



Moore hasn't been asked to run for SBC president

Winfred Moore, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention, denied recently that he has been approached officially by anyone to be a candidate for the Southern Baptist Convention presidency.

The First Baptist Church of Amarillo (Texas) pastor added he is hoping for a unifying candidate to emerge to lead the 14.4-million member convention. "I really do have a longing for some one to arise about whom everyone would say, 'We will follow this man as our president'."

Moore denied he has anyone in mind as a unifying candidate or that he has been looking for such a person. "You just hope that out of the process of finding a peaceful solution (to the controversy in the SBC), there would be somebody," he noted.

Moore said he has not done "any planning one way or another" concerning his candidacy for the SBC presidency. "I just have a commitment to getting our convention back to doing what we do best," including missions involvement.

At the 1985 SBC meeting in Dallas, Moore was nominated for the presidency in opposition to incumbent Charles Stanley, pastor of First Baptist Church of Atlanta. Stanley won the presidency by receiving 55.3 percent of the vote.

Moore was then nominated and elected as first vice president.

Rumors persist Moore also will be the 1986 moderate candidate and will apparently oppose Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn. Rogers has been named by several conservative leaders as their choice for SBC president in 1986. Rogers says he has not decided yet whether he will be a candidate for the office.

Moore, noting that talk of himself as a "moderate" candidate is contrary to his view of himself as conservative, said he sees no inherent conflict if one or more of the members of the Southern Baptist Peace Committee are candidates for the presidency.

"I think it's all in the way in which they perceive their work. I would surely hope if I am a candidate or Dr. Rogers is a candidate . . . that whatever is done would be done in such a way that it would not affect the work of the Peace Committee."

The committee was formed at the 1985 SBC meeting for the purpose of determining the causes of the current SBC controversy and making recommendations about how to solve them. Moore's optimism has grown for the group's success.

"I think we're in much better shape than we were in when we left Dallas. I have high hopes," he said. "I've been pleased with the Peace Committee as it's gone about its work." (BP)

"Love one another."

(John 15:12)



Observe Race Relations Sunday
February 9, 1986

Together . . . Through the Cooperative Program

	Month	YTD [4 mos]
Dec. 85	1,225,051	4,501,178
Dec. 84	1,061,557	4,369,185
\$ Chng	163,494	131,993
% Chng	15.4	3.0
Budget	1,300,050	5,200,000
\$ Under	(74,999)	(699,022)
% Under	(5.8)	(13.4)

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Race Relations theme: 'Love one another'

by W. David Lockard

Race Relations Sunday is an appropriate time for us to reflect on God's will and what it means to be Christlike in our attitudes and actions toward all people.

Both the church and society have made progress in the area of race relations. Yet the need for justice, mercy and love continues to be as great as ever.

Indeed, it makes considerable difference where we are looking when we ask, "As the people of God, where are we in regards to race relations?" It has been suggested, for example, that as a nation we have progressed from slavery to segregation and from segregation to prejudice. This is certainly true enough to remind us of the limited progress we have made.

From a shameful past, progress can be charted. However, as we look at our Lord, we recognize that we still have a long way to go.

When we earnestly seek to be imitators of Christ, there is hope. The Christian ideal of brotherhood has not been obliterated by mankind's fuzzy vision of it or by the church's imperfect and stumbling efforts.

Where do we start in our endless quest to become more like Christ? If we selected only one of his commandments to guide us, it would have to be "love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). True Christian discipleship requires that love shape and control our attitudes and actions toward people of

all races.

"Love one another" is a clear command from Jesus, and we sin when we make it optional in our daily lives. We are to measure our love by his love—"as I have loved you." Authentic love will help us discover ways to act on

behalf of others. It will lead us to place the concerns of others first even if this brings us into conflict with unjust systems and structures. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

Eventual Criswell successor

Criswell asks FBC, Dallas to create 'fellow pastor' position

W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, announced in a Jan. 5 sermon that he is praying for a young preacher to "come serve alongside" him and ultimately to succeed him as pastor of the largest church in the Southern Baptist Convention.

Criswell also said a new executive administrator had been hired to assume the church's programming responsibilities in the near future.

Coming in the same sermon, the two announcements resulted in some confusion and unfounded speculation the 76 year old pastor is preparing to retire and that the new administrator was intended as future pastor.

However, in a telephone interview with Baptist Press Jan. 7, Criswell denied he is making any immediate plans to retire and explained the administrative post is unrelated to the co-pastor's position.

Criswell said the future executive administrator currently is a minister of

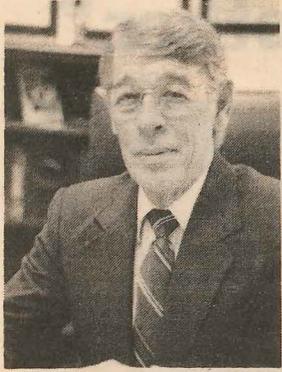
music in another state. The administrator asked that his name not be released until after Jan. 19 in order to provide him time to resign and make arrangements to leave his church.

The proposed "fellow pastor" will occupy a new position, sharing the pulpit with the pastor until "my time comes," said Criswell. He said he hopes to follow the biblical model of Moses preparing Joshua, Elijah raising up Elisha and Paul training Timothy.

"I would love for us to have a man to come here to be with me and serve alongside me so that when my time comes, he might carry on—that there might be no hiatus, no break in continuity," Criswell said. "I think that would be the most marvelous thing for our church and its ministry."

He said he will ask First Baptist Church to set up a pastor search committee to find the man to work with him and share the pulpit. (BP)

sanford's perspectives



Jack D. Sanford

Prospects for 1986

The year ahead looks bright in at least two areas where Southern Baptists have great concern: missions and evangelism.

Of course dedication to Christ, obedience to the will and leading of the Holy Spirit and unselfish commitment of personal resources of time and money are basic necessities for success in the new year.

But Baptists are able and I believe we have the will to make 1986 a truly great year in both missions and evangelism.

Evangelism is perhaps the first priority among us and the year ahead offers great hope. The planning for Good News revivals has been going on for some months and only our lethargy can stop the movement of the Holy Spirit.

We certainly need revival in our churches and there is no question God is always ready to give what is needed. The only question that could possibly cloud the future in evangelism is our preoccupation with lesser things. We have been troubled with this in the past and perhaps the clouds over us will obscure the radiance of God's Spirit so that we once again fall behind in winning lost people to Christ.

I will be the preacher in two Kentucky churches during the Good News revivals, so I have a personal stake in how well we serve the cause of Christ. I want to be used of God to bring true revival to the churches where I am honored to serve. To that end I have already begun praying and preparing for the events, just as thousands of other Baptists have been preparing. With this kind of dedicated effort the only question is how much will the Lord bless us as we truly seek to serve Christ.

The second priority among Baptists is mission action. We support the greatest missionary force in

the world and that force will grow in 1986. Young men and women are continually responding to God's call to missions in the home land and overseas. The Lord will find a place for these young people and I know that place will be among Southern Baptists.

The prospect for volunteers in missions is greater than ever before and more and more lay people take advantage of opportunities to serve in special ways. Last year 50,000 Southern Baptists volunteered for short term service in America and around the world. Whenever you talk to any one of them you know they are excited and ready to go again because the first experience was so rewarding. That spirit of venture and self giving will be more contagious in 1986, especially in Kentucky.

Even now our Associate Editor James Cox is in Kenya, helping the Kenyans develop a more adequate communication system. His reports back to us and his telling of the wonder of missions will help our Kentucky people in their own personal quest for the will of God.

I will be the first to admit we have serious problems in our denomination and those problems may not go away in 1986. We will still have to contend with the interruptions of our fellowship as we have for several years past. But I believe 1986 will be a great year in evangelism and missions because I believe our people are ready to give themselves to the first work of our churches.

Surely no reader of Western Recorder would be willing to do less than his best for Christ in 1986. If that attitude prevails across the SBC, and I believe it will, then 1986 is the year for rejoicing at the harvest God will reap through the people called Southern Baptist.

One more word of warning

Time is running out if Kentucky Baptist people want to stop the move for a lottery in our state. As you know a bill is now before the legislature which calls for an amendment to the state constitution which would permit a lottery in our state. The legislature is in session so the bill for an amendment will be voted upon soon.

The best way to make your voice count is to write a personal note to the people who represent you in Frankfort. Names and addresses of legislators were made available to messengers to the KBC meeting in Lexington last November. Copies of those lists are available.

If you are ever going to do anything to make your will known in the life of our state now is the time to act. Many of our readers have already signed a

petition circulated by the Kentucky Temperance League. That is good and all of us should put our name on the petition. But the most powerful and the most noticed thing you can do is write a personal word which clearly states how you feel about a lottery and send that word to your representative. The legislative process is slow and perhaps there is time for us to dawdle, but it seems to me the issue is of such importance we would want to register our personal feelings at the start so the tour wishes would not get lost in the political shuffle.

This then is a call to arms for all Kentucky Baptists who resent the state financing programs and services through gambling. That is what a lottery is all about, and Baptists have historically stood against gambling. We must not let our voice get muffled in the wasteland of politics. Act now before it is too late.

western recorder

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JACK D. SANFORD, Editor
JAMES H. COX, Associate Editor
RAY L. HAYES, Business Manager
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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Mark Pennington

Planting Baptist work at Centre College

by Denise Spencer, *State Correspondent*

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow." For the apostle Paul, church growth was a process. Likewise, the Baptist campus ministry at Centre College in Danville has developed over time. The chief gardener has been Mark Pennington.

