



Ray Shelton, host for Southern Baptist Report: Kentucky Edition, introduces a "Special Report" on the Kenya Partnership from the first Baptist college in Kentucky, Georgetown College.



William Marshall, executive secretary-treasurer, KBC, addresses Kentucky Baptists from an inner city mission in Columbus, Oh., during the taping of his "On Mission" segment of Southern Baptist Report: Kentucky Edition.

KBC Media Department releases winter video magazine

From Georgetown College to Kenya, East Africa and from Columbus, Oh., to inner city Louisville the latest "video quilt" of Baptist work takes you. The winter issue of Southern Baptist Report: Kentucky Edition was released last week by the KBC Media Department.

This 20 minute video program is available from each association's director of missions or on free loan from the

KBC Video Tape Service. This is the second installment in the thrice-yearly video magazine program.

Hosted by Ray Shelton, the program brings reports on the Kentucky Baptist state convention, 8.5 x '85 results, state missions offering, and an interview with Don R. Mathis, new KBC president.

Features include a look at the Jefferson Street Mission in downtown Louis-

ville. Street people and volunteers are interviewed and the viewer is allowed a look at life millions will face this winter in a homeless existence.

An upbeat look at the Kenya partnership will show a volunteer before, during and after his experience for two weeks in revival team witnessing in Malindi, Kenya. Doug York, an insurance salesman from Harlan, Clay Coursey, missionary in Kenya, James

Whaley, field coordinator in Kenya plus others are videoed in Kenya by the Foreign Mission Board video crew.

The program wraps up with a look at partnership challenges with William Marshall, KBC executive secretary-treasurer, commenting from the Stowe Baptist Center in inner city Columbus, Oh.

Crowders file suit in federal court

by Dan Martin

A Birmingham, Ala., couple and a retired Navy chief from Windsor, Mo., filed suit Dec. 5 against the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee in federal district court in Atlanta.

The suit, filed by Robert S. Crowder and his wife, Julia, and Henry C. Cooper, claims the plaintiffs were "irreparably harmed" by rulings and events at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas

June 12, 1985 concerning election of the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

The suit seeks to have the election of the SBC Committee on Boards declared illegal and to prevent the 52 persons elected at the Dallas convention from serving. It also asked "relief . . . to prevent the defendants from violating the legal rights of the plaintiffs during the 1986 annual meeting June 10-12 in Atlanta."

The petition claims SBC president Charles F. Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church, Atlanta, made "erroneous rulings" which "violated the rights" of the plaintiffs and "deprived" them "of the opportunity . . . to vote" on matters related to election of the Committee on Boards.

"The actions of Dr. Stanley violated the integrity of the bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention, were in excess of his authority as the presiding officer . . . and deprived the plaintiffs and other messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention of the protection of fair and unbiased procedures which is guaranteed by the bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention," the petition says.

The cause of action stems from events at the Dallas convention June 12 in which the SBC Committee on Committees nominated the 52-member Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

An attempt was made to amend the Committee on Committees report. Stanley ruled the report could not be amended by an alternate slate but only one-by-one. Messengers rejected Stanley's ruling. Subsequently, on the advice of parliamentarian Wayne

Allen, pastor of Briarcrest Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., Stanley ruled the report could not be amended at all.

The Crowders' petition says: "Following this erroneous ruling, Dr. Stanley refused to allow the . . . motion to be voted on . . . and refused to recognize any calls for a point of order from numerous messengers who attempted to appeal his ruling . . ."

"Plaintiffs were present on the floor of the convention . . . and attempted unsuccessfully to be recognized for the purpose of appealing (the) ruling by a point of order . . ."

The petition claims the nomination of the Committee on Boards "was not lawfully adopted" and members "were not lawfully elected and are without authority to serve in that capacity."

The suit also claims there is "every likelihood that Dr. Stanley and the defendants will violate the rights of the plaintiffs and other messengers" at the 1986 annual meeting of the convention in Atlanta.

The suit seeks the court to declare:

—Bylaw 16 "permits any registered messenger to propose amendments to the report of the Committee on Committees from the floor . . . to nominate any individual or a slate of individuals and have the amendment voted on . . ."

—Bylaw 32 "reserves to the convention the right to amend the body of any report . . ."

—Bylaw 35 "requires that all propositions, decisions and choices, including appeals on points or questions of order or any other challenges to parliamentary rulings, shall be decided by a majority vote of the registered messengers present and voting . . . and that the chair is bound by and required to obey the decisions of a majority of the

messengers . . ."

—the actions of Stanley in the controversial rulings and proceedings "were and are invalid . . ."

—the election of members of the Committee on Boards "was illegal and further declaring that members purportedly elected . . . are without authority to serve in that capacity."

The suit seeks to permanently enjoin "the defendants (and their respective officers, Executive Committee members, employees or agents) from violating the declaratory judgments" or "permitting the members of the Committee on Boards . . . who were illegally elected at the Dallas Convention to continue to serve."

The Crowders and Cooper also seek to "recover . . . their costs, attorneys' fees and related expenses in bringing this suit."

According to a spokesman in the U. S. District Court Clerk's office in Atlanta, the case has been assigned to Judge Robert H. Hall, 64, who was appointed to the federal bench in 1979. Previously, he was a justice on the Georgia Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals of Georgia.

Jane V. Vehko, an attorney with the Atlanta lawfirm of Bondurant, Mixson and Elmore, attorneys for the Crowders and Cooper, said the plaintiffs "obviously would like to have the matter resolved before the next convention," but added it would be "very premature at this time to make any prediction" about the case.

Miss Vehko also said Cooper "is the only other plaintiff named at this time" with the Crowders but said "we have had interest from others and there is the real possibility other plaintiffs will be added" to the lawsuit.

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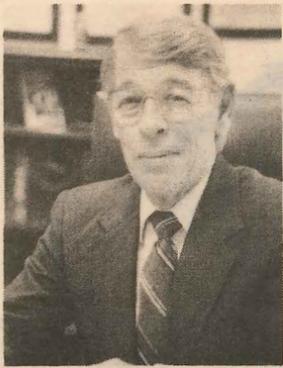
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sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

First things first

The easiest thing for any of us to do is permit our priorities to slip out of focus. It is difficult to persist in holding fast the important things when we are surrounded by the clamor of less significant pressures. We succumb to the pressure and lose the ability to put first things first and the temptation is greatest during the Christmas season.

For example, the Green Bay Packers drew an excited, vocal crowd to a football game last week even though the worst blizzard in decades swept through the stadium. One wonders how many of those die-hard football fans would have inconvenienced themselves to attend a church service on a warm, bright day. Priorities were up for questioning in Green Bay, even though there were 34,000 no-shows for the contest.

The day after Thanksgiving I joined thousands of other people in the shopping crunch at our local mall. I watched in amazement as people laid down unbelievable sums of money for plastic toys which will be forgotten in short order by those children who receive them as Christmas gifts. I had to wonder how many of those eager shoppers would take a prayerful moment to write a significant check for the spread of the gospel during Christmas, or any other time for that matter. I suspect priorities were out of balance in the mall last week, though there is certainly nothing wrong with Christmas shopping if it is kept in proper perspective.

When I was a student at Southern Seminary Vernon Stanfield, my graduate professor in homiletics, taught me a lesson in priority setting that is worth passing on.

The Stanfield family had a Christmas club account with a local bank. Each week throughout the year a certain sum of money was put into the club account to finance Christmas purchases. There was an unusual twist to the Stanfield practice, however. This family had a Christmas club account established in the name of "Lottie Moon." Each week the family made a contribution to their own Christmas club account, and they also included the work of Christ through a weekly contribution to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering in their special "Lottie Moon" account.

