



## Rogers offers himself as presidential nominee

by Dan Martin

Adrian Rogers says he is willing to be nominated again as president of the Southern Baptist Convention

He told members of Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., of his decision. "I just told my congregation and asked them to pray for and with me about the matter. I told them I felt I needed to make myself available if, indeed, the people wanted me."

Rogers said he had "a constant barrage of letters encouraging me" to allow the nomination when the SBC meets in Atlanta June 10-12.

"I am not running for office," he said. "I am willing if the brethren want me. I realize there is the potential that I may not be nominated and the potential that if not nominated, I may not be elected. I just have a willingness in my heart to allow my name to be placed in nomination."

The Memphis pastor said he has been praying about his decision and on Easter Sunday evening he invited a group of "trusted leaders of the church" to his home where "we prayed and discussed the matter for several hours. After that, I felt a clearness in my heart to announce my willingness."

The announcement is in contrast to Rogers' candidacy in 1979 when he said the decision was not made "until the ninth hour." He said he "did not feel the freedom to allow my name to be nominated until sometime after midnight" of the opening day of the Houston convention. "The difference between 1979 and now is that I feel a freedom in my heart now (to be nominated) that I did not feel then," he said.

Rogers' announcement ends months of speculation as to whether the former president would allow himself to be nominated. Open speculation began when Florida pastor Homer Lindsay Jr. told a meeting last December in Jacksonville that Rogers was the choice of the fundamental-conservatives to succeed current SBC president Charles F. Stanley.

Rogers told Baptist Press: "The announcement (in Florida) was that I was the man they wanted. They had asked me if I would be their candidate, and I told them no, but I did tell them they could say I was their choice. I did

not give them permission to say I was a candidate."

Rogers said, "It is my desire, whether I am president or not, to see a clearing of the air. For this reason I am very supportive of the Peace Committee (of which he is a member). I believe the committee is the best mechanism to let the facts be known..."

He stated, "Whoever is elected president should work to create a climate in which we can solve our problems. I am talking about one of love and fairness, a spiritual revival. I don't believe Southern Baptists will be changed ultimately by parliamentary maneuvering, appointments or gavel-banging. We need a fresh touch from God and I will pray and work toward that end."

He said whoever is elected president "should continue to nudge the denomination back to its conservative roots and away from neo-orthodoxy. Responsible 'conservative' leadership that I know is not wanting a bloodletting or a radical revolution, but an effort to persistently and gently nudge the

denomination back to its roots. The emphasis is on both persistently and gently."

Rogers said he believes there is "more unity under the skin" of Southern Baptists than most people realize. "I do not believe our convention is divided 55 (percent) to 45 (percent)," he said. "I think it is more like 90-10. I believe when the facts are known many people who are Bible believers in the traditional Southern Baptist sense will coalesce against the neo-orthodox who represent a very small portion of our constituency but have the potential to do damage far beyond their proportional size."

Rogers said a president "is honored bound to make his appointments from those he feels would be best from every perspective—denominationally, morally and doctrinally. When the majority of Southern Baptists elect a president, they know the kind of president they are electing and expect his leadership to reflect who he is."

## 900 attend Acteen conference

by J. P. Schubert, Staff Writer

Over 900 girls and their leaders attended the 1986 state Acteen conference Apr. 11-12 at Louisville's Hurstbourne Baptist Church.

Acteens are organizations sponsored by the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union for girls grades 7-12. The purpose is to promote worldwide missions.

Cathy Howle, state director for Acteens, said this year's focus came from John 15:16, "You did not choose me, but I chose you." The theme of the weekend was: "Me, Lord? Yes, You!"

Pageantry marked the highly visual conference. Large posters dominated the auditorium as the Friday evening session began with a procession of flagbearers, each carrying the original flag created by her church organization.

Kay Hardage, a guitarist and the audience in choruses and get-acquainted activities.

Acteens from Cave Springs Baptist Church, Albany, brought down-home country flavor to the meeting by singing "I Thank You, Lord for Makin' Me Me" and "On Heaven's Bright Shore." Their uninhibited enthusiasm sparked extended applause from the audience.

Visuals were used in theme interpretations and presentations of prayer calendars. Posters, stick-up art and varied readers and speakers kept the audience anticipating the next events.

The Bardstown Baptist Church Youth Group, led by Donna Whitehouse, dressed as clowns, did pantomimes and moved among the audience to promote involvement.

Kathy DeKalb Smith, a professional singer from Nashville, reinforced the theme by her songs and comments: "God picked you. He can use you."

The climax of the evening was the recognition service for girls who had achieved individual levels of distinction through Studiact. Many were in evening dresses and all wore gold-colored crowns.

The stage was crowded with girls who

had achieved the two lower levels:

Queen and Queen with Scepter. But two advanced levels, Queen Regent and Queen Regent in Service, had a total of only 18 girls.

As Miss Howle said, "Many don't keep on to achieve the higher levels."

Special recognition was given to Cara Beth Clements and Debra Hill, both of First Baptist Church, Morganfield. They were among 20 "Top Teens" chosen by a national WMU committee as outstanding Acteens in the Southern Baptist Convention.

On the state level, five panelists were recognized for their service in assisting preparations for the state conference. They were Vickie Guthrie, Burlington (Ky.) Baptist Church; Melanie Cragg, Walnut Grove Baptist Church, Russellville; Debra Hill; Dawnya Notestine, Rockford Lane Baptist Church, Louisville; and Kim Mauney, Clear Creek Baptist Church, Pineville.

Panelists are chosen based on their applications, responses to questions about their Christian experiences, and recommendations from church leaders.

The night session closed with a 9 p.m. concert by "Revelations," a young male singing group from Eastern Kentucky University.

Saturday morning sessions centered on small group conferences dealing with varied missionary activities. Girls could choose from 15 topics.

Saturday was circus time. Girls moved among carnival booths offering games, prizes, balloons, popcorn and Cokes.

The closing session Saturday afternoon brought the group to the theme of missions. An offering of \$337 was taken to help furnish the Kentucky room at the new WMU building in Birmingham, Ala.

To close the conference, all joined hands in prayer among an array of

colored balloons.

Appreciation was expressed to Hurstbourne Baptist Church for hosting the meeting.

Recognition was given to Sandy Bonham, circus organizer, and Mary Wrye, the circus ring leader; Lucy Stewart and Katherine Akridge, members of Hurstbourne Church who handled registration and logistics; and Carla Wise, an intern who assisted Miss Howle.

The 1987 conference will be Apr. 10-11 at Third Baptist Church, Owensboro. The theme: "Love in Any Language."

## Youth evangelism slates TRUTH, Tippet

"Dream On..." will be theme of the 1986 Kentucky Youth Evangelism Conference June 27-28 at Southern Seminary, Louisville.

The conference will feature the musical group TRUTH and Sammy Tippet, director of "God's Love in Action" evangelistic ministries.

TRUTH, eight singers and 10 instrumentalists, has performed in 5000 concerts worldwide, including the Southern Governors Conference, Southern Baptist Convention and 25 state youth conventions.

Tippet, youth evangelist from Bothell, Wash. and speaker for the conference, was a leader of the Jesus Movement in Chicago that reached thousands of youth during the 1970s. He infiltrated the Communist Youth World Festival and preached among 100,000 communist youth. He was later arrested at the University of Leningrad and deported to Helsinki, Finland for drawing large crowds while preaching.

More recently, Tippet has been pastor of Hahn (Germany) Baptist Church and chairman of evangelism for the European Baptist Convention.

Junior high, high school and college students may attend the conference. Sessions begin at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. Saturday.



Rogers

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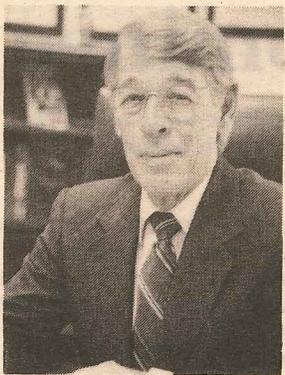
April 22, 1986

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# sanford's perspectives

## Layman for SBC president



Jack D. Sanford

There are times when a great idea sneaks up on us without too much fanfare. Such is the case now in a letter received this past week that contains the germ of an idea whose time may have come.

In a letter to the editor of Western Recorder, C. Hoge Hockensmith, pastor of Broadway Baptist Church, Lexington, said it would be a good idea to elect Jerry Clower president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The idea of a lay person as president of the SBC is worthy of serious consideration.

The idea at first glance would bring a chuckle from a lot of folks because Jerry Clower is a comedian who makes people laugh. But Jerry Clower is like thousands of Baptist lay people across the convention—he is a dedicated Christian man who works hard to make his church grow and to exalt the Lord. He makes people laugh, but he is deadly serious about being a child of God and bearing a proper witness to his faith. And making people laugh might not be such a bad idea in Southern Baptist life right now. We are surely a grim people who seem to have lost the capacity to laugh at a time when some spark of humor would do a lot for all of us. When you give some serious consideration to it the idea of Jerry Clower as president of the SBC does not sound so far out because Clower could not only help us laugh, he just might turn us back toward the main thing.

Jerry Clower may not want to be considered for such a position because of the demands on his time and a lack of interest in the battles now raging but if he would consider it, think what might happen if Clower were president of the SBC. And if not him, then most any lay person could do the same things for us.

