



Cooperation Kentucky Baptist theme; Mathis elected, \$19 million adopted

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

"Cooperation: The Baptist Way to a Lost World" was its theme. When it ended, it appeared at least

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Nov. 19, 1985

Are you moving?

Please give us three weeks' advance notice. Clip this portion with your old address label, supply new address above, and send to Western Recorder, Box 43401, Middletown, KY 40243

most of the 1513 messengers attending the 148th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention believed it.

Evidence of that attitude was seen in the election of the new president.

Fifteen seconds after the vote count was announced the runoff contenders embraced in the center aisle of Lexington's Immanuel Baptist Church.

With 446 votes to 431, Don R. Mathis, pastor of Corbin's Central Baptist Church, was declared the victor. His opponent, Malcolm G. Lunceford, pastor of Immanuel Church, Frankfort, had faced Mathis in the runoff after eliminating John Wallace, pastor of Parkway Church, Lexington, in a three-way decision.

The messengers adopted a \$19 million budget for convention fiscal year 1986-87 beginning next Sept. 1. Of that amount, 62.5 percent is designated for in-state work and 37.5 percent for SBC causes, an increase from the current 36.875 percent toward SBC expenditures. The convention previously adopted a goal of reaching 40 percent for SBC work by 1990 and is on schedule in moving toward that goal.

The convention agreed to continue a special committee assigned the task of studying ascending and descending liability for its agencies and institutions another year. This seven-member panel chaired by Willis Henson of Paducah was appointed in 1984. The implication at this year's meeting that the committee would complete its work and bring any recommendations to the 1986 annual meeting of the convention at Elizabethtown's Severns Valley Baptist Church. Those dates are Nov. 11-13.

Subsequent convention meetings will be held Nov. 10-11, 1987 at Louisville's Walnut Street Baptist Church and Nov. 15-17, 1988 at Owensboro's First Baptist Church.

William E. Crosby, pastor of Erlanger (Ky.) Baptist Church, will deliver the convention's annual sermon in 1986. The alternate preacher is Ken L. Chafin, Carl E. Bates professor of Christian preaching, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

For the first time in the memory of long-time messengers to the convention, no resolutions were offered from the floor. That didn't thwart the reso-

lutions committee, however. So the body wouldn't be slighted, it offered five of its own. None was controversial, and all were unanimously approved.

In one, on cooperation, theme of the convention, it was suggested that messengers "call all Kentucky Baptists to prayer for our beloved Southern Baptist Convention, particularly for the Peace Committee, that God will heal us and lead us beyond controversy to his marvelous future."

Much of the spirit of cooperation of this meeting, and its success, was attributed in hallway conversations to the "fairness" and "levity" of presiding officer James B. Lewis. Lewis, pastor of Louisville's Westport Road Baptist Church, completed the maximum one-year term accorded Kentucky Baptist Convention presidents.

Serving with him were J. Howard Cobble, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown, first vice president; and C. Keith Rogers, pastor of First Baptist Church, Loyall, second vice president.

All officiated at several points in the proceedings.

sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

Along the convention corridors . . .

. . . The corridors rang with discussions of the registration procedure. Calls for some tightening of the rules were the orders of the day. For example, several well-known Kentucky Baptists, duly elected as messengers by their respective churches, were denied messenger status because ten slots had been checked off from their church assignment.

Since votes in Baptist meetings are becoming more and more significant it is imperative that only messengers with proper credentials be given ballots. The only way to assure this is to tighten the registration process so that only properly elected people are duly registered and given ballots.

Without being presumptuous or critical a few questions come to mind for our consideration . . . Who were the registrants who were certified in place of the duly elected messengers? How were they able to register? Why did the registration process eliminate specific checks on who is or is not a qualified messenger?

Here is an area where the credentials committee can make a contribution to a smoother meeting. We ask the committee to seek information from the Kentucky Baptists who had registration problems and complaints about what happened to them this year.

. . . . The corridor smoldered with anger at the flagrant abuse of assigned time by certain speakers. This is a source of irritation to the messengers and a headache to the program committee. The corridors rang with the indignation because the abuses are rude and unnecessary.

If an agency or individual has been given 10 minutes or 15 minutes or three minutes, let us find a way to stop the offender whenever he or she exceeds the allotted time.

Nothing is more frustrating nor detrimental than a person who ignores the restrictions of time and abuses the privileges of addressing the convention.

There is so much to be done, and time is so precious, one offender messes up the entire program and we should not tolerate this inconsiderate action by anyone.

. . . The corridors buzzed with praise for Jim Lewis and Glenn Armstrong because of the addresses these good men gave. The president's address and the annual sermon were well prepared, well delivered and generously received by the messengers.

Lewis and Armstrong did good work in preparation and spoke eloquently to the need of the hour. The corridor talk gave these men a vote of appreciation and commendation for a job well done.

. . . The corridors rang with praise for the warmth of the Immanuel Church people. The host church provided excellent facilities along with gracious men and women who went the second mile in everything from parking to babysitting.

. . . the corridors produced more one-liners and

more relaxed conversation and more belly-laughs than this editor has experienced in a state convention in some time. On the basis of this very limited, personal experience the judgment is that the 1985 Kentucky Baptist Convention was a grand success.

. . . The corridors were subdued at the executive board recommendation that the total KBC budget for 1986-87 be set at \$19 million. The messengers realized the enormity of the task before us to raise such a large sum of money. Yet there is steady confidence in the will of Kentucky people to support the worldwide program we share with other Southern Baptists, even though the largest budget in our history is now established.

. . . The corridor talk was quietly reserved at the report of the special committee to study ascending and descending liability. After one year on the job, the committee was able to answer some of the questions in the messengers' minds, but does not have the full story yet. Thus the committee will work one more year in an effort to produce a policy to protect the KBC and all the agencies and institutions in a time of increasing litigation.

. . . The corridors exuded a restrained excitement about the possibilities of the Good News America revivals next spring. The dream, the hope, the expectation is that our people are ready for revival and that revival will lead us out of the wilderness of apathy so apparent in many of our recent efforts for the Lord.

. . . The consensus in the corridor was that Don Mathis, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Corbin, will make a good president who will be an inspirational leader. His work in Planned Growth in Giving has indeed been inspirational and there is no reason to expect him to be otherwise as convention president.

He has certainly done well in the pastorate, having led every church he has served in a pattern of steady growth. There is reason to expect him to be as dedicated to the KBC presidency as he has been in his pastoral career.

. . . The conclusion of the corridor soundings is that Kentucky Baptists are unified around the great missionary call of the Lord. We are ready to subscribe a challenging budget and thus fund expanded missionary effort not only at home but around the world.

The corridor soundings also indicate a warm spirit among the brethren and no real evidence of a serious rift on the horizon. We know we have been blessed by God and that we have a great opportunity to extend his kingdom. Most of our people have no time for confrontation nor any patience with reactionaries who would lead us to squabble with each other.

No, we do not have heaven on earth in Kentucky. But anyone who sees factionalism or confrontation in what went on at Immanuel Baptist Church this past week has just misread the signs.

We are brothers and sisters on mission for the King and we mean to stay together in the doing of His will.

western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

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

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

Western Recorder is published by Western Recorder Inc., Box 43401, Middletown, Ky., weekly except for one week in July and December. Second class postage paid at Louisville, Ky.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Western Recorder, Box 43401, Middletown, KY 40243.

Subscriptions: Single: \$6.83; foreign, \$7.50; church budget, \$5.00. Payable in advance, except church accounts, which require tax exemption number.

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

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

Financial responsibility will be goal of KBC office

The executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention has voted to create a new staff function to assist state congregations in reaching "a higher degree of financial responsibility."



C.
Vernon
Cole

The new entity, effective Nov. 15, will be called the Office of Resource Development.

C. Vernon Cole, director of the Family Ministry and Church Administration Department, was named to direct the new office.

The principal function of the new office is to assist in developing plans, coordinating activities, and giving overall direction to the development of financial resources to support the ministry of the churches of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Executive secretary-treasurer William W. Marshall observed that the goal is "to help local churches develop

their own financial resources." He noted that as local levels increase, support for state, national and foreign missions "is more likely to grow."

The office will incorporate the present ministry of the Stewardship Department and its responsibility for the Cooperative Program and current emphasis on Planned Growth in Giving.

At 47, Cole has risen through the ranks of Kentucky Baptist Convention staffers, first as an associate in the Church Training and Special Ministries Department, 1969-75; as director of that department, 1975-84; and in his present responsibility since that time.

A native of West Virginia, he is a

graduate of Marshall University, Huntington, W. Va., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

He served two Ohio pastorates before going to the Baptist Building in Middletown.

Cole is married to the former Patricia Davis, and they have two children, Renee, 19, and Kevin, 17.

In a preconvention session, the executive board approved several previous committee meetings, heard reports and handled housekeeping matters.

The 50-minute session, shortest in the memory of most long time participants, was presided over by chairman James B. Lewis, pastor of Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville.

The board's next meeting will be held Dec. 9-10 at the Baptist Building in Middletown.

—James H. Cox

Family additions, transfers account for most growth, educators told

Southern Baptists' 8.5 by '85 plan proved "it is possible to turn a declining or plateaued program around," a Sunday School Board official told Kentucky's religious educators.

Sunday schools in Southern Baptist churches had gone through a period of virtually no growth, said James V. Lackey at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Religious Education Association. Although the campaign fell 500,000 short of the goal of 8.5 million, the effort netted an increase of 569,404, according to Lackey.

Lackey, coordinating the next Sunday School Board effort to increase enrollment to 10 million by 1990, stated much helpful information had been gathered from the 8.5 campaign.

