold you in prayer. Daniel's arrival into his college senior year is due in large part to Oneida Baptist. God bless you all." A generous donation, one of many, was enclosed.

The pilot of a Pam American 747 writes: "I am sorry I have not been able to be more faithful in my support this year. Please accept this donation with my best wishes for a happy and successful 1985. My nephew is now living on his own. I will always remember Oneida for the incredible task that you all perform with God's help."

We tried very hard to make a "breakthrough" in the shell, indifference and rebellion of a young teenage girl last fall. Finally she forced us to expel her. Her mother recently wrote: "Here's the remainder of her bill. I'm sorry it took us so long to pay you, and sorry she caused you so much trouble. In the short time Judy was there the school did help her and I'm grateful."

Another mother writes: "I'm so pleased to receive Huey's academic report. He seems to be doing so much better. I received a letter from him today and he tells me he has accepted the Lord as his personal savior. It is the most wonderful news. I could see the change through his letter. Hopefully I will be able to get him home for 'home-going.' He is doing so well I wouldn't want to disappoint him. I can barely get him back and forth financially. I'm very happy with his disciplinary and behavior pattern. He has made definite improvements. God bless everyone in their every endeavor at Oneida."

Another mother writing of her son says: "My son is continually growing in Christ at Oneida. You have brought out many of his good qualities which were drowning in our troubles here. Oneida is a better environment for him than a part time mother. He enjoys school and is doing much better than he did in public schools."



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR FEB. 10, 1985

International Series

The shepherd of life

John 10:1-6 At each village or town in the pastoral sections of Palestine was a large sheepfold, or walled in enclosure with a shelter and a single gate. As night approached the shepherds would lead their flocks to the door of the fold. After the sheep had passed the door, they were in the care of the porter, who securely fastened the door.

Upon their return in the early morning the shepherds were recognized by the porter and each called his sheep. The sheep heard, recognized his voice and approached him. He led them into the pasture for their morning meal. After that he sought a good place for them to rest until the fierce noontide heat had passed. Then they arose and enjoyed another good feeding before the shepherd led them back to the fold again prior to the setting of the sun.

John 10:7-16 Christ took commonplace things, such as the shepherd, the sheep and the sheepfold, and made them the vehicle for presenting certain gracious and glorious truths. In his statement, "I am the door," Christ taught how essential he is to life, whether it be an entrance or an exit.

Christ is the door to salvation. He said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." Christ is the only entrance into the family and fold of God. All who enter this door will be saved, regardless of their past.

Christ is the door to real security. All

who enter this door will find protection from the pangs of the past, the perils of the present and the fears of the future. In Christ they are safe forever.

Christ is the door to satisfaction. Christ is the door to forgiveness, peace, joy, contentment, victory and hope. For those who believe on him there is all-sufficiency to satisfy their daily needs and to sustain them amid all the temptations, toils, trials and tribulations in this life. There is an overflow in the life Christ gives. He wants all children of God to enjoy rich and abundant life daily. All who receive the spiritual and eternal life which Christ gives are assured a more purposeful life on earth and a future abode in heaven.

Life and Work Series

Sight for the blind

John 9:1 One autumn sabbath as Christ and his disciples were leaving the temple in Jerusalem, where he had taught he was the light of the world, they saw a blind beggar, whose eyes rolled in irksome night since his birth, begging for the wherewith to obtain the very necessities of life.

John 9:2-5 Christ stopped and looked sympathetically at the blind beggar. His disciples stopped also. Thinking all afflictions were due to some sin, they asked Christ, "Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" Christ's reply made it clear the beggar's blindness was not the result of sin on the part of either member of the family. His blindness had been permitted in order "that the works of God should be made manifest in him." In other words, the man was a screen upon which God displayed his goodness, grace and glory.

John 9:6-7 Christ took ordinary clay, moistened it with saliva, smeared it over the eyes of the beggar and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam." Christ wanted him to exercise faith before he gave him sight. As soon as he did what Christ commanded, the Lord demonstrated his ability to confer the power of vision where it had never existed.