The office of the president would probably be depoliticized. Jerry Clower, and most any other layman, would have little interest in building any sort of kingdom or power base for control of any institution. That in itself would be a challenging, refreshing change in our Baptist life. Think what it would mean to have a president who did not feel any compulsion to appoint anybody to any office simply because that person held the same theological concepts as the president.

Another possibility to consider if we should elect Jerry Clower or some other layman would be closer ties between the president of the convention and the people who sit in the pews and pay the bills. A layman from any church in the country would be one of the people and would have more insight into the ways people think than preachers sometimes do. It is no exaggeration to say that we preachers often do not walk in step with the people. We often become preoccupied with theological concepts, doctrinal matters and other "preacher" things. These are important and necessary, and they are proper "preacher business," but they are considerations which have little place of real importance in

the minds of most Baptist people. We like to think we have our hand on the pulse of the people but the reality of the matter is that we are often out of touch in painful ways we seldom realize. It is by the grace of God we do as well as we do.

Finally a layman as president of the SBC would probably insure a leader who had no thought of career advancement coming to him from the office. Now that may not be the most important thing to consider, but tell me of a preacher who has not thought of career enhancement if he were to become president of the nation's largest evangelical denomination. Invitations to speak, books to write, trips to take, and on and on. It is heady stuff to be in such a position which does something good for the career of the preacher who holds the office.

Most lay people have careers unaffected by the denominational structure and would not be seriously influenced by the publicity and hype that goes with the convention presidency, to say nothing of the invitations to speak across the nation to Baptist groups.

I can hear someone exclaim we do not think of personal gain in serving the Lord. To which I say, baloney. We do think of it and that is one factor which has helped create the right climate for a lay person to be president. Such a person would gain little in his career by serving in such a way. In fact, the career of a lay person in the presidency would most likely suffer because of the time demands of the office.

Brother Hockensmith has a good idea and I give support to it. Jerry Clower may or may not be a possible candidate. However, the idea of a layman for president has great appeal and should not be overlooked.

One preacher has already said he would be willing to be a candidate this year. At least one more preacher has been pressured all year to agree to become a candidate. The word is out that as many as 75,000 ballots will be printed for the election. So the matter of the presidency is still a hot issue among us.

What of the lay people in our Baptist family? Has any layman been given serious consideration by anyone? Do we not have strong, capable lay people who would do a good job, as did Owen Cooper, the last layman to be president, and Brooks Hays, the layman president before him? These laymen served well and others like them could serve equally as well if we would give them the opportunity.

There are good lay people out there and we would do ourselves a great favor if we would give prayerful consideration to the possibility of electing one of them as our next president.

A layman **might** depoliticize the convention, **might** put the office of president more in touch with the people in the pews and just **might** turn that high office into a servant-position, not a platform for personal advancement. It would be a risk worth taking at this time in our denomination.

### western recorder

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

# THE KENTUCKY-KENYA CONNECTION

He "does it all!"

## Kenya journeyman tells just how he got there

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

How does one become a missionary journeyman, a two-year appointment held by Christian young people, for the Foreign Mission Board?

Greg Sims, a Floridian currently serving in his first year at Nairobi, Kenya, tells how it all came about in his life.

Twenty-three-year-old Sims, native of Miami, was a student at the University of South Carolina, Spartanburg.

Though he grew up in a Baptist family (his father was a Navy chaplain), Sims considered himself "a nominal Christian."

"I felt most Christians were holier than thou," he recalls. "I was antiestablishment."

Thus, his first six months in college he did not attend Sunday school. Then, he visited Bethany Baptist Church, Spartanburg, and things began to turn around in his life. He joined the choir and youth activities there. When a Baptist Student Union ministry was established in his city, he agreed to be BSU campus coordinator for his school. (There were four campuses in the city served by one campus minister.) He later became BSU summer missions chairman.

During Sims' first year in BSU the president graduated and became a journeyman. His interest in the program first began at this point. In fact, "I made a commitment to myself to serve God in some way," he remembers. "I felt it was the least I could do."

In the summer of 1984 he thought he

was free to do what he wanted to do with his life. "Journeyman service seemed like a perfect opportunity to make my own decisions," he says. "My independent streak was coming out. This would be a good transition period, from college to career, to do what I wanted to do."

Sims attended student week at Ridgecrest that summer. He remembers that he "jumped the pew" to commit himself to applying for journeyman.

While at Ridgecrest he became deeply attracted to a girl who encouraged him in his journeyman pursuit, who was interested in that program, too. "I guess you could say I was in love," he admits.

That October, popular Southwide student speaker Chester E. Swor of Clinton, Miss., addressed the annual BSU convention in South Carolina. Among those in the audience was Greg Sims.

"I don't like that man," Sims says with a sly grin breaking out across his face.

"He said we were required to give up things that separated us from God's service. I felt Dr. Swor was talking directly to me," he goes on.

By this time the girl Sims had met at Ridgecrest had decided she didn't want to go into journeyman service.

"I had three choices," he remembers.

"I could tell the Foreign Mission Board the truth, that I was dating someone, thereby canceling the board's interest in me." (According to Sims, the board was "not into" appointing those who were romantically involved.)

"Secondly, I could lie—tell them I wasn't dating anyone."

"Thirdly, I could break up with her and make myself available."

Sims opted for the third choice, which in a short time effectively meant the end of their brief relationship.

He attended Mission 85, a conference for students held that winter in Nashville. While there, he completed a 17-page application for journeyman service.

In March 1985 Sims was notified that he had been accepted. His preferences for a place to serve were "Nairobi, Scotland and Uganda." He was informed he was going to Kenya. To prepare for it, he was sent to Rockvale, Va. last summer for 5 1/2 weeks of orientation.

What does he do in Kenya?

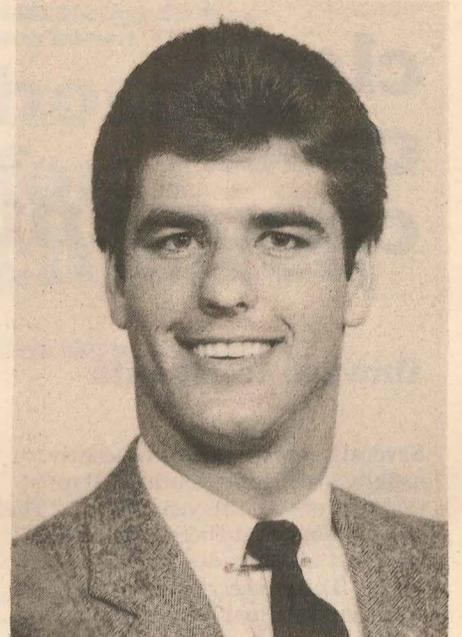
"Everything!" he laughs. He claims he is missionary Jim Richardson's "personal slave," a joke both of them know is not true.

Sims teaches Bible and computer technology at a secretarial school, for opens. He is player-manager-chauffer for a school basketball team, leads a weekly Bible study, plays football with a local team, conducts MasterLife worship, leads music in chapel, keeps a weight room open. "I don't do them all great but I do them all because I have gifts in several areas," he surmises.

His greatest satisfaction?

"Being able to go to a church where I don't understand a word and knowing God will provide me with spiritual food and being able to help out and be a friend."

After journeyman service (in mid summer 1987) he is sure "my dependence on God will be greater." He



Greg Sims

thinks he will probably "never end up being a foreign missionary" because he feels his effectiveness would be "better in the states where they need it more than here."

He views America as filled with "so much corruption, evil, lack of God and lack of spirit in churches" that "soon America will end up with spiritual or moral decay which destroys us from within."

Would he do it all again?

"Sure," says Greg Sims. "Who wouldn't?"

## Water of life A church planter in Kenya is convinced starting churches is the only way to grow

by James H. Cox, Associate Editor

Clay Coursey's watchword as a Southern Baptist missionary in Kenya is: "Every church has the spiritual responsibility to have children."

The casual observer need be around Coursey only a brief time to realize he breathes that theme in almost everything he says.

He is so caught up in it, he even wrote a book telling churches how to start other churches.

"If we believed this (principle) in the states," he suggests, "Bold Mission Thrust would really become a reality."

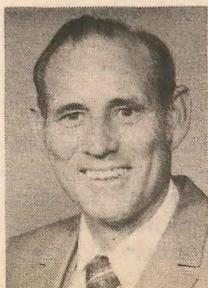
"When churches see church planting as their responsibility, they have at their disposal the resources of the members and the convention as well," he intones.

Coursey thinks there "ought to be" a church located in Kenya "at least every mile."

"People simply are not going to walk over half a mile to church," he declares.

Walking is the Kenyans' principal form of transportation.

Kentucky Baptists are nearing the mid-point in their three-year partnership with Baptists in the east African nation of Kenya. Clay Coursey smiles as he notes that he and his wife Pat were hosts to more than a quarter of all



Coursey



Mrs. Coursey

Kentucky Baptists who volunteered their time and talent in that nation in 1985. It has been a "rich experience" for them and for the nationals, he observes, and he looks forward to many more Kentuckians coming their way in 1986 and 1987.

Turning to another subject, Coursey, a native Texan, discussed the water wells which Southern Baptist mission money has dug in the mid costal area near his home at Malindi and Kilifi.