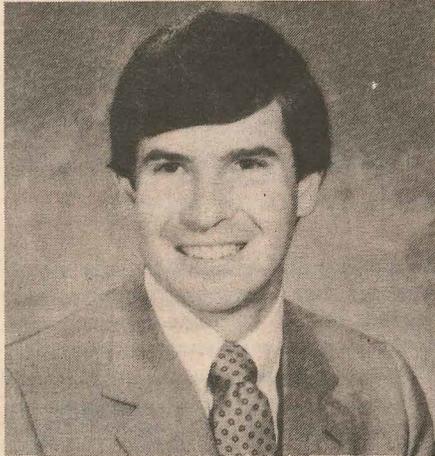
Pennington was born and raised in Columbia, Tenn. He attended Columbia State Community College before receiving his BS degree in Religion and Greek from Union University. Pennington earned a Social Work Certification from Middle Tennessee State University, then completed his MDiv degree in Pastoral Care at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Pennington's interest in campus ministry began at Columbia, where he was Baptist student leader. At Middle Tennessee State he became a graduate assistant campus minister. He then spent two years in Nairobi, Kenya as journeyman campus minister at the Kenya Science Teachers College.

While a student at Southern, Pennington shared his interest with Dwight Lyons, campus ministry director for metro-Louisville and other areas. They decided Pennington should begin a ministry at Centre.

The idea of a campus ministry was not foreign to the college. Attempts had been made by other campus ministers to include Centre in their scope of activity. Yet the ministry never took hold under this arrangement. When Pennington arrived, it had been several years since the campus had known any meaningful Baptist ministry.

From September 1981 to May 1985, Pennington cultivated the Christian community at Centre. How does one initially plant the seed for such an



endeavor? Pennington made a connection with College Life, an interdenominational fellowship already on campus. He offered a Bible study that attracted some of these students. Pennington spent the weekends in the home of a Danville family. Their hospitality allowed him to attend local churches and contact students there. On Sunday afternoons and Mondays, Pennington visited in the dormitories.

Pennington stated his main publicity those first months was "my presence on campus." The dorm visits were a priority, as was eating meals with students. He was aided by First Baptist Church and Lexington Avenue Baptist, who let him use their office equipment free. He was able to draw up posters to publicize events, and the campus post office allowed him to use the mail service at no charge.

As the seed of ministry grew, it was at first stunted by the college administration. "Most of the administration were not familiar with Baptist campus ministry," Pennington explained. "Some of the administration was a little

wary about what I would be doing on campus." Although approximately 150 of the 750 students were of Baptist preference, administration officials refused to give Pennington their names. It was not until the beginning of his third year that he was given the religious preference list for incoming students.

Another struggle was the venture to make the ministry one of the campus' charter organizations. It took one and one-half years, with Pennington doing most of the work himself. At last the requirements were completed and the student government voted affirmatively on the recommendation. "That was a real boost to the ministry," Pennington revealed. As a charter organization, the Baptist students were able to send a letter of introduction to all incoming freshmen. They also set up a booth to advertise the group among new students.

Did Centre students do much to nurture the young ministry? There were a large number of Baptist students, and Pennington found his activities well attended. Yet he "didn't find the students taking a lot of initiative to seek me out . . . it took time."

Support from Danville churches came more quickly. In addition to sharing office equipment, individual churches and the association offered financial help. Church members who had once been involved in student ministry themselves stressed the importance of this work to the associational executive board.

Pennington spoke warmly of the aid given by local churches. "I feel very privileged in my relationship to the churches because they were so supportive."

Pennington's efforts and the

churches' help became sunshine and water for the growing ministry. The Bible study started the first year continued all four years of Pennington's work at Centre. The second year he began a "lunch encounter." Churches took turns providing lunch to students. The meal was followed by an inspirational program. The third year saw the addition of a nursing home ministry. A choir was formed the fourth year, directed by Bruce Richardson of Lexington Avenue Baptist Church.

What was the most rewarding aspect of helping the ministry blossom? Pennington answered, "The opportunity to be personally involved in the lives of students . . . to see them in their faith. It was also good to see new programs take on a life of their own."

Today Centre's ministry continues under the leadership of David Harpe, also a Southern Seminary student. Pennington is currently planning on entering foreign missions campus ministry. He and his wife, Stacey, are in Charlotte, N. C. They are doing preparatory work with the Campus Ministry Association for Missions and Ministry.

Pennington remembered his work at Centre positively and expressed deep gratitude for the support of the local association. "I'm really grateful for the opportunity I had to be the arms and legs of ministry for Kentucky Baptists on Centre's campus. Opportunities like that don't come along very often. I'm grateful for all the support from Kentucky Baptists and the associational churches."

Campus ministry has taken root at Centre College. Through the willingness and work of many individuals, "God made it grow."

Laity abroad A new direction for Kentucky Baptists

by Todd Deaton, *Staff Writer*

Early in the 19th Century the spirit and movement of America seemed to be embodied by Horace Greeley's phrase, "Go West, young man." In the wake of that westward surge came the Second Great Awakening with the soul-stirring camp meetings and revivals of the Pentecost.

Kentucky Baptists have recently adapted Greeley's adage, but with a slight variation. The focus is no longer toward the West; the KBC is looking to the east—particularly the Far East.

And unlike the earlier religious movement, the driving force of the KBC's newest evangelism effort, Laity Abroad, is not from itinerant preachers, but church members who are traveling or working overseas.

According to the U. S. State Department, there are more than two million citizens living abroad. These people represent a wide variety of professional careers.

Excluding military personnel, the majority of those abroad are U. S. government employees. Others are involved in international businesses, industrial firms or educational institutions.

Approximately eight to 10 percent of those U. S. citizens living outside the

national boundaries are Southern Baptists. Thus, it is a safe estimation that between 130,000 and 150,000 Southern Baptist laity live abroad.

In 1976, the Southern Baptists committed themselves to Bold Mission Thrust, an effort to proclaim the gospel to every person in the world by the year A.D. 2000. Admittedly, Southern Baptists cannot accomplish this goal alone, but to do their part in this task will require the utilization of all available resources.

The Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, has recently become aware of an untapped resource for missions of thousands of Southern Baptists who go abroad to work in secular jobs, teach or study.

James W. Cecil, the FMB's associate director of consultant services, and Jackie Hollis, information coordinator for Laity Abroad, for the FMB, are seeking to identify lay persons who are moving overseas and are interested in being involved in missions.

According to Cecil, one of the primary objectives of the organization is to help lay persons and college students to prepare for a potential bivocational ministry abroad.

"Recent articles appearing in secular and Christian publications identify a growing number of foreign employment opportunities," claims Cecil. "Many of these are in countries where we do not

now have a traditional Southern Baptist missionary presence.

"The majority of these jobs being identified are in strategic life influencing fields such as education, medical science and food production. English is the only language skill needed in most of these positions," he concludes.

In Kentucky, the laity abroad project has become the foster child of William L. Kaufman, state Brotherhood Department director, and Ray Acree, a lay person whose recent visit to Kenya gave birth to an interest in foreign missions.

Kaufman is excited about Kentucky's decision to join a host of other states who are partners in the FMB project.

"Some nations may be closed to career missionaries but they are not closed to the gospel if Christians are present," he explains. "The Foreign Mission Board will contact those living abroad or going overseas. They will share information about their new home, customs, language and barriers to be overcome in an effort to help them adjust and to become better witnesses."

Acree eagerly offers his assessment of Laity Abroad: "The potential for this project is staggering. If we can get five percent of the 130,000 Southern Baptists overseas involved, this means an increase from the SBC's 3500 full

time missionaries to better than 10,000 witnesses for Christ at no extra cost to the FMB."

Among many of the regions of the world this project can reach, the eyes of the Foreign Mission Board are looking east toward China.

Employment opportunities in the People's Republic of China are increasing, giving Southern Baptists an opportunity to minister in a country closed to traditional missionary methods.

Within the last two years, the FMB has worked with more than 30 Southern Baptist lay persons who have lived and worked in China. Most of them have been teachers of English as a second language, but there have also been those in medical professions, petroleum companies, civil engineering and computer science.

Cecil states, "Recent reports indicate a preference for Christians to fill these positions since they cause less trouble and are more dependable than others."

Of the world's 223 nations, there are 106 where the SBC's foreign missionaries are present. Additionally, there are 81 countries where the SBC does not have missionaries, but a potential for tapping the resource of committed lay persons exists.

For more information contact the KBC Brotherhood Department, Midletown.

christian education

Addresses sought for past Hawaii missionaries

A reunion for student summer missionaries to Hawaii will be held in Atlanta June 11, during the Southern Baptist Convention. The Hawaii Baptist Convention is seeking addresses of the following people who have served as summer missionaries there:

Naomi Dodson, Louise West, Maxine Magrauder, Paul Mosletter, George Pruden, LaVerne Van Cleve, Nancy Bergman, John Parker, Patricia Parker, Neva Krahwinkel, Sue Chandler, Jim Fugate, Glenn Graber, Miller Ryle, Margaret Ruth Crider, Laura Lee Muntz, Judith Ann Rice, Cora Sweet, Nancy Hatter, Joanne Milby, Terry Rudd, Mary Hancock, Gary McDonald, David Conrad and Scott Shouse.

If you know the addresses of any of the above contact Don H. Kong, executive director-treasurer, Hawaii Baptist Convention, 2042 Vancouver Dr., Honolulu, Hawaii 96822.

Genetic engineering foe to speak at Georgetown

Jeremy Rifkin, an outspoken opponent of "questionable experimentation in the scientific community," will speak at Georgetown College Monday, Jan. 27 at 8 p.m. in the John L. Hill Chapel.

Rifkin is best known for his opposition to genetic engineering. He recently won a court case which forced the White House to establish an inter-agency task force to redefine government regulations over the emerging genetic engineering field.

He has assembled a coalition of religious leaders to fight certain forms of human genetic engineering.

Rifkin was also successful in a lawsuit which barred the Department of Defense from building a biological warfare research facility at Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah.

He is the author of eight books, the latest of which is *Declaration of a Heretic*, a critique of the "scientific world view" and the "age of progress."

There is no admission charge for the lecture.

Baptist colleges release fall enrolment figures

Southern Baptist colleges and universities experienced an overall gain in enrolment during the 1985 fall semester, according to figures released to the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Student enrolment in the 47 senior colleges and five junior colleges sponsored by their respective state conventions was 95,460, compared to 94,208 in 1984, an increase of 1.3 percent.

