



Baptist leaders comment on pending lawsuit

by Dan Martin

Southern Baptist leaders generally responded with "regret" that a Birmingham, Ala., layman has instructed his attorney to proceed with a lawsuit against the Southern Baptist Convention.

Robert S. Crowder and his wife, Julia, told Baptist Press Nov. 19, 1985 that he has instructed his attorney, Emmet J. Bondurant of Atlanta, to "proceed with the filing of a suit to enforce the existing bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention."

SBC president Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, told Baptist Press: "My feeling is Mr. Crowder has expressed his views and others have expressed their views and it seems at this point there is no agreement. We would prefer it not to go to court for the sake of the whole Southern Baptist Convention and our image before the nation but if he insists on doing so, then that is the course we will have to take."

Winfred Moore, pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Tex. and first vice president of the SBC, said: "I understand his (Crowder's) concern, but I am just sorry to see us go to court about it. I had hoped that the Executive Committee or one of their subcommittees could come up with something that will satisfy the people."

Former SBC president James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex., said: "The Executive Committee looked at it and felt—even with the wide disagreement—that the best way was to let it proceed through regular convention channels. Many times over the years I have been disappointed in things the Executive Committee did and things the convention has done, but I don't think it is scriptural for one Christian to sue another."

Wayne Allen, pastor of Briarcrest Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., and the parliamentarian during the 1985 meeting, said: "It grieves my heart and I think it grieves God's heart. This is an unscriptural way to handle matters between brothers . . . and is a bad expenditure of missions money, both

from the Crowder's side and from our side."

Former SBC second vice president Gene Garrison, pastor of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, Okla., said he "understands Bob Crowder's frustration. I feel the abuse of parliamentary procedure and the totalitarian tyranny of the presidential chair (at the SBC) is probably the most frustrating thing I have ever experienced at any meeting, of any kind."

However, Garrison added he does not believe a lawsuit "is the way to handle this. I am afraid the reaction to the suit would be even more negative than was the reaction to the way the president ignored parliamentary procedure."

Walker L. Knight, editor of the "autonomous" SBC Today, said there are "no easy answers when Christians are fighting among themselves," and added the Crowders had followed the limited appeals process in the SBC by appealing to the Executive Committee.

He said a strong effort at reconciliation was made by the Crowders, and added: "If the principle of love is to be involved, we should see some concession by those in power toward their brothers who have been treated unjustly."

Paige Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas, said Crowder's lawsuit is in "direct contradiction to the clear and lucid instructions of 1 Corinthians 6:1-8, 6:1-8," one of which he said is "completely predicated on the doctrine of the providence of God."

He added if "a brother . . . does not get the reparation he desires, he still has to deal with the rest of the passage (of scripture). Once he has exhausted his appeal, he simply has to let himself be wronged with the view that the ultimate judge is God, whose judgment we can absolutely rely on. It is that admonition that has prevented many of us from filing suit (against the convention)

in these days."

Cecil Sherman, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Ft. Worth, Tex., said: "I wish it weren't necessary, but somehow, some way, we have to get it to where we can have a meeting that will be moderated in a fair way. If this is the only way we can get it, then I suppose Bob Crowder is doing us a service."

Executive Committee member Richard Patton, pastor of First Baptist Church, Portland, Tenn., who said he voted against the two actions of the Executive Committee to "affirm" the SBC actions, said: "I have felt all along he (Crowder) has no alternative but to sue in the light of the original action and the Executive Committee action. When the Executive Committee doesn't act responsibly, people have no alternative. But the grave error of the whole thing was the ruling of Charles Stanley (at the SBC)."

Harold C. Bennett, president of the Executive Committee, said he is "disappointed" by the lawsuit and "would regret to see a court of law make decisions on the internal operations," of the SBC. "It is my prayer that if this suit is filed, it will not do irreparable damage to the cause of Christ through the Southern Baptist Convention and our churches."

SBC attorney James P. Guenther of Nashville, Tenn., said he believes the "real controversy" in the SBC is deeper than arguments over Robert's Rules of Order and that "every event . . . is placed, or shoved, into the context of the current theological debate."

"Mr. Crowder's complaints about parliamentary procedure are merely symptoms of fundamental differences within the Southern Baptist Convention," Guenther added. "At a time when the convention awaits with hope reports from its own peace table, I regret we must divert energy and resources to meet the predilections of one messenger who wants to move the forum into a secular court." (BP)

Pastor's conference

answers Kenya requests

A bold challenge from William Hancock, pastor of Highview Baptist Church, Louisville, and president of the 1985 KBC pastor's conference, has resulted in good news for the Kentucky-Kenya partnership.

Hancock challenged Kentucky pastors to make an offering to help send Kentucky pastors to Kenya as short term volunteers and he called on his fellow pastors to sign cards indicating their commitment to this bold mission venture.

The responses are now tabulated and the challenge produced \$5000, including contributions from individuals. After pastor's conference expenses were paid, there is about \$2700 for pastoral support for the trip to Kenya and 443 commitment cards. Of those cards now on file, 37 represent a commitment to go to Kenya in 1986, 136 indicate a hope of going and 270 are commitments to pray for the Kenya partnership.

This unusual effort was Hancock's own idea and has stirred renewed interest in the Kenya program. This is encouraging, according to Allen West, Kenya assistant coordinator, who said there are almost 300 requests on file for specific workers in Kenya during 1986.

Greenup Baptists dedicate space for new offices and BSU center

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Greenup Baptist Association, comprised of 50 churches and four missions, marked a new day Nov. 24 with the dedication of its new offices and Baptist student center.

The associational offices are housed on the ground floor of a two-story former residence at 1502 Harlan St., Ashland. The second floor contains offices and meeting rooms for the BSU at Ashland Community College.

There are approximately 18,000 members of Greenup Association churches. These members sent \$290,316 to the Cooperative Program last year.

The association has maintained two properties in recent years, the one on which the new offices are located and Hudgins Hill Camp south of Grayson, including 40 acres of facilities which are used year round.

Now 144 years old, Greenup Association is comprised of churches in Greenup, Lawrence, Boyd, Carter, Elliott and Lewis counties.

The property on which the association's offices is located was originally purchased by Unity, First and Pollard Baptist churches of Ashland and given to the Baptist Student Union. The executive board of the association later took responsibility for borrowing money for a \$30,000 renovation of the house

now used. Previously, director of missions Charles Young occupied office space at Rose Hill Baptist Church, Ashland.

Robin Childers, eastern area Baptist campus minister, who lives at Prestonsburg, is at the Ashland facility all day Wednesdays. The BSU meets for lunch that day.

"But the building is open every day for student use," Childers explained.

He said about 15 students are currently attending the noon luncheons on Wednesdays sponsored by BSU.

Appearing on the dedication program Nov. 24, in addition to missionary Young, were three local pastors—Bob Donovan, of First Church, Olive Hill; A. N. Lester, of Pollard Church; and Leon Greer, of First Church, Louisa.

Greer is currently moderator of the association. He said people of the area were seeing "a dream come true" that day, one they had "worked and hoped and prayed for, for a long, long time." He asked that gifts for furnishing the BSU would continue to come in.

Other guests from as far away as Atlanta, Ga. were recognized during the brief ceremonies.

BSU committee chairman Kenneth D. Holden, pastor of First Baptist Church, Flatwoods, observed that the new office and center had "improved and enhanced" the association and would "continue to do so."



Greenup Baptists dedicated this permanent office facility Nov. 24

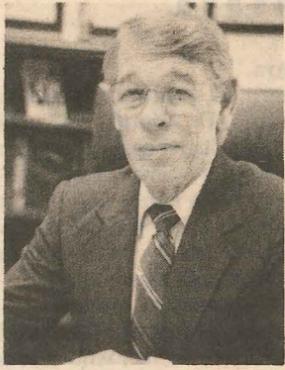
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sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

A three headed monster

Gambling, booze and pornography make up a three-headed monster undermining the moral fabric of America. However, the monster is being attacked with some modest success by a coalition of concerned citizens and law enforcement officials.

The gambling horror as it seeks to rumble across Kentucky is being attacked by the Temperance League, The Methodist Church and many Kentucky Baptists. Combined efforts by these Christian groups are aimed at stopping a proposed lottery now ready for consideration by the Kentucky Legislature.

The Methodist Church has instructed its people to communicate with legislators in protest of the lottery. Temperance League officials are now circulating a petition across the state to influence legislators to vote against the lottery bill. The Public Affairs Committee of the KBC has supplied names and addresses of all state legislators to Baptist people and encouraged a protest letter-writing campaign.

The booze menace is under attack by police through the Traffic Alcohol Patrol (TAP) program. In Louisville and Jefferson County the TAP operation drew anger and public demonstrations from local tavern operators who accused local police of intimidation and harassment which cut into liquor sales in a drastic way.

Not mentioned by the protesting booze merchants was the dramatic drop in drunk driving-related accidents nor the phenomenal drop in the crime rate in city areas where TAP was in operation.

Pornography is under attack in virtually every community in the nation through citizen protest and police enforcement of anti-obscenity ordinances.

Perhaps the most effective movement against pornography is being conducted by Don Wildmon, a Methodist minister from Tupelo, Miss. who organized and now heads the National Federation for Decency.

Wildmon, with the help of thousands of Christian citizens, has been successful in removing pornographic magazines from groceries and quick-stop stores. Pressure in the form of petitions, boycotts and prayer vigils has had an effect on television sponsors of programs which the NDF considers pornographic.

Here then are three areas for concerned Christian action. All Kentucky Baptists, especially those who live in areas where TAP is at work, must give support through letters and phone calls to elected officials. This is essential in Long Run Association since the tavern owners

are making a lot of noise in city hall and the county court house.

This column has called for personal letters to legislators to object to a proposed lottery in Kentucky. Once again that call goes out. Write your legislator in Frankfort, or better yet, send personal notes directly to his or her home residence. Every messenger to the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention meeting in Lexington received a complete list of names and addresses for all Kentucky members of the legislature.

