



Controversial SBC bylaw plan calls for revision

by Dan Martin

A proposal to revise a controversial Southern Baptist Convention bylaw will be recommended when the SBC Executive Committee meets Feb. 17-19, 1986.

Bylaw 16 concerns nominations of persons to serve on the SBC committee on boards, commissions and standing committees. The committee on boards nominates persons to serve as trustees of the 20 national agencies of the SBC, and has been at the center of the seven-year controversy in the denomination between conservatives and moderates.

The controversy has swirled around the convention presidency. The president appoints the committee on committees, which in turn nominates the committee on boards.

During the 1985 annual meeting parliamentarian Wayne Allen, pastor of

Briarcrest Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., ruled the bylaw says nominations to the committee on boards can come only from the committee on committees, thus eliminating an effort from the floor to nominate an alternate slate for the committee on boards.

Bylaw 16, section 1, says only that the "Committee on boards . . . shall be nominated to the convention by the committee on committees," and does not speak to nominations from the floor.

Following Allen's recommendation, SBC president Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, ruled out of order attempts to amend the committee on committees' report, setting off near pandemonium at the convention.

In the aftermath of the convention, a Birmingham, Ala. layman and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Crowder,

retained an attorney and announced the possibility they will file suit in civil court because they claim their rights as messengers were violated by the ruling.

The Crowders' attorney, Emmitt J. Bondurant of Atlanta, made a 10-minute presentation to the Executive Committee during its September 1985 meeting, claiming the 1986 committee on boards was illegally elected and requesting the Executive Committee to "take prompt and effective action . . . to remedy the violations . . . and to assure similar violations of the bylaws are not repeated in the future."

The Executive Committee, however, after a closed door meeting, voted to "affirm" the actions of the convention. The committee left open the possibility of review and revision of the bylaws, particularly Bylaw 16, "for clarity. . . ."

The six-member bylaws workgroup of the SBC Executive Committee conducted two telephone conference calls on the bylaw—Oct. 30 and Nov. 4—during which a revision was adopted. The proposal will be made to the full Executive Committee when it meets in February.

John Sullivan, chairman of the bylaws workgroup, said: "When we left the Executive Committee in September we said we would work on Bylaw 16. We have been giving it consideration and decided we would get together and see where we needed to make progress."

Sullivan, pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church, Shreveport, La., said the workgroup will recommend the revision—"unless we feel we should make some other change"—to the Executive Committee for action in February, and, if adopted, to the 1986 meeting of the SBC in Atlanta.

The revision, unless it is changed before presentation to the Executive Committee, will retain the provision the committee on committees will nominate a layperson and a denominationally-related person from each of the conventions qualifying for representation. It will add two sentences which will allow nominations from the floor, but

will prevent the presentation of alternate slates of nominees.

The additional two sentences say: "Further nominations may be made from the floor. No messenger shall be allowed to nominate more than one person for election to the committee on boards . . ."

Sullivan said the workgroup was "unanimous" in supporting the revision. Only one member—John Bunn of Sylva, N. C.—was unable to participate.

Sullivan said those participating in the conference calls included David Maddox of Fullerton, Cal., Executive Committee chairman; Darrell Robinson of Mobile, Ala., chairman of the administrative and convention arrangements subcommittee of the Executive Committee, both of whom are ex-officio members of the bylaws workgroup.

Others were James P. Guenther, convention attorney, and workgroup members Francis L. Wilson, Alamogordo, N. M.; Frank Lady, Jonesboro, Ark.; Paul Pressler, Houston, Tex.; and James Yates, Yazoo City, Miss.

Guenther told Baptist Press he "hopes that the bylaw amendment will be introduced to the convention early so that the convention can react to it before this year's committee on committees makes its report. That would give the chair the opportunity of having the benefit of the convention's will on whether to allow nominations from the floor."

Guenther added a bylaw amendment requires a two-thirds majority vote for adoption.

Pressler said the bylaw is "ambiguous and ambiguity needs to be resolved. I think it is in everyone's best interest the bylaw be made clear." The Houston appellate court judge pointed out the "preamble" to the revision—a background statement provided to explain the rationale for such Executive Committee recommendations—is essential to the acceptance of the action. (BP)

Suit to enforce bylaws to be filed

by Jack D. Sanford, Editor

Speaking as representatives of "Baptists Committed to Fairness," Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crowder of Birmingham, Ala. have instructed attorneys to proceed with the filing of a suit to enforce the existing bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The Crowders stated "it is expected the suit will be filed in a court in Georgia in late November or early December. The SBC is a Georgia corporation."

The press release further said, "On Nov. 7, Baptists Committed to Fairness learned from Baptist Press that the Bylaws Workgroup of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee has recommended to the Executive Committee an amendment to Bylaw 16, Section 1 to provide as follows: (1) The Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees shall be composed of two (2) members from each qualified state, who shall be elected by the Convention. Nominations for each position shall be made by the Committee on Committees. Further

nominations may be made from the floor. No messenger shall be allowed to nominate more than one person for election to the Committee on Boards, Commissions, and Standing Committees"

A further statement by the Crowders declared, "The above proposed amendment imposed even greater restrictions on messengers than did Dr. Stanley's ruling in Dallas which was overwhelmingly overturned by vote of the messengers . . . (the) ruling prohibited a messenger from nominating a substitute slate and interpreted Bylaw 16 to require one-by-one substitute nominations. That ruling was overturned by the messengers. While permitting one-by-one nominations, the proposed amendment requires that each such nomination be made by a separate messenger. As a practical matter, this proposal effectively blocks all power of the SBC messengers to amend the report of the powerful Committee on Committees"

The Crowders expressed their interpretation of the Peace Committee work by saying, "Because the Peace Committee has announced its decision to address doctrinal questions first, it does not appear that any of the issues concerning the integrity of the SBC bylaws will be addressed within the SBC before the Atlanta convention."

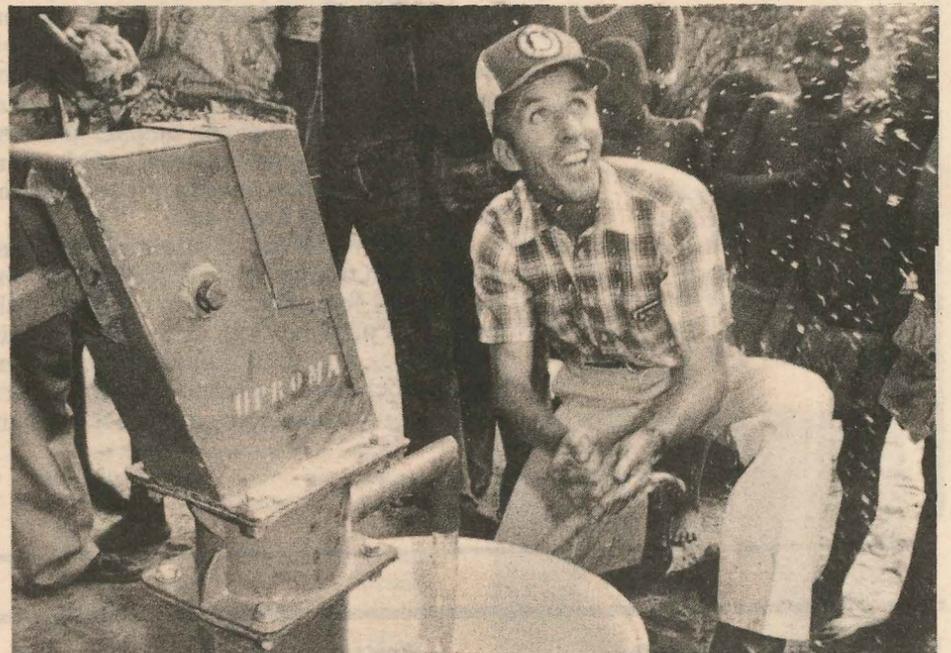
In a concluding statement the Crowders noted that "Baptists Committed to Fairness feel that all remedies within the SBC procedures have been exhausted. The SBC Executive Committee must now bear the responsibility for the fact that the bylaw violations must be remedied by a court decree, rather than by action from within the SBC . . . Baptists Committed to Fairness does not wish to see . . . a schism occur, nor does it wish to see the democratic principles embodied in the SBC bylaws ignored. However, the actions of the Executive Committee and its Bylaws Workgroup have made it abundantly clear that the time for quiet efforts to effect change has passed. The efforts toward compromise and the spirit of compromise are not being reciprocated . . . accordingly, Baptists Committed to Fairness has instructed its attorneys to proceed with the filing of a suit to enforce the existing bylaws."

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Celebration and thanksgiving

Jerome Ethredge splashes water on bystanders as he gets the first water from a new pump installed in the Togolese village of Agrodeka. Ethredge follows this ritual at every pump installed by Baptists in the West African nation. If the chief is there, he splashes him first. After he calms everyone down Ethredge leads villagers in a prayer of thanksgiving for the new well. For most village women, a new well means they no longer spend several hours daily carrying water.

sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

Churches and the courts

The question of lawsuits against churches is a new and startling phenomena in this litigation-prone society.

An example of the climate of the times is seen by the creation of a special committee of our Kentucky Baptist Convention. This special KBC committee has spent a year in study of ascending and descending liability and has been authorized to work one more year so our agencies and institutions, as well as the KBC itself, will have full information concerning legal liabilities.

Another example of where we are in regard to lawsuits is seen in the Crowder episode reported on page one of this issue. Most Baptists were taken by surprise whenever the Crowders announced their intention to sue the SBC. Now our surprise has turned to sober reflection on the ramifications for the future and the possibility of a judge in a secular court sitting in judgment on the actions of the professed people of God. However, these are but a ripple on the stream when compared to what is happening elsewhere around the country.

North Carolina Baptist state paper, the Biblical Recorder, printed an article by Ralph A. Murphy, an insurance company executive from Atlanta, which gives a sobering picture of what to expect and how to prepare for the possibility of a lawsuit against the church at some point in the future.

Murphy recorded some of what is happening now in America. Item: a youth was killed when he fell off a tractor during a church-sponsored hayride. Result: verdict of \$500,000 demand pending in the court.

Item: a 13-year-old child molested a five-year-old in a church school bathroom. Result: verdict of \$50,000 was made against the church for failure to properly supervise.

Item: a church member volunteered to work on a church bus. His blow torch started a gas fire and the man was injured in the explosion. Result: claims have been made against the church for \$300,000.

Item: a youth was participating in an obstacle course competition at a church camp. An accident caused by diving under a rope resulted in permanent quadriplegia. Result: a verdict went against the church in the amount of over \$2 million.

Murphy listed seven areas of concern which would help the church avoid the dangers or be prepared more adequately to defend against a lawsuit. He suggested that you can be part of the solution through awareness of potential problem areas, proper planning and conscientious implementation. The seven danger areas are:

1. Liability without physical injury. This would include such things as (1) untrue statements about members of the congregation or other faiths; (2) invasion of privacy, such as investigation into private lives of church members, such as searching desks or lockers; (3) counseling by insufficiently trained or unskilled counselors; (4) discharge of

students or expulsion of a member of the congregation.