Coursey's philosophy grows out of Jesus' expressed purpose of coming to earth to seek and to save "that which was lost." Yet, Coursey notes, "he also met their needs."

Coursey says his "priority purpose" is to "save men's souls."

"But digging wells has helped me start churches, save souls and witness to others," he exclaims. As a result, some churches have "doubled, tripled,

quadrupled and gone beyond" because Baptists showed "we care."

Providing water "doesn't make people dependent on you as feeding does," he assures. Water is one of the "big witnesses" in this area.

Coursey, who with his wife Pat has served in Kenya 17 years, claims a survey of one well dug with Southern Baptist money showed 765 people drawing water from it in a single day.

Water has been "a part of the testimony," he claims, "in spreading the Word." While Coursey says he can't put "helping with physical needs" as his "top priority," he says he "can't fulfill" his top priority "without it."

He concludes, "After all is said and done, I must be a key to open doors so Jesus Christ may be proclaimed."



**Leon Simpson**  
President  
Clear Creek Baptist School  
Pineville, KY 40977

## clear creek comment

### Onward to Atlanta

Several people have said recently, "I usually attend the Southern Baptist Convention, but this year I won't." Then they explain that there will be controversy, taking sides and mobs of people. This causes me to want to state on behalf of Clear Creek Baptist School—we are going to Atlanta!

Actually we are taking two Trailways buses to Atlanta and with the cost of Clear Creek to go inviting friends is \$249 per person for bus transportation round trip, service to and from the convention sessions each day and accommodations in the world famous Harley Hotel. We will leave on Saturday, June 7 and return on Thursday, June 12.

There are several reasons for our going to Atlanta and urging every loyal Southern Baptist to go. First, I am going because I believe the more people involved in convention business the better it will be for Southern Baptists.

I am going to Atlanta because I believe my voice and vote are important. I may be just one, but God (and Southern Baptist church polity) says that one can make the difference. Christ died for one, he saves us one at a time, he calls us one at a time and he uses one person to do mighty works for him.

I am going to Atlanta because I believe Southern Baptists who care about our convention should determine its course and direction. We love the Lord, believe his word and want to preach good news to America and the world.

I am going to Atlanta because I believe Southern Baptists are still a people of destiny. God wants to use us as a convention and we have a unique opportunity to be used of him in coming years.

I am going to Atlanta because I believe in grass-roots Southern Baptists. God can use our actions and votes to honor Him and speak to the world. We don't need dictators or the right or left to tell us what is God's will. Neither the president of Clear Creek Baptist School nor other denominational executives should tell Southern Baptists how to vote.

I hope you are going to Atlanta. You make it a priority. We would love to have you go with us. We have approximately 15 spaces left. Call (or write) me or Rev. Ray Woodie at (606) 337-3196 and join us as we press...onward to Atlanta!

# baptist forum

### Take it by faith

After Jesus rebuked the wind he asked, "How is it that ye have no faith?"

Lack of faith and misplaced faith is at the heart of the controversy among Southern Baptists. Lack of faith that God created Adam and Eve and all that exists leads to a misplaced faith in the impossible theory of evolution.

Lack of faith that Bible doctrines are true, and lack of faith that the miracles took place exactly as recorded leads to a misplaced faith in false teachings of liberal theologians.

When I took God at his word for salvation I also took him at his word that the Bible is "thus saith the Lord." I study to understand and what I don't understand I accept by faith.

Williams R. Hagan  
Taylorsville

### Interpretation does not matter

In his address at the recent SBC Christian Life Commission SBC held Mar. 17-19 in Nashville, as reported by Baptist Press, Roy L. Honeycutt said some good things about the Word of God.

However, I feel I must disagree with him when he says, "I have no reservations about affirming—as my colleagues at Southern Seminary have done since 1859—the infallibility of the Bible, when rightly interpreted."

I have a firm conviction the Bible is infallible whether it is rightly interpreted or not! The infallibility of God's word is in no way dependent upon man's interpretation of it.

Richard L. Frees  
Melber

### Questions reporting of rally

I am writing to share my concern over a number of matters pertaining to the fundamentalist rally (sic) at Ninth and O Church.

First, since we have been asked not to stir up controversy concerning our present conflict, why should such a meeting be given front page coverage in our state denomination magazine?

I am aware the paper is obligated to give full news coverage but since the paper along with others requested a cooling off period it would seem the paper violated its own request.

Secondly, while I hold LaVerne Butler in great esteem as a person, I feel his statement regarding the Bible serves to confuse the issue.

To say "it doesn't matter whether you are holding up the Living Bible, the Douay translation or the King James we ought to be able to believe it's without error—let's stop fooling our people" is to miss the point.

If the Douay version—repentance out and doing penance in—is true then our KJV is not. And if the Living Bible is inerrant then the King James version cannot be. They are basically different in many instances, yet like everyone else I use all these translations comparing them to get what seems to me to be the best reading.

At best we can only say we are pilgrims trying to find and follow the will of God as we study his word. We can say we believe the same Holy Spirit who inspired holy men of old as they wrote the original manuscripts is alive and well and will help us as we strive to know truly the mind of God.

LaVerne's integrity is not in question. However, I find it difficult to follow his

logic.

**Frank Norfleet**  
Kansas City, MO

### Reader questions conservative rally

James Draper was the keynote speaker at the apparently self-styled "fundamental conservative rally" at Ninth and O Baptist Church, Louisville, Mar. 24. Is this the same James Draper whom I have read will assume the role of impartial parliamentarian when the SBC meets in Atlanta in June?

I note where Draper called for a forum, "where fundamental conservatives and moderate conservatives could discuss theological differences." Isn't that exactly what the "Peace Committee" is supposed to have been doing these past months?

Host pastor LaVerne Butler stated, "What it is going to boil down to is ...I cannot walk with someone who says he rejects the historicity of the first 11 chapters of the Genesis."

I wonder, if the moderates placed in nomination a candidate with whom Butler could "walk with," would he even consider supporting that candidate? Or is there more to boil down than Genesis 1-11?

Reed Rhorer  
Lexington

### Pastor says "No" to Stroud

Deer Park Baptist Church does not need a preacher from Tennessee to tell us about Glenn Hinson. We have known, trusted and respected the man for more than 20 years. In addition, there is not one Southern Baptist church in this country that would invite an outsider in for the purpose of harassing a fellow church member.

In response to Jim Stroud's question (Apr. 1), the answer is "no."

**Jim England**  
Louisville

### Jerry Clower for SBC President

Our denomination, suffering untold stress from conflict and debate has been depressed for sometime. I see some bright rays of encouragement emanating from the Peace Committee, attitudes of editors, and much less talk about our problems by the preachers. I think we need to take ourselves less seriously and have some fun for a change. One way we could do this, would be to elect Jerry Clower as president of the Southern Baptist Convention. We need to laugh again.

C. Hoge Hockensmith  
Lexington

### What measures revival

Much thought has been put into the simultaneous revival and Good News America concept. I wonder what our results will be. How will we measure differences in ourselves and in our communities?

One way of measuring the results is to measure against what we need. Our need is a moral and spiritual renewal that touches every sphere of our lives, inside and out.

The problems that challenge us are essentially moral and spiritual. World hunger, injustices, the threat of war, poverty—at the core of each of these lies the need for a change of heart, individually and corporately. Where there is greed, there must come some sacrifice. Where there is indifference,

there must be compassion.

I am embarrassed at how little we have done about these matters. Yes, we have given more than lip service to these concerns. But, I am still embarrassed at how much more concern there comes from those we label as secularists than from the Southern Baptist community. Southern Baptists (after a record year of world hunger offerings) are showing a decrease in the pace of giving to world hunger concerns.

Somewhere our priorities have gotten off base. While people are dying for lack of food, we are arguing over who believes the first 11 chapters of Genesis more.

**I am bothered that even in the** "Communication" of "Good News America" we are using a logo which I never thought I would live to see—the U. S. flag and cross merged. It represents the clearest case of a symbol for civil religion at which anyone could arrive. We must be careful not only of the goals of our evangelistic thrust, but we must be careful about the means we use to reach those goals.

**William M. Tillman Jr.**  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

### Thanksgiving for prayer support

My family and I want to thank you for your prayers during my recent illness.

Modern medicine can do many wonderful things, but ultimately our lives rest in the hands of a loving heavenly Father, and the prayers of God's people make all the difference in the world. In a time when my life hung in the balance it was the prayers of loving Baptist people across Kentucky which gave doctors wisdom and knowledge to restore my health.

I still have a long recovery yet I could not have made it this far without the prayers of Baptist friends. My heart is filled with praise to the all-powerful Great Physician who restored my health and for Kentucky Baptists who held me up in prayer. It is an honor to serve among Kentucky Baptists. Thank you again and may God's richest blessing be upon each and every one.

Bob White  
Harrodsburg

### Praise for Kentucky volunteers

About a year ago we had the pleasure of working with our first couple from Kentucky, Sharon and David James. Now we want to say thank you for a second volunteer couple, Nancy and Bill Childress, Smithland.

They arrived just after Clarence had returned from the hospital because of his tractor accident. This was a very timely arrival.

Bill brought with him invaluable knowledge relative to the stage of development at which the Brackenhurst forum is today. He has helped to develop a tentative use plan for the farm including fruits, vegetables and animal feeds.

