



[l-r] Douglas Anderson, Joel Anderson, Eula Greenwalt, Hosea Brown, Hugh Smith, Alton Reed

100th anniversary: Parade, pageant and meal at Livermore

July 22, 1885 the Livermore (Ky.) Missionary Baptist Church came into existence with J. C. Coleman as the first pastor and 26 charter members.

July 7, 1985 a month long celebration began to commemorate 100 years of service by the Livermore church. The celebration included an observance of the Lord's supper, using the original pitcher and cups, a centennial parade, a historical pageant and an all day, dinner on the grounds, grand finale July 28.

Current pastor Douglas M. Anderson presided on the final day of the celebration as the 600-member congregation heard from former pastors John R. Flynn, Arnold Porter and James W. Watt Sr. In addition, J. V. Case, retired director of missions for Daviess-McLean Association, and current Daviess-McLean director of missions James Spalding brought greetings to the church. The congregation affiliated with the association in August 1885 and has had continuous membership in the association.

Jack Sanford, editor of Western Recorder, brought a brief challenge to the church to conclude the centennial celebration.

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Murray marker signifies beginnings of giving plan adopted by SBC

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

The Cooperative Program stopped traffic in Murray the other day.

A state-erected historical marker in Murray commemorates the origin of Southern Baptists' worldwide avenue of missions giving which the Murray First Baptist congregation helped foster. The unveiling of the marker at a midday ceremony Sunday, July 28 prompted the city to close business route U. S. 641 directly in front of the church for about 45 minutes.

Participating on the program were Greg C. Earwood and H. C. Chiles, pastor and former pastor respectively; Wendell H. Rone, chairman of the Kentucky Baptist Historical Commission; William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention; and Michael Duncan, president of the Kentucky Baptist Historical Society.

Rone recounted the history surrounding the placement of the marker by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, signifying the historic contributions of the Murray congregation in establishing Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program.

On one side of the marker, the wording summarizes the event:

Under leadership of H. Boyce Taylor, First Baptist Church, Murray, began in 1900 a new approach to church finance. Taylor, pastor 1897-1931, avidly promoted this unified budget plan; appointed chairman of a State Baptist committee, 1913, "to consider . . . unifying our work" under one budget. During 1914-1915 Taylor and layman F. D. Perkins toured the State promoting the unified plan.

The other side of the marker reads: The General Association of Baptists in Kentucky [now Kentucky Baptist Convention] adopted first "budget plan for the collection of funds" in 1915. Taylor served as chairman of first budget committee. This was Kentucky's part in the development of world mission budget plan adopted by Southern Baptist Convention in Memphis, 1925, known as the Cooperative Program.

Many allusions to the contributions of the congregation in development of the



Kentucky Baptist Convention executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall unveils the monument in Murray commemorating the location of the SBC Cooperative Program's earliest beginnings.

Cooperative Program were manifest during a morning worship service prior to the unveiling ceremony that day.

In pastor Earwood's morning prayer he expressed thanks that "we've had a part in who Southern Baptists are" and in "what the Cooperative Program is." He stressed his appreciation for "the reminder" of the "responsibility and privilege that is ours."

The Murray First congregation presently contributes 21 percent of its undesignated offerings to the Cooperative Program. In the KBC fiscal year ending Aug. 31, 1984 it gave \$83,552 of its receipts in this manner.

Said deacon John Randolph in another prayer, "We're glad many stood here so many years before us and started the Cooperative Program." He then expressed thanks that "our gifts today may go into that program we recognize today."

But it was left to Marshall, who delivered the sermon to the 1878-member Murray congregation, to put the significance of the day in its proper perspective.

He called it "a privilege" to be there "to symbolize all those who have experienced the benefits" of the Cooperative Program.

"What a blessing it is" to be a part of the soil "out of which God is blessing so many," said Marshall.

As Baptists, he continued, we do some things together "we cannot do alone."

He called Murray a "beginning place" for what became a "unique way of giving."

Marshall observed that, by the end of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's current fiscal year Aug. 31, Baptists across the commonwealth will have given \$14.5 million through the Cooperative Program. If the special offerings are added to that (Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, state and associational missions), \$20 million will have been given in one year.

Marshall recounted the fact that he

came to know Christ and feel a personal call to ministry while on the campus of Georgetown (Ky.) College, a school supported by the Cooperative Program. "Did you realize that over 50 percent of all Southern Baptist foreign missionaries have studied at Baptist colleges?" he asked.

He mentioned Oneida (Ky.) Baptist Institute, where a little church in that community baptized about 100 children last year—"many of them from broken homes"—to rank that church second in number of baptisms in the state for the year.

He cited, as another cause supported by the Cooperative Program, 3600 foreign missionaries—"your missionaries"—he declared.

The power of working together "simply helps us do what we cannot do alone," Marshall underscored.

As he concluded, he sounded a note of concern, calling attention to Southern Baptists' widely publicized denominational strife in recent years.

"Sometimes we are tempted as a family to separate," he observed. "But we must hang in there together. God didn't allow us to become the largest evangelical non-Catholic denomination in the world to hear us say, 'Good show, folks.' There was a purpose in it. We must stay together to accomplish it."

"It seems to me God has brought us to a time where we have the resources we need," Marshall intoned. "I believe with all my heart that somebody before us laid a base for us to help us facilitate what God wants us to do. We stand on the threshold of a worldwide revival. You and I can make that possible."

Marshall offered a prayer in which he asked the Father to "help us divest ourselves of the resources we have" in order that "all may know the glory and spirit of Christ."

When the traffic stopped in Murray that day, people were celebrating a vehicle for carrying that gospel to the ends of the earth.



Greg Earwood [l], pastor, and Mike Duncan, Kentucky Baptist Historical Society president, were participants at the unveiling ceremony.

sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

Peace committee meets

By the time you read these words, the Southern Baptist Convention's peace committee will have concluded its first meeting. The committee expects to spend Aug. 5-6 in Nashville organizing itself for the work assigned by the convention.

Charles Fuller, chairman of the peace committee, has said he would not invite any press representatives (see page eight this issue for Fuller's complete statement). He said the full committee might want the press on hand, but the initial meeting should be among the committee members only.

I agree with Fuller regarding the presence of reporters at this first meeting of the committee, but I believe it would be a mistake to exclude press people of our Baptist family from future committee meetings. The peace committee is the creation of the entire Southern Baptist Convention and as such it is responsible to the SBC. No better way can be found to exercise that responsibility than to share the workings of the committee with all the people through the press.

The press, especially Baptist Press and some Baptist state papers, has received a lot of flak during these difficult days, often being accused of fanning the flames of controversy in the SBC. I am sure there has been some journalistic excess from some of us, but the messenger who bears bad news is not responsible for the bad news. In the same way our press people did not create the controversy, and, in many instances, some of us tried to cool some of the more explosive brethren.

In any event, it seems to me an open meeting of the peace committee with Baptist editors and reporters present would convey to all Baptists the committee's intention to be fair, thorough and above board in all it does. It seems to me this is in the best Baptist tradition, and I hope the committee will open its doors to us. In any event the committee needs the continued prayers of all Baptists. Whether I am invited to any meetings of the committee or not, I intend to hold them up before the Lord because I see this committee as our best hope to date for a return to sanity in the SBC.

The annual meeting

Annual associational meetings are in full swing across Kentucky, with 18 different associations meeting in August alone. It was my pleasure to be present at three such meetings in July, and I plan to be present for at least four more in August, and many more before November. That is, if my stomach holds out.

These meetings are a delight to all who love Baptist fellowship, good food in great abundance and old fashioned preaching. All of these elements are to be found at the annual meeting, plus a ton of information about what Baptists are doing in Kentucky and around the world. It is through this information that our Baptist family is informed and challenged to carry out

the mission of the Lord in our state and around the world.

I salute the directors of missions who do most of the work setting up the annual meetings. These good men work to challenge, motivate and cultivate our churches all year long. It is at the annual meeting they are on center stage, reporting their activities and shepherding their churches. We honor these men by our faithful attendance and participation in the annual meeting, so I urge you to attend the associational meeting in your area.

If you have not been to the annual meeting of your association lately, find out when and where it meets this year and go to the sessions. You will be enriched with good fellowship, fine preaching and more plain old country food than any of us needs. Your presence will also be a vote of confidence for your director of missions.

I for one am looking forward to dinner on the grounds in more than a dozen places across Kentucky between now and Nov. 1, and I hope to see you there.

Grim anniversary

Aug. 6 will remain etched in the mind of man as the most grim day in the history of the human race. On that fateful day, the United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, thus ushering in the atomic age.

This cloud of possible world destruction hangs over all that is done now in international relations, to say nothing of the horror stories we hear about little children. Many of them are depressed because they do not think they will have the opportunity to live a normal life because of the bomb threat. The horrible consequences of destructive power available now to several nations is frightening. Surely the promise of the Lord's return must be on the verge of fulfillment.

Perhaps this Sunday would be a proper time for concentrated prayer in the churches for national leaders. These men bear awesome responsibility for the welfare of the entire race. We have no idea what tomorrow will bring, but we do know that God is in control of his world and that he is able to bring peace and good will through the power of his spirit at work among us.

We who profess the Christ as lord of life are responsible for the climate in the world. We cannot say the scientists are responsible, the militarists are responsible or that governments are responsible for the lack of love and understanding in the world. Christians are specifically charged to spread the gospel by word and deed. It is our lack of obedience that has helped make possible the climate of distrust and suspicion in our world. In that climate the possibility of another atomic explosion on another city is not out of the question.