When the offering for foreign missions was taken in their local church, the Stanfield family presented their gift for the Lord from the "Lottie Moon" Christmas club account. That impressed me more than 30 years ago, and it still strikes me now as a proper way to put first things first. It represents a simple way to keep priorities in order at a time when distortion is so easy. Stanfield and his family took care of God's business first and still had resources to provide for their own needs.

If all of us had this kind of priority arrangement the \$70 million we seek for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering would be a cinch. As it is, we will do well to reach that goal even though we are more than able.

It is a matter of putting first things first. There is only so much money for Christmas buying and

there are always more than enough places to spend it. We are faced with a choice: Will Christ and his work have first priority, or will we spend even the Lord's part of our bounty on things that will perish in short order?

It is not an easy decision for some Baptists, but thank God many of our people do have their priorities in proper order and this assures a generous offering for the support of our missionaries. The \$70 million we seek to support our work in 106 countries of the world is a worthy sum. I join more than 3600 missionaries around the world in prayer that the Lord of the harvest will open the purse strings of Southern Baptists this Christmas and help us get our priorities in order.

Praise for a good man

Glenn Durham is a man from the mountains of southeastern Kentucky who has served on the board of directors of Western Recorder longer than any other person in recent history. He has just concluded a term as chairman of the board and was not eligible for reelection this past year. So we lose a good man who is worthy of honor.

Glenn has brought to his work a sense of mission and a strong commitment to all Kentucky Baptist mission efforts. As an ex officio member of the editor search committee he questioned me about my own commitment to the total program of Kentucky Baptists because he wanted an editor who would serve all the Baptists of Kentucky and all the programs and ministries of the KBC.

Glenn Durham is typical of the hundreds of lay people who serve as trustees and directors of our Baptist agencies and institutions. He is a loyal member of First Baptist Church, Loyall, and a strong supporter of his pastor, Keith Rogers. He is active in the local association as well as across Kentucky. He is a man whose talents and time are surrendered to serve the Lord without thought of personal gain. In fact, this tribute will probably make him want to disown me, but it is a sincere tribute to a fine man who has given much.

We will miss Glenn Durham on our board, but we thank God Kentucky has a full supply of competent lay people who are willing to step into places of responsibility and leadership in our Baptist family.

My personal thanks to Glenn for his gracious help as I assumed the job of editor. His wise counsel, patient understanding, tireless effort and warm sense of humor have eased the way for me. All of us who serve the Lord at Western Recorder will miss the leadership of a dear friend who always had time to hear us when we called and opened his hand whenever we had need.

Thanks, Glenn Durham, and may the Lord bless you as you find other places to serve in Kentucky Baptist life.

western recorder

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C. R. DALEY, Editor Emeritus

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

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by Susan Shaw

Profiles from my old Kentucky home

LORETTA REYNOLDS

Loretta Reynolds has traveled a long way to reach Jordan Baptist Church in Carroll County.

A native of Grove Hill, Ala., Miss Reynolds attended the University of Southern Mississippi before spending two years as a journeyman in the British Virgin Islands.

After her two-year stint in the Caribbean, she moved to California, where she completed an MDiv degree at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary.

During missionary orientation in Pine Mountain, Ga., Miss Reynolds ran into Eddie Broadhead, who was visiting friends there. She and Eddie had been summer missionaries to Zambia six years earlier.

On her way to her field in Africa, Miss Reynolds stopped in Europe, where she again met Broadhead who was then studying in Switzerland.

After six months in Botswana, Miss Reynolds made the very difficult decision to leave the mission field and to marry Broadhead, a PhD student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

"I had planned to spend my furlough at Southern Seminary studying," Miss Reynolds says. "I just got to Louisville sooner than I expected."

While she is currently enrolled as a special student in graduate studies in preaching, Miss Reynolds' primary occupation is pastor of Jordan Baptist Church.

Miss Reynolds became interim pastor in January of this year and was called as pastor in March. The

church ordained her this summer.

She says that while there are not a large number of people in the church there are a large number of ministries which can be done.

Her main dream for her ministry is to help little boys and girls to know "of the deeper love in Christ that can make family love even deeper," she explains.

She is very impressed with the people of Jordan Baptist Church. "They believe, and they act on what they believe," she asserts. If there is a need in the community, she illustrates, the church members take steps to meet the need.

The people of the church "have taught me a lot about love and giving," Miss Reynolds notes. "They're always willing to share what they have."

Miss Reynolds is most grateful to the people of Jordan Baptist Church for the opportunity they have given her.

"They've given me a chance to do the thing God has called me to do."



BILL BRUMLEY

The phone rings around midnight. Bill Brumley dresses and drives over to the nearby Waddy truckstop. At the counter sits a man. He's down and out, and he's had a little bit too much to drink. He just got out of prison, his wife's left him, and he doesn't have any money.

Brumley sits down next to the man and buys him a cup of coffee. Before the night is over, the man is sobered up, has eaten a meal, and has some money in his pocket to help him on his way.

He's also heard and experienced the message of the gospel, which is, as Bill Brumley tells and lives it, "God loves you and wants to reach you right where you are."

Brumley, a farmer and former teacher in Grant County, is the bivocational pastor of New Life Baptist Church in Waddy. He became involved in his truckstop ministry by accident, he says, when he began to talk with some of the people who spent a lot of time at the truckstop.

"The truckstop is a place where you don't have to pretend," Brumley contends. "They accept you for what you are."

In contrast, many of the people to whom Brumley ministers are afraid the church will not accept them. "They look at the church as being a house of do's and don'ts," Brumley declares.

Christians, however, need to learn to be non-judgmental, Brumley asserts. "The people who come into the truckstop are God's creation. The said thing is," he points out,

"they don't know where to turn."

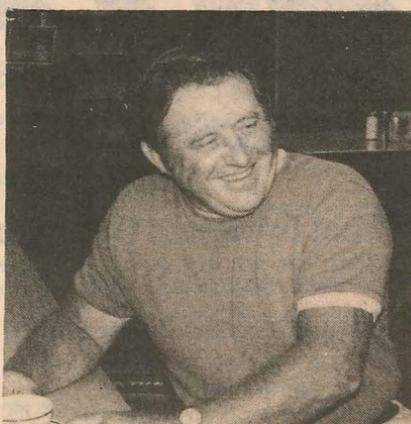
He adds, "You can be angry with what they do or with the situation they are in, but you must remember that God still loves that person."

"Our duty as Christians," he insists, "is to try to show them that love."

Often the truckstop manager calls Brumley when there is a need. Once the local police station called when a family moving from Wisconsin to Georgia was stranded without food, gas, or money. Within a few hours the truckstop and a church member had split the bill for food and a tank of gas.

Story after story illustrates Brumley's caring and ministry to people who are suicidal, who are going through a divorce, who are living without support, who feel lost and without hope.

Brumley makes himself available in hopes of intervening with a cup of coffee and the message of God's love.



MARGARET HORNBACK

Margaret Hornback will modestly tell you she "simply fills in where there are empty places" in her church, but once she begins to list her activities you get a different picture.

This Shelby County native has been a member of First Baptist Church, Shelbyville, for 64 years. She is mission action chairman for Baptist Women, chairman of the church evangelism committee, teacher of senior adult Sunday school and director of Friendship House. She has also spent two terms as a volunteer missionary in Gaza.

Friendship House is an outreach ministry of First Baptist Church to people in a low income area. It provides clothing at a nominal cost or for free to those who cannot afford to pay for it.

While opportunities for direct witnessing are rare, Friendship House does have a Thursday morning Bible study and some of the ladies who have come to Friendship House have now begun visitation with volunteers from the church.

Mrs. Hornback says she fits in where she can, training new volunteers and counseling.

By far, the Woman's Missionary Union is one of the most important of Mrs. Hornback's ministries. Her WMU group concentrates on geriatrics, visiting nursing homes and conducting activities with the residents.

The WMU also has an ongoing ministry to families, a shelter for girls without homes, a jail ministry,

a ministry to school children, and a hospital ministry.