Figures include only students who enrolled in credit courses during the 1985 fall semester.

Palm Beach Atlantic College in West Palm Beach, Fla. had the largest percentage increase (11.6) while Southern Baptist College in Walnut Ridge, Ark. experienced the greatest percentage decrease (16.2).

Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director of the Education Commission, expressed optimism regarding the enrolment figures. He pointed out the number of 18- to 24-year-olds in the population dropped by three percent between 1980-84. Also, he said, following the end of the baby boom era in

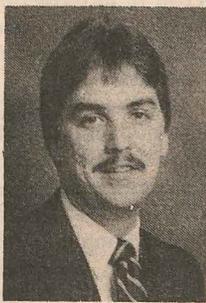
1964, this age group is much smaller and affects not only education but other segments of society.

In terms of total enrolment, Baylor University, Waco, Tex. is the largest Southern Baptist college with 11,481 students. Other schools in the top 10 in number of students are: Mercer University, 5237; Wake Forest University, 5062; University of Richmond, 4609; Samford University, 3669; Mississippi College, 3609; Campbell University, 3577; Furman University, 2952; Stetson University, 2794, and Houston Baptist University, 2775.

Kentucky's Baptist colleges—Campbellsville College (640, 0.8 percent increase); Cumberland University (2094, 0.6 percent decrease) and Georgetown College (1315, 1.3 percent increase)—enrolled 4049 students, 10 more than in 1984. (BP)

Kentuckian gets degree at Southeastern Seminary

Mark Derrick Partin of Middlesboro, Ky. received the master of divinity degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N. C., during commencement exercises on Dec. 14.



Partin, the son of John and Juanita Partin, is a graduate of Middlesboro High School and Cumberland College.

He is married to Charlene Scott Partin of Harrogate, Tenn.

Partin is now pastor of the First Southern Baptist Chapel, West Union, W. Va.

Comets are lecture topic at Georgetown College

Georgetown College will present a program entitled "Catch the Comet" using the unique environment of its planetarium in the George Matt Asher Science Center on Jan. 17, 20 and 24. The program will begin each evening at 7 o'clock.

Astronomer David Duszynski of the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History will discuss comets in general and Halley's Comet in particular.

Visitors will learn to find the comet in the planetarium's sky and will be provided with detailed observing information that will keep them busy in the real sky through April. Duszynski will also discuss telescopes and binoculars useful for comet watching. The Halley's

Comet lectures will have materials available for an attempted out-of-doors observation of this 1986 spectacular.

The early evening shows will cost two dollars per seat. Children held in laps will be admitted without charge. Reservations for seats can be made by calling Mrs. Betty Snyder at (502) 863-8034.

Duszynski holds the BS and MS degrees from Michigan State University.

Clinton pastor graduates with doctoral degree

Robert Harold Long of Symsonia, Ky. was one of 113 graduates who received degrees Dec. 21 during commencement exercises at New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary.

Long, pastor of First Baptist Church, Clinton, Ky. earned the ThD degree. He was a member of the 68th graduating class at the seminary.



He is married to the former Judy Ann Purdy of Dawson Springs, Ky., and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Long of Hickory, Ky.

Long's home church is Trace Creek Baptist Church, Mayfield, Ky. He holds a bachelor's degree from Murray State University and a master's degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Seminary staffer gets certified as fundraiser

Hankins F. Parker, director of estate planning at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, has been approved as a certified fund raising executive (CRFE) by the Certification Board of the National Society of Fund Raising Executives.

Parker is a graduate of Samford University, Auburn University and Southern Seminary. He has been pastor of Highland Baptist Church and Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, both in Louisville.

CRFE certification requires at least five years of full time experience in fundraising, success in helping to raise a significant amount of money for nonprofit organizations and contribution to the advancement of fundraising and philanthropic management. Also, each candidate must pass a written exam which tests fundraising skills and knowledge in all aspects of the field.

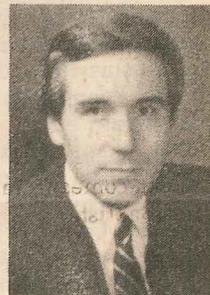


Eldred M. Taylor
Executive Director
10801 Shelbyville Road
Middletown, KY 40243

homes for children

The smile of God

On Jan. 2, 1986, Robin Oldham came to his new office and responsibilities with Baptist Homes for Children. I believe that we were led of the Lord to invite him to join our staff as associate director of development/communications.



When Robin Oldham reached the decision that this work was the will of God for him, he accepted our invitation. At that point I believe God smiled on Baptist Homes for Children. We are most fortunate to have a man of Robin Oldham's character, training, experience and Christian commitment join our team effort in caring for children.

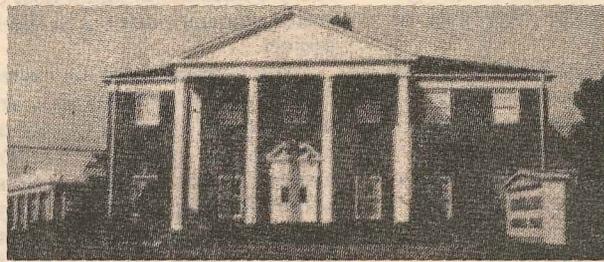
Mr. Oldham is a Kentuckian, educated at Georgetown College and the University of Kentucky. In addition to working in business and teaching school he has been serving Georgetown College for most of the past 13 years, with much of that time being in the area of communications, and recently as assistant to the president of Georgetown College.

Robin Oldham is a committed Christian involved in his church. He is a deacon, Sunday school teacher and has served on numerous committees. He is a Kentucky Baptist, familiar with what we believe, what our priorities are and how we do our work together. Robin is married to Jeana Cook and they have one daughter, Jane Hunter, 8.

As associate director of development/communications Mr. Oldham will serve under the leadership and direction of Tom Moore, who is the director.

Robin also joins me along with Tom Moore, Chuck Corrigan of Spring Meadows, and Buckley Carlin of Glen Dale in being available to speak to churches and interested groups, telling of our ministry to children. We appreciate the many calls that come to us in the fall months. However, we are available throughout the year. Any one of us will be most happy to come to your church any time. Why not give me a call at 1-800-292-9440 and let me work out a time for one of us to be with you and your group or church?

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mountains to the mississippi

personnel

Jim Nichols has been called to an associate position on the staff of Rose Hill Baptist Church, Ashland, Greenup Association. His responsibilities will largely encompass the evangelism, visitation and bus ministries of the church with some duties in religious education.

Nichols was a member of Rose Hill four years ago and returns to the church in staff position from work in Texas. He began his work at Rose Hill Sunday, Dec. 8.

Gib Tucker concluded his ministry at Ft. Mitchell Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association, to pastor Fifth Avenue Baptist Church, Rome, Ga.

Tucker had been pastor at Ft. Mitchell for nine years. He began his duties in Georgia Jan. 5.

Ernest Harris has been called as pastor of Greenview Baptist Church, Northern Kentucky Association.

Harris, a native of Winchester, will leave First Baptist Church, Albany. He and his wife Sandra have a daughter, Diane, at Georgetown College. Their son, Rick, will graduate at mid-term from Albany High School.

J. David Jicka has accepted the call as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville, Long Run Association.

Jicka comes from First Baptist Church, Sheffield, Ala. He has pastored churches in Kentucky and Tennessee.

He holds a BA degree from Belmont College, Nashville, Tenn. and an MDiv from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Keenan Franklin has accepted the position of minister of music at First Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, Rockcastle Association.

Franklin comes to Mt. Vernon from Ballards Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg. He is a graduate of Cumberland College.

Wallace Morris, pastor at Woodburn Baptist Church, Warren Association, resigned to become pastor of Crabtree Avenue Baptist Church, Owensboro, Daviess-McLean Association.

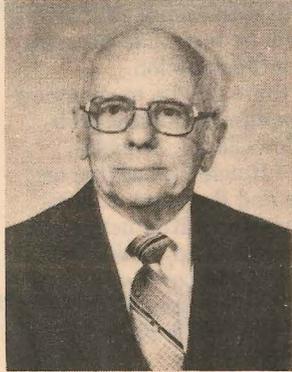
Phillip D. Ronk has resigned from Upton Baptist Church, Lynn Association, and is now pastor of Salem Baptist Church, Campbellsville, Taylor Association.

Salem Baptist Church celebrated this event by having an installation service during the morning worship Dec. 1. Special guests who welcome him were Robert Miller, mayor of Campbellsville; Al Hardy, vice president of business affairs, Campbellsville College; Henry T. Parrott, director of missions, Taylor Association; and Jack Arvin, chairman of deacons at the church.

Charles Lowe has accepted the position of minister of education and youth at First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville, Christian County Association.

Lowe and his wife, Gala, have three children: Charles Jr., 18, a student at Eastern Kentucky University; Angela, 15; and Shannon, 13.

He has an MDiv degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary,



White

Louisville, and comes to Hopkinsville from Lebanon Baptist Church, Central Association.

Paul D. Cannon resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Barlow, West Union Association, Dec. 8 to accept the call of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Marion, Ohio River Association. His first Sunday at Emmanuel was Jan. 12.

Karl Hudson, minister of youth at Melbourne Heights Baptist Church, Long Run Association, resigned during December to become minister of youth and church activities at Southeast Baptist Church, Murfreesboro, Tenn.

Hudson served at Melbourne Heights two years, and upon completion of his work at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, he will move to the full time position in Tennessee.

congregations

Thixton Lane Baptist Church, Louisville, will have Douglas White, Roanoke, Va., leading the January Bible study Jan. 19-22. Reggie Alderman is pastor.

White was born in British Columbia, Canada and migrated to Georgia. He served 25 years as pastor of First Baptist Church, Bassett, Va.

White has written several books with words by such people as Billy Graham, W. A. Criswell and Stephen Olford. He is the brother of the late K. Owen White, president of the SBC 1964-65.

First Baptist Church, Middletown, Long Run Association has approved a recommendation from its long-range planning committee to relocate the church facilities.

