



Peace subcommittees to visit SBC agencies

by Dan Martin

Five subcommittees of the Southern Baptist Convention Peace Committee will visit 11 of the 20 national SBC agencies during the next two months as part of the effort to reconcile the controversy in the 14.4-million member denomination.

The subcommittees, each composed of four members, were appointed during the Dec. 10-11 meeting of the committee in Atlanta. They are expected to make the visits in January and February and to report to the whole committee during meetings in January and February.

Committee chairman Charles Fuller, pastor of First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va., said the purpose of the subcommittees is "neither a whitewash nor an inquisition. I think the committee is genuinely trying to avoid these extremes."

Fuller added the instructions to the subcommittees are that they "go in the spirit of love and candor and with the major purpose being to sensitize agencies to convention concerns and to solicit their active participation with us in the peace making process."

"Agencies shall be given an opportunity to express their concerns and shall also be encouraged to express what they perceive to be the greatest needs to restoration of trust in SBC life," he added.

The subcommittees—three of which will visit two seminaries each, one to

visit Nashville-based agencies and the last to visit the two mission boards—will meet with the chief administrative officer, the chairman of the trustees, and, in the case of the seminaries, the chief academic officer.

Informal guidelines given to the subcommittee indicate any "faculty member or agency employe whose name enters into the discussion," may appear before the subcommittee or present a written statement if he or she wishes.

Fuller said the 11 agencies to be visited have been specifically mentioned in at least one of the more than 200 letters received by the committee.

The committees and their assignments (chairmen listed first):

Midwestern and Golden Gate seminaries—Harmon Born, Atlanta; William Hull, Shreveport, La.; Daniel Vestal, Midland, Tex., and Ed Young, Houston.

Southern and New Orleans seminaries—William Crews, Riverside, Cal.; Adrian Rogers, Memphis, Tenn.; Winfred Moore, Amarillo, Tex.; and Cecil Sherman, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Southeastern and Southwestern seminaries—Jim Henry, Orlando, Fla.; Robert E. Cuttino, Lancaster, S. C.; William Poe, Charlotte, N. C.; and Jerry Vines, Jacksonville, Fla.

Sunday School Board, Christian Life Commission and Historical Commission—Ray Roberts, Asheville, N. C.; Doyle Carlton, Wauchula, Fla.; Christine Gregory, Danville, Va.; and SBC president Charles F. Stanley, Atlanta.

Foreign and Home Mission Boards—Albert McClellan, Nashville, Tenn.; Jodi Chapman, Wichita Falls, Tex.; Herschel H. Hobbs, Oklahoma City; and John Sullivan, Shreveport, La.

Chairman Fuller and vice chairman Charles Pickering of Laurel, Miss., will not join the visitation teams, but will be available to fill in, if necessary, Fuller said.

Fuller told Baptist Press he had contacted each of the agency executives prior to proposing the visitation subcommittees to the committee, and said

each "was positive, favorable and supportive of the idea. Several of them had certain questions mainly in regard to procedure, but in no case did I encounter anyone who felt the idea was improper or wrong."

He added a representative of the seminary presidents had telephoned following a workshop conducted for the heads of the six seminaries. "He told me the presidents had reiterated their support, cooperation and willingness. He added the seminaries did not desire to sidestep anything, but to deal with everything the committee wants to ask."

In addition to establish the visitation subcommittees, the committee also:

—Allowed a representative from Baptist Press, the SBC news service, to attend the meeting. BP also has been invited to attend the January meeting in Dallas.

—Heard four members—Vines,

Carlton, Born and Hull—discuss the items which bind the Southern Baptist Convention together. Mentioned were autonomy of the local church, an "absolute belief in one God," the centrality of the scriptures in Baptist theology, a passion for freedom and voluntary cooperation.

—Established a schedule for meetings leading up to the 1986 annual meeting of the SBC, June 10-12, in Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. The committee will meet Jan. 20-21 in Dallas; Feb. 24-25 in Atlanta; Apr. 3-4 in Dallas and again May 13-14 in Atlanta. Fuller said committee members felt rotating meetings between Dallas and Atlanta, rather than going to Nashville, simplified travel arrangements. (BP)

See related story on page 5

WMU's Sample is optimistic as her time of service nears an end

by Susan Shaw, State Correspondent

"God multiplies our efforts"—that is an insight which has become even more obvious to Dorothy Sample during her five-year term as national president of Woman's Missionary Union.

Reflecting on her term in an interview after the Long Run Associational WMU meeting for the Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions, Dr. Sample expressed optimism about Vision 88 based on her new insight.

She said that in visiting thousands of women all over the world she has seen how God has multiplied the efforts of Annie Armstrong and the 32 women who met with her to form WMU back in 1888.

Dr. Sample predicted WMU's highest enrolment and heightened involvement during its centennial year.

She said the challenge is for Christians to take the focus off of themselves and what they can and cannot do and put it on the power of Christ. "God will multiply our efforts when we make the commitment to pray, to give, and to go," she told the associational group, which met at Louisville's Highland Park First Baptist Church.

She continued, "When we get a fresh vision of God in the world, that commitment will be our response."

Dr. Sample has gotten that fresh vision during her term as president. She has seen missions work in 34 countries and 49 states (she will visit the 50th, North Dakota, in May before her terms ends in June).

She said that across the convention she is seeing more enthusiasm from young women than in recent years.

Dr. Sample also sees encouraging signs in WMU from the executive board to the local church. She expressed great hope for the future of the organization because "WMU looks for new ways to meet the challenge of the day to involve women and girls in missions." She pointed to WMU's balance between personal growth emphases and mission action. "We can't challenge people to give themselves long term to missions unless their needs are met too," she explained. "WMU speaks to the needs of women with the end result of long term involvement in missions."

Dr. Sample noted the completion of WMU's new facility in Birmingham as one of the highlights of her term. She said that through the new building WMU will be able "to carry out more effectively our responsibility for missions education."

Dr. Sample does look forward to becoming more active in the WMU organization in her own local church once again. Still, she is committed to speaking engagements until 1988.

Of her successor, Dr. Sample said she will be supportive. "I know it is a strenuous responsibility," she admitted, "but I also know God will grace us to fulfill the responsibility."

Dr. Sample said she would tell her successor "to be herself and give herself to God and to the work to be used in whatever way his leadership brings her."

159th volume complete with this week's issue

This edition of Western Recorder completes its 159th year of continuous operation. Each year the state Baptist news journal prints 50 issues. The one you are reading is the 50th of 1985. There will be no Western Recorder issued next week.

The newspaper staff wishes for you and yours a very meaningful holiday season and a good 1986. We will see you again Jan. 7 in the new year.

Street _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Dec. 24, 1985

Are you moving?

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



Because of Lottie Moon

When you love someone, you have to show them. Southern Baptist missionary Evelyn Moss gets hugs and kisses from two tots in Nairobi, Kenya, where she and her husband live. Southern Baptists can show their love for their missionaries this season by giving a gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

Baptist Men: A neglected resource

The greatest resource of strength for most Baptist churches lies untapped and consequently lost to the service of God. That resource is the corp of dedicated born-again men who are standing on the sideline while the church struggles to reach lost people.

Surely those good men are frustrated whenever they see needs and feel unprepared and inadequate to meet those needs. I believe men want to serve God in meaningful ways, but they do not have confidence in their ability.

Whenever the average church does try to use men the only thing they can find for them to do is take the offering, serve as ushers, lead in public prayer, fix the roof of the church house, drive the van, maybe teach a Sunday school class.

There are thousands of men in our churches who could be outstanding evangelistic witnesses if they were trained and challenged. Thousands more could be active Bible teachers in shops, offices and neighborhoods across the country if they were encouraged, trained and challenged. Many thousands more could be a prayer cadre of great spiritual power if they were enlisted, trained, challenged and turned loose.

