

# western recorder



Kentucky Baptist Convention  
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## New position in Evangelism

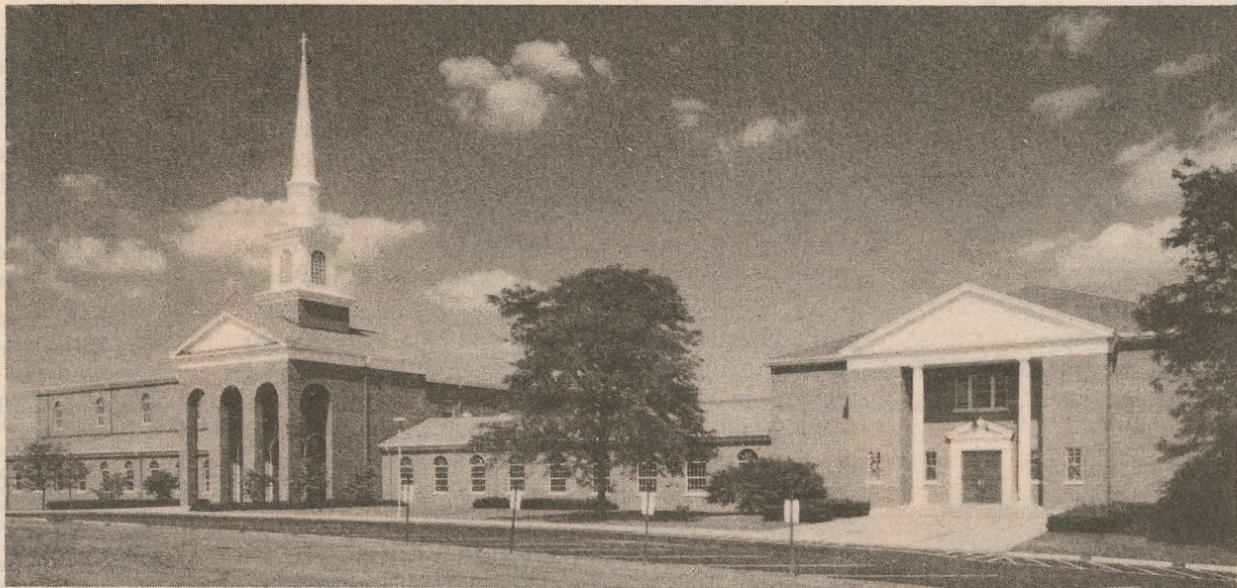
by Jack D. Sanford, Editor

The Administrative Committee of the KBC Executive Board has approved the creation of a new position in the Evangelism Department. The new position is Evangelism Associate.

Principal associate of the new worker will be "to work with the Director of Evangelism in fulfilling and implementing a program of evangelism for churches and associations of the Kentucky Baptist Convention."

Specifically, the person who occupies this newly created position would: plan and coordinate a state-wide program of youth evangelism; plan and conduct the annual State Youth Evangelism conference; set up, maintain, share and evaluate evangelistic resources with pastors, ministers of education, ministers of youth and other church leaders; work with the Department of Student Work, informing and involving ministerial students on college campuses about Kentucky Baptists Convention programs of evangelism; work with vocational evangelists in Kentucky, keeping an updated listing for Kentucky Baptists churches; promote and equip regional consultants and church workers in specialized evangelism areas, such as ethics, women, singles, youth, children and senior adults; coordinate Kentucky Baptist Convention Evangelism Department's summer student revival teams; and assist in other responsibilities as assigned by the Evangelism Director.

Benton Williams, director of the Missions and Church Services Division, which includes the department of evangelism, said he hopes to fill the newly created position by January 1, 1986. Recommendations from Kentucky Baptists are welcome and should be sent either to Benton Williams or William Marshall.



*They'll be there next week*

With "Cooperation: The Baptist Way to a Lost World" as their theme, Kentucky Baptists represent more than 2200 congregations statewide will assemble at Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington [pictured above] next week for their 148th annual meeting. James B. Lewis, pastor of Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville, will preside when the

gavel raps at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12. Sessions continue through 11:15 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 14. Ted Sisk Jr. is the host pastor. The Kentucky Baptist Pastor's Conference, Religious Education Association and Music Association also meet in Lexington preceding the convention. Also three preliminary meetings begin in the early afternoon Monday, Nov. 11.

## International student ministries grow

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

From more than 40 nations, they came. And Kentucky Baptists paid their bill.

They were about 240 students from other lands who are presently enrolled on the campuses of college and universities across Kentucky. Each one has been touched in some direct way by a local campus Baptist Student Union program. Each one has responded in some personal way to that interest, including some professions of faith.

All of them attended the annual Kentucky Baptist international student retreat Nov. 1-3 at Jenny Wiley State Resort Park, near Prestonsburg.

Theme of the weekend, coordinated by the Student Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was "It's a Small, Small World."

Pat Brunner, Baptist campus minister at Berea College, claimed the group had come together to "teach the world to sing in peaceful harmony." She said the students would become "a rainbow of hope" while raising concerns for issues such as peace, justice, and survival on earth.

In a worship exercise later in the weekend Jim Simmons, Baptist campus minister at Murray State University, suggested "there aren't many things in life where we may remain neutral." He cited world events, hunger, atomic energy, God and Satan as instances.

He called for an end to neutrality expressed by some students on the subject of life after death. "Our prayer for you is that you will make a decision not to be neutral any more about God and Jesus Christ," he concluded.

These international student retreats, funded entirely through the Eliza

Broadus State Mission Offering promoted annually by the state Woman's Missionary Union, are "unapologetically Christian," according to Don Blaylock, the young Student Department director.

The young people who attend will go back to their homelands and become future leaders, Blaylock attests. "We do not give an invitation, but we do present the Christian faith to them," he says. He believes decisions do result from the experience.

Blaylock calls the annual international weekends a "great ministry" and a "great mission." The experience is "worth every dime spent," he allows.

The WMU began these events about a decade ago. At Blaylock's urging, the retreats were moved exclusively to the state parks. All of the facilities at a given park are rented for the full weekend each year. The students are furnished transportation, room, meals, and registration without paying a penny out of their own pockets. Blaylock claims Kentucky is the only state in the Southern Baptist

Convention that he is aware of where a student participates without it costing him anything.

"It's a mission opportunity in every sense of the word," says Blaylock.

The international student retreats began two decades ago in Kentucky with a small group from a select group of schools. It later combined with a similar retreat in Tennessee. But as it began to grow, the two states divided. The event drew 250 internationals in 1984, the largest such retreat in Kentucky to date.

Dwight Lyons, Baptist campus minister for metropolitan Louisville, has the assignment of coordinating these retreats. Programs include small group discussions, participation by summer mission teams, music, recreation activities, an international talent show which is a highlight of each retreat, and several worship experiences.

Each retreat is concluded on Sunday morning with an address by a visiting speaker on the subject "Why I Am a Christian." That honor this year went to Ronnie Prevost, associate professor of Christian education, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

He allowed that he became a Christian "not because of some other people but in spite of some other people." He alluded to racism and war done "in the name of Christianity" which Prevost claimed "bothered me."

"But as I understand the scriptures," he explained, "I realized I was free to react in a different way." He said he saw Jesus as one who treated people as "special," one who "abhorred" racism, suffering and oppression.

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Nov. 5, 1985

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### A new interpretation

The Tuesday, Nov. 12 and Wednesday, Nov. 13 evening sessions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention meeting in Lexington will be interpreted for the hearing impaired. According to Bill Jagger, KBC Direct Missions Department staffer, this is the second time these evening sessions have been interpreted. Sessions begin both evenings at 7 p.m., with pre-session music at 6:45.

# sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

## A threat to peace

All across the Southern Baptist Convention people express a genuine desire for peace in our denomination. A "Peace Committee" has been appointed and is at work. Constant prayer is offered for peace by thousands of Baptists every day. Thus one would assume all Southern Baptists are in the mood for a peaceful settlement of our differences so that we might get on with spreading the gospel of Christ.

Wrong. An undercurrent of suspicion, distrust and unforgiveness is still very much a factor in our corporate life. This was graphically illustrated by an incident in Missouri.

Kenneth Chafin, professor of preaching at Southern Seminary, was scheduled to be the Bible teacher for the 1985 Missouri Baptist Convention. His scheduled appearances on the MBC program angered a number of Missouri Baptists who responded with protests. Chafin says the tension between him and some Missouri Baptists goes back as far as 1979 when he was on the board of trustees of Southwestern Seminary and spoke in defense of the seminaries.

According to the Oct. 17, 1985 edition of Word and Way, the state paper of the Missouri Baptist Convention, Bill Dudley, pastor of Carpenter Street Church in Moberly, Mo., said he and "other like-minded individuals intend to challenge Chafin's appearance" on the program of the state convention.

Dudley said a motion will be made to remove Chafin from the program. If the move to replace Chafin does not succeed, Dudley said he would not be surprised if some of the brethren walked out in protest, thus disrupting the convention sessions.

In a personal conversation with Chafin I learned the disgruntled Missouri Baptists had indeed threatened to walk out each time Chafin stood to teach if he is left on the program.

This event is new in nature because it involves the fellowship of a state convention in the same kind of rumpus we have known in the SBC these past few years. We are accustomed to this kind of petulance in the larger body but thus far our state conventions have been spared the agony of such rude tactics to make a point. The denominational politics so prevalent in the SBC has been noticeably absent in state conventions but one wonders if this is a sign of things to come?

The unhappy Missouri people have the right, as does every Baptist, to object to anyone appearing on any program. They have a right to protest. They have a right to bring their grievances directly to the floor of the convention for the ultimate decision by the body. They have a right to stay away from any portion of any program in protest because they do not like the program personalities or the program content. These are the rights of every Baptist and

should be preserved at all costs.

However, it is one thing to contend for an idea but quite another to create a disturbance when one loses a vote in a democratic body. That is childish conduct by any standard.

The threat to walk out every time Chafin stood to teach is the same kind of stuff we have been hearing for years, that is, do it my way or don't do it at all.

Chafin responded to all of this by withdrawing as the Bible teacher. In a telegram to John Gilbert, president of the Missouri Baptist Convention, and Rheubin L. South, executive secretary-treasurer, Chafin said:

"For almost a year I have looked forward to teaching the Bible at the Missouri Baptist Convention. I have recently learned that a controversy has arisen among some of the brethren about my being on the program and that there has been a threat of disruption at the meeting if I am allowed to speak. I view the Bible study period as the time for preparing the hearts of the messengers to do God's business. Because of my love for God's word and my desire to build up the Kingdom rather than be the occasion for undermining it, I feel that it would serve Christ's cause better for me to withdraw from the program. Be assured of my love for Missouri Baptists and of my prayer for you as you meet."

Some Baptists will see Chafin's withdrawal as an act of cowardice because they would insist he go to the Missouri Baptist Convention and defy the angry brethren at whatever cost. This they would characterize as the courage of conviction, no matter the damage done to the Baptist quest for peace, nor the absence of any redemptive outcome from such action.

Others will see Chafin's response as the act of a Christian gentleman who is carrying out the words of Jesus about going a second mile or turning the other cheek. This act of humility and acquiescence they would characterize as the only way God can bring peace to his troubled people.

No matter how we view this incident, one thing is clear: no one wins anything.

Missouri Baptists are in the same mess as the SBC and unless God moves to produce repentance, humility and genuine Christlikeness among all of us, we will be mired continually in mediocrity and impotence. Pressure groups for special interests are the kiss of death for state conventions.

Is the desire for peace among us universal? Not hardly. There are still those who would rather create havoc if they are denied their way than to give a little and find the pathway to peace. Only the Lord knows how long this will go on before he tires of our folly and moves on to some other more worthy people. Then where will we be?