He supervised the planting of trees for firewood and participated in training sessions for Kenyan pastors in agriculture. His expertise in soil conservation has been valuable to the work here.

Nancy, a former home economics teacher, was very helpful to Natalie with some sewing projects she has going with the Kenyan women. She was also helpful by typing for several people needing that kind of help.

Their help has been very encouraging to us and we regret to see them leave.  
 Clarence and Natalie Chesnutt  
 Missionaries to Kenya

**Are translations really inerrant?**

Western Recorder reported a rally at Ninth and O Baptist Church, Louisville. At that meeting LaVerne Butler was quoted as saying translations of the Bible were without error. "We ought to be able to hold up that Bible and say we believe it is without error...Let's stop fooling our people," he is quoted.

I appreciate my fellow pastor's zeal for God's Word, but I wonder if he was quoted correctly or if he really believes in the inerrancy of translations.

The theory of inspiration known as "inerrancy" has become a device that is "fooling the people." When a pastor holds up a Bible translation and says, "I believe in the inerrant Word of God," he is deceiving his people. "Inerrancy" applies to the original manuscripts and holds that God made a perfect and flawless original manuscript on which translations are based. But the well-meaning pastor, attempting to show a devotion to the Bible, is really deceiving his people, for what he holds in his hand is not what is being described from his mouth.

Inerrancy is a nice sounding theory which has become a club in the hands of biblical and human critics. In Matt. 15:9 Jesus warned the people of his day about making a theory of man into a doctrine of God.

I'm left cold by our human attempts to explain how the Bible is inspired. I prefer to believe the Bible is God's inspired Word. I believe God inspired holy men of old to write. How all of this came about is interesting speculation, but for me it is all unnecessary and inadequate.

The Bible I will hold in my hand to preach on Sunday and the Bible I will study and read through is a special book of God to me, different from all others I own. It is sufficient for my salvation and instruction, as well as for others. It will continue to be so for me until I die.

As for perfect translations or manuscripts that men may imagine, that is idle speculation that may come from a pious attempt to described God's Word, but I think those words contribute greatly toward "fooling" our people.

Bob DeFoor  
 Harrodsburg

*Editor's note: LaVerne Butler was quoted correctly since the quotation came from a tape recording of the meeting in which his remarks were made.*

**Praise for Oneida choir**

On Apr. 13, the Oneida Baptist Institute Choir, 78 members strong gave one of the finest performances I have witnessed in a long time at First Baptist Church, Somerset.

Three OBI choirs converged on Somerset after performances elsewhere on Sunday morning. They blended their voices in heart-warming, happiness-in-spring music for an hour.

If any church has not had these young folks sing for them, please consider it. You are in for a treat. And you'll be thankful, as well as proud, of what Kentucky Baptists have in Barkley Moore and Oneida Baptist Institute.

Oscar Davidson  
 Somerset

**During simultaneous revivals**

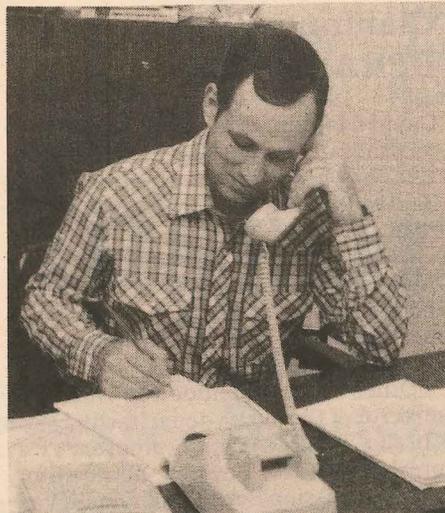
**Volunteers speak 'good news' toll-free**

by Gregory L. Hancock

The lights are on "round the clock" in one office of the Kentucky Baptist Building this month. Volunteers from Baptist associations throughout the state are answering telephone WATS lines, "Good News America, God Loves You. Can I tell you more?"

Every "Good News America" newspaper advertisement and television spot that runs in Kentucky during April is promoting a toll-free number: 1-800-245-0029. Persons dialing that number are connected with a "Good News America" volunteer trained in personal witnessing. They are equipped to not only present the message of Jesus Christ, but to put the caller in touch with a Southern Baptist church in his or her own neighborhood.

The WATS line idea was originated by Allen and Delores Baugh, directors of missions in Severns Valley Association. Jay Brown, director of the Evangelism Department, responded positively to the idea and along with Benton Williams, director of the Missions/Church Services Division, agreed to try the WATS line project using volunteers.



Charlie Helms talks with caller.

Within a month, the necessary arrangements had been made and the Baughs, along with the directors of missions in Baptist associations located near Middletown, were seeking volunteers to staff the WATS lines 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The lines have been operational since Apr. 1. According to project coor-

dinators, most of the people who call are church people who have seen the "Good News America" ads and are curious about the toll-free number. Several callers have needed financial assistance and a few have needed counseling.

"The success of this project in terms of winning people to Christ is up to the local churches and pastors," one volunteer advised. "Saved people have to be willing to suggest that their lost friends call the number and Christians have to promote it before non-Christians can even know it is there for them to try."

Volunteers are still needed for the program. Although the lines are operational with a single volunteer on duty, two volunteers make it possible for both incoming lines to be answered without the interruption of one conversation. Sometimes hours go by between phone calls. Other times both lines are ringing simultaneously. Regardless of the reason for or the timing of the calls, Kentucky Baptists are saying, "Good News, America, God Loves You," to a larger congregation than can be housed in any single church.

**Chinese visitors introduced to gospel in Austin, Tex.**

Twenty-four Chinese will return home to the People's Republic of China in April after being introduced to the gospel during the Good News America simultaneous revival at Anderson Mill Baptist Church, Austin, Tex.

They were involved in a technology exchange with the company where Bob Barlett, Anderson Mill Sunday school director, is manager of computer systems.

Barlett had been able to talk to the Chinese about Christ and he invited them to attend the revival.

Barlett and his wife were able to secure enough bilingual Bibles for the group from Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, and a bookstore.

Afterward the Barletts invited the group into their home where they discussed what they had experienced during the service.

The Chinese visitors attended a second service and afterward one of their interpreters said, "I prayed in my heart to Jesus."

"How did you know how to pray?" asked Barlett.

"I've been reading the Bible you gave me," she replied.

Barlett said Anderson Mill Baptist Church is praying that when the

Chinese return home, they will share their Bibles with others. (BP)

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Nina Tyler Pollard is a professor and administrator at the University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.

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**BROADMAN**

# baptist news in brief

## Resort missions meet at Horse Cave May 2-3

The Mountain Mission Program of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Direct Missions Department is sponsoring a conference on resort ministry opportunities at Horse Cave Baptist Church, Liberty Association, May 2-3.

Resort missionaries working with the Home Mission Board will provide leadership. There is no fee for the conference.

"This is an excellent chance to train some people from WMU, Brotherhood and youth groups for mission action in the resort/leisure settings near them," says Ross Figart Jr., director of the Mountain Missions Program.

For more information contact Ross Figart, Central Baptist Church, P. O. Box 3, Winchester, KY 40391.

## Missionaries appointed in Denver service

Sixty-nine new foreign missionaries were appointed in Denver, Colo. Apr. 12 to serve in 25 countries. Denver is the farthest west the Foreign Mission Board has conducted an April board meeting and appointment service, which are held in different states each year. About 4000 people gathered for the two-hour service.

The service included the appointment of the board's first regional correspondent, Craig Bird, and his wife, Melissa. They will serve in eastern Africa where Bird will cover stories in 19 countries.

Six people walked forward during an open invitation at the end of the service and committed themselves to foreign missions. One is a pastor in Colorado and another is a 34-year-old woman who was a Moslem in Lebanon until six years ago. She is a Christian now and attending Colorado Baptist University.

Hundreds went down after the service and took "praying hands" prayer pins. R. Keith Parks, president of the FMB, told the crowd, "Take a prayer pin and pray for missionaries as you have never done before." (BP)

## Clanton will head BPRA in 1986

David Clanton, director of public relations at Baylor University, Waco, Tex., has been elected president of the Baptist Public Relations Association for 1986.

Clanton and the remainder of the organization's officers were elected during the organization's annual meeting at Glorietta (N. M.) Baptist Conference Center.

Other officers include Jay Durham, director of the media department, Home Mission Board, Atlanta, program vice president; Anita Bowden, news editor, Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va., membership vice president; and Greg Warner, associate editor, Florida Baptist Witness, Jacksonville, newsletter editor.

Marty Blankenship, director of public relations, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo., secretary; Lonnie Wilkey, director of communications, Education Commission, Nashville, treasurer; and Ken Lawson, research and production consultant, Foreign Mission Board, awards chairman, were also elected.

## Inflation down, but CP is rising dramatically

Halfway through its fiscal year the Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program has grown more than twice as fast as the U. S. inflation rate.

After six months, 1985-86 Coopera-

tive Program receipts total \$62,781,162, up 8.05 percent over the same period last year. (Inflation is three percent.) The current total is \$4,678,205 ahead of the six-month figure for last year, which was \$58,102,957.

However, March receipts of \$10,033,586 were 0.91 percent behind receipts for March 1985. This March was still the third consecutive month Cooperative Program receipts surpassed \$10 million. January receipts of almost \$12.8 million were 18.13 percent ahead of the same time in 1985, and February receipts of almost 10.9 million were 18.1 percent beyond February 1985 income.