These days call for our best in prayer and a careful obedience to the demands of the gospel. If we are lax and disobedient, then our children's fears of terrible destruction are justified.

western recorder

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

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Shall we gather at the river . . .

Churches continue baptisms in outdoor surroundings

by Kima Jude, *State Correspondent*

The sun seeps slowly through heavy masses of blue-gray clouds, dispersing them, dispelling finally the threat of rain, casting a shine on the rippled body of water.

In that water, beneath the concrete bridge spanning it, stand four men, thigh deep in depths that remain cold, as yet unwarmed by spring.

Standing beside the creek on the wide, flat rocky shelf banking it is a throng of people watching. In the seclusion of the creek bed they are invisible from the highway.

They sing, their voices rising hollowly, hushed in the still vacuum of warbling birds and running water.

Lifting a hand upwards to the sky, the preacher, standing in the depths of the creek, intones these words:

"In obedience unto his divine command . . . I baptize you . . . in the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit . . ."

The act of baptism within Christianity remains intact since its recorded inception by John the Baptist about 2000 years ago, but like most traditions has been updated, transferred from the harshness of nature's own pools of water to the convenience of still bodies of heated water in church buildings.

Yet in obscure places, rural areas like the ones tucked away in nooks throughout central Kentucky, sometimes they still gather—beside rivers, creeks and lakes—to perform the ritual of baptism in a setting similar to the one Jesus experienced.

"It's becoming increasingly less and less," said Jerry Kibbons, professor of Christian studies at Campbellsville College. "Back when I was a youngster, the majority of rural churches did it."

However, a significant number of even the rural churches, despite their isolation, are increasing their facilities and adding baptistries to their buildings until today only a small minority of churches baptize outdoors. Those are largely rural and appear to be located predominantly in the South, Kibbons said.

Although baptism is practiced largely by Christians today, historically it also had been practiced within Judaism and some of the Greek mystery religions and possible other religions, Kibbons said.

"It was not a new phenomenon with John the Baptist," he said. However, it got its roots in Christianity from John the Baptist's practice of it and his subsequent baptism of Jesus.

Although baptism is performed today in various methods and attributed with various meanings, "All groups recognize baptism as being the identification of the person with Christ and the Christian faith," Kibbons said.

The isolation of remote country churches or lack of funds to build baptistries may prevent baptism in the outdoors setting from extinction, but some groups choose to hang on to the custom, Kibbons said.

"There are some groups who actually hold that baptism needs to be in a stream of running water." Therefore,



James Hagan, pastor of Mt. Washington Baptist Church, performs a baptism in a creek near the church.

no matter where the church building was located they would continue to baptize outdoors, he said.

Mt. Washington Baptist Church, an East Lynn Association church established in the 1800s, performs most of its baptisms outdoors. Its church building, which was built in 1938, does not contain a baptistry.

Although the possibility of adding a baptistry has been discussed, no action has ever been taken, members said. And none is foreseen in the immediate future, either, they said, eliminating the prospect in deference to other facility priorities.

In fact, members said they prefer baptizing outdoors in much the same way they visualize Christ was baptized.

However, the church also conducts baptisms indoors, using other churches' baptistries, when the season of the year makes outdoor baptisms a hardship.

Outdoor baptisms in recent years have been conducted at Pitman Creek, although they also have been conducted at Salt Lick and at Rolling Fork River.

"It's more like Christ," said Ronnie Sullivan, chairman of the deacons.

His wife, Gwynette, said some of the church members preferred outdoor baptism because of its similarity to the scriptures.

"The main people just kind of like it because that's the way Jesus was baptized," she said. "But a lot of older members believe that it should be in running water."

James Hagan, pastor of the church, said he also prefers baptism outdoors. He has been pastor of Mt. Washington Baptist Church since May 1982 and was formerly pastor of Gradyville Baptist Church near Columbia.

Uniquely, all of Hagan's baptisms have been performed outdoors.

There are some practical considerations to baptism outdoors. Season of year, water temperature and depth is important, he said.

But baptizing outdoors also is special, according to Hagan.

Indeed, standing on the rocky creek bed watching men baptized in the waters of a creek shrouded by wooded undergrowth, one wonders if perhaps they haven't captured something of the wilderness that belonged to Jesus.

Western Kentucky couple moves out on faith to Oneida

by Bob C. Hardison, *State Correspondent*

"You're crazy!" I hope you know what you're doing!" "Don't sell everything you have. You need a place to come back to."

These were some of the comments Jack and Sherry Tillman got when they began sharing their decision to move to Oneida Baptist Institute. But, most of their fellow church members are very supportive of their move to Oneida where he will be farm manager and she'll teach piano.

Even though they have been considering doing something like this for a very long time, it came about very quickly. June 21, Barkley Moore, president of Oneida, called to tell them the school needed a farm manager. The Tillmans made two visits to the school to learn more, and July 5 they told Moore they'd come. The very next Sunday, July 7, they shared with Robards Baptist Church their public announcement of their move.

Tillman, a farmer by trade, will manage the school's farm composed of 200 acres around the school. The land is in



Jack and Sherry Tillman head for Oneida. He will be farm manager and she is a piano teacher. The Tillmans are standing in front of Robards Baptist Church. He is holding granddaughter Natalie Blades and she is holding granddaughter Shanda Tillman.

small unjoined tracts among the mountains. He will supervise the school's potato crop, the small herd of cattle and the hogs and raise the corn for the live-

stock. He hopes to help students develop skills and have a hands-on learning experience through working on the farm.

Mrs. Tillman will teach five or six classes of five students each in a piano music lab. This is a new program for the school developed under the leadership of Jeff Minor, head of the music department. Mrs. Tillman is well qualified for the position, having taught piano 25 years and played piano and organ in her church for years.

The Tillmans begin their work at Oneida Aug. 8.

They became interested in the work at Oneida through Moore's articles in Western Recorder about a year-and-a-half ago. Since then, they have visited the school and help support it in various ways.

Their going is a step out on faith. The Tillmans, in their early 50s, are burning their bridges behind them. Their intention is to dispose of all their farm business near Robards as soon as possible.

"I believe the Lord is in it," Mrs. Tillman states confidently. Tillman concedes, "We don't know how long we

will stay or where we will go next." Then he adds, "Finally to heaven."

The Tillmans have deep roots in Robards, a small farming community of about 400, 12 miles south of Henderson. They have been farming in Robards since 1965.

Leaving their own children, grandchildren and church family is the hardest thing about the move. Their daughter Dianne Blades and her husband C. J. farm with them. So does their son David. Their oldest son, Danny, owns and operates a convenience store in Eufaula, Okla. The youngest daughter, Suzetta, is a sophomore at Union University, Jackson, Tenn. The Tillmans will surely miss their grandchildren, Matthew, 5½; Shanda, 2; and Natalie, 2.

Oneida's gain is Robards Baptist Church's loss. The Tillmans have both had jobs in the church since about a month after coming to the community. This includes being a deacon and teaching classes of all ages in Sunday school. Mrs. Tillman teaches the 7th and 8th grade class, plays the organ in worship and helps with vacation Bible school.



Eldred M. Taylor
Executive Director
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homes for children

Baptist associations

In Kentucky, Baptists hold the annual meetings of their associations between the latter part of July and the end of October. During this three month period all 79 associations will meet.

Have you thought about what such associational meetings are like? I would like to share some of my observations and evaluations of such meetings. They provide times of fellowship in worship: there are singing, praying and preaching. The preaching includes the challenge of an annual sermon and usually a doctrinal sermon. Missions and evangelism are almost always stressed.

There is fellowship in sharing through reports: there are committee reports; organizational leaders bring reports; and the clerk of the association provides a statistical report from the churches. There is fellowship in business. The business sessions provide an opportunity to elect officers and adopt plans for the coming year.

A highlight of every annual associational meeting is the fellowship around the table. Baptists love to eat, and we know how to have a wonderful time visiting each other at the meal time. Baptists are wonderful cooks and excellent providers, too. I attended the Russell County Association on July 26, my first one this season. When we came to the meal, I was reminded anew of the wonderful meals prepared for these meetings. The tables were loaded with fried chicken, meatloaf, chicken and dumplings, all kinds of fresh vegetables, casseroles of various kinds, corn bread, homemade rolls, multiple salads, and so many kinds of delicious desserts that one wishes he could taste each one.

There is one other marvelous thing about these meetings for which I am thankful. Baptists invite, welcome and listen to reports from their state denominational workers. When I am there, they graciously receive me and want to hear about our work with children. It is such a joy to tell about this ministry and have an opportunity to thank Baptists for their prayers and financial support. Without the love and support of Baptists this ministry to dependent, neglected children could not go on.

I will be seeing many of you at your associational meeting. Whether I get to your association or not, support your association and remember this ministry to children.

CP giving running ahead of last fiscal year

At the end of the third quarter voluntary contributions through the Cooperative Program are running more than \$7.5 million ahead of the previous fiscal year.

October 1984 through June 1985 contributions through the national Cooperative Program were \$88,134,621—a 9.39 percent increase over the October 1983-June 1984 figure of \$80,569,759.

"The continued growth and strength of the Cooperative Program is meaningful in that it translates into continued growth and strength in the programs Southern Baptists have created to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the entire world," Harold C. Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, said.

The 1984-85 basic operating budget of \$118 million funds the work of 20 Southern Baptist Convention agencies—and almost 70 percent of that amount goes to foreign and home missions and more than 20 percent to the six Southern Baptist seminaries. Unlike last year, when income was \$5.56 million short of the basic budget of \$114.5 million, the prospects for meeting the 1984-85 basic budget are good.