2. Improper or inadequate supervision. It is almost impossible to over-supervise. More litigation has come over "failure to properly supervise" than any other cause. Inadequate supervision will likely be alleged for the following: accidents on the playgrounds, in Sunday school, church outings, sporting events, field trips, swimming and in the classroom.

3. Ground and building liability. This area of concern covers such things as doorways, stairwells, balconies and the exterior. Building codes and safety requirements must be strictly observed if the church is to have a chance to defend itself against a suit in this area.

4. Hazardous activities. This area of concern includes diverse activities as hayrides, swimming parties, camping trips, football, rope jumping, volleyball, and other types of activity.

5. Bus ministry. It can be a rewarding ministry for the church, Murphy stated, but it presents serious problems if not properly supervised and controlled. Driver selection is necessary, including careful check of mental and physical condition as well as the past driving record of the operator. Bus maintenance to conform to state requirements is essential and the vehicle must comply with state requirements for lights, equipment and color. Regular check of exhaust system, brakes, tires, steering and chassis.

6. Hiring and employment. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 covers most employes and prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, color or national origin. Termination should follow well prescribed guidelines and thoroughly documented. A policy defining sexual harassment should be written and disseminated to the staff. All complaints should be treated seriously and investigated thoroughly.

7. Sexual misconduct. Most often these offenses are committed by employes of the church. Emotions run high and damage claims run even higher. Every allegation should be properly investigated and reported to the insurance company.

What all this means is that the church is well advised to study carefully its insurance coverage, noting all the possibilities which might bring forth a lawsuit. A good attorney is almost as necessary as a good minister of education or music or youth for the church.

The current issue of Light, the publication from the Christian Life Commission of the SBC, notes that 40,000 clergy have bought malpractice insurance and that at least 12 cases of malpractice are pending against clergy in state courts.

The time has long since passed when the church and its ministers were free from the fear of a lawsuit. It is a tough time and requires all of us to be as wise as serpents, gentle as doves . . . and well insured and legally advised.

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

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by Pauline Stegall

Profiles from my old Kentucky home

JOHNNY GENTRY

"I'm not quite as old as Methuselah," joked Johnny Gentry, retired minister from Caldwell-Lyon Association.

But his Sunday school attendance record spans more than a half century. He hasn't missed since he was saved 52 years ago at First Baptist Church, Dawson Springs.

"I made up my mind to be at Sunday school every Sunday. That was my goal," Gentry commented.

Maintaining this record hasn't been easy. There were times when he trudged through the snow for more than three miles. It took determination during his college and seminary years at Western State University, Georgetown College, Bethel College and Southern Seminary. And his pastoral duties have not hindered him.

Recently, after a heart attack, he was hospitalized at a Madisonville hospital for several days. The chaplain provided him a custom-made Sunday school class.

Gentry has filled many positions in Sunday school but he especially enjoys teaching juniors.

His relationship with young people probably stems from his years of teaching in country schools. He began teaching when he was 17 and taught for 11 or 12 years.

"We had lots of freedom in the classroom back then," he reminisced. "Every day I would have a devotional. They loved to hear about Daniel and the lions' den!"

Gentry spoke about his great joy when his school children would

attend revivals and many would be saved.

"I was always with the Lord," he said, "but I didn't really start preaching until I was in the 30's."

One of the high points in his life was a trip to Israel in 1975. "I saw a lot of wonderful things, but those with the most meaning for me were the Upper Room, Garden of Gethsemane, Gordon's Calvary, and the Tomb."

After his heart attack he retired from a 17 year pastorate at Piney Grove. He has regained much of his health, and in addition to being Church Training director at Piney, he keeps busy supply preaching almost every Sunday.

Plans for the future? More preaching, and of course, more Sunday school!



GARLON SILLS

Sharp wit, bouncing step, youthful outlook and a ready smile—this is Garlon Sills, interim pastor of Salem Baptist Church, Ohio River Association. Only his wisdom fails to belie his 79 years.

Sills, a great grandfather, has always been full of surprises. He and Mrs. Sills (Agnes) were married when he was 19 and she was 16. People said it wouldn't last. But they celebrated their 60th anniversary last year.

He worked as superintendent of the press room at the old Paducah News Democrat, which later merged with the Evening Sun, until he was 39. Convinced by this time the Lord wanted him to preach, he and Mrs. Sills moved to Georgetown where he enrolled, graduating with an AB degree. Soon he added a degree in theology from Southern Seminary.

His first pastorate was at Crooked Creek, Pendleton County. Most of his other pastorates have been in western Kentucky, with one in Illinois.

In 1963 Second Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, where he was associate pastor, commissioned him to take 100 volunteer members to Indian Hills subdivision and start a church. The group held full time chapel services for one year then constituted Henderson Memorial Church.

Since his retirement at age 64, Sills has had 24 interim pastorates. Five of these, including Salem, have been for two stints.

"My deep concern as an interim

pastor is to keep the wheels turning and the church strong and healthy until a pastor is found," Sills asserted.

"I always had a secret desire to build a house," he admitted. So three years ago he bought a chain saw and a half acre of ground in Marshall County near Benton. He soon cleared the land and laid a block foundation for a two bedroom home. The rest of his family (all with carpenter skills) came in and had it under roof in two and a half days.

He bought a "how-to-do-it" book on plumbing and fixtures and did the remainder himself.

In August, while he was loading his golf cart, a cable broke, causing a hook to hit him in the eye. Doctors were not able to save his eye; however, he missed only two Sundays in the pulpit.

"I'm thankful it was my 'bad eye' instead of my good eye," he joked in his usual cheerful manner. "I don't think it will hinder me at all."

Sills smiled and nodded vigorously. "God called me to preach."



CHARLINE GOSSETT

"It's the best thing that ever happened to me, other than my family," Charline Ladd Gossett, Christian County Association, becomes almost ecstatic when she tells about her experiences visiting nursing homes. "If you get me started on it, I'll just talk all day. I love the people, I love the work."

Charline, twice widowed, sat in her church, Hopkinsville Second Baptist, one Sunday night and listened to the minister of education plead for help in the nursing homes.

"Why can't I do that," she asked herself. She had spent about 30 years teaching five-year-olds in Sunday school but had never worked with adults. So she went home and prayed all night.

Her first trip was hard; her father had died at 91 in a home and the memories were piercing. But he had always taught her she could do anything. So it seemed he reached down and took her arm.

She was soon going alone to three homes. This takes two full days.

As part of witnessing, she uses songs, accompanying herself on the autoharp. One man requests "God is So Good" several times each session. Her public singing had been only for five-year-olds up to this time.

Charline has never found anything so rewarding. The patients look for her on the appointed days and cry "Here she is!" when she appears.

She organized a huge Christmas party at one home. Friends helped supply gifts and one was wrapped

for each patient. "Some of them had never had a gift," she lamented.

Charline also visits other shut-ins. And in her spare time she enjoys her three children and 10 grandchildren, paints, does candle wicking, and collects stamps and dolls.

Dolls should be spelled with a capital letter because she has at least 1000. They cover every available flat surface in the living room, bed rooms, and one room has nothing but dolls.

Every Christmas since she can remember, she has received from one to 20 dolls. There are dolls from foreign countries, antique dolls, big ones and tiny ones.

Charline always wanted to be a missionary. But now, she truly feels that she is in the place God wants her.

Her tremendous zest for living shows by the glow in her face, whether she is talking about dolls or nursing home patients. And it shows when she claims "I really love to help people. I just wish I could go to all the homes."



BOB LAWRENCE

"It's an investment in somebody's life," Bob Lawrence gently insisted in his soft Alabama drawl. "I can share the Lord with them and let them know what church is all about."

That is what he has been doing with foster boys for the last six years. Lawrence, minister of education at Hopkinsville's Second Baptist, has been companion, friend, counselor and parent to almost 30 boys. They have ranged in age from 10 to 18 years, and they come with myriad problems—drugs, smoking, crying, emotional upheaval and poor sets of values.

Lawrence, who has been at Second for eight years, did his first parenting when a boy in the church needed a place to live. This grew into involvement with the Buddies organization, an offspring of Big Brother.

Lawrence became acutely aware of the need for someone to keep teenagers, an unwanted age group, in an environment of permanency and structure. So he offered his services to the state Department of Human Resources.

"Becoming a foster parent means a long process of references, writing your autobiography and theories of child discipline and care. You are interviewed by the Social Service Bureau. You don't need to be rich and you don't need a big house. But eventually you are appointed by the state, if approved." Lawrence paused and emphasized, "There is a great need for homes for older

children."

Since he has never married, he must oversee the workings of household machinery, so everybody helps with chores. Responsibilities are rotated. Even the smallest boys sometimes learn to fix their own breakfast or lunch.

Rules are posted on the refrigerator door. For enforcement, Lawrence mostly uses rewards. He gives checkmarks and when a boy gets enough, he gets extra allowance.

He teaches their church must have priority, then school comes next. They are encouraged to have study or reading time each evening from 5:30 to 6:30.

Problems? Of course. "But," he exclaimed, "there have been none that haven't responded to the church. They have opportunity there to participate in all sorts of Christian activity—trips, choir, handbells, sports. They are mostly looking for love and attention."





Eldred M. Taylor
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homes for children

Love and thanks

Elizabeth Barrett Browning in a sonnet to her husband wrote: "How do I love thee? Let me count the ways." Then in the lines that follow she expresses the depth, breadth and height of her love.

I have been married to Marjorie for over 40 years. Neither of us questions our love for each other. However, we do not take it for granted. I seriously doubt that there has been a day of our marriage, when we were together, that we have not said, each to the other, "I love you." Such expressions are not planned and do not have to have a reason or occasion. They are spontaneous and come from sincere hearts.

However, expressions of "I love you" soon become meaningless unless they are undergirded and surrounded by actions that demonstrate love. After more than 40 years I still feel a tingling sense of joy and peace when Marjorie says to me, "I love you." You see, I know she loves me because she demonstrates it in so many concrete ways. All of which makes the words sweeter.

Giving thanks is a lot like expressing love. We can say we love God and express thanks for all his blessings, but the words are empty and meaningless unless they are undergirded and surrounded by a lifestyle that characterizes our words. We must show our love and thanks by the way we live and serve.

This is Thanksgiving week. We express love and appreciation by expressions of giving thanks. Kentucky Baptists for many years have been showing their love for God and children through a tangible expression of Thanksgiving. It is in the form of the Thanksgiving Offering for Baptist Homes for Children. Hundreds and hundreds of Baptist churches across Kentucky have been promoting this important offering. It demonstrates the sincerity of love for God and children.