## western recorder

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

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

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by Richard Hale

# Profiles from my old Kentucky home

## HAZEL CHISHOLM

It was a lazy summer afternoon but Hazel Chisholm wasn't finding much time to rest.

Every few minutes the phone in her Franklin home would ring. The phone interrupted again and she went to answer it. "I have some spots left, but they are not choice spots," she said into the phone. "I'll be glad to let you have one if you want it."

She continued to explain the location of the booth for the annual craft show at the Southern Kentucky Region of the Antique Automobile Clubs of America meet.

This is the 11th year the meet has been held in Franklin. One of the main reasons is the work of Mrs. Chisholm. When the meet first came to Franklin Mrs. Chisholm organized a crafts fair on the court house lawn to coincide with it.

The antique car enthusiasts liked the exhibits. Instead of continuing their practice of moving the car show from one town to another, the AACA decided to return to Franklin the next year. They have kept coming and so have the craftsmen. This year over 150 craftsmen were assigned to the 210 booth spaces mapped out by her on the court house lawn.

The large increases in the number of exhibitors can be credited to the friendliness of Mrs. Chisholm. Though not citing specific instances, she noted, "Just the way you meet and treat people is a witness."

The Chisholms began their craft business without really intending to do so. "We made ourselves some decoupage plaques and some friends

liked them and wanted some," Mrs. Chisholm explained. "We made a few more for other people, and the whole thing just mushroomed."

Her involvement in organizing craft shows has mushroomed also. She has organized shows for Two Rivers Mall, Clarksville, Tenn., Pennyriple Mall, Hopkinsville, and the Greenwood Mall, Bowling Green.

Mrs. Chisholm explained, "Since my husband is retired, it gives us something to do and someplace to go." As they go their genuine Christian spirit and actions are a witness to their customers and fellow craftsmen.

They are active members of Calvary Baptist Church, Franklin where Mrs. Chisholm has taught three year olds in Sunday school 18 years. Chisholm is a deacon and chairman of the trustees.

When Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus he admonished them to labor with their hands to do that which was good and to use that in helping others. Mrs. Chisholm follows that advice.

## KENNETH HARPER

Kenneth Harper, better known around Simpson County as "Chico," is the county judge-executive. One of the first things you notice when you enter his office is his friendly smile. Next you notice his Bible prominently displayed on his desk since it is an important part of his personal and business life.

Harper was saved as a 13 year old at Auburn Presbyterian Church and was ordained as a deacon as a young man. After marrying, he joined Middleton Baptist Church because "I felt it was important for a family to be in the same church."

Harper continues to be an active and vital member of Middleton church where his wife Clara Nell is a Sunday school teacher and organist. He views the church, not only as a place of ministry and worship, but also as a cohesive force in the community.

His Christian faith is evident in the execution of his responsibilities as judge-executive. At the meetings of the fiscal court, the first order of business is always prayer, usually led by a local pastor.

"As far as I know, every pastor in the county has been represented at least once. Many people have told me they have been in fiscal court meetings in several places and mine is the only one they know of that opens with prayer," Harper claimed.

When young couples come to him to get married, Harper encourages them to find a minister to perform the ceremony. "It is important for a

minister to counsel with them as they begin a new life together."

Christian principles are evident in the execution of his job. Realizing the temptation to show partiality and to bend the law is always present, Harper said, "You've always heard if you get into politics, you've got to be crooked. You don't! That's up to the individual. It's not politics that make a man crooked."

Harper's fellow workers in the court house attest to his honesty and integrity.

Joe H. Weideman is property valuation administrator of Simpson County and occupies the office next to Harper. Commenting on a recent Kentucky Supreme Court decision in Harper's favor regarding a wet-dry election, Weideman said, "I appreciate the fact he has enough backbone to stand up for what he thinks is right. He is a man of real character."

## BILLY R. GROVES

Upon retiring from the army as a lieutenant colonel five years ago, Billy R. Groves and his family moved to a small farm in the Plano community of Warren county. After 30 years in the service Groves was ready for a life of leisure—hunting, fishing and farming. Things haven't worked out exactly as he planned.

The Muhlenburg county native graduated from Western Kentucky University with a degree in agriculture and a commission as second lieutenant in the army. With his wife of three years Groves headed for Ft. Sill, Okla. and the officer training school. He was then assigned to Ft. Bragg, N. C., which was followed by stints in Korea and Ft. Bliss, Tex., before he returned to Ft. Sill.

Vicenza, Italy was his next location.

After Italy, Groves was stationed at Ft. Jackson, Ala. for a year, preparing new recruits for service in Viet Nam. Most of Groves' assignments in the service were as either unit commander or as chief of operations.

When Groves returned from Viet Nam he was assigned to the office of the deputy chief of staff for logistics in the Pentagon. This three year stint was followed by three years in Panama after which he was again assigned to the Pentagon. His final assignment was as an assistant to the Inspector General. Groves traveled throughout the U. S. and to seven foreign countries, evaluating Army policies and proposing changes for better use of equipment

and personnel.

Shortly after arriving in Plano, Groves and his family joined Plano Baptist Church where he and his wife Mary quickly became leaders. Groves was elected to teach young adult couples. Mrs. Groves was chosen to teach in one of the children's departments.

Many of Plano's members are enlightened by his teaching because he teaches the youth or older children in vacation Bible school each year. He recently completed a study course class for adults on the ministry of Jesus.

Seemingly his teaching positions would be enough, but Groves also is church treasurer, deacon and representative on the Warren Association executive board.

Sandwiched between all these jobs and those of his wife, who is director of the youth choir and president of Baptist women, Groves finds time to sing in the choir and occasionally usher.

With the exception of a yearly deer hunting trip, Groves hasn't had a chance to do much hunting or fishing yet. He spends his time hunting for prospects and fishing for men. The lieutenant colonel may have retired, but the soldier for Christ keeps on working.

## BILL SKINNER

"Retirement doesn't mean quitting, just shifting gears and pointing in a new direction."

With these words Bill Skinner closed his final column to members of the Warren Rural Electric Cooperative in the News and Views section of The Rural Kentuckian. For 27 years Skinner had written and edited the four page insert as coordinator of member services and public relations for the Bowling Green utility company.

Speaking to a reporter about his retirement, Skinner remarked, "I look at retirement as another opportunity." It will be possible to catch up on some things.

As a writer, Skinner looks forward to the prospects of doing some freelance work. Prior to his work with WRECC Skinner served as a reporter and city editor for the Daily News in Bowling Green. "I have been writing most of my life," mused Skinner. "I would like to continue to write."

WRECC manager Floyd Ellis remarked, "On one occasion he wrote about his own open-heart surgery because he thought it might help others to cope with a similar experience." According to Ellis this is typical of Skinner who believes a hobby ought to benefit either the person involved or someone else.

Skinner loves to work with young people. It has helped to keep him much younger than his 62 years. He has been a 4-H leader for 38 years and was president of the Warren

County 4-H council for 10 years and the state 4-H council for one year.

Ham radio is one of the things he hopes to catch up on in his retirement. He has used this as a means of contact with his cousin, William Skinner, missionary to Paraguay.

"We have not kept a regular schedule recently because William is away from Asuncion most of the time helping to establish a medical center in one of the remote areas of the country."

Skinner's experience several years ago when a major earthquake hit Alaska illustrates his belief that hobbies ought to be beneficial. He stayed at his radio for 36 straight hours handling messages from people in Alaska to family members in "the lower 48."

When told of recent plans for a communications team as part of the Kentucky Brotherhood Disaster Relief Program, Skinner replied enthusiastically, "Now that's the kind of thing I'm interested in doing." With 25 years' experience as a ham operator he can do it well.

He does many things well. Whether it's writing, working with youth, operating his radio or being involved at Rich Pond Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Skinner uses his abilities to help others. He teaches Sunday school, is an ordained deacon and represents his church on the associational executive board.



**James H. Cox**  
Associate Editor

## fourth estate

### Crossfire!

Who is the loneliest person in a Southern Baptist church?

A friend and I had an interesting discussion on this subject awhile back. He gave me some well thought out reasons why the loneliest member is often the pastor. I listened attentively. My friend had spent three decades in the pastorate, and cited instances to substantiate his claim.

When he had finished, I observed, "I agree with much of what you say. But consider the other staff members in a church with multiple staff. The minister of education or music or youth director who is caught in a crossfire with influential members of the congregation and with the minister is potentially lonelier than a pastor."

My friend thought a moment and said, "You're probably right."

From time to time we hear of unfortunate incidents in which the congregation-pastor relationship deteriorates and becomes an awkward situation. Eventually, it may be resolved in a dismissal, resignation or early retirement, disrupting the fellowship. In extreme cases it leads to a congregational split.

But consider the staff member who may gain disfavor among a handful of powerful members. The pastor may have served happily with the staff member for years. Yet, rightly or wrongly, the pastor is provoked into siding with the "trouble makers." Imagine the consternation of the poor staffer! Surely there has been wrong on both sides. Yet, he has felt a call to ministry in this place, and believes God has not yet led him from it.

Let me add that I know of cases where it is best for a pastor and staffer to separate in the interest of harmony in the church. While it is more often likely that, if one staffer must go it will not be the pastor, in some cases it is or it may be both. Yet, I know churches where one or the other staffer has left when it would probably have been to everybody's advantage if some of the laity had also gone.

I don't have answers for all of the reasons that may lead a congregation and its staff to such a crisis. But my belief is that when Jesus remains the focal point of all that is done by a church, influencing the actions of its members and staff, such situations do not occur.

My heart goes out to staff members—pastors and others—who find themselves in trouble. They are not infallible; I don't know one who claims it. But what we Christians do to them are some of the vilest things we do to human beings. Why not resolve to say a kind word to those who faithfully serve you, often in a very lonely capacity?

## FBC Morehead has 10-day centennial celebration

They came—nearly 600 of them—in colorful fall weather—to mark the observance of their church's 100th anniversary, Oct. 4. "They" are members and former members of Morehead's First Baptist Church.

The celebration began Sept. 29 when members dressed in old-fashioned dress for an old-fashioned series of 10 meetings. Pastor Don Mantooth launched the revival efforts with the theme "Guided By His Spirit We Grow Through Vision."

Theme variations followed in each service as former pastors and campus pastors reminisced and preached. Guest choirs from the community ren-

dered special music at each service.

Sunday evening was historical night and the memorial supper was served. Former Morehead State University campus minister David Book joined former Baptist Student Union members Monday evening in renewing old acquaintances.

Former pastors participating in the week's activities including J. C. Raikes, 1952-63, Kenneth R. Cole, 1964-69, and R. D. Baker, 1972-73. Cole led in the Wednesday night noteburning ceremony for the new sanctuary.

In addition to Book, other campus leaders present were Emery Smith, 1964-68, and Don Blaylock, 1968-70.

William Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer, Kentucky Baptist Convention, highlighted state and association night, Friday, Oct. 4.

A Saturday night banquet with a four-tiered cake marked the birthday celebration. In concert for the evening were The Covenant Singers of Lexington.

The congregation organized Oct. 4, 1885 with 40 charter members following a series of meetings led by Mt. Sterling Baptist Church. A 60-page publication developed by the church recognizes the historical events surrounding this 300-member congregation's 100 years.

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# Oneida pastor hosts weekly 'street meeting'

by Beth Wyatt, State Correspondent

The drive down Highway 11 in Clay County was picturesque as the hills are ablaze in color and the "street meeting" in the small town was just as colorful in spirit.

The weekly preaching session was the burden and brainchild of Crane Creek Baptist Church. The church in turn asked Joel Rackley, pastor of Oneida Baptist, to emcee and implement the program. Each week he has been assisted by Golden Hensley and Beth Alexander of Crane Creek and Carlyle Houchell of Brutus Baptist Church. Other singers and laypersons from the area have joined in to make it a successful ministry.

Begun in September, the crowd has grown to around 100 and those who are giving their efforts are pleased at the answered prayers as they reach out to touch lives of people in Oneida who do not attend church. "Equally, it gives an opportunity for many persons to witness," says Rackley.