After 75 percent of the fiscal year, receipts are at 74.69 percent of the total. And for each of the past five years the last quarter income has been higher than the third quarter. Last year, for instance, contributions the last three months were \$1,653,373 above third quarter receipts. (BP)

Former astronaut Irwin speaks in Owensboro

Former astronaut James W. Irwin shared the story of his life and faith at an associational Brotherhood "fish fry" at Yellow Creek Baptist Church, Owensboro.

Speaking to Brotherhood members of Daviess-McLean Association July 13, Irwin maintained the most important historical event is not that a human being walked on the moon but that

"God walked on the earth."

Irwin, who in 1971 as part of the Apollo 15 mission became the first man to drive a Lunar Rover on the moon, has devoted a major portion of his life to Christian speaking since his journey to the moon.

Asked about the response to Irwin's address, Don Zuberer, pastor of Yellow Creek Baptist Church, termed it "beautiful." He said about 250 men and boys attended.

Irwin also spoke to Yellow Creek's July 14 morning worship service.

The "fish fry" for Brotherhood members in Daviess-McLean is an annual event. This year's event was directed by Mike Melloan, associational Brotherhood director and a member of Yellow Creek Church.

Conferences on cults set for eastern Kentucky



Leazer

Harrod

Gary Leazer, interfaith witness consultant with the Home Mission Board, will be leading regional skillship conferences about cults at First Baptist Church, Morehead, Monday, Aug. 19; First Baptist Church, Ashland, Tuesday, Aug. 20; and First Baptist Church, Paintsville, Thursday, Aug. 22.

He will be assisted by Allen Harrod, pastor of First Baptist Church, Bellevue.

Topics for discussion include: "The general nature of cults and how to witness to cult members," "The Mormons," the "Jehovah Witnesses," and "Satanism" (at Morehead only). The skillshop sessions will be from 6:30-9 p.m.

Refugee needs list now available for Baptists

The Southern Baptist Immigration and Refugee Service Office has posted a list of immediate needs for refugee sponsors in response to a resolution adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Dallas June 11-13.

The denomination previously had set a goal of resettling 1000 refugees during 1985. Last year, Southern Baptists resettled 819 refugees, placing them third among 17 participating denominations in refugee resettlement.

The SBC refugee office now has more than 50 cases of refugees (about 65 people) needing sponsors, said William Rutledge, director of immigration and refugee service for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Churches interested in sponsoring these or other cases should write to the Immigration and Refugee Service Office, 1350 Spring Street NW, Atlanta, GA 30367, or phone 404-873-4041. (BP)

White, Grey, former SBC presidents, die

K. Owen White and J. D. Grey, former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention, died last month.

White, 83, president of the convention in 1963-64, died July 12 in Tucson, Ariz. Grey, 83, the denomination's president in 1951-52, died July 26 in New Orleans, La.

White, pastor of First Baptist Church, Houston, for 12 years, was elected president of the SBC six months after being elected president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and held both posts simultaneously.

White was born in London, England, and moved with his family to British Columbia at age five. Raised a Methodist, he entered the Bible Institute of Los Angeles in 1921 and became a Baptist. Later he graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. K. Owen White of Tucson, who is ill.

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Grey was pastor of First Baptist Church, New Orleans, from 1937 until his retirement in 1972. At the time of his election as SBC president, he was the youngest person to ever hold the position.

He also had been president of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, a director of Southern Baptist Hospital, New Orleans, and held many civic posts in that city.

A native of Princeton, Ky., he was a graduate of Union University, Jackson, Tenn., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

His wife of 57 years, Lillian, died in February. (BP)

Brotherhood president has coronary angioplasty

Brotherhood Commission president James H. Smith underwent coronary angioplasty treatment to repair a blocked artery July 16 at Baptist Memorial Hospital, Memphis, Tenn. He was released from the hospital July 18 and already had resumed his duties at the Brotherhood Commission.

"I feel good and my doctor tells me the angioplasty procedure was a complete success. After a few days' rest I expect to be back in full swing," Smith said. (BP)

Baptists honor memory of missions leader Mathis

Marie Mathis will be remembered for "replacing the three-point sermon with a three-act drama, and for the Christian musical complete with 1000 actors and costumes, burning buildings, cloud machines, symphony orchestras, revolving stages, and scrim curtains," said Woman's Missionary Union associate executive director Catherine Allen. She and other Southern Baptist leaders gathered in Dalhart, Tex. July 15 to honor the memory of a woman who lived for the cause of missions.

Mrs. Mathis excelled in her belief in Baptist missions by serving voluntarily as president of WMU, SBC, and by holding various offices in worldwide Baptist organizations. WMU, SBC, executive director Carolyn Weatherford referred to Mrs. Mathis as the "Mother

of Missions" in her development of women for missionary causes.

Winfred Moore, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, said Baptists found "a worthy woman" in Marie Mathis. Her strength, knowledge and desire to work for the Lord challenged others to spread Christ's great commission.

Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, said all staff members of the Alliance "thank God for the unequalled contribution she has made to the cause of Christ around the world." (BP)

Israeli religious freedom questioned by Parks

In a July 19 letter to 55 members of Congress, the president of the Foreign Mission Board raised the question of whether religious freedom in Israel has been "neglected or abandoned."

R. Keith Parks wrote 22 U. S. senators and 33 representatives, expressing concern "extremist elements" in Israel have, to date, stalled the rebuilding of a Jerusalem Baptist church de-

stroyed by arsonists in 1982. Also cited were "several incidents where congregations of Jewish believers in Jesus as the Christ have been harassed and persecuted."

The members of Congress were selected in consultation with the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, Parks said. The senators and representatives are Baptists or others "sensitive to the situation in Israel" who might "want to help correct it."

Parks said he also has relayed his concerns by telephone to Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum, director of the American Jewish Committee's International Relations Department in New York City, and by letter to Jerusalem's mayor, Teddy Kollek.

Robert Lindsey, pastor of the 300-member English-language congregation which lost its chapel—Narkis Street Baptist Church—to arson, said rebuilding plans "were processed" through the various departments of the municipality over a period of more than two years" and were approved last fall.

But the plans have been delayed by an Israeli government regional development committee. (BP)

baptist forum

An open letter to Charles Fuller

Thank you for your recent memorandum regarding the special committee appointed by the Southern Baptist Convention at its 1985 Annual Meeting to seek to resolve the present conflict in our Convention. I note that you have used the designation "peace committee" for this committee of which you are chairman. This designation was used by the press in Dallas, but I find in the recommendation adopted by the convention no such name nor does the word "peace" or its counterpart "war" appear in this recorded action of the convention.

I would urge you not to call your committee the "peace committee": (1) This is not a name designated by the SBC in its official action in Dallas; the recommendation as adopted identified it as "Special Committee"; (2) Southern Baptists have differences which need to be resolved, but they are not literally "at war" as the name "peace committee" implies; (3) The name "peace committee" miscommunicates to the outside world; (4) Historically, special committees appointed by the Southern Baptist Convention have been called by the name specifically designated by the convention in its action regarding the committee or, if not specifically named by the convention, such committees have been named in keeping with the stated purpose of or assignment given to the special committee as authorized by the convention.

In reviewing the action of the 1985 Convention, I believe that an appropriate name would be "committee on reconciliation." Even though you have called it the "peace committee" in your initial communication to the press, I urge you to reconsider this matter and have your committee officially adopt a more appropriate name under which it will report to the Southern Baptist Convention next year.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your committee as you seek to fulfill your assignment. May the Holy Spirit guide you all as you plan, develop procedures, study and carry out the important task of helping to bring about genuine reconciliation in our Southern Baptist family.

I have heard and will heed your request which I understand is a call for restraint, not for silence.

Lynn E. May Jr., Nashville

Church honors pastor's wife

After reading your influential Sanford's Perspective" in the Mar. 12 issue of Western Recorder, our church family felt we, too, have a gracious lady as our pastor's wife.

Therefore, we, the members of Dawson Baptist Church decided (as I hope many of your readers did also) that we would like to pay homage to Emily Thomas, wife of Dr. Joe Thomas.

Emily has many of the characteristics you mentioned. She is indeed a "gift of God" and a shining light to the entire church family. I am sure as a pastor's wife, she has numerous obstacles of which we are not aware. She and our minister are forever in our thoughts and prayers.

Recently we did as you suggested and set aside a special day to honor Emily, called "Emily Thomas Appreciation Day." The attendance was excellent and the church members presented her with many gifts. We already knew she is an asset to our church, but your suggestion put the planning for this event into motion.

I sincerely hope many churches took this opportunity to honor their minister's wife. For those that haven't done this special kindness, they are missing out on a glorious, blessed and spiritual fulfillment of the heart.

Georgia Hoffman Howard, Philpot

Retired pastor available

I retired from Victory Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville Sept. 1, 1982. On Apr. 1, 1984 I accepted a church in Shelby County, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Todds Point. I stayed at this church until Dec. 31, 1984. My wife had opportunity for early retirement from Jewish Hospital at the same time, so I decided to retire again. We spent the winter in Clearwater, Fla., and returned to Louisville on Apr. 1, 1985.

Since I've been back to Kentucky I've only had two opportunities to preach. The reason being, of course, that most

people don't know where I am; some think I'm still at Mt. Pleasant in Shelby County; some think I moved to Florida; and one fellow told me that he heard that I had died. Anyway, I feel like I've been on-the-shelf for about six months, forgotten or disregarded. I need help! I need to preach!

I have retired again, back to Louisville and "Have a Bible, and will Travel." I have been in the ministry in Louisville since 1953. I'll be glad to do supply, interims, Bible study, or whatever anywhere I am needed.