Now that the offering of love and thanks has been received, it is appropriate to say "thanks" to you who have given. In response to your love and generosity Baptist Homes for Children will translate our love and thanks into something tangible. We will use your gifts wisely in caring for and blessing the lives of dependent, neglected children.

May God be praised for it all.

baptist forum

A good report from DeKoven

This letter is to inform you of what is going on at DeKoven Baptist Church, Sturgis, Ohio Valley Association.

We began visiting the church the first Sunday of August for my husband, Alvin, to preach. He was extended a call, accepted it and began as pastor the first Sunday of September. Three weeks ago he baptized five including a 67-year-old gentleman. Sunday, Oct. 24, there were six professions of faith made in Sunday school and morning worship. Since the last Sunday of July there have been 19 additions to the

church. The Lord is really blessing. My husband had been involuntarily terminated from his last pastorate in January 1984.

Our goal for the state missions offering was \$100. We surpassed it by \$30. We are getting ready to begin at least one Baptist Women group, possibly two. Also, we are starting Acteens.

Alvin has been asked to serve as the adult leader of the ASSIST team for the association.

Alvin is a 1973 graduate of Clear Creek School and attended Cumberland Mrs. Janice Gates, Sturgis

Is July lesson heretical?

Give us a break! The "Adult Bible Study" for July-September, Life and Work Series, clearly has "error" in the July 7, 1985 lesson; "error" which, I might add, is carried all the way through the series of lessons on Job. Now, along comes the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) to add insult to injury with the Baptist Press (BP) article, printed in the July 23 issue of Western Recorder.

Perhaps professor Durham did not write the statements that are errors and they are the work of a "temporary editor." If this be the case, then (1) the BSSB is using material under someone else's name (plagiarism); or (2) the "loyal servant" has influenced the system whereby our BSSB publications are issued. (Somehow, "The 'loyal servant' made me do it" just doesn't quite have the same ring to it as the more familiar phrase.) The BP article contained a statement to the effect that the "doctrinal reader" reads the manuscript for corrective purposes. This implies the writer(s) have free rein to hold or espouse any and all beliefs and then the articles are "corrected" by the BSSB.

NO, brethren, this explanation won't wash for the following reasons:

(1) First and foremost, the material is copyrighted, and ALL rights to it are reserved by the BSSB (page three of the publication).

Surely the BSSB reads the material which it copyrights and to which it reserves all rights.

(2) Secondly, in the last line on page seven, the writer (editor?) says, "Two mistaken impressions have interfered with our understanding of the Book of Job. . . . The first . . . is that the 'Satan' . . . is the devil of the New Testament; the second . . . Job is the model man of faith . . . and 'we must correct these . . .'" (see pages seven and eight).

(3) The writer (editor?) carries these two themes through 14 consecutive paragraphs from page seven through page 10. These "errors" which the BSSB and BP article refer to are

germane to the entire series of lessons on Job, from the viewpoint presented in the "Adult Bible Study."

(4) To understand the fact the Hebrew word is "hassatan," and to know the significance of the definite article demands one be able to read the Hebrew language, at a minimum, and more probably, to be accomplished in the Hebrew.

In summary, the writer(s) of this July 7 lesson merely prove Peter's prophecy, "there shall be false teachers among you who secretly shall bring in damnable heresies . . . and through covetousness shall they, with feigned words, make merchandise of you . . ." (2 Pet. 2:1, 3).

Some 15 years ago an Episcopal Bishop, James A. Pike, wrote a book titled "If This Be Heresy." (It was!). To paraphrase bishop Pike regarding these lessons, this BE heresy!

Should anyone doubt the above statements or conclusions, let him or her read the lessons on Job in the "Adult Bible Study," compare them with the BP article in Western Recorder and form his own conclusions.

Ed Sutton, Lancaster

Disastrous prayer life

This letter is written by a layman for other laymen in a spirit of friendly helpfulness. It addresses a problem facing Southern Baptists that, unless resolved, will produce the same effect as was felt by Northern Baptists early this century and practically wiped them out. The problem was enumerated by E. Gaines Davis Jr., Frankfort. The best theologian in Northern Baptist circles had been A. H. Strong whose Systematic Theology I read in detail. He let evolution dominate his theology. Harry Emerson Fosdick, preacher on radio's Evening Vespers national hookup, was an evolutionist.

Pat Robertson estimates the secular establishment is controlled by six percent of the entire population. This six percent are atheistic evolutionists. The country is faithful to the Bible. More than half the people in Louisville believe the book of Genesis as written.

When we get to the place we judge what is true by what science says we are in great danger. Our proper stance is to judge what is true in science by what the Bible says and use science to uphold what the Bible says. I am going to do this briefly.

Pressler was wrong in assigning eon to mean day to the Jews. Twisting it to mean eon is an artificial use of the word in the Genesis context where evening and morning are used to measure time when there was as yet no clocks.

Genesis 1:6-8 refers to the vapor canopy surrounding the earth which gave the even, temperate climate to the antediluvian world. The moisture in the canopy condensed during the 3000 B.C. world wide cataclysm, Noah's flood. The canopy is no longer there.

Much occurred between the creation of Adam and that of Eve, enough to show Adam needed one of his own kind. God made Adam's physique out of earthen chemicals (earth contains all chemicals in the universe) but created Adam in his own image. Use of already existing tissue, a bone with flesh, from Adam's side to form the woman was an example of reproduction from a living body as well as creating a living new human spirit. Science is just beginning

to study how severed parts of living organisms can be reproduced by means of active nearby nerves dependent on an electromagnetic field. The hereditary material was present in the bone because every living cell has all the DNA for the body of that entire organism. To get them to replicate was the problem but this was no problem for God. The human species already existed in Adam and in that bone were all the hereditary requirements for a duplicate body. So Eve was bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh.

Let us make science explain the Bible and not force the Bible to acquiesce to the false requirements of science. Father God, the Holy Spirit and Jesus all agree with all the written word. Until this becomes clear in our minds our prayer life will be a disaster.

Homer Smith, Louisville

A new Kentuckian gives thanks

I have just returned from the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in Lexington. It was a first for me since moving to Mayfield last March. At times I was overcome by all the new names and faces, but on every turn I was made to feel welcome.

It is for this reason that I am writing. I simply want to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to the convention officers, employees of the executive board and to all who extended a word of welcome and the hand of fellowship.

I look forward to my continued ministry in Mayfield, and to the opportunities of fellowship with Kentucky Baptists throughout the state.

Roger D. Willmore, Mayfield

Too high a trough

The plight of consecrated ministers who get fired or are forced to resign is of concern to all of us. Why does it happen? No answer would cover every case.

When people are sincerely seeking God, he meets them at their level. On the eve of the crucifixion Jesus told his disciples, "I have many things to say to you but you cannot bear them now."

I was a young woman. Church services were over. The visiting preacher was greeting the members of the congregation at the door. I heard a woman ahead of me say, "You have your trough too high." Is it possible that these faithful servants of the Lord have their trough too high for the spiritual toddlers in their congregation? James tells us if any one lacks wisdom he is to ask God for it. If I didn't believe there is a place for human counselors I wouldn't be writing. But it seems to me that Christians, especially those in places of leadership, should put themselves first on their prayer lists. Not telling God what to do, but seeking his will, is what you should do.

Mrs. C. B. Renaker, Louisville

**Planned
Growth
In Giving**

Lexington church celebrates bicentennial

Year-long celebration captures pioneering spirit at Boone's Creek Baptist

by Kima Jude, State Correspondent

To climax a year of activities celebrating the 200th anniversary of Boone's Creek Baptist Church, Lexington, the church unveiled a marker designating it as one of the state's historic spots.

Although only an elite group of Baptist churches in Kentucky can boast bicentennial age, it took added persuasion to convince the state Historical Society that was reason enough to allow one of the coveted markers to be erected there.

So the missing link came into play. In this case, a tie with one of the state and country's famous forebears. Samuel Boone, brother to frontiersman Daniel Boone, was one of the founders of the church in 1785.

As notable as that is, it is perhaps not what the congregation of Boone's Creek Baptist Church deems most noteworthy about their church.

Indeed, when they talk fondly of a church rich in tradition, they are probably referring more directly to what made the Boones famous and what has fed their church—a pioneering spirit that still prevails. When they selected a theme for their activities for the year, they deemed the church "A Cross Road to Jesus Since 1785."

That was aptly drawn from the name of their community, now Athens, but formerly called Cross Plains during the time of the Boones when it served as a crossroad for trails leading to Harrodsburg, Lexington and from Bryan's Station to Boonesborough.

Located nearby Cross Plains in 1785 was Boone's Station, a stockade built to protect Daniel Boone and his family, including brother Samuel.

Life then was tough. Finding food, shelter and protection from Indian attack was a constant need. But sustaining the people then was a fundamental faith in God. Therefore, on the second Sunday in November 1785, 18 people gathered at a site on Boone's Creek to form a regular worship body.

That same God which sustained those early pioneers was the one who sustained the church for 200 years, bringing it through splits and dissension as well as financial hardship.



Boone's Creek congregation gathers for the unveiling of a state historical marker.

During its 200 years the church has had 46 pastors, including in recent history the tenure of 33 years by Lloyd Mahanes, one of four of its pastors still living.

When Mahanes assumed the reins in 1940, attendance had dwindled to a handful but a period of growth and prosperity followed and characterized latter ministries.

Succeeding Mahanes was W. B. Casey. He was followed by Steve Smith, who pastored there very briefly.

The church has been pastored by Wendell Romans since 1981 and, measured by the usual yardsticks, is considered to be flourishing. Boone's Creek Baptist now has a membership of more than 500 and runs more than 200 in Sunday school.

"The church is probably experiencing one of its best growths right now," Romans said.

Although he described it, situated on Lexington's outskirts, as a suburban church, he said, "It's not just a community church really. It's become city wide."

Financially the church also continues to be strong, according to Romans, operating on a \$192,000 budget.

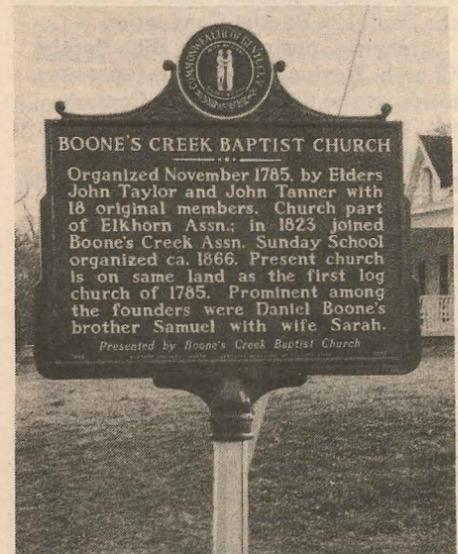
It also is fulfilling its mission—nurturing others to go out into the world to

work for their Lord's sake. The church helped rear the likes of Kenneth Mahanes, son of pastor Mahanes, and a pastor in Dayton, Oh. as well as president of the Ohio Baptists and a member of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee; Don Carroll, a pastor in Georgetown; John T. Thompson, a Lexington pastor; Donnie Waltermire, a student at Yale Divinity School; Larry Dale Brandenburg, music professor at Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Tex.; Ann Schrader, wife of a theology professor in Lynchburg, Va., and Mrs. Louann Mathis, wife of a Columbus, Ga., pastor.