The simple truth is we have neglected one of our greatest natural resources and the churches are much the poorer for it.

Maybe the tide is beginning to turn. There are good signs, especially in the Brotherhood, the official men's organization in Southern Baptist churches. The Brotherhood reported a slight gain in membership in 1984, and there has been an increased response by lay men to calls for volun-

teers overseas through our Foreign Mission Board.

With Jan. 26 set aside as Baptist Men's Day in our churches, perhaps we could begin a serious effort to tap the pool of talent and spiritual gifts represented by the men of the church.

A starting point might be the enlistment of prayer teams to spend the next three months in focused, intense prayer for the Holy Spirit to anoint our Good News America revival efforts this spring.

At the same time other men could be enlisted and trained for personal witnessing in preparation for the simultaneous crusades. What great impact do you suppose we would experience in Kentucky if 50 or 60 thousand men were engaged in concentrated prayer for the planned revivals? Is there any way to measure the impact if 70 or 80 thousand men were trained and actively engaged in sharing the gospel face to face with lost people? Kentucky would be revolutionized for Christ if this would happen.

If we had the will to harness the great resources of consecrated trained men across Kentucky that would bring thousands of lost people to Jesus and strengthen the churches for generations to come.

No greater calling could engage the attention of church leaders than the call to prepare and challenge Baptist men for the work of the ministry of reconciliation. They could lead in prayer and fix the roof and drive the van. But they would also be doing what the Lord called us to do, and this is win the lost to the Savior and do the work of the kingdom as personal witnesses to the power of Christ.

Hunger goes on

Hunger still ravishes the continent of Africa even though there has been dramatic improvement in the past year. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reports a spectacular transformation in some drought-stricken areas of Africa. Good rains have produced record harvests in several countries and have relieved some of the starvation among the people.

There is paradox however and it is economic. The good harvest plus millions of tons of food stuffs from other countries have flooded Africa's markets. The end result is lower prices for farmers and less money to buy needed implements, medicines and other necessities of life.

There are surplus crops in some countries, such as Zimbabwe which has a 1.2 million metric ton surplus of grain. Then there is a grain shortage in some countries, such as Mozambique where there is need for 400,000 metric tons of food.

America, and Southern Baptists in particular, has been very generous with food aid. Last year Kentucky was a leader among Southern Baptists largely because of the generous contribution last December by the First Baptist Church of Belfry, Ky. The moment when pastor James Watt Jr. gave William Marshall a check for \$200,000 for African relief remains etched in my mind as one of the high

points in my association with the denomination.

Now that rains have fallen and there are some surplus grain supplies, the danger is Africa's needs will once again fall out of focus and the suffering we saw every night on the network news will fade from our consciousness.

The need goes on, not for good gifts alone, but for agricultural help to increase productivity, develop adequate distribution systems and implement programs to prevent soil erosion. These are less glamorous than big sacks of grain handed to a starving family, but they alone are the means to a long term solution to Africa's food problems.

Gifts through the Cooperative Program to our Foreign Mission Board assure a continuing ministry in Africa not only of food distribution, but permanent help in developing the life of Africa's people. In the name of Christ our missionaries teach African people how to conserve water, till the soil, store the harvest and move toward self-sufficiency.

Africa needs our help and will continue to need our help. The best way we can meet those needs is through increased giving through the Cooperative Program. That is our Christ-centered long term lifeline for those in need in Africa and around the world.

Western recorder

(ISSN 0043-4132)

JACK D. SANFORD, Editor
JAMES H. COX, Associate Editor
RAY L. HAYES, Business Manager
C. R. DALEY, Editor Emeritus

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

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

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

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

Directors: T. A. Prickett, Owensboro, chairman; Robert DeFoor, Harrodsburg, vice chairman; John Christian, Hopkinsville, secretary; Clarence Benedict, Highland Heights; H. Gary Coltharp, Madisonville; Jerry Davis, Pippa Passes; Paul Godsey, Burlington; Gregory L. Hancock, Covington; Willis W. Henson, Paducah; Glenn Mollette, Pikeville; James Royalty, Vine Grove; George Smith, Leitchfield.

christian education

Furman prof to deliver Founder's Day address

Edgar McKnight, William R. Kenan Jr. professor of religion at Furman University, Greenville, S. C., will deliver the annual Founder's Day address Feb. 4 at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

McKnight will speak on A. T. Robertson, Southern Seminary professor of New Testament interpretation from 1890-1934. Robertson is regarded as one of the most significant biblical scholars in the history of American theological education.

McKnight is a graduate of the College of Charleston and Southern Seminary. He joined the faculty of Furman University in 1962.

Seminary announces festival honoring Findley Edge

"Fulfilling the Dream" will be the theme of an Oct. 27-29, 1986 festival honoring Findley B. Edge at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Edge, a Southern Baptist pioneer in Christian education, joined the faculty of Southern Seminary in 1947, two years after earning his ThD degree from the institution. In 1982 Edge retired from full time teaching and moved to Winter Park, Fla. He remains a senior professor, traveling to Louisville occasionally to offer courses at the seminary.

Edge's writings have played an integral part in the development of the field of Christian education in Southern Baptist life. His 1956 volume, *Teaching for Results*, is considered a classic text in the field.

Featured personalities for the festival will be Gordon and Mary Cosby, Parker Palmer and Walter Wink.

Cosby, a graduate of Southern Seminary, founded and pastored the non-denominational Church of the Saviour in Washington, D. C. The ecumenical congregation, based upon personal commitment to spiritual pilgrimage toward God and dedication to the service of humanity for Christ's sake, ministers through a number of activities in the D. C. area.

Palmer is teacher and writer-in-residence at Pendle Hill, a Quaker spiritual community and adult study center near Philadelphia. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, he has taught at Georgetown University and Beloit College.

Wink, a graduate of Southern Methodist University and Union Theological Seminary, is professor of biblical interpretation at Auburn Theological Seminary.

Registration for the festival, including the banquet, is \$50 per person. For more information, contact the Continuing Theological Education office at Southern Seminary, 2825 Lexington Rd., Louisville, KY 40280 or call (502) 897-4315.

Georgetown will get \$1 million grant

Georgetown College will receive a \$1 million grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation, Louisville.

One-half of the grant will be used for renovating the college's historic Highbaugh Hall and the other half of the grant will endow a Chair of Business and Economics.

Highbaugh Hall is one of three structures on the campus that pre-date the

Civil War. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The building was abandoned a decade ago when the state fire marshal discovered fire escape flaws in the building which eliminated use of the second floor.

The new chair of business, being funded by the Brown Foundation, is the first fully endowed "chair of learning" at Georgetown College.

According to the school's vice president for academic affairs, Joe O. Lewis, "Other academic chair projects are being pursued at this time and we are hopeful that the grant by the J. Graham Brown Foundation will be the inspiration we need."

West Kentucky students hear Nick Foster at retreat

Nick Foster, a popular youth speaker and minister from Louisville, was featured at three sessions of the Western Area Baptist Student Retreat, Nov. 22-23, at Jonathan Creek Assembly.

Among other program personalities were campus ministers: Rick Howerton, Northern Kentucky University; Clay Mulford, Western Kentucky University; Jim Simmons, Murray State University; Rick Case, Brescia and Henderson Community College at Owensboro; Scott Ford, Henderson Community College; and Randy Thomas, Hopkinsville Community College.

Angela Perkins, state Baptist Student Union president from the University of Louisville, prepared a multimedia presentation. SHARE, a singing group from Murray State University and a drama group from Western Kentucky University were also on the program. Teresa Gough from Murray State University was soloist.