P.S. My phone number is (502) 363-0813.

W. Louis Walters, Louisville

Editor's note. There are scores of men like Louis Walters anxious to serve. Call on them and be blessed by the work of experienced men.

Missionary lauds Western Recorder

Ruth and I have been serving the Emmanuel Baptist Church of Paris, the only English-language church in France which is sponsored by our Foreign Mission Board, since March of this year. During the past 22 plus years our missionary assignments have alternated between seminary and local church

situations in Singapore, Malaysia, Germany, Thailand and now here in Europe again. And everywhere we have been, the complimentary copies of Western Recorder, although sometimes received as much as three months late, have helped to keep us in touch.

But mail is a bit faster to western Europe than to southeast Asia of course. And so when we returned this week from the 25th anniversary assembly of the European Baptist Convention in Interlaken, Switzerland, we were pleased to find both the May 28 and June 4 issues waiting for us.

Events at the recent SBC meeting in Dallas merited a half column or so in the International Herald Tribune which we read daily, but we'll soon be much better informed about what went on there and what it means when we receive the next few issues of Western Recorder.

Thanks to all of you there for providing our state Baptist paper for us. If we can be useful to you from this side of the ocean, please let us know. When Kentuckians come to Paris, we hope they will let us know also.

Bill Clark Thomas,
Rueil, Malmaison, France

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JL

mountains to the mississippi

personnel

Ron Shaver began duties Aug. 4 as pastor of Ae'na Grove Baptist Church, Lynn Association. Darrell Vance has been interim pastor for the past four months.

R. Michael Harton became interim minister of education at St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association.

Harton is associate professor of adult education and denominational ministries at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Marilyn Hall was called as director of childhood education at Calvary Baptist Church, Lexington, Elkhorn Association.

Don McConaughay resigned as pastor of Second Baptist Church, Russellville, Bethel Association to accept the pastorate of Hillvue Heights Baptist Church, Warren Association.

David Stancil resigned as pastor of Carlisle Baptist Church, Bracken Association, to begin doctoral studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Elvin Milam was called as pastor of New Sulphur Baptist Church, Freedom Association.

Larry Groce resigned as pastor of Fairland Baptist Church, Freedom Association.

Chuck Robinson, pastor of Stony Point Baptist Church, graduated from Clear Creek Baptist School in May and has begun full time pastoral responsibilities.

Jimmy Rowland was called as associate campus minister by Campbellsville College.

Tony Curnutte became minister to youth at First Baptist Church, Ludlow, Northern Kentucky Association.

John Ramsey began duties as pastor of French Broad Baptist Church, Red River Association.

David Salyers was called as minister of music at Slate Branch Baptist Church, Pulaski Association.

E. V. Carrier became interim pastor of Burnside Baptist Church, Pulaski Association.

Richard Donovan resigned as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Pulaski Association, to become pastor of First Baptist

Church, Brookville, Oh.

David Hargis resigned as pastor of Sunrise Baptist Church, Pulaski Association.

Darrell Hensley and Bobby Russell, members of Monroe Baptist Church, Liberty Association, have announced their calls to preach.

John Weaver has been called as pastor of Greenup Baptist Church, Ashland, Greenup Association.

Gregory Miles, a member of First Baptist Church, Grayson, Greenup Association, announced his call to the ministry.

Dan Russell, deacon at Grace Chapel Baptist Church, Greenup Association, announced his call to preach.

ordinations

Roy Disney and Casper Hopkins were ordained as deacons July 14 at Lily Baptist Church, Laurel River Association.

Hank Brooks was ordained to the ministry June 7 by First Baptist Church, London, Laurel River Association.

James Vaughn was ordained to the ministry by Grider Memorial Baptist Church, Liberty Association, July 21. He is pastor of Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Liberty Association.

congregations

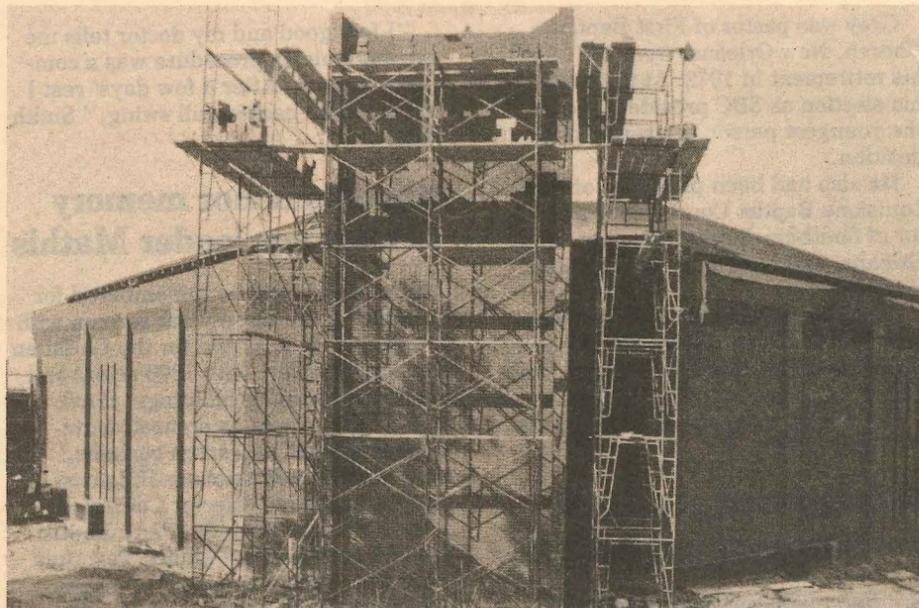
Van Buren Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association, celebrated Aug. 4 20 years at its present location, 198 Thompson Ave.

Columbia Baptist Church, Russell Creek Association, had 26 members participate in a missions project in eastern Kentucky with two Enterprise Association churches, First Baptist Church, McDowell, and Topmost Baptist Church. The group assisted with vacation Bible school, "kids' week" and survey work.

Salem Baptist Church, Boone's Creek Association, had two Russian ministers as pulpit guests while the Russians were visiting Kentucky en route to the Baptist World Congress in Los Angeles.

Hrihorl Iv. Komendant and Jakov Doukhonchenko preached while Edmund Burgher Jr., pastor of Salem, interpreted.

Burgher learned to speak Russian while ministering to Russian speaking people in Los Angeles for five years, Czechoslovakians in Florida for seven



Kentucky's largest Southern Baptist sanctuary is under construction at Valley View Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association. The building will seat 2400 people. The \$2.5 million project also includes additional fellowship, music and educational space. T. Howell Upchurch is pastor.

years and pastoring a Russian Baptist church in Miami, Fla.

revivals

Frenchburg Baptist Church, Red River Association, received 10 people for baptism during revival services July 14-18.

The revival was a team effort by Frenchburg and Central Baptist Church, Corbin, Mt. Zion, Association, whose members and staff helped with leadership in a visitation effort.

Don Mathis, pastor of Central, was the guest evangelist. John C. Ramsey is pastor of Frenchburg.

missions

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Palmer, journeymen to the Philippines, have completed their two-year term of service at the Rural Life Center, Davao City, Philippines, and returned to the states (Rt. 3, Box 13, Waverly, TN 37185). Before they were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1983 they lived in Murray, Ky., where he was youth director at First Baptist Church and she was a nurse at Murray-Calloway County Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Cobb, missionaries to Thailand, have completed furlough and returned to the field (Box 3, Chanthabur, Thailand 22000). He is a native of Ware Shoals, S. C. The former Fannie Morris of Kentucky, she was born in Versailles and grew up in Sadie-

ville. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1954.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim C. Dillard, missionaries to Kenya, have arrived in the states for furlough (1521 Maple Ave., Owensboro, KY 42301). He is a native of Tyronza, Ark., and she is the former Janet Davis of Owensboro. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1959.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Alvin Lindholm, Baptist representatives to Yemen, report a change of furlough address (134 Ramona, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401), his hometown. She is the former Edna Hughes of Cadiz. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1980.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Dyer, members of First Baptist Church, Paducah, West Union Association, will be appointed as missionaries to West Germany at Glorieta (N. M.) Baptist Assembly Aug. 7-8.

Four Kentuckians were selected as missionary journeymen by the Foreign Mission Board. They are Leslie Durham, Owensboro, Yemen; Kenny Park, Paducah, Spain; Lenora Salley, Meridian, Burkina Faso; and Jamie Smith, Clinton, South Africa.

deaths

Earl Kingery, pastor of Trammel Fork Baptist Church, Allen Association, died July 3. He had spent most of his 27 years in ministry in Allen County.



Bill Kaufman [center], director of Kentucky's Brotherhood Department, talks with Foreign Mission Board staffers Jim Cecil and Jackie Hollis during a conference for the board's laity abroad information coordinators. Kaufman is available to provide information about mission opportunities for Kentucky Baptists going overseas to travel, study or work.



Carol Noffsinger [r], Kentucky Baptist Young Women director, and Kay Trisler of Harrodsburg recently participated in the Enlistment Special Worker's Training meeting at Woman's Missionary Union Headquarters, Birmingham, Ala.

Cumberland College

Mountain Outreach Lending A Helping Hand



Before

"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven."

That is what the students of Cumberland College's Mountain Outreach try to do as they commit themselves to practice their faith, while sharing it in the rugged Appalachian Mountains of Southeastern Kentucky.

Cumberland College sits atop a hill in a small valley surrounded on all sides by the massive and continuing Cumberland Mountains. This is a ruggedly beautiful but poor land, where inadequate housing is stark testimony to the fact that this can be a land of hardships.