Pornography is not so easily put under direct attack because of constitutional guarantees of free speech. However, Christian life committees in local churches can help put pressure on local authorities to control the trash of pornography. An aroused citizenry can stamp out the flagrant production and distribution of offensive and degrading material now readily available in nearly every community in the land.

Jesus commanded his followers, who were in the world, not to be of the world. Concerted attack against the three-headed monster corrupting our society is one way all of us can help fulfill this word of our Lord. If enough of us are concerned enough to do something about it, we will have success stopping the moral erosion of our nation.

One more monster lives on

A monstrous rumor has circulated among Christians for more than a dozen years. Once more this ugly monster of untruth has reared its head and duped scores of people across Kentucky.

The monster takes the form of a petition which falsely states the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) is considering a resolution from Madalyn Murray O'Hair to ban religious programs from radio and television. **There is no such action before the FCC.**

According to Al Shackleford, editor of the Baptist and Reflector, William O'Hair, a Christian minister in Dallas and the son of Madalyn, accuses his mother and her organization as the ones who continue to circulate the petition in an effort to make Christians look foolish.

Since 1975 more than 15 million pieces of mail on this subject have been received at the FCC. The postage on this much mail is at least \$3 million.

We appear foolish before the world when we glibly accept what has been reported here and elsewhere as an outright lie.

If you see the petition, throw it out with the trash. You will do yourself and all citizens a favor by rejecting this long standing lie.

western recorder

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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 Glenda Garrison

Profiles from my old Kentucky home

BRENDA WATERS

Flexibility in our lives is a difficult maneuver today because we move at such a rapid pace. But Brenda Waters, 36 years old, a 1971 graduate of Asbury College and a special education teacher at Benton (Ky.) Elementary School found that blessings come from being flexible.

Brenda spent the summer of 1976 in Costa Rica with a missionary team. Then in 1984 she traveled with a mission team from First Baptist Church, Paducah, to Breckinridge, Colo., to help other mission teams from across the country erect a church for a congregation of about 20. Logs had been donated locally and Brenda spent many hours using a draw knife to strip logs of their bark.

The skeletal wall of the Agape Outpost Baptist Chapel was erected before they returned home and Brenda's appetite was whet for mission work. So it was natural that she would want to return to Breckinridge in 1985.

The main objective for the summer was to get the building completely enclosed so the congregation could heat it for the winter.

Brenda again spent long hours insulating the logs and then lathing them (weaving wire through the insulation so the mortar would adhere) and then chinking (putting mortar or mud on the insulation).

With the help of the many volunteers from other states, the Agape Outpost Baptist Chapel will be heated this winter, and the pastor, Duane Jackson, and the entire con-

gregation will worship within the new walls.

It was time to be coming home and the question was asked of Brenda, "Madame, could you stay longer and help us?" "Of course not" was Brenda's first thought.

She had already paid for a trip to Florida with her Sunday school class. Her father was ill and she felt needed at home. She had packed clothes for one week. The Lord surely knew all she had to do at home. Yes, the Lord knew and that is why her schedule quickly became "flexible."

Brenda said "yes" to Jackson and moved into his home with him and his wife. During the next four weeks Brenda typed, filed, cleaned and even removed thorns from 750 roses to pass out during the 4th of July parade.

"It was a marvelous experience," Brenda said. "I learned more from them than I could have possibly given. It was such a blessing to me."



KATHERINE ADAMS

Katherine Adams is a vivacious, slight of build woman, who, if she were as young as she acts, would be a very young woman.

Her remarkable memory allows her to remember the horse and buggy days as they were to her at age four. It is also keen enough to remember the names of each of her Bible study friends year after year. She has not missed a week in the past 12 years of teaching a Bible study at Ella Munal Court.

Mrs. Adams is active in her church, Immanuel Baptist Church, Paducah. She teaches a Bible study once a month and helps in each activity of the Annie Allen Mission Action group. She taught Sunday school for 15-20 years before deciding it made her rush too much to leave Sunday school and hurry to Westminster Presbyterian Church where she has played the organ 39 years.

Not only has Mrs. Adams been active in her church, she also is a charter member of the Western Baptist Hospital auxiliary, beginning work there in 1953 when the new hospital opened.

She began by going each morning and playing for chaplain meditation time at 9 a.m. For 32 years Mrs. Adams has pushed the gift cart from room to room.

She has made tray cards for years, at one time recording 78,000 for the year. Now she only makes 800 per week.

Mrs. Adams organized an auxil-

ary at National Health Enterprise (before it became Riverfront Terrace Nursing Home) to help minister to the residents there.

She loves playing the piano, having taught lessons for 25 years in her home. She still plays for anyone who asks her and plays for the "Saints Alive Choir" (a choir for those 55 and older) at Immanuel Church each week. She plays for the associational WMU meetings, Sunday school and nursing homes.

"The Lord gave me time, talent and good health, and I want to use each of these to their fullest," she said. "I don't want to waste one minute."



CARLTON WATKINS

Carlton Watkins believes in a family-oriented business, and that is what he has operated for 31 years.

He bought the Funland Park area of Noble Park soon after his father died in 1953. He had worked with his father, beginning even as a small boy riding in the cab of the first motor-powered tow truck available in the city of Paducah.

His father taught him early that you help all people, but he was also instructed that you keep your eyes on the Lord and don't allow the actions of others to lead you astray.

"Everytime we drove to the 'joints' late at night to tow some car, Dad would always remind me that I wasn't to get drunk like these men," Carlton said.

Of his mother he said, "She was the most godly woman I've ever seen." They were Presbyterian and very devout. This kind of attention and training was influential in the kind of work he would spend his life in.

So, by age eight, each of his children were working at Funland beside their mother and father. Mrs. Watkins keeps books for the business.

It was not uncommon for a retired man to come to the park saying, "My wife kicked me out of the house. Can you give me some work?" Or a young person, just spreading his wings, to say, "Can I work here?"

Over the years it grew natural to see the old and the young working side by side, learning from each

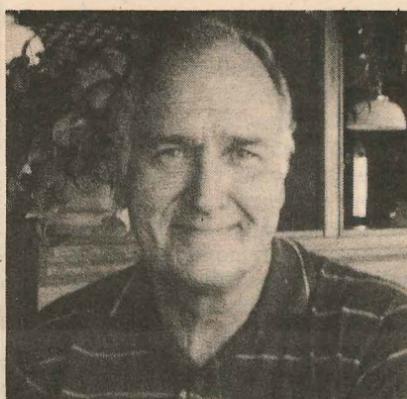
other.

Bible Schools and church groups have been given free tickets to give to their children to encourage church attendance.

Carlton is active in his church, First Baptist Church, Paducah, singing in the choir and teaching a Sunday school class. He attends a regular Monday morning prayer breakfast, supports missionary work and evangelism endeavors.

He has proven to be that loving sensitive counselor to many who are struggling with life and its problems. He goes out of his way to help solve them if he can. Carlton is a Christian gentleman making his Christian principles work in his business.

Three generations have now come and gone through Funland Park. Carlton says he hasn't done anything, but we can see the service to the community for 31 years.



GOLDA BEAMAN

Golda Beaman is a remarkable lady who sparkles with excitement when she talks about the things she loves — her church, Baptist Tabernacle of Paducah, and her community. "But I couldn't have done anything for them if I did not have the sweet husband I have," she said.

W. H. "Pete" Beaman, for over 50 years, has supported and often worked beside his wife, all the while holding about every office available in his church.

During these years Golda taught Sunday school, was director of the youth department, taught YWA's (Young Women's Auxiliary) and was regional youth director for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

She has taught at the Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly and at local camps, and she was instrumental in purchasing the land and opening Jonathan Creek Baptist Assembly, Hardin.

Her love for the young people of her church is evident when she talks about "her girls."

Mrs. Beaman was a charter member of the Western Baptist Hospital Auxiliary and the first director of the Candy Strippers.

In the 1950s, due to an untimely death of a dear friend, Mrs. Beaman became concerned that we did not have a mental health facility in McCracken County.

Under her leadership as president of the Paducah Women's Club, the first mental health service was established in 1960, in the old

Katterjohn Building.

Another project she loved, and still loves, was the renovation of the Market House. While serving on the Beautification Board she led a campaign to save the old Market House and put it to good use. It is now a lovely museum filled with unique mementos of Paducah's past.

Pete Beaman, after he retired, became the first curator of the Market House Museum. Beaman recently retired as curator in the Market House Museum, but his activity is hardly over.

The Beamans, along with two others, have been selected to work on the historical committee of Baptist Tabernacle and write a complete history of the church. "Golda is not happy unless she has more to do than she can get done," says her husband. But she always gets it done!





James H. Cox
Associate Editor

fourth estate

The widow's mites

The most vivid illustration of the widow's mites I ever saw occurred 10,000 miles from Kentucky.

Several members of the Kentucky partnership advance survey team had gone to the Machakos district that morning. Machakos is about a 90-minute drive southeast of the Kenyan capital of Nairobi.

Winding up a hilly, rocky road, we arrived at our destination—Kiima Kimwe Baptist Church—where a host of people had gathered.

We listened and shared with those dear souls more than two hours that day. When our formal speeches had ended, they asked us to wait while a group of women demonstrated for us the native custom of basket weaving.

Pius Nethenge, pastor of the host church, native Kenyan who holds earned degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary, offered background for us. A woman who weaves baskets from the rope-like leaves of the sisal plant invests a great deal in what she does.

She will carry two heavy loads of sisal many miles on her back to make one basket. While carrying the sisal, she may have an infant strapped to her side, a toddler or two pulling along, she may be knitting as she walks and have a water pot balanced on her head.

A single shilling, or 35 cents here about five shillings, or 35 cents in American money, a very large sum to the average Kenyan. It will take her about one week to process the leaves into thin ropes and weave them into a basket to produce a small livelihood. Needless to say, we were touched at the very depths of our souls! When the demonstration was ended, we Kentuckians were overwhelmed as the women gave us baskets to carry home to our wives. This simple act of love had a profound effect on me that day, and in the weeks and months to follow.