Mrs. Hornback credits WMU with being "the most meaningful organization for pointing toward missions in the entire church." And after her retirement as a registered nurse, Mrs. Hornback got the opportunity to have hands-on experience on the foreign mission field.

For four months in 1976 and for the year 1977-78, Mrs. Hornback worked as a volunteer in a hospital in Gaza. She says even in such a turbulent area, "You don't feel frightened because you know you're where the Lord wants you."

Since her experience in Gaza, Mrs. Hornback says she feels much closer to the mission field than she did before. "You can really appreciate the need for the offerings to be adequate," she exclaims. "You want to put in all you can!"



HELEN BARNETTE

As a public school teacher for 20 years, a student of Christian education at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, a member of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville for 30 years, and the parent of four children, all of whom attended public schools, Helen Poarch Barnette comes to the issue of public schooling with a unique perspective and keen insight.

Recognizing the importance and relevance of this issue, Westminster Press last year published a book by Mrs. Barnette entitled *Your Child's Mind: Making the Most of Public Schools* as part of the Potentials series edited by Wayne Oates.

Mrs. Barnette has long been known and loved by hundreds of former "210-ers" throughout Jefferson County and the entire state.

For many years, Mrs. Barnette taught in room 210 of Barret Middle School before taking off two years from teaching to begin doctoral studies at seminary.

The close-knit community of students and teacher she created at Barret became known as 210-ers. Even though she now teaches at Jefferson County Traditional Middle School, her former students at Barret find an immediate kinship, regardless of age, with anyone who can make the claim to be a 210-er.

In her book, Mrs. Barnette discusses a number of issues related to public schooling. She says the book is written for parents who feel alienated or distanced from public schools and who are concerned about

their children's education.

She feels the school and the home should form a coalition to enhance the education of today's young people. Parents need to become more involved in their children's education, she asserts.

While Mrs. Barnette is deeply committed to public schooling, her ties to Southern Baptist life are also strong. (She is married to ethics professor Henlee Barnette, and both her father and mother are graduates of Southern, her father of the seminary and her mother of the WMU/Carver Training School.) She hopes in retirement to pull those two strands together by doing consulting work with churches which are considering starting private schools.

While she recognized a number of problems in public schools, she also points toward their potential. "The public school is a good place for youngsters to come together and interact."



Shoptalk *Shutting the back door*

by Jim Haskell

Lyle Schaller in *Assimilating New Members* states, "It is unchristian for a congregation to seek new members unless it is also willing and able to accept them into that called-out community. This is not always easy and rarely is it automatic."



Haskell

In Phil. 1:5, the apostle Paul uses the word *koinonia* to express his feelings about relationships in the church. This word is best translated partnership. But how can we experience a partnership with church members, especially new members, when it seems there are as many people going out the back door as there are new members coming in the front door?

One effective method is to automatically enrol new church members in a Sunday school class. Other worthy means include: providing discipleship group activities, a deacon family ministry, or new member training classes. An excellent procedure is to give members opportunities for ministry projects. All these methods are good and should be used. Yet they do not address the primary need of the new church member, which is to overcome the anxiety caused by joining a new church.

Most church members desire to accept each other and most new church members desire to participate in church

sponsored ministries. It follows that a responsibility of church leadership is to foster an atmosphere which will facilitate communication within the church family. This communication will provide the basis for new members becoming a part of the church family.

An excellent method which helps fulfill this communication need is entitled "4 x 4 Fellowships." Eastwood Baptist Church is implementing this method which was "borrowed" from Al Parks, religious education professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

The concept is to provide the structure for four family units to fellowship with each other once a month for four months with each family having the host responsibilities one time.

The procedure begins with the approval by significant groups in the church. These groups might include the deacons, church council, Sunday school council, administrative committee or other groups. This approach allows for smooth "sailing" at the church business meeting and provides a group of people who will probably support the program by participating.

Promotion of the fellowship plan should be multi-dimensional. People must be encouraged to participate by the staff from the pulpit and through meetings and the church paper(s). A tear-off at the bottom of the worship bulletin is extremely effective when people place it in the offering plate listing their name and signifying their

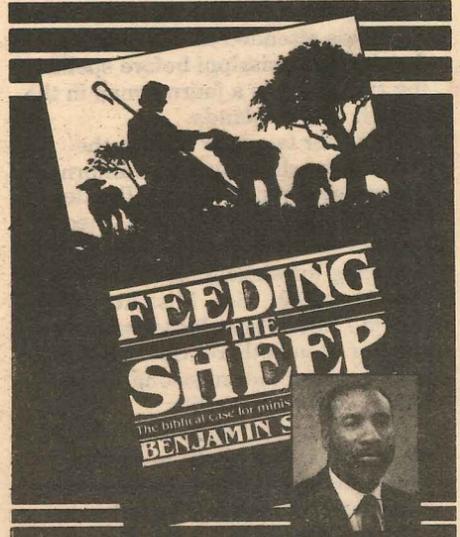
commitment to participate. Certain pieces of information need to be made clear. This program is for all family units in the church, longtime members or new members, single or married, large or small, old or young.

The structure for the fellowships begins with a master list of committed participants compiled by the church secretary. A committee, the staff, the pastor, or the secretary should divide the list into groups of four family units seeking to place people in groups who do not know each other well. Once this grouping has been accomplished, an information sheet is produced which designates the names, addresses, and phone numbers of the various family units along with the month for which each family will be responsible as the host.

Implementation begins with the distribution of assignment sheets to families. An excellent occasion for this distribution is at an all-church fellowship. This allows each group to identify participants. At the conclusion of the four month period, it will be necessary to initiate the procedure again allowing others to participate.

Eastwood has not accomplished all it desires in the assimilation of new members, but it keeps trying. It is our prayer that sharing this technique will be helpful to you as you seek to develop a partnership in the sharing of the gospel where you serve.

Jim Haskell is pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green. He holds the BS degree from Georgia Tech and the MDiv and DMin degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.



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Getting ready for Christmas

by Kenneth Chafin

The following is adapted from a sermon preached on a recent Sunday morning at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, by Kenneth Chafin, interim pastor. Chafin is Carl Bates professor of preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

The verse I have chosen for my text from the first chapter of John is sort of a sad verse:

He was in the world but the world, though it owed its being to him, did not recognize him.

What I really want to do this morning is to be used of God to help you begin to think about, How can I make this Christmas a joyful Christmas? How can I make it better than it ordinarily would be? I've made a little list of things you could do. Some of them are different; some are profound with theology and some are just rather ordinary. They're not all practical for you. It would probably give you a nervous breakdown to take my list and try to do it or to do all of it. Even as I talk about things that you might do, other things will come to your mind and the things that come to your mind will probably be better for you than the things that I mention, but maybe what I say can be a catalyst to your mind to get you to thinking.

What I would suggest that you do is that out of this list, pick one or two of the things, then without any fanfare, the roll of drums or the blast of bugles, just do it and I think if you're serious about it, you might find yourself having a more enjoyable Christmas.

1. Use the time between now and Christmas to refresh your memory about the nativity events. Each week you might read through all the nativity stories. I know what you're saying, Oh, I don't have time for that. Of the four gospels only two even discuss the nativity, Matthew and Luke. Each of them only uses the first two chapters and in all these four chapters combined there are only 180 verses. It's not a lot of reading.