The retreat was coordinated by Mel Doughty, who serves as campus minister at Paducah Community College. There were 187 participants.

Women's conference set at New Orleans Seminary

Authors, an aerobics expert, a charm and modeling instructor, and the national president of the Woman's Missionary Union are among the featured speakers for a three day women's conference at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary scheduled Oct. 2-4, 1986.

With a theme of "Lord, change me . . ." the conference will explore the varied ways in which women can impact their world. The conference is being jointly sponsored by an ad-hoc committee of women in the New Orleans area and the continuing education department of New Orleans Seminary.

A number of special interest seminars will be scheduled based on the input of those registering for the conference, JoAnn Leavell, chairman of the ad-hoc committee, said.

The general sessions and interest seminars will provide the opportunity for participants to explore their contributions to self, family, church and community. Those interested in the conference and in making suggestions

for program content should contact New Orleans Seminary as soon as possible.

Featured speakers already scheduled include: Ann Kiemel Anderson, author from Idaho Falls, Ida.; Marge Caldwell, charm and modeling instructor from Houston, Tex.; Evelyn Christenson, author from St. Paul, Minn.; Millie Cooper, aerobics expert from Dallas, Tex.; and Dorothy Sample, psychologist and president of the Woman's Missionary Union from Flint, Mich.

More information about the conference and input suggestion forms can be obtained by contacting Thomas A. Kinchen, director of continuing education, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126-4858.

Student missions teams chosen for summer

Members of five student missions teams for next summer have been selected by the Student Department of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The teams include Son Share (a drama team), Son Praise (a revival team), Son Celebration (a music team), Sonburst (a creative ministries team) and Son Life (a team which will serve in Kenya).

Other summer missionaries will be chosen in January. Listed below are members of the missions teams.

Son Share: Hunter Bates, Eastern Kentucky University; Andy Bristow, Western Kentucky University; Kellie Hallford, Georgetown College; Laura Harris, Eastern Kentucky University; and David Lyninger, Western Kentucky University. Tom Smoot, campus minister at the University of Louisville, will direct the team.

Son Praise: Jeff Coursey, Georgetown College; Fred Horn, Morehead State University; Nancy Adams, Transylvania University; Katrina Lumbatis, Georgetown College; and Suzanne Hinton, Eastern Kentucky University. The team will be directed by Dan Flanagan, campus minister at Campbellsville College.

Son Celebration: Rod Ellis, Georgetown; David Garcia, University of Kentucky; Johnna Kaslauskas, Murray State University; Julie Kent, Georgetown College; Kim Pyles, University of Louisville; and Daren Stephenson, University of Kentucky. Rick Howerton, campus minister at Northern Kentucky University, will direct the team.

Sonburst: Karen Burnham, Campbellsville College; Ted Gocke, University of Louisville; Mark Hazle, Georgetown; Ricky Vaughan, Morehead State University; and Ronda Wilson, Lindsey-Wilson College. The team will be directed by Robin Childers, campus minister for the eastern area.

Son Life: Mark Bauldauff, Western Kentucky University; Lee Ann Claypool, Cumberland College; Paul Fields, Campbellsville; Les Fugate, University of Louisville; Margo Martens, Georgetown College; Mary Ellen White, University of Louisville. The team will be directed by Twila Greene, campus minister at the University of Kentucky.

Mid-Continent launches fundraising campaign

Mid-Continent Baptist College, Mayfield, has launched a capital needs campaign with a base goal of one million dollars and a challenge goal of \$1,500,000.

C. C. Brasher, pastor of Briensburg Baptist Church in Marshall County, has volunteered to head the church campaign. The chairman of the trustee/former trustee campaign is Jean Crawford. Crawford is the owner and operator of Crawford Construction Company in Paducah. Charles Cloyd has been enlisted as chairman of the faculty/staff and former faculty/staff campaign. Kent Youngblood, owner of Youngblood's Grocery in Mayfield, is the chairman of the alumni/former student campaign.

Both the faculty/staff and trustee/former trustee campaigns exceeded their base goals by the time of the kickoff dinners in December.

Western Recorder

6th Annual Chartered Express

ATLANTA, GA. \$325⁰⁰ per person
June 7-13, 1986

PRICE INCLUDES

- Departure from following Kentucky cities: Louisville, Elizabethtown, Cave City, Bowling Green, Covington, Lexington, Richmond, Corbin
- 6 nights lodging at Atlanta's Ramada Inn Central at 1630 Peachtree Street
- Round trip charter Greyhound transportation
- Shuttle service 3 times daily
- Tour of Atlanta
- Travel Insurance
- Baggage handling
- Fellowship with Kentucky Baptist Pastors & Messengers

WESTERN RECORDER CHARTER EXPRESS

- My deposit of \$75.00 per person is enclosed.
- Please contact me with more information.

Mail to: Western Recorder
Ray Hayes
Box 43401
Middletown, KY 40243
502-245-4101

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Home Phone # _____ Office # _____

Rooms and bus seating are limited.

western
recorder





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

homes for children

If Jesus had not come!

Nearly 2000 years ago Jesus came to earth in a human body. His coming has made an impact deeper than that made by any other person who ever touched this world. His spirit permeates all areas of life—literature, government, law, religion, art and music. But have you thought about what it was like when he came?

When Jesus came, three-fifths of the world was in slavery. The clanking of chains could be heard and slaves were bought and sold like oxen. But the coming of Jesus sounded the death knell of slavery. As Jesus is lifted up in the world, the chains of slavery will be less and less.

When Jesus came, children were regarded as a burden, as troublesome and unwanted, especially girl babies. But Jesus turned that whole concept around. He loved them, blessed them, rebuked those who hindered children and commended their faith.

When Jesus came, women were the burden bearers. A wife was a man's chattel; she was his property. But Jesus began changing all of that. He is the supreme champion of womanhood. Not one harsh word did he ever speak to a woman.

What if Jesus had not come? We would not know what God is like. The cry of humanity has been, "show us the father." Jesus said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the father." With all of its wisdom the world did not know God, but Jesus came and revealed what God is like. He showed he is love—righteous, merciful, gracious and forgiving.

If Jesus had not come, we would not have the account of his wonderful deeds recorded in the New Testament. His compassion reached out in so many ways. He gave sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, strength to the crippled, speech to the mute, healing to the sick, comfort to the sorrowing, help to the poor and life to the dead. If he had not come, there would be no adequate atonement for our sins. His death on the cross paid the price for our sins. His resurrection justified all who believe and because he arose and lives, we shall live also.

Three things concern humanity: life, death and eternity. With the living Christ in your heart you need not fear life, death or eternity. Because Jesus came we have a message for children who will live in Baptist Homes for Children—a message that is life changing.

baptist news in brief

HMB gives nod for 3 staff members

The Home Mission Board's executive committee elected three new staff members including a liaison with Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, and voted to reduce the interest on HMB church loans.

Jimmye S. Winter, Baptist Women's consultant for WMU, in Birmingham, Ala., was elected as WMU field worker for the HMB, succeeding Helen Fling of Birmingham, who has retired.

Mrs. Winter has been on the WMU staff since 1977 when she became GA/Mission Friends consultant. Previously, she had been director of preschool and children's work for churches in Arlington, San Antonio, Plainview and Vernon, Tex.

Executive committee members also elected Ray Dalton, a mission pastor in Chicago, as associate director of the program research department, and named Joan O. Redford of Atlanta as administrative assistant to the president.

Dalton, a native of Oak Ridge, Tenn., has been pastor/minister of Near North Church in Chicago since 1979. Previously he was associate pastor of Walnut Ridge Baptist Church, Jeffersonville, Ind. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Mrs. Redford, currently executive secretary to the vice president, missions, for the Home Mission Board, will succeed Leonor Adams who is retiring after 40 years with the board.