First Baptist is now located on Main Street in Middletown. The area is saturated with business establishments and the congregation can find no desirable space for expansion in the area.

Charles White, pastor of the Middletown church the past five years, said the congregation gave approval to an eight point plan covering the next several years. Central to the plan is the purchase of six to 10 acres of land in the Middletown area which would provide both adequate parking space and room for growth.

The congregation now averages about 143 in Sunday school in an educational building erected more than 30 years ago.

Northside Baptist Church, Princeton, Caldwell-Lyon Association, dedicated their new sanctuary on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 5. The building has been constructed in colonial style, featuring stained glass windows, and will seat approximately 560 people.

Northside was organizing on Sept. 4, 1949. The pastor is David Royalty.

Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, is planning its fourth annual



The Bruckerts

Christian Single Adult Winter Weekend Feb. 14-16.

The conference will be held in Nashville, Ind. Brown county is famous for its arts and crafts and is a popular resort area. Skiing, hiking and shopping excursions will be included.

The weekend retreat is priced at \$55 per person with four to a room, \$60 with three to a room, \$77 with two, and \$104 for a single. This registration fee covers two nights lodging, continental breakfasts, snacks, banquet and conference materials.

Kenneth Chafin, interim pastor at Walnut Street, and Gene Sutherland, minister of music, will be leading the conference.

Registration deadline is Jan. 24. For additional information call Jim Cobban, (502) 589-5290.

ordinations

Bob Tuttle and **Dennis Seener** were ordained Jan. 12 as deacons at Fairlane Baptist Church, Alexandria, Northern Kentucky Association. The ordination sermon was delivered by Rick Flory.

Al Grigson and **Marvin Lowe** were ordained as deacons by Greenview Baptist Church, Florence, Northern Kentucky Association Jan. 5.

Jonathan Jones was licensed for the ministry by Slate Branch Baptist Church, Somerset, Pulaski Association.

Larry Harmon was ordained to the ministry by First Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon, Rockcastle Association, Dec. 29. He is presently serving a church near Dallas, Tex.

Randy Burns and **Larry Carney** were recently ordained as deacons at Temple Baptist Church, Springfield, Central Association.

Joe Stanley, new pastor at Elizabeth Jarrell Baptist Church, Louisa, Greenup Association, was recently ordained to the ministry by the church.

Mark Birdwhistell, **J. T. Shelton**, and **John Thornberry** were ordained as deacons Dec. 8 at Sand Spring Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, Anderson Association. J. Terry Wilder is pastor.

William Blackwell and **Hubert Mullins** were ordained as deacons by First Baptist Church, Oak Grove, Christian County Association. John Sutter was installed as an active deacon.

John Walker is pastor at First Baptist, Oak Grove.

Robert Edens, **Kenneth Lafferty** and **William Stewart** were ordained as deacons at Sparta Baptist Church, Owens County Association, Dec. 8.

Former pastor Frank Farley gave the charge to the deacons, and associational missionary George Stack gave the

challenge to the church.

Randy Winslett is pastor at Sparta.

Brian Campbell was ordained as a deacon by Oak Grove Baptist Church, Fairdale, Long Run Association, Dec. 8. Dallas E. Catron is pastor.

missions

Greg W. Bruckert and **Susan Michele Bruckert** (see photo) were among 46 people named missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board Dec. 10 at Second Baptist Church, Richmond, Va.

The Bruckerts will work in Indonesia, where he will be a general evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. He is pastor of Mill Creek Baptist Church, Bardstown.

Born and reared in Louisville, Bruckert is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Bruckert. He considers Rockford Lane Baptist Church, Louisville, his home church.

He received the BA degree from Palm Beach Atlantic College, West Palm Beach, Fla. and the MA and MDiv degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Bruckert has been associate pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Delray Beach, Fla. and apartment house minister at Rockford Lane Baptist Church.

His wife, Susan Michele, is from Oklahoma City.

She received the BA degree from Palm Beach Atlantic College and has been a teacher in Louisville and Bardstown.

The Bruckerts have two children: Jennifer Michele, born in 1983, and Jonathan Mark, 1985. The family will go to Rockville, Va. in January for an eight-week orientation before leaving for Indonesia.

W. Lawrence [Larry] Baker and **Lou Anne Baker** (see photo) were reappointed as missionaries by the Foreign Mission Board during its December meeting in Richmond, Va.

The Bakers will work in Peru, where he will be a general evangelist and she will be a church and home worker. Since 1982 he has been pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenbrier, Tenn. They had been missionaries in Ecuador for four years before resigning in 1982.

Born in Ft. Campbell, Baker received the BS degree from Murray (Ky.) State University; the MDiv degree from New Orleans (La.) Baptist Theological Seminary; and the DMin degree from Vanderbilt University, Nashville.

His wife is the former Lou Anne Pool of Hopkinsville. She received the AA degree from the University of Kentucky, extension at Hopkinsville Community College, and the BS degree from Murray State University.

The Bakers have three children: Julie Ann, 9; Timothy Lawrence, 8; and Brian Frederick, 2. The family will return to the field in January.

deaths

David Morris, 34, organist at Harrodsburg Baptist Church, Mercer Association, died Dec. 13 after a three month illness.

Morris had been organist at the church 12 years. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Albrecht Morris of Salvisa.

Robert DeFoor is pastor at Harrodsburg.



baptist news in brief

Griffin Bell named for Crowder lawsuit

Former United States attorney general Griffin B. Bell has been retained by the Southern Baptist Convention to represent the convention in a lawsuit filed in the U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia in Atlanta.

On Dec. 5, a retired Birmingham, Ala. couple and a retired Navy chief from Windsor, Mo. filed suit against the SBC and its Executive Committee, claiming they were "irreparably harmed" by rulings, presiding and events at the 1985 annual meeting of the convention in Dallas.

The suit, filed by Robert S. Crowder and his wife, Julia, and Henry C. Cooper, seeks to have the election of the SBC Committee on Committees, Boards and Standing Commissions declared illegal and to prevent the 52 persons elected to the body in Dallas from serving as the nominators of persons to serve as trustees of the national agencies of the denomination.

Papers in the suit were served on the SBC just before Christmas, according to SBC attorney James P. Guenther of the Nashville, Tenn. lawfirm of Guenther and Jordan. Guenther said the SBC must file a response to the 18-page complaint by Jan. 20.

Guenther said Bell and the Atlanta lawfirm of King and Spalding will be the Georgia representatives of the convention and Executive Committee. Guenther and SBC Executive Committee president Harold C. Bennett have had a conference with Bell, planning the response.

Bell was attorney general during the presidency of fellow Georgian Jimmy Carter, serving as the attorney for the government 1977-79. Previously, he was judge of the U. S. Fifth Circuit Court of Civil Appeals from 1961-76. Bell is a member of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, has been a trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex., and Mercer University, Macon, Ga. (BP)

State people earn church music awards

Fifteen churches in Kentucky have been recognized for earning the most church music awards from October 1984 through September 1985.

First Baptist Church, Greenville, under the leadership of Bill McGibney earned 162 music awards. Other churches winning awards were Tiny Town, Guthrie, 24; Melbourne Heights, Louisville, 18; West Corbin, Corbin, 17; First Baptist, New Castle, 17; Rosedale, Richmond, 14; Hurstbourne, Louisville, 13; Liberty Avenue, Richmond, 12.

Churches which earned 11 awards were Calvary, Corbin; Sulphur Springs, Franklin; Waco, Waco; and Jeremiah, Jeremiah. Churches which earned 10 awards were Blue Springs, Princeton; Cloverleaf, Louisville; and Butler, Butler.

There are 1605 Kentuckians working toward a church music diploma.

House would strip Annuity of tax-exempt status

The House of Representatives has passed a proposed tax reform plan which would reinstate clergy housing benefits but also would strip church pension groups of their federal tax-

exempt status.

In passing the Tax Reform Act of 1985 by voice vote Dec. 17, House members ended a weeklong struggle between Republican congressmen and President Reagan. Republican members led an effort which kept the tax reform measure from reaching the House floor on the originally scheduled date. Reagan's lobbying efforts, however, convinced many of his maverick party members to bring the measure to the floor for debate and eventual passage.

Should the bill, in its present form, be passed by the Senate and signed into law by the president, ministers would regain the ability to claim mortgage interest and real estate tax deductions as well as tax-exempt housing allowances.

Under current tax law, only ministers who occupied their residence or had a contract to purchase one by Jan. 1, 1983, are eligible to declare mortgage interest and property tax deductions in addition to tax-exempt housing allowances. That eligibility is scheduled to extend only through tax year 1986.

The new measure would make revocation of current law retroactive, meaning ministers unable to claim mortgage interest and property tax deductions for tax years 1983 and 1984 would be able to file amended returns.

Another section of the Tax Reform Act would repeal tax exemption for any nonprofit organization if a "substantial part of its activities consists of providing commercial-type insurance," explaining such insurance "shall be treated as an unrelated trade or business."

Specifically exempted from the definition of "commercial-type insurance" is property or casualty insurance provided by churches or conventions or associations of churches. But the measure specifies further that "annuity contracts shall be treated as providing insurance."

In essence, the bill's language would strip the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and other church pension groups of their federal tax-exempt status.

Although the legislation technically would take effect Jan. 1, 1986, the House passed a non-binding resolution which would delay many of the changes for a year. (BP)

KCC legislative conference examines revenue, services

The biannual legislative conference sponsored by Kentucky Council of Churches' Commission on Religion and Public Policy will be held Feb. 7 in Frankfort. The focus of the conference will be upon issues of human services and revenue.

"It has been clear for some time that the discussion of such human services as health care, energy problems, social services and other human concerns cannot be undertaken apart from a discussion of revenue issues in Kentucky," says KCC executive Director John C. Bush. "In the 1982 and 1984 sessions of the General Assembly, we were among the few voices raising such unpopular viewpoints," he continued, "but now almost everyone is saying it."