These same ruggedly

beautiful mountains are also the barriers that have trapped the people in imposed isolation, until recently cutting them off from the influences of the outside world.

Two Cumberland College students, Robert Day and Dave Emert, observed the grossly inadequate housing and environmental conditions of the people in the area and true to the belief that "What the mind can conceive and believe, the mind can achieve," the two conceived of a program, Mountain Outreach, that would improve housing and environmental conditions and would offer a spiritual dimension as well. Believing in "Doing it now" the two set to work.

The first person Mountain

Outreach helped was 76-year-old Lee LeForce. They knew Lee had fierce mountain pride and would never accept a handout, so they offered only a helping hand.

They began building Lee a new house, but, on the coldest day of winter, with below-zero temperatures, the group found Lee with severe frostbite.

Before he died, the old gentleman accepted Christ.

Mountain Outreach also gave a helping hand to a family of four and to a family living in a converted animal shelter.

This summer, twelve volunteer groups, 250 people, from six states were sent to donate their time, talents, materials, and money to

build homes in the mountains of Kentucky and Tennessee.

The needs of Mountain Outreach are great, but their resources are few. They must depend upon volunteer groups, who provide their time and talents and also provide materials and money as well.

But no problem is too great and no obstacle is too large. As long as our mountain people have needs, Mountain Outreach will continue trying to meet those needs. Because, as the Bible tells us, "Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land."

This is more than a Bible verse.

This is a Mountain Outreach way of life.



After

Dr. Taylor,

Please send me more information about Cumberland College and programs such as Mountain Outreach.

Name _____

(Clip and mail to: Box 191, Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Kentucky 40769).

Fuller is optimistic about peace committee's prospects for bringing healing

Editor's note: The following story was written by Julian H. Pentecost and Thomas E. Miller, editor and associate editor, respectively, of Religious Herald, Virginia's state Baptist newspaper. The story is a condensed version of the one which appeared in the Aug. 1 issue of Religious Herald.

"I would not have accepted the assignment if I believed it were an exercise in futility, said SBC peace committee chairman Charles Fuller.

"I believe God wants to preserve and use Southern Baptists. I think we ought to give him every chance to accomplish that." The committee's initial meeting will be held in Nashville, Aug. 5-6.

Fuller, pastor of First Church, Roanoke, Va., spent nearly two hours with the editor and associate editor of Religious Herald on July 18. Subjects discussed ranged from biographical to theological.

Elected in Dallas to chair the extraordinary committee of 22 persons, the 53-year-old pastor speaks with candor about his own theological positions, but firmly declares acceptance of persons who hold divergent views.

It is this openness that Fuller hopes will enable him to lead the committee to become a cohesive entity. If that happens, Fuller believes the current denominational rift can be healed.

Basis for optimism

"People want peace," said Fuller. "They want us to find a point of center and get on with what we are about. I am not oblivious to difficulties in bringing these people together, but I hear Baptists saying, 'Before God, let's find a place where we can come together.' I believe there is basis for optimism."

"In simplest terms," said the graduate of the University of Richmond and Southwestern Seminary, "I believe the source of controversy is the diversity that always has been and always will be, and the question of how much diversity can we have and at the same time have a bona fide fellowship. How much diversity can we have and still have conviction and community, a sense of togetherness?"

Committee will reflect independence

"We won't meet in Nashville every time. Some geographic diversity is desirable, and we need to separate ourselves from some possible influences. We are a committee of the convention. The committee needs to reflect its independence."

The first session will be closed to all outsiders, but Fuller emphasized, "This is not a precedent."

"I just feel that in deference to the committee I must give them the chance to get to know one another and to speak to the question of press representation."

Fuller said, "It is possible the committee may say, 'We think we ought to have someone (representing Baptist Press) in here.' But I cannot take it

upon myself to assume that initiative."

"It would be a mistake for all sessions to be executive," said Fuller.

"The convention authorized the committee and (the constituency) needs to be aware something is going on. Southern Baptists have a right to know what is going on in the committee. But there will be times we need to be away from Nashville where we can be cloistered, when we need several days to thrash things out."

Fuller said he will ask the committee to let him respond to Baptist Press questions and issue a report after the Aug. 5-6 meeting. He is also required, by convention action, to report to the Executive Committee in September, February and June, and to the convention when it meets in Atlanta.

"If Southern Baptists don't sense something is being done—progress is being made—we will have lost something," he observed.

A recent letter by Fuller to convention executives and leaders requesting restraint in public comments brought numbers of responses, some cautious and limiting.

The letter, mailed to 210 persons, quoted the official convention action which included the statement (that), "All Southern Baptists are urged to exercise restraint, to refrain from divisive action and comments, and to reflect Christian love, while this committee is doing its work."

No attempt to muzzle

"I interpret the convention's call for restraint and refraining from divisive action and comments as an attempt to lower the profile of controversy. It is not an attempt to muzzle or throttle expression of conviction. In fact, to do so would be the very antithesis of what we are as Baptists," said Fuller.

"But some are only too willing to start a fight. The presidents (of the state conventions) drafted that request against the backdrop of what was going on immediately prior to the convention in Dallas," he noted.

"Most of the replies I have had (to the recent letter) have affirmed the principle of restraint with the reservation to speak out when it is considered essential. Only the individual can make that decision. The request does not ask one to say, 'I'll never open my mouth,' but to be reasonable."

He will ask questions

"When we meet, each committee member will be asked to answer the question, 'Why did I accept this responsibility?' I want to know the depth of commitment to the task."

"My objective for the first meeting is for the committee members to hear one another and understand one another. I will not try to extract opinions. That won't be necessary. The people on this committee will be willing to speak. But when we realize we are a group we will work together."

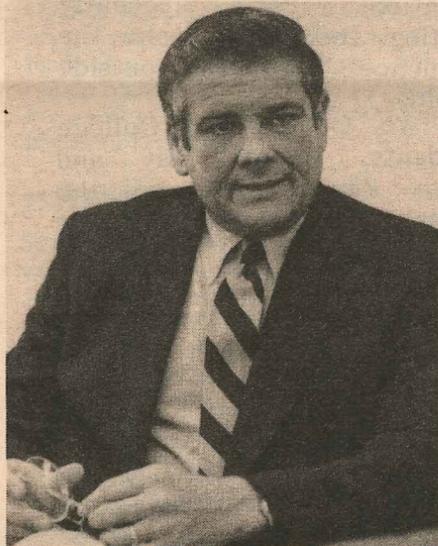
Fuller said, "One thing I will do is ask persons on opposite sides to interpret what the other is saying. We will try to work through the posture of the committee becoming a group. We will attempt to discover within the committee what we are saying. We will work toward becoming an entity."

"We won't tackle most of the agenda at the first meeting," he said, adding that 18 of the 22 members are expected in Nashville.

Not committee of inquisition

Commenting on his own understanding of the committee assignments, Fuller said, "We are not an inquisition committee. We have a trustee process and structure (for operating institutions and agencies) and we ought to use it. If we created another process we do serious damage."

"I have had some cynics ask, 'Do you really think this committee will make any difference?'" said Fuller, who declared, "I am no less optimistic (than when he was elected in Dallas). I am more optimistic. The response has been more clear; it has been more grave. Letters, phone calls. I have sensed a tone from the convention."



Charles Fuller

Commenting on his view of conditions in the denomination, Fuller said, "I have opted not to use the term division, but diversity. Division has a note of finality. This is not to gloss over the differences people have but to identify what we are dealing with. How much diversity can we have and still be a legitimate fellowship and have confidence and conviction about what we are doing?"

'To find a new center'

"This is my attempt to label what we are doing," he said: "To find a new center. I don't really know if it is a new center or a proper definition of center. Some say the moderate position is the center, but that is not the true center. And the fundamental center is not the true center. The true center is where we keep faith with what we have been historically."

He said his mail since Dallas has had some surprises. Most of the 150 letters and 50 to 60 phone calls have been assurances of prayer support and affirmation of the process.

"But some very specific suggestions and observations, such as professional help in arbitration and an offer of re-

treat facilities," were made, he added.

"A few gave me a list of things we need to look into, but not as many as I thought. I've come to the place where I can say, 'Look at this committee. It is the SBC in miniature.'"

"As to finding the sources of conflict in the convention," said Fuller, "I have interpreted 'sources' not so much to pinpoint persons, but to identify what are the irritants, the causes of divisiveness, rather than labeling persons, or this department, or this school."

"We've got 22 people who pretty well cover the waterfront. They can tell us what are the questions and controversies we want to see dealt with," he added.

Contacted by Norman Wiggins

Fuller said he was first contacted about chairing the committee by Norman A. Wiggins, president of the North Carolina Baptist Convention and president of Campbell University, Buies Creek, N. C. The next day Fuller was called by Charles Pickering, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and one of the leaders of the unprecedented effort by state convention presidents to resolve convention conflict.

"I asked for a week or two to pray about it," said Fuller, who added that there was never a question as to whether he was "willing," but only, "Am I the one to do this?"

Fuller's wife, Pat, told him, "Who knows, this may be the contribution you are to make to the Southern Baptist Convention. Maybe it is what you can do that is most important."

Fuller then told Pickering he would go to Dallas "agreeing to serve, but (agreeing also to) whatever is necessary to make the committee happen. You have my approval to bypass me."

Asked if he knew of any person or persons who had "approved" him as chairman, Fuller said, "I am sure my name was run by several before it was presented in Dallas, but I am certain that at the time they approached me it had gone no further than the presidents."