The Georgia native was secretary to the pastor of First Baptist Church, Avondale, in suburban Atlanta before joining the HMB staff in 1982. She is married to David Redford, son of the late Courts Redford, executive secretary of the Home Mission Board from 1954-64.

In other major action, the executive committee reduced the interest rate charged on HMB church loans from

13.75 percent to 13.0 percent, in keeping with previous board action which would charge the same rate of interest on church loans that the board pays for borrowed funds.

Board members also approved appropriations totaling \$200,000 for the purchase of property in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, for the relocation of the Hispanic Baptist Seminary. The seminary has outgrown its current facilities at the Baptist Building in San Juan. (BP)

Baptists launch effort to train one million workers

Jan. 19, 1986 will be the launch date for a massive effort to train one million Sunday school workers to participate effectively in personal evangelism.

The Evangelism Section of the Home Mission Board and the Sunday School and Church Training Departments of the Baptist Sunday School Board have joined efforts to achieve this five year goal. Kentucky is cooperating in this effort through its Evangelism, Sunday School and Church Training/Special Ministries Departments. The Kentucky goal is to train 9596 persons annually for a total of 47,980 during the five year period.

The major resource for this Bold Mission Thrust project is a new Equipping Center module, "Training Sunday School Workers in Evangelism." Writers for the material are Bernie Spooner, director of the Sunday School Division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and Cos Davis and Tom McMinn of the Sunday School Board.

This six-session module trains all age-group Sunday school leaders and adult and youth class officers to develop their personal testimonies and to share their conversion experiences in a home, classroom or other setting. The pastor is recommended as the leader for the module which will be available Jan. 1.

Douglas T. Strader, director of the

Kentucky Baptist Convention's Church Training/Special Ministries Department is coordinating a task force of Baptist Building workers in plans for the one million effort.

Directors of missions, associational officers and pastors needing further information or assistance can contact Strader at (502) 245-4101.

Oregon church loses school zoning appeal

The U. S. Supreme Court refused Dec. 9 to review an appeal by an Oregon Assembly of God congregation challenging its city's requirement that parochial schools be zoned apart from church premises.

At issue in the dispute between the southwest Oregon city of Medford and the Medford Assembly of God was the church's refusal to comply with the zoning regulations on grounds it violated the free exercise of religion.

The congregation, which maintains a day care center, preschool, kindergarten and elementary school with grades 1-3, has argued during court proceedings it should not have to obtain a separate zoning permit for operating its elementary school.

After losing in a state court of appeals, the church's attorney, Michael Farris, filed an appeal with the nation's high court, arguing the elementary school is "an integral and inseparable religious ministry of the church."

The city's zoning regulation, he concluded, violated the congregation's ability to exercise freely its religion and ignored earlier Supreme Court rulings that church-related schools are integral to the churches that sponsor them.

The city countered by urging the high court to reject the appeal the ordinance meets all three parts of a 1971 Supreme Court test for determining the constitutionality of laws relating to religion: they have a secular purpose, neither advance nor inhibit religion, and not excessively entangle government with religion.

Rejecting the church's argument the ordinance violated the free exercise of religion, the city's attorney wrote: "The city is not trying to tell the church what to teach or what kind of ministries it should have. . . . (It) is merely trying to allow schools and churches in residential neighborhoods while at the same time retaining some control to allow it to protect the neighborhood from a use that may be incompatible." (BP)

SANIBEL ISLAND, FLORIDA — Beautifully furnished 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath condo for rent. Large pool, tennis courts, bicycles, secluded beach. Call Pat Owen (502) 895-8752. 12-10-4t

WANTED — Full time pastor. Church membership 589. If interested please send resume to Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Rural Route 5, Mt. Vernon, Illinois 62864. tf

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

FOR SALE: twenty 12 ft., three 24 ft., two 18 ft., four 4 ft. solid wood pews, padded seat and back, excellent condition. 48" communion table, 38" pulpit, Norton chime system, lift chair elevator. Call (502) 866-6525, 8:00 to 5:00; (502) 866-3317, 6:00-10:00. 12-10-4t

FOR SALE: 1966 Chevrolet Bus. 66 passenger, power steering, power brakes, excellent condition. Call Ralph Avenue Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky. 40216, (502) 447-2061. 12-17-2t

FOR SALE: A 15 passenger 1980 Ford Van, one ton, V-8 350 engine, dual air, power steering, power brakes, automatic, AM/FM stereo, 66,000 miles, only \$5,000. Call (502) 223-7601. 12-17-2t

FOR SALE: Oak pews 42 - 9', 20 - 18', 4 - 14', 2 - 4'. Also, 1 pulpit and 1 communion table. Please contact Westport Rd. Baptist, Louisville. Jim Lewis, Pastor, (502) 425-2350. 12-17-4t

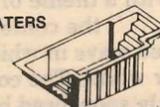
NEED A JOB: Spring Meadows Children Home needs you to serve as houseparents. Single and married, male or female. Contact at once. Charles Corrigan 502-245-2161. 10-29-4t

WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURER
OF **FIBERGLASS**
CHURCH PRODUCTS

- STEEPLES • WALL CROSSES
- STAINED FIBERGLASS WINDOWS
- BAPTISTRIES
- BAPTISTRY HEATERS



Toll Free
1-800-527-1459
Write for free
color brochure



Fiberglass Specialties

In Texas (214) 657-6522 Box 210 Henderson, Texas 75652

MID-WINTER BIBLE CONFERENCE

"Great Doctrines of the Bible"

January 13-15, 1986 6:30 p.m.

Speakers

James Merritt

Gerald Harris

Delton M. Beall

For further information contact the church
office, (502) 651-2186.

Glasgow Baptist Church

"Helping People Know Jesus"

South Green Street
Glasgow, KY 42141

Delton M. Beall, Pastor

Baptists urged "don't stop" aid to Ethiopia

Transportation problems and lean crops will add at least another year to Southern Baptist short term relief efforts in Ethiopia, according to missionaries.

Missionaries urge Southern Baptists to continue prayer and financial support for the transportation and supply system necessary to keep feeding programs operating.

Feeding and health care centers operated by missionaries and volunteers in the Ethiopian highlands need reliable sources of grain and continued access to a helicopter or airplanes to stabilize the difficult transportation system.

Rains, which partially broke Ethiopia's drought, produced only enough harvest to feed the people for two to three months. Thus, the feeding and health care centers will need to remain open through at least 1986. Southern Baptists operate five such centers in Ethiopia's Menz-Gishe and Merhabete districts and may be asked by the government to open two more.

That, along with plans for long range development, will call for at least a dozen more volunteer nurses and perhaps a career missionary physician, as well as another career veterinarian and another career agriculturist.

Southern Baptist missionaries need 19,000 metric tons of grain, plus supplementary food and oil, in 1986 to supply their centers and feed about 170,000 people per month.

The FMB is exploring ways to get access to additional grain and improve transportation for grain already in the country but log jammed by lack of trucks, according to John Cheyne, the FMB senior human needs consultant.

Aware continued needs in Ethiopia may create "donor fatigue" in the United States, Ed Mason, volunteer from Florida who coordinates relief efforts for the Baptist Mission of Ethiopia, pointed out, "The Ethiopian famine is far from over. To stop now would be to regress to one year ago when we first started. The caring and giving must continue to protect the investment already made in these people. (BP)

Politics, structure discussions slated

Political activities within the Southern Baptist Convention will be discussed when the SBC Peace Committee meets in Dallas Jan. 20-21.

The 22-member committee, elected during the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC, voted to move from theological matters to political activities and structural matters when they continue their work to seek the causes of the controversy in the 14.4-million member denomination and to make recommendations about how to solve them.