He noted Southern Baptists proved they will respond affirmatively to a "worthy objective under positive leadership." Lackey said, "The majority of Sunday school people came to accept the worthiness of reaching people and of working to put in place the plan, programs and prayers necessary to accomplish the tasks."

The campaign led Sunday School Board leaders to discover most church growth is "biological and transfer," Lackey pointed out. He said much growth in churches stems from additions to families and membership transfers.

"Until we get serious about enrolling unsaved people in Sunday school we will find it difficult to show outstanding numerical growth," Lackey warned.

Lackey challenged the educators to hold onto "fundamental Sunday school growth and improvement principals" and set enrollment goals.

According to Lackey, such basic Sunday school growth principles as beginning new classes, identifying and enrolling prospects, weekly visitation and enlisting and training works are necessary.

Elected as officers of the Religious Education Association were: Bill Dick of First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, president; Paul Robinson, of First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, vice president; and Jim McGee of Central Baptist Church, Corbin, president elect.

—Patrick Cole

NO

You can not be excluded from the Church Insurance Program, even if you have been denied coverage under this plan before.

This year, the Southern Baptist life and medical plan is better than ever before. So if you thought about enrolling in the past and didn't, now is the time. Or if you've ever been denied coverage, now you can get full life and medical benefits, no questions asked, except for health conditions diagnosed or treated within six months prior to your date of coverage.

To make it as easy as possible for you and your family to sign up for this excellent protection plan, we're having a special enrollment period from October 1-November 30.

You'll find that life rates have been reduced up to 30% for some age groups. Also, if you're enrolled in the plan from January to November next year, you won't be billed for your December medical premium — which means you get 1 month's medical insurance absolutely free!

The Church Insurance Program. The insurance protection you need at a price you can afford during our special 2-month Open Enrollment Period ending November 30. Call your Annuity Board at 1-800-262-0511, or call or visit your state annuity representative.



"Serving those who serve the Lord."

Underwritten by Aetna Life Insurance Company, 151 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06156



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

homes for children

Preparation!

Get ready, get set, go! But before the going can be successful, a lot of preparation must be made. I have noticed that most people make special preparation for those things which are considered important. More preparation precedes an unusual trip than a routine trip. When special guests are invited to one's home for a meal, extra preparation precedes the occasion.

At this time of year preparations are being made for Thanksgiving. This is a national holiday with an emphasis on giving thanks to God for his many blessings. It is a day when families like to get together. Some are now preparing to travel. Others are making grocery lists and planning a Thanksgiving meal. Next week the actual preparation of the Thanksgiving dinner will get under way. Pies will be baked. A turkey or ham or some other goodie will be prepared, and many delicious dishes of food will result from the preparation. What a fun time it will be!

A very special event takes place in Kentucky Baptist life at Thanksgiving. It is the Thanksgiving Offering for Baptist Homes for Children. A great amount of preparation for this special offering has been visible during these days. Baptist Homes has supplied the materials and information to churches and individuals. Churches have taken a very positive position in emphasizing the importance of this offering. Very impressive posters are now seen throughout almost every Baptist church in Kentucky. Those posters remind us that many children have encountered shattering experiences and their lives are in pieces. The Thanksgiving Offering makes it possible for Baptist Homes for Children to help put the broken pieces of young lives together.

I am impressed with the preparation many churches are making for this offering. Goals have been set to make the offering more than last year. Posters are very visible throughout church buildings. Bulletin inserts are being used, carrying the personal testimony of a girl who came to live at Spring Meadows. Offering envelopes are being made available to everyone who will give.

With thorough preparation by so many churches, wonderful enthusiasm on the part of so many people, and a growing awareness of the needs of children, I believe thousands of people will make this Thanksgiving offering the best ever. Will you have a part in helping put a life together a piece at a time?

Excerpts from convention address

Back to the dream

These are excerpts from the message delivered to the 148th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention last week in Lexington by Glenn Armstrong, pastor, Beaver Dam [Ky.] Baptist Church.

Langston Hughes, the black poet, has written: "Hold fast to dreams, for if dreams die, life is a broken-winged bird that cannot fly." The words of the Proverbs confirm the writer of the poet, "Where there is no vision, the people perish . . ."

Without a dream, a person has no direction in life. Without a dream, an organization soon finds itself without a purpose. Without a dream, the slow process of dying begins.

Southern Baptists had a dream—an all-consuming, challenging, God-honored, God-honoring dream! At the 1976 Southern Baptist Convention in Norfolk, Va. the mission challenge committee of the Foreign Mission Board brought a report that called for "10 bold new thrusts in foreign missions" between the years 1976 and 2000. The great over-arching objective, however, was to preach the gospel to all the world by the year 2000. In 1978, in Atlanta, Ga. the Executive Committee brought the concept of Bold Mission Thrust to the Convention. It called for bold growing, bold going, and bold giving to the end that every person in the world would have opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel of Christ by the year 2000. A dream was born!

What a dream—to preach the gospel to every person in the world by the year 2000! I saw a plaque some time ago that said, "Think small—big ideas upset everyone!" Bold Mission Thrust is not thinking or believing small. Without a doubt, our big ideas have upset the "prince of darkness." He prefers we think small and act little. On a poster, I read this motto, "Aim for the sun; you may not reach it, but you'll fly higher than if you never aimed at all." We aimed for the sun and we have flown high in pursuit of our dream.

I fear we are losing sight of our dream. We have been distracted by denominational strife and, like school-boys, have turned from our work to watch a fight. It is time to get back to our dream.

Gideon must have felt his dreams had been dashed upon the rocks of bitter conflict and adversity. God had called Israel to be his people. He had given them a land. He had commissioned them to be a light to the nations. But, the people of God took the blessings of God for granted and in swept the Midianites, plundering their crops, burning their homes, devastating the land, leaving nothing but scorched earth behind.

For fear of the Midianites, Gideon hid in a winepress to thrash his grain—not out on the hillside where the breeze could blow away the chaff. There in that winepress an angel appeared and called him "a mighty man of valor!" "You must be kidding!" Gideon might have thought. "Manasseh is the smallest tribe in Israel. My family is the least of the tribe of Manasseh, and I am the least of my father's house." God saw in Gideon so much more than Gideon saw in himself! God saw a mighty man of valor! To that mighty

man God said, "General Gideon, go deliver thy people!"

God helped Gideon return to his dream. He will help us return to ours. To do so:

I. WE MUST IMPLEMENT GOD'S PROGRAM.

Isn't it remarkable God's program for us! God's commission to Gideon began with the word "Go." His program for Gideon called for three things that might be appropriate for us to consider.

God's program for Gideon called for less questioning and more going. "If the Lord is with us, then why are our homes destroyed, our crops plundered? Why am I here in this miserable winepress? Where are all of God's miracles?"

At first glance, I thought God didn't answer that question, but he did. In the very next verse he said, "Go, and do something about it." Lord, why are there so many starving people in the world? Go feed them. Why are there so many suffering people in the world? Go in the name of Jesus and heal them. Why are there so many lonely people? Go visit them. Why are there so many lost people? Go win them.

In Matthew's account of the feeding of the 5000, the disciples came to Jesus with a question, "Lord, these people are hungry. What are we going to do?" Jesus answered, "Go feed them."

In Luke's account of the Great Commission recorded in Acts 1, the disciples came to Jesus with a question, ". . . Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the Kingdom to Israel?" Do you know what the Lord's answer to that question was? "Go!" "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

It is time for us to become less theoretical and more practical, less philosophical and more pragmatic. It is time for us to stop quibbling and start majoring on winning a world to Jesus.

How it must break the heart of God when we turn from our program to defend our own theological positions, when we attack one another rather than the enemy, when we seek to advance our own causes or those of our group, rather than seeking to advance the cause of Christ.

II. WE MUST APPROPRIATE GOD'S PROVISIONS.

"Go, in this your strength. . . ." The larger text makes it clear; Gideon's strength was super-natural.

God's provisions include his presence. "Surely, I will be with you. . . ." One of my favorite passages of scripture is those encouraging words in Romans 8: "Who shall separate us from the love of God . . . ?" I polled several of my peers and asked them, "What in your experience as a minister tends to cause you to feel alienated from God?"

"Discouragement and depression," said one. "When I feel discouraged and depressed I feel shut off from God—totally alone." Consider again the description of depression in the text. "Israel was brought low . . . and the sons of Israel cried to the Lord." God's answer was, "I will be with you."

"Conflict," said another pastor. "In times of conflict I wonder if I'm taking the right stand. Am I doing the right thing?" In Gideon's conflict God said, "I will be with you."

"That feeling of helplessness when I am unable to facilitate needed change—in a church program or in a counseling situation . . ." responded another. "In such situations I feel disappointed in myself, in the church, and sometimes even in God!" Gideon felt helpless and small and God said, "I will be with you."

God's provisions include his power. "You shall defeat Midian as one man." In Genesis 18:14 the question is posed: "Is anything too difficult for God?" The message of the Bible is that God is able! Because he is able, we are able! God specializes in things thought impossible. He does the things no other can do!

Romans 4:21 says God is able to keep his promises. Let's trust like it.

Romans 11:23 says God is able to convert those who are stubborn and antagonistic to the faith. Let's witness like it.

Romans 14:4 says God is able to make us stand amid all the differences of opinions. We don't have to divide. Let's unite like it.

II Corinthians 9:8 says God is able to make us financially sufficient to provide for every good work. We don't have to be stingy. Let's give like it.

Hebrews 11:19 says God is able to raise men from the grave. Let's begin to move like it.

Ephesians 3:20-21 gives us good news. "Now to him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever."