I wonder now if Southern Baptist foreign missionaries like Betty and Chuck Evans (of Kentucky and Georgia) had not given more than a quarter-century of their lives to the Kenyans, would that spirit of sharing have dwelled in this dear people? Or, could it be that, because they were there, teaching and telling among thousands who had never heard the message of salvation, that made a difference in the quality of life, and in their response to it? I wonder.

The widow may have given all she had when she cast those two small mites into the treasury that day. But because that message is still being told, there are others willing to reflect that same spirit. The joy of giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering is a happy response for many to assure that others may hear of it, too.

christian education

Former Gov. Carroll warns against alcohol, drug abuse

Former governor Julian M. Carroll came to speak to the "soldiers" at Campbellsville College, the "Christian soldiers" in what he termed "the war against drugs and alcohol." Carroll spoke Nov. 19 at the college's convocation.

In explaining why he spoke of "war," he said whenever you have a threat that seeks to totally destroy you, it's a war.

Carroll cited Kentucky as the nation's third largest producer of marijuana. He said Kentucky's marijuana has greater value than the state's agricultural property and is worth more than \$1 billion.

According to Carroll, the Kentucky state police destroy 25 percent of the marijuana crop annually, amounting to \$300-\$400 million worth. He noted that leaves 75 percent of the Kentucky-produced marijuana in the marketplace.

Carroll related the overall society's drug and alcohol problems to the problem in the local schools. He said in any high school there are 50 percent of the students consuming alcohol, 35 percent using marijuana and from eight to 10 percent using hard drugs.

Where does the problem arise from drug and alcohol abuse? Carroll said it leads to high school dropouts, with Kentucky having a "tremendous problem" in that area.

According to Carroll, Kentucky ranks number one in the United States in the number of adults who are not high school graduates. He said the fifth congressional district has the worst record for high school dropouts of any district in the nation. Out of a freshman class, Carroll said 35 percent will not graduate.

Carroll is not sure people appreciate

the magnitude of drug and alcohol abuse, naming denial as a big problem involved. He said the problems in the schools are a manifestation of problems in the home.

According to Carroll the church's responsibility extends out from worship and teaching to people hungry for answers. "The American public is starving to death to be loved by somebody," he said.

Lolly to deliver commencement address

Randall Lolley, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., will deliver the December 1985 commencement address at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Dec. 20 at 10 a.m. in Alumni Chapel.

Lolley, former pastor of First Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N. C., has been president of the seminary since 1974. He is a graduate of Samford University, Birmingham, Ala., Southeastern Seminary, and Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

He has been on the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and has been president of the North Carolina Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Currently, 269 students are scheduled to graduate.

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ism at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, effective on or before Aug. 1, 1986, according to president Roy L. Honeycutt.

Honeycutt has initiated a nationwide search for an evangelism faculty member to join Lewis A. Drummond, Billy Graham professor of evangelism, in the department. The position will be tenured or tenurable and requires an earned doctorate and church-related experience.

Recommendations for this position should be sent to G. Willis Bennett, Dean of Theology, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2825 Lexington Rd., Louisville, KY 40280.

FOR SALE: Used solid oak pews in excellent condition: 25 - 18', 34 - 10'6"; 60 choir robes - 3 years old. Offers being accepted through Dec. 15 with immediate possession. Valley View Baptist Church, 8911 Old Third Street Rd., Louisville, Ky. 40272; (502) 935-5142. 12-3-2t

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FOR SALE: ABDick Mimeograph machine - Model 525. Excellent condition. \$300.00. Contact Faith Baptist Church, Georgetown, KY 40324. Phone 502-863-1537. 1t

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Answering God's call

Gene Crowder at age 38 left a stable job and a comfortable income to enter seminary. Now he's pastor of Elkhorn City Baptist Church.

by Glenn Mollette, *State Correspondent*

God's call to ministry does not always come at convenient times. A good case in point is Gene Crowder, pastor of Elkhorn City Baptist Church.

Converted in 1956 at the age of 15 Crowder had periodically thought and felt as if God had something more serious in store for him. Yet it was not until 1976 that he knew beyond certainty God was calling him to preach.

"I was at Harrodsburg Baptist Church for their 200th anniversary of Baptist preaching in Kentucky. R. G. Lee was the speaker. I had felt for some time God was calling me, yet at this meeting I knew beyond any doubt," affirmed Crowder.

But what do you do when in 1977 you are making in excess of \$30,000, with a company car, company expense account and company benefits and God is calling you to preach? This was the problem that Crowder had to deal with.

In 1964 he began work with the Big Rivers Electric Corporation in Robards, Ky. He began shoveling coal for the company but within a few short years worked his way up to superintendent of operations and maintenance. From 1971-78 he supervised 300 employees, along with helping the company start new plants.

In 1977 Crowder made the decision he would leave his occupation, further his education and yield to the call he

felt so strongly. "It was during the 1977 Kentucky Baptist Convention. Ted Sisk was preaching. The title of his message was 'If it is to be, It's up to me,' which was directed to Bold Mission Thrust. I took the sermon literally," acknowledged Crowder. Crowder, who had been an active layman in his association, was attending the meeting that year as a messenger.

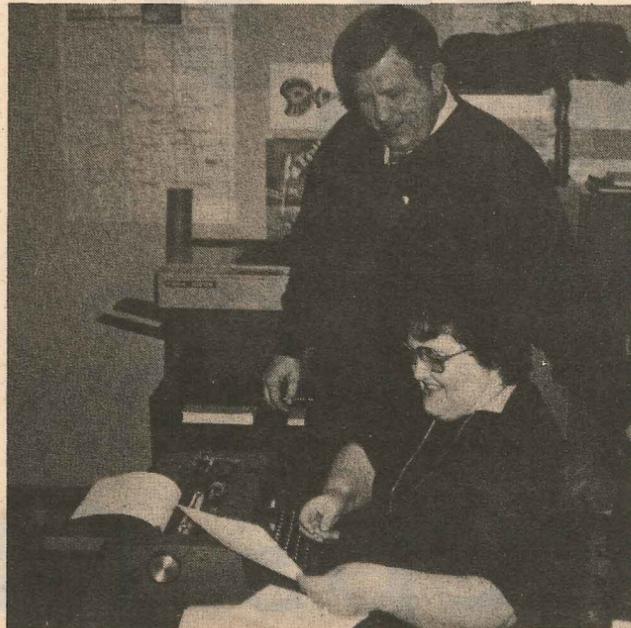
After prayer and consultation with his family, Crowder at age 38 made his decision public at the Robards Baptist Church. "It was tremendously helpful that my wife, Mabel, supported and encouraged my decision."

Starting seminary single is not easy. However, Crowder began with his wife and three daughters ages 11, 8, and 2.

"The transition was hard," he remembered. "We sold our house in Robards and used our equity to finance part of the seminary expense. About all I had starting out was understanding, a hard working wife and a lot of prayer from the folks at Robards Baptist Church."

Reflecting on how they financially survived, "Mabel worked at Vulcan-Hart in Louisville. I was able to get a part-time job doing hospital maintenance at Highland Baptist Hospital. Together that got us through along with help from loved ones and friends."

Yet, before graduation in 1980, the Crowders had another hurdle to cross. A tumor located in Mrs. Crowder's



Gene and Mabel Crowder at the Pike Association office where Mrs. Crowder is a secretary.

brain required surgery that entailed a year long recovery. "If it hadn't been for folks like A. B. Colvin, David Garland and Jim Pollard who became supportive friends, I would not have made it."

During his last year of seminary Crowder was also called to pastor Sparta Baptist Church. His other pastorates before his most recent at Elkhorn City include Muldraugh and Benton Baptist Churches.

Considering the change from a well paid supervisory position with many benefits to the pastorate, Crowder had some observations.

"In the supervisory level people were responsible to me for their livelihood. To a great extent I had control over their actions. But in a pastoral role goals have to be accomplished by leading."

"Other discoveries we have had to learn to deal with are driving an old car, not buying the new clothes and toys we once could afford. Many material items are no longer available." Yet in spite of

several sacrifices, Crowder and his family have no regrets.

"It has been a wonderful experience. The receptiveness of the people at Elkhorn City Baptist has been amazing. I would not trade jobs or go back to my old position for anything. I feel like I am being used by the Lord."

"The rewards of what I am doing far outweigh the difficult times. Not monetary rewards, but the development of relationships and the love of the people means so much."

Crowder further attests, "The abilities to help in times of crisis and to see the development of the family of God through the church" are meaningful qualities to his new vocation.

The Crowders are one of many families who have picked up, gave up and yet have not let up in fulfilling the call of God in their lives. They are an inspiration to all Christians, seminary students and ministerial peers who daily desire to hear God say, "This is the way, walk ye in it."

Chaplain fosters sharing in prison ministry at Owensboro

by Betty Anderson, *State Correspondent*

There were 10 adults and six children at the service in the church fellowship hall. After refreshments the group was seated in a semicircle of folding chairs, facing a piano and a portable podium. The lady who had served sat nearby with crayons and coloring books, trying to keep the youngsters occupied.

Two hymns were sung, "Sing the Wondrous Love of Jesus" and "When We Walk with the Lord." Then it was time for prayer requests.

"Pray for the men going out to church Sunday night to speak."

"Pray for the men and women who are here tonight."

"Pray for the men in the cage."