Chairman Charles Fuller stated one member said the group should discuss the fact the two men most frequently mentioned as candidates for the SBC presidency in 1986 are committee members: Adrian Rogers, former SBC president and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., and Winfred Moore, current SBC first vice president and pastor of First Baptist Church, Amarillo, Tex.

Moore is widely speculated to be the possible candidate for the SBC moderates. He drew 45 percent of the vote in 1985, challenging current president and committee member Charles F. Stanley

of Atlanta. Rogers, who was elected president in 1979 and declined a second term in 1980, recently was mentioned by a leading conservative as his choice for president.

Fuller said he referred to the political activities during a devotional time when he encouraged committee members to set examples in helping lower the profile of the on-going convention controversy. He added he did not directly mention recent "theological position meetings" attended by three committee members: Rogers, Moore and Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.

Other matters scheduled for the January meeting include a discussion of the SBC presidency and presidential powers. It is the election of the president and the use of his appointive and presiding powers which have been at the focus of the seven-year political struggle.

Fuller said the committee also will discuss the role of the parliamentarian—another sore point in the controversy—and the possibility of negative designation of Cooperative Program funds. Generally, undesignated funds are counted as Cooperative Program giving, but some have suggested a way around the controversy is to allow churches to decline to support causes they differ strongly with.

The chairman said the Peace Committee was briefed on a lawsuit filed Dec. 5 in U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta, by three moderates who claim rulings and presiding at the 1985 annual meeting "violated their rights."

Robert S. Crowder and his wife, Julia, of Birmingham, Ala., and Henry Cooper of Windsor, Mo., filed the suit against the SBC and the SBC Executive Committee, seeking to have the election of the 1986 Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees set aside because of what they claim are "violations of the bylaws" of the SBC. (BP)

HMB taps Westbury to fill news post

Joe Westbury, editor of World Mission Journal published by the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, has been named assistant news editor for the SBC Home Mission Board, effective Jan. 2, 1986.

Westbury, a native of Florida, has been on the editorial staff of the Brotherhood Commission for three years, first as associate editor and recently as editor of the monthly tabloid newsmagazine for Baptist Men.

Previously he was public relations director for seven years at Union University, and religion news editor for three years at the Jackson Sun, both in Jackson, Tenn.

Westbury succeeds Michael Tutte-row, who resigned to enter seminary full time and work part time as associate editor of SBC Today, an independent monthly published and edited by Walker Knight of Decatur, Ga. (BP)

FMB adds 429 to mission force

Southern Baptists added a record 429 new overseas missionary personnel in 1985 and also moved close to the \$10 million mark in world hunger and relief giving.

These reports, made at the December meeting of the Foreign Mission Board,

came amid reports of ways the board is exploring to reach areas of the world where missionaries cannot go.

At the same time, the board warned financial support is lagging behind missionary growth and urged Southern Baptists to give sacrificially both through the Cooperative Program and the 1985 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions.

Board trustees approved 46 new missionaries in December and reappointed five to reach the record figure. Previous high was 406 named in 1982.

Relief giving to meet human need around the world surged to \$9.8 million through the end of November, the latest figures available. The total for all of 1984 was \$7.2 million.

The emotional high point of the Dec. 9-11 meeting came as president R. Keith Parks and executive vice president William R. O'Brien told of their recent visit to the Soviet Union.

O'Brien, who has led in seeking new ways to cooperate better with Baptists in both the U. S. S. R. and China, said the spiritual health of Christians in these two countries is evident in the depth of their worship and growth that has occurred even during years of oppression.

Parks said Southern Baptists must resist the human and cultural pressures to remain local and respond instead to the Christian mandate to be global.

"The exploding opportunities for interchange between Baptist people, as well as other Christians, and the Christians in China is literally overwhelming," Parks said. He noted the recent visit of a FMB film crew to portray the Christian church in China can be a "window through which we can catch a glimpse of God's moving among a great people." (BP)

Kirby Clark elected seminary studies director

Kirby L. Clark has been elected director of the seminary studies department of the Seminary External Education Division, effective Jan. 1, 1986.

Clark, a doctoral candidate at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., will oversee six off-campus theological education programs operated by the department on behalf of the six Southern Baptist seminaries. Master's level courses are offered in Baltimore; Chicago; Jackson, Tenn.; Little Rock, Ark.; New York City and Orlando, Fla.

Clark has been a teaching assistant in adult education at Southwestern Seminary. He is scheduled to receive the EDD degree there in December. He also is minister of education in the Birdville Baptist Church in Ft. Worth. His previous work experience includes service as a church administrator and as an officer in the United States Army.

The Illinois native holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of New Mexico and master's degrees from Western Kentucky University and Southwestern Seminary.

Clark succeeds Michael D. Johnson, who resigned in May to become minister of education and outreach at First Baptist Church, Pine Bluff, Ark. (BP)



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

Our 60th eve

Christmas Eve is a special time of excitement, expectancy and great joy. New Year's Eve will be a similar time of celebration next Tuesday. We think of All Saints (Hallowed) Eve (another name for Halloween), summer's eve and other 'eves' in our yearly calendar.

The Bible says, "Boast not thy self of tomorrow" (Prov. 27:1) and our Lord taught to "take no thought for the morrow" (Matt. 6:34). The Christian is exhorted to serve the Lord and witness for Christ 'today'! An old saying urges us to "never put off till tomorrow what you can do today" and William Marsden truly expressed, "Tomorrow never yet on any human being rose or set."

However, I feel that it is appropriate for a Christian who is serving the Lord to become excited on the eve of a great day. I personally am thrilled to celebrate Christ's birth and use the spirit of this season to preach the gospel to attentive ears and soft hearts. Eleanor Slator speaks of this:

DECEMBER TWENTY-FOURTH

Tomorrow You are born again/ Who died so many times./ Do You like the candle-light,/ Do you like the chimes?/ Do You stop to wonder/ Why men never see/ How very closely Bethlehem/ Approaches Calvary?

The Christmas season of 1985 also brings to us the eve of Clear Creek's 60th year. We are all so excited about celebrating 60 years of training ministers for the preaching of the gospel in 1986. We will produce a 60-year album (also a cassette) of memories and a biography of L. C. Kelly, the man who founded Clear Creek in 1926. We will remember R. P. Mahon, who taught that first summer (and thereafter until 1949), and other great teachers of the Kelly era.

We will especially honor D. M. Aldridge, who was president at Clear Creek from 1954 until 1982. And we will recognize great men of God who taught during his administration. Our 60th year will celebrate how God touched countless thousands of lives at Clear Creek during these past years.

We are ready to launch into a great year of ministry as we stand poised on the eve of 1986. For us it is exciting during this holiday season to celebrate our 60th eve!

LOVE IS

Sharing Through The
COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

Home for Christmas

Each of our 467 girls and boys are in a home somewhere this Christmas Eve. The great majority are in their own home, but nearly a hundred are in the home of a relative or a friend, an OBI staff member or a friend of our school.

We work very hard to see that every child is in someone's home for the Christmas "break" as well as the spring and fall vacations. It is important that each has a respite from our busy campus life and dorm living. Also, it is a necessity that our dorm parents, cooks and teachers have a "breather" from their heavy responsibilities and long hours. To care for the number of children we have—24 hours daily, seven days a week—is a tremendous undertaking.

On a long "break" many parents come after school hours to take their children. This time 156 went out by bus, which is about average, with 13 making airplane connections.

Our annual Christmas worship service just before the students leave is always a special time. Our choir sings many of the wonderful hymns about the birth of Christ. The congregation also sings and joins in responsive readings.

We celebrate the secular side of Christmas the day before. "White Christmas," "Jingle Bells" and other favorites are sung. Old Santa himself makes an appearance on campus as well as down at the Day Care Center for staff children.