Celebrating 200 years of longevity has been stimulating for the congregation, according to Romans. Planning for the bicentennial year began three years ago and special activities marked the event starting with the '85 new year.

"It's been a terrific year," Romans said. "I think it's done something tremendous for our fellowship. The excitement, the sheer excitement. It's been a bonding . . ."

Launching the celebration with a watch night service, many special events have followed over the past year, including special concerts and fellowships as well as a Community Day at the church-owned recreation park July



The marker commemorates the church's founders, including Samuel Boone, brother of Daniel Boone.

6, which featured a display of old artifacts, a pig roast, horse and wagon rides and period costumes.

A bicentennial committee, chaired by Don Humphries, with an honorary chairman, the late Mabel White, put together the celebration. Arrangements included \$40,000 worth of renovations to the existing 20-year-old church building, creation of a theme and logo for the bicentennial year, publication of a church history, written by Tim Capps, as well as creation of an anthem by Casey and David Danner, and securing the historical marker, the work of which fell primarily to Elsie Dulin, a member of the Kentucky Historical Society.

The marker was unveiled Sunday, Nov. 10, after a special recognition service highlighting homecoming services at the church.

However, Romans said that service was not the culmination of the year's festivities. More activities are planned so the congregation can continue to ride the crest of the celebration.

Meantime, according to Romans, he is looking forward, to the 300 anniversary. It's not a ludicrous pastime. If the same pioneering spirit prevails, the same God will sustain.

Secret of youth is service attests Casey County pastor

by Robin Oldham, State Correspondent

The world was a different place in 1901 when George Grubbs was born at Freys Creek in Casey County, Ky.

Americans had not heard of Star Wars, computers or video games. Instead, they focused their attention on the prospect of building a canal in Panama and marveled that the first wireless telegraph had flashed its message across the Atlantic.

One of seven children born to Edward and Rosa Grubbs, George Grubbs has fond memories of lazy afternoons spent along Freys Creek across from the local Baptist church. Though his father was a Baptist deacon, Grubbs was 21 before he accepted Christ as savior. However, after making that commitment, Grubbs felt a steady and unmistakable working of the Lord

Grubbs



in his life.

Called to preach in 1924, Grubbs delivered his first sermon at Trace Fork Baptist Church. Sixty-one years later, Grubbs has been a pastor or interim pastor of 18 churches in Kentucky, Ohio and South Carolina. He has also been an associational missionary in these states.

Twenty years ago, when his first wife was in declining health, George Grubbs announced his retirement from the pas-

toral ministry. However, he continued to accept invitations to preach and soon found his speaking schedule filled.

Following the death of his first wife, Grubbs continued to serve churches and later met and married Lucy Jordan, an active member of Ivory Hill Baptist Church, Boone's Creek Association. From the start of their marriage the two combined their talents and dedication to serve God in new ministries in central Kentucky.

Grubbs' work has been so effective that in 1979, at age 78, 14 years after announcing his retirement, he was called as pastor of Ivory Hill Church.

Today, at age 85, he remains active and devotes his time to ministering to the needs of people throughout Casey County.

Whether providing transportation to church for a mentally retarded woman,

writing an inspirational column for the local newspaper each week, visiting the sick or unchurched in the area, or producing the church newsletter, George Grubbs keeps a pace that would cause many persons much younger than himself to seek a less demanding schedule.

Grubbs insists the rewards of ministry make his busy schedule worthwhile.

"Having spent my life as a 'country preacher,' I have seen many small, struggling congregations grow and prosper when given the encouragement and guidance of a caring pastor," he says.

"I count it a privilege to be part of God's work and find the ministry increasingly rewarding."

Without hesitating Grubbs adds, "The joys of my life in God's service have been so great. I would do it all again gladly."

State convention reports

OHIO

Kenneth Mahanes, president of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, urged all churches in the state to give generously through the Cooperative Program, the national unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Mahanes, pastor of Far Hills Baptist Church, Dayton, and Ohio's representative on the SBC Executive Committee, used his presidential address to endorse the Southern Baptist financial plan of support for missions at home and overseas.

Mahanes was reelected to a second term as president by acclamation.

The convention adopted a 1986 Cooperative Program budget of \$2,784,972, with 41 percent (\$141,850) going to national and world missions through the SBC. This is up from 40.5 percent in 1985. Ohio is advancing its SBC share by 0.5 percent per year to reach 50-50 distribution.

Emphasis continued on planting new churches and missions. It is reported that 162 new congregational starts have been made in the last five associations years toward the goal of 185. The Ohio convention presently has 508 churches and 107 missions.

The 1986 convention will meet in suburban Cincinnati Nov. 4-6. (BP)

INDIANA

A record 398 messengers attended the 27th meeting of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana which convened in Merrillville Nov. 5-7.

Don Deel, pastor of host East Lake Baptist, Merrillville, was elected convention president.

A highlight of the convention was the gathering of non-perishable food and clothing for the thousands of hungry and hurting in northwest Indiana, where the unemployment rate exceeds 35 percent. An appeal to help was made through the state convention's news-magazine, *The Indiana Baptist*. The contributions were estimated to be

worth more than \$10,000.

Messengers adopted a Cooperative Program budget of \$1,526,000. The convention will continue sharing 32 percent of the total, the same as last year, with the SBC Cooperative Program.

No resolutions or motions were presented by the messengers. Debate and differences seemed nonexistent. The 1986 meeting will be Nov. 11-13 at First Southern Baptist Church, Clarksville. (BP)

ILLINOIS

Illinois Baptists decided by a single vote to enter into a \$2-\$3 million capital fund drive, then backed away from the campaign in the interest of harmony during their annual meeting Nov. 5-7.

Illinois Baptist State Association president Charles Chandler told messengers as he announced the split vote: "The majority has said, 'Go ahead,' but I don't feel good about that." Keith Stanford, messenger from Logan Street Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, told messengers he voted with the majority, but added: "It is obvious we have not found the will of the Lord. Majority rule is one way to find the will of the Lord but when it's this close, it seems evident we haven't heard from God yet."

Messengers subsequently referred the matter to the state board of directors.

If it had been approved, the campaign would have set up a church site endowment fund, provided construction monies for two state-owned camp and retreat centers and the Baptist Children's Home, and allowed construction of a Baptist Student Union facility at Illinois State University, Normal.

Messengers adopted a record \$5,904,814 budget with a Cooperative Program goal of \$4,354,338. They agreed to forward 43.5 percent of Cooperative Program receipts (\$1,894,137) to worldwide missions and education causes, a half percent increase from 1985.

Chandler, pastor of Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, Urbana, was reelected to a second term as state association president. His church will host next year's meeting Oct. 29-31. (BP)

FLORIDA

Messengers to the Florida Baptist state convention adopted a record budget, took a strong stand against all abortions and denied the appointment of a prominent conservative leader to the powerful state board of missions.

One year after becoming the first state Baptist convention to divide its income equally between state causes and the national Cooperative Program, the Florida convention again raised its unified giving.

Although the increase is small (from 50 percent to 50.1 percent), it is part of a plan to increase Cooperative Program giving by 0.1 percent each year. "We just could not stop at 50 percent," said executive director-treasurer Dan C. Stringer.

The \$24 million total budget, the largest ever for the state, is an increase of \$2 million over last year.

For the most part, Florida Baptists followed this year's trend of state conventions devoid of the controversies that have rocked recent SBC meetings. Only twice did messengers depart from scheduled or anticipated actions, once to debate abortion and later to remove Jacksonville pastor Jerry Vines, as a nominee to the state board of missions.

While messengers voted to accept a capital state board report unchanged, a separate motion called for a restrictive stand in counseling materials and declared all abortions are immoral, including those that follow rape, incest and efforts to save the life of the mother.

Although the motion to instruct the state staff was debated for an hour, it passed by an estimated 2-1 margin. The action carries more weight than traditional resolutions against abortions because it directs the type of counseling that can be offered pregnant women through the convention Christian social ministries program and children's homes.

Vines, copastor of First Baptist

Church, Jacksonville, is a member of the SBC peace committee and a leader of conservatives in the denominational controversy. Although Vines was asked to be on the state board by the committee on nominations, messengers rejected the nomination after another Jacksonville pastor noted Vines' lack of involvement in the local Baptist association. Billy Strickland, pastor of First Baptist, Oceanway, was elected without debate in place of Vines.

Florida Baptists elected Max Cadenehead, pastor of First Baptist, Naples, this year's first vice president, as president.

Next year's session is scheduled for Nov. 10-12 in Pensacola. (BP)

GEORGIA

More than 3000 Georgia Baptists attending the annual meeting of the Georgia Baptist Convention focused on peace and reconciliation.

Messengers met for three days without a squabble or debate. They approved a record budget for 1986 of \$24,042,000 and a new capital improvements and endowment program totaling \$16,100,000. The budget, if fully funded, will send 48 percent of undesignated gifts to support worldwide Southern Baptist Convention causes.

Messengers adopted a resolution pledging prayer for the SBC peace committee. They also urged Baptists not to take their grievances into the public arena, an obvious reference opposing a possible lawsuit against the SBC for parliamentary action in Dallas last June.

Georgia Baptists voted to extend for five years a missions partnership with the Baptist Convention of New York, a sister state relationship that started in 1978.

Floyd F. Roebuck was reelected president of the Georgia Baptist Convention without opposition. He is pastor of First Baptist Church, Rome.

The 1986 Georgia Baptist Convention will meet Nov. 10-12 at Roswell Street Baptist Church, Marietta. (BP)

SOUTH CAROLINA

In what was hailed by its president as "the most peaceful convention we have ever attended," South Carolina Baptists meeting in annual session Nov. 12-13 adopted a record \$20.1 million budget, elected a Ft. Mill pastor president, opposed a state-operated lottery and promoted 1986 simultaneous revivals.

The convention, in Greenville, attracted 2443 messengers.

Earl Crumpler, pastor of Edwards Road Baptist Church, Greenville, who presided over the convention, said the

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quiet meeting was "God's answer to our prayers." The new president, George Dye, pastor of First Baptist Church, Ft. Mill, echoed that feeling, saying, "Some of us prayed for a non-eventful meeting."

The 1986 budget represents a \$1.1 million increase over last year's figure. The Cooperative Program will receive 37.25 percent, an increase of 0.25 percent. The goal is to reach a 50-50 split by the year 2000.

A resolution asking the South Carolina General Assembly "to defeat again in the 1986 session any effort to establish a lottery in this state" was adopted by the messengers. The resolution also expressed "appreciation to the General Assembly . . . for having resisted for several years efforts to legalize a lottery."