This year the revenue issue is more controversial because the 1986 session of the Kentucky General Assembly will consider proposing a constitutional amendment to allow a state-run lottery in Kentucky. One session of the conference will address the question, "A Kentucky Lottery: Yes or No?" Two

legislators, both with strong church connections, will be invited to present the two sides of the question.

In addition, there will be an overview of the state's budget and fiscal problems by Rep. Joe Clarke, Danville, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations and Revenue. A comprehensive overview of Kentucky's tax system, its strengths and weaknesses, will be given by David Lowrey, formerly professor of political science at the University of Kentucky and now in a similar post at UCLA.

There will be presentations of some specific human services issues of interest to a church constituency, including health care, energy and social services. A prayer service will open the conference, and biblical reflections will occur at various points during the day.

The conference will begin at 9 a.m. and will conclude around 4:30 p.m. There is a registration fee of \$10, payable to Kentucky Council of Churches, to register or for information write Commission on Religion and Public Policy/KCC, 1039 Goodwin Dr., Lexington, KY 40505 or call 606/253-3027.

Missionary educator dies after long illness

Cecile Lancaster, 90, a member of the first faculty of Seinan Jo Gakuin Baptist girl's school in Japan died Jan. 2. The emeritus Southern Baptist missionary died in a Houston nursing home after a long illness.

Miss Lancaster began her 40-year career in 1920, two years before the girl's school was founded in Kokura, Japan. In 1976 she was honored for her community service by the Japanese American Citizens League of Houston, and Sept. 25 was proclaimed "Cecile Lancaster Day."

She was a member of Houston's Tallowood Baptist Church, had worked with the international ministry and had spoken to a number of other groups in the church. Her funeral was in the church Jan. 6.

For many years at Seinan Jo Gakuin, Lancaster taught all beginning English classes to meet new students as soon as possible. An estimated 2000 girls were in her classes. From 1934 to 1957 she was the school's vice president.

During World War II she taught at the Gila River Japanese relocation camp in Arizona and worked among the Japanese in Texas and Hawaii. She returned to Japan in 1947 and in 1952 was named by the Emperor's Cabinet Board of Decoration to the "order of the Sacred Treasure" for her education work among Japanese women.

New seminary program will emphasize the arts

Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, has announced establishment of a Center for Religion and the Arts, according to president Roy L. Honeycutt.

The new center will offer resources for developing and producing programs in the arts in local churches and provide students an opportunity for learning ministry through the arts, according to director William L. Hendricks.

Hendricks, who is also professor of

Christian theology and director of graduate studies at Southern Seminary, projects a PhD in religion and the arts through the center, as well as short-term courses taught by artists in various media.

The center will present a major production each year. This April and May the center will host a festival of the arts, focusing on women and the arts.

"Baptists have often used spoken and musical arts," Hendricks points out. "Our hope is that the center will bring to bear the gospel on all forms of the arts and in turn gain from them new ways of offering creative service to God."

\$1 million donated for Baylor law chair

Joseph L. Allbritton and his wife, Barbara, have honored Baylor University president emeritus Abner V. McCall donating \$1 million to the Baylor School of Law to establish an endowed chair in McCall's name.

The Allbrittons, who live in Houston and Washington, have donated the money to establish the Abner V. McCall Chair of Evidence. The chair is the seventh endowed chair in the Baylor School of Law, according to Charles W. Barrow, professor of law and dean of the law school.

McCall has been at Baylor more than 50 years as student, professor, law school dean, president, chancellor and now president emeritus. (BP)

Long Run Association wins study course award

Long Run Association was among the top 25 associations in the Southern Baptist Convention receiving 1984-85 study course awards, church study course records indicate.

Long Run Association ranked 15th in 25 among other associations in the convention with 4315 awards, according to Baptist Sunday School Board church study course records.

First Baptist Church Lone Oak, Paducah, led the Kentucky convention in study course awards for 1984-85 with 389.

Other top ranking Kentucky churches were Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington, with 368 awards; First Baptist Church, East Bernstadt, 360; and First Baptist Church, Madisonville, 355.

Africa crisis still acute according to reports

Africa may be moving from a crisis of acute hunger to a crisis of chronic hunger, underscoring the need for long-term assistance and development.

Recent assessments by hunger relief and development organizations working in Africa illustrate both significant progress and continued need. Reports from famine-stricken countries indicate that while emergency food aid requirements for 1986 may be half the amount needed in 1985, millions of people will still have critical food needs.

The U. N. Office for Emergency Operations in Africa noted in a recent status report the emergency is still "acute" in 12 countries.

Rains have returned to part of the continent, but they have been too little, too late for harvests in many areas. In addition, transportation problems and civil strife in some countries have continued to hamper relief efforts. (BP)



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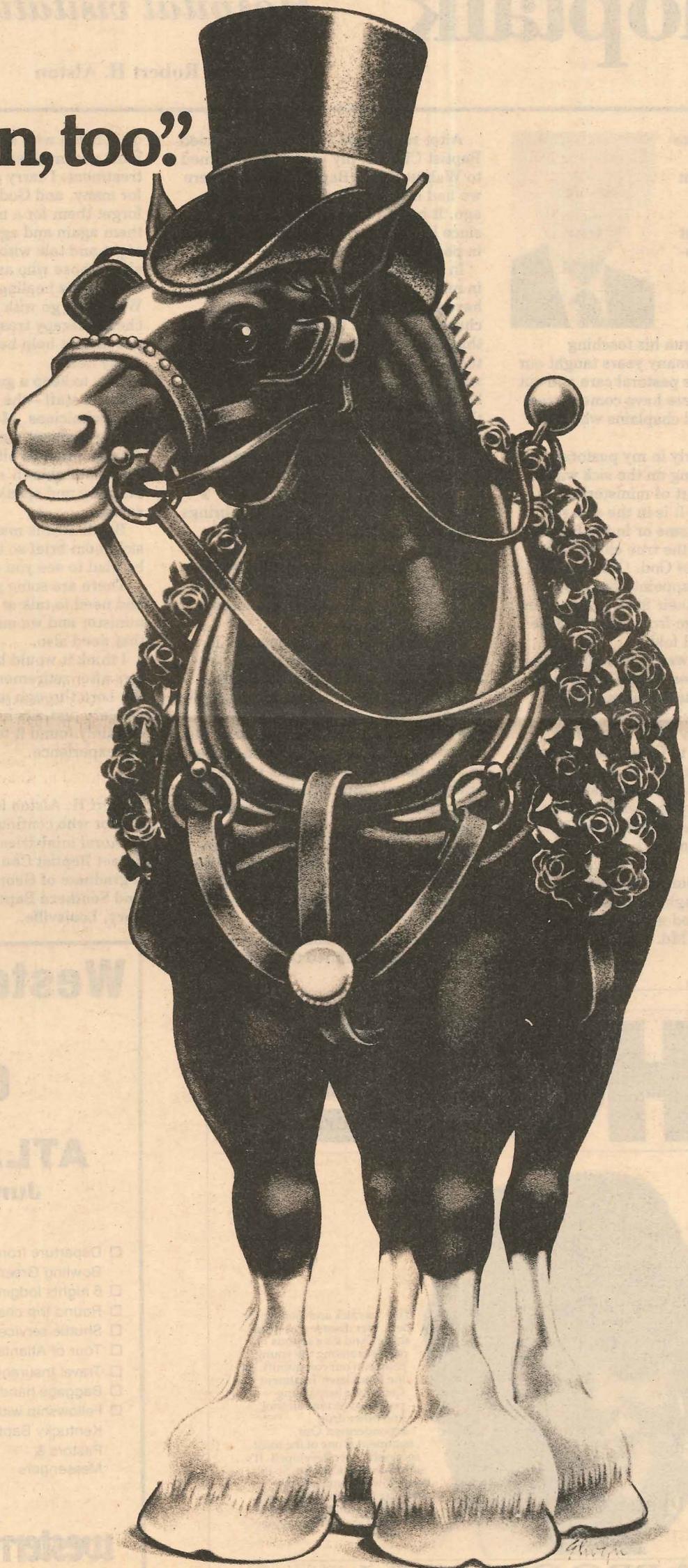
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Shoptalk

Hospital visitation

by Robert H. Alston

I am happy to write an article on hospital visitation, but I want it to be understood at the onset that I am not a professional hospital chaplain. When I attended Southern Baptist Seminary, Wayne Oates had not begun his teaching career. Oates for many years taught our seminary students pastoral care and out of his teaching there have come a great corps of dedicated chaplains who serve in our hospitals.



I discovered early in my pastoral ministry that calling on the sick was a very important part of ministering to my congregation. It is in the sick room whether it be at home or in the hospital that you discover the true characteristics of the jewels of God. Out of affliction, pain and disappointment they have held fast to their faith and trust in the living God. I go from their bedside blessed a hundred fold.

My experience was in the chaplaincy of the United States Army, in many respects a continuation of my hospital visitation in civilian life. Even when in combat in Italy, I would go back once a week to Caserta and Naples to visit our men in the general hospitals. The field hospitals such as many have seen on the television show "MASH" were close behind the front line and we kept in touch with our men there also.

I was recalled during the Korean conflict, and though I did not see combat, I continued my hospital ministry at Ft. Meade, Md. and Whittier, Alaska.

After retirement from the Hazelwood Baptist Church, my wife and I returned to Walnut Street Baptist Church where we had met and married many years ago. It has now been over 11 years since I began my work at Walnut Street in pastoral ministries.

In hospital visitation we must keep in mind the purpose of our visit. We have come representing our and his church. We want the patient to know that our heavenly father is aware of their needs and their pain and that he will keep them by his power. After a brief visit I always have prayer with them and include the patient in the next bed if they are in a semi-private room. Sometimes I quote an appropriate hymn such as "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" or "Just When I Need Him Most." I have found the 23rd Psalm often brings a calm to one who is distressed and anxious.

I try to enter the room with a smile and leave a smile. However, there are occasions when I slip in, have a brief prayer and slip out.