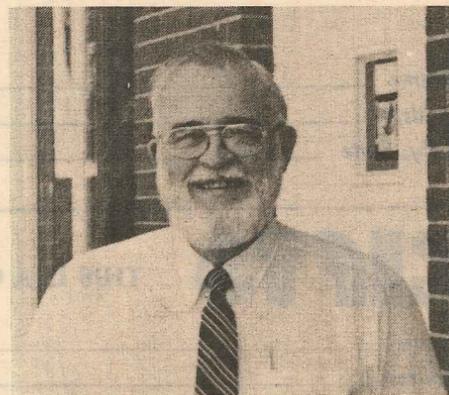
There was a request for prayer for a fellow prisoner who had attempted suicide. One asked for prayer for a sister-in-law; another for a brother who's "on pot." Someone mentioned the jailer and the deputy jailer. One asked for prayer for himself, requesting he would be able to control his anger and not "fly off and cuss."

These men are state prisoners at the Daviess County Detention Center, Owensboro. On Friday nights they attend a service just for them at Parrish Avenue Baptist Church. The men are brought to the church just before 7 p.m. by Donald Bratcher and must be returned by 9 p.m. Wives and children may also attend.

Bratcher is the Daviess-McLean Baptist Association representative to the detention center. For two years he has spent two mornings per week visiting one-to-one in the jail.

He is paid by the association for eight hours work weekly. The services at Parrish Avenue were begun by Bratcher about a year ago.

Bratcher is pastor of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church near Calhoun. In McLean County he has also pastored Buttonsberry Baptist Church, near Island. His other pastorate was Pleasant Memorial, Owensboro.



Bratcher

After the prayer period it was sharing time.

"I'm thankful that the Lord lifts me up each day. I pray four or five times a day."

They began to talk about going to

area churches on Sunday nights to speak.

"I never spoke, even at school. It's a great experience to talk to an audience facing anger and frustration like we do."

"Helping others is a better high than a drug high."

"I was selfish, used to taking, not helping. It's a great experience to learn to love each other."

Bratcher's sermon was about love. "Love for God is first. That is the important commandment. Then, love your neighbor . . . Love is action. You don't have to like him. Jesus can command us to love because it's not a feeling but an action."

The invitation was "Just As I Am." One man came forward requesting prayer. Just before time to go, the men and Bratcher moved off to themselves and later the report was that one of the new men had been saved.

Who are these men? Most are in their 20s. They are from Madisonville, Providence; Morganfield, Paducah, as well as from Owensboro.

Their crimes are burglary, assault, reckless homicide. They have young wives, young children.

Some left home as young as 13 and 15. The common thread running through each story is involvement with drugs and alcohol.

In Owensboro they work in the center's dining room or clean the parking lot. Every 30 days they get a four day

furlough.

The speaking mission on Sunday nights at area churches has been active all summer and fall. The participating church provides transportation.

Bratcher preaches at his church. The sermon they lead is a mixture of testimony and special music.

A slender black man, who has a 15-year-old wife and a daughter, sings "Amazing Grace." A white man, on parole and living in Owensboro with his wife, has four children who are in foster homes. He testifies: "I was raised pretty good. My mother died when I was six. Me and my four brothers lived in foster homes."

"Alcohol was my downfall. I was in the service 12 years, a drill sergeant at Ft. Knox four years. I want to help keep young people away from what we got into."

A blonde-haired man, about 40 and an alcoholic, sings "There's Room at the Cross" in a beautiful tenor voice. Without accompaniment, without introduction, each man comes to the platform from his seat in the congregation to speak or to sing.

One young man, red-haired, saying not a word and beating out time by slapping against his leg, sings his testimony:

"I'm yours, Lord.
Everything I've got,
Everything I have,
Everything I'm not . . .
I'm yours, Lord."

mountains to the mississippi

personnel

W. Clay Smith (see photo) has accepted the call as pastor at Finchville Baptist Church, Shelby County Association.

Smith holds a BA degree from Samford University, Birmingham, Ala. and a MDiv degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. A native of Wauchua, Fla., he has been a pastor in Florida and a staff member in churches in Alabama and Kentucky.

He is currently a PhD student at Southern Seminary.

James M. Hisel (see photo), pastor of Campton Baptist Church, Red River Association, has resigned to accept the pastorate of Enterprise Baptist Church, Morristown, Tenn.

He is a graduate of Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville, and has pastored churches in Bell, Robertson, Pike and Wolfe counties in Kentucky.

Rebecca Pate, member of English Baptist Church, Carrollton, received her 20-year bar for perfect church attendance in October. She is only 23 years old.

Chris Carroll has been called as pastor of New Prospect Baptist Church, Booneville Association.

He is a second year student at Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville. Carroll is accompanied by his wife, Toni, and children Mark and James.

Warren Robards, pastor of Lewisport Baptist Church, Blackford Association, announced his retirement to be effective Dec. 31.

Robards has been pastor there more than 13 years. He has also been moderator, clerk and treasurer for the association and a member of the KBC executive board.

Bruce Gray of Marshall, Va. has accepted the call as associate pastor of Gray Baptist Church, Lynn Camp Association.

He is a second year student at Clear Creek Baptist School, Pineville. His wife, Marlene, is a sign language teacher at Clear Creek. They have four children.

Harold Harris has begun duties as full time pastor of Barnesburg Baptist Church, Pulaski Association.

He recently pastored Poplar Grove Baptist Church, Rockcastle County.

Ernest Harris has resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Albany, Freedom Association.

During his eight-year pastorate he has twice been moderator of the association and been on the state executive board.

Harris has been called as pastor of Greenview Baptist Church, Florence. He will end his work at Albany Dec. 15 and begin at Greenview Jan. 1.

Leon Winchester of Hazel, Ky. has accepted the call as pastor of Lake City Baptist Church, Ohio River Association.

Keith Sanderson became minister of music and youth at Southern Heights Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association. Albert Griffin is pastor of the church.

Richard Brantley has assumed the position of director of music and youth at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Cunningham, West Kentucky Association.

Robby Speer has begun his work as minister of activities at Severns Valley Baptist Church, Severns Valley Associ-



Smith



Hisel



Hartsell

ation.

Speer is a native of Hawesville and a graduate of Campbellsville College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth.

J. Howard Cobble is pastor of Severns Valley.

congregations

Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green, celebrated High Attendance Sunday Oct. 27 with 491 in Sunday school. This is the sixth highest attendance in the church's history and the highest since April 1965. In the morning worship service 15 decisions were registered.

Jim Haskell is pastor at Eastwood.

Bethlehem Baptist Church, Cunningham, West Kentucky Association, erected a steeple given to the church by James and Dorothy Presson in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Twisdale.

Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green, held a consecration service Oct. 27 as construction began on their \$350,000 office complex and educational building addition. Roy Boatright, former pastor, delivered the morning message.

A record attendance of 312 in Sunday school was counted, and a record offering of \$9000 was given. The building completion date is Feb. 1.

Billy Compton is pastor at Living Hope.

Southfork Baptist Church and Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Lynn Association, sponsored a joint volunteer mission project in September.

The churches sent work groups to Campton Baptist Church, Red River Association, to install new roofing on their sanctuary and parsonage.

The entire cost of the project was provided by Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington, and the Brotherhood of Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church, Long Run Association, held a ground breaking for a Christian Life Center on Nov. 10.

Harvey Sloane, mayor of Louisville, proclaimed Sunday, Nov. 10 as Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church Day. The completion date of the building is set for June.

Ferrill Gardner is pastor.

Highland Hills Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association, dedicated a 5700-square foot addition that includes a multipurpose fellowship hall and additional Sunday school classrooms Nov. 17.

William W. Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer of the state convention, spoke at the dedication where a church record 193 attended Sunday school.

Fourteen-year pastor John Kruschwitz said the \$278,000 addition also houses a preschool suite for the church's Rainbow Nursery School, now in its third year. A pastor's office, choir room and kitchen are also part of the addition to the 621-member church.

ordinations

Seldon Horne was ordained as deacon by First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg, Enterprise Association. The church also honored Hal Midkiff, deceased, as deacon emeritus.

Stephen D. Hopkins is pastor.

James F. Williams was ordained deacon by First Baptist Church, Ashland, Greenup Association, Nov. 10.

Jim Cobb was ordained deacon by First Baptist Church, Corbin, Mt. Zion Association, Nov. 10. Cobb is a native of Corbin and married to the former Fredina Webb.

John T. Dunaway is pastor.

Gordon Hundley, Lawrence Myers, Bill Nowak and Darrell Warren were ordained as deacons by St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville. The church also installed the following deacons: H. C. Baker, Hubert Beck, Jennye Bennett, Willis Bennett, Bill Duvall, A. B. Harmon, Asa Hord, Ray Hume, Gary Jenkins, Carolyn Saunders, Curtis Thompson and Glen Torstrick.

William Powell Tuck is pastor at St. Matthews.

Larry Polston was ordained to the ministry by Highview Baptist Church, Long Run Association. He is pastor of Werling Road Baptist Church, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

William L. Hancock is pastor of Highview.

Lester Abner and Danny Burkhead were ordained as deacons by Cane Run Baptist Church, Elkhorn Association.

Harry Hargis is pastor.

Benedict Principe was ordained as deacon of First Baptist Church, Brandenburg, Salem Association. He and his wife Linda and their son J. B. are vital and active leaders in the church program. They are products of mission work in the Philippines.

Billy D. Marcum is pastor of First, Brandenburg.

James Williams was ordained as deacon at First Baptist Church, Ashland, Greenup Association, Nov. 10.

Bill Messer is pastor at First, Ashland.

Edwin Carter, Jimmy Henson, Terry Holder and Warren Stinson were ordained as the first four deacons of Second Baptist Church, Clinton, Western Kentucky Association.

C. W. Barnhill is pastor.

deaths

Bruce V. Hartsell (see photo), pastor of Shepherdsville Baptist Church, died Nov. 9 at Baptist Hospital East, Louisville.

Hartsell was pastor of First Baptist Church, Shepherdsville, 28 years, 1945-73. Since 1973 he had been pastor of Baptist Chapel. A native of North Carolina, he had been pastor of churches in Youngsville and Franklin, N. C. before coming to Kentucky.

He was on the Kentucky Baptist Convention executive board 15 years and was moderator of Nelson Association eight years. He was a member of the Campbellsville College board of trustees and president of Bullitt County Chapter of the American Cancer Society.