God's provisions include peace. ". . . deliver Israel from the hand of Midian. Have I not sent you?" Gideon had the peace that comes with knowing that he had not struck out on his own, but that he was sent by God.

III. WE MUST REALIZE GOD'S PURPOSE.

"And deliver Israel . . ." God had a purpose, a dream for Gideon, and I believe Gideon realized God's purpose in his life. God help us to realize his dreams in our lives and in our work!

God has a dream, a purpose, for this great denomination. Those who have gone before us have dreamed and planned and worked and prayed and given and built that which is in our hands today. God forbid that we should fail to realize his purpose for this generation of Southern Baptists!

Let me suggest it is God's purpose we unite and love one another in spite of our differences. It is God's purpose we seek with renewed commitment to win that small portion of the world within our own sphere of influence. It is God's purpose we give generously that the gospel be spread throughout the world. It is God's purpose Southern Baptists return to our dream! The dream is bigger than man's smallness! The dream is greater than man's conflicts! The dream is more important than man's partisan ambitions! Let us get back to the dream, go in the strength God gives, and be God's mighty men of valor!

Don Mathis: we have to do our part

by Greg Hancock

Central church, Corbin, is one of the fastest growing churches in the Kentucky Baptist Convention but pastor Don Mathis still calls himself "basically a small town, country pastor" and his church a "country church that has grown."

"I've got a *great* church," he affirms, and the "best staff ever put together." Central Baptist is a "team effort" and "if we have grown—if we are *experiencing* growth—it is not because of anything extraordinary. It is because the staff and the congregation work together to accomplish God's purpose."

"One reason I am privileged to serve as president of the convention," he observes, "is because my church is capable of doing a lot for itself and carrying on the ministry, even though the pastor may be absent."

Teamwork seems to be a primary theme of the Mathis ministry. One doesn't have to be long in his company to hear the phrase "we have to do our part" several times. Mathis affirms he is "a committee person" and tries to surround himself with people who can do the things he doesn't do well.

"I work best in a setting where the church wants and expects strong pastoral leadership," he admits. "I don't believe in a dictatorship but I don't believe in *laize faire* type leadership, either. A pastor should lead by example."

Mathis feels a pastor should be a spiritual leader for his congregation, not a ministerial handyman. "There are things I just don't do well," he says, "and I don't try to do those things. I give them to someone within the church—either a staff member or a layman—who can handle them well. I don't believe a pastor should ask anyone to do something he is not *willing* to do himself, but neither do I believe a pastor should insist upon doing those things others can obviously do better."

He intends to carry that philosophy over into this year of convocation presidency. Friends who have worked with him on the Planned Growth in Giving

task force; the Good News, America committee; and several associational and KBC committees, call him "a quiet kind of guy who cooperates and supports."

"Don Mathis doesn't make a big splash," one of his fellow pastors comments, "but he's solid and people know they can rely on him."

Mathis says he will continue to listen, to observe and to utilize the talents of others when it comes to leading the Kentucky Baptist Convention this year. "I was the sixth kid in a family of seven," he jokes, "and it didn't come my turn to talk very often. But I think that taught me to pay attention to what other people were doing and saying. It taught me to appreciate that other people have things to offer."

Strong family ties are obviously important to the western Kentucky native. "My sister and brother in law have been among the primary influences if not the primary influence in my life. She became a Christian when she was a teenager and began to date a Baptist boy."

"I started going to Sunday school and church with them. She led me to become a Christian."

"Her husband graduated from Southern Seminary but he is a layman with a degree in agriculture so when they were led, by the Lord, to go to Liberia and serve in agriculture missions, our Foreign Mission Board appointed them as 'associate missionaries.'"

"The original intention was that they would work themselves out of a job. They spent one term there and felt that their work was not quite finished so they went back for a second term after being home for about nine months."

"A year and a half into their second term, my sister got sick and nearly died. The work of our Foreign Mission Board in taking care of them and showing concern for them beyond the point of their service in Liberia was an extra bonus."

"I've always been committed to our (foreign mission) work but I saw, first hand, how our missionaries are provided for through our giving; and I will

always appreciate them for it.

"I support the Cooperative Program. I could not serve a church that did not support the Cooperative Program. We currently give 15.5 percent and we're projecting 16 percent for the upcoming budget year."

"When I became pastor of Southside Baptist Church (Princeton), we gave four percent. We moved from four percent to 7.5 percent (and 7.5 percent is not where any church ought to stay) but our goal was to increase by one-half percent a year. We were moving in that direction and, at the same time, we were growing so fast we had to buy everything we could get our hands on."

"The point is, we had a plan. We set our sights on the future and we saw missions there. Any church can do that, if it will."

Mathis feels his success in leading churches to grow is attributable to his belief in the standard Sunday school and the "tried and true" programs of the traditional church. "When some churches begin to suffer poor attendance or to slack off in their baptisms," he observes, "they usually say, 'we've got to try something new.'"

"I don't think we need to do anything new. I just think we need to do what we do, better!"

"We use a nine point formula as opposed to Flake's (The Standard Sunday School) five point formula but it is still the standard Sunday school and it's a proven ministerial tool."

Central church not only pursues the standard Sunday school, it emphasizes Church Training for all members. In bi-annual revival meetings, the pastor goes out with the membership and knocks on doors: inviting people to church; witnessing to the risen Lord.

Old fashioned? "Sure!" Mathis agrees. "But it works to bring people to Christ."

"As a teenage boy who was extremely shy and bashful, I found what I was looking for in a Kentucky Baptist church; not only coming to know Christ as a savior but finding warmth and acceptance. That church supported Kentucky Baptist work and taught me to support Kentucky Baptist work."

"The four churches where I have served as pastor have all been active in the local Baptist association and supportive of Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist work. Thoroughly cooperative!"

"I've never seen myself as one who was anything other than midstream in Kentucky Baptist life. I am unapologetically conservative. I'm unapologetically cooperative. We have 2200 churches in our state: every one of them different. But diversity is our strength."

"All of us love the Bible and believe it has given us a commission to share the gospel with the world. I believe cooperation works in sharing the gospel with the world."

Mathis sees his role as convention president as "focusing on the basics: Planned Growth in Giving and Good News, America. Those are the primary things we ought to be about, right now."

"Loving Christ—serving Christ—is the best thing we could possibly do, as Christians. But I think evangelism/church growth and support of missions through the Cooperative Program is the best way of loving Christ."

"We ought to be reaching people; and then disciplining those we reach so they can reach more!"



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

Keep on ticking

I have been blessed immensely on the "Profiles" in the Western Recorder. Most of them are about unknown or little-known Christians in all walks of life (some of them our graduates) who faithfully perform the work of the Lord year after year. They are, for the most part, "God's Quiet People."

A few days ago Editor Sanford spoke to the proper investment of mission money in the Western Recorder. He said, "The TV evangelists have the spotlight at center stage . . . But the fact remains, every dollar given to Christ through the Cooperative Program . . . goes further to do more than any other method known to man . . . (It) goes directly to missions. . . . It is money invested in people, administered by people, for the good of people. It has little glamor, little public notice, little sensationalism. . . . That is the spirit of Christ all of us want to maintain and support even more generously than we have in the past."

As we conclude Kentucky Baptists' annual meeting and face an exciting and challenging new year, I want to salute the Cooperative Program. It is an ingenious way by which one of us can faithfully give a little and accomplish a lot. It is a quiet way of reaching people for Christ. Like a certain watch, the Cooperative Program "takes a licking, but keeps on ticking."

God's Quiet Program and God's Quiet People remind me of the scriptural admonition to "take heed and be quiet; fear not, neither be faint-hearted" (Is. 7:4). We are commanded to "study to be quiet and to do your own business and to work with your own hands" "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty" (I Tim. 2:2). In the sight of God a meek and quiet spirit is of great price (I Peter 3:4).

As I grow older, I am more and more convinced that 'fussin' and feudin' do not get the work of the Lord done. I will always stand up for the Lord, the word or the gospel. However, it could be that "All Quiet on the Southern Baptist Front" gives us an opportunity to get the gospel to the ends of the earth.

We try to train God's servants at Clear Creek to be like good watches—open faced, dependable, quietly working and pure gold. They may take a licking but they keep on ticking for the Lord.



The former first lady

Beaming from the front row as her husband prepares to deliver the presidential address to the convention is Alois Lewis [c], wife of Jim Lewis, presiding officer for the convention. At left are Lexingtonians Donald and Anna White. The Lewises' son-in-law and daughter, Lance and Kathy Springs, are seated to the right in the picture. They are also members of Westport Road Baptist Church.

Mathis, Searcy, Cummins to fill leadership roles

The closest vote in recent memory named Don Mathis, pastor of Central Baptist Church, Corbin, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Mathis received 446 votes—three more than the 50 percent required for election—to Malcolm Lunceford's 431.

Tri-association leader Shepherd tapped as 'Director of the Year'

Louis W. Shepherd, director of missions of Freedom, Russell County and Wayne County associations, was named Director of the Year at the Kentucky Baptist Directors of Missions Fellowship hosted by Georgetown College. Shepherd was honored for his dedication to state missions and for his nearly 30 years of service to the ministry.



Shepherd

Former presidents of the fellowship were recognized as was Harold Polk, executive director of Elkhorn Association. Earlier this year, Polk was named by the Home Mission Board as out-

"They couldn't choose between us," quipped Lunceford, pastor of Immanuel church, Frankfort.

Mathis, in his third try for the presidential bid, won in a runoff. In the original vote he topped Lunceford by a wider margin—488 to 404 votes. But

standing missionary in a metropolitan association.