John 9:35-41 The Pharisees cross-examined the man, scorned and ridiculed the authority of Christ, and forbade the man the privilege of worshiping in the synagogue. Christ sought the man and asked, "Dost thou believe on the son of God?" The man answered, "Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?" Christ revealed himself to him by saying, "It is he that talketh with thee."



William W. (Bill) Marshall
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on mission together

Hurry up, spring!

Someone has written that Monday is an awful way to spend one-seventh of your life and I'd have to add that January has been a miserable way to spend one-twelfth of a year! The past two Sundays haven't helped either.

On the first one, my engagement at Hall Street Baptist Church in Owensboro was literally frozen out by 22 below zero weather. The next Sunday I got as far as the service area on the West Kentucky turnpike near the Beaver Dam exit enroute to Mount Pisgah Baptist Church before having to turn back because of the heavy snow-storm. I finally arrived at home after

having been in the car almost eight hours and still didn't get to preach!

In January the radiator burst on our old Ford, and the brakes went completely out on the Plymouth. The water pipes to the upstairs bathroom were frozen and are leaking again under the house. I can't get the stereo our son gave us for Christmas to work and it appears that another one of our children may need braces. Out of mercy, we let our black Lab, Strock, stay indoors during the worst of the weather only to discover after about a week of that we have black dog hair on and in everything. And now he has the audacity to look offended when we make him go outside!

Somehow I can easily fantasize myself out backpacking in the snow-tinged Blue Ridge Mountains, or skiing down a beginner's slope somewhere. But in reality I seem to have only enough energy to get up from my chair and put a log or two in the buck stove! One of

my daughters teases me about what they believe is a "growing" bald spot on the back of my head; another calls attention to the increasing color of gray in my hair. "Not so!" I protest, and then sneak off into another part of the house to have a closer look in the mirror and discover they are right after all.

I suppose we've all got to learn to live with the Monday in every week; the January in every year, and the realities which accrue when one has seen as many of both as I have. After all, the creator of Monday and January created the other days and months as well, so there must be something good in them. But for some reason the kindest thing I can say about this past January is that by the time the reader reads this editorial, January will have passed and spring is that much closer.

Perhaps, after all, the hidden gift of Monday and January is to intensify our appreciation of the other days and months.

North Carolina minister finds niche in Southern California

by Robert J. Hastings

Why did a farm boy from North Carolina bypass five other good Southern Baptist seminaries to come all the way to Golden Gate Baptist Seminary? And why did he accept a church in southern California when any number would have called him back in the deep south?

For answers I talked with Dwight Simpson, 36, pastor for 10 years of First Baptist Church, Mira Mesa, in San Diego.

"I'd never have chosen Golden Gate," he admitted. "And southern California was at the bottom of my list, as to where I wanted to serve."

What made the difference? You must go back to his parents who reared him on a small farm near Midland, N. C. His dad, a farmer-carpenter with a fourth grade education, asked Simpson this crucial question at turning points in his life:

"Dwight, have you prayed about this? Are you sure this is where God wants you?" Once Dwight settled those questions he went where he said he wouldn't: Golden Gate Seminary, then to a church in southern California.

As a student at Wingate College, Simpson won national honors in debate. The summer after his freshman year he went to a South Dakota Indian reservation as a student missionary. It was there the call to preach was crystallized.

Simpson says his years as a debater—both at Wingate College and later at Carson-Newman College—trained him to think on his feet and sharpened his speaking skills.

Although Golden Gate was not his first choice as a seminary, he sees it now as a wise choice. For one thing, it was there he met and married Mary Jane Dulin, a Baptist girl from Columbia, Ky. Simpson also praises the semi-

nary for teaching him the why of his beliefs.

"I knew what I believed when I enrolled at Golden Gate. I had those years back of me in a devout Baptist home, plus a Bible major in college."

"But at Golden Gate, my professors helped me understand why I believe as I do. Now I can sit down with an unbeliever or a non Baptist and explain the whys of my convictions."

As far as preaching, Simpson credits nearby San Quentin Prison as much as the classroom. "For 18 months, I took turns preaching at Sunday evening services at San Quentin," he explained. "In there, you've got to earn your right to be heard. If the fellows didn't want to listen, they'd interrupt you and talk out loud. Some on the back rows even engaged in homosexual touching."