Hartsell was a graduate of Campbell College, Buies Creek, N. C.; Wake Forest University, Wake Forest, N. C.; and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

missions

Paula Settle was commissioned as a missionary at Third Baptist Church, Owensboro, Daviess-McLean Association.

Miss Settle will be leaving soon to go to language study and then on to Togo, West Africa, serving with the Foreign Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Paul M. Welch is pastor of Third Baptist Church.

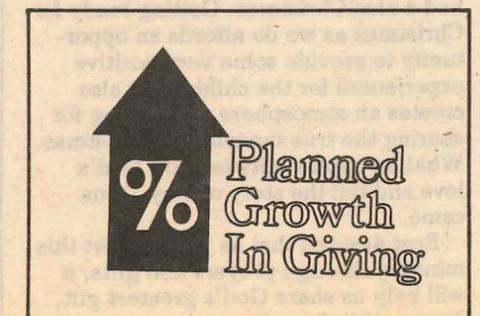
Mr. and Mrs. R. Douglas Martin, missionaries to Taiwan, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (Box 427, Taipei 10099, Taiwan ROC). He was born and grew up in Dayton, Oh. and she is the former Brenda Lewis of Corbin, Ky. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1985.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Serda, missionary associates to Kenya, have completed furlough and returned to the field (Box 30370, Nairobi, Kenya). He is a native of Mobile, Ala. The former Snow White, she was born in Edmonson County, Ky. and grew up in Louisville. They were employed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1982.

associations

Elkhorn Association executive board unanimously passed a resolution of appreciation for Harold G. Polk who has been executive director of the association the past 15 years and was recognized as the 1985 outstanding director of missions in a metropolitan association by the Home Mission Board.

The resolution expressed love and appreciation for Polk by sending him on a mission tour of Kenya where his talents and gifts can be used. The expenses for this tour will be provided out of unreserved mission funds in the association's treasury.





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

homes for children

Getting ready for Christmas

Getting ready for Christmas began many months ago for merchants. They decided what to stock for the Christmas rush and selected advertising plans. Now with Thanksgiving behind us, people everywhere are making plans for Christmas. Christmas cards are being prepared for early mailing. Shopping lists are being made. Decorations for the festive season are going up everywhere.

Christmas preparations are well underway at Baptist Homes for Children which includes Spring Meadows, Glen Dale and the temporary shelters at Dixon and Elizabethtown, 14 cottages in all. The children and houseparents are decorating the cottages to create a warm, happy atmosphere. Each youth has made a list of wants and needs. These are gone over with houseparents, and some things are given priority while others are deleted. Planning is done in a way that no child is neglected and each one can have a nice, happy experience at Christmas.

Have you thought about getting ready for Christmas with 10 children in your home or cottage? Have you thought about getting ready for Christmas with 14 cottages? Perhaps you are thinking, "How can Baptist Homes for Children do all of that?" We are able to do it because a lot of people step in to help. Individuals, Sunday school classes, Woman's Missionary Union groups and churches take the responsibility of providing for one or more children in our care. The Women's Auxiliary for each campus works with staff and others to coordinate this giant undertaking, and it turns out to be a beautiful experience.

Many children in our care have not had a nice Christmas. Getting ready for Christmas as we do affords an opportunity to provide some very positive experiences for the children. It also creates an atmosphere and setting for sharing the true meaning of Christmas. What an opportunity to show God's love and tell the story of why Jesus came.

Rest assured that as you support this ministry through prayers and gifts, it will help us share God's greatest gift, Jesus, with those in our care.

baptist forum

There's got to be a better way!

Thank you for your concern about proper registration procedures at future Kentucky Baptist Convention meetings. In view of the increasing importance of votes in our convention meetings it is imperative that a better system of identifying messengers be designed.

This year our church had the following experience: In the October business meeting we elected 10 messengers. We contacted the executive office of the convention and asked for messenger cards to be sent to us. These were filled out and given to the messengers. When our last messenger arrived at the convention registration desk (in this case J. M. Boswell, president emeritus of Cumberland College) he was told he could not register because 10 check marks had already been placed by First Baptist Church, Williamsburg. As a result, this Kentucky Baptist statesman was denied registration as a messenger from the church which had duly elected him and taken the time to present him a messenger card prior to the convention.

When I went to check on the situation I was told the only way we could find out what happened was to go through all the registration cards turned in and pull those from First, Williamsburg. It

was suggested that an alternate may have registered but a check of members attending showed we had no alternates present—in fact none were even elected. A conference with a member of the credentials committee brought apologies but under the system he was powerless to help.

All of those who tried to help were kind and gracious and regretted the error but that is not my point. My point is that we need a system of registration that would enable the registration desk to find at a moment's notice who has registered from a particular church. In my opinion, this would keep down confusion and errors such as happened to us this year.

As an oncoming member of the executive board, I intend to ask for the board to instruct the credentials committee to look into the situation and make improvements for next year's convention meeting.

Harold S. Mauney, Williamsburg

Another way to promote giving

What a pleasure to see "a fly in the Baptist computer" interfere with our "numbers game"! Your front page report of Nov. 12 about the 157th place finisher in per capita giving to the

Cooperative Program being mistakenly listed as first was a breath of fresh air. Our spiritual well being too often suffocates from excessive dollar signs.

It pains me every time I receive the Western Recorder edition which ranks churches' giving. An announcement of the total cooperative giving would be sufficient. I have personally benefited from the Cooperative Program as a "missionary kid" and as a student at a Baptist college and seminary. I am an eye witness to the tremendous impact which Cooperative Program funds have in the Lord's kingdom work, and I would encourage the use of any means available to increase this important giving unless those means are an unethical departure from Christ's teachings.

Our call to giving grows out of who we are and from our personal relationship with God. When churches attempt to motivate givers by competing for higher ranking, we are, at best, merely demonstrating a "who's first in your kingdom" mentality which prompted Jesus to scold his disciples. Further, when the ranking is also based on per capita giving, we preach nothing more than that the poor can never be first in our material "sub-kingdom." How soon we forget our early Sunday school lessons of the widow's mite!

Instead of listing and ranking each church's giving, why not just start with the grand total and then list all the kingdom causes which these gifts will be used for? I can be a much better steward of the dollars entrusted to me if I know how they can best be used—not by trying to keep up with the Joneses?

John T. Mitchell, Louisville

Kentucky-Kenya Partnership

by G. Allen West,
Associate Coordinator

There were more than 100 volunteers who served in Kenya during 1985.

Already there are requests for 170 volunteers to go in 1986. We need pastor-evangelists, musicians, and laypersons who have had training and experience in soul-winning.

Date	Assigned Location	Assignment	No. of Volunteers
Jan. 1986	Nyeri	Revivalist	Team of 2 or 4
1/14/86	Meru District	Revivalists	2 teams of 2
1/28/86	Meru District	Revivalists	2 teams of 2
2/18/86	Meru District	Revivalists	2 teams of 2
3/11/86	Seminary, Limuru	Teacher	1 couple or 1 male
3/19/86	Meru District	Revivalists	2 teams of 2
June 1986	Mombasa	Preachers and singers to lead Revivals	5 teams of 2
6/1/86	Nairobi	Summer Music Ast.	One
7/14/86	Malindi Area	Revivalists	6 teams of 2
August 1986	Nyeri	Revivalists	3 teams - total 6
8/2/86	Brackenhurst	Bible Teacher	One
8/2/86	Brackenhurst	Mission Speaker	One
8/3/86	Brackenhurst	Male Chorale	4 teams of 4
8/15/86	All of Kenya	WMU Trainers	1 team of 8
8/18/86	Kilifi	Revivalists	3 teams of 2
8/18/86	Malindi	Revivalists	6 teams of 6
9/1/86	Malindi Area	Revivalists	6 teams of 2
9/8/86	Kilifi	Revivalists	3 teams of 2
9/22/86	Kilifi	Revivalists	4 teams of 2
9/15/86	Malindi Area	Revivalists	6 teams of 2
9/29/86	Malindi Area	Revivalists	6 teams of 2
10/13/86	Malindi Area	Revivalists	6 teams of 2
10/27/86	Kilifi	Revivalists	3 teams of 2
10/27/86	Malindi Area	Revivalists	6 teams of 2
11/1986	Kilifi	Revivalists	3 teams of 2
11/17/86	Kilifi	Revivalists	3 teams of 2
11/10/86	Malindi	Revivalists	6 teams of 2
11/1986	Malindi	Revivalists	6 teams of 2
11/24/86	Malindi	Revivalists	6 teams of 2
11/86	Malindi	Revivalists	6 teams of 2
12/1986	Kilifi	Revivalists	3 teams of 2
12/1986	Malindi	Revivalists	6 teams of 2

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H. Stephen Shoemaker is pastor of Crescent Hills Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky.

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BROADMAN

Hendricks says trends create schizophrenia

Opposing trends in religion and society are creating a kind of schizophrenia among conservative Christians living in a modern world, seminary professor William Hendricks told staff members of the SBC Home Mission Board.

The split-personality problem comes when Christians work and live in a scientific, technological society which stresses that truth is constantly being revealed, with new discoveries yet to come in the future, said Hendricks, professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Yet when these same Christians go to church they are told that religious truth revealed in God and Jesus Christ is best discovered in the past through the Bible, he added.

While the rest of society is looking into the future, Christians are looking to the past, and the tension caused by these conflicts is pulling some Christians apart, Hendricks said.

When a person is facing the trauma of a disease like cancer or AIDS, he or she goes to a doctor wanting to know what latest scientific discovery might help, Hendricks observed. But when the same person faces a moral or spiritual problem, he or she goes to church looking to some word from the past to provide guidance and security, he added. (BP)

New seminary seeks leader; FMB to help buy land

The trustees of a new seminary for Canadian Southern Baptists are seeking a president for their institution while taking other steps toward opening the school.