'I am an inerrantist'

Fuller declares himself an "inerrantist," which has been a code word for the faction in the convention that declared in 1980 the intention of using the appointive powers of the convention president to gain control of convention agencies and institutions through election of trustees agreeing with their agenda.

"I am a theological conservative, a staunch conservative. I have been throughout my ministry. I haven't changed," affirmed Fuller.

"I am an inerrantist. It is my personal conviction on the origin of scripture. But I have never been a part of the inerrantist movement. (When I say 'inerrant') I mean that as God chose to reveal himself and shared that with human writers, it was without error. Of course, that does not apply to subsequent translations. Likewise, when God indwelt Jesus, it was without error. He, too, was perfect. As I think of inerrancy, I am thinking of the initiative of God, the inerrant transfer of God's initiative."

"My position does not disqualify me from being chairman of the committee. I have a strong willingness to accept people for what they are, at face value. I have a deep commitment to the Southern Baptist Convention, to the extent that I would do whatever I could to preserve wholeness."

"I am willing to stand in the gap between extremes if called upon. I want to do this," he added.

Winter Texans

Campbellsville couple is 'doing' the word

by Kima Jude, State Correspondent

They call them winter Texans.

They are retirees who want to escape their cold northern climates in the mid-west. So they head south in the fall, much as the easterners who flock to Florida do, merely trading condominiums in the Sunshine State for the Texan equivalent, motor and mobile homes set in plush resort parks.

They arrive in the late fall, ready to live out another of their senior winters in the ways they most enjoy—playing bingo, square dancing and eating.

Last year Margaret and Lynwood Kessler of Campbellsville became winter Texans, setting forth in their own recreational vehicle to spend the winter in a park that boasted a heated pool and recreation room right on the premises.

But they found hobnobbing with the world to be a lonely life as Christians. And a ministry.

The Kesslers are numbered among the Home Mission Board's Christian Service Corp, volunteers who spend their time and money serving in special home ministries.

This past winter in their second stint as volunteers the Kesslers lived and ministered in a recreational vehicle park in San Juan, Tex.

The year before they had spent the winter months teaching literacy to Indians in Tucson, Ariz. It was a far cry from the luxurious world they found in comparison in Texas.

Seemingly it should have been a closer match to their own, among a kind of people much like themselves. And yet not alike.

These people were retirees, too. Affluent folks who came from all kinds of backgrounds and walks of life with permanent homes in Southern Baptist pioneer states.

"They didn't need anything," Mrs. Kessler said. Therefore, unlike the Kesslers, they didn't see the need for God.

Or other Christians. Or the Bible study the Kesslers conducted. Their life among them became the Kesslers' lonely ministry.

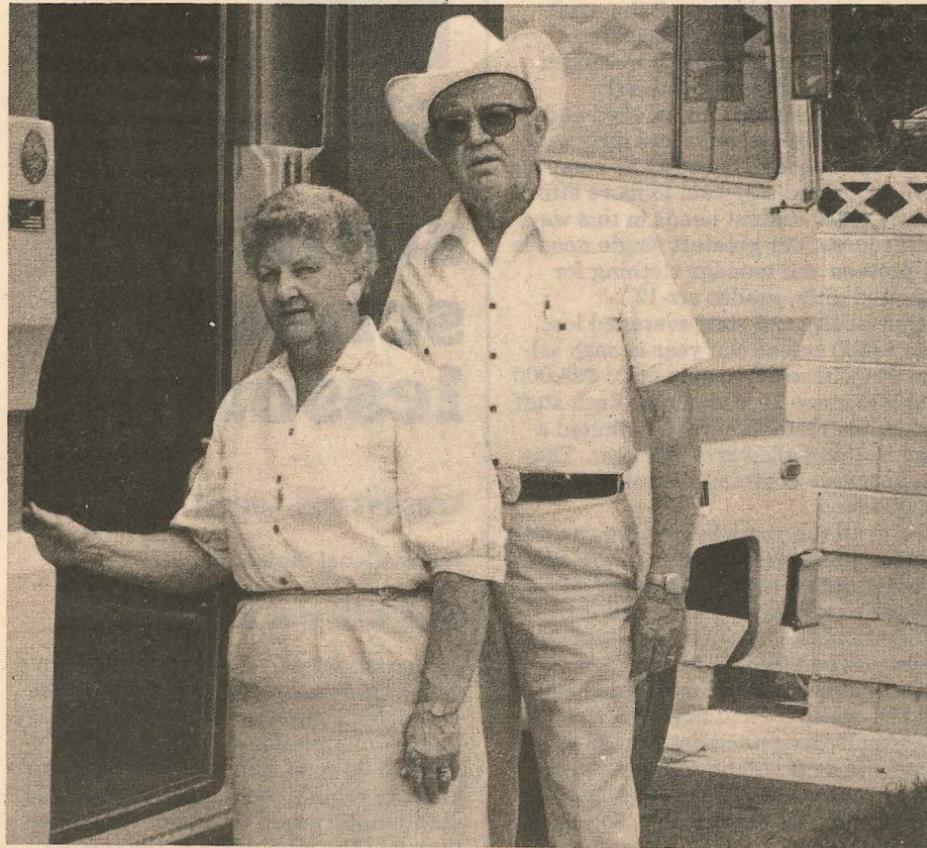
The Kesslers were one of 15 couples placed in strategic recreation vehicle parks by the Rio Grande Valley Baptist Association. They lived in one privately owned park, The Grove, where they conducted a weekly Bible study. They did another in another park, Palm City Estates.

The Kesslers also worked with the San Juan First Baptist Church in trying to enlist winter Texans.

"There was no pressure on trying to join the church," Kessler said. "It was a matter of trying to get them interested in a spiritual time as well as a fun time."

But park life revolved around good times. Therefore, it was with a certain amount of "fear and trembling" that the Kesslers viewed the prospect of going to live among the winter Texans.

First off, the barriers had to be broken down. Because the park was private, a six-man board of directors voted whether they would allow a one-hour Bible study to be conducted weekly. There were no church services at the park. And the vote on the Bible study came only at the request of one of



Margaret and Lynwood Kessler

the park's residents. It was approved.

When the Kesslers looked the park over for the first time there were not even any vacancies. As a condition to conducting the weekly Bible study, the park required they live there. A place became available.

It appeared to the Kesslers God's blessings were upon the project. They took the recreational vehicle they had bought specifically to use on the mission fields and moved in to live among the winter Texans and yet not be a part of them.

"They don't want you to get too close," Kessler said.

"As long as you don't get to where you can touch a heartstring," Mrs. Kessler said.

So while people stopped long enough to say hello, they didn't tarry to chat.

Some came to the Bible study but they didn't linger to ask questions and become involved in discussion.

The winter wore on. Then the thaw set in.

What broke the ice in the Kesslers' opinion was when one woman had to have a lens implant. Hearing that she was troubled, Mrs. Kessler went to her and related her own experiences with two lens implants. She offered to go to the hospital with the woman, then later helped her with dressing her eye and administering eye drops.

"They couldn't understand why Lynwood and I would do things like that," Mrs. Kessler said.

But it helped melt their reserve.

Quiet changes took place. The group members began to discuss questions.

An addition was made to the rec room so a pool game next door would not compete with the Bible study.

Two ladies requested Mrs. Kessler to conduct a morning discussion group on the Bible and topics relating to senior citizens.

By the time the Kesslers packed up to head home for the summer, one man

who had never attended their Bible study came up, shook Kessler's hand, and said he hoped to see them back.

By the time the Kesslers did get back to Campbellsville, a letter from the park directors, inviting them back the next year, awaited them.

They plan to return to take up residence again in a place where they think they've made inroads, despite the loneliness.

"It's a challenge," Kessler said.

Besides, they think they can do more there, among the winter Texans, than they can even among their home folk.

"I expect Jesus got lonely," Mrs. Kessler said. And Jesus, too, discovered he could accomplish more elsewhere than Nazareth.

The Kesslers had planned at one time to go on the foreign mission field but Kessler's coronary prevented that. Instead, they plan to strike out to home missions as long as health permits.

They realize what they're doing among the winter Texans is more than just conducting a simple Bible study.

They serve as lay chaplains. Because among the group are ages 65-85, death is common.

On a trip down to Mexico, Kessler, a retired dealer of farm equipment, even realized he could help them. He described a process to Mexicans that would help them raising pigs that astonished them. So Mrs. Kessler is busy learning Spanish in the hopes of doing more on future excursions.

The lady who had the lens implant gave them more evidence that their work is a needed ministry.

She invited the Kesslers to take a short cruise with her and her husband.

When the sea became turbulent she cheerfully reminded them that Moses walked on water. Didn't he?

When she heard the true story she confided that she knew she should have been attending that Bible study.

She never missed again.



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

'I can handle this one'

A year or so ago I wrote a "Comments" column which touched the hearts of a number of people. I am reprinting it to help those of us who are overwhelmed and feel that, "I can't handle it," and for those of us filled with pride who feel we can.

"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved" (Ps. 55:22).

The story is told of a cleaning woman, going to work in a large business office about the time most people were going home. As a result, she was alone in the elevator with the operator. Her hands showed evidence of the hard life she had lived and her wrinkled face sagged with weariness. She no doubt had already put in a day's work at home; now she would have to dust, scrub and sweep eight more hours on the job. In her arms were several large packages.

The operator closed the door and pushed the button for her passenger's floor, then turned, smiled and said, "You can put those bundles down, ma'am." She said, "The elevator will carry them."

Too many times we forget that we have a heavenly father willing to help us carry our packages or bundles we could mark as worry, disappointment, guilt, fear anxiety. I Peter 5:7 tells us that we should cast our cares on him for he cares for us.