The program included comments from Larry Harris, SBC missionary to Hong Kong and missionary-in-residence at Georgetown College during 1985-86, and entertainment by members of the college's faculty and student body.

Harold Barnes, Liberty Association, was elected fellowship president. Other newly elected officers are: Harold Greenfield, Caldwell-Lyon Association, vice president; and L. M. Huff, Green Valley Association, secretary-treasurer.

The program was dedicated to the memory of Alton Mitchell, director of missions for Ohio Valley Association from 1970 until his death Feb. 16, 1985. —Robin Oldham

with John Wallace's tally of 192, no one had the majority of the 1097 votes cast. Wallace is pastor of Parkway church, Lexington.

A Franklin layman, John Searcy, was elected first vice president Nov. 13. He garnered 468 votes to Hodgenville pastor Robert Y. Simpkins' 125 votes. Simpkins is at South Fork church.

Ray Cummins, pastor of Marion (Ky.) Church, was elected second vice

president by acclamation.

Leo T. Crismon and G. Allen West, former director of missions for Long Run Association, were renamed convention secretary and assistant secretary, by acclamation.

Crismon has served the convention since 1958 as assistant secretary; since 1981 as secretary.

—Suzanne Darland



They will steer the ship

Newly elected KBC officers include [l-r] Don Mathis, Corbin, president; John Searcy, Franklin, first vice president; and Ray Cummins, Marion, second vice president.

600 pastors hear speakers exhort, encourage

Almost 600 Kentucky Baptist pastors and convention messengers were urged to lead their churches in missions and evangelism at the 1985 Kentucky Baptist Pastor's Conference.

Six energetic speakers, including Jimmy Allen, president of the SBC Radio and Television Commission, and Jimmy Draper, former president of the SBC, encouraged those in attendance to incorporate evangelists in the local churches and become involved in Foreign Missions and the state Kenya partnership.

David Ring, Missouri evangelist, set the tone of the meeting in a message aimed at dispelling the money-oriented and ego building myths often associated with vocational evangelists.

He electrified the audience as he unveiled to illustrate his thesis: "You can't judge a book by its cover." After establishing himself as a typical well-dressed evangelist with a three piece suit and shiny black shoes, he then took

off his shoes, bringing laughter with a large hole in his sock. He continued by removing his coat to reveal a ripped sleeve.

This demonstration, according to Ring, proves you can't always go on what you see or hear about an evangelist. "If you want a real revival in your church, prepare for it through prayer, and give evangelists a chance."

Richard Harris, director of mass evangelism at the Home Mission Board and Kentucky native, followed with a rousing sermon for revival in America.

"The 1985 Gallup Poll asked the question: 'Do you consider yourself a sinner?'" Harris stated. "Of those polled, 42 percent said 'yes,' 58 percent said 'no.' This tells us America needs revival."

Harris claimed sin is the greatest hindrance to revival. "There are three principles of sin noted in I John 1: deceit or denying its existence, drift-

ing away from God, and the hope of deliverance. If we do not deny but deal with sin, God will forgive us. Only then is revival possible."

James Smith, president of the Brotherhood Commission, defined the role of prayer in missions and evangelism. "Prayer is not the least you can do; it's the most."

"The most significant thing I could do is hold up my laypeople before God that he might not only do something for them but through them." Calling for a change in the emphasis of prayer, Smith continued, "Ask not what you can do for God but what God can do through you."

The night agenda brought the presentation of Jimmy Allen, who inspired the messengers to take advantage of the media for God. "We must use television for what God intended it to be used for: getting out the message of the gospel."

Allen exhorted Kentucky pastors to "wake up!" "We need to do something about the dark world we live in. One thing we can do is provide a better alternative for American households on our airways."

Citing the ACTS (American Christian Television System) objective as "communicating the gospel effectively for local churches," he proclaimed he hoped "when we're through, all people will say this work was done by our Lord."

C. K. Chang, missionary to China, received a standing ovation as he claimed China was still open to the message of Christ. His testimony of his church, which holds 700 people, being crammed with better than 2000 was heralded with "amens" from the congregation.

Jimmy Draper picked up the momentum. He called for the renewed commitment of Kentucky Baptists to missions in Kenya.

He noted the necessity of evangelism in the local church claiming, "If we fool

around and lose America we might as well forget about Africa."

Draper claims there are four reasons in Isaiah 6 that command us to be concerned about going to Kenya: the majesty of God who told us to be missionaries in his word; the misery of sinful man, lost without Christ; the mercy of God; and the mission of the individual.

"We must be willing like Samuel to say, 'Here am I Lord send me.'"

Elected officers for 1986 are Ferrill Gardner of Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville, president; Isaac McDonald of First Baptist, Hodgenville, vice president; and Barry Allen of the KBC Business Division, secretary.

—Todd Deaton

Mission anthem set by musicians for 1986 premiere

The Kentucky Baptist Music Association in its annual meeting Nov. 11 voted to commission the writing of an original anthem.

David Danner, a Southern Baptist composer, will write the anthem on a missions theme and will include brass and keyboard accompaniment. The piece will be premiered by the Kentucky Baptist Chorale in 1986.

In other action the association elected officers for the coming year: John Cashion of Beaver Dam, president; Bill Orton of Bowling Green, vice president; and president elect; and Steve O'Neal of Owensboro, secretary.

Dick Hamm of Richmond was elected to the KBMA executive committee and Dean Gray of Hartford, Bruce Richardson of Danville and Rex Sholar of Covington were elected to the Kentucky Baptist Chorale committee.

—Patrick Cole



Requesting divine intervention

Participants in the state pastor's conference concluded that event on their knees, praying for the deliberations in the annual convention sessions slated to start the next day.

Perfect minister's wife? Di, Erma, Theresa, & Mary

The ideal pastor's wife must have the beauty of Princess Diana, the wit of Erma Bombeck, the piety of Mother Theresa and the purity of the Virgin Mary.

So Kentucky Baptist minister's wives were told at a meeting in Lexington.

Mary Wallace, whose husband is pastor of Parkway Baptist Church, Lexington, wrote a dramatic presentation for 90 wives and a few husbands at the dinner meeting.

Musicians Jeff and Sondra Carter, also members of Parkway, helped Mrs. Wallace and Ramona Marshall trace the role of minister's wives from the Reformation to the present.

Named officers for the 1985-86 term were Norma Cobble, president, Charlene Ray, vice president; and Ann Case, program chairman, all of Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown; Jane Wagoner, secretary-treasurer, Stithton Church, Radcliff; and Middy Judd, publicity chairman, Colesburg Mission, Severns Valley.

The group gave special appreciation to this year's president Peggy Justus. —Suzanne Darland

Kentucky ahead, but not by much in pension checks

Director of the state's annuity program for only five months, Don Spencer told a luncheon annuitant group that the average retirement check in Kentucky is "significantly higher than the Southern Baptist average."

"But the average is still way too low," he declared.

Retired Foundation director Grady Randolph added that of the 645 annuitants in Kentucky, 482 draw less than \$200 a month.

Annuitants were also told they will be receiving a 13th check this year if they retired before 1980. Those who have retired since have the catch-up sum pro-rated throughout the year.

Rollin S. Burhans, who presided at this year's luncheon, encouraged those present to promote the convention's annuity plan, especially among younger pastors.

Maurice Barnes presented 48 new retirees with the traditional "KBR" ("Kentucky Baptist Reserve," he said jokingly) pins. James Boswell read Rev. 14:13 as a memorial to the 22 annuitants who died in the past year.

George Munro, Joe Tackett and William Claxon were named to the planning committee for the 1986 luncheon.

—Suzanne Darland

Colvin, Randolph cited for service

William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, recognized A. B. Colvin and Grady Randolph for many years of service to the convention.

Following a prayer messengers were invited to go forward to speak with the Colvins and the Randolphs. —Virginia Flanagan



How tedious and tasteless the hours

G. Allen West [l], assistant secretary of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Ruth J. Jones, and Leo T. Crismon, secretary, keeping minutes at the KBC.

Fastest growing state's partner in mission work

G. Allen West, associate coordinator for the Kentucky-Kenya Partnership, gave the report for the convention.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention voted in 1983 to join a three-year partnership with Kenya. In 1984 a task force went to Kenya to determine the needs. In 1985 there have been 97 Kentucky Baptists to travel to Kenya thus far.

West said there were 17 million people in Kenya and that it has the fastest growing population in the world.

West urged the convention to move while God's spirit is working and to help to fill 276 requests for workers to go to Kenya.

—Virginia Flanagan

Business matters: minus controversy

John W. Kruschwitz, resolutions committee chairman, announced that since there were no resolutions from the floor of the convention the committee shared some concerns it felt were "worthy of consideration."

The report included matters on cooperation, tax reform, annuities, Good News America and the host church.

In related business, the convention approved a change in how resolutions will be handled in the future. They must be written, typewritten if possible, titled and dated with the name, address and church of the member offering the resolution.

Additionally, presidents of WMU and Brotherhood will become ex-officio members of the executive board.

A motion made by a messenger from Simpsonville Baptist Church suggesting that biographical information about nominees for KBC president should be

made available prior to the annual meeting was referred to the constitution and bylaws committee.