Earlier predictions the 1985-86 Cooperative Program will receive between \$126 million and \$127 million appear accurate. For the Cooperative Program to reach its \$130 million goal, monthly receipts must average \$11,203,140 for the final six months of the fiscal year. (BP)

## Homes for Children tells story through video

As Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children approaches 118 years of service as a child caring agency, two new videos are being produced to share its story.

The first video will highlight the agency's ministry which has touched the lives of more than 46,000 children since its founding in 1869. The production is both informative and inspirational as it presents an overview of the entire Homes for Children program while featuring staff members as well as the children served by Kentucky Baptists.

"The film will be available for viewing in May," added Eldred M. Taylor, executive director of Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children. "While the production will be suited for many kinds of programs, it will be especially appropriate for showing during Christian home emphasis scheduled among Southern Baptist churches between Mother's Day (May 11) and Father's Day (June 15)." Churches and associations interested in scheduling the film may contact the agency's Middletown office for additional information.

Another video focusing on the Homes for Children ministry is being produced by Darrell Monroe, a student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville. Monroe is a student intern in the development/communications office at Homes for Children while completing his final semester at Southern. His video will focus on the lives of houseparents and their ministry to children.

## Camp RABRO features Pioneer Week in July

For the second summer, Camp RABRO will be offering a Pioneer Week July 21-25 for young men who have completed grades 7-12.

The areas of instruction will be American Red Cross multimedia first aid, Royal Ambassador campcraft, fishing and American Red Cross basic canoeing. Campers will also be taught leadership and administrative skills.

For information contact the Brotherhood Department, P.O. Box 43433, Middletown, KY 40243-4033 (502) 245-4101.

## Meningitis strikes missionary child

The 21-month-old son of Southern Baptist missionaries Randy and Jan Newberry has been hospitalized in Richmond, Va. with meningitis. As of Apr. 4 the boy's condition was listed as critical, but improving.

The Newberrys, from Gordon, Tex. were attending a furloughing missionary conference at the Southern Baptist FMB Missionary Learning Center when Phillip became ill Mar. 27.

The conference had drawn 67 missionaries and 31 missionary children. Nine children were four years old and under, the group most susceptible to the disease.

William Gaventa, a physician and director of the board's medical services department, talked with the group before they left the conference and advised parents to contact their pediatricians when they returned home.

The Newberrys were appointed missionaries to Brazil in 1982. They have two other children, Amy, 15 and Joel, 12. The family had returned to Texas for furlough in December. (BP)

## Canadian missionaries get SBC help

Canada's Southern Baptists soon will begin sending their own foreign missionaries abroad with financial assistance and other aid from Southern Baptists in the United States.

The Canadian Convention of Southern Baptists, consisting of 80 churches located primarily in western Canada, plans to appoint foreign missionaries and pay their salaries and pensions. The SBC Foreign Mission Board has agreed to provide housing on overseas fields for the Canadian missionaries, insurance and medical coverage, transportation expenses and other aid.

## SBC on TV again; gavel to gavel coverage

The 1986 Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta will be televised for the second consecutive year with live, gavel-to-gavel coverage by Baptist Telecommunications Network.

Coverage will begin at 8:30 (EDT) Tuesday morning, June 10 with music by the choir of First Baptist Church, Atlanta. The first item of business will be the call to order at 9 a.m. Coverage will conclude at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, June 12. All of the transmission will be unscrambled so any church or individual can view the proceedings if it has a satellite receiving antenna.

Anchors for the coverage will be Gomer R. Lesch, anchor of SBC NewScene and senior BTN consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board and Richard T. McCartney, editor of Baptist Messenger, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

An SBC programing guide outlining ways to promote viewing of the convention is available to all BTN subscribers upon request from the Office of Communications, Baptist Sunday School Board.

The convention will be broadcast on Spacenet I satellite, channel 21, at 120 degrees west.

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4-15-2t

ATTENTION! Someone attending the Evangelism Conference in Louisville inadvertently took a man's trenchcoat, Oleg Cassini brand. Please contact Wally Miller, (502) 245-4101, ext. 304, if found.

4-22-1t

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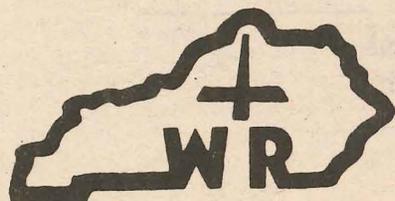
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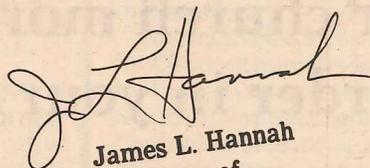
*All you wanted in a state paper*

# Sunday School Charity Offering May 11th

April

To: Kentucky Southern Baptist Church Members:

Do you remember the person that had the biggest impact on your life? We all have been touched by someone whose contribution to our life cannot be measured. We have tried to personally thank them, but they shy away. We've purchased gifts, but they don't quite seem to capture our thoughts. Finally, there is an extremely effective way for you to honor that family member or friend that had such a dramatic influence in helping you shape your life. The Sunday School Charity Fund established more than forty years ago provides an opportunity for you to assist others. Many times patients require treatment for which they simply have no means of paying. Your pastor and hospital chaplain try very hard to help each patient with their individual situation. Often times in the past there have been no funds with which to assist those patients. Through the Sunday School Charity Fund you can now make a difference. You can honor someone who helped you by passing that helping hand on to patients that find themselves in financial need. What would be a more fitting tribute than to assist one of God's children with improving their physical and spiritual health. A personal contribution to the Sunday School Charity Fund on May 11 through your church could insure that members of your congregation would no longer have to worry about receiving the medical care they need. You might want to establish, as a class project, the Sunday School Charity Fund for one year. The results of your support can be shared with you through inviting a member of the Baptist Hospitals Foundation, Inc.'s speakers bureau to speak in one of your services. **THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU DO SOMETHING!** Make a personal commitment to honor someone that has helped you or write the Director of Fund Development, Baptist Hospitals Foundation, Inc. about other methods of planned giving. Either way you will be very glad you did.



James L. Hannah  
Chairman of  
Baptist Hospitals Foundations, Inc.

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President, BHI, 768 Barret Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204, (502) 561-3277

# The right pew

**Louisville congregation's mission is to standing room only crowd**

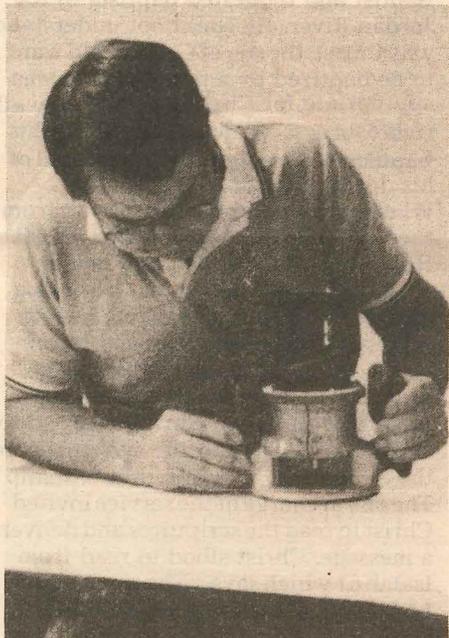
by Patrick Cole, Staff Writer

While most churches travel to another state to do volunteer missions, a Louisville congregation does missions in a makeshift woodworking shop inside the church's building.

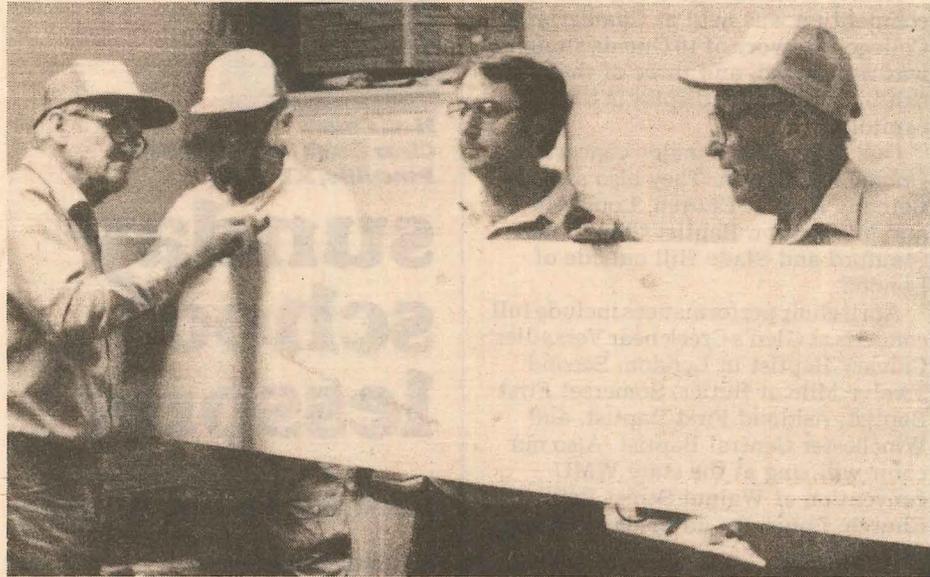
Members of 18th Street Baptist Church built 22 pews in a sawdust-covered, third-floor Sunday school room for Morning Star Baptist Church, a predominately Cheyenne Indian congregation in Lame Deer, Mont. Laymen with varying degrees of woodworking experience joined pastor Barney Ferguson in the project.