The 1986 session of the South Carolina Convention will be Nov. 15-16 in Columbia.

NORTH CAROLINA

While other state Southern Baptist conventions continued to function with little or none of the political warfare characteristic of the national SBC meetings, the familiar battlelines were clearly drawn in North Carolina.

Prior to the Nov. 11-13 meeting in Charlotte, two slates of officers were promoted throughout the state—one by "Friends of Missions," an organization which assumes a moderate posture on theology and full support and cooperation with the denomination, and another by the element which has been critical of the denomination, charging a drift toward liberalism.

"Friends of Missions" made a clean sweep of all three major offices.

William Poe, a Charlotte attorney and a member of the SBC peace committee, was elected president. Betty Gilreath, recording secretary for the national Woman's Missionary Union, was elected second vice president, and Leon Smith, pastor of First Baptist Church, Goldsboro, was elected first vice president.

Messengers also approved a budget of \$26.12 million for 1986, of which 35.45 percent (the same as last year) will go to Southern Baptist worldwide causes. (BP)

VIRGINIA

Virginia Baptists, during their annual meeting Nov. 12-13, authorized a committee to study a constitutional provision concerning "believer's baptism by immersion."

George Euting, pastor of New Bridge Baptist Church, Richmond, Va., offered a motion calling for a committee to study and bring to the 1986 annual meeting an interpretation of Article III of the Constitution of the Baptist General Convention of Virginia which concerns membership in the GBAV.

The section reads: "The General Association shall be composed of the officers of the General Association and messengers elected by Baptist churches which follow the New Testament teaching of salvation by grace and believer's baptism by immersion . . ."

Euting told messengers to the annual meeting he is concerned about churches which accept members without immersion and wants "the body to state its policy considering churches that accept members without immersion." The study committee will be appoint-

ed by Sherrill G. Stevens, who was elected president of the Virginia Association during the meeting.

Under phase one of a \$13.9 million budget Virginia Baptists will retain 62 percent for state causes and send 38 percent to support the worldwide missionary, evangelism and educational enterprises of the Southern Baptist Convention. The distribution is the same as under the 1985 budget.

The 1986 annual meeting will be Nov. 11-12 in the Richmond Marriott Hotel. (BP)

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Baptists concluded their annual convention by passing, almost without discussion, a slate of conservatively oriented resolutions.

The resolutions opposed state lotteries and parimutuel gambling, pornography, alcohol, illegal drugs, child abuse and tax code revisions which would eliminate tax deferred annuities.

A record 1831 messengers registered from churches across the state. Frank Gunn, pastor of First Baptist Church, Biloxi, was elected president to succeed Charles Pickering, a layman from Laurel.

The convention also voted to sponsor a pastors' conference to precede next year's convention. This move effectively killed an unofficial pastors' conference begun this year. The officers of the unofficial version reported to the convention they would participate in the official one and were named to a planning committee by Pickering.

Messengers voted an \$18.5 million Cooperative Program budget for 1986, 36 percent of which goes to SBC causes outside the state (compared to 35.5 percent in 1985).

The 1986 convention will meet at Jackson's First Baptist Church Nov. 10-12.

LOUISIANA

Louisiana Baptists launched a campaign, elected officers, adopted a budget and protested gambling, pornography and homosexuality during their 138th annual meeting.

The campaign is Mission '90, a program to raise \$10 million to start 250 churches during the next five years.

The new president is Robert Magee, pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Ruston.

The 1986 budget totals \$16.6 million, a 3.7 percent increase over the 1985 budget. SBC causes will receive \$5,611,425, or 34.5 percent (compared to 34.25 percent in 1985).

Next year's meeting will be Nov. 10-12 at Louisiana College, Pineville. (BP)

TEXAS

Messengers to the centennial gathering of the 2.3-million member Baptist General Convention of Texas elected East Texas pastor Paul Powell as president, approved a record \$63.5 million missions budget and reaffirmed their commitment to a Mission Texas goal to begin 2000 new congregations by 1990.

A record number of voting messengers, 4273 from 906 churches, attended the three-day meeting in San Antonio.

Characterized by William Shamburger, pastor of First Baptist Church,

Tyler, as "a moderate without a liberal drop of blood in his veins and a fundamentalist without a Messiah complex," Powell succeeds W. Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo.

Shamburger said Powell's 6200-member church is one of the fastest growing in the Southern Baptist Convention and is one of the top 20 Texas Baptist churches in total gifts to missions through the Cooperative Program, the unified Baptist method of missions support.

The 1986 Cooperative Program budget for missions includes more than \$22 million (36.5 percent of the budget—an increase of 0.2 percent over last year) for worldwide causes. The remaining \$38.4 million is for Texas Baptists' 27 educational and benevolent institutions and state missions causes.

Messengers responded to the challenges of a needy world by affirming resolutions asking Texas Baptists to continue ministries to the poor, commending the 60th Texas Legislature for addressing the hunger and health care needs of the poor in Texas, and encouraging churches to increase percentage giving to missions through the Cooperative Program.

Resolutions affirming clergy confidentiality, supporting efforts to curb alcohol abuse, and urging Texas Baptists to make available guidelines concerning the Equal Access Law to parents and educators in order to encourage implementation of the law in Texas were among the 15 resolutions considered by messengers. (BP)

OKLAHOMA

Joe L. Ingram, executive director-treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma since 1971, will step aside June 30, 1986 to become full time president of the Baptist Health Care Corporation.

In making that announcement at the annual state convention Ingram emphasized he is not retiring but rather merely "completing the task" set before him 15 years ago. Ingram, who will be 66 in January, already is president of the Health Care Corporation which operates nine hospitals and four retirement villages but will not devote full time to that job.

Wendell Estep, pastor of Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany (where the convention was held) was reelected

to a second term as president.

The business sessions were only a few minutes long as messengers approved a budget of \$17.5 million which was virtually the same as 1985. The same 50 percent will be passed on to worldwide Southern Baptist causes through the Cooperative Program.

The 1986 convention will meet for the fourth straight year at Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, Nov. 10-12. (BP)

MISSOURI

Approval of a new organizational structure for the executive board staff and a statewide kickoff for Good News America highlighted the annual meeting of the Missouri Baptist Convention last month in St. Louis.

Messengers also adopted a \$14.25 million budget and approved resolutions pledging support for the SBC Peace Committee and opposing tuition tax credits for parochial schools.

Widely rumored conflict between conservatives and moderates never materialized during the three-day meeting. Instead, the messengers elected a new president from among three candidates on the first ballot and approved 30 of 31 recommendations of its strategic planning committee, including the restructuring of the executive board staff.

The only confrontation came when pro-life advocates challenged the state nominating committee's recommendation of one new member to the state's Christian Life Commission, but that challenge was easily defeated.

Climaxing the three-day convention was a statewide Good News America rally. The event drew the largest crowd of the three days, about 2000 people, and featured the national premiere of the evangelistic media spots prepared for use on television and radio as part of Southern Baptist's nationwide evangelistic campaign scheduled for next spring. (BP)

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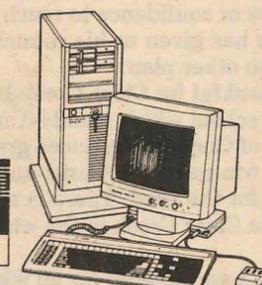
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A grateful heart

Each Thanksgiving season I ask the Lord for a grateful heart.

"Thou that hast given so much to me,/Give one thing more—a grateful heart;/Not thankful when it pleaseth me,/As if Thy blessings had spare days;/But such a heart, whose pulse may be/Thy praise." —George Herbert

I am convinced that as Samuel Johnson has said, "Gratitude is a fruit of great cultivation; you do not find it among gross people." Thanksgiving should not be just a day of unusual feeling but an attitude and a part of the normal Christian life. It is a work of God's Spirit that causes us to thank the Lord for his infinite goodness with all our heart.

Our Lord taught the disciples to express gratitude to God (John 6:11). Paul both set an example of thanksgiving (Acts 27:35) and urged Christians to be grateful (Phil. 4:6). Daniel gave thanks to God in the midst of persecution (Daniel 6:10). A leper instinctively gave thanks for his healing (Luke 17:16).

We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving at Clear Creek Baptist School. We do not approach God in a haughty or arrogant manner as the Pharisee did, "God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are" (Luke 18:11). We are all aware of our sinfulness and sinful natures.

I am very thankful at this special season. I thank the Lord for the gift of life. Life brings us problems and heartache but also brings us love and laughter and faith.

I am thankful for family and friends. People may be difficult to live with at times, but are all that makes life worthwhile. God loves people and Christ died for people. They are all that is eternal in a temporal world.

I am thankful for Christ's church. This group of blood-bought people has God's vote of confidence to reach a lost world. He has given us his commission and has no other plan.

I am thankful for Clear Creek Baptist School, a school which stands firm on the word of God and produces graduates who win people to Christ and build churches for the Lord. There is no school like Clear Creek in the whole world.

Finally, I am grateful for all who support Clear Creek. Through the Co-operative Program, Kentucky Baptists are in the business of training and sending missionaries from Clear Creek to the ends of the earth. All of these blessings cause me to have a grateful heart!

Kentucky disaster relief team aids victims of West Virginia flooding

by Mike Dixon
KBC Brotherhood Intern

We were at the annual convention in Lexington Nov. 12 when we received the request from the Brotherhood Commission for our Kentucky Baptist Minutemen Disaster Relief Team. We were asked to travel to Marlinton, W. Va. in order to help victims of an early November flood. That evening Kentucky Brotherhood director William Kaufman, associate director Rob Carr and disaster relief coordinator Bob Simpkins met with several interested men to discuss the plan of action. As the Brotherhood intern, I had the privilege of participating in the relief effort.

Marlinton is a small town (pop. 1500) in eastern West Virginia about 15 miles from the Virginia state line. The ski resort Snowshoe is 20 miles to the north. The magnitude of the flood took everyone by surprise. The National Weather Service had originally predicted that the water would crest at 14 feet, but it actually crested at 21.8 feet.

Based on the earlier prediction the residents of downtown expected to experience only six inches of water but the water reached as high as six feet. Most of the 60 businesses were extensively damaged and 95 percent of the homes were affected—many either totally destroyed or badly damaged. Four people were killed and three bridges were obliterated. A trailer court with 16 trailers was completely washed away. Several churches were damaged, including Grace Baptist.

It was a long and difficult drive to the Marlinton area. The last four hours of driving were on narrow, wet, winding mountain roads with patchy fog. Our disaster unit was stationed at Huntersville Baptist Church about five miles



KBC director Bill Kaufman [center] confers with disaster relief team members.

from Marlinton.