—Robin Oldham

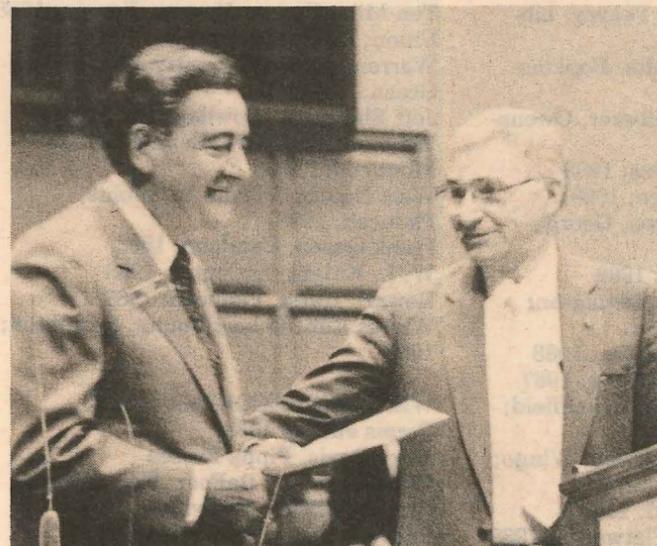
Monolog entertains Women in Ministry

Dolores "Dee" Gilliland, executive director-treasurer, Kentucky WMU, presented a dramatic monolog during

the Women in Ministry luncheon.

Mary Anne Poe, assistant to the vice president for student services, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, presided over a business meeting. A steering committee was elected to formalize the organization. Appointed were Carol Noffsinger, Middletown, coordinator; Jo Garnett, Danville; Lela Hendrix, Louisville, treasurer; and Mary Anne Poe, Simpsonville.

—Virginia Flanagan



[left photo] James B. Lewis [r], immediate past president of the KBC, confers with Ted Sisk, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, the convention's host church. The Kentucky Baptist Convention Chorale sings at the convention, at bottom.



Convention personnel

The following chairmen of committees of the convention were named by newly elected KBC president Don Mathis.

Committee on committees: James R. Vandy, Barbourville
Committee on order of business: Herschel D. Morgan, Benton
Committee on credentials: Paul J. Godsey, Burlington
Committee on arrangements: Deward Hurst, Paducah
Committee on resolutions: H. Gary Coltharp, Madisonville
Committee on public affairs: Billy Hurt, Frankfort
Committee on obituaries: Franklin Skaggs, Princeton
Committee on constitution and bylaws: J. Howard Cobble, Elizabethtown
Committee on nominations: Ben Baird, Hazard

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
Preacher of annual sermon for 1986: William E. Crosby, Erlanger
Alternate preacher for annual sermon: Ken Chafin, SBTS, Louisville

EXECUTIVE BOARD
Association; Name, Home; Term ends
 Bell; Doug Surber, Tinsley; 1988
 Bethel; Douglas Downing, Adams, Tenn.; 1988
 William Lynch, Russellville; 1986-unexpired
 Blood River; Billie G. Turner, Gilbertsville; 1988
 Booneville; James Reed, Booneville; 1988
 Breckinridge; Harry Dooley, Hardinsburg; 1986-unexpired
 Caldwell-Lyon; Steve Baker, Kuttawa; 1988
 Casey County; James E. Peavey, Liberty; 1988
 Christian Co.; Melvin Felts, Hopkinsville; 1988
 Daviess-McLean; Don Zuberer, Owensboro; 1988
 Gerald Howell, Owensboro; 1988
 Denzel Dukes, Owensboro; 1988
 Elkhorn; Mrs. Jane Allison, Georgetown; 1988
 Donald Reed, Versailles; 1988
 Elkhorn; Harold G. Polk, Lexington; 1988
 Terrence Freeman; Lexington; 1988
 Enterprise; Earl Waugh, Allen, 1987
 Goshen; Chester Shartzler, Leitchfield; 1987
 Graves County; Ira Henderson, Wingo; 1987
 Billy E. Garner, Mayfield; 1988
 Greenup; Ken Holden, Flatwoods; 1988
 Green Valley; Scott Ford, Henderson; 1988
 Jackson County; R. Lee Hamblin, Irvine; 1986
 Liberty; Wayne Hayes, Cave City; 1988
 Little River; Don Phelps, Cadiz; 1988
 Logan County; Ronnie R. Forrest, Lewisburg; 1988
 Long Run; Joe Priest Williams, Louisville; 1988
 Bob Hill, Louisville; 1988
 Bob Bailey, Louisville; 1988
 Jerry Douglas, Louisville; 1988
 Rolfe W. Dorsey, Louisville; 1988
 Anne H. Smith, Louisville; 1988
 Morris Chilton, Louisville; 1988
 Ken Streble, Louisville; 1988
 Lynn; Robert Y. Simpkins, Buffalo; 1988

Mercer; W. Robert DeFoor, Harrodsburg; 1988
 Mt. Zion; Harold Mauney, Williamsburg; 1988
 Paul P. Steely, Williamsburg, 1988
 Muhlenberg County; James Doyel, Greensville; 1986
 Ray Gilliland, Graham; 1988
 Rick Shannon, Greenville; 1988
 Nelson; Norman Coe, Mt. Washington; 1988
 Northern Kentucky; Colburn Hooten, Independence; 1988
 Paul Godsey, Burlington; 1988
 Ohio River; Ray Cummins, Marion; 1988
 Ohio Valley; Elbert Lee James, Clay; 1988
 Pike; Glenn Mollette, Pikeville; 1988
 Pulaski; Roy Alexander, Somerset; 1988
 Red River; Jerry Howell, Jackson; 1988
 Rockcastle; Charles Hedrick, Mt. Vernon; 1988
 Russell County; Vernon L. Clark, Russell Springs; 1988
 Russell Creek; George A. Price, Greensburg; 1988
 Salem; Kenneth E. Curry, Brandenburg; 1988
 Severns Valley; J. Howard Cobble, Elizabethtown; 1988
 Shelby County; Lowell Ashby, Shelbyville; 1988
 Milas Robert Vassar Jr., Shelbyville, 1988
 Simpson; Wilbur Powell, Franklin; 1988
 South District; Robert G. Baker, Danville; 1988
 South Union; W. Bennie Bush, Williamsburg; 1988
 Sulphur Fork; William E. Fischer, LaGrange; 1988
 Tates Creek; Fred Livingood, Waco; 1988
 Ten Mile; Vernon Harkey, Verona; 1988
 Union; Ricky Fory, Butler; 1988
 Warren; James F. Gentry Jr., Bowling Green; 1988
 Jeff Blackerby, Bowling Green; 1988
 Wayne County; W. Glenn Edwards, Monticello; 1988
 West Union; William P. Cubine, Paducah; 1988
 Frank Queen, Bandana; 1988
 W. L. Knight, LaCenter; 1988
 Deward Hurst, Paducah; 1988
 Whites Run; Robert Young, Carrollton; 1988

WESTERN RECORDER
Terms ending 1988:
 Jerry Davis, Pippa Passes
 William Robert DeFoor, Harrodsburg
 Glenn Mollette, Pikeville
 Paul J. Godsey, Burlington

KENTUCKY BAPTIST FOUNDATION
Terms ending 1988:
 Arnold Caddell, Burlington
 Mrs. Becky Irvine, Louisville
 Carl Kelly, Bowling Green

BAPTIST HOMES FOR CHILDREN
Term ending 1987:
 Ben Baird, Hazard
Term ending 1988:
 Mrs. Beverly Kennedy, Hawesville
Terms ending 1989:
 Herbert Booth, Union
 Donald Gowin, Campbellsville
 Lindsey Horn, Richmond
 Fountaine Jones, London
 R. Dean Stewart, Somerset

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE
Terms ending 1989:
 Bill Allen, Hartford
 James William Barnett, Harrodsburg
 Donald Chatham, Shelbyville
 Mrs. Roy Keith, Elizabethtown
 T. L. McSwain, Louisville
 Frank Penn, Lexington
 Mrs. Dudley Pomeroy, Pineville
 Henry Thompson, Nicholasville
 Clark Bailey, Harlan

CAMPBELLSVILLE COLLEGE
Term ending 1986:
 J. Chester Badgett, Campbellsville
Terms ending 1989:
 Michael R. Crain, Owensboro
 Donnie Gosser, Elizabethtown
 Lawrence Hall, Elizabethtown
 O. D. Hawkins, Owenton
 Everette Lee, Campbellsville
 George W. Ransdell, Louisville
 Forest Shely, Campbellsville
 Delton Beall, Glasgow
 Vince Correll, Somerset

CUMBERLAND COLLEGE
Terms ending 1989:
 Bob Browning, Somerset
 Floyd D. Price, Brandenburg
 M. A. Reese, Barbourville
 Mrs. Judy Rose, London

CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST SCHOOL
Term ends 1986:
 Arnold Turner, Prestonsburg
Term ends 1987:
 Mrs. Cecil Yeary, London
Terms ending 1988:
 Clarence Jones, Louisville
 Harold Robinson, Somerset
 Wm. E. Shoulta, Providence
 Olin Williams, Eubank
 James H. Jackson, Middlesboro
 William F. Barnard, Alexandria

ONEIDA BAPTIST INSTITUTE
Terms ending 1989:
 Ken Hinton, Maysville
 Ben Rice, Manchester
 Seymour Wattenbarger, London
 James McMurtrie, Madisonville

HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Terms ending 1988:
 William G. Humphrey, Lancaster
 Miss Julia Neal, Bowling Green
 John Sykes, Ashland

BAPTIST HOSPITALS INC.
Terms ending 1989:
 J. Howard Cobble, Elizabethtown
 Clyde F. Ensor, Louisville
 Aubrey W. Lippert, Paducah
 Lynwood Schrader, Lexington
 Bruce F. Wills, Wickliffe
 J. Dan Cooper, Lexington