"We've had a beautiful response," says Ferguson. "It was the novelty of getting personally involved with missions that prompted the people to respond."

The church raised money for materials by asking members to donate \$60, the cost of one pew. Those contributing \$60 were given a miniature replica of a pew.



Barney Ferguson using a router.



(l-r) Bill Logsdon, Ed Robinson, Barney Ferguson and Ervin Bieber inspect a piece of lumber.

The 18th Street congregation learned of Morning Star's need for pews from Herb Case, an 18th Street member who was interim pastor of Morning Star from 1981-83.

Case keeps in contact with the church through his brother-in-law Steve Hussing who is pastor of Morning Star. Both men began working with Morning Star through missions trips sponsored by First Baptist Church, Murray.

The pews will be installed in a newly-constructed building that was built with materials salvaged from an old schoolhouse.

Ferguson, a woodworking hobbyist, lent both his expertise and equipment to the project. He and several church members will make the 1400-mile trip in a church bus to Lame Deer to deliver the pews later this month.

Ferguson believes church members have received satisfaction from their direct mission involvement. "It's contributed to their personal worth," observes Ferguson. "It's easy to throw money in an offering plate."

Bill Logsdon, an 18th Street member

who helped build the pews, agrees with his pastor. "It's a little more personal than sending cash, especially by taking them (the pews) there," he shares.

Before the building was constructed Morning Star met in a double-wide mobile home. Case says the building has contributed a feeling of stability to the congregation.

"The building is permanent and gives the sense that we're going to be here," notes Case. He added the community is highly transient and groups come and go frequently.

Morning Star has an average attendance of about 40, but sometimes climbs as high as 70. Case says there has been a noticeable increase in attendance among adults since the building was completed.

Meanwhile, even before they finish their work in Lame Deer, members of 18th Street are already anticipating future pew-building projects.

According to Ferguson, the church is considering contracting with area churches to build their pews and donating the profits to missions causes.



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

## homes for children

Showers of blessings

Although showers are expected, the first two weeks of April have been extremely dry. Farmers are plowing in clouds of dust. Unturned ground is cracking open. Without rain soon much of the colorful freshness of spring will begin to fade.

Even though we have been very short on refreshing April showers, Baptist churches have been experiencing showers of blessings. From the Mississippi River to the Breaks of the Big Sandy, and from the Ohio River to Tennessee, Kentucky Baptists have participated in the "Good News America, God Loves You" simultaneous revivals. The reports are coming in telling of genuine church revivals and many souls saved.

I am thankful to have had the joy of being the evangelist in two of our churches. I was impressed with the thorough and intensive preparation made by the people of these churches. I found a warm spirit of fellowship and a high expectancy. Much visitation had already been done and the revival had begun before I arrived. It was a joy to preach, extend the invitation and see people step out to respond publicly to the leading of the Holy Spirit and register their decisions.

To be with the people of God in the Green River Memorial Baptist Church, Campbellsville, where Don Gowin is the faithful pastor, and experience showers of revival blessing enriched my life. Then to work with John Kruschwitz and his faithful people in Highland Hills Baptist Church, Ft. Thomas, just added another refreshing shower of blessing.

Good News—God Loves You is the story we have to share everywhere with everyone. Additional showers of blessings are being experienced at Baptist Homes for Children, where we share the Good News with children on a daily basis. Last year 54 of these precious children found Jesus as their savior, and many more experienced a deepening of their Christian walk with God.

As I am writing, a report has come of one of our young people who was involved in Satanism before coming to live in Baptist Homes but who accepted Christ as savior last Sunday. Praise the Lord!

# Severns Valley church

## English lessons grow by word of mouth in Elizabethtown

by Patti Denton

Strains of "The More We Get Together" came from the combined American and Laotian voices. It is the regular Monday morning exchange of ideas and lessons in American lifestyle held at Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

Charlene Ray is one of a group of local women who volunteer their time to make the transition to American life easier for Laotian and other non-English speaking residents.

"It has broadened me to know somebody from another country," says Mrs. Ray. "I try to put myself in their place." She considers her feelings if she had to go to another country where she did not speak the language.

"We try to help them learn how to live in our country and be happy," she says.

Mrs. Ray says the group fluctuates as some families move and other women get jobs.

"We would really love to have other nationalities," she says. At one time a

Puerto Rican was a member of the group but the family moved. The morning meetings, held during the school year with a nursery provided, is particularly for those women without jobs. The usual routine includes a time for Bible study, a session teaching practical knowledge, winding up with a cooking or crafts lesson.

There are about 10 local women who periodically assist in giving lessons, providing transportation and picking up needed supplies.

"All ladies stay on standby in case there is anything they can do to help," says Mrs. Ray. One regular is Jill Gibson who works with the county Adult Education program teaching English to the homebound.

Mrs. Ray says the Severns Valley effort was initiated about 2 1/2 years ago by a missionary. Mrs. Ray and others attended a literacy workshop on how to teach English to non-English speaking adults. When they found the Adult Education program was already using the same materials on a one-on-

one basis, Mrs. Ray says the group meeting was established instead.

The group talks about a wide variety of everyday living topics such as what to do if you need a doctor.

While the basic cooking session usually concentrates on American dishes, occasionally the tables are switched.

"Ever so often they say 'next week we're going to teach you to make...'" says Mrs. Ray, who now knows how to make egg rolls Laotian style.

A recent lesson keyed in on colors. Afterwards Pheng Phank Phrachamreundy, who has taken the American name Kay, voiced what her fellow Laotians all seem to feel.

"I want to speak English very, very much," she says.

Reprinted from the News—Enterprise, Elizabethtown. Used by permission.



**Barkley Moore**  
President  
Oneida Baptist Institute  
Oneida, KY 40972

## oneida journal

### Seed Catalog Browsing

We are in the midst of revival emphasis with A. B. Colvin doing the preaching. All who know him know we are hearing thoughtful and powerful messages, receiving fresh insights into familiar scriptures. There have been several professions of faith, some rededications, and we believe there will be more.

We have been having beautiful spring weather, but it is unusually dry and a real fire danger in the surrounding hills and woods. The dogwoods are in glorious bloom as are the redbuds. Last night it suddenly turned cold, "dogwood winter" I suppose.

Our girls have won all their softball games thus far and their conference championship in a playoff. There are many other seasonal games yet to be played. Our boys have lost two and won others thus far in baseball. So both the new ball fields are in active use.

The six-lane lines have been painted on the new 1/4 mile asphalt track. Now the pole vault and high jump pit is being prepared. The long jump, shot-put and discus facilities are already in place.

We are very pleased with our academic teams who have been in competition with schools all over the 13th region. Several weeks ago our middle school team won the runnerup trophy for the region.

A month ago three of our young people attended a weeklong seminar in our nation's capital. That event is called "Presidential Classroom" and 486

outstanding students attended from all over the nation. We were pleased that three of these were from Oneida. They met and talked with the Russian ambassador, our senators and congressmen and many other government officials.

Nearly a month ago a regional art competition was held at Cumberland College. The work of 10 Oneida students was recognized, and three of their exhibits are now on display in the state capitol.

Our choir sang a major concert at Oneida last month. They also sang at Bethany Baptist Church, Louisville, and Mt. Hebron Baptist Church near Stanford and Slade Hill outside of London.

April choir performances include full concerts at Glen's Creek near Versailles, Calvary Baptist in London, Second Twelve Mile at Butler, Somerset First Baptist, Ashland First Baptist, and Winchester Central Baptist. Also our choir will sing at the state WMU convention at Walnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, on Friday morning, Apr. 25.

On Saturday, May 3 our choir will sing briefly at a regionwide WMU meeting on our campus.

The following morning our choir will sing in the worship service of Louisville's Hurstbourne and that evening at Farmdale Baptist of Louisville.

The following Sunday, May 11 our choir will sing in western Kentucky during the morning service of First Baptist, Central City and that evening will present a full concert at Laurel River near London.

The choir will sing a final full concert at Oneida on Saturday, May 17 in honor of the 1926 and 1936 classes back for Commencement weekend as they celebrate their 60th and 50th anniversaries of graduation. That concert will be at 8 p.m. in Davidson Chapel.

Oneida will host all the athletic teams that compete in the Three Rivers Conference for a dinner on Friday, May 2 and a conference awards ceremony afterwards in the Oneida Chapel. Within the conference, teams compete in girls' and boys' cross-country and basketball, as well as boys' baseball and girls' softball.

Our farm manager recently donated a 150-horsepower tractor for our farm. I am sure there has never been so large a tractor in the county before. We shall have six more acres of vegetables than we had last year. Some of our students are very excited about this. They have studied the seed catalogs as a child normally looks at toys!



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

## sunday school lessons

### LESSONS FOR APR. 27, 1986

#### Life and Work Series

### Developing Christian Character

**Colossians 3:12-17** For the sake of their happiness, welfare and usefulness, Paul exhorted his readers to discard the filthy rags of sensuality, uncharitableness and insincerity of their sinful past. He urged them to put on the robes of compassionate mercies, kind deeds, genuine humility, patient longsuffering, gracious forbearance and complete forgiveness.