Thursday morning Carr and Simpkins were accompanied by Herb Slaughter, the director of missions, into Marlinton in order to coordinate our efforts with the local Red Cross. The rest of the nine-member team remained behind getting our gear set up. After receiving our assignments, we broke into two work teams. One team went to the American Legion and the other worked at the home of Delmas Kincaid which sets on the banks of the Greenbrier River.

Kincaid is in his late 70s. He worked 44 years in the coal mines, where he lost two fingers and a thumb on his left hand. He also suffers from black lung

and diabetes. His children came from Baltimore to help soon after the water subsided. Although his children helped clean the house, he still had mud several inches deep in the basement and a huge pile of trash in his front yard. Our team shoveled the mud out of the basement while Bob Simpkins called the Corps of Engineers to see about the trash removal. He also tried to find Kincaid a better refrigerator in which to store his medication. Kincaid and his wife were extremely grateful and constantly asked what they could do for us. One member of our team told them that all we wanted from them was their smiles. Many of their belongings had floated away down the river.

Although our manual labor was important, the fact that we could offer a listening ear and an occasional encouraging word was more significant. As we worked and traveled, all of us had opportunities to share our faith verbally. The "Good News America" edition of the gospel of John was also given to various individuals. Each member was often asked by the local residents about their reason for coming. The answer was simply, "we're here because we love the Lord."

Thursday night the team met in our Winnebago for a time of devotion and reflection. Pastor John Sullivan of the Huntersville church asked if any of us would like to share in the Sunday morning service. Every man responded wholeheartedly offering not only to share a testimony but also to form a choir for special music.

Rob Carr and I had to return to Louisville on Friday. The rest of the team stayed in the Marlinton area until Sunday afternoon and then moved up north to Riverton near the Pennsylvania state line.

Perhaps an incident at the American Legion best describes the disaster relief team. The man there was amazed to discover that the team helping him had been complete strangers before coming to Marlinton for disaster relief. He thought the team had been longtime friends by the way its members interacted with one another as they worked. Team members replied that they were just brothers in Christ. This is what Brotherhood is all about!

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Glendale Children's Home:

Tending his sheep with blue ribbon commitment

by Hariette S. Petersen
State Correspondent

What does tending sheep have to do with rabbits, swine, goats, horses, dogs, and black angus? Plenty when the sheep are children residing at Glendale Children's Home and the animals are part of their 4-H projects.

One shepherdess is energy-packed Sue Carlin, the petite brunette wife of Glendale's director, Robert Buckley Carlin.

Between slipping in and out of her animal-tending coveralls, Sue directs the Homeland Singers' 42-member choir, is Severns Valley Associational WMU director, handles distribution of all food and personal items donated to Glendale, and orders the home's cleaning supplies. As if that's not enough to make a head swirl with scheduling problems, she serves on the Hardin County 4-H Council, and is youth representative on the Lincoln Trail Area Extension Council.

Regardless of her many commitments, Sue finds time to use her 25 years of 4-H work experience by leading youth in 17 various projects.

Reminiscing director Carlin's and her arrival at Glendale four years ago, Sue informs, "There were no animals. My husband was surprised and disappointed." Carlin had been raised at Glendale Children's Home. He fondly remembered his experiences with the animals and regretted their absence.

With Sue's background in 4-H work, she knew the values that raising animals could add to the life of children. However, livestock, fences and food provision cost money, and these were not budgeted items. Still, she wanted to pursue it. When asked where she was going to get money to fund the project, she stated, "I don't know, but it will come."

And it did. Through donations of money, animals and feed.

Just how does the multi-talented Sue Carlin manage the animal kingdom

"A kid learns trust down at the barn. They see it takes time for animals to trust people and what it takes to earn trust themselves."

housed on Glendale's 70-acre farm? She quickly points out and affirms the assistance of Haywood Riner, Glendale's activities director, and Carl (Butch) Nunn, maintenance man.

"We do it together," Sue explains, "filling in for each other whenever and wherever needed."

Riner lives in a house provided at Glendale with his wife and two young children. Among the numerous activities of volleyball, cageball, intramurals and retreats Riner is responsible for, he



Butch Nunn shares insights while Brian Love feeds a prize winning angus in his share of daily chores.

instructs kids in driving and aids youth with their 4-H recordbooks.

"Relationships are the bottom line," Riner professes. "We three are a team, striving to develop relationships with these kids." Riner's eyes glisten with joy as he shares how one girl recently accepted Christ during a time out in a volleyball game.

"These kids want to know Christ is real. They need to see him in action through us. Whether it be on a volleyball court or down at the pig pens," Riner discerns. "Many times Sue stays up all night with kids nursing a sick dog or pig in her home. The kids see we care when we do things like that."

Butch Nunn agrees, "A kid learns trust down at the barn. They see it takes time for animals to trust people and what it takes to earn trust themselves."

As one of Glendale's three maintenance men, Nunn "does what needs to be done," whether it's mowing lawns or mending fences. But as he works side by side with youth cleaning stalls, feeding, haying, and grooming animals, he strives to mend broken family relationships.

"I understand how they feel," he empathizes, "having come from a broken home with an alcoholic father myself. You'd be surprised how caring for a cow and her calf opens doors to conversations about a kid's own mom."

"I love to see these kids grow—emotionally and spiritually. When they won the Open Herdsmen Award this summer, I about busted with pride," Nunn confesses. "They won that award based on cordiality and appearance, as well as what the animals are like," he informed. "In my book that says a lot for these kids."

Breaking into a wide grin he reported, "One man who came down to see them at the state fair was so impressed with their attitudes and actions, he gave a thousand dollars to the project." Another man equally impressed with the kids' behavior and their animals' condition, donated a steer.

"Working with animals is not all there is to it," Sue injects. "Through a self-determined project Glendale has served over 1600 people in the association in developing a banquet preparatory project. One graduate is now in commercial food work. Another started

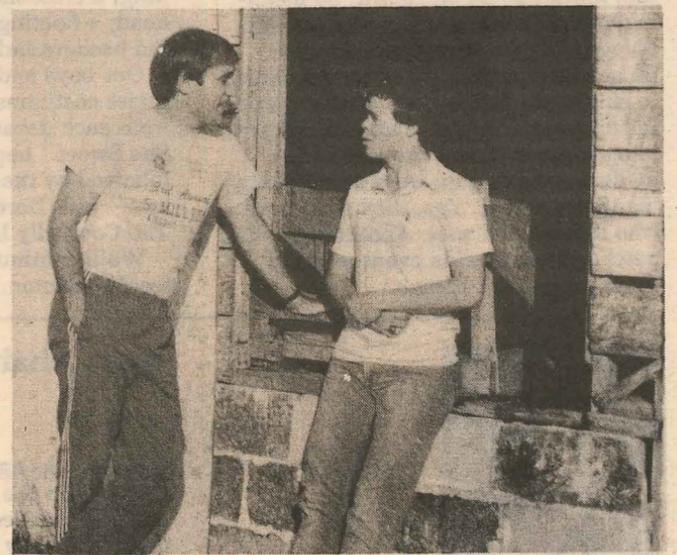
with a small automotives project and is now supporting himself as a mechanic. We're trying to help youth meet their greatest potentials.

"These kids have cut wood for elderly in the community, held petting fairs, hauled manure for people's gardens, and aided in community clean-ups. They are actively participating in their world," Sue beamed.

Jimmy Land, senior at East Hardin High and resident at Glendale, confirms Sue's claims, "4-H challenges and spreads horizons." Upon graduating Jimmy plans to go to college and possibly enter broadcasting.

Bridgett Webb, also a senior, is not only college bound but feels led to seminary. After working in a summer mission project she felt God calling her

Haywood Riner banters lightheartedly with Chris DePas following Chris's hogfeeding detail.



to be a missionary.

According to Chris DePas, it's not always ribbons, county fairs and state exhibitions. Behind the glory is 98 degree humidities and below freezing temperatures. Chris, senior and first place winner in the overall livestock judging competition at Hardin County 4-H Fair, relates, "You still go on when you don't feel like it. You test yourself."

Brian Love, 16-year-old junior, attests 4-H has helped him learn responsibility. "You're relied upon to do your best at all times. To be useful and helpful. To be there or it doesn't get done." Though he was selected Out-

standing 4-Her of 1985 he hates missing a big event because he "messes up."

"At Glendale the number one priority is working on your personal problems, and sometimes you mess up and don't work like you should. Then you miss something really big like the county fair," he explained. "When you do, you take steps to improve yourself so you don't miss the next thing. 4-H is a motivation and incentive to grow."

Is it any wonder Sue Carlin boasts out of 147 recordbook entries in the county fair, 122 were Glendale's?

This year alone, the club collectively won 103 4-H blue ribbons, had 61 champions and reserve champions. In open class division they took 11 first places and 13 seconds.

Sue motivates voluntary participation with her open perspective. "We aren't so much interested in the color of the ribbon, but that they compete. We just hope they experience some successes. For some this may be the first time they ever accomplished something on their own."

Sue's seen growth in self-confidence and leadership skills. "Five youth were elected to the first ever Hardin County Jr. Fair Board. We had three members on the Hardin County state judging teams. Darren Patton and Jodi Carlin were selected to attend the National 4-H Club Congress in Chicago."

"Turn-arounds don't happen overnight," Carl Nunn summarized. "It takes time." He points to a green lettered white banner hanging on the wall of Glendale's all-purpose room. "That's what we're trying to do, 'to make the best better'."

Glendale's young people are normal kids from abnormal backgrounds,

fighting to find stability in an unbalanced world. Many come from varying degrees of brokenness, abuse, neglect and strife.

Sue admits 4-H is not "the only way to reach children, 'just another way' to affirm their potentials and widen their scope of existing possibilities.

Through their work, Sue, Butch and Haywood hope "to teach the children skills and attitudes which will follow them throughout their lives." In a time confused by humanity's weaknesses and seemingly dominated by unfairness, it is heartwarming to know these three shepherds are diligently tending his flock with such blue-ribbon love.



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

2200-mile odyssey

This past week our student choir traveled over 2200 miles, sang four major performances, were seen and heard by thousands, and did a number of other exciting things along the way.

The messengers of the Kentucky Baptist Convention gave our choir a prolonged standing ovation in the Wednesday afternoon session. Many have told us, or written us, how splendid they felt the performance to have been.

What the crowd did not know is that 20 members of our choir were missing for the performance. Their bus had broken down on I-75. But the 50 who arrived at Immanuel Church, even though under stress because of the absence of their fellows, gave a spine-tling performance.

The 20 girls and boys stranded by the side of the road for hours made us as proud as those who sang at Lexington. They were, of course, much disappointed. But their chaperones reported to me that there was no bad spirit, no moaning and groaning, no complaint. They quietly talked. As the moment approached when our choir was scheduled to sing at the convention, the bus group fell silent. Ten minutes later they burst into applause just as the group who made it to Lexington were acknowledging their ovation. Yes, they also serve who only sit and wait. Another bus dispatched from Oneida eventually got them safely back home.