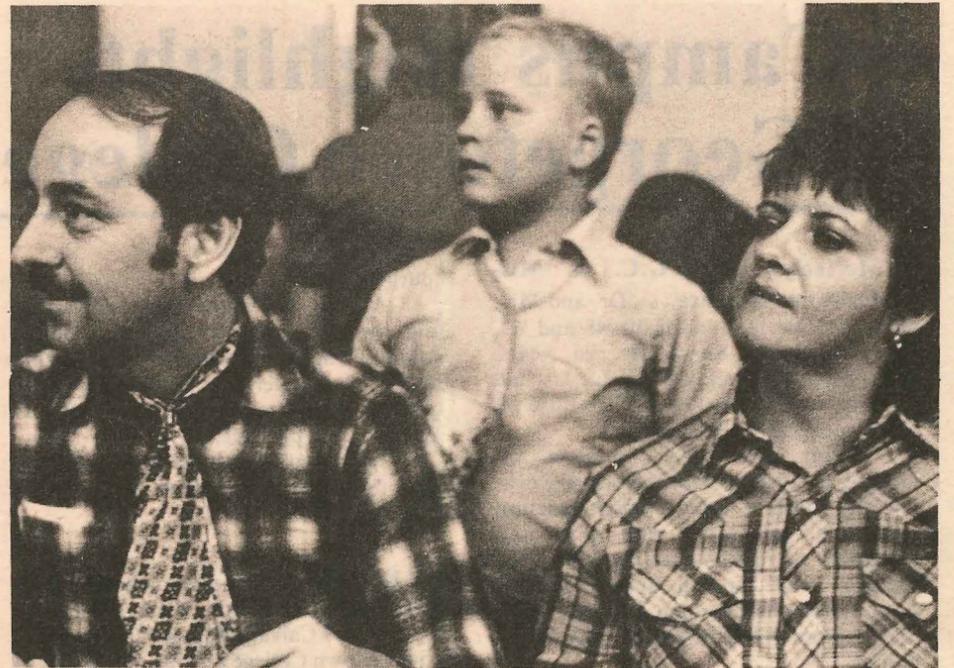
"I discovered that my formula-like preaching didn't reach them. So I started putting more of myself into my sermons. Also I used more illustrations. I soon noticed a difference. They began listening to my stories."

After graduation, Simpson assumed God would lead him to a church back east. He also had a strong interest in Canada, where Mrs. Simpson once taught in the public schools.

But one day he was in Stanton Nash's office at the seminary when Nash put in a call to missions director Wayne Eurich in San Diego. "Wayne, I've got a fellow in here who's not much to look at but he's a hard worker and a good preacher. I think he's your man for Mira Mesa."

Eighteen days later, the Simpsons had loaded their car and were headed for—you guessed it—southern California! And they've been with the same church ever since.

In 1974 there were only 35 members. The previous five years, the struggling congregation had six pastors and



Mary June, Dwight and David Simpson at a church chili supper.

moved to four locations. Today there are over 500 members, two morning services and a new sanctuary on the drawing board.

It's not that Mira Mesa was his only choice. "I passed up several larger churches, waiting on the Lord," Simpson said. "But when Mira Mesa called, I knew this was it."

Today, only one founding family is left—Mr. and Mrs. Burl Ellis, but others have been won and now build on the early foundations.

I listened as Simpson talked on: "Many Californians have written God off. We're finding more and more families with no church background whatsoever. Sunday's the big fun day—the beach, the mountain, the desert, nearby Mexico, football, soccer, you name it. Yet I find prospects are more frank. If they're not interested, at least they tell you."

"Family life—even in churches—is fragmentary. More and more families have two and three incomes so they can

buy more but with less time to enjoy each other.

"I give David, 9, our son, one afternoon a week. Mary Jane and I reserve Friday nights for ourselves. David understands that mom and dad also need a night to themselves, to nourish their own love."

"Mira Mesa is booming. Ours is the only Southern Baptist church, serving 60,000 people. No church of any kind in Mira Mesa has permanent seating—we all make double use of our facilities. And ours is the only one with a baptism for immersion!"