We must remember the patient is paying dearly for the care they are receiving and we do not want to cause any additional anxiety or uncomfortable feeling. If the doctor should come in to see the patient after I have entered the sick room, I excuse myself immediately. The patient needs to talk with him and ask many questions that are very important. I go back after the doctor's visit.

If the patient is having serious surgery, such as open heart, I sit with the family, have prayer with them and wait for the good news that the patient is in recovery and doing well.

If you really care and want to help those who are confined to the hospital

or at home with serious illness, you must get involved with them and their treatment. I carry a burden on my heart for many, and God forbid that I would forget them for a moment. I pray for them again and again. I wake up in the night and talk with my heavenly father about those who are so desperately in need of his healing grace and power. When you go with them through the chemotherapy treatment and radiation you cannot help but be a part of their many needs.

I try to keep a good rapport with the medical staff—the doctors, nurses and the technicians. Most of them know me by my frequent visits to the hospital. It amazes me how often many of them watch our church's telecast on Sunday morning and speak to me about the service.

By all means make your visit to the sick room brief so that the patient will be glad to see you on your next visit.

There are some patients who desire and need to talk at length with the minister and we must be sensitive to that need also.

I think it would be great for all pastors after retirement to continue serving the Lord through ministering to those who are patients in the hospitals. I have certainly found it to be a most rewarding experience.

Robert H. Alston is a retired Baptist pastor who continues to work on the pastoral ministries staff at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville. He is a graduate of Georgetown [Ky.] College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

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baptist forum



Leon Simpson
President
Clear Creek Baptist School
Pineville, KY 40977

clear creek comment

A growing faith

In 2 Pet. 3:18 we read these words: "But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ."

I was reminded of these words recently during our winter faculty retreat at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly. We began our retreat by evaluating our lives as persons, as Christians and as professors during 1985.

The emphasis of the retreat as we entered into 1986 was on improvement. It is true that God loves us and accepts us just as we are. Praise the Lord that we are saved by faith without working for it or reforming and improving ourselves to earn it.

However, the Lord does not intend to leave us as we are. We are to grow, to improve and to get better as his servants and disciples. Paul expressed it in 2 Cor. 4:16, "Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

Therefore, it is most appropriate to take a personal inventory as we begin the new year. What is my greatest strength as a Christian? Where can I improve? Have I had a fresh experience with the Lord recently? Have I had a recent vital devotional experience?

Have I already been enriched by a sweet hour of prayer or a time of reading God's word in this new year? Do I share meaningful worship in my church regularly? And the most important question, "Will I be available to God in 1986? Will I allow him to work in and through my life his good and perfect will?"

We are not only saved by faith, but are to grow in faith and have a growing faith. Perhaps the greatest need in Christ's church today is for his people to be truly revived and committed to him. We should commit ourselves daily to go and grow for Jesus!

Lord, I commit myself to grow in grace in 1986—I want to have a growing faith!

We are all blind, until we see/That in the human plan/Nothing is worth/the making if/It does not make the man./Why build these cities glorious/If man unbuilt goes?/In vain we build the work, unless/The builder also grows.—Edwin Markham

Immorality will reap barbarism

Pornography and explicit rock and roll is turning millions of young Americans to illicit sex, Satanism, profanity, drugs and violence. It is making some people rich while it is moving our country toward a dark night of paganism and barbarism.

Soft porn, hard porn, adult porn and kiddie porn are the work of a sick society. All of it including the big name pornographic magazines will have to be prohibited by law if we are to remain a civilized people.

Rock and roll lyrics that glorify sex, Satanism, profanity, drugs and violence will have to be prohibited too if we are to avoid an age of barbarism.

Pornography will not just go away. We will have to stand up and make it go away.

William R. Hagan, Taylorsville

Reader enjoys profiles page

Please accept my appreciation for the section "Profiles from my Old Kentucky Home" which has appeared in Western Recorder for several months. I have read with much interest these stories of people of whom the Kentucky Baptist Convention is made.

Keith Rogers, Loyall

Gratitude for Western Recorder

I have not met a person who did not appreciate a word of gratitude and encouragement concerning their work. With this thought in mind I will share with you and your staff how much Johnny Wortham enjoyed reading each issue of Western Recorder.

Because of his failing health, Mr. Wortham has not been able to read Western Recorder for about two months. Tissie, his wife, told me about his interest in the paper. He was an informed Baptist and in its own way Western Recorder made a contribution to his life as a Baptist.

Mr. Wortham was 87 and died on his 67th wedding anniversary which came on Thanksgiving Day. I thought you would like to know.

Vernon E. Johnson, Cecilia

Letter's publication draws protest

The executive board of the Lincoln County Association of Baptist Churches met on Dec. 2, 1985.

A motion was made that a letter of protest be made to the editor of Western Recorder concerning an article printed on Nov. 5, found on page 8 under "Baptist Forum," by E. Gains Davis Jr. of Frankfort.

We give Mr. Davis the freedom to believe as he may choose, our point of complaint was in the printing in Western Recorder.

We have noticed that so much of the printed materials is of a negative or controversial nature.

We feel Kentucky Baptists are doing many great things; we do not hear too much about this.

We feel that if more positive things of the work being done of things that should be done would be more meaningful or instructive to our local churches.

We are looking forward to seeing more material in Western Recorder that would be more instructive, inspirational and beneficial in nature to the average church member.

We of the association believe that this would enhance more of our church-

es to use Western Recorder.

Clyde W. Rhea, Moderator
Jesse B. Seabaster, D.O.M.
Elmer A. Elliott, Clerk

L.O.V.E. will heal controversy

I have just finished reading the edition of Western Recorder about the controversial SBC bylaw plan (Nov. 26).

Let me make a few suggestions for our convention. I am of the opinion that too little work makes for idle hands (and mouth). The controversy would end if there were supervision of the people to keep everyone busy. I, therefore, propose the following:

In an effort to improve employe job performance, the management (our Lord) has set individual goals of achievement. Each employe will be expected to demonstrate a Level of Volume Expectancy (L.O.V.E.).

It has been apparent there is a non-observable Level of Volume Expectancy (N.O.L.O.V.E.).

Department heads, supervisors and leaders who consistently demonstrate acceptable L.O.V.E. will become a Level of Volume Expectancy Reporter (L.O.V.E.R.).

Employees in a department who reach these individual goals will be recognized as a L.O.V.E. department (L.O.V.E.D.).

Do you suppose the world would get the idea we are Christ's disciples if we demonstrate L.O.V.E.?

Rick Reynolds, Payson, Ariz.

Letter/check from Kuwait

A check made out for \$150 to "Lottie Moon Christmas was on the Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East. It was from Mr. and Mrs. Dean French who teach in an American school in Kuwait.

The check had this letter of explanation from Mrs. French's parents, Rev. and Mrs. Frank Florence.

Our daughter Linda sent this check to us, saying, "See that this goes to Lottie Moon." So I'm sending it to you to put in the offering Sunday at the church. There aren't any Baptist churches in Kuwait and no missionaries allowed. Dean and Linda tithed at a community church where they attend and both sing in the choir. But they don't have the Baptist organizations, which they miss. Dean was a summer missionary three summers while in college. Linda visited

her parents where they were on the mission field in Colombia. They both know the importance of foreign missions.

Grant's Lick Baptist Church and pastor, Bill Barnard, are indeed thankful for the opportunity to put this with their Lottie Moon offering.

Bill Barnard, Alexandria

Pastors usurp lay authority

In response to your editorial in the Dec. 17, 1985 issue you evidently "write and speak" with forked pen.

Have you looked at the lack of laymen on boards and agencies in the KBC? How many laymen are on the Western Recorder board of directors? How many laymen chair a committee in the KBC? How many layman chair a committee of the KBC executive committee?

Apparently the pastors in Kentucky not only claim but have exclusive leadership of the Lord in the matters of KBC Life. You do not have to be a genius to figure out the pastors have a power hungry arrogance and have so demonstrated the past 30 years.

So how can you write such an editorial about the pastors that have a different view than you on SBC life when we have an imbalance between pastors and laymen in the leadership in the KBC. Let's clean up the act in Kentucky, then let's look at the SBC.

Articles like this just add fuel to the fire of controversy in the SBC. Why don't you just stick to reporting facts and not what you personally feel.

Ken Curry, Brandenburg

Lindsay, keeping the faith?

When I read what Harold Hunter and Homer Lindsay Jr. said about messengers to the SBC I thought, "Dear Lord, whatever happened to the freedom that has been preached by Baptists from our founding days?"

Your editorial expressed so perfectly and accurately how I feel about this subject. For someone to preach about their conservatism and inerrancy, and then so blatantly deny the Bible truths, appears to be contradictory in nature. When God removes the scales and blinds from their eyes, I trust they will see the whole truth.

B. E. McGarvey, Paducah



Basketball Tournament

1986 Annual Kentucky Baptist Invitational

February 7 - 8, 1986

Campbellsville, Kentucky

Limited to first 32 teams that apply before January 24;

KHSAA Rules;

Entry Fee \$50.00 per team;

Awards and tournament breakfast.

For more information and registration form

Campbellsville Baptist Church

Attention: Scott Wilkins Campbellsville, Kentucky 42718

502-465-8115



Barkley Moore
President
Oneida Baptist Institute
Oneida, KY 40972

oneida journal

With open arms

A young man of excellent ability and beautiful personality ran away from our school a year ago. I still do not know why and apparently he doesn't either. It was just an impulsive act. Unfortunately he shortly afterwards got into some rather serious trouble while in his "macho" mood.

I hear from him from time to time, as I do so many of our former students, girls and boys. His latest:

"Hi! I just thought it would be nice if I wrote and found out how things are going at Oneida. I've been improving in my attitude toward my life and my mother. I must say that I do miss Oneida. The school was like a home to me. Oneida grows on you with its warm, friendly atmosphere. Some day I wish to visit Oneida again with your permission. I really would like to see the campus again.