A contract has been signed to buy about 150 acres near Calgary for the seminary campus, with major funding of \$130,000 coming from the Foreign Mission Board. Site preparation is scheduled to begin next year and building construction in 1987.

Initial operating funds for the seminary will come from student tuition and fees, Canadian Southern Baptist denominational gifts, contributions from the Foreign Mission Board and a fund-raising campaign among supporters of Canadian Southern Baptist work.

The Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists voted in May to establish a seminary, with classes scheduled to begin in the fall of 1987. Plans for the seminary have been progressing on schedule, according to trustee committee reports, but final plans await the election of a president.

The trustees also have adopted a statement of philosophy, which reads in part: "This institution shall be committed to achieving excellence in education, while maintaining a proper balance of zeal with knowledge, prayer with action and dependency on God with the development of skills. To accomplish these objectives it is necessary that our seminary personnel be absolutely committed to the authority of God's word in faith and practice and by their example and exhortation should lead students to like commitment."

The 80 Southern Baptist congregations in western Canada see the new seminary as an important step in the evangelization of the nation, according to Southern Baptist representative James Teel, a member of the search committee. "The desire of the trustees . . . and the Southern Baptist people in Canada is that the seminary be a place where students study the Bible and

Foundation supports missions

Christmas means different things to different people. To Southern Baptists the meaning certainly includes giving to foreign missions through the Lottie Moon Offering.

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation is privileged to be an instrument through which a number of Kentucky Baptist men and women and churches support foreign missions in perpetuity. Last year the Foundation channeled \$47,000 to our Foreign Mission Board from endowment, memorial, and other types of funds.

Please contact the Foundation office, Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243 (502-245-4101, ext. 227) for information on how you can utilize a living and/or estate planning technique to benefit one or more of our Baptist causes.

Barry Allen, Louisville

learn to start churches, to reach out to people where they hurt and to have a burning desire to share Jesus Christ and know how to do it," he said. (BP)

Ireland may open door to Southern Baptists

In Ireland, there's "a suspicion of most things American," according to Rea Grant, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Ireland.

Irish evangelicals are among the suspicious, partly because of the impression left by some American evangelists who visited Ireland after World War II, Grant said in an interview during an October visit to the Foreign Mission Board. "The high pressure, glossy methods of (the visitors') evangelism left a lot to be desired, and I'm afraid that image sticks."

The Baptist Union of Ireland encompasses 85 churches in Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, and 10 churches in the independent southern Republic of Ireland.

Southern Baptists have no missionaries in Ireland, but Grant is not opposed to seeing one or more come. Because the FMB has a partnership outlook toward overseas Baptist bodies, its missionaries would be "co-workers with us," he said. They might help "restore confidence in American missionaries," he added.

Missionaries coming to work in Ireland must be prepared to "leave the U.S. situation behind," Grant said, because Irish Baptist congregations, in numerical strength, are "not the success story according to the standard of many Americans." Many churches have only five to eight strong members.

For many Irish Baptists, "success amounts to faithful work, just plodding away . . . sowing the seed all the time. The work (in Ireland) has never grown phenomenally, but it has grown steadily." The union's membership stands at 8200, up from 3500 in 1940. But participants in Irish Baptist congregational life number more than 20,000, Grant said.

Grant estimates there are 1.5 million people in Northern Ireland, the majority of whom are nominal Protestants, and three to four million in the Republic of Ireland, the vast majority of whom are Roman Catholic.

Thanks to the Baptist stance on separation of church and state, the union can encompass Irish believers who are "unionist" or "loyalist," favoring allegiance to the British government, and others who are "republi-

can," favoring a united Ireland. "We can sit down very happily together united in Christ," Grant said. (BP)

Missionary criticizes 'country club' churches

Southern Baptists are middle to upper middle class Americans who have isolated themselves from the poor of the land, a foreign missionary says.

Their latest "million-dollar fad" is to build big buildings—"Christian country clubs" of family life centers, bowling alleys, saunas and gymnasiums—while only giving "crumbs from the table" to missions, said Sam Cannata, a medical missionary in Africa, who with his wife, Ginny, is missionary-in-residence at Baylor University, Waco, Tex.

Cannata spoke during the final session of the Texas Baptist Men convention at First Baptist Church, San Antonio.

"We say these buildings are built for the glory of God, but they're basically for us—it's for ourselves," Cannata said. While acknowledging some individuals have been saved through the ministries of "Christian country clubs," he charged there are "thousands, perhaps 10-thousands," who drive by those buildings every day who are angry at the injustice those buildings represent.

As a whole, Southern Baptists are not caring for those poor in the country, Cannata said.

"We don't want to help them, and we get mad when the government does," he said. "A lot of churches have soup kitchens where they dole out soup, or have closets where they dole out clothes. But it's a paternalistic type of giving—not a loving, lifting kind of giving."

"We need to decide if we're New Testament Christians or if we're going to let our culture dictate how we live," he challenged. "I pray that we'll come back to the fact that only two things in the world are eternal—people and the word of God?"

"I'm not saying churches shouldn't have buildings. I'm saying we've gone overboard. We as individuals need to learn what it means to invest our lives in people and in the word of God." (BP)

Wideman elected head of New England Baptists

James E. Wideman, pastor of Screven Baptist Church in Portsmouth, N. H., the first Southern Baptist church in New England and the host church for the annual meeting of the Baptist Convention of New England, was elected convention president.

The non-controversial convention attracted 231 messengers and visitors from the six states which make up the convention. Resolutions included support and prayer for the Southern Baptist Peace Committee and support for Good News America, a Southern Baptist plan for simultaneous revivals across the United States during 1986.

A budget of \$1,659,266 was approved for the coming year with \$402,000 expected to be contributed by local churches affiliated with the Baptist Convention of New England. The bulk of the remaining money will come from the Home Mission Board and the Sunday School Board.

The convention will send 20 percent of its undesignated receipts to the worldwide mission and education program of the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative program, the same percentage as last year's budget. (BP)



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

Great joy

The angel said to the humble shepherds, "Fear not . . . I bring you good tidings of great joy!" Christmas is a time of joy and celebration at Clear Creek Baptist School. While a Bible college, Clear Creek is more like a church than a university in its activities and programs.

We observe Lottie Moon Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions and take a Lottie Moon Christmas offering in the first week of December. We observe the lighting of a tree of witness to our Lord's birth and we also have a campus-wide night of caroling. This year we will present a live nativity scene complete with live animals and our teenagers (children of our students) dressed as Joseph, Mary and the shepherds for several nights before Christmas.

Our annual Clear Creek Choir Christmas Concert will be presented in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church, Pineville, on Thursday, Dec. 19, 1985, at 7:30 p.m. You are most cordially invited to enjoy a night of fellowship and worship with us as you hear the greatest choir this side of heaven. The Clear Creek Singers, Handbell Choir and Children's Choir presentations will make our evening complete.

Our annual Turkey Day at Clear Creek is a very special day for us. Our alumni and other interested friends make it possible for every family on campus to have a turkey with all the trimmings at Christmas. Without support such as this, many of our students would not be able to enjoy the plenteous provisions of our Lord at Christmastime.

Perhaps the highlight of our Christmas celebration is our annual Shopping Spree. Started by Dr. and Mrs. Aldridge some years ago, our Shopping Spree provides Christmas gifts and toys for our students and their families (especially the children). Dear friends of Clear Creek donate new toys, gifts or money so that our almost 600 members of the Clear Creek community will not miss the wonder and beauty of Christmas.

There is great joy at Clear Creek during the Christmas season. Your heart will be blessed if you can visit our campus and share at this time of the year. If you are unable to come, remember us during this season of Great Joy!



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Audience of 75,000

Guests of Disney World for two days, our choir performed on Saturday evening at the Dock Stage. Our students and director Jeff Minor had worked for several weeks learning a "hit" from each decade from the 20's onward. Also, much work had gone into preparing costumes to go with each song.

After numbers like "Ain't She Sweet" and "Over the Rainbow," our girls were dressed up as WAC's singing a World War II number. Then eight of our boys, dressed in white pants and white shirts, and wearing OBI royal blue letter sweaters, did a rousing rendition of "Mr. Sandman" from the 50's, the entire choir chiming in. Three of our black girls did an impressive medley imitation of Diana Ross and the Supremes from the 60's.

The performance was climaxed with the entire choir singing "We Are The World." In the front row were six of our foreign students, in the native dress of Ethiopia, Korea, Japan and Thailand. Each sang solo parts in their native tongues, and then the English version.

The audience seemed to appreciate the performance. Some Kentuckians were in the crowd and came to speak to us. They knew of our work and were surprised to find us performing at Disney World!

Costumes, band instruments, and ourselves were all soon loaded on the buses. A count showed once more that all were present, and off for a meal at the end of another long and exciting day. Then back to First Baptist where host families were waiting to take each

of us back to our beds for the night.

Sunday morning we all met at 8 a.m. in the magnificent \$19 million complex of First Baptist Church which seats 6000 people. Our choir, standing in the orchestra pit, found themselves to be in tune for the morning service. The orchestra pit then descended to the floor below, our students riding same. There they rested in a waiting area until the service began. Orlando's robed 450-voice choir formed an impressive backdrop as our choir slowly came into view again standing on the rising orchestra pit as it came up from the floor below. You can imagine what a kick our kids got out of that! But they all looked very dignified, just as though they rode orchestra pits daily and sang before congregations of 5000 people routinely.

With an estimated 70,000 people watching the televised service, our choir sang "Climbing Up The Mountain" and "Every Time I Feel The Spirit," two of the songs they had sung so effectively a few days before at the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Again, they thrilled our hearts and the congregation.

It was a tremendous service with former Kentuckian Bill Curl leading the singing, and pastor Jim Henry preaching a missionary message. Hundreds came forward at the end of the service committing themselves to various mission projects in the coming year including two-week volunteer projects in places like Oneida, Latin America, many places. It was a moving service.