TEMPERANCE LEAGUE OF KENTUCKY
Terms ending 1988:
 Jack Arvin, Campbellsville
 W. B. Bingham III, Middlesboro
 Lewis Gaines, Franklin
 Arthur Hoskinds, Covington
 A. R. Wilson, Owensboro

COMMITTEE ON ORDER OF BUSINESS
Terms ending 1987:
 John W. Kruschwitz, Ft. Thomas
 Clarence Nemitz, Owensboro



COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS
Terms ending 1987:
 John W. Dyke, Benton
 Carl T. Evans, Corbin
 Paul J. Godsey, Burlington

COMMITTEE ON ARRANGEMENTS
Terms ending 1987:
 Donald Whitehead, Somerset
 Mrs. Pauline Crump, Cadiz

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS
Terms ending 1987:
 J. Robert White, Paducah
 Wm. E. Crosby, Villa Hills

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Terms ending 1987:
 Billy Hurt, Frankfort
 J. C. B. Marquette, Lexington

COMMITTEE ON OBITUARIES
Terms ending 1986:
 Omar L. Barbour, Glasgow
 Mrs. Wilbur Hutchison, Dry Ridge
 Harold G. Polk, Lexington
 Terry M. Sills, Hardin
 Franklin Skaggs, Princeton

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
Terms ending 1988:
 Bruce G. Walzer, Cumberland
 George Munro, Ft. Thomas
 Wm. Robert DeFoor, Harrodsburg

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
Terms ending 1987:
North Central Region:
 Marion Brewer, Clay City
 Wm. F. Barnard, Alexandria
Northeastern Region:
 Hobert N. Reynolds, Inez
Term ending 1986:
 Glenn Mollette, Pikeville
Southeastern Region:
 Don R. Mathis, Corbin
Southern Region:
 Ronald W. Williams, Bowling Green
 Ronnie Forest, Lewisburg
South Central Region:
 Terry Lester, Richmond
 C. Michael Watts, Columbia
Southwestern Region:
 Greg Earwood, Murray
 Calvin Wilkins, Mayfield
Western Region:
 W. Leroy Dillehay, Fordsville
Central Region:
 Mrs. Delores Baugh, Glendale

SPECIAL REPORTS TO THE CONVENTION 1986
Cooperative Program:
 C. C. Brasher Jr., Benton
 Alternate: George Smith, Leitchfield
Home Missions:
 Gary Sharp, Elizabethtown
 Alternate: Thermon Taylor, London
Foreign Missions:
 Mrs. Ginny Sisk, Lexington
 Alternate: E. Stanton Marcum, Keene
Conventionwide Education:
 David W. Forman, Georgetown
 Alternate: H. Ray England, Winchester



James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

The Old Major

To me, C. Roy Angell was Southern Baptists' master illustrator. The late pastor of Miami's Central Baptist Church had a story repertoire. Here is a favorite he told at Ridgecrest:

George W. Truett of Dallas was to address a Baptist meeting in Nashville. He would arrive by train at 8 p.m., shortly before he was to speak.

The man presiding called the chief dispatcher at Nashville Union Station that afternoon to check on Dr. Truett's train. The reply was, "She left Memphis more than 70 minutes late. I don't think No. 5 will make Nashville on time tonight."

Pleadingly, the caller explained the situation. When the dispatcher heard it, he answered, "Hold on just a minute. There's a man on this railroad everybody loves. He's the owner; they call him the Old Major. I'll call him and see what he can do."

The owner's response was, "Mike, tell the boys the Old Major wants No. 5 in Nashville on time tonight." The dispatcher rang an emergency bell which signaled all the stations between Memphis and Nashville. Every station got the message simultaneously.

Mike then told the man on the phone, "It'd be interesting to see what's going on down that line. The baggage man would be saying, 'Unload No. 5 before she stops and load 'er up after she starts. Ain't gonna stay here but 20 seconds.'"

"The Negro porter would be saying, 'Folks, if you wants to get off dis train at the next station, git up where I iz 'cause No. 5 ain't gonna hardly slow down. The Old Major wants No. 5 in Nashville on time tonight.'"

"The fireman would say to the engineer, 'Keep that throttle open wide and I'll keep the pop valve wide—if the wheels stay on we'll go into Nashville on time tonight.'"

Shortly before 8 o'clock the presiding officer arrived at the station. The dispatcher was standing on the platform. He said a "streak of lightning" just passed the last station eight miles down the line—"It looks as if No. 5 will make it in on time."

Momentarily, the two men heard a shrill whistle in the distance, a rumble and No. 5 came into sight. Brakes went on, sparks flashed and she thundered to a stop—one minute to 8.

The engineer climbed down from his cab, took off his goggles and approached the two men. "Mike," he said, "tell me, why did the Old Major want No. 5 in Nashville on time tonight?" He hadn't asked before. It was just enough that the Old Major wanted No. 5 in Nashville on time.

Dr. Angell then softly closed his story with this verse: *Nevertheless, at thy word, I'll let down my nets.*

Kentucky Baptist Convention

Speakers emphasize cooperation, missions

"There is no force in the world that can destroy Christianity save one—we Christians," Foreign Mission Board president R. Keith Parks told the Kentucky Baptist Convention Nov. 13.

"We can do it with neglect, compromise, laziness and some who call themselves Christians are doing their best to destroy it," warned Parks.

"Every church is responsible under God to preach the gospel to every generation," he remarked.

Parks said in a recent trip to the Soviet Union he found Christians with an "eagerness to learn" and share.

"In all the churches in the eight cities I was overwhelmed with the intensity of worship," stated Parks. "I was filled with the spirit of oneness that we felt with the Christians in the Soviet Union."

He noted the Soviet Christians requested that Americans join them in prayer for the upcoming arms talks. Parks said the Soviets asked "that we in United States pray that out of the spirit of openness with the United States."

Parks shared one young man told him he could witness in his church and his home but not in public. "I thought this man with all his restrictions was probably winning more for Christ than many of us were," declared Parks.

Christians in China are also being successful in their effort to spread the gospel, according to Parks.

"In China we are seeing many new church buildings being built," he revealed. "There is one new church started every day."

Parks pointed out Southern Baptists have many accomplishments in their missions work. He noted 1.5 million people have been treated in Baptist hospitals, 100 million persons overseas have heard the gospel by radio, and over \$14 million had been given to help the hungry.

"You have been steadily preaching the gospel," said Parks. "You are doing all these things and many, many more."

"At the heart of all of it is telling people about Christ and starting churches. And until somebody finds a better way to do it let's stop knocking the way God is blessing."

However, Parks suggested there is room for improvement in Southern Baptists' mission efforts, noting among the top 20 U. S. denominations Southern Baptists rank 18th in benevolent giving.

"It should not take 8000 Southern

Baptists to send one missionary couple overseas," Parks insisted. "We are people of the book and the book is clear on our responsibility."

Parks said human beings have "a distorted view" of living the Christian life. He emphasized Christians "need to see the whole world and see the price that Christ paid and the price we must pay."

According to Parks, this will only happen when "the love of God fills our lives that we will be willing to sacrifice."

Emphasizing the impossibility for any single church to reach the world for Christ on its own, Cecil Ray exhorted Kentucky Baptists to take seriously cooperative mission efforts of Southern Baptists.

Ray, director of the national Planned Growth in Giving campaign, pointed out only a few churches had the resources to minister effectively to their own community. Yet he maintained the responsibility for local churches extends beyond its immediate community.

"Every church has a Christ-assigned worldwide mandate. This means no church is local except in the location of its meeting place. Its task is always humanity-wide."

Pointing to the missionary roots of Southern Baptists and to the challenge of Bold Mission Thrust, Ray declared any greatness attained by Southern Baptists is because the denomination had been willing to "keep our priorities on missions."

Ray said Southern Baptists are on the brink of many new opportunities to expand mission efforts, but he conceded denominational controversies could hinder any progress.

"It is frightening this rare opportunity comes at the same time we face our most serious internal conflict," Ray stated. "Is it possible that our handling of it is the great test to determine if we can indeed be trusted with such a lofty venture?"

Ray called for the denomination to "come to a renewed clarity of purpose" and emphasize the mission enterprise.

"A priority of missions shapes one kind of denomination," Ray claimed. "A priority of doctrinal uniformity shapes another kind, and a priority of social reform shapes still another."

"Is doctrinal uniformity now becoming the top priority?" asked Ray.

He said Baptists' "unwillingness to join together could well prove to be-

come the greatest Baptist apostasy of all."

Harper Shannon, director of evangelism for the Alabama Baptist Convention, told convention participants that "Kentucky is not only a part of a great missions thrust, but it's a great missions field."

According to Shannon, there are "150 million unchurched persons in this country and perhaps 180 to 185 million lost people."

Shannon noted it has been said the early church "turned the world upside down." He expressed hope "it can be said of us that we turned the world right side up."

"We have an unprecedented opportunity in a united simultaneous effort to say 'Good News America,' and the best news of all is that God loves you and made a way for you to be reconciled to him," Shannon concluded.

W. Morgan Patterson, president of Georgetown College, averred Baptist colleges have the "right stuff" to provide quality education in today's society.

Borrowing the title "The Right Stuff" from a 1983 film about the men who began the space program, Patterson said Baptist schools have "the right stuff in education."

"They have the 'right purpose' to extend the ministry of our churches by offering higher education to the young men and women you send us," said Patterson.

He claimed Kentucky Baptist schools are the "right size" for students to receive personal attention from faculty and opportunities for leadership.

"Baptist schools have the 'right emphasis' on the liberal arts and a broad foundation for the professions and for life," Patterson stated.

"Right personnel" serve at the schools and are "competent and caring and are expected to be committed to a lifestyle compatible with a Christian profession."