"I'm still very sorry for the trouble I caused you and your faculty. What I did was not right. I had no reason to do it. With your permission, maybe I will come back to school next year. If not then, perhaps the year I graduate. Your son."

Other letters in a file of such letters include "Our daughters loves school there. We're so happy you accepted her with such open arms."

An Ohio mother writes: "Thank you so much for your help with Jo Beth. I can tell by her letters it is doing her a lot of good. I am so glad she is there. In our town there is a big gang of kids doing drugs, alcohol and sex. The police had to bring one of her friend's

home. Her mother is heartsick. She said 'Thank God Jo Beth is where she is.' I do.

"I pray God will bless and reward you now and forever.

"Jo Beth is a smart girl and Satan has tried his best to ruin her life. With love and prayers for all of you involved in this great business for God."

A doctor writes from South Carolina: "I am very pleased with my son's progress at Oneida. His attitude and feeling of self esteem seem to have improved. He is improving academically in all areas except mathematics. Thank you for what you have done for our son."

A \$1000 donation came from the aunt of a young man we worked with for some years, who really struggled, and did graduate. She writes: "We appreciate your staying in touch with Tim. We will always be grateful for all who helped him at Oneida. Come see us anytime."

The son of an atomic scientist came to us several years ago. He was a very unhappy young man. His academic record was pitiful. Today he is doing wonderful work. He is looking forward to college and has been tested at far above average ability. He really has it altogether. The delighted parents write: "Thank you for all your staff has done for Rex. He speaks highly of the school and is now proud of himself."

Another happy parent writes: "Frank has made one visit since we enrolled him. We are pleased with the changes we see in him already. He is more thoughtful of his family. He has more confidence in himself. What is more important he has learned to pray. Now he talks to the Lord like he was talking to his dearest friend.

"It is my prayer that Frank will continue to like the school and that he stays until he graduates. He has friends who are trying to get him to quit and come home. My thanks for what has already been accomplished. Most of all, I thank the Lord because I can see prayers being answered."

And another mother writes: "I have spoken with Rodney several times since his arrival four weeks ago. He tells me he is enjoying the school. I talked to the dean once and he said Rodney is adjusting well. I thank God daily that I have found out about Oneida and my child is a student there. You and your staff are to be highly commended for your work."

My staff and I thank God for each day of life and the opportunity to touch so many other lives.



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

sunday school lessons

LESSONS FOR JAN. 19, 1986

International Series

Concern for others

Matthew 25:31-33 Here we have a graphic picture of the assize of the surviving nations. With unerring accuracy the righteous judge will separate into two groups those appearing before him on that occasion. They will be separated into two groups, those who have done good unto the brethren and those who have done evil to them. The "sheep," who have done good to the brethren, will be placed at the right hand of the judge. The "goats," those who have done evil to the brethren, will be placed at the left of the judge. John 5:22 informs us that "the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son." Therefore, this division or separation will be made by "the son of man," who has full and perfect knowledge of all the nations.

Matthew 25:34-45 Speaking to those on the right, the judge will invite them to enter upon the enjoyment of the kingdom prepared for them prior to the foundation of the world. The commendation which they will receive will be expressions of gratitude for what they have done for him—feeding him, giving him drink, welcoming him as a stranger, clothing him, and visiting him when he was sick and in prison.

To those on the left, Christ will speak a message of rejection in the command: "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."

Matthew 25:46 The eternal destiny of each is determined by his or her acceptance or rejection of Christ. Those who reject him will spend eternity where Christ will not be, and their punishment will be eternal, just as the bliss of the righteous in heaven with Christ will be eternal.

Life and Work Series

Live by love's standard

Matthew 5:17-20 To avert any possible misunderstanding concerning his personal attitude toward the law, Christ told his disciples, and the others who heard him, he had not come to destroy the law and the prophets but to fulfill its demands completely. Would to God that all who profess to be his followers had the same regard for God's law which Christ had!

In verse 19 Christ denounced those religious leaders who were minimizing the importance of the commandments. The righteousness of the Pharisees was self-fabricated and selfish in that it was a bid for admiration and applause. But the righteousness which is required of us is implanted by the Holy Spirit, and is expressed in the actual doing of God's will.

Matthew 5:43-48 The Mosaic Law enjoined upon all the duty of love for neighbors—"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Lev. 19:18). Corrupt Jewish rabbis taught this command and then added "and hate thine enemies."

In sharp contrast, Christ taught his followers that it was their duty to love their enemies. By his own life he demonstrated how to do that very thing. Christ had many bitter enemies. They resented his teachings, sought his life and eventually put him to death. While hanging on the cruel cross Christ prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). Thus he gave a very forceful demonstration of his admonition, "Bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." This command was in perfect accord with the life of Christ for it was for his enemies that he gave himself. By manifesting a genuine love for our enemies we can identify ourselves as followers of Christ.



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

on mission together

Vulnerable

Living and traveling in the Middle East sensitized me to the awareness of vulnerability at any time and at any place. On a regular journey to what was then East Pakistan, war broke out and I managed to get on what was the last plane out of Dacca before the airfield was bombed. I was stuck for a time in Karachi and ultimately evacuated to Tehran.

The book *From Death to Life—Bangladesh* written by a fellow Kentucky missionary Jim McKinley reflects not only those events but the intense agony of the war which followed during which our missionaries "stayed by the stuff"

in extremely vulnerable service.

Ed Nicholas, now missionary in war torn Lebanon, and nurse Mavis Pate were enroute from Gaza to Israel when their vehicle was fired upon. Mavis was killed and Ed severely wounded. Mavis Pate is buried in Gaza where she served.

Missionaries in Lebanon since April 1975—almost 11 years now—have endured a civil war so complex that no knowledgeable person judges himself capable to explain. Our own family experienced the first eight months of that war.

Kentucky's own missionary Mabel Summers has "stayed with the stuff" in Lebanon for 37 years of service and is still there after her retirement last year!

Missionary Jim Philpot was shot and killed just a few months ago after a minor traffic incident in the world's largest city—Mexico City. I had the privilege of helping Jim and Juhree, his precious wife, through the FMB ap-

pointment process back in the 60s.

It is always left to someone else to tell about the valor of missionaries. Missionaries are silent on this subject.

But somebody needs to keep reminding us about the vulnerability which those "who will go for us" assume in our behalf.

As for me, I've had three different jobs and lived in three different locations since my family and I flew out of the war in Lebanon in 1975—all three safer locations.

But the missionaries who tearfully hugged us goodbye from the parking lot of Beirut Baptist School are still there, 11 years later, doing the same job, "staying by the stuff" for the rest of us. Jim and Leola Ragland epitomize "vulnerability" for the sake of Christ.

In the middle of our state-side "war of words" and "devastating self destruction," it would be good for us to remember and thank God for those who are willing to live in the middle of real wars for the sake of the gospel.

The Sanctity of Human Life: A Prayer

O God, our Father, we pause today in special celebration of thy gift of life.

We celebrate the sanctity of human sexuality, the sanctity of family life, and the sanctity of new life which begins in thy divine providence and develops from earliest conception according to thy divine plan. We celebrate the sanctity of the life of newborn babies and the sanctity of the lives of the mothers and fathers responsible for parenting them. We celebrate the sanctity of the life of young children, laughing and playing, the sanctity of the life of mature adults, toiling and serving, and the sanctity of the life of the aging, crowned with experience and wisdom.

Help us, we pray, to be good stewards of thy gift of life. Help us as people created in thy image and after thy likeness always to deal responsibly with the awesome powers of procreativity with which thou hast endowed humanity. Help us never to treat carelessly that life with which we are entrusted by thee and for which we are responsible to thee.

Enable us, we pray, to be instruments of thine in rejecting the abuse of sex, the abandonment of moral values, and the tragic epidemic of abortions now plaguing not only the world but also our own beloved country. Enable us to feel true compassion and to provide clear counsel for any who are tempted to leave thee out of their decisions about sex, marriage, pregnancy, children, or any of the other great issues of life.

Give us, we pray, eyes of faith to see that our human sexuality is thy unique gift to be used only in accordance with thy divine purposes. Give us hearts of hope to energize us for improving the quality of life for all thy children everywhere. And give us hands of love to model both our lives and our ministries on thy disciplines and by thy grace.

In the name of Jesus, "the way, the truth, and the life," we pray. Amen.

Observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

January 19, 1986

Five new missionaries end worker drought in Lebanon

by Frances Fuller

Five Southern Baptist missionaries have begun language study in Lebanon, a country that hasn't had that many new missionaries in a decade.

Karl and Thelma Weathers of Arkansas, Gary and Jeree White and Russell Futrell of Louisiana all have come to Lebanon with a firm conviction that it is God's place for them, in spite of the daily hazards of living there.

Jeree White grew up in Lebanon as an MK (missionary kid) and always had an inclination to come back, but her husband, Gary, used to say, "I would never go to Lebanon." It took a long process of prayer and thinking to change his mind.

The Weatherses feel God gave them no choice. "We waited 11 years for a mission appointment, and the first time a job that suited our qualifications opened up, it was in Lebanon. So we didn't doubt that we were supposed to take it," they said.

They were appointed to work with the Beirut Baptist School. They have two children, Eddie, 13, and Elizabeth, 12.

Futrell first came to Lebanon as a journeyman in 1978. For two years, he worked among university students in west Beirut. When he left Lebanon, he promised everyone he was coming

back. By the time he finished a master's degree in linguistics at Louisiana State University and a year at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, the situation was more uncertain than ever in Lebanon.

The Weatherses have faced a lot of open opposition from well-meaning family members and friends who felt they would "get themselves killed" or that it was unfair to take two children into a war zone. Such statements also caused the children to become apprehensive. Living in Lebanon turned out to be the best antidote to those fears.

Five days after the Whites arrived in Lebanon, there was an afternoon of heavy shelling. Two shells fell in the front yard, and Gary threw himself across the baby to protect him from flying glass.