As a recent chapel speaker here at Clear Creek told the students, this world will do everything it can to get you to quit serving God. Too many Christians are burdened down with cares, concerns and a busy lifestyle that could be relieved if we took the time to cast our burdens on God to lighten the load.

During the recent dry spell, a visitor to Clear Creek commented on how green the trees were, and how even without rain God in his divine goodness sent the morning mist to help them maintain their beauty. He said, "Isn't that just like God—he provides for us in ways we don't expect."

Remember when you feel depressed, worn out, unloved and especially unappreciated, God sees and knows your predicament and he wants you to be sustained. He knows you have needs, and, like the elevator, is able to carry you and your burdens.

Pray, "Father, remove from me the 'I Can Handle This One' attitude."



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Used clothing needed

Picture a little girl, age 5, sobbing her heart out. That was the scene more than 75 years ago in a rural area of central Kentucky. The little girl was an unwilling donor of her favorite red sweater to a school in the Kentucky mountains. Her mother was one who gathered used clothing articles for the children of Oneida.

Having seen her sweater disappear into the Oneida "box," the little girl had an early interest in the place where her sweater went. She has willingly and generously continued that interest and support into her ninth decade of life.

The used clothing store has been a tradition at Oneida for most of the school's history. It has been called by varying names. For at least 35 years, it has been known as the Jot 'em Down Store. Older friends will remember that famous emporium from the days of the storied Lum 'n Abner radio program.

In recent years because of a lack of space our used clothing store has been little more than a storage area. With priority being given other areas as the school has grown so rapidly, this aspect of Oneida's program has sadly languished. In fact, we have not written of it in nearly six years. In July we simply had to take the remaining space and use it for other purposes.

On Tuesday, Jan. 24, the used clothing store reopened in another of our campus buildings recently named "Friendship House." More than two months of hard work by two to four

people went into the renovation of a five-room area to house a beautiful new store. They worked as unpaid volunteers.

A special trip was made to Dalton, Ga. for carpet at one-fourth normal retail price. Nearly 4000 feet of shelves have been built and painted. For the first time in our history, all the available clothing has been "sized" and price tags put on each item making it infinitely easier to find and sell.

Those articles that are needed and can be used by our boys and girls will be given to those in need at no cost. We have organized a system to more efficiently meet student needs in this way.

Of course, our greatest single need is for preteen and teenage clothing for boys and girls, grades six-12.

Our faculty and staff averaged less than \$4500 apiece last year in cash salary. They have taken cuts up to \$28,000 yearly to come here to serve. Each staff and family members will be allotted a used clothing allowance per year. They can purchase anything over that at a minimal cost.

As in all the years before, we can use clothing of all sizes, men and women's clothing, suits, baby clothes and shoes in good condition—as long as it is in usable condition. Toys and children's books can be utilized. Bedspreads, quilts, pillows, pillowcases and sheets are also welcome and needed items.

Those items not needed by our students and staff will be sold for a minimal fee and the income will go into our general fund for student aid. So, directly or indirectly, our students will benefit from all usable materials donated to us. With the larger and more attractive space and the reorganization we hope to have a volume that will generate a significant amount of student aid.

Craft items made by Oneida students and staff will also be on sale; any materials usable for making crafts are also welcome. For example, used silk-flower arrangements can be sent us and we will rework them for sale.

As has been true through all of our history, any victim of fire or flood in our area will be helped, free of charge out of available stock.

UPS or parcel post is the way to ship to us. No trucks deliver into Oneida. We will be grateful for all those who, as before, bring the clothing and other articles directly to us. It is impossible because of the time and expense involved, with a staff already overworked, for us to come and pick up articles.

Reprint from Jan. 31, 1984



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR AUG. 11, 1985

International Series

God will not forsake

Zechariah 2:1-12 Zechariah was born while the Jews were in exile during the Babylonian captivity. When Cyrus granted permission to those who desired to do so to return to Jerusalem in order to rebuild the temple, a large and enthusiastic group returned. Soon after they laid the foundation of the temple, they encountered interference and opposition from the Samaritans and others. Because their enemies were numerous and strong, and their difficulties almost insurmountable, they grew discouraged and decided to quit. God used Zechariah to stir the people out of their lethargy and to encourage them to complete this important project.

Zechariah 2:1-5 God blessed Zechariah with a series of visions. In his third vision Zechariah saw a man surveying Jerusalem with a measuring line, as if he were planning for the rebuilding of the walls around the city. Because God wanted the city to expand, he was not willing for it to be restricted by walls, so he had the surveyor to discontinue his work. God wanted to convince the people that he was quite able to protect the city far better than any walls could ever do, and that he would gladly do so if they would obey him, get their priorities in order and be aware and appreciative of his protective presence.

Zechariah 2:6-12 Through Zechariah God reminded the Jews who were still in exile that he intended to send judgment upon the heathen nations. God appealed to them to flee from the land of captivity and to return to their homeland immediately in order that he might bless them in a special way, and in order that they might escape the calamity that was soon to befall the Babylonians. God made it clear that the nations which oppressed his enemies from abusing them and would never leave or forsake them.

Life and Work Series

Reconciliation fellowship

Paul had announced his intention of making a trip to Corinth, and seemingly without considering the fact that it might become advisable for him to change his plans. Later, when he received the impression that it was the Lord's will for him to postpone the trip, Paul did so without hesitation.

2 Corinthians 2:1-4 The reason for the delay was due to Paul's desire to spare the members of the church. His visit at the time would have entailed a solemn rebuke for their misconduct and severe disciplinary measures. Paul informed them that his joy was not in coming to them with the rod of correction; it was his desire that they might correct their mistakes of their own volition.

2 Corinthians 2:5-9 On various occasions it was necessary for Paul to rebuke evildoers, but it was his practice to use severity and rebuke sparingly, and only in those cases where there is nothing else for him to do.

Paul did not want to return to Corinth until the grief in his own heart had been relieved. He was hoping that the church would discipline her own members, and that the penitent would receive forgiveness and be genuinely reconciled and completely restored to fellowship.

2 Corinthians 2:10-11 In order to persuade the Christians in Corinth to be willing to forgive the member who had brought reproach upon their church by his misconduct, Paul emphasized that he was not asking them to do anything he had not done or was not willing to do. He declared that as he had already forgiven him and that his forgiveness was complete, so he was asking them to do the same. Since God's forgiveness of us is full and complete, his children should not dole out sparingly their forgiveness of others.



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

on mission together

Still time for another miracle

It will take another miracle for Kentucky Baptists to achieve the 1984-85 operating budget of \$14,445,000 by Aug. 31, the last day of the fiscal year. I say "miracle" because the previous 10 months' giving has averaged under the \$1,200,000 required, so that \$1,500,000 is needed each of the last two months of July and August.

We've been playing catch up since the bad winter and some would suggest that we're experiencing the "blahs"

which most attribute to the illness in our larger SBC family. The state and national economies haven't helped us all that much, either. More Kentuckians are without jobs than this time last year.

However, Kentucky Baptists are doing as well or better than most. A spot check soon after June 30 with six comparable states (Alabama, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, South Carolina and Virginia) indicated they, too, are experiencing a CP growth slowdown. Kentucky Baptists compared favorably with these. Only two of the six reflect a higher than the 3.3 percent CP growth which Kentucky Baptists had experienced by June 30. And, regrettably, two of those conventions are actually under last year's giving on the same date. None reported an increase higher than 4.8 percent.

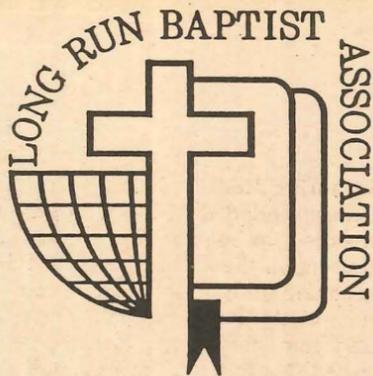
Though "reality" will not be final for Kentucky Baptists until Aug. 31, the immediate picture is that after 10

months (June 30), 1507 (of 2229) Kentucky Baptist churches had contributed less this year than last year for the same period. This translates into two out of three churches providing \$653,020 fewer Cooperative Program dollars than they did last year.

The happier reality is that 722 churches have increased their giving over the previous 10 month period by \$1,014,307, more than offsetting the slippage by the other two-thirds of our churches.

Gratefully, Cooperative Program receipts are 6.6 percent ahead of last year but still 2.9 percent short of the seven percent increase needed to achieve the convention's operating budget.

Yes, it will take a miracle again this year. But with CP receipts for July having just reached a near-record \$1,465,256, and the traditional and final "catch up" month of August still ahead of us, Kentucky Baptists just might do it again!



THE COLLOQUY

August 6, 1985

"A Conversation of Churches in Bullitt, Jefferson, & Spencer Counties"

F. RUSSELL BENNETT, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JOHN E. SAUNDERS, JR.
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT
JAMES H. FURR
DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES
NANCY PRICE
DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES
A. CHRISTOPHER HAMMON
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Church Extension Committee Active in Association

The LRBA Church Extension Committee is concerned with everything from starting new churches to keeping the old ones running.

The Committees' most visible activity is working with churches through loans from the Church Extension Fund. Wayne Padgett, Chairperson of the Committee, points out that about half of the new roofs and air conditioners in churches around the Association were made possible by this fund.

During recent months loans have been granted to Minor's Lane for a new roof, Riverside for the purchase of their parsonage, Arcade to finish remodeling their educational facilities and Mt. Nebo to finish their basement and educational facilities.