Becky Mohedano ministers in sign language. The local sheriff, Harold Sizemore, and others on the county law enforcement team have been available to block off River Street in the quiet town and direct traffic for the weekly assembly.

Local businessmen have donated the electricity and each Sunday the group gathers in front of a vacant building that formerly housed the community pool hall. The audience meets in a yard of the town's restaurant across the street and chairs are provided by the restaurant owners.

According to Rackley, the meetings are one more effort to reach our Bold Mission Thrust goal and to minister in our "Jerusalem."

The jovial pastor is a man of many hats. He is relatively new in the area but one of the most active and inspiring servants. Serving the Oneida Church which for several years has ranked in



[l-r]: Carlyle Houchell, Becky Mohedano, Bertha Lee, Beth Alexander, Joel Rackley and Golden Hensley sing gospel songs at the beginning of the weekly "Street Meeting" in Oneida.

the top 10 in baptisms would be enough for some, but not for the former Virginian who came to the area almost by accident in 1979 and stayed! His wife, Betty, an Oneida alumnus, wanted to

attend her 25th anniversary homecoming. Upon their arrival they learned the small community church did not have a pastor and he was asked to preach for them.

He was called as pastor of Oneida Baptist Church, consequently resigning Mineral (Va.) Baptist Church. Shortly after assuming the pastorate, he began a ministry outreach with nearby Oneida Institute.

Rackley serves as campus minister and sponsor of the Oneida Baptist Student Union, the only high school BSU organization in the nation. Under the auspices of this organization a Christian Growth group has been organized, encouraging discipleship among students. They meet each Wednesday night.

In addition a devotional time for students has been developed under his leadership and each evening at 9:30 from 50 to 150 students gather at the church for devotions.

The "street meeting" is not the only community involvement Rackley participates in. Each week his column, "In and Around Oneida," is enjoyed by the hundreds of readers of Manchester Enterprise. This has in turn been used as a promotional tool for the weekly street meeting.

He finds time to serve on various committees of the Booneville Baptist Association, just stepping down as moderator. He also has participated in the Clay County Community Chorus productions of Handel's "Messiah" for the past two years.

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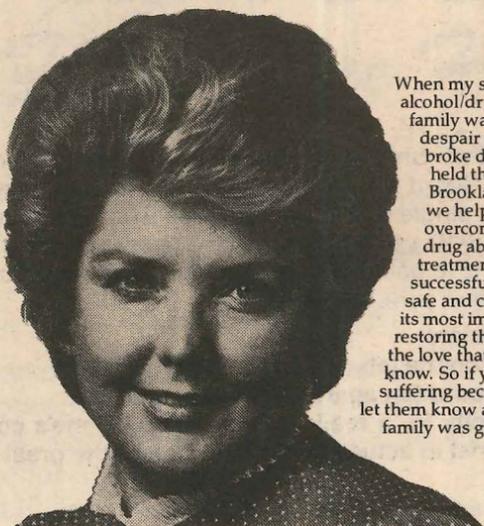
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J.C.A.H. Accredited

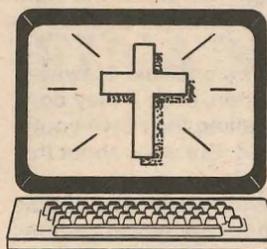
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# baptist news in brief

## 50 new congregations goal of Mexican effort

Amid the rubble of two major earthquakes, Mexico City Baptists have launched a project challenging every Baptist church in the city to organize a new church during the next year.

The "September 19th Project" — named for the date of the first of two earthquakes which struck Mexico City — emerged as Baptists recognized the many new opportunities for ministry beyond immediate earthquake relief work.

Mexican Baptists already were aiming to start 100 churches nationwide by the end of 1986. In light of the many needs and opportunities created by the earthquakes, the even more ambitious goal of 50 new churches in Mexico City alone is seen as realistic. (BP)

## Baptists in Mexico ask: Who can replace Jim?

Even before Southern Baptists in Mexico and the United States began to cope with their shock and grief, the question emerged: Who can replace

Jim Philpot? The 46 year old administrator wasn't a dynamic, charismatic leader. He just got things done. "As long as Jim was there, everything was all right," said one coworker.

Colleagues described Philpot as a man ideally suited both for working with Mexican Baptist leaders and for handling the needs and problems of more than 100 Southern Baptist representatives and their families. He didn't hesitate to speak his mind, but he knew how to listen. He was a gentle man, a diplomat. He rarely lost patience either with people or the endless details of administration.

He grew up on a small farm in what he called "the poor and rocky hills of western Arkansas." In those days, he once wrote, "hard times were common." But he formed a love for the land which he never lost.

He studied agriculture and dairy production in college, worked as a county agent in Arkansas and Texas and later attended seminary. He married Jurhee Sheffield in 1961, and the two were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967. They went to Mexico with two young daughters.

Southern Baptist representatives in Mexico elected Philpot chairman of their organization in 1974, and he moved to Mexico City in 1977 to handle the assignment on a full time basis. As chairman he led the organization to adopt strategic planning and helped bring about "integration," a gradual unification of Mexican Baptist and Southern Baptist ministries which many believe has helped boost church growth and baptisms.

One personal goal Philpot never accomplished was to start a church in Mexico City. Mrs. Philpot hopes people wanting to send gifts in memory of her husband will send funds to the Foreign Mission Board designated to buy property for a new church in Mexico City.

## BTN will broadcast missions teleconference

Southern Baptists all over the country will have the opportunity to become living links in a giant prayer chain Nov. 23 by participating in the second annual Foreign Missions Teleconference.

Foreign missionaries and Southern Baptist missions agency heads will be among the experts gathered in Birmingham, Ala. to broadcast prayer requests and current missions information to viewing sites around the nation.

The teleconference will be broadcast over the Baptist Telecommunications Network from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. EST. Anyone with a satellite dish may view the teleconference by tuning to Spacenet 1, channel 21-transponder 11. The BTN signal will not be scrambled at this time.

Teleconference participants will include Carolyn Weatherford, national Woman's Missionary Union executive director; R. Keith Parks, Foreign Mission Board president; and James Smith, Brotherhood Commission president.

On furlough from Ethiopia, missionary Jerry Bedsole will take part in the live Birmingham program, along with Charlotte and Carter Davis, foreign missionaries to Granada. Phone calls will be made to several missionaries serving overseas.

Teleconference viewers will be able to participate by calling the Birmingham site with questions and comments.

## B'hood trustees handle a myriad of matters

In a combined meeting with state Brotherhood leaders in Memphis, Tenn., trustees of the Brotherhood Commission elected new officers, voted to spend \$24,881 to improve the agency's shipping and mailing facilities, approved changes in Brotherhood materials effective in 1987 and heard reports on a wide range of Brotherhood activities.

Norris Stampely, a retired executive with Mississippi Power and Light Co., Jackson, was elected chairman. Leslie Albro, an automotive dealership owner from Jeffersonville, Ind., was voted vice chairman, and Bill Summerlin, a Gaston, Ala., hospital administrator, was elected secretary. Commission president James H. Smith was reelected treasurer.

The Brotherhood Commission will revamp its 6000 square foot shipping and storage facilities and add shrink wrapping equipment which will automate the magazine mailing process.

Changes in the commission's monthly magazines for Royal Ambassadors were approved effective with October 1987 issues which will enable the agency to more finely focus the age level content.

The financial report revealed receipts exceeded disbursements by \$200,000 during the commission's fiscal year which closed Sept. 30, 1985.

Trustees approved a preliminary budget of \$3,136,500 for 1986-87. (BP)

## Gheens center offers Christmas workshop

The Gheens Center for Christian family ministry will offer "Family Christmas Preparation: A Workshop and Worship" Nov. 15 from 7-9:30 p.m. on the campus of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

According to center director Michael Hester, the intergenerational celebration is to help families understand and manage the Christmas season more meaningfully. He also hopes the event will provide and model ideas for families and churches.

Workshop topics will include: Advent wreath; calendar and devotions; Christmas customs and stories; creative low budget gift giving; meaningful Christmas decorations; celebrating in song; and Christmas readings.

Cost is \$1 per person or \$2 per family.

For more information contact Pat Hunsucker at Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Rd., Louisville, KY 40280, (502) 897-4011, ext. 4315.

## Peace effort affirmed by Midwestern board

Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, during their semi-annual meeting in October, adopted a statement affirming the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee, voted to complete a trustee scholarship endowment and heard committee reports.

Trustees also voted to complete the endowment of a \$500 trustee scholar-

### For the economy conscious church . . .

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## Unwanted Kids

"If I had my life to live over, I wouldn't have a family. We did all the 'right stuff,' yet our children are insensitive, thoughtless, self-centered adults." So wrote one mother to Ann Landers.

A shocking claim? Yes. But we hear it oftener than we once did. However, this is a small percentage. Most parents love their children, even if they don't turn out exactly as planned. Parents have a way of recalling their own youth, how they themselves didn't always please Mom and Dad. But what about that small segment who do resent their children?

Guilt-ridden parents do well to remember they are not totally responsible for how their kids turn out. Peer pressure, friends, school, society in general, music, television, magazines — all of these help mold the personalities of the young. So put a little blame on a materialistic society that urges them to "look out for No. 1." And on advertising which tells guys that popularity is just a soft drink away. Or that a new shade of make-up can transform a shy teenager into a Cinderella.

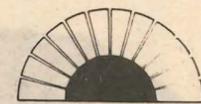
Parents need help — not criticism — in rearing their offspring to be caring, sensitive, generous, and outgoing. One way our churches can help is the proper teaching of Christian stewardship. Even if churches were fully endowed, youth need the ageless truth that giving and growing are one.

Planned Growth in Giving does just that. It's not another gimmick, a mere pitch for a big offering. It majors on people, not pledges. It helps youth as well as adults see that self-centered living is stunted living. Hopefully, it helps to mold youth who are a joy to their parents, not a disappointment. For your children's sake, look into Planned Growth. It's a 15-year emphasis, 1985-2000 A.D. Your state stewardship director has details.

### PLANNED GROWTH IN GIVING

"More than a slogan — bigger than a program"

KENTUCKY BAPTIST  
CHILD CARE  
PROGRAM



Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children

Spring Meadows Children's Home is a division of the Kentucky Baptist Board of Child Care. We are currently seeking houseparents: single or married couples who would live in a cottage with 8-10 young people. The houseparents' major responsibility is to become actively involved in the lives of the youth under their care. We offer:

- a full-time salary
- continuing, on the job, education opportunities
- room and board (an apartment in the cottage)
- an opportunity for a realistic expression of one's commitment to Christ in actually satisfying one of the great needs of our time
- developing a new concept in child care.