Finally, Patterson concluded, "our schools have the right balance of studies, athletics, social activities and religious emphasis."

—Patrick Cole with Virginia Flanagan, Suzanne Darland and Robin Oldham

SUBSTITUTE PARENTS - TEACHERS - RETIREES. Part time work with exceptional earning opportunity in school related sales work. Call 895-7333. 10-8-2t

FOR SALE: 52 Solid Oak Pews, 9 ft. long. Seat padded with red. \$150.00 each. 3 Solid Oak Pews, 8 ft. long. Seat padded with red. \$100.00 each. 10 ceiling lights four foot long. 4 bulbs each light. \$75.00 each. 1 Baptistry Heater, runs on 220. 3 Solid Oak Pew Chairs, padded with red. \$50.00 each. Calvary Baptist Church, London, KY 40741 or call 606-864-7071; 606-865-7532. 10-15-4t

NEED A JOB: Spring Meadows Children Home needs you to serve as houseparents. Single and married, male or female. Contact at once. Charles Corrigan 502-245-2161. 10-29-4t

INTERNATIONAL BUS AVAILABLE: A 40 passenger, 1973 International Bus (used for over-the-road) for sale. Excellent condition, new paint, and tires. Call First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, KY. (502) 839-6966.

Baptistries Signs
Steeple Lights

DIAL TOLL FREE
1-800-446-7400

BOWLING UNITED INDUSTRIES
2250, Danville, VA 24541
In VA (804) 822-2000

For the economy conscious church . . .

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> STEEPLES | <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CUPOLAS | <input type="checkbox"/> BAPTISTRIES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COLUMNS | <input type="checkbox"/> LOUVERS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CORNICES | <input type="checkbox"/> SHUTTERS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CROSSES | <input type="checkbox"/> RAILINGS |

**Aluminum fabrication —
our specialty**

WRITE OR CALL
502-932-7091

ALUMINUM FABRICATORS
P. O. BOX 267 • GREENSBURG, KY 42743

\$300 OFF ALASKA.



Tour the Great Land this summer, at a great price: as low as \$2402. That's a savings of \$300 (\$150 per person) just for booking by December 31. \$350. Deposit Required.

ALASKA HOMECOMING TOUR

July 26 - August 6, 1986
Starting Point - Vancouver

Some Highlights of the Tour:

- ★ July 26 - Sail from Vancouver on the Nieuw Amsterdam
- ★ July 27 - Cruising
- ★ July 28 - Port of Call - Ketchikan
- ★ July 29 - Arrive Juneau - Tour Juneau
- ★ July 30 - Arrive Fairbanks - Tour Fairbanks
- ★ July 31 - Alaska Railroad to Denali
- ★ Aug. 2 - Flight to Nome/Kotzebue
- ★ Aug. 5 - ALASKA BAPTIST CONVENTION FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Westours is Alaska
ECHOLS TOURS

For More Information 1-800-551-2334



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

The little things

For more than 30 years we have had Mennonite students attending our school. Nearly without exception, they have been fine Christian young people. They have meant much to our school.

Last summer, one of our Mennonite graduates came to visit us. Evelyn was the valedictorian of our 1957 class. She and her husband have been missionaries to Hong Kong for many years. Whenever in America on leave, she comes to see us and it is always a joy to see her.

Recently, we were thrilled to receive a letter from one of our more recent graduates of Mennonite persuasion. He wrote in part: "I'm here in the Ozarks attending college. I plan to graduate with a bachelor of science degree in aviation science. I got into the program on my first try. Some are here for several years before they can get into the program.

"Maybe by homecoming time I will be able to fly to southeastern Kentucky, rather than just sit here and wish I could be there. I've been 'away from home' for too long. I'll soon have my private pilot's license.

"It is hard to imagine the class of '82 graduating shortly. They were all freshmen when I was a senior. They are so lucky to be there at Oneida. I wish I had slowed down and taken notice of all the little things we all took for granted. We all grumbled and complained until that Sunday afternoon of graduation. Then the tears in our eyes were not there because we were happy to leave. By Mon-

day morning we were ready to join the freshman class again just to remain part of Oneida.

"I hope the seniors realize, and the rest of the students for that matter, that the time there is so short. Soon all you will have are memories. I hope those memories are as good as mine are. I was really blessed by the school. I learned so much both in and out of class. What I wouldn't give to be one of Mr. Stephen's or Mr. Gritton's managers again.

"Every teacher I had affected my life. I wish I could have recognized the sincerity and caring of the faculty and staff while I was there. When I see the products of countless other high schools, I am thankful even more for Oneida Baptist Institute.

"I'm just a hillbilly at heart. Keep me in your prayers as all of you are in mine. I pray for God's richest blessings on the school. I just wish I had some money to send."

Thank you, Don. Thank you. Your letter, your love, your prayers mean more than money.

When I first came back to Oneida as president 10 years ago, we had a young lady enrolled on nearly full scholarship. She came from a large family and a broken home. Extremely intelligent and a straight "A" student, she was accepted into a very distinguished college at the end of her junior year of high school. There she made a fine academic record, started out to prepare for law but married a lawyer instead and is now studying nursing.

Wanda recently wrote: "What wonders have occurred at Oneida. I want to purchase the new book. The pictures were most interesting in the pamphlet. Oneida is important, useful and vital to children all over the country. Hopefully through the years, my husband and I will be able to give more meaningful contributions to Oneida."

Then a former student writes from Oakland, Cal.: "I miss the warm protection of love and grace through the Lord there at Oneida. I thank you for caring for me. I know Oneida will continue to progress because of the faith of so many people. Thanks to you, the staff, and the love of God that stands behind you. Out here there is much confusion and if one's faith is not strong, the winds will blow you away."

Reprinted from Apr. 28, 1982



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR NOV. 24, 1985

International Series

One in Christ Jesus

Philemon 1-3 The opening statements indicate Paul's deep appreciation of Philemon's hospitality, love, fellowship and faith. The ties of love which bound them together were a constant source of joy and comfort to the apostle ever after. Philemon was in comfortable circumstances, perhaps a man of wealth, because his house was large enough to provide ample room for the church services. It is possible that the greatest services which Philemon rendered to the cause of Christ were through the proper use of his material blessings.

Philemon 8-20 Philemon's slave, Onesimus, appropriated some of Philemon's property and ran away. Fearing punishment for his crime, Onesimus fled to Rome. Due to divine providence this fugitive came into the presence of Paul, who introduced him to Christ. Paul then sent him back to his Christian master, Philemon, to confess his sin and to be "a brother beloved."

Knowing that Philemon could legally inflict on Onesimus the death penalty should he be so inclined, Paul wrote this letter and sent it to him by Onesimus. Paul approached the matter which occasioned this letter very tactfully. Since love always shrinks from commanding, Paul followed the Christian principle of beseeching on the ground of grace.

Paul's plea that Onesimus be received back into full standing in Philemon's household and as a brother in Christ was tender and heroic. His request implied that it was not only eminently desirable for him to do so, but that as a Christian Philemon was under obligation to do so.

Paul expressed his personal willingness to assume entire responsibility for any indebtedness which Onesimus had incurred, if he could not pay it. In substance he said, credit me with what you think of him, or reckon to me his demerit, and look upon him as you look upon me, or reckon to him my merit. The placing of the debt of Onesimus to the account of Paul and the merit of Paul to the account of Onesimus is a splendid illustration of the substitutionary work of Christ.

Life and Work Series

Learning from discipline

II Kings 11:1-4 Very few people, if any, can stand unlimited prosperity and luxury without losing their judgment and doing foolish and sinful things. That was the case with Solomon.

Solomon took unto himself many wives, eventually filling his harem with 700 wives and 300 concubines, many of whom were from the surrounding idolatrous nations with various pagan religious persuasions. God had expressly forbidden his people to marry women who worshiped false gods. When Solomon disobeyed God he sinned against God, others and himself. As time passed he was subjected to terrific pressure from his wives to support the worship of their pagan gods and the numerous practices connected therewith. As Solomon grew older, these heathen women influenced him to turn away his heart from God and worship pagan deities, which was something Jehovah refused to tolerate.

I Kings 11:9-11 That Solomon fell is a lesson of tremendous importance to us. It is a warning to all concerning the consequences of sin in a human life. Because of his disobedience to God's command to avoid idolatry, God punished Solomon by taking his kingdom from him and giving it to another.

I Kings 11:13 God's judgment of Solomon was sure, but it was tempered by divine grace in that it was not executed until during the reign of his son, Rehoboam. While walking in the pathway of disobedience one need not expect God's favors and blessings to abide upon him.



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

on mission together

Waiting at the door

One would think that a big black lab would have all of the running room he needs within a one-acre backyard. Not so with Strock. A couple of weeks ago as we walked out the front door there he sat, wagging his tail, looking up at us. If dogs can smile, there was certainly one on his face as he walked into the front of the house, through the kitchen and out into the backyard. I assumed he had jumped a lower portion of the fence we have near the house. But, a few days later, we repeat the same scene.

As we walked out, there he was on the front porch. One more time—into

the house, through the kitchen and into the backyard. Later that day I decided to walk the fence that surrounds our yard.

Sure enough, there it was—a hole he had dug under the fence. Not just one, mind you, but another on down about 10 to 15 feet. I think he thought it was funny as he watched me and listened to what I had to say to him.

I began to contemplate why a big, black dog would leave the lush environs of a secure backyard. I finally surmised that, with all of the other dogs that gather next door, including his favorite lady-friend Shawna, his backyard seemed rather drab. That made sense but he knew he was breaking a "dog law."