Thursday afternoon, 71 of our choir members, four of our staff serving as bus drivers, and four others including myself acting as chaperones, boarded two of our buses to begin a long journey to Orlando, Fla. There was some slight apprehension because of the bus breakdown of the day before. But we had prayer and were off.

We drove all through the night. We maintained communication between the buses with CB's our drivers had rigged up.

We had breakfast just across the Florida line at a fast food restaurant. The management, finding out that we were a choir, asked the group to sing. The patrons warmly applauded each number, some came to speak to us afterwards, including a "born again" truck driver from Alabama.

We arrived at First Baptist, Orlando, about 11 a.m. There was no time to unpack, change clothes, or even to find our toothbrushes. We quickly washed our faces in the church restrooms, combed our hair, and we were off to Epcot, the newest section of Disney World. Our tickets were provided us free to see the Magic Kingdom. That was well over \$3000 of value.

We just had to let each go their own way through the vast complex, but every child including our youngest seventh graders showed up at our buses at 8 p.m., not one lost!

We went back to First Baptist and each of our students met the families that were to host them for two nights and provide breakfast each morning.

At 8 a.m. Saturday everyone met back at the church and boarded buses and were carried to a portion of Walt Disney World the public never sees—the back stage areas. We were shown the dressing room area where our students were to prepare for the concert they were to give that evening at the Dock Stage in Walt Disney Village.

Then everyone scattered for another day of delight in the Magic Kingdom.

Hundreds gathered at the Dock Stage at 6 p.m. for our students' performance. It was a beautiful Florida evening, a crescent moon hanging overhead, a floating riverboat restaurant in the background.

Our boys and girls, dressed in appropriate costumes, sang a "hit" song from each decade of the 20's on. "Ain't She Sweet" began the program followed by the 30's "Over The Rainbow" with Dorothy, The Wicked Witch, The Cowardly Lion, and The Scarecrow.

We'll continue this account in next weeks' column.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR DEC. 1, 1985

Life and Work Series

Dealing with prosperity

Hosea 10:1-2 God blessed the people of Israel in numerous ways, but they soon forgot the source of their prosperity and turned their attention to the worship of idols. They repeatedly took the things which God enabled them to have and placed them on the altars for their pagan gods. Such conduct was inexcusable and it invited the divine wrath and judgment upon their sinful practices. Ignoring God is never right, wise or satisfactory, regardless of whom may do it.

Hosea 10:12-14 With tender insight and sympathetic approach Hosea laid bare the sins of the Israelites, sins so terrible and so persistent that God was compelled to withdraw his presence from them, to leave them to their own devices, and to eat the fruit of their own doings. Having long neglected the house of God and the ways of righteousness, thereby grieving God by their wickedness, God had Hosea to inform the people that their vicious inclinations, sensual appetites and inordinate affections had to be uprooted or worse things would befall them. The soil had to be prepared for the reception, the germination and the growth of the seed of righteousness. So, Hosea urged the doing of the things that the righteous God required of them following those

years of shameful idolatry and stubborn resistance.

Hosea 12:1 God was grieved because the people of Israel closed their eyes to the truth and refused to be taught. Hosea informed the people that their procedure was foolish and futile, as much so as chasing the wind would be. **Hosea 12:6-9** God gave his promise, through his prophet, that if they would return to him with confession and forsaking of sins, he would receive them, he would receive them, heal their backsliding, and restore them to his tender care and full protection.

International Series

The announcement

Luke 1:26-38 During Mary and Joseph's betrothal, the angel Gabriel suddenly appeared in her presence, while she was yet a virgin, and informed her that through the grace of God she had been chosen by God as the one to conceive and to become the mother of a child, whose name would be "Jesus," as per the promise in Isa. 7:14.

Gabriel also predicted the greatness of her son Jesus Christ and the perpetuity of his kingdom. This "son of the highest" deserves to be recognized as both savior and sovereign.

Mary was startled beyond description by the presence of Gabriel and puzzled by his message that God intended to use her as the channel through whom his son and man's savior would come into the world.

Knowing she was a virgin, Mary inquired of Gabriel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" Gabriel convinced Mary that God could and would carry out his plan and accomplish his purpose.

Convinced that God had spoken to her through his messenger and that in his own manner and time he would carry out his purpose to redeem sinners through his son, Mary dismissed her perplexity and fear. Mary believingly, submissively and promptly presented herself to God and said: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

Mary's response to God's expressed will, along with the various other excellent traits of character which she possessed, certainly merits our highest commendation, appreciation and emulation, but no one is ever justified in attempting to exalt her to the place of a mediator between God and men. She was neither divine nor sinless.



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

on mission together

Dad's chair

A few weeks ago, Alice and Shawn drove up in the station wagon, about the time I pulled in from work. I had unintentionally spoiled their surprise.

For years, I have always wanted a reclining chair—and there it was, Christmas in advance.

I had to turn my smile sideways to get into the door as this new pleasure was carried into the family room. "Try it, daddy," Shawn insisted. Soon there were three smiling faces, and one, very relaxed and stretched-out dad.

Over these past few days the new chair has become "Dad's chair." Others may sit in it—and do—but everyone acknowledges that it's "Dad's chair."

My own father had "his" chair which sat by the mantle at 511 West Second St.

It was in that chair I sat on Sunday

afternoons, as a young boy, and listened to the radio.

That was the chair we always moved to set up the big Christmas tree.

By the 1950s the old chair had been replaced by a new one—a retirement gift from his buddies at the post office where he worked for 25 years.

Dad's new wingback was soon made comfortable by three sons and a daughter.

Life changed for all of us then—Dad, with detached retinas, and Mom, a few years later, with cancer.

It was in that chair that Mom sat, while I knelt, crying in her lap, when she told me she would not live. Mom never got to hear me preach.

It was in that same chair that Dad a few weeks after the funeral, broke down and said: "I don't think I can make it." He did, though, for 25 more years.

As I pondered "Dad's chair," I became curious and called my brother, Dave, in whose home Dad lived awhile

before his death. He indicated that Dad had brought that chair with him to Dave's along with a few other things he kept when he sold the old home place.

We have a number of things in our home that belonged to Mom and Dad. The dining room table and chairs, the old cedar chest, a love seat and cherry chest.

But the old chair is gone from our family now, its whereabouts unknown. It had no value except in the memories of those precious family years.

It might seem strange to some, upon this Thanksgiving eve, to give thanks to God for an old chair.

But there is in my mind more than any empty old chair—for I can see sitting in that chair my Mom and my Dad; Thanksgiving Day at Grandmom's and Granddad's; Christmas Eve, with two little brothers and a little sister.

"Daddy, do you like your new chair?" Shawn asks. "Yes, Shawn, Oh, yes. You and Mom have given me more than a new 'Dad's chair'."

baptist news in brief

KBC veteran secretary Shirley Tucker passes

Funeral services were conducted in Louisville Nov. 15 for long time Kentucky Baptist Building staff secretary Shirley Ford Tucker, 55.

Burial followed in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville.

She died Nov. 12 in Columbus, Oh. after surgery following a brief illness. She had been on the Baptist Building staff 25 years and six months as secretary in the Stewardship-Promotion Department.

Officiating at her funeral were Larry Petty, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Long Run Association, and Jesse Stricker, director of the Stewardship-Promotion Department.

Survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Bruce Seligman; a son, Jerry A. Tucker, Evansville, Ind.; mother, Mrs. Gladys Ford Slocumb, Columbus, Oh.; sister, Mrs. Carol Wallen, Columbus, Oh.; and three grandchildren.

Expressions of sympathy may be contributed to Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, according to the family's wishes.

Ben Fisher honored by black seminary

Ben C. Fisher, former executive director of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention who died Nov. 3 after a long illness, was honored posthumously by American Baptist College of the American Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS).

Fisher, who also was executive secretary of the Commission of ABTS from 1970-78, received the E. Y. Mullins Human Relations Award, presented annually to a person who has made significant contributions in the area of human relations, particularly as these relate to National Baptists and the black community.

ABTS president Odell McGlothian Sr. also cited Fisher for his contributions to the primarily black institution supported by the SBC and the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. "Through the efforts of Fisher, ABTS was able to make the transition from a theological seminary to an accredited Bible school. He played an important role in helping the school become what it is today," McGlothian said. (BP)

Record amount given through CP in October

The national unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Cooperative Program, recorded its first \$9 million October last month as voluntary contributions through the program reached \$9,039,034.

That reflects an increase of \$435,821 (5.07 percent) over October 1984 and compares with the previous best October (1983) mark of \$8,638,255.

October was the first month of fiscal year 1985-86 for the Southern Baptist Convention. The basic operating budget for the period is \$120.6 million which is more than \$3 million more than receipts during the 1984-85 fiscal year.

To reach the basic budget goal, gifts through the Cooperative Program must increase 2.604 percent over last fiscal year. October 1985 reflected an increase of 5.07 percent.

Six of the 37 state conventions affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention contributed more than \$500,000 to

the worldwide mission and educational programs of the SBC in the first month of the fiscal year: Texas (\$1,724,307), Florida (\$884,498), Georgia (\$685,061), Oklahoma (\$650,313), North Carolina (\$571,299) and Alabama (\$550,637). (BP)

Professor says SBC calendar supports abortion protests

The Southern Baptist Convention will, in effect, become co-sponsor of anti-abortion protests when the denomination observes its first Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on Jan. 19, 1986; according to an Atlanta religion professor.

Nancy T. Ammerman, assistant professor of the sociology of religion at Emory University in Atlanta, made the observation in a paper presented to the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion meeting in Savannah in late October.

Miss Ammerman pointed out the Southern Baptist Convention voted last June in Dallas to add the annual observance of "Sanctity of Human Life" Sunday to the official denominational calendar starting in January of 1986. The date coincides with nationwide protests sponsored by Right to Life organizations advocating a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion.

"Though no church is obligated to do anything, Southern Baptist churches that choose to participate in the Right to Life protests on that day will do so with the implied approval of the denomination," she said. "Whether the messengers in Dallas intended it or not," the Southern Baptist Convention is now, in effect, a co-sponsor of those protests," she observed.

According to Miss Ammerman, fundamentalists aligned with the New Christian Right used several means to get the SBC to pass the anti-abortion calendar emphasis. She said their most potent resource was they approached the issue with moral clarity about the evils of abortion as a threat to the very fabric of America.

The motion to add the observance to the SBC calendar was opposed by Charles Wade, chairman of the SBC Christian Life Commission, who offered a counterproposal to observe a "Concern for Life" Sunday in April. Wade, pastor of First Baptist Church, Arlington, Tex., said the commission proposed a different name and date in order to avoid entangling the convention in a political movement. (BP)

Hollis urges action on biomedical issues

Christians in the field of medicine must "be bold and aggressive in bringing Christian values to bear on the biomedical revolution," a Baptist ethicist urged.