Contact For More Information:

SPRING MEADOWS CHILDREN'S HOME

Charles Corrigan - 502-245-2161

**CRIES FOR HELP**  
By Martha Creel,  
Regional Coordinator

separation . . .  
babies being adopted  
children in foster care  
teenagers in shelters and on  
campuses  
all apart from their families  
for months, years

broken families . . .  
many parts who worked together  
each relating to and influencing the  
other  
one or more parts changed their  
functioning  
all others were affected  
all tried to adapt in their own way

pain . . .  
physical separation, divorce  
emotional wounds, never quite  
acceptable  
physical beating, punishment gone  
too far  
sexual abuse, bring confusion about  
how children relate to adults  
drugs and alcohol, blurring values  
lack of experience in knowing how  
to parent

developmental scars . . .  
unable to trust  
never getting close, a protective  
wall built all around  
immaturity, regression  
living for now, unable to plan for  
the future  
no positive view of self-worth  
constant rebellion, clamps were put  
on too tight or not at all  
always following and unable to take  
a stand  
giving up on school, too hard to  
catch up

feelings . . .  
scared, terrified  
defensive, always on edge  
angry, full of rage  
unable to trust, tired of being let  
down  
quiet, feeling invisible  
having no control over self or any  
circumstances

our offerings . . .  
consistent discipline and logical  
consequences for actions  
peer interaction with supervision  
group activities  
family teaching, growth  
learning responsible decision  
making  
working together  
loving guidance  
knowledge of the God who loves  
beyond understanding  
opportunities for change

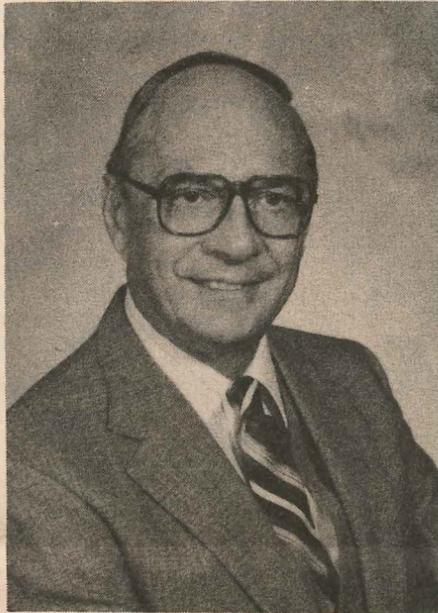
reward . . .  
family members able to function  
together again  
enabling young people to discover  
who they can be  
hugs and smiles  
personal growth  
joyful tears  
appreciating family more than ever  
before  
being part of God's recreating  
process in each of our broken  
lives



my  
thanksgiving  
offering  
for

**Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children**

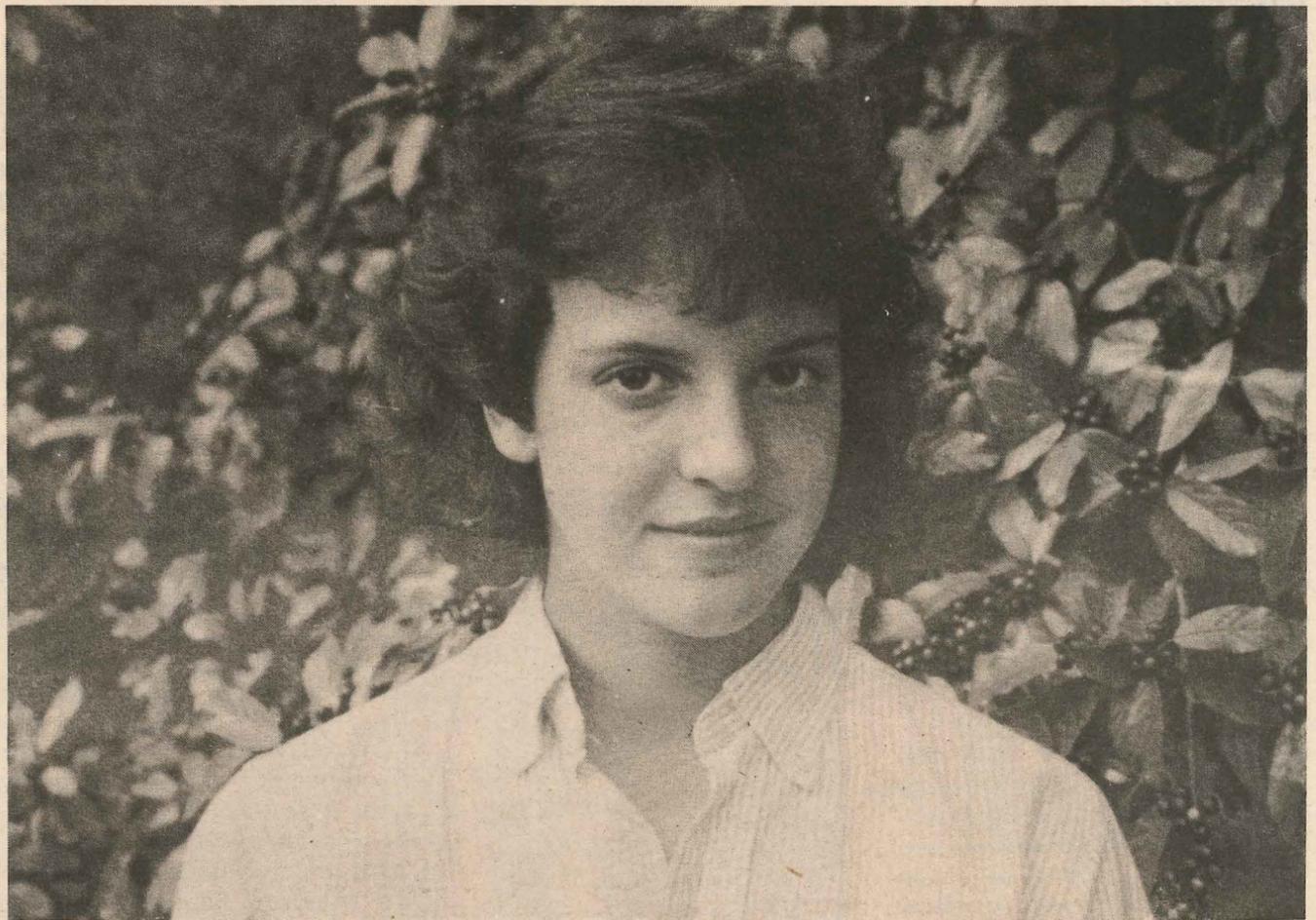
10801 Shelbyville Road, Middletown, Kentucky 40243



**LET'S INCREASE OUR GIFTS. . .**  
By Dr. Verlin C. Kruschwitz,  
Assistant Dean, Boyce Bible School

Across the past thirty-five years, Baptist Homes for Children has held before us a marvelous goal. They have encouraged each of us to give at least One Day's Pay to this ministry through the Thanksgiving Offering—but it has occurred to me that the needs of this ministry to children have continued to grow.

Therefore, I would like to challenge you, my fellow Baptists, to go beyond One Day's Pay this Thanksgiving. Let's increase our gifts beyond One Day's Pay and thus express our heart-felt thanks to God for His goodness to us and our concern for this ministry to needy children.



**CHILDREN'S DAY: November 24, 1985**

# from the director~

## THANKSGIVING DOUBLED By Eldred M. Taylor

The Plymouth Colony holds a special interest for boys and girls. Nearly half of its members were of school age, and it is the colony that gave us a very special holiday—Thanksgiving. The first Thanksgiving was celebrated at Plymouth in 1621 after the harvest had been gathered.

The Pilgrims were deeply religious and sincerely thankful to God for preserving them in this new world. It was a time of abundant food, fellowship and fun. The small colony gathered with about ninety Indians (the Indians outnumbered their hosts by about two to one). It was a joyful time of thanks and friendship. The influence of the Pilgrims and their Indian friends is still felt in this holiday as friends and loved ones gather for a bountiful meal and fellowship.

Thanksgiving is both traditional and biblical. It is both social and religious. It is a great time to give special thanks to God, express thanks to others and share with others.



For many years I have enjoyed the Thanksgiving meal and the joy of being with family and friends at this special time. And for many years I have enjoyed something else about the Thanksgiving season. I have enjoyed participating in the special Thanksgiving Offering for Baptist Homes for Children.

When I count my blessings and attempt to thank God for those blessings, there is something in my heart that desires to share with others. For many years that special Thanksgiving sharing has been in the form of the Thanksgiving Offering through my church.

Now that I see close-up what that offering does to help dependent, neglected children, I am so glad I have had a part in it through many years. My wife and I started out many years ago reaching for the goal of one day's pay. As we were able, we went beyond that goal. With costs of child care higher than ever we realize how important it is that the Thanksgiving Offering be a worthy expression of our thanks to God for all His blessings.

When I celebrate Thanksgiving with a generous offering for Baptist Homes for Children, it makes Thanksgiving Doubled. There is joy in the giving of thanks, joy in making an offering and joy in knowing that youth are being blessed by that gift. May you have your Thanksgiving Doubled this year!



# from an alumnus~



Cooperative Program	9.4%
Thanksgiving Offering	26.3%
Churches and Individuals	17.0%
Investments	20.9%
Miscellaneous	1.8%
Purchase of Care	10.0%
Wills	14.6%

OUR SOURCES OF INCOME

## A BLESSING IN DISGUISE . . .

By Jim McGinnis,  
General Contractor,  
Middletown, Kentucky

"I feel fortunate, looking back on my past, that I was able to come to Spring Meadows because my Dad died when he was 41 years old, and my uncles and aunts in Harrodsburg had our family committed through the courts to the home. It's a blessing in disguise when I look back at it.

"Without Spring Meadows, I would not have made a success of my life. I came to the home in 1941 when I was five years old, and I was here until I was a freshman in college. I attended Morehead College on a football scholarship.

"Mr. Sam Bradley, Mrs. Fields, and Mr. and Mrs. Hatcher all influenced my life to give it meaning and purpose. I would not be where I am today if I had stayed in the environment I was left in after my father's death.

"I now live in the Middletown area, and my wife and I belong to the Woodland Baptist Church. I was with First National Bank for 18 years and had the privilege of open-

ing the branch in Middletown for them. After a short time with Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance Company, I started my own business. One thing I learned at Spring Meadows was to have integrity, and I have built my construction business on that commitment.

"My wife and I have four children and one granddaughter. Our oldest son is a pre-med student at the University of Louisville. Our daughter is a cashier for a finance company, and our two younger boys are in high school. They are playing football like I did when I was in high school and college.

"I think the people at Spring Meadows really do care for the children. From my day, things have changed drastically—that's because of our society. This really is a worthy cause, and they are still doing an excellent job. I think the people of Kentucky can be proud of what they have—of the services that are being offered to help children in need."

# from those who work with children~

## I JUST LOVE KIDS . . .

By Haywood Riner  
Activities Director at Glen Dale

"I came here, convicted that this was God's will and direction for my life, and that's why I am still here. I have been here nearly eight years. My background is in health and education.

"I just love kids. I always felt God had a place for me somewhere between preaching and teaching school. Here I have an opportunity to make use of what I believe are my God-given talents and skills and abilities.

"Such things as volley ball games are used to teach teamwork, sportsmanship, individual skills, and socialization—and most important, to develop relationships. Last

spring in the middle of a volley ball game, I looked over, and Bob Gray, our Christian education director, was sitting on the other side of the gym, holding hands with one of our 16-year olds who had been here a short time. They had their heads bowed, and a few minutes later, he came over and said, 'I just led Penny to Christ.' If you don't see beyond the balls and bats to the relationships and the bottom line of Christ, you've missed the whole thing.

"A lot of your motivation has to come on your knees. Yes, I have a boss, I try to please kids, but most of all, I'm accountable to God. I believe that anybody that is not Christ-centered, this is the wrong place for them. It's not a job—it's a ministry."

## IT'S NOT JUST A JOB . . .

By Lynn Dobbs, Houseparent  
Spring Meadows Children's Home

"My husband is a seminary student, and we decided that this is something that we wanted to do during seminary, not for a life-long career. I am an education major and taught school for four years. We look on this as a ministry—you've got to feel that this is your home and this is your family—you can't come in and think of it as a job.

"We have learned to just love it. I'll miss it when we leave—it will stay with me the rest of my life. We have older boys—17 and 18—and we like that. I didn't realize how attached we'd get to the boys. One just left to go to school, and it was horrible—it was like one of my children was leaving home.

"We chose a church after we came. After visiting some, we chose Highview. We've had two baptized since we've been here. The boys are very involved at Highview. This past Sunday I had two to take to church—the rest had gone home—and when I gathered them up to come home, there were three. This third boy had gone home for the weekend, had got his dad up to bring him to church. This is a child who has never gone to church in his life. He was that involved at Highview, he felt that much need and that comfortable, that he made his dad get up and bring him. We had another child do that not long ago. So that makes you feel Highview is doing something right."