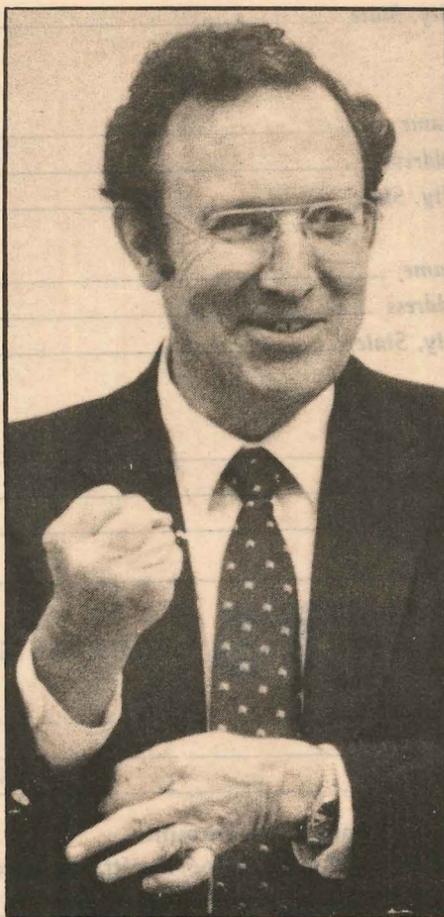
Or if you have small children, let me make this suggestion. Very early in our marriage Barbara went to a store and bought an inexpensive nativity set. It was one of those little "put A into B and B into C" and all that sort of thing. It was cardboard. All the figures were plastic. What we discovered is that you could read the Christmas story and the children would choreograph the animals and the figures. Let the little children choreograph it and then say to them, This is really what Christmas is all about. You don't have to fight the Grinch that Stole Christmas or Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer or Frosty the Snowman. Just introduce to your children the real Christmas story.

Or if you're a great reader, go to the library or a book store and get a copy of Martin Luther's **Christmas Story**. These are his Christmas sermons to children and Martin Luther, more than almost anyone I've ever read after, captured the humanness of the birth of our Lord and I think you would enjoy reading them.

Or if you just want to read something that will make you laugh and cry,

there's a beautiful little book that was given to me a couple of Christmases ago called **The Best Christmas Pageant Ever**. It's the story of some little street kids that somehow got involved with the church at Christmas and got to be a part of the Christmas pageant and out of their innocence and their ignorance brought new insight into what the whole nativity story is all about.

2. This Christmas drop something out of your Christmas that you no longer enjoy and have been complaining about a lot. There are lots of things about Christmas that we grumble about. We get overscheduled. I remember one of our early Christmases at South Main. Barbara and I had three Christmas parties the same night. We ate a little bit with the older adult Bible class; we went to something for the Yokefellows which was sort of a junior deacons; and then we showed up with her Sunday school class, and I found myself sort of like Scrooge, just grumbling all the way about how overscheduled I was. Some of you have that same problem. Or the Christmas card list has gotten out of hand and it's grown until you don't even know the people and you say, Isn't this your uncle? I thought that was your niece; we've not heard from them in four years. Do you realize how expensive postage is and all that sort of thing? And we grumble when we travel. It was so easy to travel when the children were little and you could sort of poke them in a little bassinet in the back seat and now they're teenagers and it's like settling the Middle East crisis just to decide where you're going to stop to eat lunch, you know. It's not any fun and we grumble and grumble. Why don't you just make a list of all those things that you grumble about and then just quit one of them this Christmas?



Just set yourself a little criteria. If this thing diminishes me or if it diminishes others, I'll quit it. If it's not sincere or loving, I'll quit it. If it takes the joy out of the season; if it somehow misses the whole spirit of what the coming of Jesus Christ is all about, I'll quit it. Take something that you don't enjoy and quit doing it.

3. Do something to change the pattern of your gift-giving this Christmas. I've watched parents buy things for children and sit there and be disappointed when the child had more fun with the box it came in than the thing that you'd bought. And often, a child needs from a father not something but someone. Maybe the gift that puts you on call for so many Saturday mornings in a row just to go to something dumb like a Smash-A-Roo or whatever they call those demolition derbies or to go fishing or to go out to a park and fly a kite or something, maybe with the people up close, some gifts that focus more on the gift of yourself instead of gift certificates, maybe time certificates.

Or maybe in your giving this year you might start adding people on your list that aren't going to give you anything. For the children of poverty in this city Christmas is a horrible time because expectations are so high and children who have more talk without thinking about it and maybe you could say to Dr. Linda Frost, Give me the name or names of some children for whom Christmas will not have much and you could, along with your shopping, buy with great love some toys or some clothes or some gifts for those children.

Or you might decide that this Christmas I will make my major gift a gift to missions sharing the coming of Jesus Christ with people in other countries of the world. That's what our Lottie Moon Christmas offering is all about. Add up all the money you spend on Christmas cards and postage and give more to world missions. Or add up what it costs to buy that great big old tree (it's becoming like buying a forest almost from my perspective) and to decorate that tree and then give more to world missions.

Isn't it sort of crazy to spend more money on the decorations of a room that will eventually be taken down than it is to spend in sending the good news of Jesus Christ around the world? Maybe this year Christmas could be made a more enjoyable time by changing the pattern of our giving.

4. Make a list of several people that don't like you. Now if you can't think of this list, make a list of people you don't like. It's the same group, and then starting today, as soon as you make your list, circle one of those names and every day until Christmas pray for that person. Ask God to bless them; ask God to do something wonderful in their lives. Ask God just to love them and to surround them with his love. Now I know what you're saying. They don't deserve it. I already have my person in mind and I can assure you, this person does not deserve it. You know why I think you ought to do it? Because this is what God did at Christmas. He looked at us and we didn't love him and we had abused all

of his privileges and yet he reached out to us in love. Maybe just the process of reaching out in love, as a matter of fact, not only should we pray for them but we should ask God to give us an opportunity to say something nice about them or to do something nice for them between now and Christmas. The reason I suggested that you make a list and just choose one, it may overburden our religion to do more than one.

One time I got carried away in my morning devotion and I made a list of three people that were just really hateful people to me and I asked God to help me to love them the way he did and to give me a chance to do something nice for them. By noon that day I had been given a chance to do something nice for each one of them and it almost killed me. It was just too much. So take one.

5. Maybe this Christmas you might consider opening your home to include someone who might otherwise be very, very alone. There are more people who will be alone than you can imagine. Students who are too far away or for whom travel is too expensive. Internationals who cannot even consider being at home and may not even be aware of what this Christmas is all about. All of us have relatives living reasonably close to us that we might not think of, a niece or a nephew. Or some friends or a widow or a widower, or someone who is divorced or hurting terribly. Maybe a retired couple whose children are going to the other set of in-laws. Sometimes a young couple, just married, does not have enough time off for Christmas; they can't go to either set of parents and they feel so alone in their apartment. Why don't you, this Christmas, just reach out to someone and bring them into your house at Christmas, maybe for Christmas dinner?

Christmas is when God reached out in his son Jesus Christ and welcomed us into his family. Maybe if this Christmas you could reach out to someone and bring them in, it would become just a better Christmas. I guess more than anything else, it would be good to get to know in a personal kind of way this Christ of Christmas because it's not a baby that we worship. We need to integrate Christmas and Easter because this life and this death and this resurrection is really what makes Christmas so very special.

To be able to allow his living presence, his love and forgiveness and his purpose and his healing and his comfort to be in our lives this Christmas—this is it. To get behind the stories of his coming and the book that tells it and the church that celebrates it and to know, in a personal and intimate and real way, this God. To come to discover that it was for you and me that he came, what a Christmas that would be.

Why don't we begin getting ready for Christmas right now so that when that day comes and the whole community is celebrating, we can say this is one of the best Christmases I've ever known because I've been getting ready for it for a long time?

Cumberland College

Students Participate In Prestigious Events

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.

Jones, a senior and former Student Government Association president at Cumberland, 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 other prominent area Republicans that Jones was named Whitley County Republican campaign chairman.

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

Dr. 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 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.

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

The 21-year-old history and political science 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 which was recently elected Best Chapter for the eighth time in nine years.