Instead of permitting their former master Satan to dominate them, Christians should enthrone Christ in his rightful place as the Lord of their lives. Those whose lives he controls will be enabled to perform their duties acceptably and effectively. Paul also appealed to the believers to let the priceless possession of peace, which they received from Christ, rule over their conflicting thoughts, motives and desires. This precious legacy of peace is an inheritance which the world can neither give nor take away.

Paul urged Christians to cultivate a thankful spirit and reminded them that such a spirit pleases the Lord, enriches the lives of those who observe it and greatly benefits those who possess it. It is a duty incumbent upon all to render thanksgiving unto God.

Paul called attention to Christ by saying, "Let the word of Christ dwell in

you richly in all wisdom." This "word of Christ" not only refers to what he said, but it includes the entire body of truth concerning the Lord Jesus as given to us by the inspired writers of scripture. Let the word of Christ find hospitality and permanent residence in your heart, thereby influencing and controlling your life. If we have a genuine desire to live in his will, Christ will enable us to do so.

#### International Series

### The Holy Spirit and Jesus' calling

**Luke 3:15-17** The preaching of John the Baptist kindled afresh the messianic hope in many of his listeners. Some began to wonder if the preacher were not the long-expected messiah. When John the Baptist learned what they were thinking, he at once disabused their minds of that idea by asserting he was only the "forerunner of the Messiah in the wilderness." He declared his task was to prepare the way for the Lord Jesus. With commendable humility he acknowledged his insignificance in contrast with the messiah.

**Luke 3:21-22** As Jesus began his public ministry, he approached John the Baptist and requested baptism in the Jordan River. He could not understand why Christ, the son of God, would want to be baptized by a mere man. It was appropriate for Christ to show how all righteousness would be fulfilled, by his baptism begin a figurative portrayal of his death, burial and resurrection.

When John the Baptist lifted Jesus from the water, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit "descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him." The voice of God the father spoke from heaven saying, "Thou art my beloved son; in thee I am well pleased," and Christ officially entered his public ministry.

**Luke 4:16-19** When Christ returned to Nazareth, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath to join in public worship. The one in charge of the service invited Christ to read the scriptures and deliver a message. Christ stood to read from Isaiah 61 which says, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." Christ made the startling declaration that Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled in him.



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## on mission together

### Good vibrations from cloud nine

The drive home following the days of "Good News Georgetown" was one of those special solitary occasions. Some meaningful things had happened during those few days. I was exhausted but exhilarated. I had been able to share "Good News" with a lot of students, and experienced a happy newness myself.

Knowing there would be a stack awaiting me, I had asked Ruth VanNatta—the person whose pleasant voice one will most often hear when calling me—to put all my "compliment" mail in a envelope and not let me see it for several days. I wanted to hang on to "Good News Georgetown" as long as I could! Laughingly, she replied, "Believe it or not, there isn't any."

Instead, there were several bits and pieces of communication that helped me sustain my belief that some good things are happening in Kentucky Baptist life. I share them in this column as a "gift

that belongs to all of us on this mission together.

#### Letter from William Wood, director of missions in Winter Haven, Fla.:

"On Mar. 17, 1986 a group of BSU youth from Eastern Kentucky University arrived in our association. They took surveys, passed out Scriptures, performed in several churches and whatever else they were called upon to do.

"I have heard nothing but praise for them. They worked hard and long without complaining. I want to commend their leader Rick Trexler (Baptist Campus Minister at Eastern). We deeply appreciate their coming our way."

#### Baptist press release on Apr. 10:

Kentucky was second among all 36 Baptist state conventions with the number of churches participating in World Missions Conferences in 1985. Second only to Georgia's 492 participating churches, 339 Kentucky Baptist churches were involved.

Coordinated by the Brotherhood Department, Bill Kaufman and Rob Carr take seriously the team desire to help Kentucky become the most mission-minded state of all.

#### Response to "Kentucky Edition," the three times yearly video report produced for Kentucky Baptists by the Media Department:

"Falmouth Baptist Church pastor George Naylor called director Mark Snowden to say that after watching the winter edition, his church voluntarily collected enough money to purchase a VCR and TV set to begin video training in their church."

These are but samples of some of the "good vibrations" flowing within the Kentucky Baptist family and as **Good News America** continues to make its impact, we can anticipate an expansion and deepening of those "good vibrations."

In the meantime, I'm planning to hang on to "Cloud Nine" for at least a few more days!

# Professor teaches about traditions he forsook

**For Osadolor Imasogie the choice was simple but not easy. It pitted him against his family, but his life was committed to Jesus Christ, not the traditional religion of Nigeria.**

As a boy Osadolor Imasogie sprayed insecticide on the floor to keep termites off the wooden statues representing his ancestors.

As a young man he had to choose between his Christian convictions and a funeral ceremony to add his father's spirit to the host of spirits to be worshiped.

The choice was simple but not easy.

It pitted him against his family, but his life was committed to Jesus Christ, not the African traditional religion of his native Nigeria.

Imasogie disinherited himself from his father's estate, but African Christianity inherited an influential theologian and statesman.

Ironically, Imasogie, 57, now spends much of his time enlightening Western

Christians about the very African traditions he rejected. This semester he is a visiting professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, Tex.

Since he was the youngest son, it was Imasogie's boyhood task to accompany his father, a high chief of the Endo tribe, when sacrifices were offered to ancestors.

"I had to treat the floor to keep termites from attacking the wood," he said. "I remember asking my father one day if he would just tell his father to kill the termites himself," Imasogie remembers.

"He said the piece of wood wasn't his father—it was a symbol of his father," Imasogie said.

Even though there were two other schools in his native Benin City, his father, "for some reason" sent him to a school run by Southern Baptist missionaries. He encountered little family resistance when at 16 he became a Christian because his father had died and his mother had no objections.

But when the religious funeral ceremonies were delayed for financial reasons, the stage was set for major conflict. By the time the eldest son scheduled the ceremonies 10 years later, Imasogie was a 26-year-old Baptist pastor.

"I told them it was a pity but I couldn't participate—it would conflict with what I believed," Imasogie explained. "Two days later I was summoned by the oba (the tribe's king)."

"The Bible says honor your father and your mother," the oba challenged. But Imasogie explained this was not a matter of honor but of being true to Jesus Christ.

"My half-brothers didn't like my stance, but I think they respected me for it," he explained. Proof came later when one of the half-brothers, the one who raised Imasogie after their father died, became a Christian along with his

mother.

Cut off from his inheritance, Imasogie continued a career which led through the Baptist College in Iwo, Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary, Oklahoma Baptist University, Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

He has been principal of the Nigerian Seminary since 1979 and has just completed six years as president of the Nigerian Baptist Convention.

But the watershed of his life's work promises to be as a theologian.

"Projections are for Africa to be the most 'Christian' continent in the world by the year 2000," he said. "But the challenge is what kind of Christianity will it be.

"The answer will be determined by how Africans perceive Christianity—whether as a foreign religion advantageous to be associated with, or as a Christ-based religion which understands African problems," Imasogie said.

He carries on regular correspondence with African theologians all across Africa and is convinced the product will not only anchor African Christianity but will also have an impact on Western theological thought.

**"Projections are for Africa to be the most Christian continent by 2000."**

Western missionaries will still be needed, he said. "We need them to criticize our theology as it develops. Theology is a public thing, and they can help us avoid the extremes of stating what we feel.



Ronald Higdon, Louisville, center, talks with Southeastern Seminary president W. Randall Lolly (r) and assistant to the president Jerry Niswonger, about the Seminary's new student center to open this summer. Higdon is a director for the Southeastern alumni.

## Chaplains take gospel to people at work

When a poultry processor in Hope, Ark., needs to talk to someone about problems at home, a Southern Baptist chaplain is there to listen.

"I can go down the line and just say 'Hi' and they have an open door to share with me whatever good or bad things are happening with them," said chaplain Dean Newberry, a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

As a chaplain for Hudson Foods, Newberry is one of about 20 Southern Baptists who serve as full time corporate or industrial chaplains. He and Gil Stricklin, a corporate chaplain in Dallas, are two Southwesterners among that elite group.

Although based at the company's headquarters in Rogers, Ark., Newberry divides his time between three plants in Hope; Noel, Mo.; and Springfield, Mo.

Newberry considered corporate chaplaincy after an evangelism conference speaker challenged him to become more involved in ministry outside the church building.