Our farm manager, Mr. Tillman, along with the boys had a lot of fun cutting a 25-foot tree. Other staff and

students had much fun decorating it into the wee hours on the chapel stage.

Earlier in the week each of our four dorms had a Christmas party. Each had their own tree and the gifts were piled high. Every boy and girl received several gifts, largely from the people of Rosehill Baptist and Grace Baptist of Ashland. Calvary Baptist Chapel, Berea, provided freshly baked large Christmas cookies. Other church groups and individuals, who had asked how they might help, were encouraged to help our school by donating money.

There is a limit to how many gifts a child needs without being wasteful, a limit to how many cookies can be eaten. But there seemingly is NO LIMIT to our daily bills that MUST be paid. We are often hard-pressed to even feed our large family three times daily.

Our young people and staff heard "The Messiah" sung by the Clay County Community Chorus. Directed by our music teacher, many of our county churches were represented in the choir as well as several of our students and staff.

Earlier our church choir sang "A Christmas Tapestry." Our BSU, our Federation of Christian Athletes and other groups went Christmas caroling.

Nearly 50 of our students have been practicing piano an hour daily in our new piano lab since August. Many have made remarkable progress, and they have been taking turns playing preludes for our daily morning worship service.

Each year our church hosts a dinner for our international students at Christmas time. We have 18 nations represented.

"Duty Bound" was the name of our second quarter drama. It was a courtroom trial complete with a jury picked from the audience. The result was in doubt until the jury reached a verdict. Even Mr. Jenkin, the drama coach, did not know how it was all going to turn out. The opposing lawyers did not know in what order the other was calling witnesses. Both actors and audience learned a lot about actual trial procedure and it was a jolly good show.

Our girls won the Three River Conference basketball championship. Our cheerleaders took second place in their competition. Our swimmers and divers won a bushel of ribbons at an invitational held at Berea College.

For the three weeks before "break" there was a middle school, freshman, junior varsity or varsity athletic event every day except on Sunday and Wednesday. OBI people are busy people.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR DEC. 29, 1985

Life and Work Series

A new covenant

Jeremiah 31:31-32 These verses contain the promise God would make a new covenant with his people. The old covenant, which God made with Israel at Sinai, was conditional. Its fulfillment was dependent on the faithfulness of the people, but due to their degeneracy and disobedience they failed to do their part in keeping it.

Jeremiah 31:33-34 It was encouraging to learn the new covenant was to be entirely different from the old one. Whereas the old one had been external, the new one was to be internal.

Perhaps the prospectus of the new covenant of grace can be summarized in four words:

1. Regeneration. "I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts." Thus God is pledging himself to give a new heart to all who enter this new covenant. The spirit of God will create in them a disposition to walk in the ways of the Lord and according to his will.

2. Relationship. "I will be their God, and they shall be my people." When one has come into this new and blessed relationship, he is no longer related to God as a creature only, but as a child also—not as a slave, but as a son.

3. Revelation. "They shall all know me." When the new covenant reaches its fullness in Christ Jesus, every person, from the least to the greatest, will

know God.

4. Remission. "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." This message of forgiveness and cleansing through the substitutionary work of Christ at Calvary was and is sorely needed.

Jeremiah 32:37-40 After divine judgment upon the people, God assured his people they would never again be thrust out of their land and thereafter he would rejoice in blessing them.

International Series

The reign of God

Matthew 13:31-33 A grain of mustard was the smallest seed husbandmen were accustomed to sowing. Normally it did not grow into a very large plant. However, in this case Christ said its growth was so remarkable that what should have been an herb developed into a tree large enough to hold the birds lodged on its branches.

This phenomenal growth of mustard from such a small beginning is a picture of the tremendous growth of Christianity. The birds represent the agents of Satan and defile the tree.

Matthew 13:44-46 One interpretation of the first of these two parables is the treasure hidden in the field symbolizes Israel, scattered among the nations of the world because of their rejection of Christ. Another interpretation is this treasure represents the kingdom of God, which was and is of such incomparable worth to Christ that he readily paid the price of his blood shed on the cross to secure and restore its lost beauty.

Mark 12:28-34 A learned, observant and pharisaic scribe boldly asked Christ a question which had not been answered satisfactorily: "Which is the first commandment of all?" To this man Christ quoted the passage most familiar to the Jews, Deut. 6:4-5. If one does not love God supremely, he is certainly disobedient to the divine command.

In verses 29 and 30 Jesus stated the most fundamental commandment. "With all thy heart" means without divided affection. "With all thy soul" means with the entire personality—intellect, feeling and will. "With all thy mind" means an intelligent love rather than a fanatical devotion. "With all thy strength" means with every energy which one possesses. Assenting to the truthfulness of what Christ taught, the scribe admitted there could not be any higher commandment.



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

on mission together

Christmas reflections from a kitchen stool

She was later than we anticipated. The special meal her mom had prepared could be warmed up but I began to count the minutes—hoping she would drive up at any minute.

As I sat on the kitchen stool, gazing expectantly out across the neighbor's lawn onto Main Street, Christmas got hold of me again.

We had put the bare tree in the hall the day before. Later in the day I had strung the lights. Now the tree and we waited until as many of us as possible could be there to put on the decorations. The "annual event" was set for 2:30 Saturday afternoon. Sharon was

coming in from Lexington to join us. We were waiting.

Sitting there, Alice and I once again sorted out our feelings about life and its passage. A final trip to the attic that day—where we store the ornaments—had punched my "happy tears" button.

With Steven and Sharon having set up housekeeping elsewhere, most of the old furniture and heavier stuff in the attic had been relocated to their new dwelling places. With so much of it gone, what was left was all the more obvious.

The old doll carriage, the doll house; the camping stuff and the skis—especially the "little pair." All our journeys as a family came back—the camping trips; the fun times in the snow; the annual week after Christmas at Massanutten (Virginia) in a friend's cottage. In those moments I wanted to close my eyes and wake up with three little ones still running around us—the folly of an aging man who wishes for a few more

chances to do a better job of fathering than he did. I closed my eyes but nothing changed.

At last her blue car appeared and I bolted for the door. Sharon knew immediately that Dad had been "melancholy-izing." She could see it in my eyes.

The meal was a special time for the three of us. I savored every moment and every bite.

Our baby-sitting teenager returned on schedule and the four of us began the "tradition" once more.

As I had sat, peering anxiously out the window, waiting for Sharon, I caught a fleeting glimpse of God. In my eagerness for her to come home, I may have tasted, only slightly, the love of the "Waiting Father" who wants all of his children home—not just for Christmas, but for always.

"O Heavenly Father, may your yearning for our return never cease. And may Christmas always remind us of you."

Jack Ward

A postmaster who delivers more than the mail

by Glenn Mollette, *State Correspondent*

Before the sun climbs the tall looming hills of Martin County, the sound of dozers grading new roads and the roar of mining machinery can be heard in the distance at most every point in the county.

As the traffic and business of the day becomes active, these sounds blend into the noises of automobiles, coal trucks and trains that move rapidly throughout the land of Eden—I mean Inez. Eden is the old name of this county seat town.

In the midst of this county which for some time has held the distinction of having the lowest unemployment rate in the state is the Inez post office. It is probably not all that different from other first class post offices.

With postmaster Jack Ward it is business as usual every morning at 7:15. As the postmaster his daily activities are those one might expect. Working the mail, waiting on customers at the window, taking care of paper work, and supervising 10 employees. It's enough to keep a person right busy.

It was a real challenge to Ward, 29, who at age 25 assumed the postmaster responsibilities at Inez becoming one of the youngest postmasters in the country.