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

Harold Jones, a Cumberland College senior and a graduate of Laurel County High School, was chosen as one of a very select group of students who participated in the prestigious Institute of Comparative Political Science and Economic Systems at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Jones attended classes at Georgetown University and worked in the Environmental Protection Agency.

The 21-year-old London native was one of some 110 students selected to participate in the program. Those selected were chosen from among 550 applicants based on academic status and community involvement, as well as an evaluation of an essay written by the student explaining why he or she wanted to participate in the program.

Jones attended two upper-level classes at Georgetown University on four mornings each week. The classes, Comparative Economic Systems and Comparative Political Systems, offered the students a broad overview of the economics and politics of Socialism versus Capitalism.

On the fifth morning of each week the students took sightseeing trips to historic Washington, D.C. sites including the State Department Building, the White House, and the Treasury Department Building.

Jones worked in the Office of Economics branch of the Environmental Protection Agency. His job related to cost benefit anal-

ysis of various pesticides. Jones would compare the benefits of restricting the use of certain pesticides with the cost of using the pesticides or alternatives.

Jones says the internship was a valuable learning experience for him. "I'd like to go to law school someday. This will be a good reference for law school as well as a valuable learning experience. I think just being on the Georgetown campus will help me adjust to law school, whenever and wherever I go. Just being on such a large campus was a good experience," Jones explained.

Washington, D.C. made an impression on Jones, "It was the first time I had ever been to D.C. There I was, driving up the highway in Arlington (Va.) and across the river I could see the Washington Monument. It was a humbling feeling. It's beautiful."

Jones admits he felt a certain amount of homesickness for his native London and Williamsburg's Cumberland College.

"I really missed Cumberland. In my mind, as far as the quality of education, Cumberland is comparable to Georgetown University. The fact that Cumberland is small and the classes are small makes for a better learning atmosphere. You get more one-on-one attention. It's a nicer atmosphere at Cumberland."

Jones is the son of Kenneth and Betty Jones of London.

Dr. Taylor,

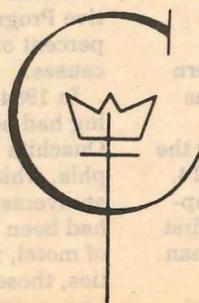
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Eldred M. Taylor
Executive Director
10801 Shelbyville Road
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homes for children

Observing Christmas

Only a few days remain before Christmas. The tempo has accelerated, Christmas lights are on, traffic has thickened, schedules are getting tight, stores are crowded, children are excited, husbands and wives are checking lists, overwhelmed by prices and wondering about after-Christmas bills.

What can one make out of all the holiday fanfare? What does Christmas say to you? How much of our Christmas doings is Christian? There is both much of the true spirit of Christmas and much of the spirit of the world in our celebrating. It is up to those of us who are Christians to keep Christ in Christmas.

Just how do we celebrate Christmas? It is celebrated commercially. Commerce no longer waits for Thanksgiving to be over before they start Christmas sales promotion. People will spend over four million dollars on Christmas trees and decorations. More than three billion Christmas cards will be mailed at a cost of more than one billion dollars. But isn't it wonderful to hear beautiful Christmas carols filling the air as you enter stores? Isn't it good that many merchants and business people are Christians and help interpret Christmas to the world?

Christmas is celebrated socially. I think it is good for families, friends and coworkers to get together socially and celebrate Christmas. Unfortunately, many such gatherings do not honor, but rather dishonor our Lord. Nonetheless, we who are Christians can Christianize Christmas and give its true meaning to the world.

And what is the true meaning of Christmas? God loved us. This is the first meaning of Christmas. "God loved us and sent his son"—Jesus, to be with us. The coming of Jesus gives the second meaning of Christmas, "God with us." This is why his name is Immanuel. He is personal, reachable and living. He is with us in our sorrow and pain, joy and victory. The third meaning of Christmas is found in Matt. 1:21. "He shall save his people from their sins." God saves us. This is the good news.

So Christians celebrate Christmas because God loves us, God is with us, and God saves us. Therefore, let us give our best gift to God and manifest the spirit of Christ in all phases of Christmas celebration.

baptist news in brief

RTVC reorganizes; Edwards promoted

A reorganization plan has been adopted by the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, under which current financial vice president James Edwards will be promoted to senior vice president and chief operating officer.

RTVC president Jimmy R. Allen will remain as the chief executive officer under the plan, which was adopted during a two-day retreat at Lake Texoma, Okla. attended by administrators of the agency as well as representatives of the administrative subcommittee of the trustees.

"The reorganization has been in the works for several months," said Fred Roach, of Dallas, a RTVC trustee. "It was brought to a head by our efforts to restructure our finances. Allen said: 'The reorganization now approved by the trustees will complement the process authorized by the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention.'"

During its September meeting, the SBC Executive Committee approved a recommendation to allow the RTVC to restructure debts incurred in the start-up of the American Christian Television System (ACTS) network. Under the plan, the RTVC will be allowed to borrow up to \$10 million with a 10-year payout and conduct a five-year \$10 million fund raising campaign.

Under the reorganization, Edwards, as chief operating officer, "will have responsibility for the day to day control," Roach said. "The bank made a specific recommendation about the importance of having a day-to-day operations officer on site all the time. I think it is smart (to appoint a chief operating officer) because Jimmy (Allen) will be away 80 percent of the time raising money. It is hard for him to sign every policy memo and every personnel action."

Roach, however, specified Allen continues "as the chief policy maker; Jim Edwards job is to see they get done." Under the plan, Edwards will assume some of the responsibilities of Luke Williams, executive vice president, who has announced his early retirement Sept. 30, 1986. (BP)

Baptist World Alliance dedicates new building

The president of the Baptist World Alliance has challenged the worldwide organization of Baptists to view its new building as a "means, not an end" in its service.

BWA president G. Noel Vose asked those attending the Nov. 24 dedication to think of the facility "not as a clerical clearing house dispensing an interminable ticker-tape of memos and letters, but as a place where a group of international Christians exercise a deeply biblical prophetic role in a world convulsed with the agony of its self-inflicted wounds." Vose in principle of Baptist Theological College of Western Australia, Bentley.

Following an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony at the BWA building, located in McLean, Va., participants—including representatives from Yugoslavia, Romania, Nigeria, Australia, Mexico and Canada—moved to McLean Baptist Church for the dedication cere-

mony.

Gerhard Claas, BWA general secretary/treasurer, described the dedication as a "coming true of many dreams and an answer to many prayers." He pledged the building would be used to further "work for the sake of the kingdom of God."

The dedication ceremony program included two longtime BWA leaders—Robert S. Denny, BWA general secretary emeritus, and Duke K. McCall, BWA immediate past president. (BP)

Three people selected for FMB news system

The Foreign Mission Board has selected initial personnel for a new communications plan which will feature first-hand reporting of missions through a system of four professionally trained missionary correspondents assigned to areas around the world.

Robert O'Brien, the board's overseas news coordinator, will direct development and professional operation of the system from Richmond, according to Bob Stanley, news and information services director and chief of the Richmond (foreign) bureau of Baptist Press, news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Michael Chute, 35, former managing editor of the Missouri Baptist news-journal, Word and Way, and Craig Bird, 36, Baptist Press feature editor at the home office in Nashville, Tenn., are expected to work with O'Brien as the first two overseas correspondents. Correspondents selected for the overseas system must meet both the professional qualifications set by the board's office of communications and public relations and all normal qualifications for missionary appointment.

The board's human resources subcommittee approved Bird and his wife, Melissa, Nov. 19 to be recommended for missionary appointment next April, pending completion of seminary study required of missionaries. Bird will leave Baptist Press Dec. 31 to enroll at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Chute, who accepted the new post in October, will begin partial duties immediately. He and his wife, Kathie, will return to the United States next August for furlough from Brazil, where they have been assigned as missionaries since September 1982. He has been news and information coordinator for the South Brazil Mission in Rio de Janeiro.