Afterwards we rejoiced to visit with former Oneida teachers, the Lynn Grittons, who had driven several hours to hear our choir as had varying relatives of our students who live in Florida. A heart surgeon sought me out to talk 40 minutes about a son coming to OBI. He knows some other young people who are now our students. An elderly lady introduced herself to tell me that, on impulse, she had driven several hours that morning to worship at First Baptist, having no idea that we would be singing. She said she had never seen our school, but was dear friends with a former librarian who served here two years without salary. She said that because of that former staff member's belief in our work, she herself had included Oneida in her will. Now she had seen and heard our girls and boys! She was thrilled and so was I.

We were then off for another two hour drive, an afternoon "cookout" and an evening concert. But we are out of space again and must continue in next week's column.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR DEC. 8, 1985

International Series

The birth of Jesus

Matthew 1:18-19 It was a terrible shock to Joseph when he was informed that Mary was to become a mother, not knowing what the written gospel later plainly asserted, namely that the Holy Ghost was responsible for her condition. His suspicions were that she had been unfaithful to him, and must have wounded Mary deeply, even though she was conscious of her innocence. His love for her constrained him to do what was right by her.

Matthew 1:20-21 An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and delivered to him a message from the Lord as to what he should do. This message removed his doubts, calmed his fears and caused him to rejoice again in the love of his betrothed. When the angel proclaimed "that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost," Joseph was grateful for the revelation. Joseph was informed that God's son was coming to bring eternal life to all who would receive him as a personal savior.

Matthew 1:22-23 More than 700 years before God had spoken this prophecy through Isaiah: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." It was fulfilled when Mary gave birth to Jesus, while still a virgin.

Matthew 1:24-25 In obedience to the command of the angel, Joseph was immediately united in marriage with

Mary without any impairment to his reputation. It is quite likely that they had a private wedding. God's word plainly teaches that Mary retained her virginity until after the birth of Jesus. Luke 2:1-7 Joseph and Mary, in obedience to the constituted authority, wended their way to Bethlehem, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled.

Luke 2:6-7 While Joseph and Mary were still in Bethlehem, "the days were accomplished that she should be delivered," and Jesus Christ was born. When the savior was born, Mary "wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

Life and Work Series

Relating works and worship

Jeremiah 7:3-7 Everywhere he looked Jeremiah saw various indications of national decay. The religious life of the people was at an extremely low ebb. Unrest, dishonesty, adultery and covetousness abounded.

Jeremiah called upon the people to amend their ways and their doings. He challenged them to change their manner of living, and to substitute good deeds for their evil ones. He assured them that genuine repentance and reformation would make it possible for them to remain in their city and country. If they refused to repent, expulsion therefrom would be inevitable.

Knowing that God demanded righteous living and obedience to the divine will, Jeremiah took his position in the gate of the Lord's house and declared unto the people that, unless they repented of their sins and changed their manner of life, their doom was inevitable. Even though God had chosen Jerusalem as the place of his abode, Jeremiah warned the people that God would not overlook their willful sins and continue to abide in their midst. The prophet reminded his listeners that God had wiped out one "holy place," namely, Shiloh, the resting place of the tabernacle and the ark some four and one-half centuries earlier.

Jeremiah 7:8-12, 14 His wicked listeners interpreted Jeremiah's preaching as blasphemy against God and treason against the nation.



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

on mission together

The 1985 KBC:

A big middle

It is now two weeks beyond our Kentucky Baptist Convention and I've had opportunity to reflect upon the many letters, telephone calls and conversations. The overwhelming consensus is positive!

In such troubled times, a good state convention meeting is not an accident. Based on the input I've had and with a dash of my own observations, I'd suggest that several ingredients contributed to this year's positive convention experience:

(1) The Pastor's Conference was well planned, executed, and upbeat in emphasizing evangelism and missions. It helped set a mission-tone for the convention. Bill Hancock, Bill Hall and Ernest Boggs deserve appreciation and affirmation.

(2) The convention program was exciting and beautifully orchestrated. Reporting from agencies, institutions and Executive Board leaders was sharply focused and gave us a glimpse of future reporting with more audio visual support.

(3) While fully aware and in control, president Jim Lewis, by his own non-assertive style, encouraged us all to relax and open up to the spiritual gifts of the meeting.

(4) The messengers to the convention made, perhaps, the most significant contribution. Although there were some concerns which could have been raised, either in the form of resolutions or main motions, the messengers disciplined themselves to refrain for what they perceived as the good of the body. Our history proves that matters of substance, however painful, will be addressed as the need arises. If something is significantly wrong, Kentucky Baptists will deal with it!

(5) Kentucky Baptists as a whole deserve commendation. While we fuss

over some matters, it would take a big issue on which we were seriously divided to make us strap on our guns for a shoot-out. Even then, we'd try to have a "talk-out" first. Maybe that's another way of saying that Kentucky Baptists have a "big middle."

While it is inevitable and even helpful that there are folks who maintain extreme positions (who, too, are our brothers and sisters), the Kentucky Baptist "middle" is predominant. And when the middle is solid and mature, it will experience and learn what it can from the extremities, be benefitted by it, but in the long haul, will moderate extremism.

As I drove away from those marvelous facilities of Immanuel Baptist Church, hosted so graciously by pastor Ted Sisk, I must admit, from a physical perspective, I was glad it was over. But from the strength of the Kentucky Baptist fellowship and our mission together, I was glad that it was just this "annual meeting" that was over, and not the mission!

Guideposts editor appears on ACTS

Elizabeth Sherrill spotlights ordinary people, extraordinary circumstances

by Bonita Sparrow

Elizabeth Sherrill is not your ordinary ghost. She's tall and willowy with a winsome smile and a handshake as firm as faith. The ghosting she does is in the form of magazine stories and books she writes about ordinary people whose grace under extraordinary pressure will haunt you.

Mrs. Sherrill has written numerous stories for Guideposts magazine although her work appeared under the bylines of the individuals the stories were about. Now a roving editor for the magazine, she also has authored or co-authored with her husband, writer John Sherrill, 15 or 20 books.

Her most recent book is *Breaking Points*, which she wrote with Jack and Jo Ann Hinckley, parents of John Hinckley Jr., the mentally-troubled young man who shot President Reagan. She shared some of her literary experiences and insights recently on "Life Lines," the afternoon call-in show on



Elizabeth Sherrill

of the books are blind ghost-written where my name does not appear in the credits at all," she said. "All the books are first-person narratives."

The Sherrills are well-known for *The Hiding Place*, the story of Corrie ten Boom, and for *God's Smuggler*, about Brother Andrew, who smuggled Bibles into Russia.

"I've adapted the Guideposts' technique of storytelling to my books," Mrs. Sherrill said. "In other words, I'm going to tell you a fascinating story and in the course of telling this story I'm going to get across Christian principles. Because the story is written in the first person the reader more easily identifies with what's happening."

Mrs. Sherrill considers a first person writing style "very disarming, a way of teaching Christian truths, of telling what God can do. When you write in first person, that person is the one who makes mistakes and learns from them and through those experiences, the reader learns also."

She says she is not an old-fashioned evangelist but she does consider her writing a ministry. "I believe writing must be very subtle so the unchurched person who might pick up the story won't be turned off by it."

The Sherrills, whose stories tell of eventful and interesting lives, have lived through some interesting times of their own. They met in the tourist

dining room on the Queen Elizabeth, shortly after World War II, when both were college students traveling to Geneva for their junior year abroad.

After graduation, and marriage, they traveled around Europe for three years, writing travel articles for magazines and Sunday newspaper supplements.

In 1950, expecting their first child and faced with a pregnancy so difficult the Paris doctors recommended an abortion, the Sherrills returned to New York for better prenatal care.

"We got to New York just as two major newspapers folded and writers with far more experience than we had were going begging," she recalled. "We had a baby on the way and John went for months without even a whisper of interest in his writing skills. My father, a private detective, gave my husband a job shadowing people just to keep us eating. Dad encouraged John not to give up his dream of writing."

"John finally found a writing job with what was then a little leaflet called Guideposts. We thought of it as a stop-gap but I soon began to write for them."

While the Sherrills were expert reporters with the ability to stand back from a story and observe it from an objective viewpoint, neither of them were Christians at the time.

"It wasn't true that we didn't believe the stories we were writing," she said. "We knew, because of the people we interviewed, that these people were telling the truth. I never doubted for a minute that those experiences were real for them or that those things happened. I simply never made the connection with myself."

"We knew all the Christian words, because we used them in writing for other people," she continued. "In a sense, the freshness or the shock value, as it were, of the Christian message was lost for us because we had been writing it for years. To have Christianity happen to us, personally, was the amazement."

John Sherrill's conversion to Christianity came first. "He was diagnosed with cancer and told he had six months to live," Mrs. Sherrill recalled. "We had three small children and when we got the terrifying news we went to

Catherine Marshall, who lived near us, and blurted out our story.

"Catherine challenged John, saying she knew we valued our outsider viewpoint but she had to know if he was a Christian. John stated frankly that he was not, in the sense of having made a personal, deliberate commitment and said he hated to make a foxhole conversion."

"Catherine told him that was nothing but pride, that we wanted to come to God all intact and neat and clean and in a very magnanimous way. 'You have to come to God, absolutely destroyed, on your knees,' she told him. She had very great wisdom because this was what happened."

Her own conversion came later, after they had joined an Episcopal church near their home "because our children were Sunday school age and we thought children should go to Sunday school."

"I had been writing about other people whose needs were met by God, where they were, without ever applying it to myself," she said. "But when I got into the Episcopal church they were

"I believe writing must be very subtle so the unchurched person who might pick up the story won't be turned off by it."

"...I'm going to tell you a fascinating story and in the course of telling this story I'm going to get across Christian principles."

the ACTS network.

"I met the Hinckleys through Washington lawyer Charles Colson, for whom I have NOT ghost-written," she said. "The Hinckleys are very shy of reporters. I think they felt they had been mistrusted by some members of the press."