## YOU MUST FEEL CALLED HERE

By Bonnie Williams, Houseparent,  
Spring Meadows Children's Home

"I believe that each person must feel called here. It's a hard job, the hours are long, you get tired easily, but there's a lot of fulfillment in it when you see a child you're ready to give up on begin to make progress—even a small amount—when you see him get enough confidence to come and talk with you—that in itself is fulfillment."

## ABUSE IS INCREASING . . .

By Bill Heaton,  
Coordinator, Western Region

"This year I feel that it is important to share with you some of the problems that we face in working with young people in today's world. As I think about our work at the temporary shelter in Dixon and throughout all parts of the program of Baptist Homes for Children, I am reminded over and over again of the extreme problems that our young people face. I can tell you first hand that physical, emotional and sexual abuse of children today is increasing both in the number of cases and the intensity of such abuse.

"Everyone involved in the Dixon shelter, including myself and the houseparents, sees this as a called ministry. None of us would be in our particular position if it were not for the idea of feeling God's leadership in our work."

## I CAN SEE LIVES CHANGING . . .

By Bob Gray, Houseparent and  
Coordinator of Christian Education  
at Glen Dale Children's Home

"When I came here I wasn't aware of the problems that were deep-seated within our young people. It was almost like a shock. I saw kids that had been physically abused, sexually abused. It jarred me back into the reality of what is really happening in the world, in particular to young people. When we finally realized that, our motivation really started. We saw that there were definite needs there that needed to be met, not only for physical, material things, but also from a spiritual standpoint.

"I can see life changing experiences with our young people. We've had in the last three or four months 14 young people accept Christ. Thirty have rededicated their lives.

"One young man, a couple of weeks ago, as I was passing by, called to me and said, 'Mr. Gray, isn't it great to hear everyone talking about the Lord!' And this young man had been into drugs, alcohol and the whole nine yards. So he's changing now.

"We do care about them. We do love them. Even though they mess up, we try to encourage them to keep on striving and working because most of our young people have a low self-image, don't care a whole lot about themselves.

"That's my main motivation: let them know that they're special and that they can make it. And they're learning that with Christ's help, they can make it."



## AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE . . .

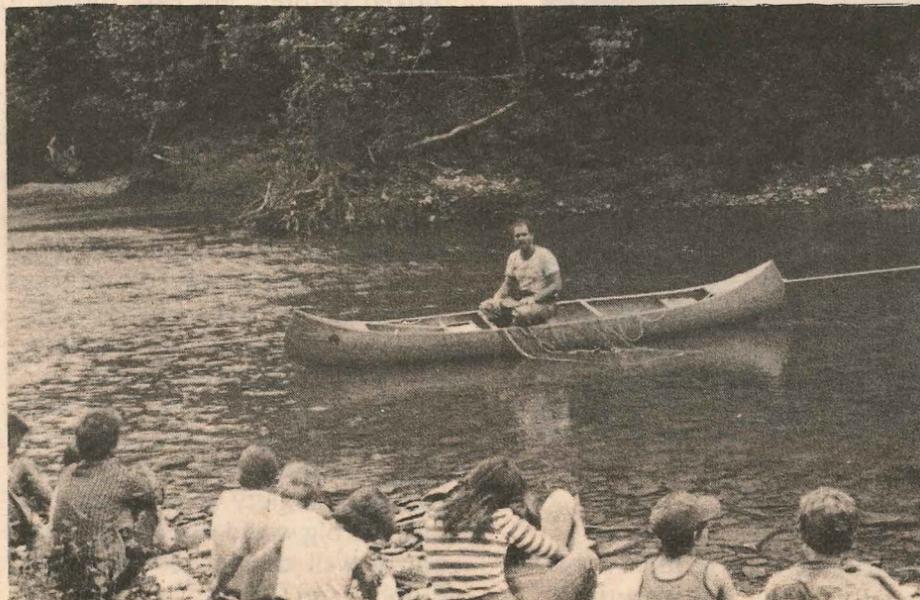
By Sue Carlin, Full-Time Volunteer  
and Wife of the Director of Glen Dale

"I am involved because it's a ministry, and it's an opportunity to serve and to feel that I'm doing something for people that is going to encourage their future, to help brighten their future and broaden their horizons. That's my objective, and I see that happening. We don't make it with everyone, but it does happen with a lot of them.

"My satisfaction comes when I begin to see them grow. I see them making independent decisions or responsible decisions. They start asking to do more responsible things, to assume more responsibility. With the Homeland Singers, it's interesting—they come in, 'I can't sing.' We answer, 'Well, that's o.k. We just enjoy singing. You don't have to have a really good voice. We are just a group.' That's where they start, and later on they get to the point where child after child wants to solo or sing a duet. And that means that they are growing in their own self-esteem, their own self-confidence—and they come in with none!

"4-H is pretty much the same thing. It gives the children opportunities to develop talents and ideas and the creativity that they all have to some degree in some area. I just take great joy in watching a youngster, even if he doesn't have a great voice, stand up in front of a group and give a 4-H speech or show an animal or sing a song to the very best of his ability—and not quit.

"We say to our children, 'We may not like what you do sometimes, but we're not against you—we're for you!'"



# from the children~

By David:

"I have been here about 3 years. Campus life is sometimes good, sometimes bad. It depends on how you want to act as to how far you go up in the levels program. I've learned that if you don't go with the flow of the program, you won't achieve higher levels. The main thing it is based on is behaviour—how you act in the cottage and school and extracurricular activities. Everything goes down in a log. Each houseparent writes something up on you every day—negative or positive. Every two weeks they evaluate you—you stay on a level, or go up or down. You maintain a level until you are ready to handle more responsibility, then you move up. It's up to you, whether you cooperate with the program. I'm back on level one, but have been on level three and four before. I held level four for about 3 months. If you want to cooperate, it's not hard to maintain. If you want to be good, you can be—if you want to be negative, you can be negative, but you will suffer the consequences.

"Generally speaking, experience here has helped me control my behaviour, to know when to express my feelings, and how to deal with them. If some one jumped on me, in the past I would jump on them. Now I'm learning to control my anger and not jump down so much. I wish I wasn't on level one, but I have enough will power to get myself back up. Sometimes I'm good for three months, then I slip off into my old ways of being negative and not positive. I've been doing better this past week.

"I am interested in computers and plan to take a course in high school. Then I plan on going to U.K. I want to be in the R.O.T.C. or the Air Force and get a scholarship. You have to earn leadership. Col. Cox told me I have the potential for leadership. I know I need an education in today's world."



By Derrick:

"It's nice here. I have some nice houseparents — I like them a lot. Karen is like my mother — she always talks to me and everything."

By Bridgett:

"I like it here. They help you work on your problems. We have something good here. We have levels and groups. You have a group of your peers—it is a positive group, and they help you face your problems—they really do. It's hard not to listen to your peers.

"We keep real busy. I'm never bored or anything. It keeps you out of trouble and helps you to have responsibility.

"I am so thankful for this home that you don't even know! I don't know what would have happened to me if I hadn't been here. I don't know what it is about this place!

"I plan to be a missionary. I have been accepted at Western, but I may be going to Georgetown or to Campbellsville. I will need to have some financial aid."



By Diane:

"It's been fun up here. It's helped me a lot with my problems and everything. I've learned something here, like when I was home, I didn't want to do nothin', but now I want to do all kinds of stuff. And I'm doing good."



By Priscilla:

"I've been here for a year. It means a whole lot to me. When I first came I was always in trouble, and now I have become a Christian over the summer. It has helped me a whole lot with my problems and helped me face them. My houseparents have helped me a whole lot.

"Right now I'm planning to stay here until I graduate, but something could happen. Yesterday, I went to talk with a state worker, and I might be sent to a foster home.

"This place is really good. I love the girls here; we all love each other and help each other. It's fun living with those your own age.

"I want to go to college and become a nurse. If I can I want to be a nurse somehow—maybe a surgical nurse. I love little kids and love to work with them."

By Darren:

"I came here three and a half years ago in '81 or '82 in my freshman year. I didn't like it at first—I had a bad record at first of running away. They said if I ran again I was leaving for good, and that's when I set my head straight and decided to stay here.

"Last year I moved to this cottage, and the first day here, I had the privilege of getting up at 5:30 and cooking breakfast. That was really great because I had never cooked before. My eggs turned green, and I still get teased about the green eggs.

"We have a real close group over here—it's just like being brothers. We trust each other, and we live together like a big family. There's a lot of responsibility that comes in this cottage. If we don't do something right, one of the cottage peers will remind us, and then if we still don't do it, then it's our problem. It's a very caring atmosphere.

"I personally like the place and am not looking forward to graduation. I graduate this year, and I've got some anxiety about going out into the big world out there. I have pretty well decided on going to Cumberland College."

By Jimmy:

"I first came here when I was 9 years old, and am now here for the third time. The first time I left I went home to my dad. The second time I went to a foster home in Independence.

"I can judge by the two times that I came back: I believe this was the place for me. You know, God has a plan for everybody, and this is His plan for me. It's what you make of it—if you're willing to work with the program and staff, it'll help you.

"I'm involved in photography, food and nutrition, journalism and junior leadership. We don't give the staff a whole lot of credit sometimes where credit is due, but they're very helpful, and they are concerned about us. I can tell that myself by the way they conduct themselves."



By Chris:

"I've been here since 1983—about two years. When I first came here I had a whole lot of problems, and I've been working toward making something out of myself. I think I've turned for the good. I am starting to take on responsibility—have just overall bettered myself. I think this place has helped me a lot. Sometimes I feel like I don't want to be here—and at other times, I do, but that's normal for anybody."

ship awarded annually to a qualified Midwestern student. Trustees began the scholarship in April 1982.

Reports included information on a record fall enrolment of 613 students and an update on the campus master plan, a 10-year campus development program approved by trustees in 1983. (BP)

### Baptist envelope service Nashville bound by Jan.

The Baptist Book Store Envelope Service, which provides offering envelopes to thousands of Southern Baptist churches, is moving from Chester, W. Va., to Nashville, Tenn.

According to Mark King, supervisor of direct sales in the Baptist Sunday School Board's Book Store Division, all envelope service operations will be located in Nashville by Jan. 1, 1986.

Effective immediately churches may contact the service by calling toll free 1-800-874-6319. Correspondence may be addressed to Baptist Book Store Envelope Service, 127 Ninth Avenue, N., Nashville, TN 37234.

The service, which provides Southern Baptists with more than 150 million individual envelopes each year, offers preprinted, printed-to-order and undated envelopes. Record forms, church stationery, bulletins and calling cards are available, as well as envelopes to support stewardship efforts.

### Jolly firm engaged in KBC media effort

Jolly Communications, a Louisville headquartered, full service public relations, advertising, marketing, research and telemarketing firm has been selected to serve the Kentucky Baptist Convention in its "Good News, America, God Loves You" media missions effort.

Jolly Communications has previously been media communications consultant to the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, and the Annuity Board, Dallas, Tex.

Jolly Communications, established five years ago, has expanded its headquarters at 4016 Shelbyville Rd., St. Matthews, and employs nine full time, 15 part time and 125 consulting specialists on an "as-needed" basis.

### Sunday schools gain in new starts: BSSB

Southern Baptists started 874 new Sunday schools during the 1984-85 church year for a total of 9326 new Sunday schools reported since an emphasis on new starts began in 1977.

Texas reported 311 Sunday schools while Florida had the second highest total with 72.

Four conventions met their goals for new Sunday school starts for the year. Ohio had a goal of 30 and started 35 new Sunday schools. New England met its goal of 25 new Sunday schools, Kansas/Nebraska topped its goal of 10 with 17 new Sunday schools while Alaska started 12 new Sunday schools with a goal of eight. (BP)

### Neither snow nor else keeps Nevadans away

During its seventh annual meeting the Nevada Baptist Convention adopted a \$1,132,000 budget and elected Jim McLeroy, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Las Vegas, as president of the convention.