But for Ward working as postmaster almost seems like his second job or what he does when he is not at First Baptist Church, Inez. "My biggest job is the church," he smiles warmly. A few duties Ward has are youth division director for Sunday school, teacher of boys seventh through ninth grade, congregational and choir director, and church training teacher for youth age 12 through 17. Ward is on the finance committee and missions committee, and he coordinates the jail ministry as well as preaching to the prisoners every Sunday afternoon. He is assistant coach on the church basketball team and coordinates a mission Bible school annually at Tomahawk.

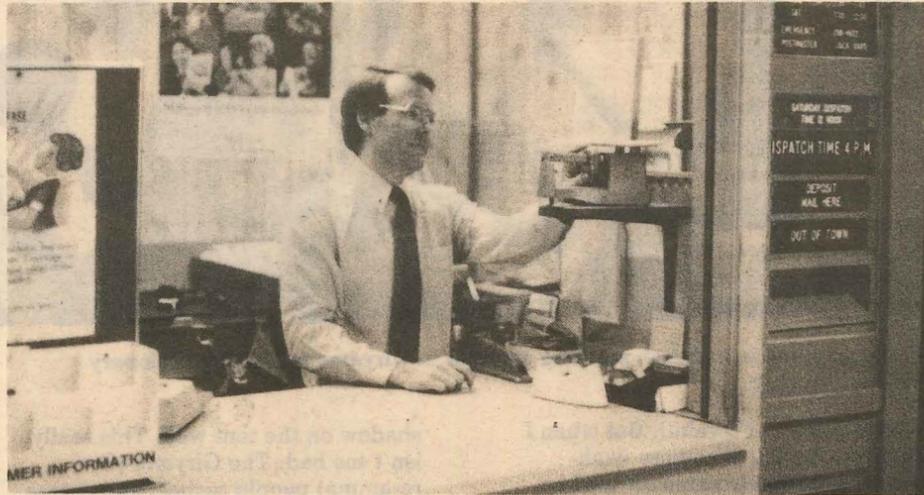
How does he do all this? "Well, you first of all have to be crazy," he admits with a gracious chuckle. "Second, my wife Cindy helps me stay on top by doing a lot of the administrative details. Third, and really above and beyond all else, I simply look to the Lord for guidance and strength."

"There was a time a few years ago when I felt like God was calling me to preach. But after counsel from my pastor, Hobert Reynolds, and much prayer, I determined God would use me as a supportive and active layman."

Some folks may feel they can only be of real service to the Lord in a vocational ministry but not Ward. "I can do more as a layman than a pastor. You know what a pastor is going to say about spiritual matters; people don't expect a businessman to come out with a testimony for the Lord. I see so many people in my job. It's about like visitation every day. Several times a day I have the opportunity to say a word about Christ."

Besides keeping gospel tracts available in the post office, Ward always tries to say a word to customers about the Christian life whenever dealing with a postal problem.

"A fellow called me today and was complaining about the mail. Before he hung up he said almost apologetically, 'I bet you get tired of getting so many



Jack Ward, postmaster in Inez, uses his responsibility of working the mail as an opportunity to share Christ with others.

complaints.' My response was simply, 'I couldn't do it without the Lord's help'."

As a young, self-motivated, working postmaster, Ward has led the way in helping the Inez post office move up through the ranks of third class to second class and in October 1985 to a first

class. An accomplishment of which he is quite proud. Yet, as Ward has led the way for the town's post office to grow and become vibrant, he wishes the same for his church.

"My hope and prayer is to see people respond to the gospel. My dream is for my church to become vibrant and

active. I would love to see every member of our church active and involved in carrying out the great commission. Needless to say, I want us to grow."

Ward points out a couple of reasons as to his commitment to the church. "I became a Christian in July 1970. But during my college years I strayed from God. I had many pretenses of the Christian life, but was far from being a very good Christian. When Cindy and I got married several years ago, I realized I was responsible and I desired to make my life count for Christ."

Besides the fellowship of the church, Ward enjoys a daily fellowship with other Christian believers. "All of my employees are Christians. Four of them belong to First Baptist Church," he noted. "We enjoy a fine Christian atmosphere, serving the Lord as well as the public the best we can."

Ward is one of many laymen who help his church to be what it is by faithful support and lifestyle commitment. The service he and so many others like him in our churches render to the kingdom normally go unrecognized. But their's is a service that is not unseen by God.

First Baptist, London passes 100 year mark

by Beth Wyatt, *State Correspondent*

The Keenagers presented the special music, pastors from three different decades spoke and the building was packed with members and guests for the 100 year anniversary celebration of London's First Baptist Church.

The oldest member in attendance was 95 and included in the audience were a number who have been members of the church for 63 years.

During the past 100 years the church has occupied a prominent corner of town, endeavoring to reach out to a growing community. Services were held in the courthouse and the first building was dedicated on Mar. 11, 1894, at the corner of Seventh and Long Streets. At that time the pastor's salary was \$25 per month. The 1985 church budget is \$272,144.

J. W. Moren was the first pastor.

Records show that in 1920 the church was without a pastor for an entire year and during that time experienced the greatest revival in its history. J. D. DeGarmo was the evangelist and more than 100 people joined the church.

A committee was appointed for the erection of a new church building and the present location, corner Main and Third, was dedicated in 1923.

The first vacation Bible school was organized 10 years later. Workers from First Baptist were sent out to conduct vacation Bible schools throughout the Laurel River Association.

Harold D. Tallant assumed the pastorate in 1942. A special emphasis was placed on training programs; the Sunday school attendance doubled and the state Training Union convention was held at the church. The need arose for an educational building and weekly offerings were taken for this venture.

George Phillips came as pastor in 1948. Under his leadership construction for an educational building was completed Sept. 2, 1952. Sunday school attendance was averaging 600 and the WMU had an enrolment of over 1400.

Layman Dyche Jones served as choir director for 25 years before the days of

a full time music person and has served continually as interim and supply director. David Sparrow was the first minister of education, coming in 1958. He was succeeded by Louisville's James Morrison, the first minister of music and education in 1960.

R. D. (Jack) Baker, former director of missions in Laurel River Association, came to London in 1969. He found a building desperately in need of repair. A remodeling project was proposed with a figure of more than \$200,000. The new sanctuary was dedicated Sept.

tist adopted the concept, allowing their staff members a greater financial security by owning their own homes.

During the USA bicentennial the choir presented a patriotic program and the Keenagers were created.

A deaf ministry has been established that has led other churches to begin this ministry. One interpreter has gone on two volunteer mission trips for the Foreign Mission Board.

A mission Sunday school meets each week at Laurel Heights Home for the Elderly, and the growing Calvary



FROM THE FORTIES, SIXTIES AND EIGHTIES: Shown are Louisville's Harold Tallant, '40s; J. Bill Jones, current pastor; and R. D. [Jack] Baker, '60s. Each spoke at the 100th anniversary celebration of First Baptist Church, London.

2, 1971.

During the 1970s an active youth program was instituted. West Virginia was their first mission venture and the annual mission trip has taken them as far away as Jamaica and as near-by as Ohio.

For some time the Sunday morning services were broadcast for the benefit of shut-ins in the community. This program was later replaced by the tape ministry.

Early in the '70s many churches around the country began to furnish housing allowances for their staff members instead of parsonages. First Bap-

tist Church had its beginning as a First Baptist mission.

A Woman's Missionary Union was first mentioned in 1899. That year \$42.48 was spent for missions. Mission giving in 1985 has exceeded \$10,000.

A board of deacons, consisting of 39 members, assist the pastor in the promotion of church work. A deacons' wives fellowship was organized in 1980 and did the ground work for a successful media center.

Pastor Bill Jones closed the program with the thoughts of Bold Mission Thrust and prayers for a new building on ground already purchased.