"I heard the statement that 95 percent of Christian activities occur

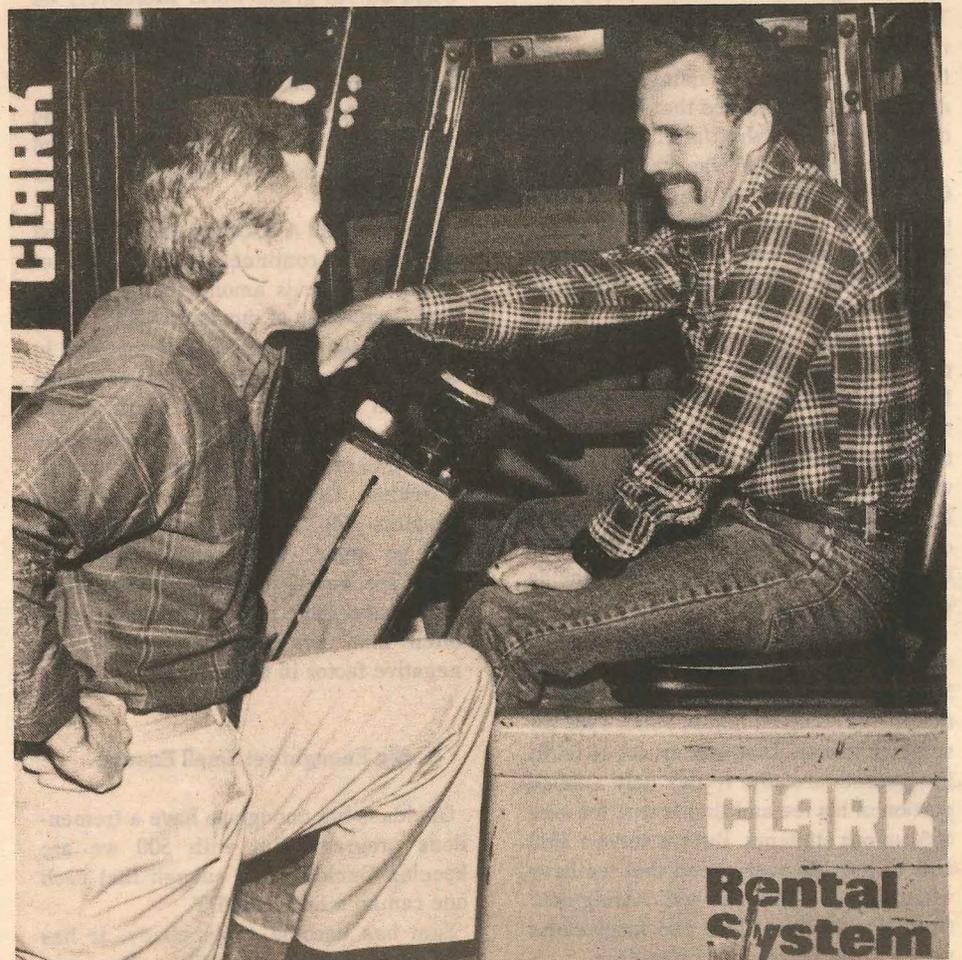
inside the four walls of the church," Newberry said. "I began to look at what I was doing and realized that was true. So after 29 years in the pastorate I walked into Hudson Foods and said, 'I want to be your chaplain.'"

Gil Stricklin figures his ministry is about the same as that of a pastor. "What's unique about it is who I do it for and where it's done," he said.

Stricklin considers himself "a minister to people who do not have a minister," he said. "People still get sick and they still have crises and they want a minister there."

Stricklin and his associates do on-the-job counseling and lead morning Bible studies before work at some companies. They also perform weddings and funerals and are frequent visitors in hospitals.

A former evangelist associate with the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Stricklin said his main concern is to see people accept Christ and join a local church where they can be disciplined.



Stricklin (l) visits with forklift operator

# Oneida Baptist Institute

## "Education For Time And Eternity"



### A Boy Named Sam

By: Barkley Moore, President

Sam is 15. He is a mountain boy from a small town near the Kentucky-Virginia border. He is the youngest of three children, and has a mother and father who are together and love him very much. In that respect he is more fortunate than 40% of America's teenagers.

Despite a good home background Sam got into some trouble at his home school the last few years. He had problems with several of his teachers. Once he threw some things while riding the school bus. He was disciplined differing times. Sam knew he was responsible for some of his difficulties. But as often happens in such situations, he got the blame sometimes for something others did. Being a "natural leader" attention tended to be centered on him. He resented being falsely accused. Then he would lash back. His rebellion, verbal and otherwise, confirmed the attitude some had that he was a trouble-maker.

Sam was expelled last spring near the close of the school year. It appeared he would have to repeat the 7th grade. He had been retained once before.

#### One of Five Million

Had it been necessary for him to repeat the 7th grade, it is likely the cycle of rebellion and mistrust would have continued. That could have led to another expulsion. His next birthday being his 16th he might have become a "dropout". That has been the story of over five million teenage girls and boys in the past ten years. There is a rising number of dropouts. It is estimated that 700,000 will do so this year in the United States.

At this point Sam was befriended by Cox. The son of a Christian church pastor, Cox attended Oneida nearly five years ago. He felt Oneida had helped him. He knew Oneida was the place for Sam to make a new start.

Sam's father and mother worried that they could not afford a boarding school. But Cox assured them that no one with legitimate financial need has ever been turned away from Oneida so long as there was an empty bed. Would Oneida take a boy that had been expelled? Yes. A boy or girl may have failed. Oneida may fail in trying to work with a student. But Oneida never fails to try.

So Cox brought Sam and his mother to see the school. They liked what they saw. Sam was obviously a boy with a lot of talent. We received him in June, 1985 for summer school. That was an act of faith. His parents are able to pay only a small portion of his fee and that is true for over 60% of our students. But we serve a God able to provide every need that we have when we act within His will. Acting out? Ours is a Savior of love and forgiveness who has the power to change lives.

#### A New Beginning

We promised Sam a new beginning. We told him that his teachers and house-parents would not be told of any past problems. With few exceptions, that is our general policy when a student first comes. Thus no one approaches the student with preconceived prejudices.

Our staff and students saw a boy 5'9". He has blue eyes and blond hair. The Sam our people came to know has, from the first day, been hardworking, pleasant, reliable, well-mannered mature for his age, nearly always smiling. We can hardly imagine he was ever any other way. Sometimes the biggest thing a person needs is a fresh beginning, and the intelligence not to repeat old mistakes.

Sam made straight "A's" all summer. He was active in our summer athletic program. He went with our honor students to Ft. Harrodsburg to see "The Legend of Daniel Boone". He faithfully performed his daily work chores. Also he heard the gospel preached each day at chapel.

#### The Challenge

Our staff was very impressed with both his ability and his performance. Certainly he should not be retained in the 7th. We felt he was capable of work beyond the 8th grade. We were convinced that he could do 9th grade work. Moreover, we felt he needed such a challenge. It would put him back where he would have been had he never been retained.

We challenged him. He accepted the challenge. The result has been beyond our best hopes. Our faith has become sight.

Sam made all A's except one B the first quarter. He continues at that level of work. Thus he is among the very, very "top" students of our nearly 500.

Sam is talented, active, and involved in many things. Oneida has a tremendous program for such a youth. Most schools have too many students and only allow limited numbers to participate in varying activities. Thus, the great majority of students ride the bus, look at teacher, and go home. They cannot take part. They are bored to death. Often, then, they make their own excitement. More often than not that becomes a very negative factor in their lives.

#### Big Enough yet Small Enough

Oneida is big enough to have a tremendous program. But with 500 we are keeping Oneida small enough that each one can be a SOMEBODY.

Sam has become a somebody. It has changed his self-image. With self respect

he can respect others and receive it. The perception of others, about him, has changed dramatically.

Oneida has one of about eight heated school swimming pools in Kentucky under college level. Sam has taken excellent advantage of that and spends about three hours daily practicing on our swimming and diving teams.

Sam also decided to try singing. At the start of second semester he advanced from the junior choir to the varsity touring choir. That group traveled over 2200 miles in November singing at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, a special concert at Disney World, singing before 5,000 people at Orlando's First Baptist, touring the Kennedy Space Center, etc.

Also Sam has decided to develop his acting skills. Just before Christmas he played the role of the bailiff in a courtroom drama. He looked quite smart in his uniform as he swore the witnesses, etc.

#### Warm Hospitality

All of Sam's family extend the warm hospitality of their home at "homegoing" times to OBI students who live too far to get to their own homes for the monthly weekends. They take one or two at a time, particularly some of our foreign students. That is a good experience for all concerned.

Sam and his family are close. So he looks forward to the monthly "homegoings" and seeing his parents, his brother and sister. Also, he has a "special" girlfriend back home that he is loyal to. A lot of our Oneida girls wish he had one here! But he just smiles at one and all, and goes on with his studying, swimming, diving, acting and singing.

#### Changed and Unchanging

Everybody likes Sam. Perhaps his most winning quality is his humility. He appreciates what is happening in his life. It surprises him.

Some months ago he publicly professed Jesus as his Savior and Lord. It was with some emotion that we watched him and twelve others baptised one Wednesday night prayer service.

Sam is not the only one making remarkable progress here. There are scores of others. There are many potential "Sams" who have not yet heard of Oneida.

#### ONEIDA SUMMER SCHOOL BEGINS JUNE 8

High school courses taught in the summer include all levels of English and math; Bible, American history, civics, biology, health and physical education.



Sam standing by column on Chapel porch

#### ONEIDA GRADUATION MAY 18

The 87th Oneida Baptist Commencement will be held Sunday, May 18th at 3:00 p.m. in Davidson Chapel.

Approximately 90 will graduate on that day.

Marching in the academic procession will be the classes of 1926 and 1936 back for their 60th and 50th anniversaries. On the evening before these anniversary classes will have a dinner in 75-year old Anderson Hall, the only campus building remaining from their school days.

A special concert will be sung by the Oneida Choir in Davidson Chapel on Saturday evening, May 17th. The public is cordially invited to the concert as well as to the Commencement exercises the following afternoon.