The Chutes and the Birds will have several months of orientation at the board in Richmond before moving fully into their areawide assignments. Chute will report on missions in Latin America, working out of Brasilia, Brazil; Bird will report on missions in Africa, from a home base in Nairobi, Kenya. (BP)

Hinze will lead Baptists in Wyoming

Buddy Hinze, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Casper, Wyo., was elected president of the Wyoming Southern Baptist Convention during the convention's annual meeting, Nov. 14.

Larry York, pastor of Big Horn Baptist Church in Buffalo, was elected first vice president and Art Grout, a layman from Sunnyside Baptist Church in Cheyenne, was elected second vice

president.

Messengers also adopted a campaign called Vision/Mission Wyoming, an effort to increase the number of churches from the present 62 to 100 by the year 1995 and to grow from the current membership of 12,000 to 25,000 by 1995. (BP)

Mrs. Ora Fields dies at age 90

Mrs. Ora Day Fields, 90, died in a Louisville hospital Nov. 28. She was a native of Whitesburg and a member of Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, and Hester Chapter 54 of the Order of the Eastern Star in Whitesburg.

Survivors include a son, Edsel Fields; three brothers, Henry Day of Middletown, Oh., and Major and Carl Day, both of Whitesburg; two sisters, Miss Hester Day and Mrs. Monnie Owens, both of Whitesburg; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held Nov. 30 in Louisville with burial in Cave Hill Cemetery.

Request doesn't shock Texas Baptist men

Two members of the Texas Baptist Disaster Relief Team traveled to the Caribbean Nov. 23 to help restore electrical service lost as a result of Hurricane Kate.

At the request of the Foreign Mission Board, electricians Larry Blanchard, Lindale, Tex., and Jerry McCauley, Gilmar, Tex., flew to Caicos Island to work as linemen. The island had been without electricity since the hurricane made landfall.

The men are expected to work on the island seven to 10 days in cooperation with Ed Parimon, missionary. Though it means being away from home during Thanksgiving, Blanchard said his family understands the importance of the mission.

"My wife and I decided a long time ago that we would seek the will of the Lord for our lives and try to follow it," he said. "My wife told me, 'Well, we'll just have to thank the Lord this year that you could have a part in that ministry down there.'" (BP)

Arkansas Baptists honor Ouachita's 100th year

A spirit of fellowship and celebration prevailed as Arkansas Baptists helped their oldest institution of higher education celebrate its centennial anniversary Nov. 19-20 during the 132nd annual meeting of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

Messengers adopted a record \$12.25 million 1986 budget, including an increase of .75 percent in the amount going to worldwide Southern Baptist concerns through the national Cooperative Program. Arkansas will send 40.66 percent of its receipts on to national causes.

In 1984, the site for the annual meeting had been changed to the campus of Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Although fears had been expressed about the adequacy of motel, restaurant and parking facilities, those concerns apparently failed to keep messengers away from the con-

vention. Registration had reached 1189 by the closing session of the two-day meeting, surpassing last year's total.

Arkansas' partnership linkup with two Baptist conventions in Equatorial Brazil highlighted the annual meeting. Brazilian pastor and evangelist Nilson do Amaral Fanini addressed the closing session of the convention, challenging Arkansas Baptists to "come together" for the sake of bring the world to Christ.

Messengers elected Lawson Hatfield, pastor of First Baptist Church, Fordyce, as president of the state convention. Hatfield was director of the ABSC Sunday school department for 23 years before returning to the pastorate. Eddie McCord, director of missions for Independence Baptist Association, Batesville, was elected first vice president, and James W. Bryant, pastor of Grand Avenue Baptist Church, Ft. Smith, was elected second vice president by acclamation. (BP)

Halsell to retire from West Virginia post

Immediately after the opening gavel of the 14th annual session of the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists executive secretary-treasurer Thomas E. Halsell announced his retirement effective Dec. 31, 1986.

Halsell, who came to West Virginia as executive secretary-treasurer from Indiana in October 1979, will reach his 65th birthday June 1986. West Virginia convention employment policy requires mandatory retirement at the end of the calendar year of the 65th birthday.

With the exception of one recommendation all the business of the convention was carried on without serious discussion or controversy.

A motion was presented which would make the pastor of the church hosting the convention each year a member of the order of business committee of the convention.

This motion grew out of a pre-convention problem when the scheduled host church withdrew its invitation to host the convention because it objected to two of the program personalities (James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public

Affairs, and Fisher Humphries, professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary) and did not want them to speak in their church.

The original motion was rescinded because of constitution and bylaw complications. A second amended motion was adopted which provided: "The pastor of the church hosting the state convention or a representative from his church be invited to attend the meetings of the program committee. He would serve as an advisor on arrangements without the power to vote."

The convention adopted a record budget of \$1,408,800, with 24.5 percent of the Cooperative Program receipts from the churches going out of the state for world mission causes. This is an increase of one percent. (BP)

Correction:

The Nov. 12 issue of Western Recorder incorrectly reported that James N. Griffith would retire as director of church minister relations for the Georgia Baptist Convention effective Dec. 31.

The article should have said W. Howard Ethington will retire as church minister relations director for the Georgia Baptist Convention effective Dec. 31.

Ethington is a native of Buckner, Ky. and grew up in Louisville. He is a graduate of the University of Louisville and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Committee approves new campus ministers



Mrs. Holbrook

Miss Stotts

The administrative committee of the Kentucky Baptist Convention approved the appointment of Wyndee Ezell Holbrook as campus minister at Cumberland College and Robin Annette Stotts as part time campus minister at Lindsey-Wilson College, Columbia.

Mrs. Holbrook is a graduate of Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, and expects to graduate from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, in May. She is currently minister to youth at Rockford Lane Baptist Church, Louisville.

Miss Stotts is also a graduate of EKV and is an admissions counselor at Lindsey-Wilson College.



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

God's generosity

Perhaps the most used word at the Christmas season is not "love," "joy" or "peace," but "gift." The apostle Paul said, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" (II Cor. 9:15).

Generosity, or the spirit of giving, is bound up in the meaning of Christmas. God's gift calls forth the very best response from us. Our Lord stated, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). There is never a better time than Christmas to learn about God's generosity and our own giving heart.

If there is any truer measure of a man than what he does, it must be by what he gives. John Bunyan's words come to mind, "A man there was, and they called him mad; the more he gave, the more he had." Louis Ginsburg stated that giving in life is the only thing we ever have and, of course, the way to have nothing to give is to give nothing.

Perhaps the reason we practice so little of the spirit of giving today is because we see so little. Generosity is contagious and many people escape it just as one would escape an epidemic—they didn't catch it from anyone. At any rate, there are not many of us who are, as T. S. Arthur puts it: "generous almost to a fault."

We have many examples of generosity in scripture. Ephros was generous to Abraham as Oranan was to David. God's people were exceedingly infected with a giving spirit when they were building the tabernacle—in fact Moses had to tell them to stop giving (Ex. 36:5-6)! Even Esau was generous with Jacob when he returned (Gen. 33:8-9).

There is a sense in which when I give, I give myself. James Russell Lowell quotes God as saying, "The gift without the giver is bare; who gives himself with his alms feeds three—himself, his hungry neighbor and me!" Our alms are actually an act of worship to God. "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord" (Prov. 19:17).

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Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

In the alligator swamp

Having sang at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, then traveling 800 miles to Orlando for two days as guests of Disney World and a rousing performance there, then singing before 5000 people on Sunday morning at Orlando First Baptist, with an estimated TV audience of 70,000, it was a happy group that headed for Sebring, Fla. on Sunday afternoon.

In a nearby state park, the group from Sebring First Baptist, who had worked a week at Oneida in July painting, doing carpentry work, papering, and picking beans, were gathered with their families awaiting the arrival of our two buses. They had prepared a tremendous amount of hotdogs, hamburgers, and all the trimmings. We were 79 hungry people and we made short work of the delicious meal.