Pastor find similarities between Kentucky and Kenya

by Tyre Denney
Pastor, Alton Baptist Church
Lawrenceburg, Ky.

Sabaki Village
Malindi, Kenya
October 19, 1985

It is 7:30 a.m. (12:30 a.m. Kentucky time) and I have just finished breakfast and cleaned up my campsite. The dishes are drying in the sun and Richard, the pastor of Subaki Baptist Church, and Joseph, my translator, are getting ready to go visiting with me in the villages near the Subaki river.

I've been living here since Wednesday afternoon in a place that, in a strange and touching way, reminds me of the home of my grandparents. There is so much here that reminds me of home. The sandy, reddish dirt roads are almost identical to those I remember; the crops of cotton and corn and peas are just as scraggly; the yards are kept swept as clean as a whistle, not a blade in sight; the hens and chicks and cows and goats cluck and cheep and moo and bleat constantly. And as you come into their village, the children rush into the house to get a chair and bring it out and set it in the best shade for the Visitor (they capitalize it, not me)-who-has-come-all-the-way-from-America-Kentucky-not-even-stopping-in-Nairobi (where everyone who is anyone stops)-to-come-to-Sabaki-Malindi-Kenya-to-tell-us-about-God-and-his-son, Yesu Christa.

These are the sights and sounds and smells and hospitality that one associates with the deep south of the United States and they have touched my heart.

I have also learned a great deal: . . . there is no language barrier to a smile. Richard and Joseph have been trying valiantly to teach me the "hellos," "how are yous," "I am fines," "good-byes," and "God



Participants in a church planting seminar in Giriyama talk with missionary Clay Coursey.

bless you" of Swahili. But when I forget, the big Wazungu (wah-zoon-gue) (their name for a white man, it is most nearly translated "people that go around in circles") just smiles, or laughs out loud.

It works every time.

. . . dirty dishes is dirty dishes. But it helps a lot to heat a pan of hot water because washing dirty dishes in cold water is the pits.

. . . the water used to rinse the dishes can be used to rinse you, too. Unless you've already rinsed yourself before you rinsed the dishes. In that case, you've wasted a perfectly good pan of water.

. . . if you didn't bring that nice mirror your wife bought for you before you left home, you can comb your hair by looking at your shadow on the tent wall. But it helps if: (a) you don't have much hair, (b) you don't have to see the results, and (c) you have a cap to cover it with. A big Wazungu who cannot speak our language is one thing, but a big Wazungu whose hair looks as though he just stuck his finger in the light socket is something else. And little children get the tummy ache if they laugh too much.

. . . you cannot, repeat CANNOT, shave yourself by looking at your

shadow on the tent wall. This really isn't too bad. The Giriyami (Goo-re-amma) people respect and revere their elders—those with gray hair and gray beards. And, in light of the aforementioned hair situation, a gray beard helps.

. . . a hot Coke does taste good. They taste better in the morning, though. The cool night air lowers their temperature by at least three degrees.

On the other hand . . . the Giriyami are anxious to hear about God. They eagerly gather the whole family around the Visitor-who-came-all-the-way-from-America-Kentucky-not-even-stopping-in-Nairobi to hear what he has to say about God and his son, Jesus.

. . . it is disconcerting at first, but you can learn to keep your train of thought when several little children, in their mother's arms, decide to take a lunch break at the same time. This dilemma is best understood when you remember that there are no bottle babies in Africa.

. . . maybe the best time you ever had in your whole life was last night when you came out of your tent after a supper of Hormel chili, crackers with mustard and one of those hot Cokes and found seven young men

from the nearby village nervously waiting to see if the Visitor-who-came-all-the-way . . . etc. will take the time to teach them from the Bible. And, after about three hours, you realize that several other shadowy figures are standing just at the edge of the circle of light cast by the Coleman lantern, listening as you share. Then, as the lantern runs out of gas and begins to splutter and die and the darkness closes in, the young man who has been the most inquisitive, Ferdnand Katana, shyly asks, "Please, sir, may I come back tomorrow so you can teach me more from God's word?" Then, even more shyly, "Will you go to my village with me and tell my family about God?"

Ferdnand Katana was here this morning by the time I finished breakfast, saying, "Please, sir, may I walk with you today. I want you to teach me more from God's word. Even as I write these words, he is sitting under the cashew nut tree, patiently waiting. He has the New Testament I gave him clutched in his hands.

Less than a week ago Ferdnand Katana and I were separated by over 13,500 kilometers, race, color, culture and belief. Today, the God who bridges continents, colors, cultures and the consonants of language will be with us as we walk together among the people who live in the villages of Subaki, Kenya.

And, with tears in his eyes and much joy in his heart, the Visitor-from-America-Kentucky-who-came-all-the-way-to-Subaki-Kenya (with-out-even-stopping-in-the-big-city-of-Nairobi)-to-teach-us-about-God says: "Bwana Asifiwe!" Which, being interpreted means, Praise the Lord!

And the Subaki Giriyami always says, "Amen!"

Reprinted from *The Anderson News*, Lawrenceburg, Ky.

Theme interpretation

CLC leader comments on the sanctity of human life

by Foy Valentine

As people called by God to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, what should Christians say and what should Christians do about the moral issue of abortion?

Since 1908, the Christian Life Commission or its predecessors has worked to help Southern Baptists apply the gospel in every area and relationship of life. Whether the particular concern has related to alcohol abuse, race relations, family life, hunger, television programming, or war and peace, we have sought to uphold the worth of the individual and the sacredness of human life.

Life is sacred because God has created us in his image, after his likeness. Sex is sacred because our sexuality is God's gift by which humanity has been enabled to maintain the chain of life through time and history. Marriage is sacred, "the marriage bed" of sexual intercourse is sacred, family life is sacred, and every child is, in the providence of God, also sacred.

It follows human beings ought never to profane any of these sacred things. Sexual intercourse ought to take place only in the bonds of holy matrimony. The commandment not to commit adultery which was given to humanity both for our individual good and for our common good ought to be obeyed, and abortion on demand as a mere means of birth control ought to be rejected both by individuals and by society as a tragic distortion of God's intentions.

The Bible does not specifically deal with induced abortion as such. The Bible does, however, provide important guidelines for making decisions about this issue as well as all other moral issues. While Christians ought never to resort to the shoddy practice of taking selected verses of the Bible out of context to prop up our personal opinions, we ought always to let the Bible inform us and guide our response to moral issues. Based on everlastingly relevant biblical and theological principles, Christians can then act positively and redemptively in response to the

challenge of abortion.

In America the absolute prohibition of abortion has never been legally mandated. There is a developing moral consensus, however, in opposition to the present legal situation which permits abortion as a means of birth control and in opposition to the current social situation which tends to encourage sexual promiscuity and unwanted pregnancies.

Southern Baptists are by no means unanimously agreed on all aspects of the abortion issue. Nevertheless, as Christian citizens all of us can work for public policy which rejects a careless or frivolous approach to abortion, supports responsible sex education, discourages sexual promiscuity, helps people to avoid unwanted pregnancies, and provides both responsible counseling and economic support for women who choose not to have an abortion. Christians can contribute to the shaping of public policy without resorting to inflammatory rhetoric and rash actions which in turn lead only to further

polarization, pain and deepening problems.

We also can work for alternatives to abortion. We can offer the world positive models of loving marriages and sexual fidelity. We can uphold Christian values for our children and youth so as to undergird responsible stewardship of God's gift of sex and a reverence for all of life. We can work to provide services and ministries through both the church and society which seek to make every child a wanted child.

Individuals who seek to speak thoughtfully and to act responsibly about abortion and other issues related to the sanctity of human life can find help from the Bible, the church, prayer, personal study, the informed support of other Christians, and the Holy Spirit.

Editor's note: Valentine is executive director of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.