The convention was held in Winnemucca, Nev., and despite snowstorms, 137 messengers and almost 100 visitors attended. Many of the messengers had to drive through heavy snowfall—particularly in the mountain passes—en route to the meeting.

The \$1.1 million 1986 budget reflects an anticipated Cooperative Program income of \$325,000, down from \$390,000 projected in the 1985 budget. Currently, the convention is running 15 to 18 percent behind in anticipated revenues and the trimmed back estimates are in keeping with current revenues. The \$325,000 will come from the 70 churches and 70 missions affiliated with the NBC; the remainder will come from the Home Mission Board and Baptist Sunday School Board.

The convention voted to increase world missions giving from 21 to 22 percent—to \$71,500. (BP)

### Cates, retired Georgia evangelism secretary dies

O. M. Cates, former evangelism secretary for the Georgia Baptist Conven-

tion, died Oct. 23 after a series of three heart attacks. He was 67.

Cates had been director of Georgia Baptists' evangelism efforts for almost two decades, from 1963 to 1983 when he retired.

A native of Tifton, Ga., Cates was a graduate of University of Georgia, Athens, and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Cates was a member of the board of directors for the Foreign Mission Board for eight years. (BP)

### Georgetown College adds three to faculty

The executive committee of Georgetown College's board of trustees elected three new faculty members for the 1985-86 school year, according to Joe Lewis, vice president of academic affairs.

All three appointees hold doctoral degrees with disciplines in education, biology and religion. Their appointments bring the total of doctorates on the college's full time faculty to 49.

Those elected are James E. Pack, education; Mark C. Johnson, biology; and William R. Higgs, religion.

Pack, in addition to faculty responsibilities, has been appointed dean of graduate studies. He has experience covering the full range of public school teaching/administration.

Pack holds an undergraduate degree from Morehead (Ky.) State University. He was awarded the master's degree by Georgetown College in 1967. His doctoral degree is from Miami (Oh.) University.

Johnson, named an assistant professor of biology, earned his undergraduate BS degree at Colorado State University. Johnson's doctoral degree was granted by the University of Kentucky. His experience at UK includes graduate research assistant, Department of Pathology, 1975-80; research associate, 1980-81; and research associate, U. S. Department of Agriculture at the university, 1981-85.

Higgs, teaching as an instructor of religion on a non-tenured track, is a 1974 alumnus of Georgetown College. He earned the MDiv degree in 1977 and PhD degree in 1982 at Louisville's Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

His experience has included pastoral duties at two churches and a year's appointment as an instructor in Old Testament at Southern Seminary.

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# baptist forum

## Pressler-Stanley platform

Because I am deeply concerned by the apparent complacency of Kentucky Baptists in the face of grave danger, I offer the following comments on the Pressler-Stanley political campaign to gain control of our seminaries and the various other agencies of the Southern Baptist Convention in order to force every Southern Baptist to accept a fundamentalist "inerrant" interpretation of the Bible or leave the church of his ancestors.

My grandfather, George W. Hill, was a Southern Baptist preacher. My uncle, John L. Hill, was a professor and dean at Georgetown College for 10 years and then book editor of the Sunday School Board until he retired. My Baptist heritage is therefore deep.

I taught Sunday school for many years; am now an active deacon; was a messenger to the Dallas convention and still adhere to the foregoing basic beliefs.

Prior to the convention, I understood Stanley's concern and that of his most prominent advisor, Pressler, was that our seminaries teach their students the "inerrancy" or absolute truth of every word in the Bible. Then I had the privilege of seeing and hearing Pressler on the Phil Donahue show and learned he and his followers were campaigning to make our seminaries "responsive to their constituencies" and in so doing, to make sure they did not hire any professor who doubted the "historicity" of the first 11 chapters of Genesis.

By that, I understood him to mean our seminarians must believe everything mentioned in the first 11 chapters of Genesis actually happened just the way the Bible says it did. Donahue quickly asked Pressler if he expected seminary professors to teach their students the heavens and the earth and all its creatures were created in six days, and Pressler just as quickly conceded the word "day" might mean "eon." In other words, our seminarians cannot interpret "day" as "eon," but Pressler can, while at the same time blowing the trumpet of "inerrancy."

I decided to refresh my memory by rereading the first 11 chapters of Genesis and immediately ran into the description of the earth and heaven as contained in Genesis 1:6-8. Having seen the pictures of the earth taken by our astronauts, I cannot accept the literal biblical description. Nor do I find it crucial to my Christianity that I believe a God powerful enough to make a man from a handful of dirt, had to remove one of man's ribs in order to make a woman!

The point is nobody is going to be able to lead 20th century Baptists back into pre-scientific world views in the name of "faith." After all, there is a difference between faith and credulity.

As I was writing the foregoing, my wife changed to tune our TV onto a sermon by Stanley from Atlanta, and I was startled to hear him say if you do not believe the "entire" Bible, you are under the influence of "liberal" theologians who espouse the blasphemous theory that the cross was only optional in God's plan of salvation and God's death on the cross was not and is not essential to salvation! He warned every college that teaches religion and most seminaries are teaching that God forgives all those who ask forgiveness

simply because he is good and kind and epitomizes love and that Christ was sent to walk among us as simply a good moral influence!

As a lawyer, I would like to see a "bill of particulars" on this indictment. Who is teaching this and at what seminary?

Every Christian (Baptist or otherwise) knows the cross is central to the plan of salvation; if Christ had not died on it for our sins and been raised from the dead, there would be no salvation, and we would all be lost, but Stanley is crusading for control of the convention in order to purge our seminaries of "liberals" who are supposed to be teaching the cross is unnecessary to salvation. I don't believe it, but there must be some who do or we wouldn't be in the mess we are in.

Is there a solution? We all hope so and that the "Peace Committee" will find it. A compromise which would at least prevent another politicized convention would be the direct election of the committee on committees by the state conventions which are closer to the seminaries' "constituencies" than the president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

E. Gaines Davis Jr., Frankfort



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

## clear creek comment

### God's unique school

Next week convenes our Kentucky Baptist Convention in Lexington. As Clear Creek Baptist School approaches its 60th year of service to Kentucky Baptists, my heart is filled with rejoicing at the grace and goodness of God to us. More than 1100 Clear Creek alumni serve our Lord in 46 states and several foreign countries. Almost 400 of them serve in Baptist churches in Kentucky.

Clear Creek is a very unique school. There is no other school like Clear Creek in the entire world. When God made Clear Creek, he broke the mold! A cynic once said, "We won't be deceived by titles such as indispensable and unique and great. Someone else indispensable and unique and great can always be found at a moment's notice." This may be true in advertising products on television, but it is not true of Clear Creek. When you speak of God's unique school, it really is unlike every other school of which I have any knowledge anywhere.

Clear Creek is unique in its beginning. It began in the mind and heart of the pastor of First Baptist Church, Pineville. He wanted to help God's great preachers to better train themselves. It began in a cornfield which L. C. Kelly and R. P. Mahon turned into a school. It began in the mountains of southeastern Kentucky where the beauty of nature is matched by the pioneer spirit of those strong Kentuckians.

It is unique in that it is a Bible college. Almost all of the schools in the Southern Baptist Convention are seminaries or liberal arts colleges. Clear Creek is the only degree-granting Bible college in the Southern Baptist Convention affiliated with the American Association of Bible Colleges. We major in Bible and training for ministry in local Baptist churches. We want every minister who graduates from our college to effectively use God's Word as the basis of his ministry. May God increase our tribe.

Clear Creek is an adult family-centered school. Our minimum age is 21 and our average age last year was 34. Wives and children come with our men and make up a wonderful "Clear Creek Family."

Clear Creek is the least expensive school to attend in the Southern Baptist Convention. Our tuition of \$300 per semester is affordable and reasonable.

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# viewpoint

## On the parliamentarian's defense of the Stanley ruling

by James H. Slatton  
Pastor, River Road Church  
Richmond, Va.

A statement by Wayne Allen of Tennessee has been published defending the controversial ruling by Charles Stanley at the SBC in Dallas. Allen was the parliamentarian whose advice Stanley followed.

If the only questions at stake were which of us were right, and how a parliamentary technicality should have been resolved, Allen's comments might be left unanswered. However, much more is at stake! What is at stake is the integrity of the rules of the convention and the basic rights of the convention membership. At issue is whether we shall be free to conduct our business as an assembly where the right of the body to decide is protected, maintained and every reasonable effort made to let messengers be heard. Those issues cannot be glossed over by explanations which reduce the whole event of Dallas to a discussion of technicalities.

Unfortunately, the widespread dismay with the presiding in Dallas was not merely a matter of the ruling on the motion which I offered. It was the chair's handling of the Wednesday evening business session which prompted the reaction.

At the morning session I offered a substitute slate of nominees for the Committee on Boards. The effect of that motion would have been to let the convention choose between the slate offered by the Committee on Committees and the slate of 52 names which I suggested. The parliamentarian said I ought to offer the names of the alternate slate one at a time and the house ought to vote on them one at a time. Stanley so ruled, and I began with the first name. After a few confusing minutes of discussion, I appealed to the house against the chair's ruling. In a vote by ballot, the convention sustained my appeal and overruled the chair, thus voting to accept the substitute slate as an entire slate and to vote on the whole substitute slate in a single vote.

Wednesday night, the chair began the business session when my motion was due on the floor by recognizing a Florida messenger on a point of personal privilege. That messenger offered a comment which possibly would have qualified as a question of personal privilege, but then he launched into a speech attacking the substance of my motion. He was in violation both of a question of personal privilege, and out of order because the first speech on the floor on my motion should have been one in support rather than opposition. I immediately called for a point of order, which takes precedence, but the chair refused to entertain the point or interrupt the speaker—another violation of the rules of order.

Having permitted the personal privilege speech, and having departed from good procedure by allowing yet another speech to the house by the parliamentarian, the chair declared the convention itself had been out of order in its vote to overrule him in the morning session. He ruled the motion out of order which the convention voted by ballot to receive.

The chair announced we were back to the matter of the Committee on Committees' report. At that point he was obliged by the rules to call for discussion. Instead he called immediately for the vote and persisted to take the vote in the face of cries of point of order and cries for recognition from every micro-

phone in the house. It was at this point the chair's handling of the session was patently out of order and it was this remarkable departure from proper order which served to convince great numbers of people the chair was deciding for the body, rather than letting the body decide.

As to Stanley's ruling that my motion was out of order, Allen bases his defense on three points: 1. The language of bylaw 16 regarding the Committee on Boards; 2. The usage in Robert's Rules of Order that a nomination cannot be amended; and 3. The argument that bylaw 32 somehow does not apply to the report of the Committee on Committees when it nominates candidates to the convention.

(1) First we ought to deal with the only real strength of Allen's case, his argument #2, which in some editions of Robert's simply list "a nomination" as something that cannot be amended. Stanley did not rule on the basis of that point, because that point was not raised until long after the convention. Secondly, Robert's would apply to our motion only if the convention did not have rules of its own covering the case. The convention does have a universal rule which does speak to the situation (bylaw 32), so Allen's argument #2 fails. In fact, if the Robert's citation did hold, the motion to amend the report should have been ruled out of order on that basis and the floor then opened for other nominations—which it was not.

(2) Now look at the argument from bylaw 16 which designates the Committee on Committees as the body which is to produce nominations for membership on the Committee on Boards. The language is: "The Committee on Boards shall be composed of . . . members . . . who shall be nominated to the convention by the Committee on Committees." That language, says Allen, not only assigns the job of a slate of nominees to the Committee on Committees, it means no other nominations can be made from the floor. Such an interpretation can be imposed upon the language of the bylaw. But Allen's way is not the only way that sentence in bylaw 16 can be read. It can be read in the way I think most everyone read it before Allen's remarkable interpretation—namely, that nominations need to be offered initially to the body from some group and the bylaws give the assignment of offering an initial slate to the Committee on Committees.