We just had a good time of fellowship. Some of their young men had heard of our soccer prowess, and wanted to kick the ball around with us, and some of our boys were delighted to oblige.

Much of that state park is a carefully preserved swamp full of alligators and water moccasins. They have built a narrow boardwalk through the swamp with a rail on one side.

Guidance counselor Myrtle Cooke clung to the rail for dear life. She enjoyed the alligator walk about as much as I enjoyed the railroad car on Thunder Mountain at Disney World. I fervently promised the Lord if I wasn't flung into orbit, and instantly killed, I wouldn't

take such a "ride" again. I think Mrs. Cooke made a promise not to tempt the alligators again. She also feels the Florida park system should add another rail.

After our afternoon of excitement, we were off to the local college gym where Bill Smith, professor of physics, had made arrangements for us to use the showers before another concert that evening. Bill is a '57 Oneida graduate, as is his wife Peggy, and both taught at Oneida two years prior to beginning his college teaching. They were part of the Sebring group that did volunteer service at Oneida this summer.

From the college we drove to the Sebring church. The sanctuary was filled with an estimated 500 people. Many present do not normally attend that church but had read of our concert. Among those I met were the aunt and uncle of our piano teacher and her farm manager husband. I had met them four months ago at their home church in western Kentucky. Visiting in Florida they had been thrilled to hear that our choir was there. Also, I met the sister of my sophomore English teacher at Oneida, a retired teacher herself, now living in Florida. I had not seen her for 24 years. A 1978 graduate, a former roommate of choir director Jeff Minor while at OBI, had driven several hours to be present for the concert. We got to meet his lovely wife and young baby.

Our choir was once again in great form. We had the entire worship service except for an opening hymn and prayer. They even gave us the offering! They were insistent I also speak, having last spoken there five years ago, and it doesn't take much encouragement to get me going.

Afterwards the Sebring folks took our young people into their homes for an evening meal, the night, and breakfast just as the Orlando people had done.

The following morning we began the 27-hour trip back to Oneida, going by way of the Kennedy Space Center where we saw a film and exhibits.

The only sleep we had from Monday morning to bedtime Tuesday night was "catnaps" on the buses. Upon arriving at Oneida at chapel time Tuesday our students showered and went to class. That night some of them played in two varsity basketball games while others played in the band.

It was a great trip—with two buses and 4200 miles driven, hundreds of meals, thousands of new friends, and memories for a lifetime. Those who had invited us covered nearly every dime of the cost.



H. C. Chiles
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sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR DEC. 15, 1985

Life and Work Series

Accepting responsibility

Ezekiel 18:1-4 Blaming their ancestors for the calamities which had befallen them, the captives of Babylon kept on repeating an old and familiar proverb: "The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge." Believing they were being punished for the sins of their fathers, they naturally thought God was dealing unjustly with them.

Through the prophet Ezekiel God refuted the charge against him which this proverb contained. In no uncertain terms he taught them every individual is answerable unto God for his own thoughts, words and deeds. The people had suffered and were continuing to do so strictly because of their own sinful deeds. God rebuked them severely for attempting to shift the blame to others. It is ridiculous for one to attempt to blame others in order to exonerate himself, for no one can evade his personal responsibility.

Ezekiel 18:19-21 Ezekiel's hearers did not want anybody to tell them their previous instruction was false. They wanted to continue shifting the blame for their evil ways to others. It is easy for people to reject instruction which is contrary to their own preconceived ideas, but it is not wise to pursue that course. The great truth of the competency of the soul needs to be taught to

the people of every generation. **Ezekiel 18:31-33** Understanding he would not be responsible for the response of the people to the message which God directed him to deliver, but he would be accountable for the proclamation of that message, without fear or favor Ezekiel challenged the people to acknowledge their sins and to repent of them, to trust God for the supply of all their needs, to be faithful in their obedience to God, and to rest assured that God would fulfill his purpose in and through them.

International Series

The joyful news

Luke 2:8-14 While these humble shepherds were protecting their sheep from robbers and wild beasts, they were visited by an angel of the Lord. The shepherds were frightened, as most anyone would have been under the circumstances. Seeking to calm them, the angel said: "Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord." In order that the shepherds might recognize the savior, the angel announced: "Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Thus the angel revealed intimate knowledge and announced the most wonderful news that was ever given to men. Instantly the heavenly hosts sounded forth a paean of praise because of the birth of the savior. Our praises reach their highest level in our dedicated and self-giving services to those who need them in the matchless name of Christ.

Luke 1:15-20 Stirred profoundly at hearing that lovely carol, immediately after the departure of the visitor from heaven the earnest and eager shepherds hastened to Bethlehem with the full assurance they would find "the babe lying in a manger." Upon seeing the newly-born savior lying in a manger, the shepherds were filled with reverent awe and joyous gratitude.

As they returned from Bethlehem, the shepherds were "glorifying and praising God." Having availed themselves of the glorious opportunity of gazing into the face of Christ, they promptly set themselves to the great and challenging task of proclaiming to others, who were less fortunate than they, the good news about the savior.



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on mission together

Let's celebrate

Let's do something this December to celebrate a unique Kentucky Baptist Christmas. Let's break the monthly Cooperative Program record of \$1,502,198 set in August 1984.

There are legitimate reasons to believe we can and should do it.

First, because the Thanksgiving holidays fell as they did, the last two days of November will be carried over and counted as part of the December offering.

Second, this December is a five-Sunday month. Five-Sunday-month offerings are always larger than average.

Third, after three months, we are \$624,023 under budget, and for the first

time in 20 years, our receipts for the first three months are below the previous year at the same time.

Kentucky Baptists neither need nor want to start a new year that way! So, let's break the trend now!

Passing our previous record month of \$1,502,198 is possible, and to do so, even by just \$1 would bring the four month total to \$4,778,326, still \$421,874 or 8.1 percent under budget, but well ahead of where we were this time last year. In fact, \$409,141 or 9.4 percent ahead.

Starting a new year "right" is a goal worthy of our best effort. To break the record in December would give significant indication we could make and even surpass our budget this year.

Since so many of our churches begin their new budget year Jan. 1, the monthly Cooperative Program receipts after the first of the year will be increasing, reflecting the increases in local church budgets and increases in

Cooperative Program percentages in those budgets.

Each pastor and church treasurer can further the likelihood of a "celebration" by assuring that all Cooperative Program gifts are received at the Baptist Building before Dec. 31.

In Nicosia, Cyprus where we once lived, there is a well known restaurant which celebrates the music periodically during an evening by breaking plates on the floor. Not as "rowdy" as it may sound, it is simply one cultural way of celebrating special events—usually, engagements.