Jeree, daughter of Bill and Vivian Trimble, missionaries in Lebanon since 1971, says, "It takes a certain kind of person to live here." With a laugh, she says, "a crazy person," and then becomes serious again. "We live here with the basics—just life and death. Even the mission has narrowed everything down to the basics. But the Lord has given us a love for these people that I can't explain. I want to be an encourager." (BP)

Bone marrow transplant

Seminary professor gives life to brother with leukemia

by Mark Wingfield

A Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary professor has donated part of himself to give life to his brother.

Boo Heflin, associate professor of Old Testament, donated a quart of his bone marrow in an effort to save his only brother, Johnny, whose leukemia was diagnosed this summer.

Without the transplant, Johnny might have lived another five years. Currently he is recovering from the transplant and has a 50-50 chance of eventually returning to a "normal" life.

The medical procedure began Nov. 9 at the University of California at Los Angeles. First, Johnny was given chemotherapy and radiation in a procedure Boo called almost a "killing of the whole blood system."

Boo had to be nearby throughout the procedure because once started, the process is irreversible. If something had happened to Boo, such as a plane crash, his brother would have been left without much of his own blood and any of his marrow. Boo literally gave life to his brother.

He was jabbed in the hip 75 to 100 times during the four-hour extraction. Doctors pounded on his hip to force the marrow out. Afterward, he felt for a while like he had arthritis in the hip.

After the transplant, Boo donated more blood platelets, which will help Johnny's body accept the new bone marrow until he can produce his own.

Fortunately, Boo, 43, and Johnny, 40, are highly compatible for the operation. "Johnny and I are almost a perfect match," Boo said. Generally, such

a close match is found only in identical twins, he explained.

"If I had not been a match for him, the chances of finding another donor would have been slim," Boo said.

Boo sees the match as just one of God's preparations for this operation. Until last year he had been 60 pounds overweight. He lost the weight not realizing he might be a donor for his brother. So when he faced the grueling transplant procedure, he found himself "in the best health I've been in as an adult."

That minimized his own risk, although such a procedure poses many risks anyway.

But Boo volunteered his marrow and blood without hesitation. "This is my brother," he said. "My prayer has been that I would match."

He commended his brother's strong witness through the illness. "He has used this as an opportunity to testify for his Lord," he said. Johnny, president of Terminix termite and pest control in Little Rock, Ark. sent a letter to his employes just before his departure for Los Angeles. In it he wrote, "I know where my strength lies. That strength is all powerful and never runs out."

The first year is a critical time, Boo said, because Johnny's body is especially susceptible to disease. "We are living with a perilous situation," he said.

Boo at first hesitated to talk too much about his donation. But a student changed his mind by pointing out the parallel between Boo's experience and the gospel.

"There is a sense," the student said, "in which you really are giving your life

to your brother." Boo recalled the passage from John 15: "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

His donation of bone marrow and blood platelets to save a dying man is a

CLC meeting on apartheid issues 'Call to Concern'

by David Wilkinson

Sixteen Baptist leaders have issued a "Call to Concern" which expresses support "for all who are working to dismantle the evil system of apartheid" in South Africa.

The statement was approved unanimously at a Dec. 12 meeting in Nashville entitled "Southern Baptists and Apartheid: A Consultation on Racial Reconciliation, Human Rights, and Justice."

The consultation was sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention under the leadership of W. David Lockard, the agency's director of organization.

In addition to the Christian Life Commission, the meeting involved representatives, both black and white, from the Southern Baptist Foundation, Baptist World Alliance, Home and Foreign Mission Boards, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Baptist Sunday School Board. Other participants were pastors of Baptist churches and representatives from state Baptist conventions.

In the statement, consultation par-

ticipants expressed their conviction that the issues addressed in the document "are not peripheral concerns merely tagged on to the Christian gospel but rather are fundamental concerns that are central to the Christian mission and that belong to the very heart of the Christian gospel."

The "Call to Concern" intentionally avoided specific mention of divestiture, choosing rather to "urge that future economic policies be developed wisely and applied courageously to help in moving the entire South African society away from apartheid."

The statement praised those "men like Bishop Tutu and those women like Winnie Mandela together with those imprisoned leaders and hundreds of slain protestors who have valiantly laid down their lives for the cause of human dignity and freedom."

The statement called on Southern Baptists to urge their elected officials "to challenge apartheid and oppose racism in all of its manifestations and wherever it may be found, not only in South Africa but also in our own country." (BP)

Cumberland College..

Christian Higher Education Today

Following are excerpts from the speech given by Dr. Jim Taylor, President, Cumberland College, at the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary Commencement Exercises on Friday, December 20, 1985.

President Dilday, distinguished platform guests, ladies and gentlemen...

The famous psychiatrist, Viktor Frankl, suggests that in contrast to an animal, man is not told by drives and instincts what he must do. And in contrast to man in earlier times he is no longer told by values and traditions what he should do. Now neither knowing what he should do or must do; he sometimes seems to no longer know at all basically what he wishes to do. So not knowing what he wishes to do he either does what others wish him to do which is conformism or he does what he is told to do which is totalitarianism. He's like an old hippy and he doesn't know what to do: can't hang on to the old, can't adjust to the new. According to Daniel Yankelovich, this is a different age. "What is different is the culture endorses as morally acceptable, many desires which were not acceptable in the past."

The seminaries and colleges and the Convention are entwined and interwoven and interrelated in the fabric called community. We have shared values and a concern for a hurting humanity, a lost and dying world.

Our emphasis was, is, and will continue to be Christian higher education, and yet, each college and seminary is unique and reflects its own character even as sunlight throws off different colors of light as it shines through each prism of glass.

Don't ever take your seminary for granted, because like freedom and democracy itself, many people you'll never know have broken their hearts to get it for you.

I'm a debtor. I realize that all the taxes I'll ever pay won't pave one mile of the interstate on which I drive. I'm a debtor.

I'm a debtor to this great nation in which we live and I understand that freedom im-

plies responsibilities. As someone said, "Just as there is a Statue of Liberty on the East Coast, there needs to be a statue of responsibility on the West Coast." It's like the two sides of the bowl, the convex and the concave side; it's impossible to have one without the other.

You see, without discipline, without commitment there is an undermining and eroding of the natural enthusiasm (in Theo) in God, in Christ that we should have. People then become cynical and defeatist and negative.

Unfortunately, the question is too often asked by young professionals: today, "What does life have to offer me? What can I get out of life?" The opposite question should be asked: "What do I have to offer life?" Life, you see, is begging for meaning.

Unfortunately, even in employment circles today the primary question has become what can I get from the system, rather than what can I contribute. My friend, working for money alone can become lethal.

You see freedom in Christ implies responsibility. Forgive me if I have to contradict no more or less than a paragraph in the American Declaration of Independence when it talks about guaranteeing the "pursuit of happiness." "This is a contradiction in terms, because the more you pursue happiness, the less you can obtain it. Happiness is like that elusive butterfly. Happiness is elusive. Ironically the only happy person is the disciplined person. It's easier to be a success than to be a failure. If you truly want freedom and happiness, then discipline yourself through goals and time management. The truly free person is the disciplined person.

In other words, if you live out your self-transcendence; if you are immersed in a task; if you are giving yourself; if you are absorbed by a meaningful task to fulfill, waiting for you, to be fulfilled by you and exclusively by you, you will wind up as a happy man or woman. You will get pleasure auto-

Lovingly encountering Christ gives meaning and purpose and self-worth on this pilgrimage here below.

If you do not recognize that man is self-transcendentally reaching out for other human beings, reaching out for meanings to fulfill, then we will be of all men most miserable.

If there is no mission, no God given marching orders, no commitment to Christ, it's no small wonder that youngsters will feel they are merely victims of drives and instincts, preconditioning and reaction formations.

Let me ask you today, do you have a God given dream? Dare to follow your dream against all obstacles, all problems, all difficulties. The greater the sacrifice the greater the reward. For after all without sacrifice life is essentially meaningless. There is no gain without pain. The reward is in exact proportion to the risk. Don't be ordinary; don't follow the crowd. All genuine breakthroughs, all quantum leaps come not from the ordinary not even from the general practitioners but from the extraordinary, from the person who is willing to risk. Dare to do something great in service to others and in glory to God. Be a giver and not just a taker. The greater the service, the greater the success.

I feel you are here today because you have felt the heavy hand of God on your shoulders calling you into a life of full time service which takes precedence over the quest for position, power, or prestige.

You know the goals of a meaningful life reflect a hunger for kindness, gentleness, and fair play. You will be men and women whom we admire because you will put in more than you take out. You know the traits and characteristics we admire in men and women: they are broadly cooperative where others are narrowly competitive; they see life not as a ladder but as a spiraling

present and the future; they look forward, not backward; they plant trees under whose shade they will never sit; they spend their life working for something that will outlast them; they are mentors for the unloved, the dispossessed, the homeless, the walking wounded, the under-represented; they do not humiliate other people but patiently and wisely help them to learn to respect themselves and others; they help people think better of themselves and others; and like Charles Kettering, they realize no great edifice ever rose to meet the skies unless someone thought it could; someone believed it should; and someone willed it must.

Now some practical advice.

1. If you have some specific God given goals for life, write them down on paper and prioritize them. Get them out and look at them. Pray about them. With God's help become genuinely interested and involved in accomplishing them. Sit down with the ugly long yellow pad each day and scribble; start making plans and lists and flow charts and surely consult others.

2. Remember that people need affirmation, not condemnation. Become genuinely interested in and concerned about others. Make the other guy the hero. Watch, listen, reflect, become an observer. Be positive. Look for what can be made good even out of the bad. Be a perpetual, incurable optimist. Be happy. Understate rather than overstate, and sufficiently analyze a problem verbally before you go for the closure. Avoid arguments and most importantly think before you talk. Don't answer a question before you've heard it out.

3. Remember that evil boomerangs. Bad people do occasionally prosper, and good people occasionally lose. Nevertheless, it remains true that integrity with the right measure of prudence actually helps you do well. Commit your action to the Lord, and you will have the balance of freedom and responsibilities. You will sound a clear note of hope in a world which is filled with despair.