And so ended our conversation. Flying back to San Francisco I reviewed Simpson's story, and I could clearly hear his dad back in North Carolina ask, "Son, have you prayed about it? Is this where God wants you?"

Editor's note: Robert J. Hastings is retired editor of the Illinois Baptist. He is a visiting professor at Golden Gate Seminary.



Alesia Fowler [top photo] leads her Sunday school class song. Steve Fowler [bottom photo] preaches in front of a bingo sign.



Seminary couple commutes 1000 miles to serve church

Every Friday, Steve and Alesia Fowler drive 500 miles from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, to northern Michigan. The 23-year-old newlyweds started a church in the Houghton Lake Playhouse last September, the same time they entered seminary.

After visiting church prospects and leading services on Sunday, they drive 500 miles back to Kentucky for classes during the week.

Steve's father, Carrol Fowler, is the director of missions for the Northland Association and lives in Grayling.

"During my early college years, mom and dad prayed I would go into my own business," recalled Steve. "They knew how difficult it was to be a pastor up here."

A year later, Steve felt led to enter the ministry and remembered the need for pastors in Michigan.

"I realized how much work had to be done," he said.

After the elder Fowler conducted a survey in the area, Steve decided to start a church in Houghton Lake, a community adjacent to the largest inland water lake in Michigan.

Steve and Alesia married in June, then joined Mission Service Corps, a Southern Baptist volunteer program where people raise their own support

and work as missionaries.

"The drive is worth it," explained Steve. "We're here for anyone that's interested, but primarily we see divorcees and singles that aren't being ministered to by anyone else."

"Sometimes it's hard for these people to understand that God loves them," added Alesia.

... Mom and dad prayed I'd go into my own business. They knew how difficult it was to be a pastor up here.

Steve Fowler

Every Sunday they unlock the playhouse doors, with the neon signs still in place on the highway, cigarette butts scattered across the floor inside, folding chairs stacked against the wall.

They set up chairs in the lobby next to the candy counter and hang a sheet across the room to separate the children's Sunday school from the grown-ups.

Then they greet visitors. It's Steve and Alesia's first church. They traveled from Kentucky to work there.

Campus Highlights at Georgetown College

● **McNeelys serve G.C. as Missionaries in residence . . .** Dr. and Mrs. Gerald McNeely (June Hall) '48 and '69, missionaries to Spain for 26 years, returned to Georgetown College last fall semester to serve as the College's third set of Missionaries in Residence.

During their special ministry on campus they have established close working relationships with student mission volunteers, counseled with sons and daughters of missionaries attending the College, made special appearances in several area churches and provided spiritual inspiration for the total College community.

Georgetown's President W. Morgan Patterson, expressing his pleasure with the plan that was established in 1981 and funded by gifts from alumni, friends and churches, said, "We have been enriched by the ministry of the McNeelys who have served the cause of missions well during these autumn months. They have touched our lives with their love for Christ and drawn the College and its 2,300 constituent Baptist churches together in another major purpose."

Gerald and June, representatives of the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Missions Board, headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, are presently assigned to the Spanish Baptist Seminary in Madrid.

He is professor of New Testament and Religious Education and she is librarian at the Seminary.

They have two daughters who are Georgetown alumnae. Linda McNeely Hoffman is a 1972 grad and Marsha McNeely graduated in 1978.

● **Scholarship honors Congressman Perkins . . .** Georgetown College's President W. Morgan Patterson has authorized the designation of an annual Carl D. Perkins Scholarship at the school honoring the memory of the late United States Representative who served in that office 36 years.

The first scholarship will be awarded in the 1985-86 academic year, according to the announcement.

In his announcement, Georgetown's president listed six guidelines for administering and awarding the Carl D. Perkins Scholarship each year.

The guidelines governing the award are:

One scholarship of up to \$1,000, depending on financial need, will be awarded to an incoming student each year. The scholarships can be renewed for up to three additional years as long as the student maintains a 3.0 (B) grade point average.

Only students who are Kentucky residents will be considered with preference given to students from Eastern Kentucky.

All incoming students who apply for financial aid will automatically be considered for the scholarship. Preference will be given to students who plan to become elementary or secondary teachers.

One such new scholarship per year will be awarded.