"Some of my books are ghost-written, as with the Hinckleys where my name appears on the cover, and some

Cumberland student selected for internship with McConnell

Russell Jones, a Cumberland College student, will be one of six students from Kentucky participating in an internship program with Senator Mitch McConnell in his Washington, D. C. offices. The internship will begin in January and will last the entire semester.

Jones, a senior and former Student Government Association president at the Williamsburg school, was chosen for the internship from about 50 applicants, Sally Lemonds, director of McConnell's intern program, explained.

Jones first impressed the McConnell staff while doing campaign work for the senator the summer before McConnell's election. He spearheaded a group of young Republicans on the Cumberland campus which was responsible for

registering 300 new voters, a feat which so impressed McConnell staff workers and area Republicans that Jones was named Whitley County Republican campaign chairman.

When Jones later attended McConnell's Washington victory celebration during inaugural festivities, he reminded McConnell staff workers of his contribution to the campaign on the Whitley County front and inquired about the possibility of an internship with the newly elected senator.

Eric Wake, chairman of the history and political science department at Cumberland, authored the internship program. After receiving recommendations from Cumberland president Jim Taylor and federal district judge Eugene Siler Jr., it wasn't long before Jones parlayed his hard work into interning.

McConnell said he was impressed

with Jones the first time he met him.

"Russell is somebody who is a particular favorite of mine. He's an excellent student (3.8 grade point average) and has been very involved with politics. I was impressed with the fact that he was a student government president. I was a president myself when I was in college. Russell is a very effective leader. I can see how he could have a real future in politics or whatever career he chooses. He's one of the finest young people I've ever met," McConnell said of his Williamsburg intern.

McConnell went on to explain much of the intern's duties are of the 'gopher' mundane tasks nature. However, he pointed out that if a particular intern appeared to be exceptionally bright that the work could become more interesting, such as conducting research and similar duties.

"An internship is probably the biggest opportunity a young person can have to be on the scene in Washington. It's a real opportunity for a young person to see what's going on, to get a feel for what government is really like. Also, the student receives college credit for it," McConnell said.

Twenty years ago McConnell himself was an intern for Senator John Sherman Cooper.

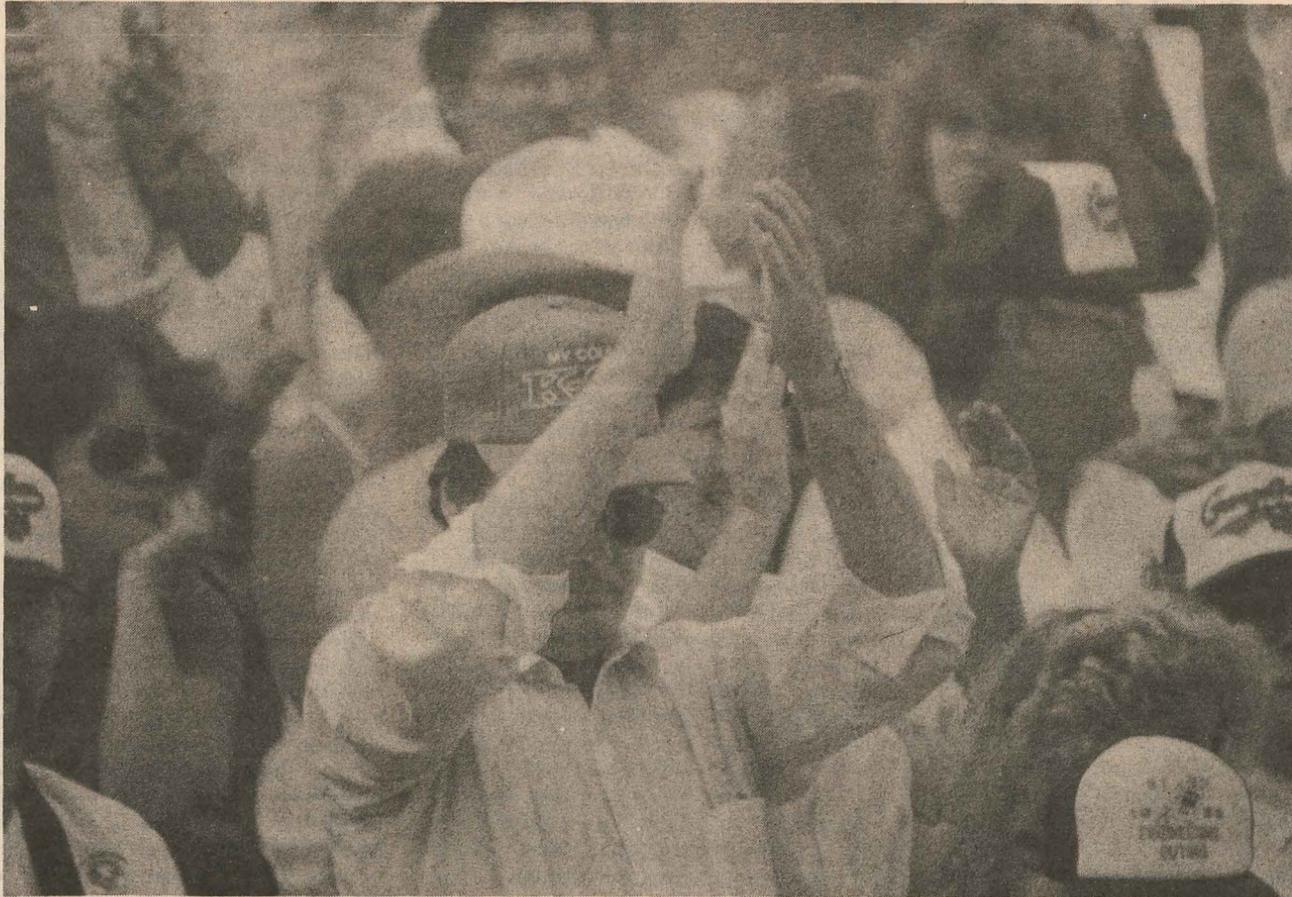
"It's a sort of a sense of déjà vu," McConnell laughed.

While Jones is interning for McConnell he will write a column to appear in area publications.

The 21-year-old history and political major plans to pursue a career in law and possibly politics. He is an active member of the Cumberland College chapter of Phi Alpha Theta.

Jones is the son of Albert and Nancy Jones of Williamsburg.

Georgetown College's Homecoming Is Many Interesting Events in Two Days



This picture taken at the School's football game, shows one important ingredient...enthusiasm.

No other special occasion offers as much opportunity for fellowship, celebration, and recognition as Homecoming on a college/university campus.

It just seems so natural during the cool, crisp, and colorful days of the autumn to be attracted to a beautiful college setting where the leaves, tinted in splendor, are earthward bound.

You can begin to imagine what nature has done for the event, but at a Christian college, saturated with long and valued friendships, the beauty of the day/s holds richer meaning.

Georgetown College was host to one of its largest homecomings ever on this sixtieth anniversary of the tradition. The attendance of former students, parents, townfolk and friends enriched three or four extra special happenings on October 11 and 12.

It altogether appeared to reflect the caring, loving relationships that make this very old Baptist college, in its 157th year, a special place for its alumni, teachers, administration and especially its present generation of students.

- At the top of the list of special events was the dedication of Lula J. Collier Hall on the College's \$7 million South Campus. The event affectionately addressed the memory of one of Georgetown's beloved house mothers. A bronze plaque was unveiled which bore witness to "Mom's" Christian concern for the young men of historic Pawling Hall.

Among the many special guests in attendance was her son, James M. Collier, whose generosity made the memorial possible.

- Former residents of J.J. Rucker Hall came back to refresh their recollections of this very interesting "Italian Renaissance" structure built in the late 19th century. Its 75-year history as a women's residence hall reminded Georgetownians of the half-century of life given by Professor Rucker to the school's adoption of coeducation. Mrs. George (Caroline) Redding served as the Mistress of Ceremonies. The Hall was razed in 1971 to make room for new South Campus housing.

- Several brief moments at halftime, during Georgetown's football game with Indiana's Franklin College, were given to pay tribute to the unbeaten 1965 football team coached by Lester Craft. About half of the members were present for the occasion. Coach Craft announced that a memorial scholarship has been established honoring the late Jan Anderson co-captain of that outstanding Tiger team.

Other events included:

- The Annual Smorgasbord
- Football
- Coronation of the Homecoming Queen
- Campus Sing
- Reunion Brunch
- Residence Hall Hospitality



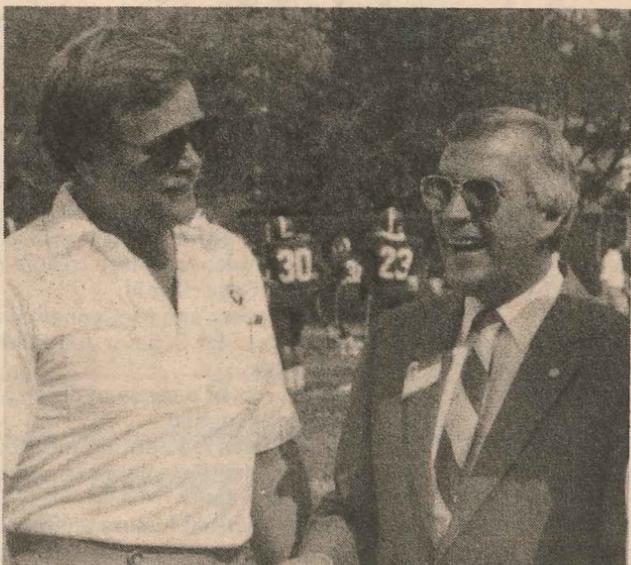
Former Rucker Hall Head Resident, Josie Morris, stands by bust of J.J. Rucker.



Voices are lifted for Campus Sing.



President W. Morgan Patterson [l.] and James M. Collier lift veil from the Lula Collier Memorial plaque.



Georgetown's Head Coach Kevin Donley [l.] catches a word from former Coach Lester Craft.



Hail to the Queen.