The very important concern here is the rights of the body. The common and ordinary rights of a body include the right to nominate candidates for office from the floor. Robert's is very clear on this point. To say the nominations of the Committee on Committees cannot be added to by nominations from the floor is to impose a serious limitation upon the normal rights of the convention. If the bylaw intended to curb so important a basic right as free and open nominations from the floor, the language should be so clear as to admit no other interpretation. In fact, the language is not so restricted and unambiguous. It is just as open to the interpretation I have offered.

In fact, the bylaws are extremely clear on this point. "Bylaw 32 says, 'but the convention reserves the right to consider and amend the body of all reports.'" The ambiguous language of bylaw 16 is overridden by the clear and unambiguous language of bylaw 32. So Allen's argument #1, the appeal to the language of bylaw 16, also fails. That

leaves only Allen's argument #3.

By the way, if the language assigning certain nominations to certain committees is to be construed in the way Allen proposes, (as absolutely excluding nominations from the floor or any other source) wouldn't that mean the "Peace Committee" was not properly elected? For, in bylaw 21, it is explicitly and unambiguously stated the Committee on Committees "shall nominate all special committees authorized during the sessions of the convention not otherwise provided for." The "Peace Committee" was not nominated by the Committee on Committees and the "Peace Committee" is certainly "a special committee whose election is not otherwise provided for" in the bylaws.

(3) Argument #3 by Allen claims that bylaw 32 really doesn't apply to reports of nominating committees, or, at least if it does, it doesn't apply to the report of the Committee on Committees. This is the weakest of all three arguments.

Allen is strong on exactly what the words say. He has given attention to the word shall in bylaw 16. "Shall," he tells us, means just what it says, "shall." I reply "all" means just what it says, "all." "The convention reserves the right to consider and amend the body of all reports."

But, says Allen, the report of the Committee on Committees is not a report. The chairman of the Committee on Committees himself called the slate they offered a report. It was called a report in the official bulletin of the day. It is called a report in the same way the slate of nominees to the convention for boards of trustees is called a report.

Allen even claims there is some mysterious and indefinable difference between the way in which the Committee on Committees is a nominating committee, and the way in which the Committee on Boards is a nominating committee. But, he has no rule to prove this and no guidelines. Instead, he merely asserts in an amazing statement that "the work of the Committee on Committees is not the work of a nominating committee but serves as the committee to nominate . . ."

The fact remains our bylaws do not distinguish between classes and types of reports. They group all reports under one name. They state simply that all reports, once presented to the convention become the property of the whole body and not of their originating committees. As such, they are subject in all aspects to the pleasure of the body. Thus falls argument #3.

I therefore respectfully disagree with Allen's statement that my motion in Dallas, to amend the report of the Committee on Committees by substituting as nominees the 26 state convention chairs and the 26 state WMU chairs was out of order.

Messengers to the convention must bear the responsibility of seeing that the rules of order are observed and of holding in accounts its leadership. From Dallas we learned that Robert's is right in saying the parliamentarian should not be a messenger to the convention. We also learned that scrupulous conformity to rules of procedure is an essential of peaceful and orderly assembly. With all respect, the chair is elected not to decide for the body but to preside. The president of the SBC should be someone with established skills in presiding, established familiarity with Southern Baptist rules and agencies and established commitment to serving the rights of all the body.



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

## homes for children

### Hulling walnuts

There seems to be an abundant yield of walnuts this year. Walnut trees loaded with their bounty are covering the ground under them with the fallen nuts, and people are busy picking them up by the baskets full.

I so well remember the walnut trees on the farm where I grew up. It was fun to gather the walnuts, and we enjoyed the delicious nutmeats. But I also remember how the walnut stain got on our hands when we hulled them. Walnut stain will not wash off. It has to wear off, and it wears off slowly.

Attending a one-room elementary school, I remember I could look around the room and tell which children had been hulling walnuts by the stain on their hands. The stain could not be hidden.

The Royal Ambassadors of the Corinth Baptist Church, Boones Creek Association, decided they wanted to do something special to help increase the Thanksgiving offering for Baptist Homes for Children. So they have been gathering and hulling walnuts.

These R.A.'s have already hulled and sold \$200 worth of walnuts. This money will be placed with the Thanksgiving offering of their church and then all of it will be sent to Baptist Homes for Children.

The R.A.'s of the Corinth Baptist Church will have walnut stained hands for a long time. But the positive impressions made upon neglected, dependent children will last long after the walnut stains have faded from their hands.

I thank God not only do adults care about and support Baptist Homes for Children, but youth across our state care, too. They are finding innovative ways to give of their own energies, talents and means to help youth who have had little or no chance.

Whether hulling walnuts or finding some other way to give a worthy Thanksgiving offering, let us all thank God for his blessing and share with children who have such deep needs. Make the Thanksgiving offering this year the best ever.



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

## oneida journal

### Three times champs!

Our boys varsity cross-country team ended regional play with a 39-1 record, and regional champs for the third year in a row.

The championship run, however, was a one-point squeaker as one of our top runners had to drop out near the finish line. Runner-up was Bath County.

Especially remarkable about the season was the fact we had none of our varsity runners back from last year. Nevertheless, coach Larry Gritton's boys came through. Our top runners were sophomore Bill Gibson of Covington and junior Willie Bowling of Big Creek. Then two sophomores, Hezekiah Samples of Hamilton and Joey Wieland of Louisville, have developed into fine runners as has junior Terry Taylor of Wallins Creek.

Our girls cross-country team came in third qualifying them for state tournament competition. With us two years have been freshman Stella Hunt, Lexington, and 8th grader Heather Marsh of the country of Jamaica. With us four years are junior Nicol Bargo of Bledsoe and local girl Karen Combs, also a junior. Freshman Kathy Overlay came to us last year from Bloomington, Ind.

The weekend began with coach Tim Erwin's varsity girls volleyball team leaving for Lexington for regional play and defeat. Nevertheless this season's record of 5-9 is the best we have ever had in this sport.

Coach Tom Jenken's soccer team de-

feated Boyle County in regional championship play before being defeated by Lexington Catholic. The best soccer season we have had ended with a record of 10-2.

Thus our athletic year is off to a great start with all three of our fall sports doing better than ever before.

While these three teams were off to Paintsville, Lexington and Danville, other groups were also on the road.

Forty-three of our seniors left at 6 a.m. for Williamsburg to take the ACT test required of all who plan to go to college. These tests are given nationwide on certain days of the year. Escorting them were Oneida veteran teachers John Sanderson, in his 14th year teaching history and social studies, English teacher Diane Pauline with us four years, and our guidance counselor Myrtle Cooke in her second year. These three have 56 years of teaching experience between them.

Our junior varsity choir left at 7:30 a.m. for a 75-minute boat ride on Green River and a two-hour walking tour of Mammoth Cave. Fourteen hours, two picnics and a fast food restaurant meal later, they were safely back at Oneida. Driving the bus was 30-year veteran highway engineer J. L. Burns, now retired and serving full time at OBI. Serving as chaperones were three UK graduates: junior choir director Richard Burns, Phi Beta Kappa Greg Hewins who is in his third year of teaching physics and calculus here, and myself who attended both undergraduate studies as well as law school at UK. Georgetown graduate Marti Allen, our study supervisor, helped make sure we didn't lose any of our young ones overboard or in the recesses of the cave!

Also varsity choir members, already selected in district competition, were away at Corbin for regional competition to see who is to be selected for the state choir. Our young people did quite well, but it will be several weeks before the results are in from all over the state and the finalists are announced.

While all these things were going on, our middle school boys basketball team was away at Red Bird, the Methodist boarding school, defeating them 47-27.

While I was away at Mammoth Cave and then speaking at South Campbellsville Baptist on Sunday, my faithful assistant and admissions secretary Kay Underwood was very busy interviewing and accepting six new students. She also toured many guests, including a group of 38 from Hamilton, Oh. and large groups from Calvary Hill, Stanford, and First Baptist, Frankfort.

### Our heritage

Kentucky Baptists have, through the years, developed a commendable method of operation. Our method is our Constitution and bylaws, hammered out by messengers on the anvil of years of experience. As our heritage, they are trustworthy.

So valuable to us are they, changes may be made only with undeniably broad support: "The Constitution may be altered or amended (except Article V, which may not be changed) by the concurrence of two-thirds of the members present at any annual meeting, one year's notice having been given to the proposed alteration or amendment."

The bylaws, our agreed upon "rules" for the annual meetings, "may be altered or amended at any annual meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present."

Other realities give Kentucky Baptists confidence in how we function:

- Our president may be elected for



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

## sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR NOV. 10, 1985

International Series

### Keeping life's priorities

**1 Timothy 6:6-10** Paul warned Timothy against the belief the acquisition and possession of material things constituted an indication or a guarantee of godliness.

Many are obsessed with the desire for material possessions, which accounts for much of the present-day discontent, but Christians should have godliness as their priority.

**1 Timothy 6:11-12** Inasuch as Timothy's priority or main concern was God's will—discovering it and doing it, Paul lovingly admonished him to do three things:

1. To flee. "O man of God, flee these things." Timothy was called a "man of God" because he had yielded his life to God, and had been called to deliver God's message. For his own safety and for the glory of God Timothy was urged to flee from things that were wrong.

2. To follow. Paul exhorted Timothy to "follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and meekness." In spite of disappointments, discouragements and hardships, pursue these six qualities.

3. To fight. "Fight the good fight of faith." Remember "the Son of God goes forth to war" against evil in our day. Who will volunteer to follow in his train? The Christian life appeals to the very best within us, has important issues, has a superb leader, and results

in incalculable good.

**1 Timothy 6:17-19** God, rather than riches, should be at the top of our list of priorities. Christians should refrain from trusting in riches which are so uncertain, should accept their possessions gratefully as a trust from God, should never become proud on account of them, unselfishly and prayerfully use them for the benefit of others, thereby storing up treasures in heaven.

Life and Work Series

### Needing leadership

**Judges 2:7, 10-11** Naturally good men pass from the scene of action. People generally degenerate when their great leaders, who have a zeal for God and righteousness, pass away. The Israelites served Jehovah as long as Joshua lived. Soon after he passed away the people forgot God and quickly turned to idolatry.

**Judges 2:16-19** As should have been expected, when the Israelites turned from God and worshiped idols, "He delivered them into the hands of spoilers," for their folly. When any people forget or disregard God, they should not expect him to continue to bless them.

The defection of the Israelites from God, which resulted in their worship of idols and their immorality, made it necessary for God to bring them to repent of their wicked ways. The deliverance of them into the hands of their enemies was a definite judgment of God. He punished the Israelites for breaking the covenant and for their disobedience to him, but he did not forsake them. God repeatedly manifested his grace toward them by forgiving them, when they repented, and giving them another opportunity. When they turned back to God in penitence, the judges were used by him to deliver them from the subjugation which they had brought upon themselves by their sin. These judges were God-called men, whose task and desire were to restore the nation to God's favor. They were instruments in God's hand to extricate the people from the abyss into which they had willfully plunged.

**Judges 21:25** After they were without a king for a while, there came a time when "every man did that which was right in his own eyes." Such a practice makes prosperity and success utter impossibilities and deterioration an absolute inevitability. Only as people do God's will can they enjoy his presence and blessing.



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## on mission together

only one year. (From 1888 until 1962, presidents could serve for two years; prior to 1888, two presidents—J. S. Coleman 1864-72 and Green Clay Smith 1879-87 served nine years each.)

The "powers" of the president have been circumscribed carefully by Kentucky Baptists to assure that the role is limited. Primarily, the president's function is to preside at three (3) executive board meetings and the annual meeting.

The president's "appointive" powers are balanced so that the heavier side of "power" resides with the convention through its executive board.