The scholarship should be matched at least equally from funds available through the Title IV financial aid programs (Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, National Direct Student Loans, and/or College Work-Study Program). National Direct Student Loan Funds would be especially appropriate for this

purpose.

A letter will accompany the financial aid award telling the student recipient about Congressman Perkins and noting that it was largely his efforts that made possible the various types of aid included in his or her package.

The award will be made by personnel appointed by the President.

● **D.C. Bible class gives scholarship . . .** The Vaughn Faith Bible Class of Washington, D.C.'s Calvary Baptist Church gave Georgetown College \$14,598.59 recently to establish a scholarship in honor of John Gordon Mein and Dr. Willis B. Morse.

The gift added to earlier funds from the Bible Class brings the value of the scholarship to almost \$30,000.

Gordon Mein, Ambassador to Guatemala, was assassinated in Guatemala City in the 60's. He was a 1936 G.C. alumnus.

Mein was a very well-loved teacher of the Vaughn Bible Class during his assignments with the U.S. State Department in the Nation's Capital.

Dr. Willis B. Morse, a lifelong member of the Bible Class and a generous supporter of the John Gordon Mein Fund for many years, was chosen by the Mein's Bible Class to share in the scholarship's name.

● **Memorial Scholarship created . . .** Elizabethtown attorney James M. Collier has established a full tuition scholarship at Georgetown college to be awarded each year to the outstanding high school graduate coming from the Crab Orchard, Kentucky, community.

The scholarship named in memory of the donor's father, James M. Collier, Sr., will provide total tuition benefit to the recipients as long as they maintain the College's academic standards enroute to a degree.

Selections for the James M. Collier Memorial Scholarship will stress character and leadership as well as academic promise. The awards will be announced annually at the Lincoln County High School graduation and honors day.

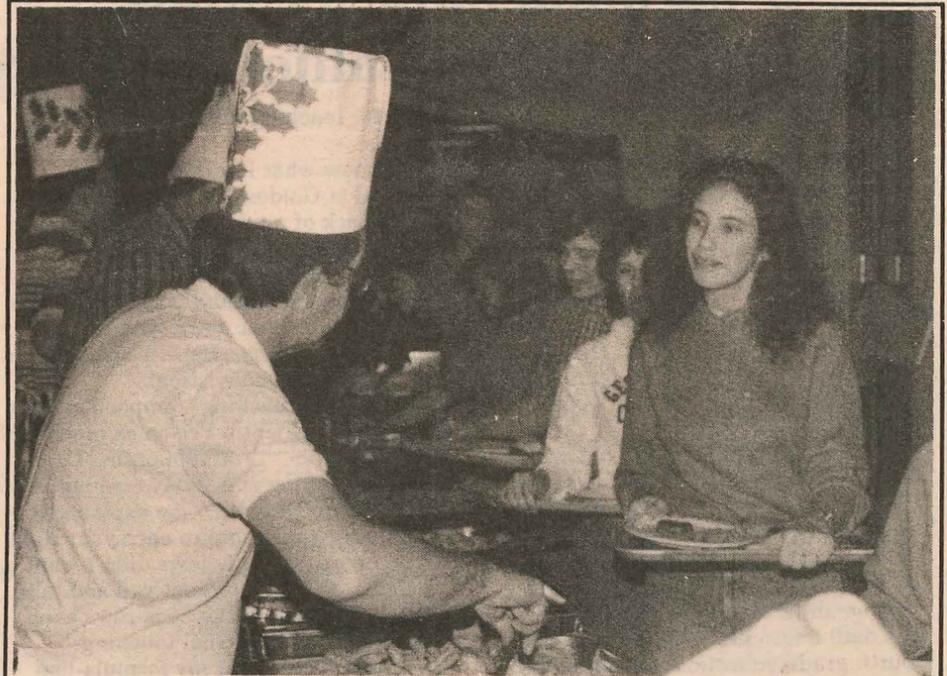
Collier, sometime back, observed the very poor opportunity for youth in his native community to afford a good college education. He anonymously announced his plan last spring through a spokesman from Georgetown College at a Crab Orchard High School Alumni Association reunion dinner held at Lincoln County High School.

The donor, an active churchman at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, served Georgetown College as a trustee from 1972-1979.