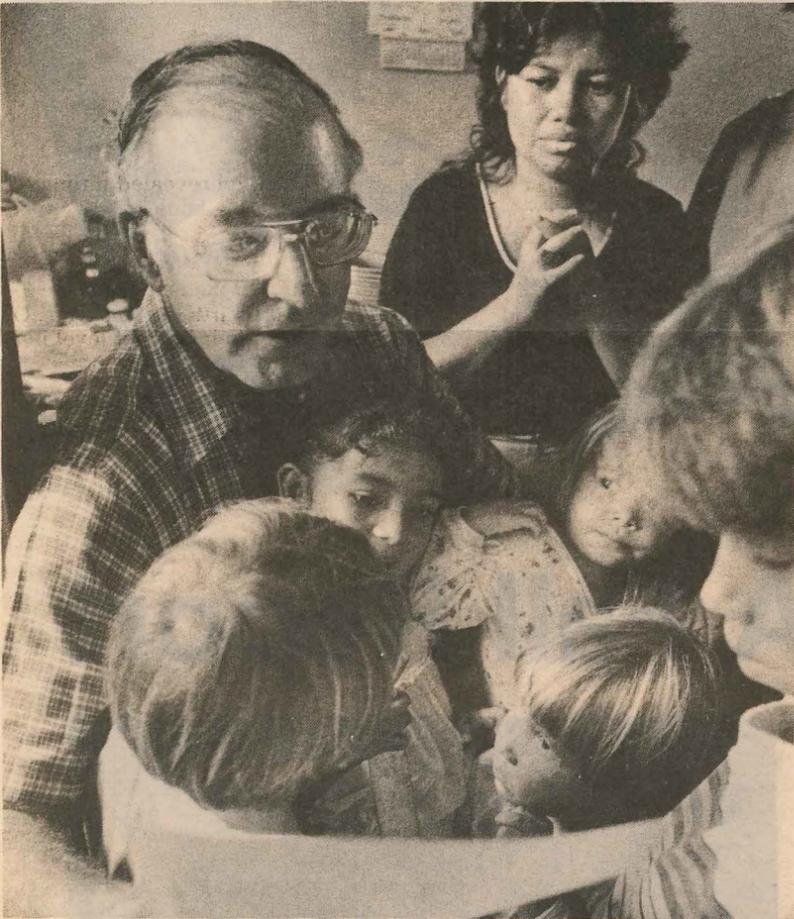
If Kentucky Baptists "break" the previous monthly record this December, we probably won't break plates on the front steps of the Baptist Building. But Baptist folks would understand, I think, if it was reported that paper plates were seen flying mysteriously in the vicinity of the Baptist Building!

Records are made to be broken. Let's make a new one this December!

South America

Baptists give aid to Colombian volcano victims

ALONE AT AGE 5—[rt:] Edison Ortis faces a far more uncertain future than most five-year-olds. He is one of many new amputees in the wake of the Nov. 13 eruption of volcano Nevado del Ruiz in Colombia. No family members have visited him in the state hospital in Ibague, a city about 70 miles from where a mudslide destroyed the town of Armero.



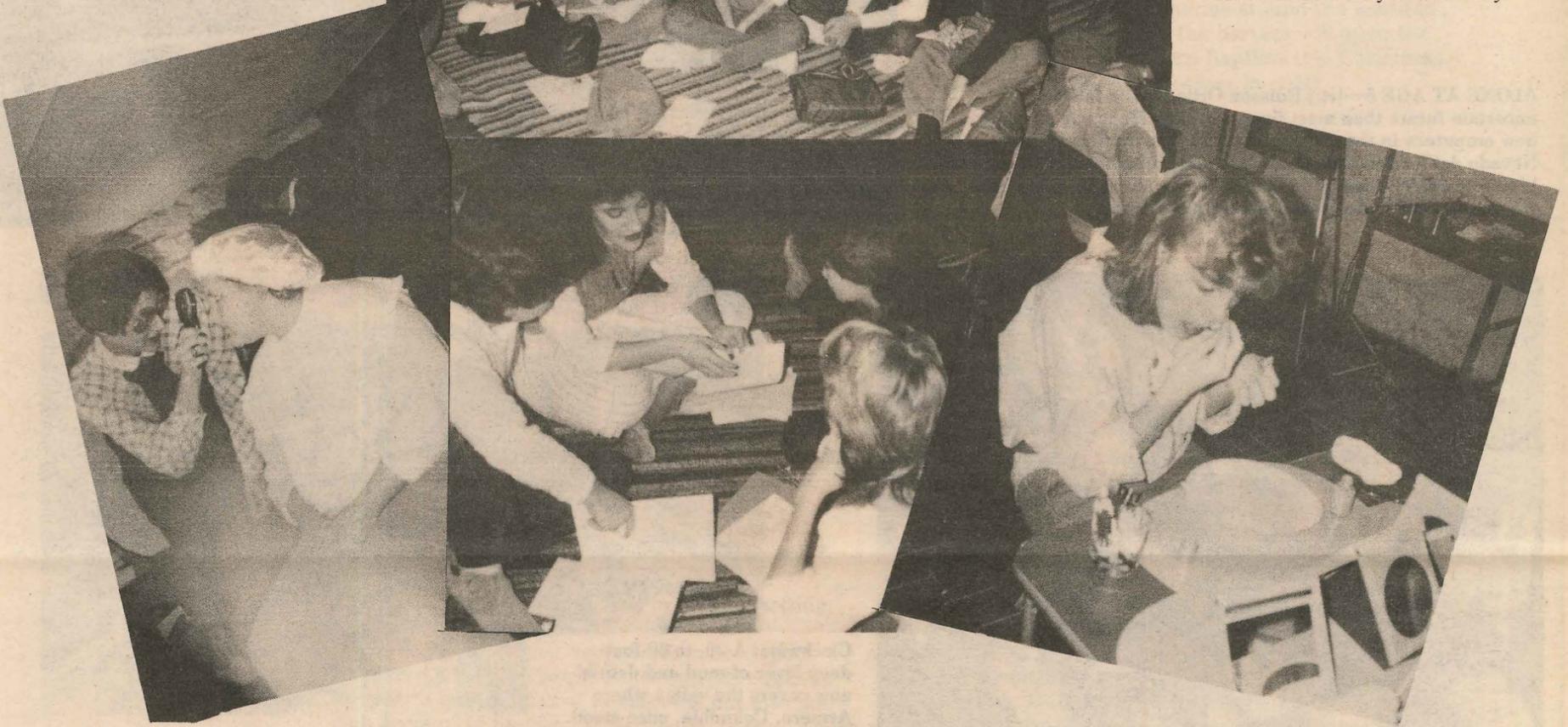
Clockwise: A 20- to 60-foot-deep layer of mud and debris now covers the valley where Armero, Colombia, once stood. Buried beneath the hardening mass are 20,000 to 40,000 people. Southern Baptist missionary Mary Nell Giles prays with a woman only a week away from giving birth who lost her husband, mother and several brothers. Missionary James Giles speaks with an injured survivor while visiting patients at a temporary hospital. In an apartment where 25 relatives have taken refuge from losses and sorrow inflicted by volcano Nevado del Ruiz, Giles reviews a list of clothing needed for the children.





"Color me beautiful!"

and that's what happened as 58 Acteens and leaders came together for the first Kentucky Acteens Junior/Senior Weekend, at Shakertown, near Harrodsburg. Girls and leaders discovered many things during the weekend: new friends, their "season" of colors, directions on living in God's will and a taste of life at college. Surrounded by the unique beauty of Shakertown, these Acteens continued on their journey of becoming beautiful — inside and out. Because of this experience, the beauty of God's love will be shared more clearly in Kentucky.



Kentucky WMU: A Fall Report



During the fall, sixth grade members of Girls in Action participated in Missions 6, a special event for sixth grade girls *only*. Begun in 1984, the purpose is to help stimulate interest in GA's and challenge girls in their last year in the organization.

The three Saturday events were held at First Baptist Church, Central City; Central Baptist Church, Corbin; and First Baptist Church, Morehead. GA's listened to home and foreign missionaries, learned how they could personally become involved in supporting missions, and became acquainted with "life after GA" (Acteens).

Two MISSIONS 6 events are scheduled for 1986.



Over 100 BYW's met together for worship, fellowship, music, talking, and listening to discover, ponder, and hear about "Gift Givers." At the annual state BYW Retreat, women were challenged to discover and accept their gifts, then get out and give those gifts away.

•
 Baptist Young Women are exciting!
 Baptist Young Women are fun!
 Baptist Young Women are sensitive!
 Baptist Young Women are happy!
 Baptist Young Women are gifted!
 Baptist Young Women are givers!
 •

1. (Above) Missionary Janet Dillard tells GA's of her work in Kenya. 2. GA "senoritas" learn about the people and customs in Spain. 3. Wendy, a Mt. Washington GA, tries her hand at grating coconut the Kenyan way.