But I also wondered why a dog as smart as Strock, who can so cleverly make a way to get out, can't seem to get back in the same way. So, Strock became my teacher that day.

Most of us are given ample "running

room." As Christians we know the boundaries that the Master has laid out for us. But, there are those times when we willfully decide—not accidentally—to go under or over the fence. If the truth were known, there have been a number of occasions when all of us have gone outside the fence but have gotten back before anybody found out about it. We humans have the remarkable capacity to sin and think we can get away with it.

The miracle of grace is when we stop sneaking in and out of the fence and, guilty like Strock, sit at the front door, waiting for the Master to open the door and let us in.

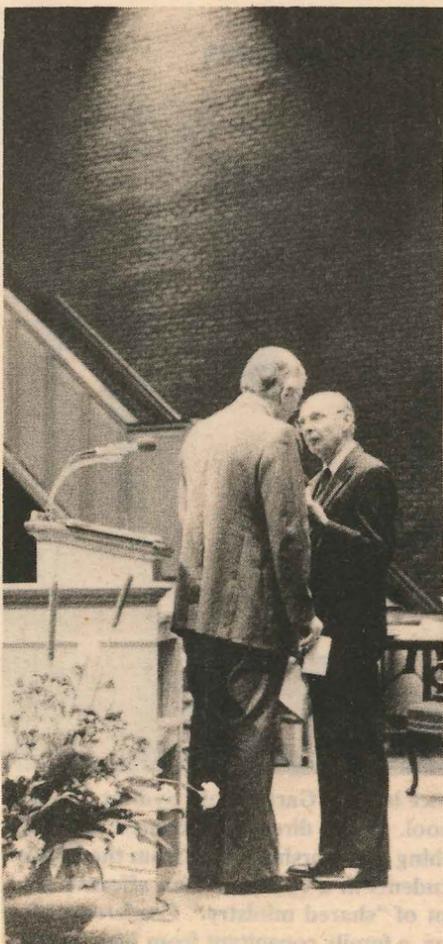
I have repaired the places through which Strock has taken his several exits. But I suspect that one of these days, Strock will be sitting at the front door again, wagging his tail, glad to see me, and wanting back in his own, secure backyard. He knows his master loves him.

KBC 1985

Cooperation: The Baptist way to a lost world



[Clockwise] Jerry Douglas, minister of music at Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville, leads congregational singing at the 1985 Kentucky Baptist Convention. The Kentucky Baptist Brass Ensemble performs at the convention. Bob Simpkins, disaster relief coordinator of the Kentucky Baptist Minutemen Disaster Relief Team, talks with reporters from WKYT-TV, Lexington. Simpkins is pastor of South Fork Baptist Church, Hodgenville. Henry Huff [r], parliamentarian of the KBC and second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, advises KBC president James B. Lewis on parliamentary procedure. Those attending the Pastors' Conference listen attentively to the platform speaker.



Clear Creek Baptist School

Fall Revival

The theme of the fall revival at Clear Creek Baptist School was "marriage and ministry." Evangelist Bob Burch examined the vital relationship between successful leadership at home and at church. His thought-provoking messages stimulated communication among campus couples, and challenged them to make a recommitment to their relationships.

Reverend Burch is pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Knoxville. Special music was performed by members of the Clear Creek campus family.



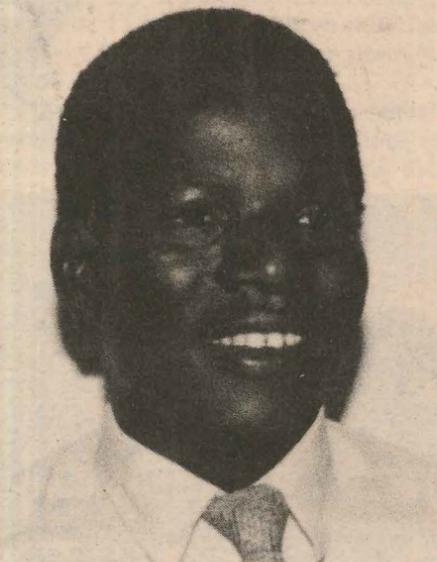
WMU Conference

"Jambo!" Mrs. Dee Gilliland, executive secretary-treasurer of Kentucky's Women's Union, brought greetings in Swahili to Clear Creek Baptist School. Mrs. Gilliland shared her experience in Kenya during a recent chapel service. She described the theme of state missions prayer week as "Touch 'n Tell". . . TNT is dynamite—power that can be heard throughout the world." Mrs. Gilliland announced the centennial goal of Kentucky's WMU: by 1988, to have 100,000 women and girls involved in vital missions education.

Over 200 women from across Kentucky met at Clear Creek recently to participate in the annual Women's Missionary Union Leadership Conference.

In addition to ten major conferences on methods of mission education, the women enjoyed worship and fellowship together.

New Nigerian Student



His name is Ozeum Mgbonyebi, but his classmates at Clear Creek Baptist School pronounce it "Paul." And like his missionary namesake, Paul has been sharing the gospel across the globe.

From Abbi Baptist Church, Bendel, Nigeria, Paul spent a year in Denmark with an international Christian youth organization. He served as a counselor in a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. He applied to the Home Mission Board for a summer missionary assignment, and the Board introduced Paul to Clear Creek as a preparation for his goal of full-time missionary work.

Twenty-nine year old Paul lives with the single students in Kelly Hall. He speaks Ibo, Danish and English. "I feel at home - no problems. I especially like the environment. The woods are very peaceful for meditation."

New Students From Kentucky



A total of 200 students have enrolled at Clear Creek Baptist School for the fall semester.

New students from Kentucky include: Herman & Brenda Campbell, Calvary Baptist Church, Somerset; Maurice & Vicki Caudill, Colson Baptist Mission, Van; Gary & Paddy Daugherty, Alaton Baptist Church, Centertown; Tondra & Debbie Daugherty, Manitou Baptist Church, Manitou; Charles & Kay Dwyer, Woodland Baptist Church, Greenville; Scott Ellis, New Salem Baptist Church, Hustonville; Les & Diana Ellison, Kento-Boo Baptist Church, Florence; Thomas & Kim Floyd, Sinking Creek Baptist Church, London; Buddy & Phyllis Gilpin, Corinth Baptist Church, London; Steve & Teresa Hubbard, Union Chapel, Edmonton; Arthur & Wendy Irvin, Sand Run Baptist Church, Hebron; Gay Jeffries, Lancaster Baptist Church, Lancaster; Martin Pem-

berton, Highland Park Baptist Church, Williamsburg; Mary Pennington, Liberty Baptist Church, London; Russell & Clarene Perry, Arcade Baptist Church, Louisville; Joseph Rafferty, Saloma Baptist Church, Campbellsville; Dwight Reed, Bethel Baptist Church, Berea; Terry & Debbie Rhye, Second Baptist Church, Providence; Dale & Millie Rose, Branham Grove Baptist Church, Monticello; Clyde & Wendy Strunk, Mr. Union Baptist Church, Tateville; Robert & Debbie Wright, Gethsemane Baptist Church, Louisville.

Clear Creek is a Kentucky Baptist Bible College founded in 1926 for the practical and spiritual training of adults called to Christian ministry. Students are committed to sound doctrine, holy living and strong leadership. Over 1,100 alumni serve in 46 states and six foreign countries, including 300 who serve in Kentucky's 2200 churches.

Conference Week Workers



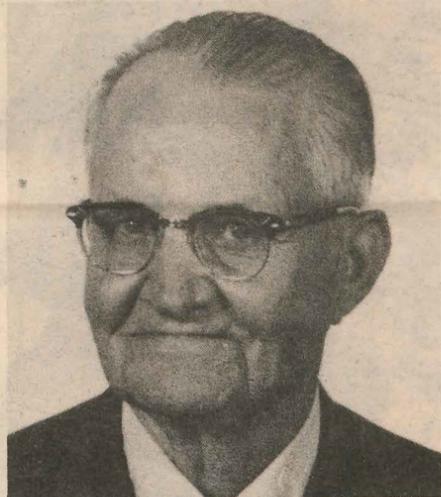
Dr. Dudley Pomeroy (left) welcomes conference leaders Gary Cook, Sydnor Money, and James Barry to Clear Creek Baptist School. Cook, director of church and staff support, and Barry, senior consultant in preaching and worship, came from the Baptist Sunday School Board to lead Clear Creek students in a conference on effective pastoral leadership, featuring the Biblical concept of "shared ministry." Conferences for ministers' wives were conducted by Mrs. Money, a family consultant from First Baptist Church, Knoxville.

PRAY FOR

Cooperative
Program
Supported
Ministries



Senior Student



"I'm hunting for a sign that says "Quiet: Student at Work," chuckled 70 year old Martin Pemberton of Williamsburg, a new student at Clear Creek Baptist School.

Pemberton, a member of Highland Park Baptist Church, is making the transition to a new routine as a ministry student, after 20 years service in the Navy and 19 years at the United State Post Office.

After his wife Reba died, Pemberton was seeking the Lord's will for his future. One day he was reading **The Mountain Voice** (a Clear Creek publication) and "everything fell into place - my future was settled."

Pemberton's son Martin, in North Carolina, and his daughter Ruthann, in Louisville, are very encouraging of his new life, and boast proudly of his commitment.

Pemberton commutes to his morning classes and returns home to tend his garden in the afternoon. In addition to his classroom responsibilities, he currently serves as interim pastor of Alsile Baptist Church outside Williamsburg. His past experience in church leadership includes being a Bible teacher, deacon, songleader, and church clerk.

His classmate say, "Brother Martin is a valuable and special part of our class. His good humor and perseverance are inspiring."