Following World War II, Collier was an instructor of history at Georgetown during the year of 1946-47.

His mother, Mrs. Lula Collier, was a housemother at the College for 16 years, retiring in 1962.

● **Professor appointed to state curriculum planning committee . . .** Dr. Jim Heizer, Georgetown College Professor of History, attended the fall meeting of the Steering Committee of the Kentucky Council for Social Studies, a statewide organization which meets regularly with



Seen above are Georgetown College administrative officers serving a midnight brunch at midpoint in final exam week. The event, now two years old, has become a centerpiece of relaxation in an otherwise pressureful period in college life.

Alice McDonald and other members of the State Board of Education.

At that meeting in Louisville, he was appointed to a special subcommittee to make recommendations to the State Board of Education on textbooks and other resource materials to be used in junior and senior high schools for courses in history, citizenship, government, economics, psychology and sociology.

Heizer also attended the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in San Francisco on November 28-December 1. More than 1,400 representatives from Iran, Turkey and most of the Arab countries and many European and Asian countries were present to give latest updates on such topics as the Iran-Iraq War, Islamic fundamentalism, the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the limits of U.S. diplomatic efforts in western Asia and North Africa.

● **Three All-Americans named . . .** Three Georgetown College football players were named to All-American honors by the NAIA's Division I.

Congratulations to Kent Garrett, senior linebacker/defensive end, who was named to the second team's defensive unit; Eric Metzger, junior defensive back and junior Rob McCrary, wide receiver/run back specialist, both receiving honorable mention.

● **Northern Kentucky campaign nears goal . . .** The Northern Kentucky Decade of Progress Campaign for Georgetown College is within \$18,000 of the campaign's \$400,000 Challenge Goal. As of the campaign's second report meeting on January 10, pledges and/or gifts secured by the volunteer workers totaled \$382,629.85. The Base Goal of \$300,000 was reached in November.

Almost seventy volunteers continue to contact both individual and business prospects in this first-ever capital campaign effort for Georgetown College in the Northern Kentucky area. More than nine hundred prospects will have been contacted by the time the campaign ends as of February 26.

The campaign, designed to raise funds for the College's endowment and building needs, was organized into three divisions for solicitation purposes.

Initial Division: This division, chaired by Mr. Meredith L. Lawrence, was given

the responsibility of raising a minimum of \$150,000. Through January 10, commitments amounted to \$198,131.98.

Major Division: Mrs. Vera Angel, chairperson of this division, reports a total of \$96,993.87 pledged through the efforts of the workers in her division. This is 92 percent of the division's \$105,000 goal.

General Division: Under the leadership of Mr. Weldon Harris, this division has exceeded both its Base Goal (\$45,000) and its Challenge Goal (\$60,000) with pledges totalling \$87,504.00 through January 10.

Mr. Gordon Palmer, Chairman of the Campaign, has announced that solicitation of prospects will continue through February. He said, "After the volunteers have personally called on their prospects, the remaining prospects will be contacted by mail in early February."

● **G.C. learning skills program recommended . . .** Georgetown College has been notified that its Learning Skills Program, after review by the State of Kentucky, will be recommended to Appalachian State University for inclusion in the **National Directory of Exemplary Developmental Programs**.

Administrative staff personnel Mrs. Pat Blackburn, Ms. Carolyn Hale and Dr. Theo Leverenz prepared the proposal which outlines the past several years of success achieved by G.C.'s Learning Skills Program.

● **Art chairman holds anniversary show . . .** Professor James McCormick, Chairman of Georgetown College's Art Department, is celebrating his silver anniversary as a professional artist and college art teacher with a "retrospective art exhibit" which opened on Friday, January 25 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the school's gallery.

During his 25 years, McCormick has shown his works in national, international and regional competitions and has participated in twenty (20) one-person shows.

His works have been seen in the Prix de Paris, Paris, France; The Duncan Gallery, New York, N.Y.; The Print Cabinet, Florence, Italy; the Cincinnati Art Museum; J.B. Speed Museum, Louisville; The University of Kentucky; The Hunter Gallery, Chattanooga, Tennessee; The Art Center Association, Louisville; Ohio University and others.