Harry N. Hollis Jr. of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission outlined current issues in biomedical ethics during the national meeting of the Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship Oct. 31-Nov. 3 in Memphis. Approximately 700 persons attended the meeting of the nine-year-old organization which now has 1560 members.

Hollis called the biomedical revolution, with its "far-reaching consequences for all human beings," a "time bomb ticking in our midst. Christians must get involved before it explodes." He identified a variety of concerns: the current "malpractice mentality" threatening the medical community, the need for continued competence in the

medical field, sexual exploitation in professional-client relationships, exploitive experimentation, genetic engineering, abortion, implanting artificial organs and issues related to the beginning and end of life.

Emphasizing biblical principles comprise the foundation for all decision-making, Hollis challenged Christians in the medical community "to develop a biblically-informed, carefully thought out, scientifically accurate method" for making biomedical decisions. Dealing with biomedical issues calls for an inter-disciplinary approach by "compassionate people with an absolute aversion to all provincialism and a deep respect for all human life," he said.

For too long, Hollis added, the medical community has faced increasingly complex issues alone, without the support of the religious community. Church leaders, he said, must join in a promise to physicians and others "to help you, not hinder you, to dialogue with you and not dictate to you, so that all of us together can respond to what God is calling us to do." (BP)

Missionaries in Liberia safe after coup attempt

Southern Baptist missionaries were reported safe Nov. 12 after an attempt to overthrow Liberian President Samuel K. Doe.

Gen. Thomas Quiwonkpa, who played a major role in the coup which brought Doe to power in 1980, reportedly had surrounded Monrovia, Liberia's capital with soldiers early Nov. 12 and forced Doe to flee. However, later reports indicated Doe was heard broadcasting from the national radio station that his forces were in control.

Bradley Brown, executive director of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in the West African nation, said he heard the national radio station begin broadcasting news of the coup about 5:30 or 6 a.m. He called the Foreign Mission Board immediately and called again several hours later to report all 48 missionaries were safe.

Quiwonkpa was commanding general of the Liberian armed forces until he fled the country in 1983 because Doe accused him of involvement in an alleged coup plot. (BP)

Stanley joins religious leaders for summit prayers

Southern Baptist Convention president Charles F. Stanley and 17 other religious leaders had lunch with President Ronald Reagan at the White House Nov. 8 and prayed for the success of the upcoming arms negotiation talks in Geneva.

Reagan spent nearly one-and-a-half hours with the religious leaders who included Protestant and Roman Catholic clergy, Jewish rabbis and representatives of Orthodox faiths in the United States.

Stanley said afterwards he had asked the president if he would feel free to implore the prayers of the American people before his departure for Geneva. Reagan's immediate answer, said Stanley, was yes.

Stanley and Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal Bernard Law both emphasized Reagan's attention to human rights inside the Soviet Union. During the luncheon meeting, the president said he intends to raise human rights issues in the Geneva talks and expressed concern for persecuted Christians, Jews and other religious

and ethnic minorities.

Other leaders included: Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York; Cardinal John J. Krol of Philadelphia; Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago; Ralph Bohmann, president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod; Rabbi Israel Miller, Yeshiva University in New York City; Thomas Zimmerman, superintendent of the Assemblies of God; Elder Neil A. Maxwell, an Apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and seven other representatives of important religious-ethnic groups with heavy membership in the Soviet Union.

Before the meeting with Reagan, the group was briefed for two hours by several White House officials including national security advisor Robert C. McFarland. Subjects addressed in the preliminary briefing included both arms control issues and human rights concerns. (BP)

ACTS tops \$1 million in first month effort

In October, the first month of a five-year fund-raising campaign for the American Christian Television System (ACTS) network, the Radio and Television Commission received pledges of \$1,020,787 from nearly 500 donors.

The pledges resulted from a series of 33 dinners which launched the ACTS TeleMissions campaign. Dinners were held in 14 states on four separate evenings.

The financial campaign for ACTS was approved by the SBC Executive Committee during its September meeting in Nashville, Tenn. Dinner guests viewed a closed-circuit television program beamed by satellite from the Radio and Television Commission studios in Ft. Worth.

Featured on the program were Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board; William G. Tanner, president of the Home Mission Board; Hollywood actor David Soul; several people whose lives have been changed through the ministry of ACTS, and a report from Mike Huckabee, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, Ark.

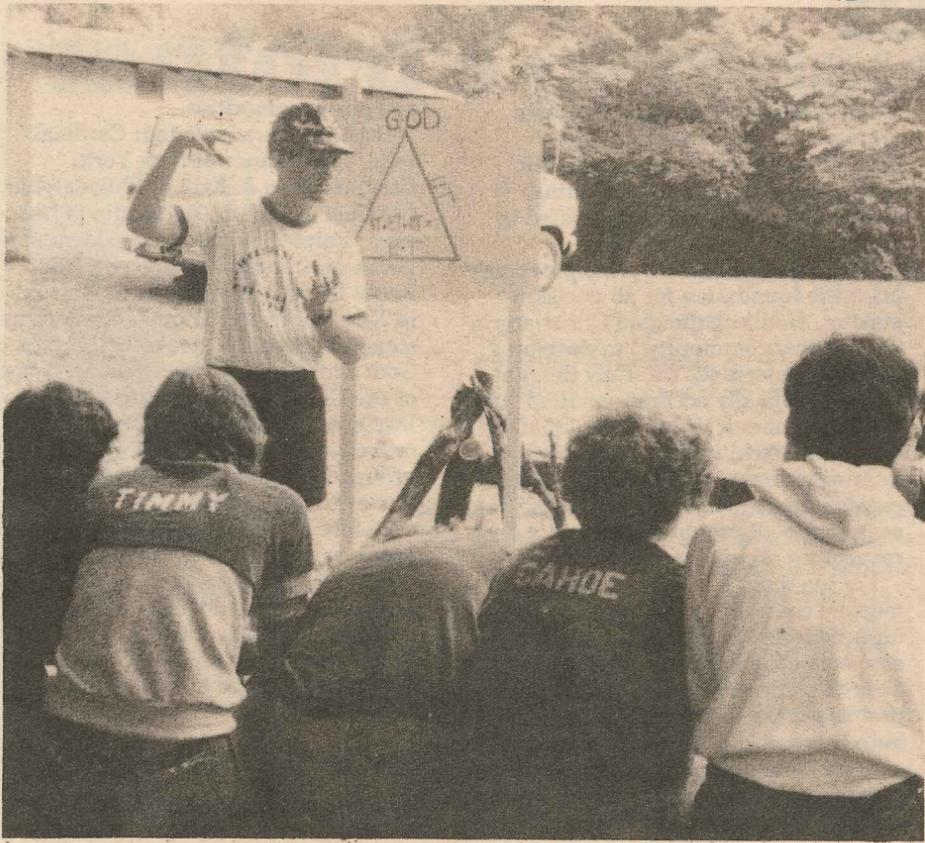
Parks, in a taped statement, said he hopes "every Baptist home will have access to the ACTS network. Foreign missions will only be understood when people see the world as missionaries see the world." Tanner, in a statement also taped earlier, called the network one of the most exciting things to happen in Southern Baptist life.

Huckabee described the network's acceptance and success in Pine Bluff. Soul hosted a televised presentation of ACTS programming and philosophy. "ACTS' mission is missions," Soul said. "The network is designing and producing more new programming formats than any other cable system in America. It is a tool for evangelism. It is an opportunity for local churches to promote a Christian witness."

Allen said the ACTS network, which reflects local communities and their spiritual resources, will reflect the denomination at its best. "The local churches are fashioning the character of ACTS in their communities, determining what goes on the air there. We believe this will reflect the diversity of all Southern Baptists." (BP)

**WORLD
MISSIONS**

Leading them



GLEN DALE

At Glen Dale Children's Home even the recreational activities are planned to help the children come to know Christ. Many activities have contributed to the high level of spiritual commitment that can be observed at the home.

Each summer there is a time at Camp Ski-Hi which is described as a real spiritual high. A voluntary weekly Bible study is attended by a large percentage of the children on campus. A recent retreat entitled "Pathways" was the setting for a discussion of pathways to God. Children from Glen Dale joined young people from Gilead Baptist Church in

a mountain mission tour during which they had backyard Bible clubs, worship services, and home visitation in Leslie County. Many of the youth at Glen Dale also are active in a choir which has sung and held services across the state. This choir is led by Sue Carlin, wife of the Director of Glen Dale.

The assistant principal at the school which these children attend recently commented on the difference he had seen in the children from Glen Dale this year. He was told that the difference is that many of the boys and girls had accepted Christ, and their lives had been turned around.

SPRING MEADOWS

Most of our children come from homes where there has been little spiritual emphasis. Many of them have never attended church. Every effort is made, therefore, to bring them to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

At Spring Meadows not all of the children go to the same church. The residents of some cottages are attending Walnut Street, some are going to Highview, and some to Highland Park Baptist Churches.

The children participate in the activities of these churches and "they just love it." They attend the Sunday and Wednesday services, sing in the choirs, and attend youth activities.

In addition, there are devotional times in the cottages in the evenings and at meal-times.

The Spring Meadows choir has given an excellent opportunity for the children to express their feelings of gratitude to Kentucky Baptists and to share their testimonies. This program is headed by Mrs. Gaye Corrigan, wife of the Director of Spring Meadows.

In the words of one of the houseparents at Spring Meadows, "We try to influence the children by our actions, to let them know what Christ did for our lives, how this has affected us and how He has motivated us—and how to handle different situations accordingly. We try to provide our children with this kind of background."

FOSTER HOMES

Children in foster homes experience Christianity through the security and love of Christian families. From bedtime prayers, Bible study, and regular church involvement to caring, consistent discipline and open communication, the foster homes model Christian living.

The strong unconditional love offered these young children in foster homes enables them to see more clearly how there can be a God who loves them strongly and unconditionally. Even infants in foster care are touched by the tenderness and security of God's love through the hands of foster families.

As the children experience love-in-action, a feeling of security is promoted which helps bring them to accept God's love.

Activities, values, and decisions of the foster family are based on Christian principles and the foster child participates in this family life.



TEMPORARY SHELTERS

The spiritual welfare of children is important to the houseparents at our temporary shelters, and many children who come through these homes find the Lord.

The houseparents and children attend nearby Baptist churches. The pastors, church leadership and members in general of Tunnel Hill Baptist Church, and the First Baptist Church of Dixon are vitally interested in the youth and have become involved in working with them in many activities outside the usual church services.

Houseparents model the Christian life for the children, and as the young people come for help with their problems, the houseparents have an opportunity to show them Biblical answers and truths. Christian love and concern are expressed, and there are always prayers at mealtime.

One of our homes makes use of a bottle labeled "Heaven's Pharmacy" to teach Biblical truths through the use of Scripture cards. The instructions on the bottle are to take one a day, then sit down and pray. The children enjoy "taking their medicine."