The loans are worked out in consultation between the churches, the Church Extension Committee and the Finance Committee. They are then recommended to the quarterly meeting of the LRBA Executive Board for approval.

The Church Extension Fund recently provided a grant for a one-year student internship to work on church starting strategy.

New work is a major concern of the Committee. They are involved in studying new opportunities for ministry; locations where Southern Baptists should start a church, socio-economic groups that call for a new work. The Committee makes recommendations concerning the purchase of sites for new work. They encourage churches to sponsor the starting of new churches and missions, and work with them in correlating their outreach with that of other churches.

Maintaining and promoting relationships with other associations, the KBC Missions Division, and the Language and Church Extension Divisions of the SBC Home Mission Board are other activities of the Committee.

Currently serving on the Church Extension Committee are Jeff Brown (St. Matthews), Kenneth Dick (Pastor of Davis Memorial), Elmo Martin (Hurstbourne), Kendall Moore (Melbourne Heights), Wayne Padgett (Pastor of Plum Creek) and Edward Straney (Pastor of Jeffersontown).

Insurance and Retirement Planning Conference

Looking at present protection and future security is the subject of a workshop on insurance and retirement planning Monday, August 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Walnut Street Baptist Church.

The workshop, sponsored by the KBC Annuity Department, is designed to provide pastors with specialized information about medical and life insurance, housing allowances, retirement benefits, disability insurance, tax sheltering, ministry related expenses and the new Church Annuity Plan.

The workshop is one of five scheduled



International ministry through Friendship International, a weekly ministry to international student spouses, and Friendship International House at Christmas, is foreign missions done locally with support from the Fred Tucker Offering. Fifty-six churches have contributed over \$15,000 toward this year's goal of \$23,000.

72 Churches Participate in Fred Tucker Offering

Seventy-two LRBA churches have participated in the 1985 Fred Tucker Offering for Associational Missions. Contributions amounting to two-thirds of the \$23,000 goal have been received. By the end of July just over \$15,000 had been received by the LRBA office from 56 churches.

Crescent Hill Baptist Church leads the list of contributors. So far this year \$1619 has been contributed through Crescent Hill. Jeffersontown and High-

view Baptist Churches follow with contributions of \$1250 and \$1227.33.

The Fred Tucker Offering is the annual offering taken by Long Run Baptist Association to support special missions activity within the Association. Funds from this year's Offering will provide support for a variety of activities including ministry to internationals, inner city kids, college students and apartment dwellers. Funds will also support ministry to the needy in community.

Church Contributions to the Fred Tucker Offering

Ashby Lane	10.00	Hazelwood	6.00
Bashford Manor	61.00	Highview	1227.33
Beechmont	659.66	Hillview	152.00
Beechwood	711.00	Hurstbourne	353.00
Bethany	615.83	Immanuel	104.00
Broadway	56.00	Jefferson Street	8.60
Cardinal Hill	100.00	Jeffersontown	1250.00
Carlisle Avenue	281.00	Kenwood	384.00
Cedar Creek	516.00	Kings	225.14
Crescent Hill	1619.00	Lee's Lane	147.00
Deer Park	422.30	Little Flock	195.20
East	285.00	Lyndon	206.11
East Audubon	30.00	Maple Grove	376.00
Eighteenth Street	288.00	Melbourne Heights	50.86
Farmdale	16.00	Midlane Park	25.00
Fern Creek	123.25	Morningside	20.00
Fourth Avenue	156.00	New Cut Road	21.20
Green Acres	312.00	Oak Grove	25.00
		Okolona	33.00
		Ormsby Heights	34.90
		Parkland	348.18
		Pleasant Grove	137.00
		Plum Creek	47.00
		Ralph Avenue	139.00
		Riverside	24.50
		Shively Heights	35.00
		South Watterson Trail	200.00
		South Jefferson	463.99
		Southside	200.25
		St. Matthews	530.31
		Summit Hills	137.50
		Third Avenue	262.50
		Van Buren	111.00
		Victory Memorial	600.75
		Walnut Street	100.00
		Westside Portland	26.75
		Westport Road	509.00
		Woodland	227.50

Briefly noted . . .

From Here to Victory Sunday School Conferences are scheduled at Cedarmore August 9-10 and August 31. The conferences will emphasize the new Bible Teaching series. The second conference is designed specifically to address the needs of churches with less than 300 enrolled in Sunday School. Study course credit will be awarded for participating in either conference. For more information contact John Saunders, 587-6735.

Large church and small church sessions for Sunday School Prep Week have been scheduled for the end of September. The small church Prep Week (for churches with fewer than 150 enrolled in Sunday School) is scheduled for Monday, September 23 and 30, 7-9:30 p.m., at Kenwood Baptist Church. The sessions for larger churches is planned for Tuesday, September 24 and October 1, 7-9:30 p.m., at Beechmont Baptist Church. For more information contact John Saunders, 587-6735.

The **Church Training Council** encourages Church Training leaders to plan to attend the KBC Church Training Leadership Weekend at Cedarmore Baptist Assembly, September 27-28.

The Annual Belle of Louisville Cruise for Small Churches is Wednesday, October 2, 6-9:30 p.m. The annual trip provides members of the smaller churches in the Association to come together for fellowship and worship. Picnic suppers are encouraged; soft drinks are available on the Belle. Tickets are \$2.50 each (maximum cost per family is \$10). See your pastor about obtaining tickets.

This year's **LRBA Leadership Banquet** is scheduled for October 10, at St. Matthews Baptist Church. The Leadership Banquet is for all local church leaders: pastors, staff, deacons, trustees, Sunday School and Church Training leaders, and Brotherhood and WMU leaders. The cost is \$5, and reservations are required. For more information contact John Saunders, 587-6735.

The Anthony Compolo Youth Series will be presented for LRBA youth beginning Friday, August 9, 7 p.m., at Hurstbourne Baptist Church. The first presentation is on "Commitment." The series will continue the following three Friday evenings; at Little Flock on August 16, Bethlehem on August 23, and Ormsby Heights on August 30.

PRAY FOR THESE

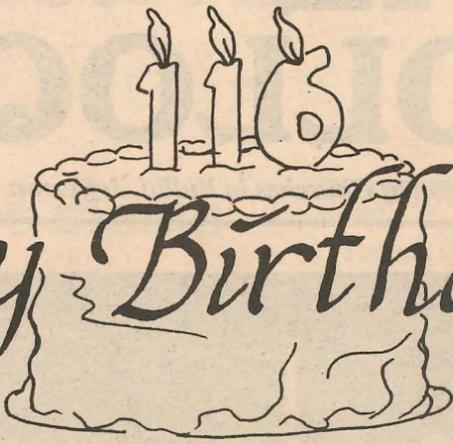
Churches and Their Pastors

Cloverleaf (Fred Jenkins)
Ebenezer (Eddie White)
Yorktown (Robert Morrison)
Long Run/Cleveland Partnership
Polish Church (John Kasa)
Progress Church (William G. Bryant)

Churches Without Pastors

Audubon, Bethlehem, Cardinal Hill, Chenoweth Park, Clifton Heights, Deer Park, Eastern Gate, Franklin Street, Hazelwood, Highland Park Second, Morningside, Parkwood, Penile, Stites Station, Walnut Street and Woodland.

Happy Birthday



First entry of Baptist Orphans Journal

2

Entered 63

July 1st 1869 Three Children of one family entered the Home
 Alice the Eldest child was in her 18th year
 George William Henry Gravatt was born September 10th 1863
 Charles Edwin Gravatt born April 11th 1866
 Lyddia the Mother of said children was from the
 city of Philadelphia State of Pennsylvania
 She was Married in this city to John Gravatt by
 Elder William Holman. The Father John Gravatt
 died about the close of the year 1868. The mother is
 still living but entirely incompetent to raise the
 children. She has relinquished all claim to them
 and given them entirely up to the care of the Home.

July 1st, 1869. Three children of one family entered the Home. Alice the eldest child was in her 18th year. George William Henry Gravatt was born September 10th, 1863. Charlie Edwin Gravatt born April 11th, 1866. Lyddia the mother of said children was from the city of Philadelphia, state of Pen[n]sylvania. She was married in this city to John Gravatt by Elder William Holman. The father John Gravatt died about the close of the year 1868. The mother is still living but entirely incompetent to raise the children. She has relinquished all claim to them and given them entirely up to the care of the Home.



Baptist Homes for Children looks to future after 116 years

When one is very young, a birthday is an exciting and happy time. This is especially true of the young because a birthday indicates another milestone along the way of growth to maturity.

When one has lived a long time, a birthday has a different kind of joy and excitement. A birthday for one who has lived many years provides a time for reflection, pleasant memories and thanksgiving for a long life.

Baptist Homes for Children has just observed its 116th birthday. That says

we are old! Indeed we have been here a long time, and we have many memories and much for which to be thankful. Kentucky Baptists have given this ministry strong support, and multitudes of children have been helped and blessed by Baptist Homes.

However, the 116 years have not made us feel old. While we can look back a long way and have much to remember, we have much more calling us to look to the future. Rather than feeling old, we truly feel young with more life before us than behind us. We have kept abreast with the needs of children and have made the necessary changes to meet those need. This has kept us young. The need to help dependent, neglected, hurting children continues to be great. The demand for this ministry is increasing and Baptist Homes for Children plans to be here a long time ministering to children.

Jesus said, "For ye have the poor always with you." It is also true that we have dependent, neglected children always with us, and Baptist Homes for Children is here to serve them.

I just wrote a check to Baptist Homes for Children for \$116, one dollar for each birthday. This enables me to say happy birthday and be a member of the Founders Club for another year.