• Our KBC executive board is composed of persons recommended by the associations and nominated to the convention by the convention's Committee on Nominations. (Each association may elect two persons for each one vacant position, from which one is selected and nominated to the convention by the KBC Committee on Nominations.) This blend of cooperation among churches,

associations, and the convention gives a sense of "ownership" at all levels.

While the state conventions which nominate their smaller executive boards by a committee (not from associations) may be "less cumbersome," they are also more vulnerable to political power struggles.

The 160-plus member executive board is large, and at times cumbersome. But it more reasonably assures broad representation of Kentucky Baptist life.

Ours is a "convention of the people" and that's why we have an abiding sense of "togetherness."

The election of a president in our Kentucky Baptist life need never be a time of confrontation of sides. Whomever the majority elects will be a responsible leader, and like the rest of us, will have the strength of the Constitution and bylaws and the assistance of a representative executive board to guide all the work Kentucky Baptists do together.

## Mission builds relationship between apartment, church

*After having limited success with getting apartment dwellers to attend church, this creative congregation "brought the church to them."*

by Joe Westbury

It's Thursday night and that means prayer meeting at the Good News Center, a ministry of the Baptist Men's unit at Lewisport Baptist Church in western Kentucky.

The ministry, the brainchild of missions committee chairman Jim Hawkins, offers Southern Baptist witness near an apartment complex and attracts worshipers who otherwise might not visit the mother church a few miles away.

"We hadn't had much success in getting people to visit us from the apartments," says Brotherhood director Will Singleton. "Many times people don't feel comfortable visiting a traditional church because they're surrounded by strangers. Since they wouldn't come to us, we thought we'd bring the church to them."

The story began at an associational Brotherhood meeting in March of last year. The theme of the meeting was Bold Mission Thrust, and it gave the Lewisport laymen the motivation to begin seeing the world through the eyes of missionaries.

"God spoke to us that we weren't paying the price for being a Christian. By the time the program ended, we realized if we were to reach the Bold

Mission Thrust goal in the next 15 years, we had a lot of work to do," Hawkins says.

For 14 years he had been driving by a run-down service station on the way to and from his job in Owensboro. The building, which had been converted to various uses over the years, had never caught his eyes, he relates, until the following week "when God spoke to my heart about using it as a mission site.

"Every time I drove by the station the word 'mission' would flash through my mind. I brought the idea before our Baptist Men and they told me to secure the building any way possible."

The structure didn't have the best reputation: bootleg whiskey had once been sold there and a man had died in a room where they planned to hold children's Sunday school. But that didn't keep the men from seeing what God could do with them.

Before long, Hawkins had struck a bargain with the current renter. For \$50, the Baptist Men were the proud owners of a junk shop and flea market and were ready to launch their first major mission.

The location was perfect for their plan. Just a few hundred feet away sat the apartment complex with more than 300 residents—a tailor-made mission



The Good News Center is a mission project sponsored by Baptist Men of Lewisport Baptist Church in western Kentucky.

field.

"We had never been able to visit as a church at the apartment complex because they don't allow any solicitation. So our plan was first to continue to minister to their physical needs and then invite them to the mission," Singleton says.

The first Sunday in June the Good News Center was open for ministry and the Baptist Men waited for visitors. But not until the second week in July did residents of Poplar Grove show any interest. The three women who visited that morning were the beginning of a ministry which has seen seven persons accept Christ in the past year.

Since visitation at the complex is strictly limited to residents, church members who live there have formed a loose network to educate their neighbors about the mission.

Lanny Riley is one of those who have made all the work worthwhile. He started attending the mission after Hawkins asked if he would help chaperon eight boys from the apartments during a Royal Ambassador fishing-camping trip.

After attending a Sunday school class taught by Singleton, Riley caught a ride to the church with Hawkins for the morning worship service.

"I could tell he was under conviction by the questions he was asking, so I asked a few of my own. He gave me the right answers, and I knew we were on the right track," Hawkins remembers.

By the time the two men reached the church, Riley had accepted Christ.

Though a lot of elbow grease, work days and prayers have gone into launching the center, the rewards have far outweighed the effort, the Baptist Men agree. Sunday school attendance has jumped from eight to 21, and members are feeling more comfortable attending worship services which follow at the mother church, says Lewisport pastor Warren Robards.

"For 13 years our pastor tried to get us involved in missions and to have the vision to minister to others, but I was a lazy, complacent Christian too involved with myself to care about others," says Hawkins. "Now as I pass the mission each day I'm reminded that I'm a missionary all through the week."

## Japanese pastor, wife visit Southwestern for refreshment

Rennie Ohtani, Southern Baptists' first music missionary to Japan, is glad she's no longer a foreign missionary.

It's not she disliked missionary service. She's happy being "just a Japan Baptist."

Mrs. Ohtani, originally from Purvis, Miss., never left Japan or the church she served as music minister. Instead, she married the associate pastor, who is now the pastor.

Now the two are visiting Southwestern Seminary as national guest consultants in the World Mission and Evangelism Center. Keigo Ohtani, pastor of Japan's largest Baptist church, is on a 10-month sabbatical leave to catch the "high spirit of American Southern Baptists."

Ohtani began his ministry 20 years ago as associate pastor of Tokyo's Oi Baptist Church, which his father founded. When his father retired, Ohtani assumed the pastorate.

While most Japanese churches average about 40 in attendance, the Oi church has 700-800 in Sunday school.

But things haven't always been so bright for the Oi church. Ohtani's



Keigo and Rennie Ohtani

father began as a street preacher after his own conversion in a small prayer gathering.

Until after World War II, the elder Ohtani faced stiff resistance to Christian worship. But after the war, "my father began worship again before anyone else did," Ohtani said. Even

the police came to ask him for counsel.

"Lots of American soldiers came to our assembly," he said. "We received help from high-ranking officers."

Before long, his father discovered that "every soldier who had a bright, warm faith was a Baptist," he said. The Oi congregation studied the Baptist way and decided they would be Baptists. The entire congregation was rebaptized.

Since Oi Baptist Church is the example to others in Japan, the Ohtanis have "nowhere to observe what to do next," he said. That's why they've come to America. Their stops will include Southwestern, First Baptist Church in Houston and the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville.

While at Southwestern, they will speak in classes and work with students who want to learn about missions. She will also teach in the music school.

They hope their time in America will show them new ways to develop believers. "Most churches in Japan are pastor-centered," Ohtani said. "I want to give responsibility to the people."

He's already made a good start. Dur-

ing his absence, laymen of the church will carry out all phases of teaching and preaching.

The Ohtanis' concern while in the United States is to learn better ways of fulfilling this mission. Evangelism is important, they acknowledge. But "after you win them, you have to grow them," Mrs. Ohtani said. The Oi church has achieved what most people would consider numerical success, but the Ohtanis' want to go one step further—to grow the people into mature Christians.

Since most Japanese Baptists are first-generation Christians, the Ohtanis are working to extend the faith. One of Mrs. Ohtani's responsibilities has been to develop church programs to win and nourish the children of Christian parents.

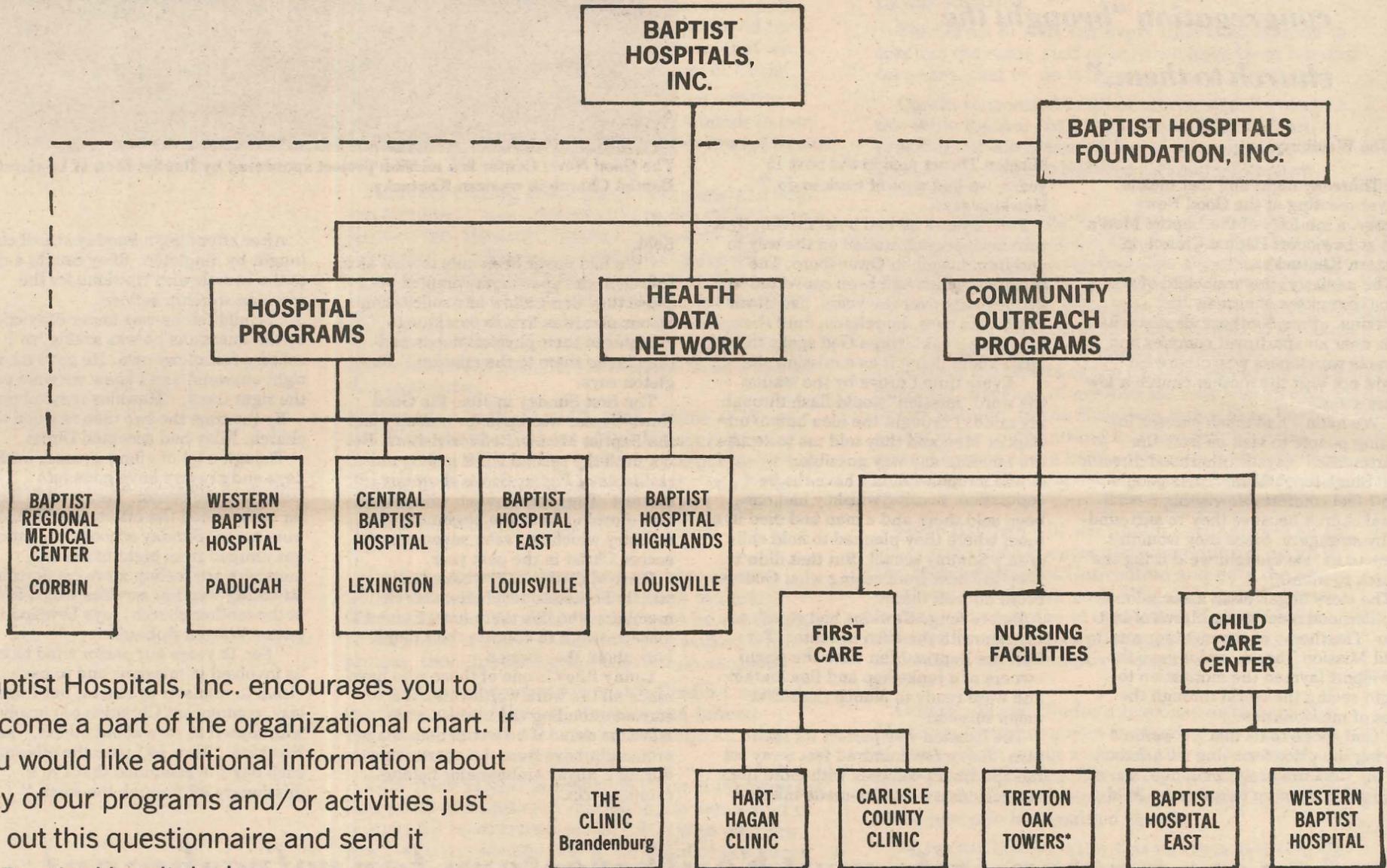
In Japan, people assimilate Buddhism, Shintoism and Christianity at their convenience, Ohtani said. The people "have so many gods that it is hard to choose only one."

To these people, the Ohtanis' proclaim a simple message: "Jesus Christ is the one God."

# Baptist Hospitals, Inc.

**"Christian Commitment to Healthcare"**

This organizational chart depicts the numerous health related activities that Baptist Hospitals, Inc. is providing across the state. An organization is only as strong as those individuals that manage it and the people that support its programs and facilities.



Baptist Hospitals, Inc. encourages you to become a part of the organizational chart. If you would like additional information about any of our programs and/or activities just fill out this questionnaire and send it to Baptist Hospitals, Inc.

\* BHI provides nursing services only

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**B. R. Brewer, President**  
**Baptist Hospitals, Inc.**  
**768 Barret Avenue**  
**Louisville, Ky. 40204**



Mr. Brewer, please send me some information about:

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| Central Baptist Hospital _____   | Health Data Network _____   | Hart Hagan Clinic _____                  |
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